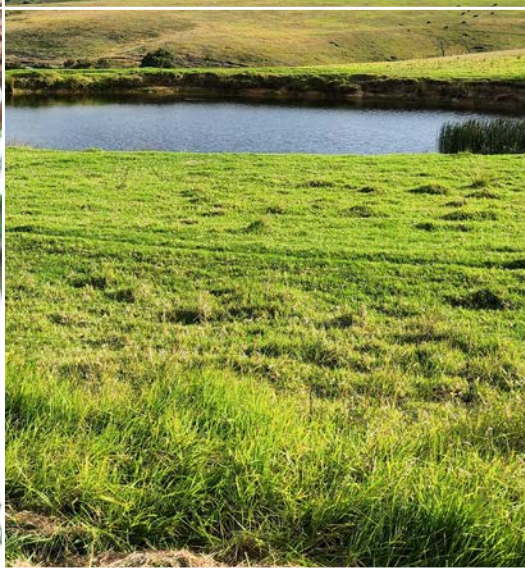




December 2023

CLIFTON CREEK RECOVERY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Summary Report







CONTENTS

4	The Clifton Creek Recovery Community
6	The initial development of a Clifton Creek Community Plan
8	Achievements to date (December 2023)
11	Finalising a Clifton Creek Community Plan using Kitchen Table Conversations for broad Community Engagement
13	What the Kitchen Table Conversations told us
16	Conclusions
16	Recommendations
21	Appendix 1
23	Acknowledgements



We acknowledge and respect the Gunaikurnai, Bidwell and Ngarigo Monero people as the Traditional Custodians of East Gippsland's land and waters. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

THE CLIFTON CREEK RECOVERY COMMUNITY

This document refers to the broad area defined as the Clifton Creek Recovery Area. It includes the area defined by East Gippsland Shire as Clifton Creek, but also includes a large region beyond the shire boundary: the adjoining areas of Palmers Road, Granite Rock, Waterholes and Deptford. The northern most part of the Clifton Creek Recovery area is sparsely populated and predominantly State Forest.



Residents of the Clifton Creek Recovery area feel defined by the road or smaller area they live in – almost a community within a community.

Community members are strongly connected to the area, with many families established over generations while warmly welcoming newcomers with a hello and an offer to keep an eye on their place. The residents are diverse in their interests and keen to be heard on the most important things to them.

The Clifton Creek Community Recovery Survey Report produced in October 2020 (CRRT, 2020) noted the following:

- > During the Black Summer Fires, 13 dwellings were lost, 329km of fencing needed replacing, 26 properties required clean-up by Grocon, and one public building – the Clifton Creek Primary School – was lost.
- > 60% of the Clifton Creek area was fire-affected, while 100% and 98% of Deptford and Waterholes, respectively, were fire-affected. 9% of Granite Rock was affected by fire.
- > The volunteer efforts in the Clifton Creek district have been remarkable; people are helping as much as possible, a true sense of community spirit. The workload to clean up, recover and rebuild has been exhausting but despite the hardship, the community has banded together and is working through the recovery steps.

