

Lockington

Community Development Plan



*Noonlight Media
By Kim*



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Foreword

What makes this friendly rural town is the people. You can guarantee no matter where you travel in Australia you will meet someone who knows someone from Lockington or has stayed in Lockington at the Traveller's Rest. Travellers will all recall, "we had just pulled up and started to set up our caravan and along came Des or Dorothy to tell us about the town and what it has to offer".

Lockington is built on the energy and enthusiasm of a very active community that has worked together as a group to provide outstanding facilities for the future. When the town faced the imminent loss of their bank and fuel station, they rallied together and purchased the fuel station. It has been expanded to include the Neighbourhood House, Men's Shed, Laundry, Community garden and provides a home for the local Community Bank and Anglican Op Shop.

The hotel was recently set to close and again the town rallied to purchase "Our Pub", which is providing meals and accommodation for all locals and visitors to the district. Community members in this small farming district are proud to call Lockington 'home'.

We extend much gratitude to Rural Aid for the opportunity for a 'town makeover' which enabled our community to be guided by the expertise and wisdom of Peter Kenyon. We are grateful for the time Peter spent listening to and facilitating the wishes of the Lockington people.

Thank you to the Lockington and District community who came together to share experiences, history and ideas to help Lockington thrive into the future.

Acknowledgements



The formulation of this Community Development Plan was initiated and funded by Rural Aid as part of their 'Ten Towns' Makeover Initiative, of which Lockington was a winner. Facilitation of the community engagement process and preparation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. and assisted by Jen Curnow-Trotter, Nicole Whelan and Carly Noble from Rural Aid and coordinated by Wendy Sims. Special thanks to so many passionate Lockington community members who gave so generously of their time, knowledge and experiences.

Finally, this Action Plan acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their significant contribution to our community past, present and future.

Our Story



The Lockington District is located 198 kms north of Melbourne, between Rochester, 24 kms to the south-east and Echuca, 40kms to the north east. The Lockington townsite has a current population of 400 residents, with approximately 1000 in the District. Besides Lockington, the District includes the communities of Bamawm, Bamawm Extension, Kotta, Pine Grove and Tennyson.

The District is the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta peoples, who experienced a strong cultural connection extending back over 26,000 years. Initial European settlement can be traced back to the 1840s when it was occupied by squatters under lease-hold tenure. At the time, the whole area surrounding the present location of Lockington, an area made up of approximately 42,000 hectares, was known as Pine Grove and was owned by John Hunter Patterson.

Pastoral leases brought people to the Pine Grove area in hopes of making their fortune. When the Land Act 1869 allowed for free selection there was another influx of people into Pine Grove area, which then became known as Pannoo Bamawm. With the establishment of farming in the area, challenges around water supply were

common. After the severe drought of the 1890s in Victoria, there were multiple attempts to create irrigation schemes for the state, but it was not until 1911 that the area would get its first irrigation system. Following the construction of the irrigation system, the Elmore to Cohuna railway was completed in 1915 to help facilitate economic growth in the region. It was suggested the railway station be named after William Lockington, a prominent Jesuit priest. The town then grew around the rail stop. Lockington was officially gazetted in 1921.

As a community, we are known nationally as a highly motivated, resilient and can-do community that has a history of embracing opportunity and taking the lead and responsibility in creating positive futures and community ownership. This is amply demonstrated in the number of services and facilities that are owned and operated by community volunteers - including the local petrol station, Lockington District Business Centre, Lockington Community Bank, Lockington and District Heritage Complex, Waterwheel Court (retirement units), Neighbourhood House, Bush Nursing Centre, Travellers Rest, and a host of sporting and community facilities. Most recently, community residents banded together to purchase and operate the local hotel.

Our Vision

‘Our vision is to be a vibrant, caring, connected and proactive community that takes the lead in creating our future’

This is a vivid description of what our community aspires to become, without its current barriers, but tied to what we value as a community.

