

VIOLET TOWN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2027



Violet Town Action Group



Thankyou

The Violet Town Action Group (VTAG) acknowledges the contribution of those who participated in developing the Violet Town Community Action Plan (CAP). Thank you for your contributions, involvement and feedback. You have informed and shaped this plan.

This is the fifth CAP developed by the people of Violet Town and surrounding areas. Within the Plan, there are three key objectives that aim to enhance the liveability of our community, and 67 actions identified to achieve those objectives.

Introduction

This 5th Violet Town CAP has a stronger focus on partnerships, not just within our community, but with people, businesses, organisations and other communities with similar interests and similar needs. Incorporated into this plan are the thoughts and ideas of the younger people from our community. We are mindful that young people are often not consulted or considered in planning. Our CAP therefore has a number of actions to support and engage young people as well as improving the experiences and opportunities they will have as valued members of the Violet Town community.

A Message from the VTAG Chairperson

I would like to thank Heather Woodrow, Annette Walton and Julie Woodrow for the way they have facilitated the process of developing this Community Action Plan. The workshop was well-advertised, well-devised, well-attended and well-run.

As we were welcomed to the workshop we were delighted to see the work of the young people who had already met and written up their inspiring, sound and thoughtful ideas.

The workshop began with an inspiring address from Professor Kate Auty who kept her message clear and simple:

- 1 Start where you are,**
- 2. Get organised, and**
- 3. Let people know what you are doing—and when you have done it, let them know what you've done!**

Five tables of five or six people per table were soon at work answering questions and generating initiatives. Each table chose their best idea before all ideas were put up on the wall, and we got to vote on the ideas that we felt were most worthwhile. That is how this plan was formulated. The initiatives that got the most votes make up the first five action points of each of the three sections.

Some of these initiatives have already begun. Some are quite simple. Some are hugely ambitious. All of them are feasible. To bring these plans to fruition, we depend on the leadership, skill, knowledge, energy, and stamina of the people within the environs of Violet Town – and beyond.

You will see that some of the initiatives already have people and organisations allocated to them. Some don't. Whether or not there are names already assigned, we are all invited to see which ideas move us to enquire further or get in touch with Heather Woodrow to see how you might contribute.

Not everyone in town attended the workshop. Some of you have ideas about what would improve our town. We encourage you to read through this plan carefully and see where your idea might fit. If in doubt, get in touch with Heather. She will point you in the right direction.

Heather is the custodian of the CAP. We have asked her to preserve the integrity of the process, and now that we have this document, we won't be adding any new initiatives to the CAP until October 2023. The plans that you see below have all survived the culls of the workshops so far, and we don't want to undermine the process by adding in ideas that have not gone through the same rigorous process. Having said that, some of the ideas articulated below are very 'high level'. There is plenty of scope for delivering more detailed initiatives under the umbrella of an already agreed-upon headline statement. The trick will be in convincing others that your idea fits and getting others to work with you on your initiative. If you need help with that, please see Heather or come along to present your idea at VTAG. Just because something is not in the CAP does not mean it is impossible to achieve.

For the ideas that ARE in the CAP, Heather will be making regular progress reports. For this she will be relying on you to keep her updated on your progress, and she will add these into the CAP so that anyone who looks at the living document can track the progress.

By the end of October 2023, Heather will facilitate another workshop to review, revise and refine the CAP. By then we hope we will have celebrated some successes, and we anticipate we might benefit from making some adjustments.



For now we encourage you to read through the ideas, ask questions, and discuss how these plans might be turned into specific actions. If you sit back and wait for others to do it, it might not get done.

You have heard the questions: "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"

Kate Auty gives us a clue when she says: "Start where you are. Get organised. And communicate!"

~Bruce Hunt-Hughes

A Plan to Enhance the Liveability of Violet Town and Catchment Areas

For the purposes of this CAP, the concept of liveability is this:

A liveable community is one that is safe and secure and offers a supportive community. There is access to affordable and reliable sources of water, food, housing, power, healthcare and education for people of all ages. It has the features and infrastructure that create a place that people want to live in and are happy to live in.



