

# ABOUT CLUNES

Clunes is situated 36 kms north of Ballarat, nearby towns include, Creswick, Maryborough and Talbot. The Dja Dja Wurrung people were the first inhabitants of the region. Clunes unique cultural heritage also includes being known as the home of Victoria's first registered gold discovery made by James Esmond in 1851 which was thought to have triggered the gold rush in Victoria. Clunes is host to the annual Booktown event, which brings together of booksellers, writers and speakers from Australia and overseas. With more than 60 booksellers and 15,000 visitors, it has become the largest collection of books and the major book event in regional Australia. Tourism in Clunes caters for bush walkers, gold prospectors, treasure hunters, collectors, vintage car clubs, history buffs and families seeking to escape to the country. Clunes also boasts a recently established monthly Farmers Market.

At the 2006 census Clunes had a population of 1,605. The 2011 census recorded a population of 1,656\* usual residents. The median age of residents was 48 with children aged 0-14 years making up 17.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over 21.3% of the population.

Over 26% of residents participated in voluntary work through an organisation or group, higher than the state average, while the unemployment rate of 9% was significantly higher than the Victorian rate of 5.4%.

Major industries for employment include school education, hospitals, supermarket and grocery stores, sheep, beef cattle and grain farming and hospitality.

\*Census data, State Suburb collection area

1656\*



48

MEDIAN AGE

26%



PARTICIPATED IN VOLUNTARY WORK

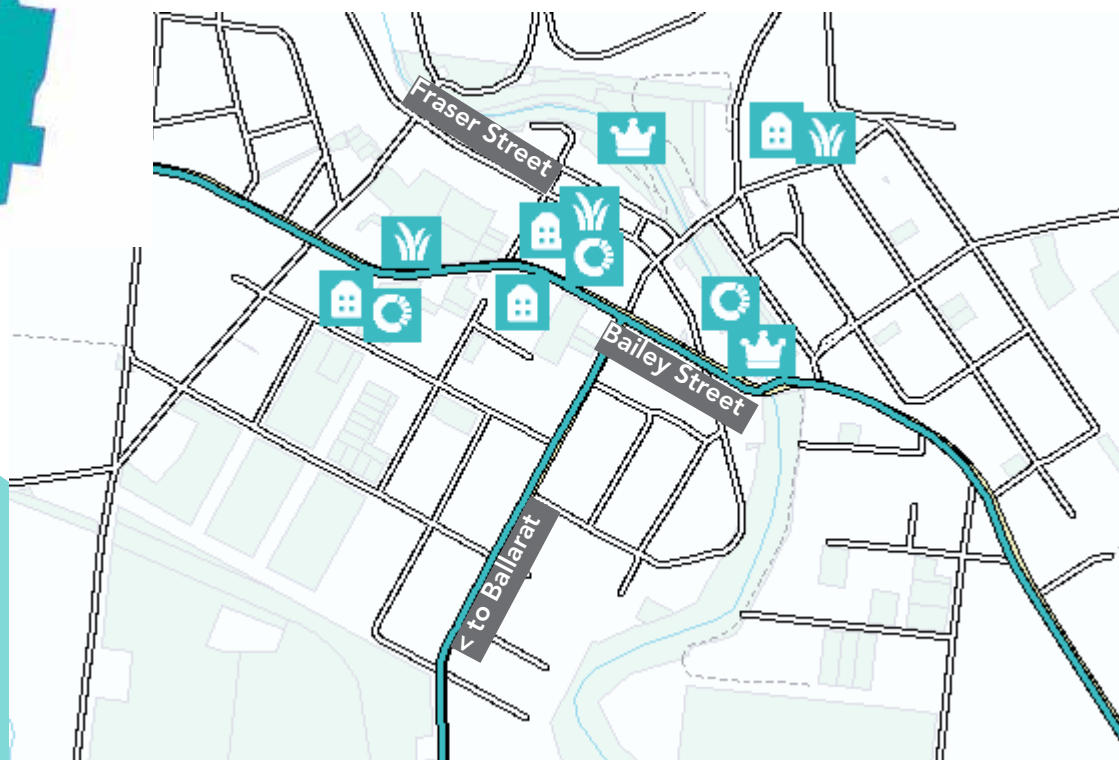
9%

UNEMPLOYED

Clunes  
ABS State Suburb  
collection area

## Key:

-  Community Service
-  Community Facility
-  Crown Land
-  Council Land
-  Area of potential change





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## 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.