Our Goals

Below are the seven community goals which guide our community aspirations, namely -

- To grow the population and business base of our community.
- To maintain and continually expand our lifestyle and employment options and opportunities.
- To conserve, promote and share knowledge of Lockington District.
- To actively pursue new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthen and diversify our local economy and business life.
- To develop and promote our community as a desirable place to stop, stay, invest, experience and reside.
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported and empowered, and will consider returning to our community for work, business, family and lifestyle opportunities.
- To preserve, maintain and strengthen our community assets and heritage.



Our Guiding Principles

The following six guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely –

- **Sense of community** – ensuring all our community members experience a deep sense of connection, inclusion, and contribution.
- **Embracing new opportunities** – building upon local assets, capacities and creativity; and facilitating opportunities and experiences that enable all our residents to see and experience their community as a place of opportunity.
- **Collaboration** – committing to a high level of community and stakeholder involvement, cooperation, partnership, and networking.
- **Pride** – encouraging pride and times of celebration relating to our heritage, uniqueness, and achievements.
- **Respect for environment** – valuing and protecting our beautiful natural environment and its diverse and prolific wildlife.
- **Respect for heritage** – appreciating our unique heritage, stories and traditions and their importance in community and economic development.

Our Challenges

Like many small inland rural communities, our community faces and needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges, compounded by recent drought. These issues include –

- Water security.
- Static population.
- Limited visitor infrastructure and attraction.
- Dependence on agriculture.
- Limited local employment opportunities.
- Retaining and attracting younger people.
- Limited cultural and recreational options.
- Ageing volunteer base.
- Increased climate volatility.







*Friendly, everyone knows everyone.
Good sporting facilities.*

NARELLE

*It's a special town. Everyone is friendly and
so welcoming. Lockington offers a good family
environment. It feels like I have been here forever
and I do not want to ever move away.*

RHONDA

*Lockington is a peaceful place with a sense of
community where people get things done.
It's a beautiful town with great services.*

DEB

*Perfect place to bring up your children. It's a safe
community with great sporting facilities.*

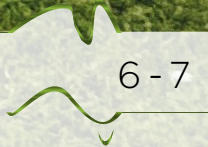
WENDY

*Friendly place with many community minded people
willing to pitch in.*

MONICA

*Close knit, supportive community, with a safe and
friendly environment.*

SHELBY



Our Assets

Social Networks

- 7 local social media accounts.
- Clubs- football/netball, golf (Bamawm and Lockington), tennis, cricket, gun club, pony, bowls, basketball
- Churches- Anglican, Catholic, Uniting, Community Church.
- Neighbourhood House.
- Lockington Men's Shed.
- Lockington Community Edible Garden.
- Exercise classes and tai chi.
- Service clubs- Lions Club, Action Club, CWA – Milloo & Bamawm.
- Lockington District Family Landcare Group.
- Lockington Community News.
- Kotta Railway Group.

Physical

- Extensive network of irrigation channels.
- Open town channel.
- Location to Murray River and Northern Highway.
- Facilities- oval, tennis courts, netball/ basketball courts, golf courses, community hall, museum with commercial kitchen, Action Club clubrooms, senior citizen clubrooms, Kotta Hall, Bamawm Extension Hall, Milloo Hall, Bamawm Recreation Reserve with indoor stadium, Lockington Recreation Reserve with pavilion, Tennis Recreation Reserve, Pine Grove Gun Club.
- Lockington & District Swimming Pool Inc.
- Lions/Apex Park, Scurrah Reserve,
- Walking track, channel boardwalk.
- Pannoo Bawmawm Cemetery at Pine Grove.
- Community owned Waterwheel Court Retirement Village- 14 units.
- Travellers Rest (16 units and 24 powered sites) and RV facilities.
- Large number of vacant town lots.
- Affordable housing.

People

- 400 residents in town, 1000 in the district.
- Reputation as a friendly, welcoming, 'can do' and generous community.
- Lockington Planning Group.
- Lockington Community Care Committee Inc.
- Strong volunteer base.
- Community Bank- Lockmore Financial Services.
- Gardiner Dairy Foundation.
- Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.
- Community hotel- over 100 members involved.
- 2 community cars.
- Lockington Playgroup.
- 4 buses collect students for school.
- Lockington Youth Group.
- Active Seniors group.
- Lockington Pre-School Committee.
- Lockington Consolidated Primary School Parent Committee.
- Channel Committee.

