

Connecting Gannawarra

MURRABIT & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY PLAN
2024 – 2029

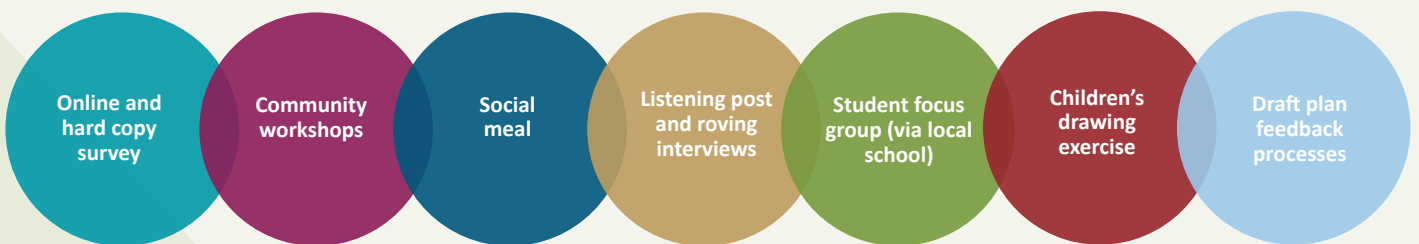


Murrabit & District Community Plan

The Murrabit & District Community Plan 2024-2029 sets out the community's vision for the next six years.

Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community's voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in January 2023 and was completed in September 2023. Community members in and around Murrabit & District were invited to share their input into the planning process via a variety of methods:



The Murrabit & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). This project was delivered with funding from the Agriculture-Dependent Community Resilience Project.

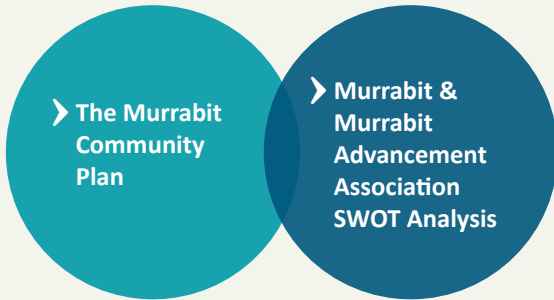
Our Vision

In 2029 Murrabit & District will LOOK LIKE, FEEL LIKE and HAVE:

- Thriving agriculture
- Housing options
- Increased population
- Young families
- A true tourist destination
- Strong sporting clubs
- Great digital connectivity
- Well maintained roads
- Successful Murrabit Market
- Dynamic fundraising
- A strong focus on the early years
- A well supported and thriving school
- Easy access to the river
- A range of employment options
- Well supported and thriving community groups and organisations
- Sustainable community
- Healthy with access to health and wellbeing supports
- Strong community participation
- A green oasis
- Creativity and fun

Building On Past Work

The Murrabit & District Community Plan also builds on existing community plans and community consultation efforts. These include:



The Murrabit & District community had a well-developed recent community plan and SWOT analysis. This work has been embedded into the 2024-2029 Community Plan.

The community had achieved a number of goals within their existing community plan, of note were:



› Securing playgroup/childcare facility for community



› Heritage Trail signage replacement



› Female Friendly Facility at Murrabit Recreation Reserve



› Purchase of outdoor quality PA System to support community events



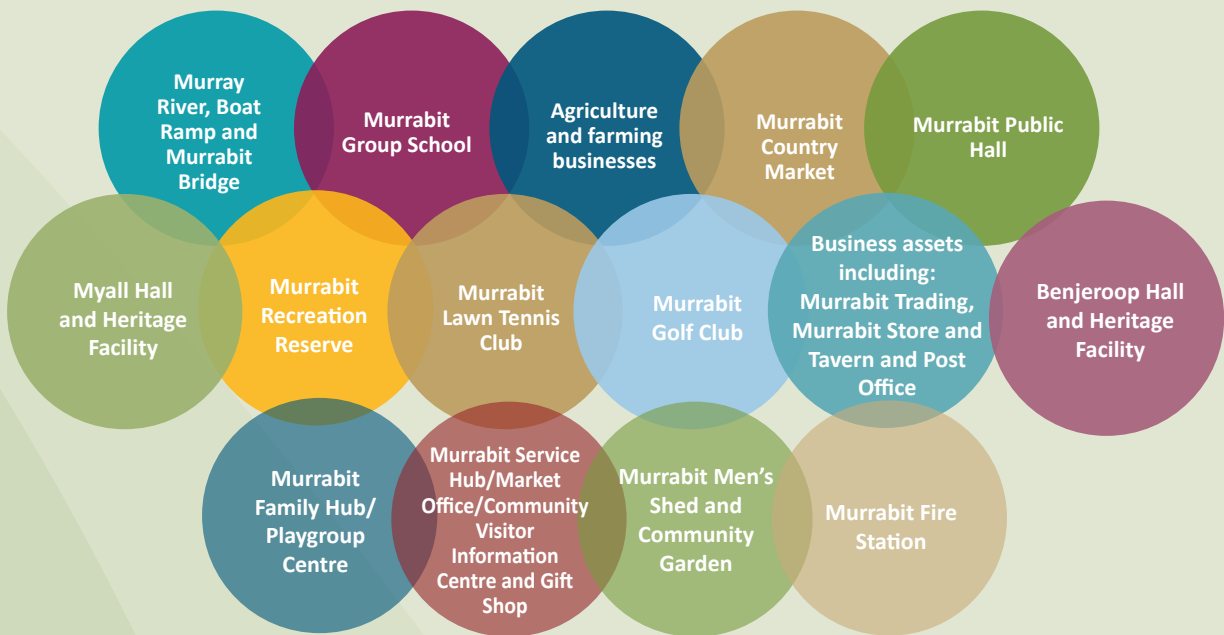
› Installation of flagpole and chicken shed at Murrabit Group School

Recent consultation has identified additional opportunities which have been added to the existing plan. The community plan is a shared common format across all communities that connects with the Gannawarra Shire Council, Council Plan strategic themes.

Our District

Murrabit is located on the Murray River 28 km north of Kerang, 52 km from Swan Hill and 305 km from Melbourne.

KEY COMMUNITY ASSETS OF NOTE [BUILT AND NATURAL] INCLUDE THE:



The community groups and organisations, sporting clubs and social activities also greatly enrich the community.



Murrabit & District

KEY STATS & FACTS - 2021



Population
475

Male **54.7%**
Female **45.3%**
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples **2.7%**
(VIC 1.0%)
Country of birth (Australia): **85.5%** (VIC 65.0%)



Age

Median age in Murrabit: **45.6 years** (VIC 38 years)
Children aged 0-14 years made up **16.2%** of the population (VIC 18.0%)
and **26.1%** of the population are aged 65 years and over (VIC 16.8%)



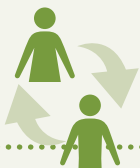
Dwellings
143

11.3% of dwellings were unoccupied (VIC 11.1%)
177% / week was the median rent (VIC \$370)



Households

72.3% were family households (VIC 70.1%)
27.7% (25 people) were living in single person households (VIC 25.9%)
1.7% of households had no car (VIC 7.5%)



Employment

57.6% worked full-time (VIC 56.2%)
31.5% worked part-time (VIC 32.3%)
0.0% were Unemployed (VIC 5.0%)
5.4% were away from work (VIC 6.5%)



Household
Income

In Murrabit **25.9%** of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (VIC 16.4%) and
4.9% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3,000 (VIC 24.2%)



Health

3.6% of Murrabit residents reported three or more long-term health conditions (VIC 2.9%)

Community Consultation

Residents living in Murrabit & District were invited to share their thoughts on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for their community.

A range of strategies were selected from to ensure as many community members as possible could inform the development of the Murrabit & District Community Plan. Strategies included: an online and hard copy survey, listening posts, community discussion groups, roving interviews, comment boxes at frequently visited community locations, attendance at community social meals, student focus groups and a children's drawing activity.

The following broad community engagement was achieved

- 42 people filled in a survey
- 23 key stakeholders and community members attended a community workshop
- 13 people attended a social meal
- 13 people attended a listening post or took part in a roving interview
- 15 young people participated in a student focus group; and
- 21 children completed a drawing exercise.

Overall, a total of 127 people shared their thoughts, ideas and dreams for the future of Murrabit & District.



In Murrabit & District We Love...

The top five things survey respondents liked about their community were:

“The range of good facilities that we have in our community, for such a small locality.”

“Interaction and fellowship with likeminded volunteers.”

“How everyone knows each other and jumps in when needed.”

“How neighbours help in a time of need.”

“It’s a very well looked after town by volunteers.”

- › The friendly people
- › Our community spirit and pride
- › The Murray River
- › The peace and quiet
- › The rural setting
- › Nature and wildlife
- › Our central location
- › Open space and freedom
- › Farming and agriculture assets
- › Sporting opportunities
- › Our local facilities
- › Safety
- › The range of community events and activities e.g. Murrabit Country Market, Murrabit Cod Challenge, Murrabit Easter Tennis Tournament
- › Youth involvement
- › Generational volunteering



Key Issues/Challenges

“Push for growth in the community. Sell our town so families move to Murrabit.”

