

Bruthen and District Community Plan 2012 - 2017





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Our Place

Our Place

Bruthen and District covers the tribal area of the Brabuwooloong People of the Gunaikurnai Nation and we respectfully acknowledge past and present Aboriginal elders.

European settlement for grazing and crop farming in the district dates from the 1840s. The steamer freight on the Tambo River made Bruthen key to the trade route and encouraged population growth and development.

Bruthen's legacy as a gateway and resting place for travellers continues, as it is an important confluence of bike and walking trails and road travel.

Logging was also a significant local industry that drew people to the district.

The natural environment and those who contributed sensitively to the built environment have shaped the character and ambience of Bruthen and District.

The population of Bruthen and District has grown from these beginnings and choosing new and creative ways of living has been a major factor in attracting new residents.

"The people of Bruthen and District appreciate the beauty of our natural environment."

"We have a strong sense of belonging and support within our smaller communities and enjoy a high quality of health and education services."



Our Plan

“People in Bruthen and District have a strong sense of community.”

This document contains information about ideas and aspirations that have been voiced by people who have an interest in Bruthen and District.

The Bruthen and District Citizen’s Association initiated the making of this plan and formed the Bruthen and District Community Planning Group.

The Bruthen and District Community Planning Group has engaged and energised the community through numerous activities with individuals and relevant groups.

These activities have encouraged everyone in Bruthen and District to contribute and be informed throughout the Community Planning process.

The Bruthen and District Community Planning Group have undertaken the role of processing and supporting ideas put forward by the community.

What the Planning Group has done so far;

- We have informed the community by personally contacting local groups and individuals, through promotion in the Tambo Rambler and the Bairnsdale Advertiser newspapers, flyers and brochures on noticeboards, through a series of community network meetings and through listening boards and community engagement at community events.
- We have invited community opinion and comment through surveys and forums to reflect what you want to see in the community plan.
- The Children’s Voices Project 2012 at the Bruthen Primary school has invited students to use photography and journaling to have a say about the community they live in, what they like, don’t like and what they would like to see change. The project was developed through a partnership between Uniting Care Gippsland, The Smith Family and East Gippsland Shire Council with Communities for Children funding and includes an exhibition of works created.
- We asked people what they thought Bruthen and District ‘does well’, and where improvements could be made. There was general acknowledgement of; “Our cohesive and active community and all that we have achieved because of this”.

Appendix 1 contains a full list of all input collected throughout this process.

This Community Plan is a collaborative effort between the Bruthen and District community and East Gippsland Shire Council.



Our Plan

Major achievements from our previous Plan

Bruthen and District Community Plan 2004-2009

The top ten projects – how did we go?

Theme	Objective	Status	Report
Local Doctor	Attract a permanent doctor to the town	✓	Achieved!
Community Bus	Work towards aged and community transport	✓	Achieved!
Rail Trail	Maintain and enhance (especially Bruthen, Wiseleigh and Mossiface)	⇒	Ongoing cooperative relationships between RT and the BDCA and Bruthen Landcare
			Complementary projects -Landcare projects -Bruthen Walking Trails compliment the RT
Streetscape Plan	Develop a plan to reflect heritage values	✓	Achieved!
Main Street Gardens	Plans to maintain and develop as a major asset	✓	Achieved! (as part of the Streetscape Plan)
Police Paddock	Clever, thoughtful plan for its use	✓	Achieved! (as part of the Streetscape Plan)
Urban Planning Review	Planning Zones that perfect and maintain the town's unique features	✓	Achieved! (as part of the Streetscape Plan)
Tourism	Develop a district plan that values the local assets	⇒	Ongoing – new Bruthen Art and Info Centre
Blues and Arts Festival	Maintain and expand the festival	⇒	Ongoing
Free Tip	Investigate options	✋	Not commenced

This table was devised in 2009 by the Bruthen and District Citizen's Association.

What we hope to achieve through this Plan

This plan reflects the values and identity of our community and holds short-term, medium and long-term aims put forward by the Bruthen and District Community.

The Bruthen and District Community Plan 2012- 2017 will be used to support a 'Community Work Plan', managed by the Bruthen Community Planning Group. This will be regularly reviewed and updated as actions are completed, new opportunities or challenges arise and priorities change.

It is a tool for Council, community groups and other organisations to coordinate better use of time, effort, sourcing of funds and other resources in delivering outcomes identified by the community.

Who We Are

- ***Healthy, active and inclusive***

Bruthen and District has a strong sports culture, with clubs attracting local youth and those from surrounding districts.

We value our natural environment, which draws people to our district and out and about in the community.

Bruthen and District has an established network of very active community groups and facilities that are easily accessible and friendly.

- ***Heritage proud***

Bruthen is a picturesque town with a commitment to restoring and maintaining historical features.

We encourage new works to strive to be sensitive to Bruthen's ambience.

