

# Nagambie Action Plan

## 2014-2017





## *Acknowledgements*

This document has been developed by and for the Nagambie community, with the purpose to see that the Nagambie district continues to grow and prosper. Special thanks and acknowledgement must be given to the follow individuals:

**Kimm Kennedy** - The Nagambie Action Group President (2013 & 14), who initiated the review and subsequent development of the community driven 2014-17 Strategic Action Plan. Kimm also coordinated the town meeting held at the Nagambie Golf Club, participated in the analytical review working group and has spent a number of hours reviewing the content of this activity plan prior to publication.

**Andrea Richards** – Provided support in publishing and collating the online and newspaper surveys. She led the analytical review working group producing collated results of surveys, public meeting listed initiatives and previous Action Plan initiatives. Andrea also prepared and is the author of the Action Plan 2014-2017.

**Rob Auld, Donna Winter-Irving, Beth Walters and Trevor Forbes** - who make up the remainder of the analytical review working group who helped collate, and define the five categories of the Action Plan 2014-2017.

**Neal Albrey** - Whose photography has been kindly donated and included in this publication.

**Robbie Rae** - Strathbogie Shire Council's Community Development Officer, provided support to the Nagambie Action Group and chaired the public forum.

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## 1. Introduction

The 2014-2017 Nagambie Action Plan is the first “all community” prepared plan and represents the independent combined views of Nagambie residents. Previous plans have utilised support and funding from Strathbogie Shire Council and have lacked community commitment. The Nagambie Action Group (NAG) hope by involving community members in the plan’s development that there is greater passion and purpose for individuals and organisations to become involved in the long term enhancement of our township and quality of life for those who choose to live or visit.

### 1.1 *Nagambie Action Group*

The Nagambie Action Group consists of interested members of the Nagambie District who have a shared passion to improve the quality and liveability of Nagambie. The Group holds annual elections to form its committee and is open to all members of the public to participate. The committee is a Section 86 committee of Council.

Under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council has the power to establish special committees that are commonly known as Section 86 Committees of Management. These committees can be established to implement community action plans.

Council may appoint members to a Committee of Management and may at any time remove a member from a Committee of Management.

Except for some specific powers, a Council may, by Instrument of Delegation, delegate any of its functions, duties and powers under the Local Government Act, or any other Act, to a special committee.

Council will require a Committee of Management to report to the Council at intervals determined by the Council.

As Council is a separate legal entity at law and as such cannot delegate to another separate legal entity, a Section 86 Committee of Management cannot be an incorporated entity.

Council requires a community action group to be a Section 86 Committee of Management. The NAG is considered a supporting umbrella organisation that can assist groups to connect with other important stakeholders such as government bodies, including local Council. It is important to note that not all initiatives that local organisations or interested parties want to undertake can be endorsed by the NAG. The main strategic document provided to Council by the NAG is the Nagambie Action Plan and only initiatives that fit within the five core areas of interest identified by the wider community can be supported during 2014-2017.

Council supports the NAG with an annual grant. To receive funds from the Council Community Grants program, the Action Group need to meet the criteria set by Council. This criteria includes the following:

- have a Council endorsed and supported community plan for that community
- undertake a project that is detailed or prioritised within the community plan
- undertake the allocation of funds to projects within the boundaries of the Shire of Strathbogie

Council Community Grants for Action Groups may be used for the following:

- undertaking a prioritised project or initiative from the current Community Action Plan
- up to \$1,000 per annum for administration costs
- up to \$1,000 per annum for township Christmas decorations
- funds may also be used for the community engagement activities undertaken when reviewing the Community Action Plan
- allocations may be used as seed funding for State and Federal Government grants and may be held by the Action Group for a maximum period of two years

- funds cannot be used for any other organisation's ongoing maintenance expenses, including salaries, telephone, electricity etc