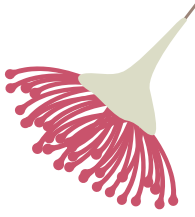
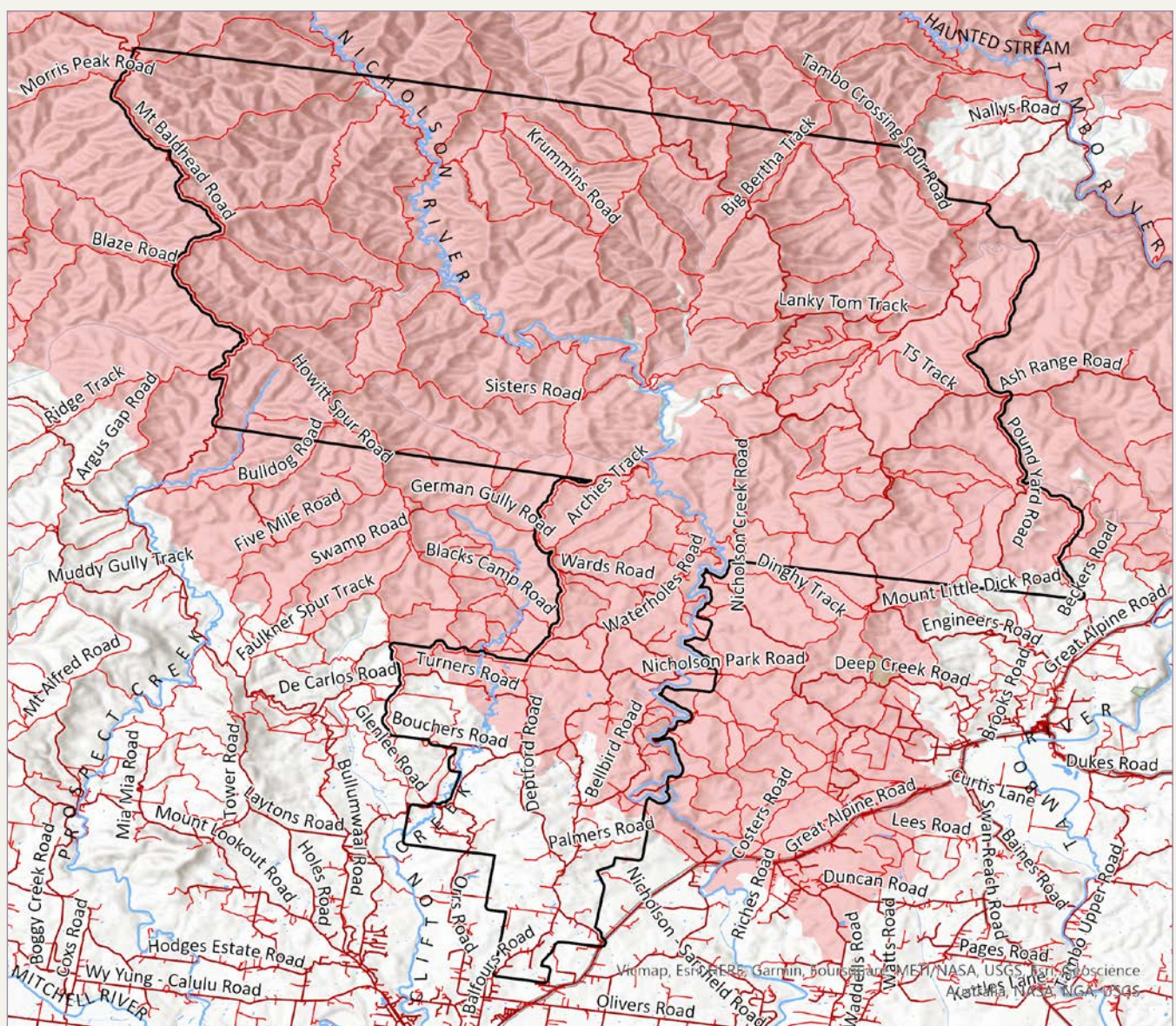


Diagram 1 Map of Clifton Creek Recovery Area (Image: Ethos NRM)



THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CLIFTON CREEK COMMUNITY PLAN

The Clifton Creek Community Recovery Team (CCCRT) was formed in May 2020 after the Black Summer Fires. Representatives from the community came together to work as a team to meet the needs of the Clifton Creek residents as the community moved through its recovery efforts.

Within a few short months, the CCCRT had connected with its residents to determine the most urgent recovery priorities. At that time, the community responded with:



Facilitate meaningful community engagement to support mental and emotional recovery.



Restore, improve and build community infrastructure.



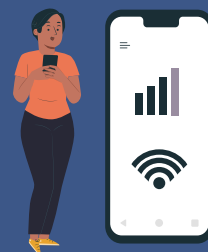
Support improvements in individual and community firefighting capacity.



Protect, nurture and facilitate the rehabilitation and recovery of local biodiversity.

