

GRAYTOWN COMMUNITY PLAN

2025 - 2030



Graytown Community Incorporated
(previously known as Graytown Community Action Group)

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we are on Taungurung Country and pay our respects to the Taungurung as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live.

We pay our respects to Taungurung leaders and Elders, past, present and emerging.

Resources

The Graytown Community Plan was developed through engagement and consultation with the local Graytown community at various meetings held during August 2024 - May 2025.

The final version being approved by the Committee on 9 June 2025. It will be submitted to Strathbogie Shire Council for endorsement.

This is an update to the previous Graytown Community Plan of 2021 - 2025. Research for the updated Community Plan included these references:

- Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Community Vision - 2035
- Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Council Plan - 2025 - 2029
- Strathbogie Shire Council Annual Action Plan - 2025 - 2026
- Strathbogie Shire Council website - Action Groups
- Strathbogie Shire Council Management Agreement - 2021
- Graytown Community Plan 2021 - 2025

Graytown Community Incorporated - Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of 19 October 2024, the following Graytown residents were elected to the Committee:

- President - Graham Sims
- Deputy President - vacant
- Secretary/Treasurer - Julie Sims
- Grants/Projects - Vivienne Moore
- Social Committee - Michael Dunne
- Social Committee - Maureen Pratten

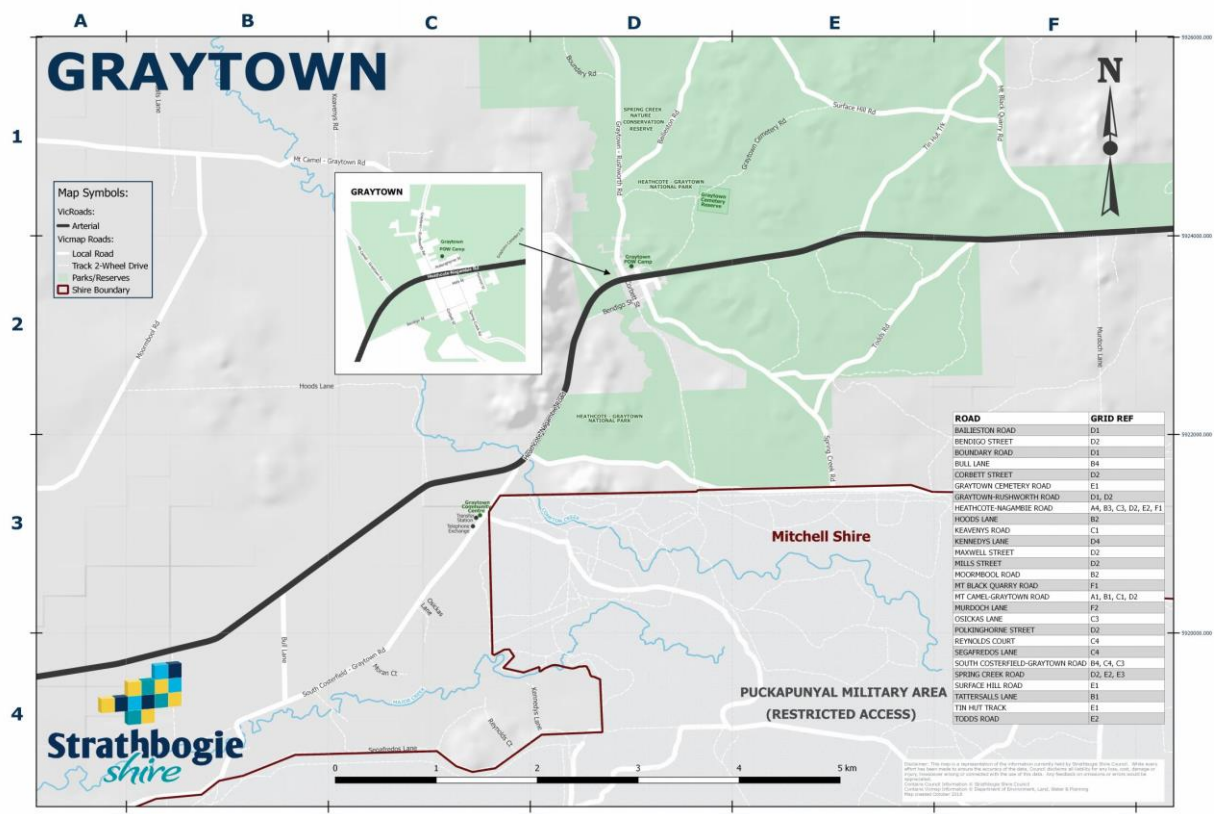
There are currently 22 other members.

Graytown Location

Graytown is located 137 km north of Melbourne, halfway along the connecting road between Heathcote and Nagambie.

Graytown has a number of geological distinguishing features including Mount Moormbool (816m), located North West of the Graytown township, which is considered the geographical centre of Victoria.

Map of Graytown - 2018



At the last census there were 60 permanent residents in Graytown.

Graytown History

The earliest inhabitants of the Graytown area were members of the Taungurung Clans. They were the first custodians of the land on which the township of Graytown now stands. The Taungurung lived harmoniously with the environment, the Taungurung people hunted, gathered and travelled according to seasonal change. As a result of colonisation, Taungurung people suffered because of introduction of diseases, massacres and the dispossession and relocation to government run reserves.