“More housing means more families, means more kids for school, sports club. Might encourage more volunteers.”

“Landowners buy the adjoining land, so farms are getting bigger and there are less people living in the community.”

Additionally, residents who attended the community workshop and social meal shared a range of challenges/issues/threats:

-  > Lack of housing availability
-  > Ageing population
-  > Road condition
-  > Access to health and wellbeing services
-  > Lack of young families
-  > Poor phone service
-  > Poor internet service
-  > Partnering and attracting funding
-  > Volunteer burnout
-  > Lack of volunteers
-  > Filling local jobs
-  > Maintaining community infrastructure
-  > State and Federal policies around water and primary industries
-  > Future flood events
-  > Transportation

A complete summary of findings from the community consultation processes can be found in the Murrabit & District Consultation Summary Report.

Our Key Priorities

Gannawarra Shire Council's 2021 - 2025 Council Plan is guided by the following Strategic Statement:

“The Gannawarra will be renowned as an Australian destination and home of choice for its liveability and unique opportunities in innovative agriculture, renewable energy and nature-based tourism. We focus on inclusive services and assets that enhance the health and wellbeing, cultural heritage, connectivity and productivity of our communities.”

The achievement of which will be achieved through action on three goals.

Goal 1. Liveability



Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

Goal 2. Growth



Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

Goal 3. Sustainability



Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

The Murrabit & District Community Plan is couched within these goals of Liveability, Growth and Sustainability. In this way the Murrabit & District Community Plan both aligns with and extends Council's strategic focus.

Goal 1. Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

MURRABIT & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: TOWN BEAUTIFICATION AND SIGNAGE

1. Complete stormwater work, tree planting and install irrigation systems.
2. Undertake low maintenance landscaping (Murrabit Market site and around Murrabit Public Hall, in front of the Market office and east side of netball courts).
3. Increase outdoor seating capacity at Murrabit Public Hall to create multi-purpose event space.
4. Continuation of Colour Our Town Arts Project on Market Site/town precinct.
5. Install irrigation system to water nature strip in front of Men's Shed.
6. Work with Council and community to clean up untidy properties.

2: ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Develop a Masterplan for the town precinct.
2. Upgrade the public toilets at the Murrabit Public Hall to meet accessibility standards.
3. Maintain and seal walking tracks.
4. Maintain and enhance Murrabit, Myall and Benjeroop halls.
5. Upgrade Lions Park: new fence around park, landscaping front of park, clean up, level, gravel and plant new trees in carpark used by Lions on Murrabit Country Market days (in-front of toilet block through to Murrabit Fire Station).
6. Implement Murrabit Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 2.
7. Upgrade Murrabit Recreation Reserve including the entrance, kitchen and vermin proofing the canteen.
8. Upgrade toilet and shower facilities to improve visitor experience, disability access and reduce costs and time taken to clean and restock during markets.
9. Install solar sensor lights at the Murrabit Boat Ramp.
10. Install tennis court lighting and upgrade the toilet/bathroom at the Murrabit Lawn Tennis Clubrooms.
11. Install new cricket nets at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve.
12. Paint external walls of the Murrabit Men's Shed meeting room and landscape around the Murrabit Men's Shed and community garden.
13. Upgrade the Murrabit crossroads.
14. Work with the community to strengthen support for maintaining and updating ageing community infrastructure.
15. Upgrade the Murrabit Family Hub/Playgroup Centre to create a fit for purpose facility for children, young families and community programs.

Goal 1. Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

MURRABIT & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

3: A HEALTHY, CONNECTED AND SERVICED COMMUNITY

1. Offer social programs that strengthen community inclusion and connections.
2. Advocate for adequate GP, emergency care and health and wellbeing and aged care service access.
3. Establish a Murrabit Neighbourhood House.
4. Install a Little Street Library at the front of Market Office/or Murrabit Family Hub/Playgroup Centre.
5. Install a defib machine at the Murrabit Golf Clubrooms.
6. Maintain existing defib machines and create signs to increase community awareness of where they are located.
7. Reinvigorate Murrabit Playgroup.
8. Install a drinking water fountain at Lions Park.
9. Seek funding to set up and offer a toddler gym at the Murrabit Family Hub/Playgroup Centre.
10. Offer community events and activities that connect and include the community.
11. Advocate for the Council Supported Playgroup Officer role to support community playgroups.
12. Offer creative workshops, activities and events.