-

- ***Our arts community***

We have a strong arts culture. Events including the Bruthen Blues and Arts Festival are continuing to raise the profile of our town, attracting visitors and new residents.



Our Top Ten Priorities

Our Top Ten Priorities

The following are the top ten priorities identified from the objectives and actions in the draft plan. These priorities were identified by members of the community who attended the community consultation evening on 16th May 2012.

Note that these are listed in no particular order.

Objectives	Actions
To support safe access to and around Bruthen and District.	☐ Review of traffic management issues –including lowering speed limits in town area; improving parking and diverting heavy traffic. ☐ Identify the need for public or non-public transport options.
To foster an active, healthy and safe community engaged in recreation, arts and cultural activities.	☐ Support Bruthen Blues and Arts Festival and build on this for other musical and arts events – including erecting a permanent representation of the Festival ☐ Support the Bruthen Mechanics Hall Committee of Management to upgrade facilities for production of quality performances that support inclusivity and diversity. ☐ Support our schools and early years children. ☐ Increase Community Health Centre services, including provision of a full time nurse and a permanent doctor.
Encourage and support our youth.	☐ Support our youth in developing a calendar of rotating social activities.
To value our ageing population.	☐ Explore more options for independent living accommodation.
To protect and enhance our natural environment and cultural heritage	☐ Enhance parks and rest areas in a way that is practical, aesthetically pleasing and with safe access.
To promote our district and attract business opportunities	☐ Foster an environment that will attract new businesses.

Objectives and Actions

Objectives and Actions

Liveability

An active, healthy and safe community with services that support community diversity and connectivity.



Objectives	Actions
To support safe access to and around Bruthen and District.	□ Investigate ways of improving access and safety of roadways and footpaths – including provision for safer crossing points. □ Review of traffic management issues –including lowering speed limits in town area; improving parking and diverting heavy traffic. □ Identify the need for public or non-public transport options.
To foster an active, healthy and safe community engaged in recreation, arts and cultural activities.	□ Support Bruthen Blues and Arts Festival and build on this for other musical and arts events – including erecting a permanent representation of the Festival □ Support the Bruthen Mechanics Hall Committee of Management to upgrade facilities for production of quality performances that support inclusivity and diversity. □ Establish a venue and programs for craft, including sewing and for adult education programs. □ Maintain and develop recreational infrastructure. □ Support our schools and early years children. □ Increase Community Health Centre services, including provision of a full time nurse and a permanent doctor.
To have safety in times of emergency and support in times of recovery.	□ Develop a Bruthen and District Local Incident Emergency Management Plan. □ Seek to improve internet and mobile phone access, especially needed in times of emergency.
Encourage and support our youth.	□ Support our youth in developing a calendar of rotating social activities. □ Support sport options that are attractive to youth. □ Facilitate a forum with a youth focus that will involve relevant stakeholders.
To value our ageing population.	□ Explore more options for independent living accommodation. □ Provide safe and accessible amenities that are considerate of our senior citizens

Objectives & Actions

Sustainability

A sustainable, healthy and diverse natural environment and a built environment that is sensitive to our region's natural attributes and cultural heritage.

Objectives	Actions
To protect and enhance our natural environment and cultural heritage	☐ Acknowledge and respect the indigenous cultural heritage of the district ☐ Implement outstanding projects from the Bruthen & District Streetscape Plan ☐ Enhance parks and rest areas in a way that is practical, aesthetically pleasing and with safe access. ☐ Consider more sustainable options in future development. ☐ Increase access to and maintain areas of natural beauty such as, Tambo River environs and Fairy Dell. ☐ Extend bike trails especially Sarsfield to Bruthen and footpaths to link town. ☐ Improve connectivity of tracks and trails in and around Bruthen township ☐ Plan and implement bicycle parking infrastructure
To protect, promote and regenerate our natural environment.	☐ Support Landcare, Rail Trail volunteers and other environment focussed groups.
To promote a clean and eco-friendly environment	☐ Pursue efficient and sustainable waste management options ☐ Develop a working group to research, engage and inform, regarding the impacts of future mining industry in our locality



Objectives & Actions

Productivity

A progressive community that encourages business and agriculture to thrive and develop sustainably.

Objectives	Actions
To promote our district and attract business opportunities	☐ Promote and support local retailers. ☐ Foster an environment that will attract new businesses.
To support and encourage tourism industry.	☐ Foster an environment that will encourage new accommodation options in Bruthen and District. ☐ Support existing events groups, to increase opportunities for more arts projects, festivals and activities, and increase promotion of these events.
To increase information access	☐ Maintain and increase user base for Tambo Rambler and Bruthen website. ☐ Improve information technology access. ☐ Develop further information facilities at the Bruthen Art and Information Centre.

Governance

A community with a unique identity, characterised by strong leadership and organisations which are open and accountable.