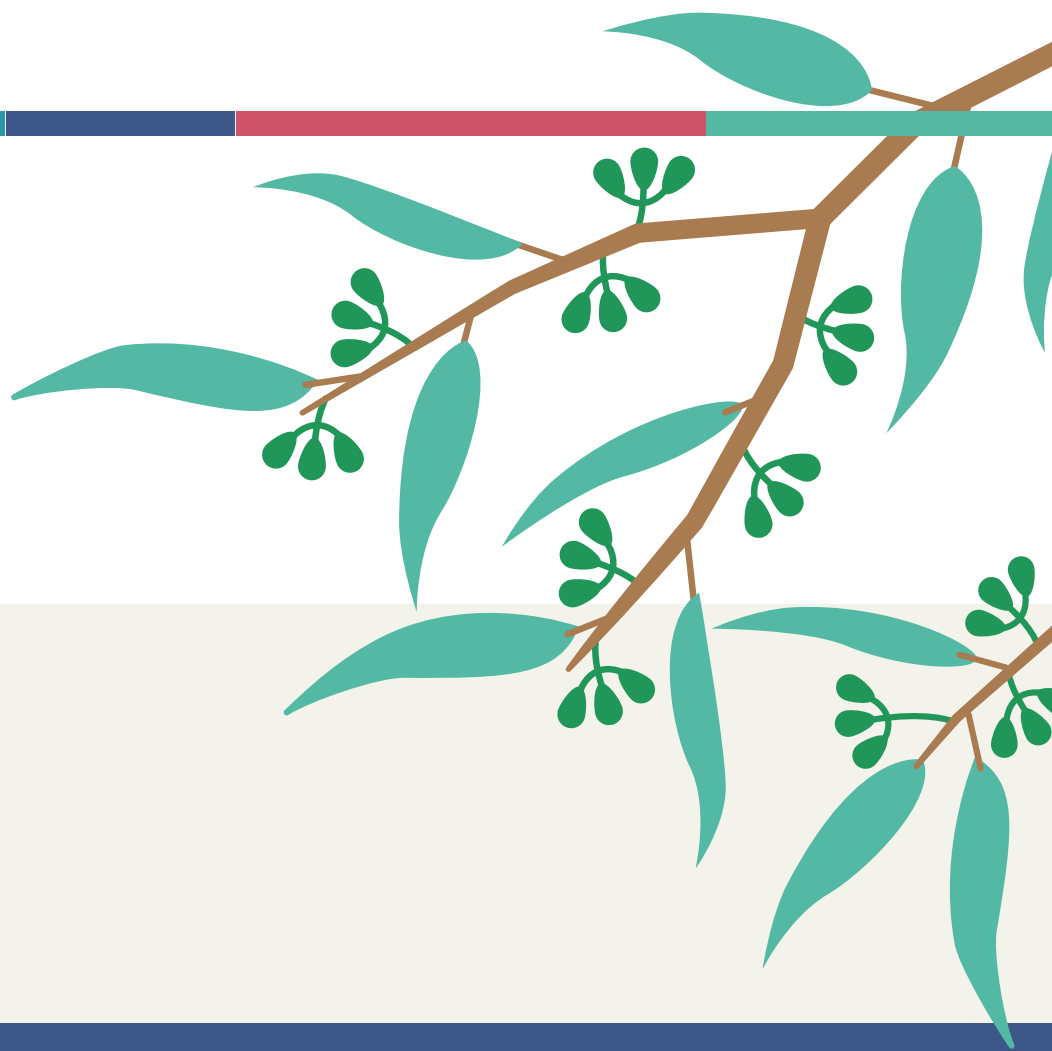


Improved consultation and advocacy for future fire management on public land.



Advocate for improved community safety through enhanced mobile network and internet coverage.

(Clifton Creek Community Recovery Survey Report 2020)



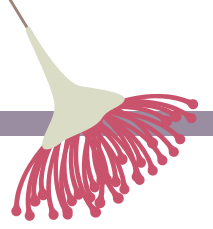
A strategic community planning meeting was held in November 2021 to work with community members to continue to explore what mattered for residents by reviewing priority areas and actions for consideration for both community members and partner organisations like the East Gippsland Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria. From this work, three priority areas were identified:

1. Safe and Prepared Community
2. Vibrant and Connected Community
3. Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Many activities related to these priorities commenced as early as 2020 and have continued to the present day.

