

STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2024 – 2028



STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP INC



Acknowledgment to Country:

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are on the lands of the Taungurung Peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty has never been ceded.

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Acronyms:

Australian Tourism Data Warehouse	ATDW
Country Fire authority	CFA
Dept Energy, Environment and Climate Action	DECCA
Goulburn Region Tourism	GRT
Local Emergency Action Plan	LEAP
Rec Reserve	RR
Strathbogie Club of Food Finders	SCOFF
Safer Roads Strathbogie	SRS
Strathbogie Tableland Action Group	STAG
Strathbogie Shire Council	SSC
Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival	SCWF
Tableland Talk	TT

Executive Summary:

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

In 2017, the Council introduced a new Community Planning Program, and while the legal status of Action Groups has changed and they have a new title (Community Planning Reference Groups), their responsibilities are much the same:

To provide feedback and advice to Council on the following objectives:

- Represent the community through a democratic process of open, community planning sessions and the development of a Community Plan
- Implement actions which are identified in the Community Plan which strengthen and develop communities.
- Advocate on behalf of the community to other government agencies for appropriate funding for initiatives identified by communities (Strathbogie Shire Community Planning Program Guidelines - July 2017)

Although the Community Action Group have seen several changes since 2005 after almost 20 years STAG continues to proudly deliver for our dispersed Tableland community which includes Boho South, Creek Junction, Kelvin View, Kithbrook, Marraweeney, and Strathbogie.



We have active Sub Committees:

Communications Sub-Committee:

Which manages and operates:

- Strathbogie Google Group – *Strathbogie Tree*
- Community Directory
- Tableland Talk
- Community Website *strathbogie.org*

Emergency Sub-Committee:

Liaises with the CFA and Council and has collaborated to develop a community specific guide on bushfire and other emergencies, including a manual and information loaded onto the website. It is also working on a recovery plan with the Strathbogie Memorial Hall Committee to develop a recovery hub. Additionally, this subcommittee has been a key player in the development of Strathbogie Tableland LEAP (Local Emergency Action Plan) project.

Have developed three community specific guides.

- Bushfire emergency information
- General Emergency Information
- Personal Fire Information

Plus worked with council and a local committee on the Local Emergency Action Plan - LEAP

Strathbogie Cup Weekend Sub Committee:

- Event Coordination of the festival weekend.
- Community engagement event

Community Consultation and Engagement

Every four years we review the plan to ensure it is meeting the needs of our community.

August 2022	The 2022 STAG AGM was held. 32 members of the community attended. We were all invited to make suggestions as to how Strathbogie Tableland could develop.
April 2023	Values Statement Residents of Strathbogie Tableland were given the opportunity in April 2023 to contribute to the make-up of a community values statement through participation in an online survey. As explained at the time, the purpose of this statement is to provide a guiding reference for the Strathbogie Tableland Action Plan, ensuring that all elements of the plan are in harmony with the fundamental values expressed in the statement. A Survey was sent out to inform the Values Statement. The survey responses clearly identified six key values that hold significance for the community, and these values are detailed in the following statement. We extend our gratitude to all those who participated in the survey. Your input was incredibly valuable and has culminated in a community values statement that we can be proud of.
September 2023	Survey sent out to ask the community to suggest Actions linked to the Values Statement. Actions and comments that meet the Values Statement will be used to inform the Action Plan 2023-2024
November 2023	Community consultation session facilitated by Megan Buntine to review the Draft Action Plan developed.
October 2024	Present Action Plan to community at 2024 AGM

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We embrace a set of core values that guide our interactions and shape our collective identity. We believe in fostering a welcoming and inclusive community that celebrates diversity, respects every individual, and supports the well-being of our community members. We are committed to preserving and protecting nature, and to promoting environmental sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations. Together, we strive to create a community that thrive on these principles.

Respect

We value and honour the dignity and worth of every individual in our community. We treat one another with kindness, empathy, and fairness, embracing open-mindedness and valuing diverse perspective. We foster an environment where differences are celebrated, and all community members are heard and valued.