Objectives	Actions
To support ongoing Community Planning	☐ Maintain an ongoing community planning group ☐ Promote and implement the <i>Bruthen and District Community Plan 2012 to 2017</i>. ☐ Provide opportunities for ongoing input into 'Community Work Plan'
To strengthen community management	☐ Explore viability of creating a Community Development Coordinator position. ☐ Support the development of a volunteer network. ☐ Recognise the good work done by our volunteers. ☐ Support and develop community activities and networks throughout the District.

Our Future

Our Future

What do we plan to do next?

The tables contained within the 'Objectives and Actions' section of this document have been compiled and agreed by the Bruthen and District Community Planning process.

The next stage of the planning process will be to implement these actions through the following:

1. Formalise the 'Community Work Plan', and its management as a dynamic document.
2. Inform the community of the Community Work Plan.
3. Invite the individuals or groups from the community to express interest in implementation of actions or projects
4. Throughout the ongoing process, continue to liaise with the East Gippsland Shire Council, and other relevant agencies.

Project Implementation

The Bruthen & District Community Planning Group will support groups which take on these projects. Groups take responsibility for the development and implementation of the project.

Getting Involved

If you feel inspired by the idea of making things even better and want to participate, you can contact the Bruthen and District Community Planning Group via

Bruthen and District Citizen's Association
PO Box 24, Bruthen VIC 3885
or
tamboramblor@gmail.com

APPENDIX - SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT TO THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

31 August 2010 - Action Activities as suggested at Community Plan Group Formation Meeting

1. Community building/new people:-

- New person's welcome/intro pack – invite into community future planning
- Welcome/community street parties
- "Best Kept Street"
- Bruthen theme Trivia Night(history/personalities etc)

2. Survey community (at appropriate times)

3. Community Audit

- Resources/meeting places/skills bank/natural environment/groups

4. Celebrating Bruthen

- Gathering or activities to encourage full family/all age/ cross cultural/new INVOLVEMENT not simply entertainment. Its for and about local district eg "Beat The Drum"
- "Bruthen Day" "Bruthen Expo" "Best Street"
- "Bruthen Past/Present and Future"
- Tours/trivia/competitions/dressup/skilling activities/talks/celebrity/mixed groups social events/FUN.

October 2010 – July 2011

Bruthen & District Five Year Community Plan – Survey Responses

In October 2010 the Working Party formulated a written survey for the Bruthen Community to energise and open discussion and receive feedback. Eighty surveys were posted to community groups including institutions, organisations and clubs and businesses throughout Bruthen and District as listed in the Tambo Rambler and were printed in the Tambo Rambler. Eight responses were received.

The survey covered three main sections:

What has been achieved? What is happening now? Help shape the future of our community.

1. Better signage to the town access of rail trail
2. Improve the acoustics of the Bruthen Hall
3. Flashing lights at the pedestrian crossing
4. Reduction of speed limits for safety of all
5. More available parking space
6. Retaining St Ann's church block
7. Embark on the already existing streetscape plan.
8. Development of Police Paddock for parking /community hub/recreation
9. Increase of bus services to Bairnsdale
10. More police presence
11. Bike rack and seating in the main street
12. Toilet block and waste bins in the Lions Park
13. History trail around town
14. Build on the Community Health Centre facilities and space.
15. Street lighting between Sports oval and Garage
16. 60 k sign to be put closer to the Bairnsdale side of Station Street.
17. Development of rail trail sites in Bruthen. i.e. tunnel, fettlers hut, and station sites
18. Signage to the town access of Rail Trail
19. Improve the acoustics of the Bruthen Hall
20. Flashing lights at the pedestrian crossing
21. Reduction of speed limits
22. More available parking space
23. Retaining St Ann's church block
24. Development of police paddock
25. Increase bus services to Bairnsdale
26. More police presence
27. Bike rack and seating in the main street
28. Toilet block and waste bins in the Lions Park
29. History Trail around Town
30. Bruthen Day – work into Australia Day
31. Lack of side street parking
32. Development of Heritage Trail with appropriate signage

Appendix

33. Implementation of the Bruthen Streetscape Plan with priority areas being Police Paddock and Mechanics Hall Forecourt and Anzac Memorial area
34. Remove unnecessary outdated signs, fix fences that are falling down Road speed limits speed zone needs to be 50 kph
35. Footpath or bike track from Main Street to walking trails
36. Lighting between Bruthen Motors and Bruthen Sports Oval and Bruthen Recreation Reserve and toilets

In July 2011 a second survey via the Tambo Rambler seeking Greater community response and asking for suggestions for the Police Paddock, Bruthen Streetscape Study 2001. 5 responses were received.