The three objectives used to guide the creation of this plan were based on the concepts of liveability, community capability and community resilience. Our community considered these three questions to identify actions under those concepts:

1. ***What will improve the liveability of Violet Town so that we support the existing population and can attract and retain more families and young people?***
2. ***What needs to be in place to increase community capability and provide increased opportunities to collaborate, innovate and drive change?***
3. ***How will we increase community resilience to social, economic and environmental shocks?***

This document will guide the community's activities for the period of the plan. The plan will be a living document (owned by our community and administered by VTAG) that is updated periodically to incorporate new activities and record the achievements of our community.

The table of ideas has priorities at the top of each section highlighted in pink, other ideas from the workshop are without highlight, and the ideas that came from our young people highlighted in yellow.

1. Improving the liveability of Violet Town so that we support the existing population and can attract and retain more families and young people

Actions	People / Priorities / Plans / Players	Status
Community support for school to have children transition from VT kinder to the VT primary school.	VT Kindergarten & Childcare Peranbin Primary College VT College Council Department of Education and Training Becky Walls	
Diverse affordable housing to draw in younger families	Homes Victoria Victoria's 10-Year Strategy for Social and Affordable Housing Strathbogie Shire Council Dianne Peters Serenity Hill	
Update and manage walking tracks to include exercise equipment and other ways to be active e.g. activity group, social walking group	VicHealth Strathbogie Shire Council Guidelines for planning, installing and activating outdoor fitness equipment John Vance Bernadette Quinlan	
New residents welcoming committee Promote VT as a safe, kind, friendly and caring community to allow kids (especially those new to town) to better connect with the community and make friends and	Daniel Mehegan VTAG Youth Crew	

Build on and maintain infrastructure and services – Bank, school, kinder, nbn, shops, health care, sporting and recreational facilities.	Victorian Department of Infrastructure Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation Strathbogie Shire Council	
More all-ages community events EG: Create an annual family/group sports event “All abilities all sports event” utilizing all the sports infrastructure from the pool through to the skate park AND More opportunities for social connection e.g. Violet Town Ball/Barn Dance suitable for all ages	Sports Clubs VTAG Heather Woodrow YDO Youth Crew and John Vance	
Incorporate community facilities that support kids in wheelchairs	Youth Crew	
Explore opportunities to make travel to other towns easier	VTAG	
Improve the food choices at the pool and the range of swim merchandise available to buy e.g. goggles	Shire, Friends of the Pool	
Have events at the pool that include music, art, movies	Belgravia Shire	
Include murals and other patterns and artworks on walls around the town. More sculptures	Shire Youth Development Officer (YDO) Youth Crew, VAMP, Kate Auty	
Youth specific movie nights during the year (family outdoor cinema) and BBQ's in holiday periods	YDO VAMP SRCM Youth Crew	

Ask Lions group to Collaborate with young people to incorporate youth friendly infrastructure in the Lions Park	Shire VAMP Youth Crew	
More information on the history of Violet Town using interpretive signage. More opportunities for young people to learn about the history and share it.	Shire – Business Development Youth Crew Hank Bakker Sky Miller	
Continue with “Wild Hearts”	School, Puckawiddige	
Create affordable housing opportunities (rent and buy)		
Keep building the VT market – add in clothes and other items suitable for teenagers	Market Committee	
Increase the number of kids at the school		
Provide a chill space for young people at Market	Market Committee, Youth Crew	

2. Increasing community capability and provide increased opportunities to collaborate, innovate and drive change

Actions	People / Priorities / Plans	Status
Explore broader use of school facilities	Melbourne University Office of the Premier Becky Walls Serenity Hill	

Create a young leaders program/mentoring program	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Youth Central Youth Mentoring Big Brothers Big Sisters Becky Walls Andrew Walker Daniel Mehegan School Revitalisation Working Party (SRWP)	
Open up the silos in the community to work more collaboratively and increase communication in order to ensure linking of resources.	Working Together Guide John Dunn Daniel Mehegan	
Support people who have ideas and passion and Provide opportunities to foster passion/interests of locals to come forward to offer things in the community	Fairley Leadership Program Becky Walls Andrew Walter	
Schedule community meetings out of working hours so they are more accessible to working people		
Conduct sessions on computer literacy, technology education, use of smart phones	School Revitalisation Working Party liaise with Community House	
Create a local directory of skills and interests available to the community	Annette Walton	
Support younger people to be involved in current committees/volunteering to ensure succession and maintain an active community	Annette Walton	