## ***1.2 Nagambie Action Plan's Principal, Purpose and Planning Cycle***

The Principles behind the Nagambie Action Plan are as follows:

- **Sustainability** – the community is seeking to improve its quality of life. All its actions must be able to be maintained into the future
- **Consultation** – the community must ensure that its plans and ideas for each initiative is genuinely what local people want, and it fits into the foreseeable future needs of the Nagambie community
- **Commitment** – the Nagambie community in pursuing these goals must ensure that the outcomes are supported by direct community involvement and support, through either recognised and agreed paid resources or volunteer time

The Action Plan Purpose is to communicate the initiatives the NAG will support over the next three years. The NAG utilise the plan to help support and align community, individuals, groups and organisations with the same purpose. This could be via:

- written letters of support
- financial support
- connecting with other local state and federal funding bodies
- networking with other like-minded people, organisations or projects

The Action Plan is not a project Plan to be implemented by the NAG. It is however the culmination of the community's intentions for improvement and provides a connection for individual, group and organisation involvement in a united outcome. The plan alone cannot achieve results. It is you and your club's inputs and activities that will drive the initiatives outlined in the document.

The Planning Cycle is:

- i. You, your club or organisation identify an alignment with an initiative outlined in the plan and form the focus group that will drive the initiative to successful completion
  - a. NAG will ensure other relevant interested parties are invited to participate
  - b. NAG will aim to align local individuals with specialised talents that may be beneficial for project success

- ii. You or your club/organisation investigate and formulate a set of actions (project plan)
  - a. NAG can help ensure the best outcomes to fit ALL the community, which has the advantage of a greater involvement and interest from the community
- iii. Your organisation’s actions are developed into a project plan; including key information such as objectives, planned outcomes, timelines, resource involvement
  - a. NAG can help communicate and publicise the planned project to engage other passionate individuals and encourage wider community support for the actions
- iv. When needing a sponsor you or your club/organisation may discuss actions with Council or other agencies (which may include funding requests).
  - a. You, your club or organisation monitor and report progress to Action Group (monthly or as appropriate) to ensure community expectations are being met
- v. Project implemented/completed, the Focus Group meet and review project outcomes
  - a. Final report of outcomes and achievement to NAG which are documented within future Action Plans