Formally known as ‘Spring Creek’, Graytown was surveyed in 1848 by Robert Hoddle, Officer-in-Charge of the Port Phillip Survey Department. He went on to become the first Surveyor General of Victoria in 1851. He was a central figure in the areas of surveying, cartography and geography in Victoria.

Graytown is a gold mining ghost town. Gold was discovered in Graytown 1868 and the population suddenly leapt to 30,000, during this period Graytown was likened to the Ballarat Gold Rush. Although lack of water proved a problem with some of the creeks being exhausted and material allegedly ‘washed in beer’ which was in plentiful supply.

The alluvial gold rapidly disappeared and by late 1870 the population had declined to 150. The death-knell came in 1870 when a freak storm and flood swamped the mining endeavours and destroyed numerous buildings. Many of the remaining structures were moved elsewhere. Some old shafts, mullock heaps, poppet legs and brick chimneys serve as reminders of the town's previous existence.

During the Second World War a prisoner-of-war camp, was established at Graytown: this camp was predominantly a wood cutting camp in the bush for Italian, German and Finnish Prisoners of War.

Foundations and wire are all that is left of the camp today.

Remains of the POW Camp at Graytown



Graytown Community Plan - Values and Principles

Graytown Community Plan - Values

The Graytown community is made up of some long term residents and some residents that come to live in the community only on weekends or in the holidays. Everyone in the Graytown community is welcome at any time to participate in any community events.

The values for the Graytown community are:

- **To ensure there is a connected community** - that people are aware of what is happening in their community and contribute to community affairs as they evolve.
- **To ensure a supportive community** - that the community can socialise together but also support each other, in order to build community spirit.
- **To demonstrate a community that shares opportunities** - that the physical attractiveness, activities and history combine to build a community that is proud of its location and willing to share it between the community and with others.

Graytown Community Plan - Principles

- **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 Graytown community. It includes involving residents in developing each initiative that increases community participation and continuously improves community opportunity and services.
- **Commitment** – the Graytown community in pursuing these ideas must ensure that the outcomes are supported by direct community involvement and support, through either recognised and agreed paid resources or volunteer time.
- **Sustainability** – the community is seeking to improve its quality of life. All the outcomes of any actions must be able to be maintained into the future.
- **Partnerships** - at the centre of community planning is the opportunity to build partnerships between the community and stakeholders external to Graytown.



Graytown Community Plan - Priorities

Priority One - Communication and Community Engagement

We will continue to develop methods of communication with all residents to ensure everyone can be involved in community affairs. We need to engage all residents to make sure they receive local and Council information and involve everyone in discussing and carrying out projects at the Community Centre (known locally as the Hub).

Actions:

- Open communication
- Use the Facebook page for the community information
- Hold regular Community events
- Arrange guest speakers at Hub eg CFA presentation for fire season preparation

Priority Two - History and Heritage

The Graytown area has enormous history and heritage with links to the goldfields, national parks and the Prisoner of War Camps.

Actions:

- Maintain the history of Graytown booklets

Priority Three - Maintain the Community Centre

We need to continue to maintain the Community Centre for the use of all residents.

Actions:

- Maintenance of the building in accordance with the Management Agreement
- Maintain tools and equipment used in the Hub
- Maintain garden area around the Hub
- Be prepared for fire season

Note - the 2021 Management Agreement has expired. We will continue to work with Strathbogie Shire Council on the new Leasing and Licensing Arrangements.

Priority Four - Administration and Training

Continue the administration as in previous years.

Actions:

- Hold quarterly committee meetings and an Annual General Meeting
- Minute the meetings with copies available at the Hub and electronically
- Maintain financial records
- Administration costs - paper, printing costs, posters, internet costs
- Refresher training as required - First Aid and Food Safety

Projects completed at the Community Centre funded by Strathbogie Shire Council

- Solar panels and batteries - 2021
- All abilities toilet - 2022
- Shade Sail over outdoor tables - 2024



Progress since last Community Plan

Community

- Facebook group created - [Graytown community chat \(Australia\)](#)
- New Social committee now hosting the events
- Community breakfasts, lunches, afternoon tea and themed dinners, Christmas Party, Chinese New year, Christmas in July etc
- Special events - Australia Day and ANZAC Day
- Fundraising for Cancer Council
- CFA Bushfire Preparedness presentation - Nov 2024

Projects

- Renovated outdoor tables and benches
- New roof on noticeboard
- New concrete path to toilet
- New wooden tops to tables in BBQ area
- New cabinet in toilet area and admin area inside the community centre
- Key box so everyone is able to access the building
- External funding grants for new oven and new flooring

We have not been able to apply for funds for maintenance projects since FY 23/24 so we do what we can with our own funds and our volunteers.



Safety

- Evacuation plans prepared and displayed in Community Centre
- AED and First Aid Kit checked and supplies replenished if needed
- Test and Tag on all electrical items
- Sprayed for spiders
- Outdoor area maintained for fire season

Future plans for the Community Centre

- New water pump
- More shelves for storage in shed and storage area behind toilet
- Install security lights around building
- Painting of handrails and noticeboards
- First Aid refresher training
- Extra solar batteries as funds allow

Conclusion

The Graytown Community Centre is completely run by volunteers, this could not be done without all their hard work and dedication.

We appreciate the funding from the Strathbogie Shire Council and local businesses that allow us to continue our work at the Community Centre.

We plan to continue to have regular meetings and social events to interact and engage with the Graytown residents well into the future.

