



STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP (STAG)

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Introduction

Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG) was one of the first Action Groups established by Council in 2005 under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Action Groups are comprised of members of the community, whose role is to develop and implement a community action plan for their particular community.

The objectives of the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG) are to:

- Support the community to implement actions as identified in the action plan and which strengthen and develop the community
- Utilise the action plan to give overall direction to Council regarding community development and strengthening
- Ensure that the plan is generally available and understood by the wider Strathbogie community.

The Action Plan has been revised on several occasions and this document will form the fourth Strathbogie Tableland Action Plan. With each revision the community revisited its vision and community values and these have not changed.

Community Vision

- A peaceful rural community based around the township of Strathbogie and surrounding lifestyle and productive rural properties
- A cohesive community that draws on the experience and talents of both its long standing and newer residents to work together for the benefit of the whole community
- A community with a strong sense of pride and celebration.

Community Values

The community values the natural environment, particularly the lack of development and traffic and the strong community life of the Tableland: the safety, the diversity, the opportunities to participate and being made to feel welcome. It is also very proud of its history.

Revision of the Action Plan

Previously Strathbogie's Community Action Plans have been developed at community meetings through a process of brainstorming and prioritising of suggested projects. There was little, if any, discussion or analysis of each suggestion which meant that, while the Action Plan contained numerous projects that may be 'nice to have', many were unrealistic and often unachievable.

Expressions of interest were sought for each project and while a number were supported in the longer term interest appeared to wane.

For the current revision of the Action Plan STAG first sought input from the community and asked that submissions be in writing and include:

- description of the project
- who would deliver the project
- estimated cost
- anticipated timeframe for delivery
- benefit to the community
- whether ongoing maintenance would be required
- name and contact details of the person making the submission
- whether that person would be prepared to be involved in the project, either as a co-ordinator or member of a STAG sub-committee.

Three submissions were received.

The STAG committee then reviewed the existing plan and removed

- any projects that had been completed or were currently being acted upon
- projects that it believed would not be achievable (some of which may have been investigated by earlier STAG committees)
- projects for which no expressions of interest had been lodged.

The new Action Plan has been developed by:

- retaining projects from the previous plan which may be achievable
- adding new projects suggested by members of the community
- identifying themes that may link several projects
- identifying projects that link with the Council Plan 2013-17 (2015 review)

On completion, the draft was presented to the community through Tableland Talk, the community website, bogie-tree and at a community meeting.

It is important to understand that the Action Plan belongs to the community and it is only the community that can make it happen. The Action Plan also provides Council with an understanding of the needs of the community when developing their planning and budget documents. Since its inception, the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group has achieved a significant number of outcomes which benefit the community.

Projects which have been completed to date:

- community telephone directory and later update
- improved broadband and mobile phone reception through the erection of a Telstra tower on Mount Wombat
- community dance
- community clearing sale
- new computer for the production of Tableland Talk
- improved amenity of the main street through repainting the hall facade and a streetscape planting project
- car parking bays formalised and footpath resurfaced at the General Store
- Community Information Board refurbished
- Community Emergency Plan in two parts: a) Bushfire, b) General Emergencies
- purchase of a generator for the Neighbourhood Safer Place
- establishment of the community website
- provision of screen and data projector
- twin bridges in Brookleigh Road reopened
- footbridge across Spring Creek
- walking path from Spring Creek Road to Primary School
- Strathbogie Tableland brochure “Victoria's Best Kept Secret”
- split system for the Soldiers Room
- development of streetscape plan
- distribution of community specific information: bushfires, landcare, etc.
- several sessions relating to health and wellbeing: CPR, First Aid, use of defibrillator
- purchase of a defibrillator
- funding for insulation in the Memorial Hall
- funding for plans to enclose the verandah at the Recreation Reserve
- Successfully nominated a member of the community to attend Fairley Leadership
- Improvement of facilities at Polly McQuinns: replaced picnic tables, refurbished noticeboard and provided new information board, negotiated with Council to provide safety barriers
- Development of “My Personal Fire Plan”
- Purchase of photocopier for Tableland Talk
- Contributed to development of community pizza oven at the recreation ground
- Enhanced Telstra exchange building with street art
- Conducted several community lunches with speakers
- Contributed to the external painting of the memorial hall
- Relocated street trees to the recreation ground and planted new trees in Main Street