Inclusion

We believe in building an inclusive community where every individual feels a sense of belonging. We actively promote equal opportunities and seek to eliminate discrimination, bias, and prejudice in all aspects of community life.

Support

We are committed to supporting one another in times of need. We foster a culture of compassion, understanding, and cooperation. We lend a helping hand, offer guidance, and provide resources to ensure the well-being and growth of all community members.

Diversity

We recognise that diversity is a source of strength, innovation, and growth. We embrace the rich tapestry of cultures, perspectives, and experiences within our community. We actively seek to create an environment that appreciates and learns from our differences, fostering an inclusive community where everyone feels valued and respected.

Environmental and Economic Sustainability

We are committed to building a sustainable community that promotes responsible resource management and reduces our impact on the environment. We prioritise sustainable practice in areas such as energy consumption, waste management, transportation, and land use. We encourage sustainable lifestyles and support initiatives that advance conservation, and environmental sustainability. We encourage sustainable lifestyles and support business initiatives.

In embracing these values, we foster a vibrant, harmonious, and inclusive community where every individual can thrive, and our environment is preserved for future generations. Together we make a positive impact by respecting, supporting, and embracing the diverse voices that enrich our shared experience while working toward a sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

Action Aims:

Communication

Effective communication through the tableland is driven by a team of volunteers who are providing information through new communications channels and traditional mediums.

Advocacy

STAG aims to establish respectful communication with Strathbogie Shire Council - SSC and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for projects important to the communities of Strathbogie Tableland.

Encourage Volunteers

What would Strathbogie Tableland be without all the amazing volunteers investing hours of time and energy into community activities.

Environment and Economic Sustainability

We cherish the natural beauty of our surroundings and recognise the importance of environmental stewardship. We strive to protect and preserve our local ecosystems, wildlife, and natural resources. Through education, sustainable practices, and collective action, we work to minimise our ecological footprint and promote a healthy environment for generations to come.

Community Connection

There are many ways to connect with community in the Strathbogie Tableland with regular gatherings and numerous community groups. We foster a culture of compassion, understanding and cooperation. We lend a helping hand, offer guidance, and provide resources to ensure the well-being of all community members.

Liveability

By embracing our beautiful landscapes and rural lifestyle. Our liveability is contributed to:

- Natural environment
- Community – A sense of belonging
- Temperate climate
- Proximity to the country towns of Euroa, Mansfield, Benalla and Shepparton

Perfect for anyone wanting a peaceful or nature orientated lifestyle.

Visitor Economy

The visitor economy is an economic driver for the Tableland. Visitors to the region are driven by the natural beauty and rural landscapes.

The visitor economy is a good opportunity to leverage nature-based activities and offer accommodation experiences.

SSC is now part of the Goulburn Region Tourism - GRT, which also incorporates Greater Shepparton City Council and Mitchell Shire Council. This partnership will assist with growing the visitor economy for the Tableland.

Communication:

The STAG Communications Sub Committee has several ways of sharing information with our Strathbogie Tableland community, including Tableland Talk, our local newsletter. The Communication Sub Committee also oversees the Strathbogie Google Group: *Strathbogie Tree*, a Community Directory and the community website www.strathbogie.org

A great team of volunteers are providing these opportunities for residents and landholders to stay in touch and communicate with each other. If the internet is not your preferred way to communicate a paper copy of 'Tableland Talk' is delivered to your door or you can collect a copy at the Strathbogie Store.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Explore and implement new ways to update the broader community on STAG meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store notice board – A3 poster after each meeting. • Drop in Coffee at the store – once a month. • Support Tableland Talk • Update from STAG to the Coms Committee 	Ongoing	STAG Strathbogie Hall Tennis club Rec reserve, Landcare, other community groups	Ongoing
Community Service Directory update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate funding opportunities to update and maintain the Community Directory. 		STAG Comms Sub-Committee	Ongoing
Encourage organisations to contribute to Tableland Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support organisations with ideas to develop content. 		Comms Sub-Committee Community organisations Local Business	



Advocacy:

Advocacy – Collaborate, Connect and Communicate. Advocacy doesn't always achieve instant results. Some advocacy projects are long-term undertakings while a single issue may only require a handful of actions to achieve a result.

