

Graytown Community Plan

2021 - 2025

Graytown Community Incorporated

(also known as Graytown Community Action Group)

Graytown Community Plan prepared by:

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Resources

The Graytown Community Plan was developed through engagement and consultation with the local Graytown community. Discussions were held during January to May 2021. The final version being agreed by the Committee on 15th May 2021.

This is an update to the previous Graytown Community Plan of 2017- 2021. The Community Plan was compiled using information from:

- Strathbogie Shire Council - Management Agreement - 2021
- Strathbogie Shire Council - Community Planning Program Guidelines - 2019
- Strathbogie Shire Council - Graytown Community Charter - 2017
- Strathbogie Shire Council website
- Graytown Community Plan 2017- 2021
- Graytown Action Plan - 2010

Graytown Community Action Group new name

Graytown Community Action Group become incorporated in January 2021. We are now known as Graytown Community Incorporated (GCI).

Graytown Community Incorporated - Committee

The following Graytown residents make up the Committee:

- President - Graham Sims
- Deputy President - Robert Bell
- Secretary/Treasurer - Julie Sims
- Assistant Treasurer -Rondaa Stevenson
- Grants/Projects - Vivienne Moore

Graytown History

Graytown is located 137 km north of Melbourne, halfway along the connecting road between Heathcote and Nagambie. Graytown is a gold mining ghost town.

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.

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.

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. It included the crew of the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* that battled the *HMAS Sydney* on the afternoon of 19 November 1941, of the *HMAS Sydney's* complement of 645, none survived.

Graytown Community 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.

The Key Principles of Graytown Community Plan

- **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.

Priorities of the Graytown Community Plan

Priority One - Communication and Community Engagement

The committee has a high priority to 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:

- Continue to communicate regularly with residents and engage with residents to discuss projects for the Hub.
- Use the Facebook page for the community information
- Hold regular Community events:
 - Hold a morning tea once a month
 - Commemorate special dates: Australia Day and ANZAC Day
 - Biggest Morning Tea in May to raise funds for Cancer Council
 - Melbourne Cup Day event
 - Christmas party for all the residents
- 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 Hub

We need to continue to maintain the Hub 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

Priority Four - Administration and Training

Continue the administration.

Actions:

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

Progress since last Community Plan

As well as regular maintenance on the Hub and holding meetings, events and AGMs, the following items were completed:

FY 2020/2021

- COVID Safety Plan and Checklist developed
- QR Code for electronic check in
- Jan 21 - Restart meetings and events at the Hub post COVID
- NBN presentation
- Graytown Community Action Group becomes Graytown Community Incorporated

FY 2019/2020

- Dec 20 - Full COVID clean done by Council
- Apr - Dec 20 - Hub closed due to COVID restrictions
- AED purchased with local grant and Debfib training for 12 people completed
- New kitchen layout with new cupboards installed (old cabinets donated)
- Electric update with safety switch installed
- CFA presentation - Bushfire Awareness
- Working bee - clean up for fire season and painting done

FY 2018/2019

- Celebration of 150 years since gold discovered at Graytown
- CFA presentation - Fire Ready
- Graytown history project completed - new booklets prepared
- Graytown history photos framed and displayed
- New outside noticeboard
- New map of Graytown area provided by Council - now up in outside noticeboard

FY 2017/2018

- Portable toilet pumped out
- Grease trap installed for kitchen waste
- Fire extinguishers and fire blankets purchased
- Insulation to generator shed
- Security lights installed

Projects underway by Council (FY20/21)

- Solar power for the Hub
- New outside toilet for the Hub

Future Projects to be done by GCI with Council Funding

- Community Engagement - meetings and events every year, working bees to clean up around the outside of the Hub to reduce fire risk
- Maintain the building and outdoor area in accordance with the Management Agreement
- Administration costs
- Refresher training for First Aid and Food Safety
- Dishwasher for kitchen
- Extra storage cabinets inside the hub
- New flooring for the Hub
- Fan for wood heater to boost heat output
- New tops on outdoor tables and benches and tables in pizza oven area
- Free standing pergola with shade for outdoor tables
- Security lighting around building and new toilet area
- Storage shelves in the shed and install lighting
- Outdoor sink for hand washing

Conclusion

The success of the Graytown Community Hub has only been possible with funding from the Council, local grants from Community organisations and many hours of volunteer work from the local residents. We plan to continue to have regular meetings, social events and interact and engage with the Graytown residents well into the future.

**Graytown Community Plan cleared by:
Graytown Community Incorporated Committee - 15 May 2021**

Action:

J. Sims sent PDF of the Community Plan to Council for endorsement