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

*Council Plan: Provide best practice asset management
Clean up town entry signs in the Shire
Continue to design and seek funding for town drainage/sewerage schemes*

1. Streetscape Plan which has been developed by a consultant and identified the following projects:
 - paint the sides and rear of the Memorial Hall to align with the front
 - camouflage the Telstra building
 - clean out swale drains (do not replace them with curbed chanel)
 - install picnic facilities at the Spring Creek Bridge car park area
 - minimise clutter: repair or replace old and worn signage
 - review street plantings
2. Continue to upgrade facilities at the Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve
3. Promote self sufficiency and renewable energy.
4. Continue to lobby for improved road conditions on the Tableland, in particular:
 - the intersection of Euroa/Strathbogie Road and Creek Junction Road; and
 - completion of the pedestrian path from the Spring Creek bridge to Magiltan Drive
5. Construction of a community pizza oven at the Recreation Ground.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

*Council Plan: Investigate and seek funding for the development of a Strategic Walking Tracks, Horse Trails and Bike Routes for the Shire in conjunction with the Action Groups and Goulburn River Valley Tourism (GRVT)
Fund plaques on each building to advise of the history of that building.
Develop the Shire's tourism and cafe culture*

1. Improve/develop community sporting facilities and activities.
2. Identify and promote walking tracks and places of interest on the Tableland.
3. Liaise with Parks Victoria to upgrade parking and provide signage at Polly McQuinns.
4. Provide access to potable water for cyclists and other sporting activities.
5. Investigate the feasibility of developing camping facilities

COMMUNITY

Council: Support Community Action Groups to develop methods of improved communication during emergencies.

1. Provide support to community interest groups including, but not limited to:
 - History
 - Arts and Festivals
 - Pine Action
 - SCOFF
 - Peranbin School

2. Continue to support and improve avenues of communication including, but not limited to:
 - Tableland Talk
 - Community Website
 - Bogie-tree

3. Continue to monitor emergency procedures for the Tableland.

4. Identify issues of concern to the community that may arise from time to time and address them through the Action Plan.

EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES

It may be necessary from time to time for the Community Action Group to suspend actions on the Action Plan because of an emergency that has occurred within the community or region. The emergency must be of a significant community nature that requires broad community action as a priority above all other actions.

Review of Action Plan 2017

As a number of projects had been completed, the committee sought input from the community through Tableland Talk and the bogie-tree asking for any additions they may wish to make to the existing plan. No responses were received. Members of the committee provided a number of suggestions which will now form part of the Action Plan.

1. Develop an annual or biannual celebration of the spoken word
2. In cooperation with Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Group, extend the existing Bridge to Bridge bush walk within the riparian reserve from Spring Creek Bridge to the Magiltan confluence and from Smith's Bridge to Brookleigh Road, thereby encircling the township in a 12-15km walk that celebrates the Strathbogie Ranges experience.
3. Provide a shelter over the pizza oven at the recreation ground.
4. Provide support for a distribution point for diesel fuel at the recreation ground.
5. Update the community directory
6. Provide a children's picnic table at the recreation reserve.
7. Review and, where necessary, replace signage in the township.

These projects will form the Annual Plan for 2018.

Following the review and development of the Annual Plan, the following suggestions were received from two members of the community. STAG's Annual Plan is due for its four year review next year, at which time these suggestions will be included in the process of consultation with the community.

- Hydronic wall heater panels for the hall
- Inbuilt audio system (speakers etc) in Hall and Supper Room – ideas include running dancing classes for grade 6's leading up to special graduation night dance with whole community and also bush dancing classes for all classes and community bush dance.
- Easter festival
- Playground upgrade at the Rec Reserve
- Portable goals, witches hats, footballs, etc. to enable "Auskick" program at the Rec Reserve
- Concrete drive into the Hall
- Pedestrian bridge at old bridge
- Camp ground facilities to encourage greater camping tourism
- Balls, racquets, equipment and ongoing funding for season of tennis coaching.