STAG aims to establish respectful communication with Council and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for projects important to the communities of Strathbogie Tablelands.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Advocate on behalf of other community groups as requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the CFA to relocate the Fire shed, so sit can be repurposed for community enjoyment. 		CFA STAG Community	
Lobby Council/governments for improved connectivity & telecommunications infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with SSC for updates and attend meetings to find out more information. Assess current infrastructure – identify the gaps Benchmarking – look at other community models Advocate for the Boho South Telstra tower 	<p>Notice gone into February '24 Tableland Talk</p> <p>Completed</p>	STAG Council State and Federal Government	
Lobby Council re the Planning Review (assessing of land use and zoning regulations). This is for the benefit of community needs and sustainable growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadly disseminate opportunities for community to comment and participate in consultation. Community engagement consultation. Invitation to SSC council planner to attend STAG/community meeting. 	Referred to SSC for updates.	STAG SSC	
Playgrounds in Strathbogie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for an upgrade of the Playground at the Rec Reserve 	Approved (Rec Reserve)	STAG SSC Community	2024/2025

Camping on the Strathbogie Tableland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Council re options for camping in the area that would be considered. 	Referred to SSC for updates	STAG Council Community DECCA	2024/2026
Keep community engaged with progress reports and updates on projects completed, actioned and projection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage involvement • Positive discussion and activities 		STAG TT Rec Reserve Community Halls LEAP CFA	

Encourage Volunteers

We encourage the community to become volunteers and thank those who already donate so much of their time to various committees throughout the tableland and their tireless efforts and achievements. Where would we be without our volunteers.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Develop a data base of volunteer opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise volunteer opportunities in the Tableland Talk especially one-off short opportunities. • Identify the barriers to volunteering and seek solutions. • Raise awareness of volunteering - highlight the benefits 		STAG Community organisations	
Participate in volunteer recognition activities and Events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold functions and events • Recognition/length of service awards. 		STAG SSC	
Create volunteer opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community groups for fill volunteer gaps. • Volunteer training. 		Community Groups	
Alignment with the National Volunteering Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding opportunities 		Volunteer Victoria Volunteering Australia SSC	

Economic and Environment Sustainability:

We are committed to building a sustainable community that promotes responsible resource management and reduces our impact on the planet. We prioritise sustainable practice in areas such as energy consumption, waste management, transportation, and land use. We encourage sustainable lifestyles and support business initiatives.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Investigate a Tableland strategy for Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar batteries at Strathbogie Hall Investigate the purchase of a generator for back-up power 	Grant application by the Strathbogie Memorial Hall committee has been approved	Solar companies SSC grants Ausnet Strathbogie Community Halls Golf Club	2024/2025
Support community organisations and programs that contribute to the environment and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to join Landcare and environment groups 		TT Strathbogie Tree Strathbogie Tableland Landcare Word of mouth	Ongoing
Wildlife signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check progress with council for initiating signage Wildlife signage committee (Safer Roads Strathbogie) formed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval has been granted. Quotes from local graphic designers for the job. 	SSC Safer Roads Strathbogie	2024
Encourage new and existing businesses to succeed with a focus on the visitor economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops and training opportunities Local business events Business bus to the tableland Grant funding opportunities 		STAG Comms Business Victoria	
Promotion of regenerative and sustainable farming practices in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and social benefits Access to resources Partnerships 		STAG SSC Landcare Agriculture Victoria	