1. Extra parking space to resolve Main Street congestion
2. Recreational and community purposes
3. Park like features- table and chairs toilets, game area, mini exercise course, space for all weather options, re markets displays etc.
4. Uniting Care to purchase block to build extra Daniel Gunson accommodation
5. Fire Brigade requiring extra space

Five Year Plan Suggestions from Senior Citizens from 16 surveys collected by Margaret Greenwood **Traffic Safety**

1. Speed reduced to 40 km per hour through township
2. Slow traffic coming into town
3. More parking around the town
4. Better vision around Highway intersection
5. Enforce speed limit through town
6. Need lights at pedestrian crossing as a lot of elderly people use it - also a lot of traffic
7. Flashing lights near Pedestrian walkway main street gardens
8. Reduction of Speed through Bruthen (twice)
9. Pedestrian crossing lights on Main Street
10. Pedestrian flashing lights at crossing – Bruthen
11. Pedestrian Crossing at General Store
12. Ice on Pedestrian bridges over Rail Trail dangerous
13. More street lighting especially alongside Mechanics Hall and public walkways
14. Entrance to Gunson Homes off Seehusen Avenue to be better illuminated at night.
15. Public footpath from Gunson Homes to Health Centre need security lighting at night for all pedestrians especially residents of the homes using pathway.

Community Health

1. Doctor on permanent basis
 2. A doctor on a permanent basis one or two days a week if possible
 3. We need a doctor at least every morning in attendance at Bruthen Community Health Centre so many older people do not drive any longer and cannot get attention unless the doctor is in regular attendance
 4. Permanent doctor/Full time nurse: Elderly community not able to attend a doctor in Bairnsdale – no transport
 5. Permanent ambulance – 25 minutes is too long to wait with no full time doctor or nurse
1. Roof over BBQ as promised by Shire.
 2. Road signage to indicate BBQ in town.
 3. The land on the left hand side before you drive over bridge too be cleaned up it's an eyesore and disgraceful. It's a haven for rats, mice, snakes etc. and won't be good in a bush fire.
 4. Police Paddock is a disgrace. Something needs to happen Police Lockup deteriorating.
 5. The Police Paddock could be used to build homes for the elderly (much needed)

General

1. Police Paddock owned by DSE Daniel Gunson Homes to buy this for future homes for aging community
2. Proposed Mens' Shed old RSL hall needs updating work needs to be commenced now. Electricity need to be updated and other works that will make it usable for the Senior Men in the Bruthen area
3. Better telephone communication. Tambo Upper has been waiting 18 months – aged pensioners over 80
4. Encourage more fast food outlets especially early openers especially Brekky time
5. Consider advertising/highlighting the towns timber industry

June 2011

Bruthen & District Community Planning Dinner – Bullant Brewery 30th June 2011 Top 5 Priorities

(listed in order of importance with 1 being most important, Table Five presented 6 priorities)

	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5
1	Full Time Nurse	Traffic management , speed limit, parking	Youth Support 13 - 17 year olds hot spot	Youth Programs - to engage youth more recreational	Utilise Police Paddock as town hub
2	Develop Police Paddock	More businesses	Community health – improve services	Traffic – speed Divert heavy traffic	Footpaths to link town e.g. walking trails
3	Recycling Centre	Development of and Maintaining Gardens	Public Transport	Improve Health facilities	Bus transport to Bairnsdale with Bairnsdale rail
4	Retain Historic Ambience with Growth	Festivals and Community Activities	Maintain Town Centre	More Events - social	Improved Medical Centre
5	More bike trails especially Bruthen to Sarsfield	More health Facilities	More businesses	Police Paddock & Heritage Trail	Accommodation
6					Community Arts Projects

Bruthen & District Community Planning Dinner – 30 th June 2011 “What We Want – Next 10 Years “	
Table 1	Table 2
☐ Better cohesiveness between groups ☐ New businesses ☐ Recycling Centre ☐ Nurse on duty full time ☐ Church as catalyst for community growth ☐ Development of public areas for general use ☐ retain Village” atmosphere ☐ Olan for issues before they arise ☐ Face possibility of expansion i.e. sub-divisions ☐ More school enrolments ☐ Ability to lobby professionally and successfully ☐ Develop ideas to fruition from first Five Year plan i.e. Police Paddock ☐ More for youth ☐ Tourist Information e.g. interpretive signage of hop kilns etc ☐ Bike Trail Bruthen to Sarsfield ☐ Pioneer Skills Day ☐ Retain historic ambience during growth ☐ Pedestrian Crossing ☐ Regular Doctor ☐ Nurse on Duty ☐ Community connectedness and deeper relationships ☐ Engagement with regional and federal issues ☐ Development of public areas for people to use ☐ Lobby what we want from Council with strong voice	☐ Youth programs i.e. scouts ☐ Gym ☐ Youth Centre ☐ Resources to keep young people happy ☐ Develop facilities/disused buildings ☐ Amphitheatre – Recreation Reserve ☐ Footpaths along highway ☐ Speed limits for town limits ☐ Better street lighting /in front of store/ safety issues kids returning from oval ☐ More health related programs ☐ Easy access to health issues ☐ Permanent doctor /medical facilities/more visiting specialists ☐ Overall development of rail trail and environment ☐ "Community Pub"/Revitalise pub ☐ Equestrian/Mini Bike/BMX/Scooter arena ☐ More cultural events/Back to Past festival and more social activities, festivals & events ☐ Develop heritage park ☐ Landscaping of district ☐ Maintain Main Street gardens – as they attract tourists ☐ Develop police paddock to van trailer park/additional parking ☐ More car parking ☐ Community wellbeing ☐ Community engagement ☐ Development of community groups ☐ Welcome pack to promote facilities/use market as lots of new families go to market ☐ Develop bike rides –old saw mill site ☐ Fill empty spaces/ buildings ☐ Web site – update 3 monthly ☐ Education – childcare facilities ☐ Development of Tourist Hub for Main Street ☐ Business more co-operative, feed off each other. roster system open at all times

