



# Merrigum Community Plan

## Revision 2018



Proudly supported by Greater Shepparton City Council and  
Merrigum Community Group

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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Merrigum is an attractive small town situated 30km west of Shepparton and 197km north of Melbourne. Located in the heart of the Goulburn Valley region, its primary industries are fruit growing and dairy farming. Many local residents not employed on the land travel to nearby towns such as Shepparton, Tatura and Kyabram to work. Students can attend preschool and primary school in Merrigum, but need to travel to Kyabram or Shepparton for secondary and tertiary level education. At the time of the 2016 Census, Merrigum (State Suburb) had a population of 679 people.

In 2018, local residents were invited to participate in a review of the Merrigum Community Plan. Sixty one (61) local residents filled in a survey to identify their key needs and issues, with consultation being done at the local Store, Post Office and a BBQ held at Judd Park.

The friendliness and kindness of local people is recognised as a very positive aspect of life in Merrigum, along with a strong community spirit where residents are willing to help each other out and get involved in local events, organisations and issues. The tranquility and peaceful nature of the town is also widely recognised as one of the most important aspects of the community. In order to retain these positive lifestyle aspects, local residents are supportive of moderate population growth, supporting the Recreation Reserve, Hall, Primary School and local businesses. In addition, they are keen to see more families living in Merrigum.



## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Merrigum Community Group Inc. was formed in 2004 to provide “a mechanism for community members to contribute to, and actively promote the revitalization and development of the township of Merrigum in a positive way”. It has been supported by Greater Shepparton City Council, funding bodies and organisations. Merrigum Community Group has consulted with community on a number of levels over the years in order to identify key priorities of the community.

The previous Merrigum Community Plan, produced in September 2012 set the scene for a further six years, a list of actions, to be achieved, for the community by the community.

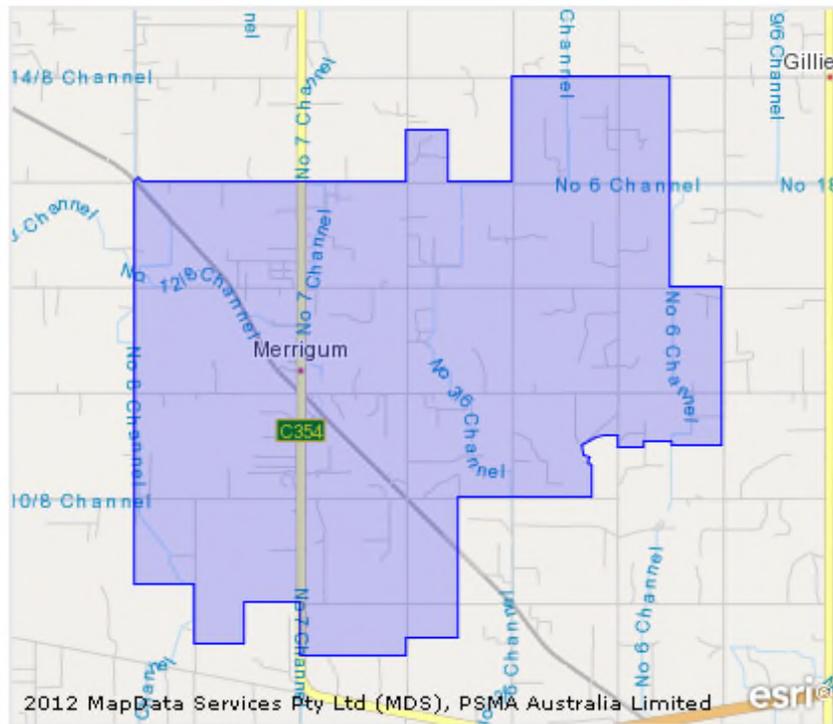
## 2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are achievements from previous community plans spanning over 14 years. These achievements began as identified issues from the overall community. The Merrigum Community Group worked in partnership with Council, funding bodies and organisations to deliver on these actions.

Status	Project	Action
✓	Footpath	Construct new footpath to the northern side of Andrews Rd.
✓	Reserve Lighting	Install night lighting to Recreation Reserve Ground and sports courts.
✓	Skate Park	Construct skate ‘break-out’ space along linked trail on northern side of Andrews Rd.
✓		Purchase of final equipment.
✓	Council Depot	Install screen fencing to enclose existing Council depot site, or relocate.
✓	Car Park	Formalise and extend existing car park.
✓	Public Toilets	Construct new unisex public toilets with visitor information board.
✓	Judd Park	Upgrade as town visitor park. Replace existing unkempt trees with new tree planting, irrigated grass and new park furniture.
✓		Completion of Stage 2 Corner Park Development.
✓		Provide picnic setting in bushland site. (Picnic settings relocated to corner park).
✓		Seating required in playground.
✓	Hall	Repaint hall to express the different eras of the building and improve historic appreciation.
✓	Bushland site / walking track	Further / ongoing revegetation works in the bushland site and along walking track.
✓	Town entrance sign	Improve town entrance sign visibility.
✓	Rubbish	Provide more bins and signage about rubbish around town.
✓	Mooving art cows	Bring Mooving art cows to Merrigum.
✓	Pool	Received funding to deliver a Splash Park at the pool.
✓	Netball Court	Upgrade to netball court at Recreation Reserve
✓	Ticket Box	New ticket box at Recreation Reserve

### 3.0 DEMOGRAPHICS

Based on the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, Merrigum (State Suburb) has a population of around **679 people**; 52.7% of whom are males and 47.3% of whom are females. The largest age groupings are 40-47 year olds and 50-54 year olds, with the median age of residents being 43 years of age.



