

**RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2023 - 2027**



**RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Ruffy Community Action Group (RCAG) acknowledges the Taungurung people of the East Kulin nation as the first peoples, and Traditional Owners, of Taungurung Country on which Ruffy sits, and pays respect to its elders past and present.

ABOUT RUFFY

The 2021 Census gives a picture of the Ruffy community:

- There were 164 residents, 53.5% male and 46.5% female with an average age of 59 - 109 of us aged over 50.
- There were 45 family households and 19 single households. Family household size averaged 2.1 and the median household weekly income was \$1,426
- 126 of Ruffy residents were born in Australia.
- The top industry of employment was Sheep Farming (11), followed by Sheep & Beef Farming (9) & Health (6)
- Ruffy residents are generally healthy, with 82 people (50%) reporting no long-term health conditions. Of the remainder, the main health conditions reported were asthma, arthritis and mental health/depression.

This information is important as it helps us to understand our community and how we can support them.





ACHIEVEMENTS

The current RCAG committee would like to acknowledge the achievements of previous committees and the implementation and support of various projects suggested by the community in the 2018 - 2022 Action Plan. The Covid pandemic put a halt to many community activities, particularly with restrictions on use of public spaces and subsequently occupation limits. While many of the actions proposed in the previous CAP were actioned, some have been determined as the responsibility of the Shire, or have not received funding.

2018 - 2022 CAP		Suggestions	Actions	2023 Follow-up
1	Support for older residents to remain in the district	Labour exchange, produce exchange, community transport	Options were canvassed, but unsuccessful	Aged Care support best coordinated by the Shire. Other support to be provided through community engagement
2	Informal Community Hub and opportunities for social interaction		Friday night BBQ	Remains an important priority -
3	Continued care/preservation of landscape	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian Walks (7 annually). Snow gum walk maintenance and signage improvements. Boathole Signage Project (see priority 4) and roster to maintain grass levels and access to picnic table 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Covid-affected) Not yet actioned 	
4	Organised activities, points of interest for visitors/locals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Boathole History Project Collection of historical information be displayed at Tablelands Community Centre and to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding application unsuccessful <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not yet 	Remains an important focus for the 2023-27 CAP



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		<p>store history digitally.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Creation of Boathole to Ruffy Walk4. Facilitate Historical Points of interest signage around Ruffy township5. Annual Christmas party in conjunction with other community groups.6. Annual Good Friday Appeal at Ruffy CFA.7. Recognition of community service from community members	actioned	
5	First Aid Training and identify local existing skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate Annual First Aid and Defibrillator training.2. Installation of a Community AED (automated external defibrillator)3. Local Registered Nurses registered with GoodSAM App.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



NEW COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The new RCAG Executive committee was elected at the AGM in July 2022. Its first task was to oversee the formulation of a new Community Action Plan (CAP) to replace that created in 2018. The committee sought feedback from the community through a Community forum on 2/10/22, as well as inviting submissions to a survey. Responses to both were disappointing, however those attending raised important issues which reflect community concern more broadly. This CAP has therefore also been informed by Ruffy residents' responses and comments to the Shire 2021 engagement plan.

In summary these responses showed the following service priorities:

- Roads, drains, bridges & footpaths
- Climate Change/Environment
- Community Development

In addition the following infrastructure priorities were noted:

1. Roads, drains, bridges & footpaths
2. Building facilities
3. Arts & Cultural facilities

Additionally, the formulation of the CAP has been informed by the Shire's own guidelines to CAGs (noted above).

The key responsibility of the Community Planning Reference Group is 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.
- Balancing the present and future interests of all Shire residents and visitors.



Guided by these various inputs, the 2023 - 2027 CAP has the following themes:

1. Support for local community groups and activities
2. Protect and enhance the natural & built environment
3. Infrastructure
4. Community health and well being

1. Support for local community groups

Ruffy is fortunate to be home to a wide variety of community groups:

- Tablelands Community Centre
- Ruffy Hall
- Ruffy Recreation Reserve
- CFA
- Ruffartz
- Landcare

While each group has its own committee, RCAG can play an important role in supporting their activities, including advocating and applying for funding where appropriate.

The 2023 - 2027 CAP includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Facilitating community communication through:
 - Ruffy.com.au website
 - Create a new resident Welcome pack with information from all community groups as well as information on refuse collection, CFA, internet & telecommunications providers, etc.
 - Hard copy of Granite News for communication impaired residents
 - Ruffy township wifi
 - RCAG will also continue to advocate for improved telecommunications to the broader Ruffy community
- Supporting the TCC in its progress to being recognised as a part of the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria organisation
- Facilitating the introduction of a produce exchange based at the TCC
- Facilitating opportunities for social interaction

2. Protect and enhance the natural & built environment

Ruffy is in an area of significant natural beauty, for which successive generations have had stewardship and worked to preserve and enhance its enjoyment by locals



and visitors. The CAP aims to support the community and the Shire in maintaining these valuable facilities as well as facilitate their improvement and extended use and investigate other recreational possibilities.

For this purpose the CAP includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Further history & heritage signage and information for the new residents' information pack
- Support funding applications for secure facilities for valuable infrastructure at community facilities. Including:
 - Securing and protection of pump and generator at Tablelands Community Centre & Ruffy Recreation Reserve
- Support the Ruffy Rec Reserve's proposal to introduce camping.
- Advocate for regular maintenance of existing walking tracks at Snow Gum Reserve and Eddy's Lane & investigate other possible tracks.
- Care & maintenance of the Nolan's Rd streetscape - particularly the historic trees. Inclusion of an interpretive sign for the trees to educate the community about their significance could also be included.

3. Infrastructure

As shown in all community engagement and surveys, the local infrastructure, particularly road maintenance and repairs, remains a top priority for residents.

Apart from the amenity and access issues for residents, properly maintained roads are essential for our isolated rural community in times of emergency, when emergency service access has at times been restricted. It is essential that emergency vehicles have access at these times, but also that residents are able to leave areas of danger safely.

As a Community Action Group it is important for RCAG to continue to advocate on these issues & support residents in their submissions to local and state bodies & support residents.

Some of the issues raised by the community include:

- Need for a 5 year plan for regular maintenance of local roads, including Weibye Track, Donovan's Rd, Buntings Hill Rd.
- Nolan's Rd drainage and speed mitigation measures for the 50k zone
- Advocate for residents regarding ongoing issues with roadside tree maintenance on Longwood-Ruffy Rd & Buntings Hill Rd



4. Community health and well being

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well being at all ages is essential to a sustainable community. Supporting physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual well being will give our community a decreased risk of disease, illness and injury.

The present and future health of all residents and visitors is vital to the well being of our community. It is important that RCAG support all health and well being initiatives presented by the community

For this purpose the CAP includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Location of defibrillators at Tablelands Community Centre and Ruffey Recreation Ground
- Local play group
- Community Safety
- Education
- Environment
- Climate resilience
- Physical activity
- Social connection activities