Appendix

Bruthen & District Community Planning Dinner – 30 th June 2011 “What We Want – Next 10 Years “		
Table 3	Table 4	Table 5
☐ More involvement from wider community ☐ More active community participation ☐ More community gatherings ☐ Nurse on duty full time ☐ Reduce speed limits ☐ Bus Service ☐ More shops – variety ☐ Reduce speed limit through town ☐ More lighting at bridge and footy oval ☐ Development of public assets for general use ☐ Purpose built childcare centre ☐ Businesses become more secure ☐ Businesses more diverse to attract more visitors ☐ More businesses – local employment ☐ Reasons for young to stay ☐ More things for youth ☐ Develop more community participation ☐ Full time doctor ☐ Expansion – residential and business ☐ More car parking ☐ Streetscape completion ☐ More people/tourism ☐ Mower races on oval - Historic weekend festival Tractor/bike/steam/gold ☐ Tunnel used full time	☐ More events e.g. Bingo/Trivia/Bruthen's Got Talent ☐ Improve Market ☐ Speed Limits ☐ More Parking ☐ Police Paddock – old jail ☐ Clean up vacant blocks ☐ Look to the future – young people ☐ Grow our young people involve them in skills and projects like skate park – more than footy ☐ Keep our Primary school open and growing ☐ Local employment for young people ☐ Be part of Regional projects ☐ Tambo Upper – more input	☐ Keep village atmosphere ☐ Don't let highway dominate town ☐ Improved public transport to Bairnsdale & Lakes Entrance ☐ Bus to Bairnsdale Rail line/times link ☐ Public Transport bus/train services link ☐ Wider membership in BDCA ☐ More community participation in committees ☐ More interactivity in Bruthen ☐ Better school involvement with greater focus on community involvement ☐ Develop a local Heritage Trail to boost tourism ☐ Development of heritage trail, native plants & animals of our area ☐ History of buildings and Koori footprint ☐ Education of Historical /natural histories/trees ☐ Look after the Elm trees ☐ More businesses for visitors e.g. accommodation, food ☐ More variety of quality shops & businesses ☐ Vacant shops filled ☐ Use of our assets eg. Ramrod, bush ☐ Less abuse and destruction of forest areas ☐ Protect & administer the forest ☐ Better facilities for the people who live here – family friendly ☐ Use Tennis Courts ☐ Walking Trails around town ☐ Development of & keeping Health Centre facilities especially doctors ☐ Further expansion of medical centre ☐ Further expansion of medical centre ☐ Community Hub – community garden /meeting place ☐ More festivals ☐ Improve condition rail trail between Wiseleigh & Bruthen

August 2011

“Footprint” Meeting 3 August 2011

Police Paddock Development Suggestions September 2011

- Suggestion that Community members with appropriate expertise skills and machinery liaise with Bruthen Mechanics Hall committee to plough up and replant rough section of Police Paddock
- Develop police paddock for recreational and community purposes, markets, public events
- Extra parking space to resolve Main Street Parking congestion
- Safe off the street playground for children
- Consideration could be given to developing an undercover/roofed space or spaces (rather than an open per gola) south of the village green to provide all weather options for market stalls, temporary displays, etc. (or simply a place for people to take cover if caught outside unexpectedly in case of rain)
- Dedicated caravan and boat parking for people passing through if difficult to find parking these people do not stop; space for market type activities and property
- Water feature, tables and chairs at back of the Hall for playing games such as chess, draughts, Chinese checkers
- Somewhere for children's games like basketball ring, soccer goal, mini exercise course
- Resolve space problems for adjoining facilities – Daniel Gunson Homes to purchase this paddock for future homes to be built for Senior Citizens , ideal situation for the future

October 2011: Synopsis of Teenage Survey Findings (Bruthen Primary School)

Respondents: 25 (11 male / 14 female): Average age 10.9.