Our Assets

Institutions

- Part of the Campaspe Shire Council- specialist staff, library, grants..
- CFAs- Lockington, Pine Grove, Bamawm, Tennyson, Kotta.
- Lockington Consolidated Primary School- 148 students and 13 staff.
- Lockington Preschool.
- Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
- Doctor- one day a week.
- Lockington Neighbourhood House- funded by R.A.N.C.H and DHHS.
- DELWP, Parks Victoria.
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrong Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land & Waters Council.
- Regional Development Victoria.
- RDA Loddon Mallee.
- Intereach Aged Care Services - Meals on Wheels.

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc- large heritage collection – 40 members, 14 regular volunteers.
- Traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta peoples.
- Rich farming region.
- Parks Victoria – Nature Conservation Reserves
- Events- Vintage & Tractor Rally, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Australia Day Celebrations, ANZAC March & Service, Casserole Luncheon, camp drafts, Lockington Country Music Festival, Swap meet, Scarecrow competition, Mural competition, Carols in the park.
- Lochy-ness Yabby Monster
- Lockington Community News.

Economic

- Lockington District Business Centre.
- District retail businesses- supermarket (including bakery, hardware, news agency, liquor), post office and takeaway, laundry, bank, farm supplies, ice cream shop, petrol station, opportunity shop, hotel, winery.
- Extensive range of local trade and rural business services.
- Events- Lions Swap Meet, Vintage & Tractor Rally, camp drafts, musical festival.
- Accommodation businesses – hotel, 24 powered campsites, 3 BNBS
- Strong Agricultural Sector.
- Community bank.
- V-Line bus service 7 days a week.
- Chemist service arrangement.
- Shire 'Business Assistance Grants' and 'Event Grants'.

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Lockington Town Appearance & Facility Upgrade

ACTIONS

1

1. Identify and support strategic tasks to be undertaken by the Rural Aid Volunteer team in terms of Main Street beautification and enhancement, including work on key buildings and areas -

- Beautifying of, and adding to town gardens and tree plantings.
- Installing more street seating.
- External painting and repairing of windowsills and wood across eaves at St Canice's Catholic Church.
- Painting of walls at Senior Citizen's Centre.
- Upgrading plumber's shed (sanding of shelving area and floor) at Business Centre.
- Improving amenities for the Play Group facility including replacement of the perimeter barbed wire fence with a ring lock outside fence, upgrading use and security of equipment shed, repairing of interior walls and ceiling of hall, and erecting shade sail over the playground.
- Cleaning up Lockington Recreation Reserve.
- Constructing a Notice Board for 'What's On' in a prominent spot in the centre of town.

Timeframe: Immediate to short term

2. Improve physical infrastructure that enhances local and visitor appeal including -

- Extending the Channel down past the school and into the township.
- Connecting the channel to the walking trail loop that currently exists, allowing walkers or cyclists to access the Plantation area.
- Enhancing the Lockington township walking trail (including channel bridge) including improved surfaces, tree planting, beautification, seating, lighting, signage and interpretation along open channel.
- Supporting the Lockington Consolidated School to enhance the school entrance as a key positive statement with new garden plantings and statues, signage, metal sculpture and mural.
- Upgrading condition of the Locky-ness Monster.
- Creating 'Selfie Spots'.

Timeframe: Immediate to short term

3. Foster more 'streetlife feel' through -

- Urging more business activity on pavements.
- Introducing more main street community events.
- Lobbying for traffic slowing treatments.
- Installing more street seating and shade.
- Fostering more alfresco dining.
- Promoting active and inviting store frontages and windows.

Timeframe: Immediate

LEAD GROUP

Lockington & District
Living Heritage Complex Inc.