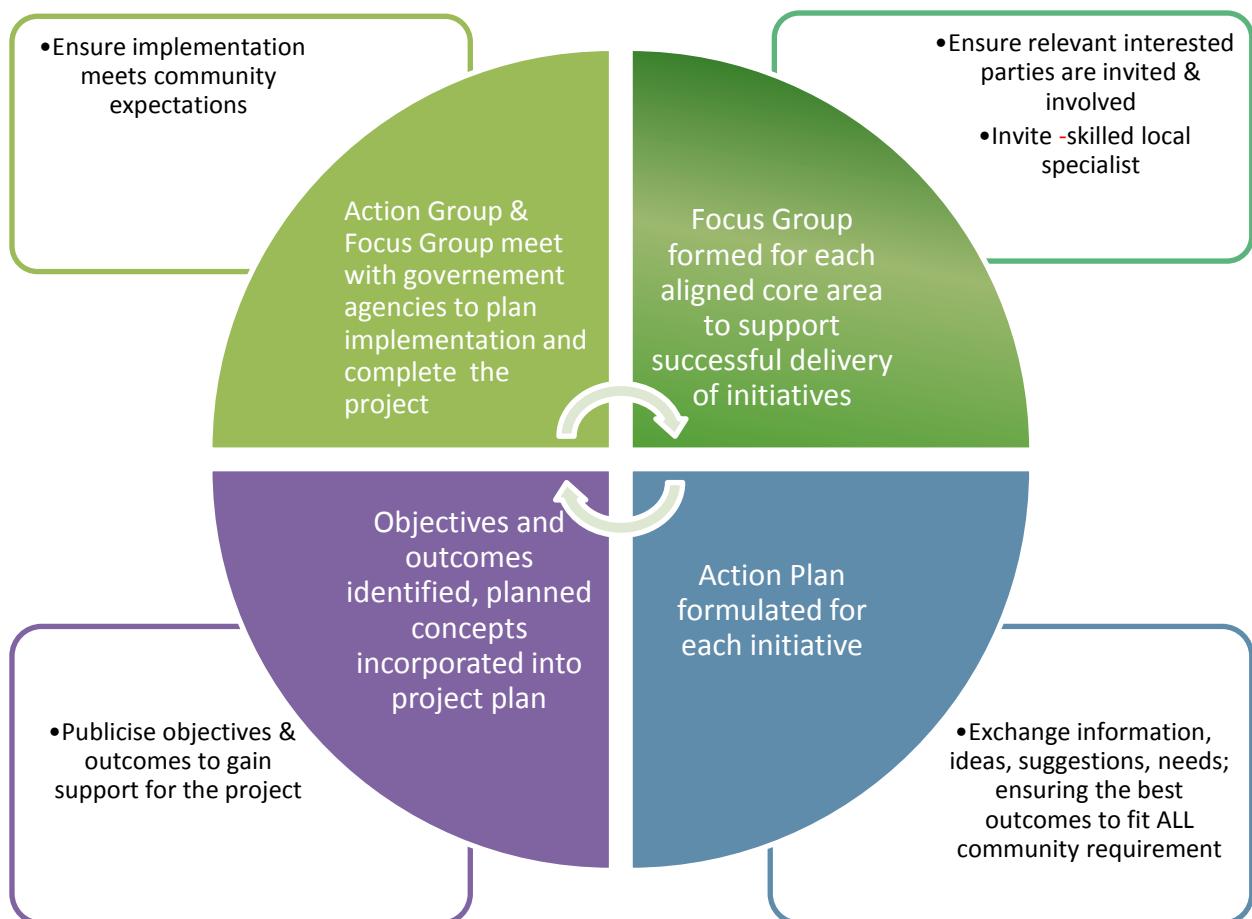


Figure 1 Action Plan Steps

The implementation of initiatives cannot succeed without interested parties and local organisations who participate in the focus groups. There is a distinct and critical relationship between stakeholders and the phases of the Action Plan which is shown in the figure below.