Community Connection

There are many ways to connect with community in the Strathbogie Tableland with regular gatherings and numerous community groups. We foster a culture of compassion, understanding, and cooperation. We lend a helping hand, offer guidance, and provide resources to ensure the well-being and growth of all community members.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Support our most vulnerable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify our vulnerable residents Access to resources Wellness initiatives Social Inclusion Community awareness A supportive environment 		STAG SCOFF SSC	
Opportunities for skill sharing and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid CPR Skill based training opportunities Workshops and classes Collaborative projects Partner with local organisations vibrant culture of skill sharing and development within the community. Mental health First Aid- Establish a support network. 		STAG St Johns/Red Cross Community RR Hall committee Landcare, Business owners and farmers LEAP CFA <i>Wellways</i> – Shepparton	2024 2025
Welcome new residents to Strathbogie Tableland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with CFA to include the CFA pack in the Welcome Pack, so as not duplicating CFA. Develop a new residents welcome pack Explore options for a Welcome group. Social inclusion by providing an informal gathering for newcomers to get together. 	Welcome pack has been developed, including the CFA pack, and is delivered to new residents	STAG Coms Sub Committee CFA Community Groups School Local business Newcomers	Ongoing

Liveability

Creating a beautiful place to live and visit and advocate for safety, emergency preparedness and recovery.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Strathbogie Streetscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strathbogie Streetscape group has been involved in the planning of the Strathbogie Streetscape 	Phase 1 almost completed Phase 2 yet to be agreed upon	Streetscape Group STAG SSC Community	Phase 1 completed in 2024 Phase 2 to begin when advised
Town Entry signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streetscape group to explore a Town Entry sign option to include in the Strathbogie Streetscape Project Town entry sign to welcome visitors to the Tableland 		STAG SSC Coms Sub Committee GRT	
Beautify town entries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a working group to look at beautifying town entries. 		STAG SSC Community	
Active & Connected	Walking tracks, Hiking and Cycling paths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve walking tracks around the Tableland Investigate options for a path from Spring Creek to the Rec Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The path from Spring Creek to the Rec Reserve has been submitted to Pitch My Project. Feasibility study approved 	STAG SSC Victoria Walks GRT	2025
Community is prepared in an Emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency sub-committee established to work on emergency preparedness and recovery. 	A community specific guide has been developed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire and other Emergency Information 	Emergency Sub Committee CFA SSC LEAP	Ongoing
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for improved Roads Provision of basic services 		SSC Vic roads, Ausnet	

Visitor Economy

The visitor economy in the Strathbogie Tableland is centred around its natural beauty, agricultural heritage, and community charm.

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create events that drive visitation and increase length of stay. • Create a Tableland Calendar of Events • Event Grant funding 		SCWF STAG SSC GRT Bogarts	
Art and nature spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating art and nature spaces can enhance community engagement, promote well-being, and foster creativity 		STAG SSC Arts Victoria Arts Hub	
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri Tourism Trail • Linkage with GRT Destination Management Plan 		STAG Business Community GRT	
Tourism Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with current operators to increase exposure and visitation 		STAG ATDW Visit Victoria GRT	
First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkage with tourism products. 		Taungurung Land and Water Council Experience Victoria 2033 Plan	

Completed projects:

Goal	Actions	Status	Partnerships	Timeframe
Support Diesel Cell Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage visitors and the community to utilise this service. 	MOU is now with the Rec Reserve and SSC	STAG Rec Reserve Diesel company	Completed August 2024.
Welcome new residents to Strathbogie Tableland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with CFA to develop the Welcome Pack Explore options for a Welcome Group! Provide an informal gathering for newcomers to get together 	Developed and distributed.	Comms Sub Committee STAG CFA Community Groups, the School, Local Business	Ongoing
Wildlife Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop signs to help reduce the wildlife road toll and vehicle accidents 	Approved, waiting installation	Safer Roads Strathbogie	
Emergency Folders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop emergency information for the Tableland community, in folders at public sites and also load information on the Strathbogie Tableland website. 	Completed and distributed	Emergency sub committee	
Boho South Phone Tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for better telecommunications for area and Marraweeney CFA 	Completed. Still to be turned on.	Telstra	