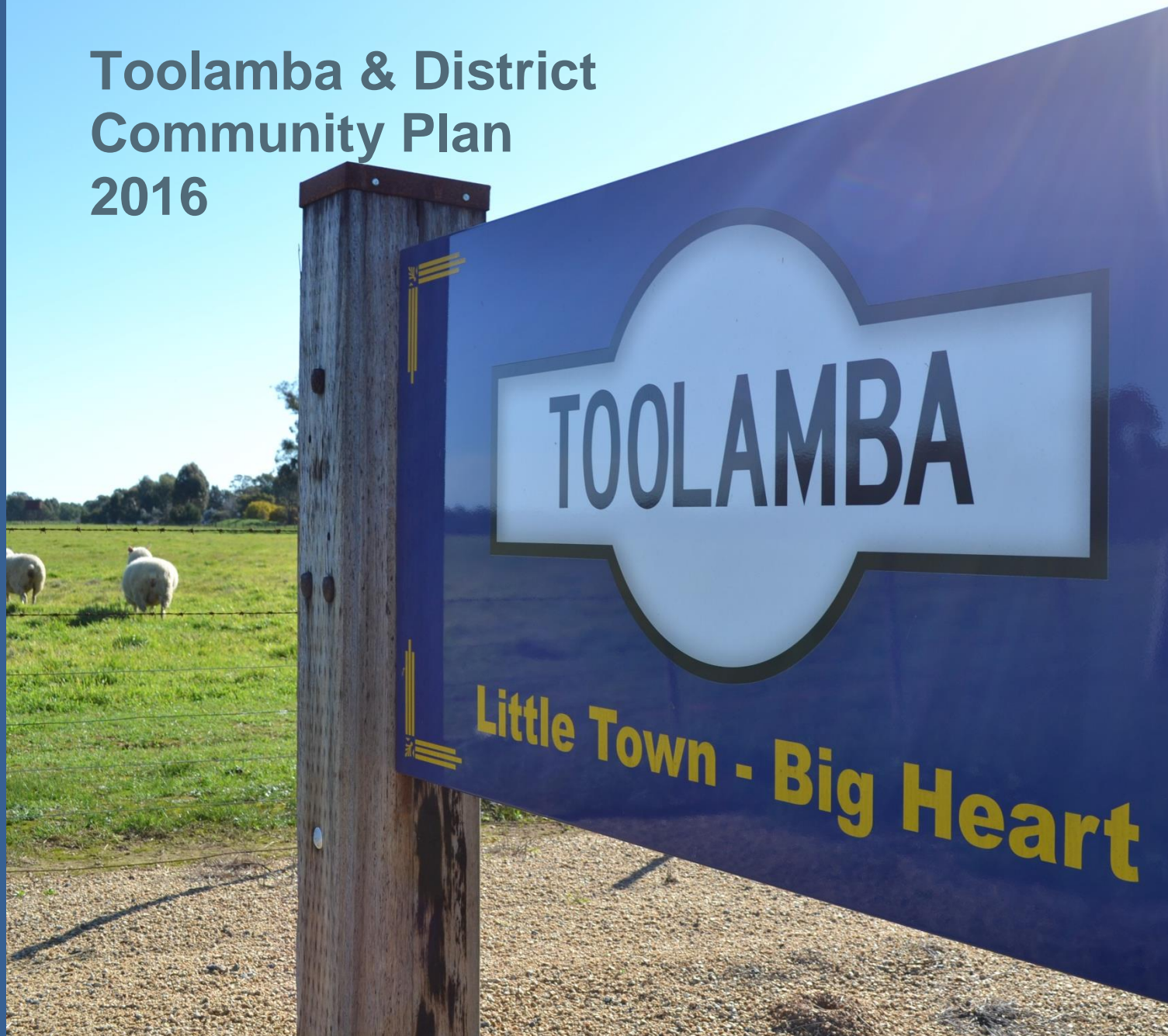


**Toolamba & District
Community Plan
2016**



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About Our District

“Little Town, Big Heart”

Location

Toolamba is a small town situated in the Goulburn Valley region of Victoria, Australia. The town and district is located in the City of Greater Shepparton area – a short 181 kilometres north of Melbourne.

Transport

Major transport routes that link to Toolamba through the Goulburn Valley region include the Goulburn Valley Highway and the Midland Highway. Passenger rail and coach services are provided from Melbourne to Shepparton.

Climate

The district has a warm climate with hot summers but cold winters. The hottest summer month is January, when the average temperature reaches 29.6C. In winter, the weather becomes coldest in July when the minimum averages 3.0C and the maximum reaches 13.0C.