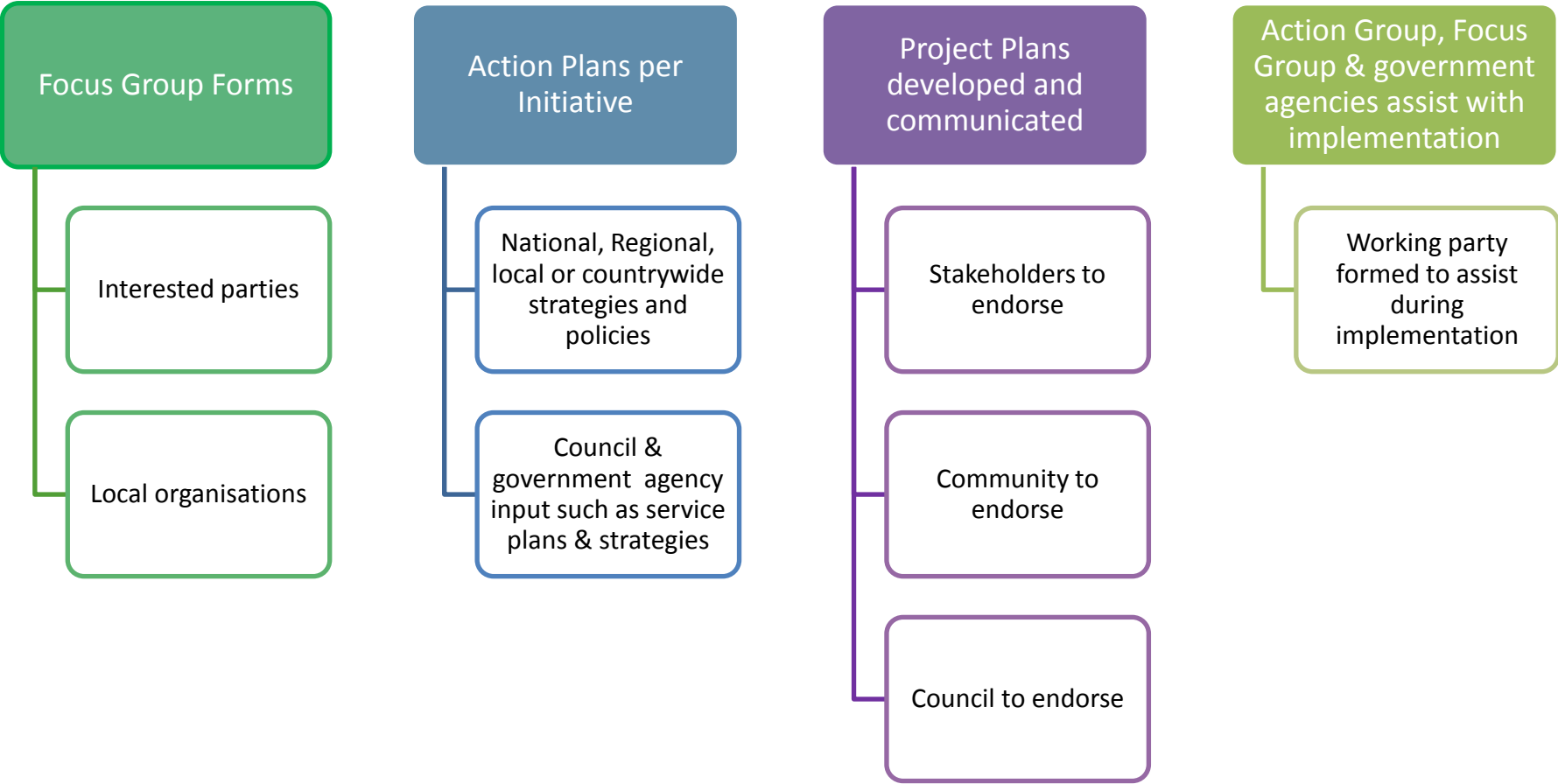


Figure 2 Stakeholder Alignments to Action Plan Phases



### 1.3 The Key Categories of Community Concern 2014-2017

The five key categories of concerns identified by the community have been documented as the five categories (or pillars) that the community wish to improve in the 2014-2017 timeframe. These categories will guide the NAG in providing support and assistance to individuals or groups who require Council's support, or need networking support to coordinate an aligned approach for government grants or funding. The five categories provide simple criteria for the community to identify with, and work towards improvement for the community.

Figure 3 Core Categories of concern identified by the community



## 2 Nagambie Action Plan 2009-13 Review

### 2.1 Outcomes of the 2009-2013 Nagambie Action Plan

The Nagambie Action Plan 2009-13 has produced a number of successful outcomes. Some longer term projects are continuing to progress. Listed below are tangible results from the 2009-13 Action Plan.

#### 2.1.1 Completed or Established 2009-2013 Action Plan Outcomes

Title	Description	Outcome
<b>NOW Festival</b>	A community run festival designed to highlight the positive aspects of Lake Nagambie and its environment	The festival is in its 7 <sup>th</sup> year and has a number of key events that attract tourism to the region; including the Park to Pub swim, Walk on Water and the Hooves Habitat and Harvest celebration.
<b>Swim Event</b>	“The Park to Pub ‘n back” open water swim	A yearly swim event, incorporated into the Nagambie On Water Festival that attracts over 80 participants, with most participants living outside of the region. The event has been part of the NOW festival since its inception in 2008.
<b>Skiing Championships</b>	An on-water ski event to promote the equitable use of Lake Nagambie	The slalom event has not been run of late, but is being given priority at subsequent NOW Festivals.