The 2016 Census data shows there are approximately 187 families living in Merrigum and approximately 298 private dwellings. The most common ancestries in Merrigum (State Suburbs) were Australian 32.7%, English 27.8%, Irish 8.8%, Scottish 6.4% and Italian 5.4%.



## 4.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2018

To identify the current priorities for the 2018 Community Plan, a number of consultation methods were carried out.

- Survey - available online and hardcopy in a number of locations within Merrigum. 61 people had provided feedback via the survey.
- Face to face discussions with community members outside the local shop
- BBQ held at Judd Park to launch the Merrigum 5 year review. This enabled community members another means to provide feedback about the community and also note the achievements of the Community plan to date.
- Council's Website- A link to the survey for the 5 year review was placed on Council's website
- Community Priority setting evening was held with 21 in attendance. This enabled the community to view and acknowledge feedback given from the surveys. The actions were incorporated into the draft plan.

### 4.1.1 WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT MERRIGUM

Survey respondents were asked to identify what they like most about Merrigum. A strong community spirit is also recognised by many people as a positive attribute of the town, as well as its quiet, peaceful feeling. The top ten responses to this question include:

1. People – friendly, kind, neighbourly
2. Quiet, peaceful, tranquil nature of the town
3. Strong community spirit / involvement by local residents
4. Small, compact town and community
5. Strong clubs and organisations, e.g. football netball club
6. Clean, tidy and well maintained environment
7. The park and playground
8. Good facilities, including sports facilities
9. Proximity to other towns for work, schooling, shopping, etc
10. Family environment of the town

### 4.1.2 OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The vision for Merrigum is:

**Merrigum is a thriving, attractive rural town that values all members of the community and provides a range of quality programs, services and facilities to enable people to live, work and play locally.**

### 4.1.3 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES 2018

In order to achieve this vision, the local community has identified a number of key priorities to work towards. These priorities are:

1. To continue to upgrade the Merrigum Pool, expanding the pool opening hours and more active in the day to day running.

2. To upgrade and support the facilities at the Recreation Reserve
3. To improve communication of events through Social Media, Newsletter, Notice Board and online
4. Shade Structure over the playground at Judd Park
5. An upgrade to, and better maintenance, of the walking / cycling track
6. To upgrade and increase usage of the Hall
7. To attract more families to Merrigum
8. To organize more activities and events

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#### 4.1.4 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2018

The Merrigum Community Plan Group meet on a monthly basis, working together to achieve positive outcomes for Merrigum and to achieve the actions listed in the Action Plan. The Merrigum Community Plan will continue to guide future projects and activities. All projects will require research and planning. The Community group will continue to look for funding opportunities through a range of stakeholders to implement projects.

The Action Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains current and to ensure the listed priorities still reflect the needs of Merrigum.



## 5.0 ACTION PLAN

The following Action Plan has been developed by the Merrigum Community Group (MCG) based on information contained within previous community plans and from community consultations and priority settings.

NO.	STRATEGY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	STATUS	PRIORITY
1	<b>To continue to upgrade the Merrigum Pool. Expanding the pool opening hours and more active in the day to day running</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to support the installation of the Splash Park in 2019/20 due to successful funding application</li> <li>To work closely with Council and investigate the possibility of MCG running certain areas of the pool, such as the canteen</li> <li>To investigate the options of more shade at the pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> <li>Pool users</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		High
2	<b>To upgrade and support the facilities at the Recreation Reserve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advocate for the Recreation Reserve for future upgrades to funding bodies</li> <li>To support the implementation of the Recreation Reserve's Master Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation Reserve Committee</li> <li>User groups of the Recreation Reserve</li> <li>DELWP</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		Medium
3	<b>To improve communication of events through Social Media, Newsletter, Notice Board and online</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a community newsletter to distribute to the Merrigum community and surrounding areas</li> <li>To investigate the option of having a community notice board, through usage and consultation.</li> <li>Identify with local residents what the most effective consultation methods are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other community plan groups</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		High
4	<b>Shade Structure over the playground at Judd Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To investigate funding opportunities for a shade structure for the playground at Judd Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		High
5	<b>An upgrade, to and better maintenance, of walking/cycling track</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To investigate usage of the walking track and increase usage</li> <li>To design and install signage for the walking track</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSCC</li> <li>MCG</li> <li>User groups</li> </ul>		Medium

NO.	STRATEGY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	STATUS	PRIORITY
6	<b>To upgrade and support the increase usage of the Hall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the Hall committee in their funding applications for upgrades</li> <li>To support Hall Committee to identify ways to increase Hall usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hall Committee</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>MCG</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> </ul>		Medium
7	<b>To attract more families to Merrigum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work with community groups and organisations to have more family friendly events in the town</li> <li>Promote Merrigum at local primary school through school newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merrigum Primary School</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		Medium
8	<b>To organise more activities / events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have family friendly events such as pool events, family BBQ's, cinema nights and kids treasure hunts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding bodies</li> <li>Other user groups</li> <li>MCG</li> </ul>		High