Please note that all views and opinions expressed in this community plan are those of the community members who participated in developing the plan. They do not represent the views of Hepburn Shire Council staff, or its Councillors.

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For more information, contact  
Hepburn Shire Council on 03 5348 2306

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This community plan was developed by the community  
of Clunes in collaboration with:

*Hepburn*  
SHIRE COUNCIL

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# CLUNES COMMUNITY PLAN 2015

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## INTRODUCTION

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The first Clunes Community Plan was initiated in 2009 and a subsequent review undertaken in 2012, however the reviewed plan was not finalised and presented to Council at the time. In 2015 members of the Clunes community approached Council to finalise this plan by building on the 2012 project and principles the gathered at the time. The residents of Clunes are highly engaged in issues relating to their community, this was reflected in over 90 survey responses and approximately 60 residents participating in meetings and drop-in sessions during this project.

## DEVELOPING THE 2015 CLUNES COMMUNITY PLAN

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The 2015 Clunes Community Plan review began with a community survey asking to residents what they valued about Clunes and what priorities from the 2012 plan were still relevant for their community. Community drop in sessions were also held and a draft plan was developed focussing on areas of most importance to the community in 2015. The draft was presented to the community at the Clunes Open House Dinner on 28 July 2015. A community planning meeting was then held at the Warehouse Clunes on 23 August 2015 to finalise the plan. After compiling the final Community Plan community members presented their vision for Clunes to Hepburn Shire Council and the plan was noted at the September 2015 Council Meeting.

## VALUES, VISION AND CONCERNS FOR CLUNES

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### ► Values

The values that are appreciated about Clunes are:

- Historic streetscape and heritage
- Sense of community
- Peace and quiet
- Low density and affordable housing
- Many events and opportunities to be involved and share interests
- Inclusive and friendly
- Rural environment and village feel
- Proximity to Ballarat and other towns
- Small community able to discuss issues
- Diversity of people and interests

### ► Vision

The vision for Clunes is a place where:

- Shops are all occupied and vacant blocks built on
- Tourism and local living are valued equally
- The landscape is improved
- There is sufficient employment for young people
- Clunes Booktown is a valued cultural event supported by government
- Heritage buildings and facilities are maintained and used
- Residents have natural gas and NBN
- Sports facilities are enhanced and expanded

### ► Concerns

Things that were highlighted as local concerns were:

- Inappropriate development or change of heritage streetscape
- Traffic controls and reassessment of truck routes
- Empty shops in Fraser Street
- Consistency of tree planting/ replacement in Fraser and Bailey Streets
- Poor train service
- Lack of facilities and activities for youth
- Maintenance of creek area
- Maintenance of key buildings

# PRIORITISED PROJECTS – ACTION PLAN

These are the top priority projects that were voted on by the Clunes community. Other projects are listed on the page to the right.

## Public Transport Improvement

Project Description	Next steps / Projects / Actions	Partners
Advocacy for increased train and bus frequency. The community would like trains arriving by 9am weekdays and more weekend services to Melbourne and buses to Ballarat and Daylesford.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form an advocacy group to talk to Public Transport Victoria (PTV). Discuss an advocacy role with local Councillor, state and federal members.</li> <li>2. Gather data to compare similar size towns and train/bus service frequency, survey potential users</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTV</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire</li> <li>• Victorian Gov</li> </ul>

## Youth Facilities and/or Activities

Project Description	Next steps / Projects / Actions	Partners
Increase use of facilities and activities available for youth. Create inclusive activities that appeal to both local young people and Wesley College students who come to Clunes for one semester.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support young people to form a Clunes Youth Council</li> <li>2. Assess and build on venues in Clunes that could be accessed by young people (skate park, CNH spaces)</li> <li>3. Provide ongoing support to Youth Council (mentoring, skills development)</li> </ol> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:coordinator@clunesnh.org">coordinator@clunesnh.org</a> Refer to: Hepburn Shire Youth Strategy (HSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young residents</li> <li>• CNH</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire</li> <li>• Wesley College</li> </ul>