Explore better use of community assets e.g. hall/supper room	VAMP	
Seek out opportunities for community members (especially those that are more diverse and inclusive) to engage with and share their skills with the kinder and school children	Peranbin Primary College	
VTAG to support community members to enable them to create opportunities	VTAG	
Improve communication tools e.g. Village Voice and VT website	VTAG	
Celebrate the successes of our community initiatives and Improve publicity around what the happenings and activities are in town.	Village Voice VTAG Strathbogie Shire Council Violet Town Facebook	
Promote and teach meeting skills (minute taking, running a meeting, managing diverse views etc.)	Shire – Jean McKinnon	
Update the VTAG website to increase opportunities for engagement and communication with the Community. Include contacts, resources, where to go for... and have a Violet Town app.	VTAG	
Attract more young people and families to live in Violet Town		
Youth leadership and empathy training and support in order to create a more harmonious community where it is easy for people to have their say and join in	YDO Youth Crew	

3. Building community resilience to social, economic and environmental shocks

Actions	People / Priorities / Plans	Status
Operate a local radio station (community radio) local content by locals involve secondary students.	Bruce Hunt-Hughes Wolf Passauer Daniel Mehegan Graeme Domm Annette Walton Kate Auty	
Workshops for basic emergency skills (Flood, Fire, Heat Stroke) to combat sense of inadequate knowledge in times of stress and make a community emergency contingency plan	Dianne Peters Tricia Vance LEAP (Local Emergency Action Plan)	
Community food group addressing food insecurity... And Increase food security and provide cooking for young people using Mary's Garden, School Garden and local farm produce.	Serenity Hill VicHealth Youth Crew	
Don't exploit volunteers leading to burnout	Daniel Mehegan	
Make support more accessible through communication to the community	Jean Miller	
Provide support for Violet Town businesses	Daniel Mehegan Euroa Chamber of Commerce	
Build resilience through regular, coordinated meeting of VT groups to resolve issues and provide feedback to the community	LEAP VTAG	

Explore alternative sources of energy and community battery to reduce power costs and to provide essential power during outages and emergencies.	Sustainability Victoria Annette Walton Heather Woodrow Shirley Saywell Kate Auty	
Create communication trees for community groups, activities and emergencies	LEAP	
Support and celebrate the work of our local emergency workers	VTAG	
Have a drop-in centre nominated in emergency situations	LEAP	
Find a way to create connections in the community ensuring existing and new residents feel linked into support and community.	Welcome Committee LEAP	
Set up a system to make links between agencies available for support		
Have a well-documented Emergency disaster plan (fire flood storm biosecurity) that is well communicated and includes community education.	LEAP	
Address water supply and drainage issues in town to protect against fires and floods	Goulburn Valley Water Strathbogie Shire Council VTAG LEAP	
Explore ways for adults to model good communication and behaviours on social media and in their conversations with others that support anti-bullying	SRWP (School Revitalisation Working Party) Strathbogie Shire-Com Dev	

Our Community, our CAP

This Community Action Plan belongs to the people who make up the community of Violet Town and surrounds. By turning these plans into actions, these people will create a stronger, happier and safer community.

We hope to continue to extend our reach to partner with other communities, to share knowledge and achieve goals. Working collaboratively we build strength in numbers and create greater security, resilience and economies of scale.

Violet Town has a strong reputation for community action and we are planning to take this reputation to a new level of inter-connection and social cohesion. Drawing on the experience, knowledge and influence of individuals and organisations we can build our capability.

We aim to care for and nurture our environment in ways that our children and grandchildren deserve. We invite education and innovation into our community to see what amazing and unexpected things can be created. We are planning to sustain and enhance a level of amenity that is both welcoming and functional. We seek to build a community that continues to reflect our pride, humour and fun.

Everyone is invited to take part, to contribute, to support, and guide. We look forward to celebrating together as these plans and actions achieve results.

Glossary of Acronyms

VTAG	Violet Town Action Group
SRWP	School Revitalisation Working Party
SRCM	Shadforth Reserve Committee of Management
LEAP	Local Emergency Action Plan
YDO	Youth Development Officer
VAMP	Violet Town Art Music Performance Collective