Methodology: Questionnaire

Respondents were asked four broad ranging questions that addressed the themes of: liveability, -sustainability, future, and other suggestions.

While individual questionnaire returns can be viewed for individual responses and context a number of strong themes emerged. These are as follows:

Liveability: What services do we not have enough of – what would you like to see more of or start up?

- It was generally acknowledged that sports such as football and netball did provide a physical/sporting activity for teenagers to participate in; however, that there were a number of other physical activities / sports that would young people wished to participate in – in essence to obtain some variety from the status quo. Activities/pursuits mentioned included:

- Swimming
- Basketball
- Bike Riding
- Tennis (it should be noted that the Bruthen Tennis Club is currently in recess but courts and facilities exist).

Sustainability: What issues about Bruthen (natural or built environment) – do you feel need to be improved or created?

- There was an overwhelming response regarding this question which centred on development of the skate park facility. Specific feedback included:

- development of the skate park to include a variety of new jumps/slides,
- development of adjoining playground facilities (upgrade of existing basic play sets) – responses wanted specifically to increase the size of, and variety of activities within playground.
- development of shaded areas (shade trees),
- building a toilet block which would service the skate park, playground and BBQ area.

- Respondents also noted they would like a BMX/riding track (whether this was part of a redeveloped park area was not known).

- Numerous feedback was provided on the need to have more shops in town variety of shops).

Future: Do you see a future in Bruthen? If so or no – tell us why? Tell us what you think about in jobs in and around Bruthen.

- About one-third of responses said that they would stay in Bruthen based on a mixture liking the country, or wanting to work locally. However, the remainder of responses said they felt that they did not have a future in Bruthen due to the lack of job opportunities.

October 2011: Synopsis of Teenage Survey Findings (Older Locals - Teenagers)

Respondents: 14 (9 male / 5 female). Average age 16.5.

Methodology: Verbal question and answer

Respondents were asked four broad ranging questions that addressed the themes of: liveability, sustainability, future, and other suggestions.

Theme responses to questions asked are as follows:

Liveability: What services do we not have enough of – what would you like to see more of or start up?

- Approximately 75 percent of respondents acknowledged that sporting club activity within Bruthen has limited to a traditional three activities (these being football, netball and cricket) – and that not everyone plays these games. The mentioned that some alternatives needed to exist – tennis and basketball were mentioned most frequently.

- Nearly all of the female respondents mentioned that apart from sport there is a distinct lack of social activities in Bruthen. I asked for solutions to their comment and they said that a youth club of some sort with a rolling social program that met every few weeks would probably be a good idea. I asked them about the type of activities they would like to see and answers included a couple of blue light disco's per year, bike riding excursions, minor games nights etcetera. The said that a balance between how often the group met and when the group met (eg did not compete with sports training nights), would have to be found. Some of the respondents said that while an adult would be needed to help with the social group – they would be willing to organise some of the activities.

Sustainability: What issues about Bruthen (natural or built environment) – do you feel need to be improved or created?

- This question received limited feedback from most of the respondents (not sure whether it was in the too hard basket). Accordingly no quantitative feedback can be provided.

Future: Do you see a future in Bruthen? If so or no – tell us why? Tell us what you think about in jobs in and around Bruthen.

- Out of the 14 respondents (most of whom are in their last years of high school/HSC), 12 said that they thought they would have to move out of Bruthen to get a job and if that meant going to Bairnsdale or Melbourne then they would be forced to leave Bruthen. They saw no variety of work being offered unless you owned your own business.

October 2011: Synopsis of Business Survey findings:

Respondents: Eleven responses were received. Five were written responses in addition to 6 verbal responses. Verbal respondents wanted to make one or two key points only regarding the questionnaire - primarily concerning areas that they felt most comfortable providing comment on.

Methodology: Questionnaire and verbal Q&A 'short' sessions. The questionnaire and Q&A sessions covered three broad ranging areas that addressed the statements of: maintain, sustain and fix. Main themes that emerged are as follows:

Maintain: What issues would you like to see maintained – which have a positive effect/influence on the business development/operation in Bruthen?

- Themes that resonated included that Bruthen was aesthetically pleasing, and that its sense of history / look and feel was a positive influence on attracting visitors or families to stop at Bruthen.

- The gardens in Bruthen are a drawcard where people can relax and should be carefully maintained including planning for the future.

Appendix

Fix: What are issues that have a negative effect on business development in Bruthen (this may include external issues to Bruthen)? Briefly describe solutions to those issues.

- Roads/parking: Feedback provided included improvement of roads leading into Bruthen from all axis (Bairnsdale, Nowa Nowa and Omeo). If roads are not maintained tourists (especially caravan / boat owners) will choose alternate route via the Princes Highway. Business owners have noted a decline in standards of roads within Bruthen.