Lockington Consolidated Primary School
Lockington District Business Centre Inc
Campaspe Shire Council

OTHER PARTNERS

Rural Aid
Business community
Men's Shed

Lions Club
Action Club
Community Bendigo Bank

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Community Building Initiatives

ACTIONS



- 1. Undertake a 'Community Passion and Skills Audit'.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 2. Instigate regular initiatives that develop and recognise local leadership and encourage volunteerism and active citizenship.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 3. Enhance the community edible garden with installation of new raised garden beds and dripper irrigation.**
Timeframe: Immediate
- 4. Extend the number of units at Retirement Village from 12 to 16.**
Timeframe: Short to long term
- 5. Construct a car shelter at the Bush Nursing Centre.**
Timeframe: Short to medium term
- 6. Assist Play Group to secure long term use of current premises.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 7. Request Scouts Australia take responsibility for the old Scout Hall with the view of selling the building/land for private use.**
Timeframe: Immediate to medium term
- 8. Develop a 'Lifestyle Promotional Campaign' to attract new residents by building upon the community's rural lifestyle, strong community pride and friendliness and affordable housing, including-**
 - Initiating an internet and print media campaign.
 - Creating a 'Welcoming' committee and kit.
 - Actively promoting 'rural lifestyle' properties and encouraging housing development infill in the large number of vacant lots.**Timeframe: Short term and ongoing**

LEAD GROUP

**Lockington Community News
Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc.
Lockington District Business Centre Inc.
Lions Club, Action Club.
Neighbourhood House.**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Campaspe Shire Council.
Lockington Youth Action Group.
Men's Shed.
Sporting organisations.
Community Bendigo Bank.
Gardiner Dairy Foundation.
Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.**

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Tourism Development

ACTIONS



1. Formulate a comprehensive 'Local Tourism Action Plan' incorporating the following elements-

- Auditing existing tourism product.
- Identifying and developing new tourism ideas and product especially in relation to-
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage.
 - Farming heritage.
 - Agri-tourism, food trails and farm stays.
 - Art trail.
 - Channel walking and cycling trails.
 - Campaspe Driving Tourist Route.
 - Boutique accommodation.
 - Birdlife.
 - Car rally destination.
- Enhancing marketing, customer service, town storytelling and operator networking.
- Improving online visibility of the District.

Timeframe: Immediate to medium term

2. Support the Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc. with an upgrade of facility through-

- Improving and extending displays.
- Enhancing the storytelling of the District through interactive technology (e.g. holograms), production of E-Book and creation of podcasts for use on website and other social media outlets.
- Introducing a digital cataloguing system.
- Utilize the commercial kitchen arrangement to provide opportunities for larger catering events.
- Growing the volunteer base, especially in the younger generations.
- Introducing working demonstrations.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

3. Support the Arts Trail Group to develop a regional town's Arts Trail with the focus in Lockington to enhance the walking trail and utilise the south side of the Business Centre as a prominent arts site.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

4. Undertake a town, district and regional signage audit and advocate the implementation of identified improvements.

Timeframe: Immediate

5. Design and construct a mobile Visitors Information Booth which can be shared around local businesses and attractions.

Timeframe: Immediate

6. Development of an app with a GPS for the Lockington District, to facilitate a self-guided tour of the area.

Timeframe: Immediate

Theme Three

Heritage Building Retention & Restoration

ACTIONS



- 7. Develop and Introduce a volunteer's accredited training package and course (Cert in Tourism).**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 8. Extend the Travellers Rest from 16 units to 20 units and continually upgrade visitor facilities including connection of water to all powered sites and fixing of pressure pump.**
Timeframe: Medium term and ongoing
- 9. Develop and promote Lockington as a 'car rally' destination to Victorian and NSW car clubs through production of rally notes and offer of assistance with practical organisation.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

LEAD GROUP

**Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc.
Kotta Car Club
Lockington District Business Centre Inc.
Campaspe Shire Council.**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Lions Club, Action Club.
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrong
Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation,
Taungurung Land & Waters Council
Regional Development Victoria.
Parks Victoria.
Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee.
Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund.
Victorian Tourism Recovery Package.
Central Murray Tourism Board.**