A grand celebration was held at the Community Hall in October 2022 to acknowledge the remarkable work undertaken. The official Clifton Creek Recovery Team meetings ceased, but the ongoing work has continued with the team members operating through the existing community groups such as:

- > The Clifton Creek Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc
- > The Clifton Creek Tennis Club Inc
- > The Sarsfield/Clifton Creek Volunteer Fire Brigade
- > The Clifton Creek Community Landcare Group
- > The Friends of Upper Nicholson Catchment Inc (FUNCI) Landcare group
- > Clifton Creek Primary School
- > Clifton Creek Playgroup (formed post Black Summer bushfire)



ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE (DECEMBER 2023)

An updated list of achievements over the past four years highlights how much has been achieved in the community in line with the identified priorities.



Events/functions/visits

The many events, functions and visits over the past four years have reflected that this community is indeed a vibrant and diverse community. Some of the events have also added to safety and preparedness within the community, and some have focused on a healthy and sustainable environment.

- > Hosted visits by the Emergency Services Minister and Commissioner
- > Hosted visits by local and federal government representatives.
- > An initial Community Survey was undertaken, and a printed report was delivered to the community.
- > Community Facebook page developed and managed.
- > The community outreach hub at the hall offering various personalised support services.
- > Established the Clifton Creek Community newsletter.
- > Established digital connectivity at the hall.
- > Sessions with Psychologist Rob Gordon via Zoom at the school and in conjunction with Sarsfield. USB sticks with copies of his talks.
- > Established Clifton Creek Playgroup at the Hall with support of Save the Children/54 Reasons
- > Numerous community events:
 - » Farms 'n Fences community event at the hall.
 - » One year-on- community event at the hall.
 - » Outdoor children's film night.
 - » Tennis Club Celebration of new courts completion, attended by Head of Bushfire Recovery Victoria.
 - » Strzelecki String Buster concert.
 - » Gippsport "pop-up play" sessions on Thursday evenings in 2021.
 - » Visit by Traralgon Men's Shed supplied outdoor timber settings for Rec Reserve and some community members, chopping boards, and kitchen chopping blocks.
 - » 2 Fruit tree grafting workshops.
 - » Distribution of fruit trees donated by Australian Nurserymen's Fruit Improvement Company.
 - » Donation of native plants from Aus Native Plant Society East Gippsland.
 - » Kokedama workshop.
 - » "Sharing Stories of Nature Recovery in East Gippsland" DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute and GLaWAC sponsored day of local presentations and research by many scientists related to the environmental impact of the bushfires at Sarsfield.
 - » Community BBQs to celebrate ongoing achievements and gather ideas and input.
 - » Annual Sandhill Cricket match between Clifton Creek and Sarsfield X 3
 - » Community African-style hand drumming lessons
 - » Facilitated community gathering to brainstorm ideas for community plan Nov 2021
 - » Winter Ball for Youth 2022
 - » Christmas lights at the hall X 2
 - » Massive Community Celebration" Big Bash Event" and dinner in October 2022 to celebrate ongoing achievements.
 - » "Connect Well" funded events, including Clifton Creek Big Bash, Secrets of the Lyrebird Weekend and Glow in the Dark Tennis event.
 - » Orchid walk at the Rec Reserve.
 - » Free weekly tennis coaching for all ages
 - » "The Excellent Lolly Bag Delivery" from the Blue Green Crew x2
 - » Landcare-sponsored weed education sessions
 - » Annual sunflower days as a result of sunflower field planting opposite the hall
 - » Community "potluck" farewell dinner for the Smith family.
 - » Six Kitchen Table conversations were held throughout the area to ensure a wide range of voices were heard in the community plan.

Community Infrastructure

The initial priorities from 2020 highlighted goals to restore, improve and build community infrastructure and also to support improvements in individual and community firefighting capacity.

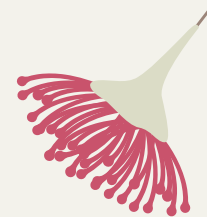
This list of community infrastructure achievements to date indicates great progress in this area.