## Nagambie Action Plan 2014-17

<b>New Year's Eve Event</b>	New Year's Eve Fireworks	The New Year's Eve fireworks event has been established as a yearly event by the Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce (NLTC). Spectators travel from nearby towns as well as Melbourne; as the event is seen by many in Melbourne as a safe family friendly event, thus attracting visitors to the region for the event. The 2014 event crowd was estimated at 3500.
<b>Improve lake surround and parks</b>	Black Caviar Statue donation and construction	The kind donation by Rick Jamison of Gilgai Farm, Strathbogie Shire Council and the Victorian Government of the Black Caviar statue; a life size replica, was initiated by the Action Group. This has helped with attracting additional tourism into the town post bypass.



<b>Monthly market</b>	Nagambie Lakeside market	The Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce group run this market with a paid position for the Market Coordinator. Growth in the market has remained steady over the past few years.
<b>Nagambie Lakes Community House</b>	The Nagambie Lakes Community House (NLCH)	The NLCH operates from 16 Prentice Street, offering short courses and activities for all ages. This is run by the community as a not-for-profit organisation and is supported by Council by the use of the Council owned building. The Community House has been running for 4 years.

## Nagambie Action Plan 2014-17

<p><b>Enhance swimming area at Buckley Park, River Street and Blayney Reserve</b></p>	<p>Buckley Park Toilet Mural</p>	<p>As part of a funding grant for the 2011 NOW festival money was obtained and used to create a colourful mural on the Buckley Park Toilets facing the water and visible from High Street</p>
<p><b>Improve Lake surround and parks</b></p>	<p>Additional Bins and chairs in High Street</p>	<p>In partnership with Council the Action Group were involved in the allocation of additional bins and chairs along High Street. Providing foot traffic the opportunity to rest whilst strolling through the shopping precinct</p>
<p><b>Improve lake surround and parks</b></p>	<p>Lakeside Boardwalk linking Jacobson’s Outlook and Blayney Park around the water’s edge</p>	<p>An Action Group and Council combined project that has helped to beautify the lake foreshore. Assistance also was provided by Broken River Catchment Management Authority with the placement of plaques identifying both natural and historically significant information.</p>
<p><b>Community Garden</b></p>	<p>Development of a community garden</p>	<p>Via the support of the Nagambie Lakes Community House a community garden has been established.</p>



## Nagambie Action Plan 2014-17

<b>Shop local Program &amp; local business achievement awards</b>	A shop local program was run during 2010	A combined initiative of the NLTC, a shop local program was run with monetary prizes for participants (3 x \$1,000). Promotional flags were provided to shops.
<b>Attract new businesses</b>	New diverse businesses opening in High Street	A number of developers are working to create more retail space and business opportunities, including IGA Supermarket and Nagambie Developments. Additionally other businesses such as Nagambie Fitness, Rejuvenate, Illago Pizza, Nagambie Cheap Shop, Sensation Signs, Bendigo Bank, 317 High, Stich This, Nagambie Bargains, La Gallerie Nagambie and Nagambie Outdoors have been established. Health and community services such as Nagambie Dental Surgery, Arora Practioner's Rheumatologist and the Visitor Information Centre are now based in High Street premises. Further water services include the Mitchelton Goulburn Explorer boat cruise.
<b>More picnic and BBQ areas</b>	Elloura Beach	Initiated by the NAG, the Elloura development has provided the community a family friendly sheltered BBQ area at the man-made beach providing local families and visitors a place to play, swim and picnic. The beach is used by many young families as an alternative to the Nagambie Swimming pool. For parents who were raised in the town it is a tradition to utilise the lake for swimming, Elloura Beach and River Street are the only available places that provide a knee deep "walk in" possibility to the water.