Theme Four

Sports Club Upgrades

ACTIONS

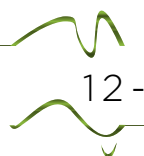


- 1. Identify, prioritise and support strategic tasks to be undertaken by the Rural Aid Volunteer team in terms of sporting club improvements, including-**
 - Painting of the west-north side of the building, painting under verandah area and upgrading of the seating on the small green at the Bowling Club.
 - Improving facilities at the Tennis Club including seating near courts, extending and painting of shed, demolishing old small shed and constructing fence.
 - Sanding the south end toilet floor of Lockington Recreation Reserve.
 - Undertaking storm damage repair works at the Golf Club.
 - Upgrading old wooden shed at Pony Club.
 - Upgrading of the kitchen area at the Camp Draft shed at Scurrah Reserve.
 - Extending the shed for golf carts at the Lockington golf club.

Timeframe: Immediate to short term

- 2. Resurface the basketball courts at Lockington Recreation Reserve.**

Timeframe: Immediate to short term



Theme Four

Sports Club Upgrades

LEAD GROUP

**Campaspe Shire Council.
Involved Sporting organisations**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Rural Aid.
Lions Club, Action Club.
Bendigo Community Bank.**

Theme Five

Child and Youth Development

ACTIONS



- 1. Formulate a 'Youth Retention and Attraction Plan' that focusses on –**
 - Enhancing meaningful child and youth civic engagement.
 - Increasing youth recreation options especially non-sporting options and afterschool activities.
 - Connecting local young people with volunteer tasks within the community e.g.at the Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc.
 - Identifying local youth training and job options including possible traineeships.
 - Identifying youth leadership opportunities and providing them with a voice.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

- 2. Design and develop the area surrounding the existing pump track at the 'corner block'.**

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

- 3. Develop the external space at the Play Group for a bike track for the children.**

Timeframe: Short to medium term

- 4. Develop and implement a plan to increase cultural options for children and young people.**

Timeframe: Short term

- 5. Introduce activities through the school that build active citizenship and opportunities for Lockington young people to identify and implement what they care about, drawing upon programs that have been utilised in other small towns; namely-**

- 'RuMAD?' - Are You Making a Difference? (Bank of I.D.E.A.S.)
- 'Community Minded Kids' (Community Minds)
- 'Dream Seeds' (Youthrive)

Timeframe: Short term

LEAD GROUP

**Campaspe Shire Council.
Lockington Consolidated School.
Neighbourhood House.
Lockington Youth Action Group.**

**Student Council
Lions Club, Action Club.
Play Group**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Rural Aid.
Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.
Gardiner Dairy Foundation.**

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Six

Kotta and Rail Trail Developments

ACTIONS

6

1. Restore/resurface the Kotta railway platform and maintain/landscape the area around the station including the removal of peppercorn trees and mending of red gum sleepers and retaining wall.

Timeframe: Immediate to short term

2. Develop area as a picnic area with seating and interpretative signage including signage about previous uses of the packing shed.

Timeframe: Immediate to short term

3. Continue the development of the Rail Trail.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

4. Instigate improvements to the Kotta Hall (especially for the planned 100 year celebrations in 2026) including re-blocking of perimeter, disability ramp installation.

Timeframe: Immediate to long term

5. Upgrade the war memorial and link to the Murray River War Monuments Trail.


Timeframe: Short term

LEAD GROUP

Lockington District Business Centre Rail Trail committee.
Kotta CFA.
Kotta residents.
Campaspe Shire Council.
Lockington Planning Group.
Rochester RSL

OTHER PARTNERS

Rural Aid.
Lions Club, Action Club.
Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex Inc.
Men's Shed.
Bendigo Community Bank



*I live in a small country town called “Locky”
Although I am not actually a dairy cocky
A broad acre farmer who works the ground
Always with a smile and never a frown
Many special treasures and the chance to step back in time
Great places to explore and the weather is always fine
Shop in our supermarket or indulge in an ice cream
Our community pub and places to stay and dream
Come visit our unique little town,
where the channel flows free
And you will meet many friendly characters
and possibly me!*

Lockington
VICTORIA