- > A new primary school was built to such a high standard that it won a statewide Architecture award. - (An initiative of DEET. CCRT only had input through the school principal, a CCRT member.)
- > Rec Reserve has a new playground with landscaping and a fairy garden.
- > Upgrade of the hall building– including:
 - » Upgrade of kitchen and internal toilets.
 - » Provision of toilets that can be accessed externally by the public.
 - » Removal of asbestos and re-cladding of the exterior.
 - » Installation of air conditioning/heating.
 - » Re-roofing.
 - » Disabled access.
- > New water tanks at the hall.
- > New storage shed adjacent to the hall.
- > Re-surfacing two tennis courts with artificial grass, a new net, and a new shade cloth.
- > Re-surfacing one multi-purpose court with a plexipave surface, adding a basketball ring and new net posts and net.
- > New BBQ area – including better drainage, ramp access, shade structure, sink, electric BBQ, small garden area, solar panels on the roof to supply hall, and BBQ area.
- > Organisation of an increased number of waste and recycle bins at the hall with regular collection times noted.
- > STAND – Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters provides a portable telecommunication system.
- > 4 Static water tanks were installed around the area.
- > A local artist painted one water tank with plans to paint all the tanks.
- > New purpose-built Clifton Creek CFA shed.
- > Outdoor stage built – soon to be completed.
- > Permaculture Greenhouse at the Recreation Reserve.
- > Removal of unsafe lighting structures at tennis courts.
- > The shade cover for the playground is approved but still needs to be completed.

Other projects

- > A scoping proposal commenced regarding environmental management of the Nicholson River reserve area adjacent to Bellbird Rd.





FINALISING A CLIFTON CREEK COMMUNITY PLAN USING KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATIONS FOR BROAD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A renewed push to finalise the Clifton Creek Community Plan progressed, and in November 2023, six "Kitchen Table Conversations" took place over four weeks.

The purpose of the conversations was to:

- > capture additional input from all of Clifton Creek's diverse residents.
- > determine if there is anything else that may be included to enable the finalisation of a Clifton Creek Community Plan.
- > acknowledge the enormous amount of work undertaken to assist the community on its recovery path.
- > update community priorities and actions.

Method

Throughout November 2023, six Kitchen Table Conversations (KTC) were held in people's homes and public infrastructure locations. Two community members of the CCRT, an East Gippsland Shire representative and a paid facilitator organised the sessions and contributed to the preparation of this document.

Information about the Kitchen Table Conversations was shared through the Newsletter, the Blackboard, Letter Drops, the community Facebook page, and personal sharing.

Sixty-three individuals (56 in person, three written submissions, two surveys, two via phone) participated in the kitchen round table conversations. A variety of times and days were chosen to help meet individuals' varying commitments. The sessions were held at six venues that were chosen to reflect some of the smaller communities within the broader Clifton Creek area as well as the two primary centres within Clifton Creek:

- > private residence on Bellbird Road
- > Clifton Creek Primary School
- > private residence in the Waterholes area
- > Clifton Creek Hall
- > private residence on Turners Road
- > private residence on Palmers Road.





Each Kitchen Table Conversation was guided by a series of questions that had been sent out on a flier to all individuals within the community. The questions (and activity) included:

- > Clifton Creek is made up of lots of diverse groups across the community. Where do you see yourself represented on the map? (Activity)
- > The community is not just about geography. What other ways are you part of the local community? For example, are there local groups you are part of? What are these?
- > As a part of the other consultations over the past last few years, three priority areas have been identified. These are:

Safe & Prepared Community

- » What might help our community feel safe and prepared?

Vibrant and Connected Community

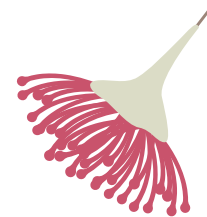
- » What might help make our community vibrant and connected?

Healthy and Sustainable Environment

- » What might help us support the health of our community and the sustainability of our environment?

Is there anything missing or that you would prefer to be changed in these priorities?

Notes were taken from each conversation and summarised. Detailed notes from each kitchen table conversation are available from Kathryn Macdonald from East Gippsland Shire Council. There will also be copies of these detailed notes at the hall.