4: SUPPORT, RESOURCE AND REDUCE WORKLOAD ON VOLUNTEERS

1. Source technology to support online meetings.
2. Strengthen relationships and connections between community groups to support each other, share resources and remain viable.
3. Seek funding to support digital payment technology for community groups operating at the Murrabit Market.
4. Confirm land ownership and management responsibility for Murrabit Market site.
5. Install wi-fi for use on Murrabit Market site.
6. Adopt contemporary volunteering approaches to actively encourage new volunteers.
7. Seek advocacy support from Council to support volunteer sustainability.

Goal 1. Liveability

Enhance the wellbeing and liveability of the Gannawarra through creative infrastructure and services.

MURRABIT & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

5: PROMOTE AND CELEBRATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

1. Add information on each of our soldiers into a plaque at the War Memorial.
 2. Undertake the 50th anniversary paver project at Murrabit Group School.
 3. Advocate to Council to maintain the Murrabit Railway Heritage Walking Track and Town Walking Track to create a quality visitor experience
 4. Celebrate and share agriculture heritage and history.
 5. Explore opportunities with the Murrabit & District Heritage Group to develop local heritage bus tours and recording historical points of interest across the district.
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Goal 2. Growth

Grow the Gannawarra through a diverse and broad economy.

MURRABIT & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT

1. Upgrade the Murrabit Boat Ramp by adding a floating jetty and all abilities access toilets.
2. Advocate to Council to improve the walking track to the Murray River.
3. Improve camping facilities at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve.
4. See relocation of the Recreational Vehicle (RV) dump point from the Murrabit Recreation Reserve to Council owned land.
5. Enhance and promote tourism across Murrabit & District.

2: A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Employ a Community Support Officer to support the Murrabit Market, volunteers, and existing and new programs.
2. Review the Murrabit Agricultural Prospectus and encourage agricultural development.
3. Improve roads, ensuring that they safely support residents and agriculture needs and equipment.
4. Attract local business and industry that will build the economy and increase employment.
5. Advocate for the needs of the agricultural sector.
6. Seek opportunities to adopt and enhance future farming systems and new technology.
7. Advocate for improved mobile phone and internet services for Murrabit & District.
8. Promote and enhance the Murrabit Market.

3: POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Explore future subdivision options of Murrabit Advancement Association (MAA) land owned within town to address housing shortage.
2. Work together with Gannawarra Shire Council to increase available housing in Murrabit & District.
3. Explore viable childcare models for Murrabit & District.
4. Promote the liveability of Murrabit & District.
5. Promote and grow enrolments at the Murrabit Group School.

Goal 3. Sustainability

Achieve long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

MURRABIT & DISTRICTS' STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

1: INCREASED RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. Replace aged gas hot water system in Lions Park toilet/shower block to connect to existing solar system.
2. Install a solar system to run coolroom and freezer at Murrabit Recreation Reserve's facility on the Murrabit Market site.
3. Seek funding for the installation of a solar system at the Murrabit Golf Clubrooms.
4. Explore community solar schemes that could maximise solar use and decrease energy costs for residents.

2: PROTECT AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Conduct regular fish releases into the Murray River.
2. Clean up and plant more trees along walking tracks town to river, town to school, Browning Avenue from school to Murrabit West Road, filled in channel at crossroads/golf course.
3. Extend raw water irrigation system for additional landscaping in the Murrabit town precinct.
4. Increase water availability at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve/Murrabit Group School.

3: PREPARE AND RESPOND TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

1. Build community resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather events (fire, flood and heat).
2. Offer community education on emergency risks and how to prepare.
3. Undertake local level flood planning for Murrabit & District.
4. Install a mobile service booster/tower at the Benjeroop and Murrabit Halls, ensuring communication access during emergency events.
5. Advocate for improved Murrabit town water pressure.

4: WASTE REDUCTION

1. Advocate for the Victorian can/bottle deposit scheme in Murrabit.
2. Advocate to Council to install a purple glass skip for glass recycling.
3. Advocate to Council for Council event bins to be supplied for the Murrabit Market.

Putting Our Plan Into Action

Implementation of the Murrabit & District Community Plan will be led by the Murrabit Advancement Association in partnership with Gannawarra Shire Council.

Relevant key community stakeholders will be invited to inform projects and activities and work together on shared priorities. Yearly progress updates on community priorities and activities will be provided to the wider community.

If you would like to get involved contact: Murrabit Advancement Association: murrabit1@bigpond.com