The rainfall in the district is usually fairly sparse. The area generally does not receive high rainfalls throughout the year. Even the wettest month, July, averages only 48.9mm.



In the Beginning...

The Birth of Toolamba District.

The Toolamba District was inhabited by aboriginal groups prior to European settlement.

In 1844 Toolamba - or Innes Station as it was formerly known - was part of the Wanalta Run in North Central Victoria with David Norman Innes as the first licensee. He selected 87,801 acres on which he ran 6,000 sheep. Innes also selected Waranga and Wanalta, which covered 51,840 acres and 61,817 acres, respectively.

Henry & Patrick Stevenson took over Toolamba and Wanalta selections in 1846. The license for these selections was later transferred to Patrick Stevenson in 1860.

In 1857 the Winter brothers arrived in the Goulburn Valley, and by 1863 they had control of 323,000 acres of prime grazing land in the Toolamba District.

The Lands Acts of 1862 and 1865 allowed for the purchase of 160 acre lots at £1 per acre under certificate, provided that £1 was spent on improvements on each lot. These Acts effectively allowed the breakup of the selections.

Waranga was created as a Road District in June 1863 and Toolamba became part of that district in February 1865. The Shire of Waranga was created to take over the Road District in November 1865.

The original Township of Toolamba was established along the Murchison – Mooroopna Road in what is now Old Toolamba. A Post Office was opened here on 1st January 1873.

The district had a railway station located on the Goulburn Valley railway line that was opened in 1880, but was closed to traffic in 1987. The rail line has a junction at Toolamba which links to the line to Echuca.



Brief Facts About Us



At the 2011 census, Toolamba and the surrounding area had a population of 752, including 19 residents who identified with being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The median age of people living in the Toolamba ABS region was 38. Children in the 10-14 age bracket were the most heavily represented group in the Toolamba community, comprising 9.6% of the population, compared to 6.1% for Australia as a whole. The 80 to 84 year old age group is the most under- represented. There were 217 families in Toolamba in 2011

Age Groups	Number
0-4	58
5-14	122
15-24	86
25-34	83
35-44	121
45-54	113
55-64	112
65-74	51
75+	7

comprising of 110 families with children, 84 couples without children and 21 one-parent families. The median weekly household income was \$1,437, which was slightly below the national average. The labour force in 2011 was 408 comprising of 236 employed full-time, 131 employed part-time and 41 unemployed/away from work. The occupations of the district comprises of managers (71), labourers (58), technicians and trade workers (67), clerical and administrative workers (42), professionals (58), sales workers (32), machinery operators and drivers (26), and community and personal services (27). The unemployment rate at the time of the 2011 census (3.9%) was well below the national average of 5.4%. Finally, residents of Toolamba were predominantly born in Australia, with England, Italy, Greece, India and Japan also being represented.

Community organisations

The Toolamba District is supported by a variety of community based organisations and committees such as Lions, Cricket Club, Fishing Club, CFA and the Recreation Reserve Committee. Toolamba also offers a modern Primary School and Kindergarten.

Business

Toolamba is primarily an agricultural district with activities such as fruit and vegetable growing, dairy farming, cropping, wool growing, and cattle & sheep grazing. Water for irrigation is sourced from Lake Eildon and the Goulburn Weir. Many local residents work in nearby towns such as Tatura, Mooroopna and Shepparton. Currently the town has a general store and a hotel.



Our Values and Principles



The Toolamba and District Community Plan is for residents who live, work or play in our area. We believe the principles and values of Toolamba and District are reflected in our community plan. They include:

- Toolamba is a healthy community and is a living democracy.
- In order to achieve results, Toolamba and district includes people working together to address issues that matter to them.
- Results will be achieved by the Toolamba and District community working in partnership and cooperatively with any organisation external to our community who can contribute to improving our quality of life.
- In developing and implementing our actions, the Toolamba and District Community Plan will at all times respect the views and appreciate the effort of every resident.
- Our aim is to develop our community through creative thinking and actions that benefit the Toolamba district
- Our community plan seeks to coordinate the Toolamba district to identify, promote and enhance the distinctive character of the Toolamba district and to seek solutions that suit our community.

The Community Plan Process

The original Toolamba and District Community Plan was developed in 2011. Successes resulting from this plan include:

- The Toolamba history sign
- Public toilet (pictured)
- New car park at the recreation reserve (pictured)
- Development of a masterplan for the recreation reserve
- Installation of flag poles
- Fencing at the CFA building
- Development of a playground
- Acquisition of a portable PA and sound system

The 2016 Community Plan has built on the original, celebrating the successes of the steering committee and wider community, and asking residents and visitors what the next 5 years should bring for Toolamba.