## Creekscape

Project Description	Next steps / Projects / Actions	Partners
Enhance the creekscape including clearing, walks, maintenance and recreation. Involve local volunteers, Clunes Landcare and Waterways, North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Hepburn Shire Council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work to open up creek easements creating walking and bike tracks (eventually including interpretive signage, lighting and linking to town loop)</li> <li>2. Finish clearing tree growth</li> <li>3. Create a passive recreation area including a viewing platform</li> </ol> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:cluneslandcare@gmail.com">cluneslandcare@gmail.com</a> Refer to: Hepburn Shire Walking and Cycling Strategy (HSC) and Clunes Flood Mitigation Plans (NCCMA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landcare</li> <li>• NCCMA</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire</li> <li>• DELWP</li> </ul>

## Family Facilities

Project Description	Next steps / Projects / Actions	Partners
Ensure for provision of quality family facilities and services needs. Plan for present and future needs in Clunes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring together local agencies, schools, parents and children to identify the needs of children and families in Clunes (playgroups, mothers groups, childcare, activities?)</li> </ol> <p>Refer to: Hepburn Health needs assesment and the Municipal Early Years Plan (HSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Hepburn Health</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire</li> </ul>





## OTHER PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

Below is a list of other projects and initiatives that were raised throughout the community planning process

- ▶ Repair and restore the Clunes Town Hall
- ▶ Revisit zoning and township planning
- ▶ Events integration and collaboration
- ▶ Support and encourage volunteers
- ▶ Enhance and expand sporting facilities
- ▶ Provide youth employment opportunities
- ▶ A community education hub
- ▶ Bottle Museum renovations including: workshop roofing, exhibition design, disability toilet, air conditioning
- ▶ Support Clunes as an International Booktown
- ▶ Economic development strategy and master plan
- ▶ Lowering the speed limit on Templeton and Bailey Streets
- ▶ Purchase 95 Bailey St as civic space to open up Collins Place to the Town Hall
- ▶ Installation of more LED street lights
- ▶ Redirect Ligar St truck route
- ▶ Update welcome and tourism signage
- ▶ Develop a heritage protection plan
- ▶ A community wind farm
- ▶ Establish a 7 day per week gym
- ▶ A central community garden
- ▶ An audit of Booktown and encourage more feedback with the community
- ▶ Children's play equipment in Fraser St
- ▶ More staff at the Warehouse - Clunes
- ▶ Install bins for dog poo
- ▶ Connect the outer town with walking, horse and bike paths
- ▶ Increase/improve footpath coverage
- ▶ Booktown signage (brown VIC Roads Tourism signs)
- ▶ Signage at lookout and mine sites
- ▶ Further promote Agricultural show and make it weekend long
- ▶ Edible plants in street planter boxes

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### Clunes CFA

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

District office: 03 5329 5500

### Clunes Neighbourhood House

[coordinator@clunesnh.org](mailto:coordinator@clunesnh.org)

[www.clunesnh.org](http://www.clunesnh.org)

### Clunes Landcare and Waterways

[cluneslandcare@gmail.com](mailto:cluneslandcare@gmail.com)

[www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.northcentral.landcarevic.net.au)

### The Warehouse - Clunes

Phone: 5345 3359

[www.hepburn.vic.gov.au](http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au)

### Clunes Museum

[info@clunesmuseum.org](mailto:info@clunesmuseum.org)

[www.clunesmuseum.org](http://www.clunesmuseum.org)

### Creative Clunes

[visitus@clunesbooktown.com.au](mailto:visitus@clunesbooktown.com.au)

[www.creativeclunes.com.au](http://www.creativeclunes.com.au)

### Country Womens Association

[anabhm1@bigpond.com](mailto:anabhm1@bigpond.com)

[www.cwa.org.au](http://www.cwa.org.au)

### Clunes Tourism and Development Assoc.

[jp33@bigpond.com](mailto:jp33@bigpond.com)

[www.clunes.org](http://www.clunes.org)

### Clunes Angling Club

[clunesanglers@gmail.com](mailto:clunesanglers@gmail.com)