- Within the township comment was repeatedly made about a need to implement a solution to lack of parking (numerous comments about making Main Street one-way on the post office side and creating angle parking. Comment also mentioned development of some limited caravan short stay parking options in any redevelopment of the police paddock that was to occur.

- Numerous comment was made that the lack of food outlets open on Mondays and Tuesdays reflected very poorly on the community. Travellers were unable to get prepared food stuffs (apart from pastry products). A recommended solution was that the hospitality business owners meet and organise a roster to provide that food service which is advertised in the other business when they are closed.

- There is a need to fix in town tourist accommodation so that a number of options are available to passing visitors – who may stay overnight and inject money into the local businesses. This could be via development of some of the vacant shops into an in town B&B type set up. This type of accommodation could also be supplemented by establishment of a mini-country style motel and fixing up of the Bruthen Inn Hotels accommodation.

- Toilet block during summer months is at absolute breaking point. There are not enough facilities for the numbers of passing tourists/travel stoppers to use. It was recommended that another toilet block be established and that this block have a good paint over and tidy up.

Develop: What issues (separate from those you think need fixing), need to be developed to stimulate business in Bruthen and its immediate surrounds?

- Attracting a major employer to the Bruthen area. When questioned a major employer would be in the vicinity of an industry that could sustain 15-20 employees all year round. If this was not possible then have two the three additional businesses that employ in the vicinity of eight to ten people each – all year round. Creating jobs in Bruthen/the district will stimulate all the other business which currently exist, and possibly spark a number of smaller supporting/service type businesses to support the larger employers. Council and state government should be lobbied to see what incentives can be offered to create employment opportunities.

Comment: It was interesting to note that the next generation of young workers from Bruthen (currently aged 10-12 and those in their late teens – saw employment as the main reason why they would not remain in Bruthen).

- Develop a themed event in a time that does not have much other activity in Bruthen (for example at the end of football season and the start of cricket season). The themed event would be separate to that of the Blues Festival (but as per the Blues Festival) – offer a major economic boost to the township and business (including any new accommodation options). One idea that mentioned four times was a Bruthen History type event that had activities that pertained to Bruthen past festival events (wood chopping competition, boxing matches, rail trail bike, horse events {not racing} race etc – something different from that which exists). Something that uses a long weekend to get the crowds in for an extra day or two.

- Develop a 'Best of Bruthen' information flyer that promotes the businesses (accommodation, food outlets, shopping, arts and crafts etc). This could extend to development of a tourist and business web page funded by the business community and EG Shire council / other corporate partners.

November 2011 - Bruthen Progressive Dinner 19 November 2011 - Feedback from Graffiti sheets

What makes this a great place to live?	What's good and what do we want to keep/add?
☐ I love it cause there's markets and lot's of community activity. ☐ The best bit is the huge community spirit ☐ I love Bruthen because it is nice and quiet and good people ☐ Friendly town ☐ Nice shops ☐ Nice people ☐ It's quiet and a clean town ☐ Gr8 Place 2 live because I live here! ☐ The farmland ☐ It's close to everywhere ☐ Motorbike ☐ Horses ☐ Awesome ramps @ the skate park ☐ Bruthen is cool because there are lots of dogs and horses ☐ I like the General Store and the Bakery and Martys ☐ Great evening, meeting old friends. ☐ Love Bruthen ☐ St Johns Wort it gets quite neglected. ☐ Community Spirit. Once again comes alive. Keep it coming. ☐ Should be encouraged in the bigger cities. ☐ Thank you – Lovely start to the evening. ☐ THE BLUES FESTIVAL	☐ Drive-In Movie theatre ☐ Cinema ☐ Video Easy ☐ Lolly Shop ☐ Swimming Pool ☐ I walk the rail trail each day very disappointed with the weeds particularly ☐ Greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal History ☐ Rail Trail needs maintenance program and proper funding "Adopt a Trail" (?) ☐ Somewhere to get work for young people -Clothes Shops, Maccas, KFC, Toy shop ☐ More visitor accommodation needed 'pet friendly' ☐ Toilet at skate park ☐ A walking path from township to cemetery please ☐ A good running track ☐ A better playground ☐ A playground in the town centre and paths around it to ride bikes or skate etc. ☐ Neighbourhood house funding for CHC ☐ A suggestion: Level off ground east of Bridge & put up picnic table for summer crowds to use. ☐ Improve Bruthen Hall acoustics and paint it (and roof) ☐ Preserve old buildings and our history ☐ Need safe bike and walking tracks from town to Engineers Road. ☐ Repair walking bridge (rotten wood)

April, May, June 2012: Bruthen and District Draft Community Plan – Online Survey (Survey Monkey)

Responses to Question: Are there any other specific actions you think should be included in the Plan?