**Table 1 Completed and Established Outcomes**



## 2.1.2 Ongoing 2009-2013 Action Plan activities

Title	Description	Outcome
Improve lake surround and parks	History Bollards	A group of historical and art enthusiasts are progressing with the creation of life-size bollards that will be placed around the lake foreshore area. The wood is reclaimed from the jetty structure previously in Buckley Park, which was originally milled from timber from the nearby forested area.
Improve lake surround and parks	Dog Poop Poles	To be positioned soon, the Action Group, working with Council will install 6 dog poop poles around the lake walkway area.
Maintain trees and green space	Redevelopment of High Street after by-pass	The NAG was consulted by Council as to Council's proposed design. Work has not yet commenced on the redevelopment.
Railway station and bus service shelters	Railway station building development	Friends of the Railway station group are working with Council and other government agencies (including VLine and Metro Trains) to obtain funding to build a structure at the Nagambie Railway station.
Attract new business	Natural Gas to town	Talks are progressing with businesses, utility companies and government as to the cost for natural gas to be brought to the township of Nagambie

Table 2 Ongoing Initiatives



### 3 Aims and Initiatives Action Plan 2014-2017

The development of the 2014-2017 Action Plan has evolved through a series of meetings, public discussions, surveys and groups within the community. At all stages, residents have been encouraged to participate.

The 5 key categories that underpin a number of priority issues for the community will be listed within the *Category Aims, Suggested Initiatives and Current on Going Actions* section of this document.

Undertaking initiatives clearly relating to one of the 5 categories in this Action Plan prepares the Nagambie Community to seek access to program funding from Council and other Government Agencies. The Nagambie Action Plan also enables potential resource providers to acknowledge that it represents a combined strategic direction with support from individuals, clubs and associations within the community.



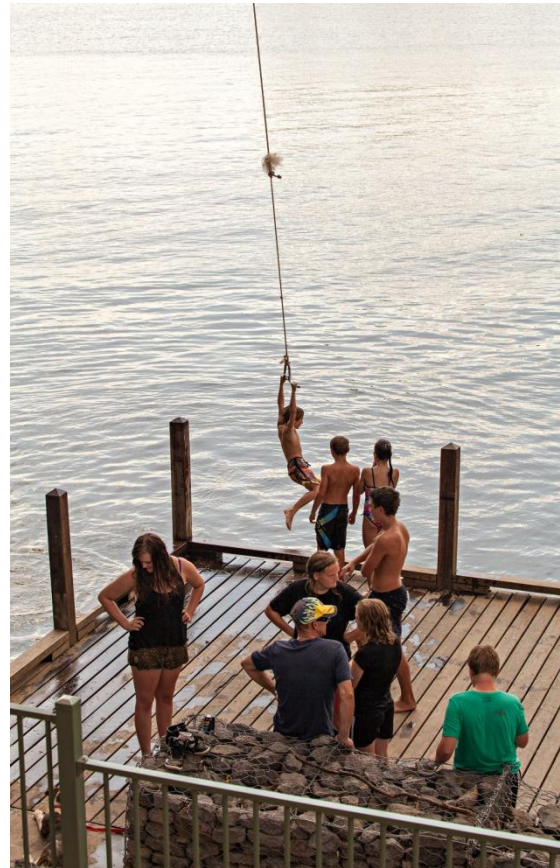
The remainder of this Action Plan will outline the community suggested initiatives, the aims and current ongoing actions per category.



## 4 What makes the Nagambie district great

Throughout the consultation period the community recognised a number of natural and built elements of the environment that they agree help to continue to distinguish the town and region as a desired destination for working, living and visiting. These include the following:

- Lake Nagambie
- The Goulburn River water system
- The Nagambie Library
- The various sporting grounds and facilities
- The friendliness shown by the community
- The community support
- The rope swing and its longevity throughout the decades



The elements identified by the community during focus group discussions and survey completion have provided stimulus for idea generation and ultimately development of the suggested initiatives included in the Action Plan.