The 2016 Toolamba and district community planning consultation included:

- Questionnaires distributed in the town and district.
- Consultations at the monthly Food Swap.
- Online survey
- Sausage sizzle at the Toolamba Primary School
- Meetings with representatives of groups including the Lions Club, Primary School, Kindergarten, Fishing Club and CFA.





These consultation activities have resulted in approximately 40 surveys being submitted, in addition to verbal feedback through one-on-one conversations. Key questions which were asked during the consultation included:

- ***What do you love about Toolamba?***
- ***What challenges do you see Toolamba facing in the future?***
- ***What ideas do you have for improving social connections, infrastructure, economy and natural environment in Toolamba?***

With the outstanding response from the Toolamba and District community, and the number of residents who have volunteered to support implementation over the past several years, there is an expectation that the hopes, ideals and needs of Toolamba and District will continue to be addressed into the future. The Toolamba and District Community Plan Steering Committee are always happy to welcome new members, and eagerly embrace the skills and experience that new people bring to the group.

Why do we love living in Toolamba?

We believe that there is a real community spirit in Toolamba that provides a great basis for community life. Residents are neighbourly. Interaction occurs across the community through the school, the Lions Club, the Recreation Committee, sporting clubs, the CFA and through informal contact. People are genuinely interested about what's happening in town.

What do we love about our town? Here's a snapshot:

- "The larger blocks"
- "The people and the culture they create"
- "Fresh air and good neighbours!"
- "It's quiet and safe"
- "Community spirit"
- "Great school"
- "Small town/village environment that engages individuals in community"
- "A wonderful town for families to grow in"
- "Conveniently situated near Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura and Murchison – great community feel!"
- "The natural environment and bushland"



Implementing the Community Plan



The Toolamba and District Community Plan Steering Committee have a primary function of supporting the implementation of the community plan by:

- Maximising access to resources and funding.
- Involving community groups and residents to contribute to the initiatives and priorities.

Improving coordination and developing well organised and planned projects within the Toolamba community will increase the chances to involve other levels of government or the private sector.

The Steering Committee will ensure that on commencement of each initiative, residents and groups will be invited to participate. In order to undertake various projects or initiatives, the Steering Committee may form working groups (or sub committees), often with existing groups as the lead, to develop more detailed plans to implement projects. This step will provide an opportunity for interested local residents or groups to become involved.

Once the working groups have undertaken detailed planning and presented them to the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee will ratify the proposed actions and support each working group in their implementation process.

Although the process will be supported in many instances with resources from the Greater Shepparton City Council, Council are not the only resource available. There will often be other organisations willing to provide assistance and financial support. Identifying which organisations can assist and the level of support that may be available will be part of the role of the working groups when undertaking the detailed planning and implementation.

The Community Plan is only effective to the extent that it reflects the current goals of the community. As such, the plan is completely reviewed every 5 years, with a review of the Action Plan occurring annually. This ensures that the plan reflects the changing needs and aspirations of the community it represents. This current plan was created in 2016.

Without the tireless work of the Steering Committee, this plan would not exist. Greater Shepparton City Council would like to thank the following people for their hard work:

- Geoff Maynard
- Vincent White
- Heather Kennedy
- Bill McDonald
- Christine McKenzie
- John Morritt
- Helen Morritt

Interested in joining the Steering Committee or knowing more about the Community Planning process? Please head to:

<http://greatershepparton.com.au/community/neighbourhoods/community-plans/toolamba-community-plan>



The Community Plan Action Plan

The Toolamba and District Community Plan Action Plan contains actions that correspond to four strategic areas:

1. Social
2. Natural
3. Built
4. Economic

The following pages outline key actions identified by the Toolamba community after extensive consultation. Many actions will require the partnerships of several stakeholders, while others will require the Steering Committee to take on an advocacy role.



Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Provide a range of activities for the community such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pop up café • “meet and greet newcomer” nights • Welcome pack for new residents • Fun run through Daunt’s Bend • Christmas party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish community events working group to investigate possible events -Establish events calendar -Source partnerships to help facilitate events -Source funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Recreation Reserve Committee • GSCC 	High	Event planning underway for 2016/2017	Social
Continue to encourage environmental practises such as tree planting, protection of flora / fauna and improved use of town storm waste to develop wetlands, and advocate for increased maintenance / grading of tracks and weed control at Daunts Bend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish area in which trees need to be planted -Liaise with Parks Victoria and GSCC to formulate a planting plan -Liaise with Parks and Recreation to identify any free plant opportunities -Source funding opportunities -Continue to liaise with Council maintenance teams to keep weed control and grading current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Parks Victoria • GSCC 	High	2012 - Contact was made with Parks Victoria - concern was expressed with the lack of progress	Social / Natural
Walking tracks throughout Toolamba, incorporating a picnic area at the boat ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish preferred track locations -Submit EOI to Council -Capital Budget Bid to be submitted for construction -Source funding partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC • Funding bodies • Vic Roads 	High	<p>2015/2016</p> <p>Conceptual designs for 2 walking tracks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutherford Rd – Bitcon Rd – Old Toolamba • River frontage from Wren St to Old Toolamba (EOI to be submitted) <p>2013/2014</p> <p>Completed -Walking group developed to gauge interest in further walking track development</p>	Social
Improvement of the kerb / channel / guttering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Submit capital budget bid to implement works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	Continue to advocate for improvement of the kerb / channel / guttering. Capital	Built