1. Could we have a divided Highway tho the town **2.** Enhance access to the river for picnics and swimming, eg picnic tables at some points and tracks or paths to help access. A cleared path from near the caravan park would be good. **3.** My concern is with the traffic through Bruthen - road to narrow - only time before another serious accident occurs, No crossing points across Highway. Would like to see Bike racks established for visitors. Also like a large sign at each entrance welcoming people to Bruthen and surrounds. **4.** Now that we have half the police paddock being upgraded we need pressure on the Shire to include this work in their mower program. **5.** What timelines is the plan based on (in actions but should be on front cover). Remove willows from old trestle bridge along roadside through to Bruthen. **6.** Lions Park It took too many years to get a BBQ installed - no roof and no shelter. A basic shelter would make the difference/ sun and rain shelter. **7.** I believe the Tambo River area around the Bruthen bridge could and should be improved, to provide the public with better parking and swimming opportunities. We have a clean natural resource, central to the town being underutilised. **8.** Additional items to highlight could include safer parking solutions along Main Street. Also better documentation of the local history, maybe combine 'rail trail', 'walking trails' and 'car trails' for those who are limited to vehicles. They could still see a lot of the local icons, maybe with a guide book detailing history. Same concept could be linked to Rail Trail and walking trails, but maybe includes brochures that highlight local flora or boards etc. **9.** I know it may be 'Pie in the Sky' but somehow get the money (Shire/Grant) and purchase Froud's garage. It's the focal point of the town, intersection of and possible turn it into a museum and arts centre or similar. Unfortunately it is an absolute eyesore. In any other way shape or form a museum would be great. **10.10** - 60km restrictions to at least Engineers Rd - on Great Alpine Road. A very poor digital TV reception needs to be improved A full-time doctor – good idea Bruthen Blues no longer a good family occasion - too many 'loud' youths, swearing and fighting not good for decent families. **11.** Would like to have a review on TIP fees or transfer station. As before there is always the guilty that will use the surrounding bush to dispose of unwanted garbage etc **12.** Under 'liveability' heading, specifically safety issues. The EGSC must, on behalf of the Bruthen and District community, demand the Federal Government and Telstra ensure full and effective mobile phone coverage to all areas - a critical issue for 21st century and essential in times of individual or community safety threats. Full mobile coverage in the area is a real issue and will only be achieved if our local government influences both state and federal governments. Achieving coverage would be one of the best things EGSC could do for us. **13.** Would like to see an ablation-block to the skate park (toilets). **14.** Again, before increasing music and arts, festivals in the district (which I endorse) the accommodation opportunities in the district need to be seriously increased. **15.** Main item of concern for us centres around speed limits through town – have seen near misses and strongly feel 60 kph too fast especially for heavy traffic. Heavy vehicle divert would be ideal if at all possible. **16.** Keep working on the overall appearance of town and take-away food outlets. **17.** You seem to have most options covered. Perhaps more plantings of shrubs in any available positions; nature strips etc; would brighten the town. Good Luck. **18.** We would like to see full community involvement in the setting of a Bruthen Future Mining Impact Working Group - to research, engage and inform the community on potential issues to ensure protection of the district's social, cultural and environmental heritage We could envisage the necessity to initiate discussion with EGSC/Vicroads re a potential heavy vehicle by-pass to Bruthen Main Street, because of safety issues, the ambience of the town and the increasing volume of heavy vehicles. Also there would be need for this group to work with EGSC to agree to a strategic approach to land use, rezoning and new development and protection of farming and other assets.

Acknowledgements

East Gippsland Shire Council

Bruthen & District Citizen's Association

- Community Plan Working Party (2010-11)
- Community Planning Group (2011-12)

The Bruthen & District Community

Council Plans and Strategies that have informed this plan

The Bruthen and District Community Plan does not stand alone. It has been developed in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council and has been informed by the following Strategies and Plans operating within the Shire.

East Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2009-13

Access and Mobility Plan

Crossability Project

Trails Strategy 2012

East Gippsland Cycling Tourism Action Plan 2012

Economic Development Strategic Plan

Community Well-being Plan 2010

Accessible Information and Lifelong Learning Plan

Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-13

Regional Youth Strategy 2008-10

Positive Ageing Strategy 2010-12

Disability Action Plan 2007-09

Strategic Plan for Sporting Infrastructure

Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Arts and Culture Strategy Plan 2011-12

Strategic Tourism Plan 2006-11

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2008-13

Sustainable Water Use Plan

Roadside Management Plan



This Community Plan is supported through **OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture**, a Shire-wide project being progressively rolled out to all East Gippsland Shire Council communities. In 2010-2011 the project was introduced to communities in the Omeo Region, Buchan and District, Metung-Nungurner District and Twin Rivers District to develop community plans. In 2012 the project has progressed to the communities of Bruthen and District, Nowa Nowa, Waiwera and surrounds and Paynesville Region.

Community planning will occur through **OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture** in other areas of the Shire in following years and will become an ongoing cycle of planning and implementation across the whole Shire.

More information about **OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture** can be found on Council's website www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au