## 5 Category Aims, Suggested Initiatives and Ongoing Actions

As part of the consultation undertaken by the Action Group individuals in the community were asked to provide their top 3 or 5 suggestions for improvement against each category. These have been collated, prioritised and included as suggested initiatives per category. Where a suggestion included in the initial Action Plan of 2009 has been highlighted again as a priority by the community it has been identified with an asterisk and the background is highlighted in blue.

Additional to this document is a one page pictorial of initiatives that will be developed to help provide a simplified summary of the Action Plan 2014-2017.

### 5.1 Festival and Events

#### Aims

- Use events and activities to promote the township and surrounding region
- Encourage community involvement in events and activities that effectively contribute to broader engagement and healthy lifestyles
- Increase Nagambie community support for existing events



#### Suggested Initiatives

- Triathlon encompassing Lake Nagambie\*
- Activities for children (eg mini golf)
- Cycling/walking track around Lake Nagambie\*
- Continue to grow the New Year's Eve fireworks event
- Organised activities for the elderly
- Signage identifying and displaying significant local history
  - Sporting heroes, equine, wine and irrigation feats
- Continue to support and grow the NOW Festival

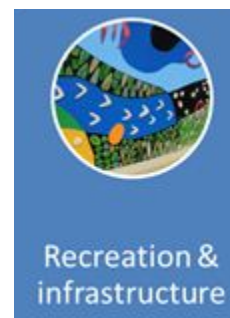
#### Current Ongoing Actions:

1. NOW Festival, governed by community members; set up as a sub-committee of the NAG. Looking to obtain grants funding to enlarge the event in 2015.
2. New Year's Eve Fireworks display commissioned by Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Group. The company providing the fireworks has been commissioned for 5 years.
3. River to Ranges annual cycling event organised and promoted by Mitchelton Wines.
4. History bollards currently being developed with the use of historical and arts/culture grants to create from reclaimed wood; bollards from the originally jetties that were at Buckley Park are being used. This timber was originally milled from forested areas around Nagambie.

## 5.2 Recreation and Infrastructure

### Aims

- Attract and retain population via improved community infrastructure
- Encourage safe participation in, and equitable contribution to, ALL recreation, sport and leisure activities by improving facilities and enhancing access
- Plan, develop, maintain and enhance existing facilities for recreation, sport and leisure in Nagambie
- Promote and encourage existing and new groups and organisations to develop their programs within recreation, sport and leisure
- Increased community safety
- Improve public building facilities and increase utilisation and effectiveness



### Suggested Initiatives

- Unification of sporting group infrastructure and planning needs via organising body\*
- Water slide returned to Lake Bowl
- Skate Park for all users\*
- Jetty for mooring boats
- Extending current Jacobson's Outlook boardwalk for biking and walking
- Greater signage on Highway\*
- Rework the Lakeside Market , move to main street and median strip to improve exposure
- Review buoys in the bowl of the lake & lake usage\*
- More commercial tourism based shops
- Limit noise of jet skis and boats
- Cinema in Mechanics Hall

### Current Ongoing Actions:

1. Support for Nagambie Golf Club's efforts for sustainable water management
2. Supporting grant submissions for railway station structure
3. Co-ordination of yearly Nagambie Events Calendar; including sports and culture
4. Supporting activities related to the expansion of the Boardwalk
5. Ongoing discussions with VicRail to redevelop Rotary Park as a skate park and family-friendly play space

### 5.3 Services

#### Aims

- Identify ways to enhance service integration that improves community wellbeing and quality of life
- Help establish alliances and networks that can increase services to the Nagambie community
- Identify and support the greatest social needs within the community



#### Suggested Initiatives

- Ambulance service for town (based at hospital)
- Transport for community members outside of Nagambie\*
- Better commercial services allowing purchases in town rather than out of town
- Improved Public Transport
- Community services for elderly people (activities and transport)
- Natural gas available removing the monopoly of electricity for energy consumption\*

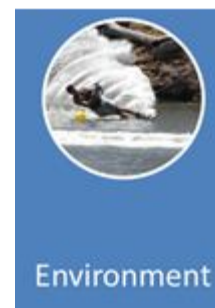
#### **Current ongoing Actions:**

1. Investigations with health services.
2. Additional health services; including chiropractor weekly service, vision and auditory monthly testing service.