				bid submitted for 2016/2017 budget.	
Development and support for heritage and history activities of the Toolamba district, including plaques and historical events	-Establish working group -Investigate possible historical activities/projects -Submit EOI/Project proposal for each identified project -Source funding/project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC • Vic Track • Parks 	High	-History sign in Toolamba constructed	Social / Built
Public transport connection improvements	-Advocate to Shepp Transit and VLine for improved services to the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	Not commenced	Social/Advocacy
Redevelopment of the recreation reserve, including: -Fitness stations -Supporting the development of the Cricket Club -Youth space -Improved drainage -Tennis court redevelopment	-Recreation Reserve committee to acquire designs for development of the community centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Reserve committee • GSCC • Funding bodies 	High	Masterplan completed	Built
Construction of a playground at Colaura Gardens	-Liaise with Parks and Recreation/Building/Planning to establish requirements and ideal location -Submit EOI -Source any required funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	Not commenced	Social
Planting of a community garden	-Establish suitable location -Liaise with other community garden groups in the area -Source materials and any required funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	Not commenced	Social
Create a community area in Old Toolamba	-Establish a working group of Old Toolamba residents to identify area and type of facility required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	Not commenced	Social
Development of town footpaths	-Advocate for inclusion in to GSCC's Missing Links Footpath Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC 	High	-Toolamba included in Council's Missing Links program	Built
Implementation of a school crossing	-Liaise with Traffic Dept at GSCC to establish the suitable crossing area and any other requirements -Source any required funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • GSCC • Vic Roads 	High	Not commenced	Built
Upgrading and redevelopment of the railway reserve	-Submit EOI with concept design for the reserve -Acquire land use permissions and relevant lease -Source funding/project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Community • Vic Track 	Medium	-Conceptual design for outdoor history display submitted -Contact made with VicTrack in regards to land lease for historical display	Built
Advocate for natural gas	-Advocate to relevant authorities to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community 	Medium	Not commenced	Economic/Advo

extensions	Toolamba in gas extension works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas companies 			cacy
Consider the impact of the new bypass being located to the west of Toolamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to liaise with Vic Roads and GSCC -Update wider community on any project developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Vic Roads 	Medium	Not commenced	Social
Advocate for sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to advocate to GV Water for inclusion in future sewerage extensions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community GV Water 	Medium	Not commenced	Built/Advocacy
Construction of a war memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a working group -Identify ideal location for the memorial -Partner with surrounding services clubs for support and project guidance -Source any required funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community RSL GSCC 	Medium	Not commenced	Built
Promotion of the town's businesses within the region/encourage people to shop locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a working group -Investigate all available channels of promotion -Source any required funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community 	Medium	Not commenced	Economic
Support development of community space or private enterprise venture for a coffee shop/supermarket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investigate potential businesses that would be interested in opening a café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Businesses GSCC 	Low	Local resident investigating options	Economic/Advocacy
Investigate future use of Daunts Bend including caravan / camping facilities, walking/cycling tracks by improving the maps, signage and paths infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a working group to investigate a course of action for this goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Parks Victoria GSCC 	Low	Not commenced	Social / Natural
Support the development of residential housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Liaise with any relevant developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community GSCC Developer GV Water 	Low	Research work continues on future development	Built / Social
Preparing a feasibility study to support the establishment of a caravan park within Toolamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a working group for this project -Determine potential locations for a caravan/RV park -Source funding opportunities for a feasibility report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community GSCC 	Low	Not commenced – On hold	Economic
Development of a community noticeboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish preferred location in town -Liaise with GSCC Planning/Building to determine any requirements -Source funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community GSCC 	Low	Not commenced	Social
Facilitation of community courses (i.e. woodwork, craft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investigate potential facilitators -Secure venue -Source any required funding/materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Hobby groups 	Low	Not commenced	Social
Better promotion of our area's natural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a working group to create promotional ideas and avenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community 	Low	Not commenced	Environment