## 5.4 Environment

### Aims

- Preserve distinctive characteristics of the natural, and heritage environment of Nagambie
- Respect and support the development of community assets so that they can be utilised by the current generation and be available for similar enjoyment by future generations
- Encourage community participation for improving and maintaining appropriate spaces for vegetation and wildlife with access for all to enjoy
- Ensure sustainable outcomes for the local environment that complement both community and conservation objectives



### Suggested Initiatives

- Improve waste management and continue High Street toilet amenity improvements
- Reduce street litter
- Limit river bank and wildlife habitat damage from water craft
- Natural gas available to encourage businesses to the area\*
- Equitable access for all types of water sports
- Promote sustainable housing and living in the area\*
- Dog poop pole dispenser in parks

### Current Ongoing Actions:

1. Supporting Council initiatives for High Street toilet amenities improvement, grant obtained for \$25,000.
2. Six dog poop poles supplied by Strathbogie Shire Council; to be placed along walkways.
3. Supporting Council's natural gas discussions with government agencies, utility companies and local business.
4. "Friends of the Railway" working group collaborating with Council, Action Group and government agencies.

## 5.5 *Economic Growth, Support and Tourism*

### Aims

- Encourage commercial and industrial development within the community
- Support the development of a diverse and prosperous rural community
- Develop tourism by promoting Nagambie as a wonderful destination to visit and live



### Suggested Initiatives

- Complete the boardwalk all around the lake
- Attract promoters to create or relocate a music festival
- Boat ramp that does not close for lake bowl closures
- Short day tours to existing points of interest and destinations
- Revitalise High Street shopping strip\*
- Develop town as a tourist destination (not a toilet stop)
- Mid-range priced commercial tourism based shopping

### **Current Ongoing Actions:**

1. Consultation with Council about the proposed staged redevelopment of High Street.
2. Continued collaboration and support with NLTC with initiatives for further development of Nagambie as a “destination”.



## **6 Function of Community Planning**

### **6.1 Role of the NAG**

The role of the NAG is to support only the suggested initiatives within the Action Plan.

This involves:

- Coordinating and bringing together all interested parties and the broader community to plan action for any initiative in the Nagambie Action Plan
- Supporting and assisting the development of project plans for each initiative to achieve implementation
- Assisting the focus groups for each initiative to negotiate partners, funds and expertise to complete the project

### **6.2 Alterations to the Action Plan**

The Action Plan has been established through a public process and consequently this process must be respected. Any alteration to the Action Plan requires a Council and public process. This allows the community to have an opportunity to consider any changes at the time and authorise any alterations to priorities as a result of that community meeting. The Action Plan is a vibrant, flexible and dynamic document. It can change, but change should occur through due process.

### **6.3 Dispute Resolution**

In the event of a dispute all parties must meet, discuss and resolve the matter as soon as possible. If parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they must agree to hold a meeting in the presence of a person nominated through the Strathbogie Shire Council. The role of mediation is to guide the parties towards settling the dispute, not make the decision to resolve the dispute. In any dispute, all parties must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard, to ensure natural justice is applied to the whole process.

### **6.4 Emergency Circumstances**

It may be necessary from time to time for the NAG to suspend actions in the Action Plan because of an emergency that has occurred within the area or region or as directed by the authorised person within the Municipal Emergency Co-ordination Centre. The emergency must be of a significant community nature that requires broad community action as a priority above all other actions.