WHAT THE KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATIONS TOLD US:

Many great observations and reflections were shared by all participants over the six sessions and these have been used to help document the recommendations for the Clifton Creek Community Plan. Refer to Recommendations and the Ideas Bank (Appendix 1) later in this report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS OVER THE SESSIONS:

There are many diverse community members with differing opinions. There is a need to continue to capture as many voices as possible through any engagement processes.

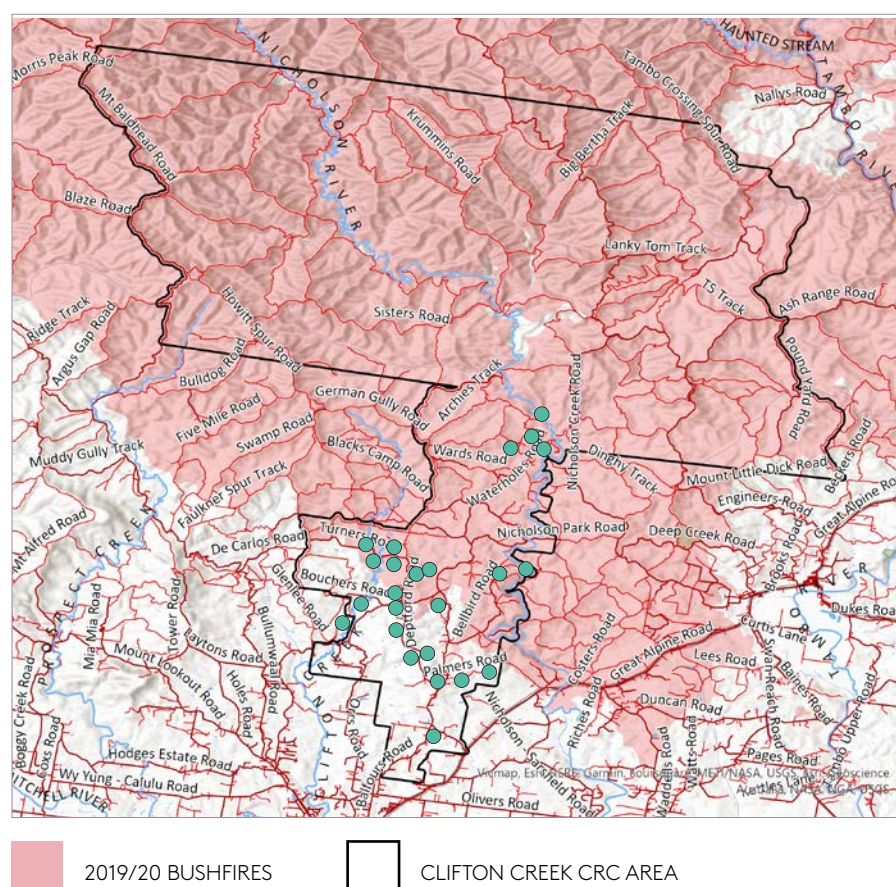
There is a lot of fatigue in the community – having succession plans within representative groups and ‘checking in’ with residents about their capacity to offer their time is important.

Question 1:

Clifton Creek is made up of lots of diverse groups across the community. Where do you see yourself represented on the map?

All participants added their locations on the map and provided feedback about how they would like to see the map improved (separate project).

Diagram 2 – Mapping participant home locations.



Question 2:

The community is just not about geography. What other ways are you part of the local community? For example, are there local groups you are a part of? What are these?

There were over 20 groups identified by participants. The most frequently identified groups were the Clifton Creek Public Hall & Recreation Reserve, Tennis Club, Landcare Groups (Clifton Creek Community Landcare Group and Friends of Upper Nicholson Catchment), Playgroup and the CFA. Some participants acknowledged that they often travelled to participate in neighbouring activities, events and representative groups from Sarsfield, Mount Taylor and Bullumwaal.

Question 3a:

Safe and Prepared Community

- What might help our community feel safe and prepared?

A broad range of suggestions were made to help keep the community safe and prepared. The top three areas have been identified below, and other suggestions (which may be highly localised) have been highlighted in the Recommendations and in Appendix 1.

Country Fire Authority/Fire

Fire preparedness (including Fire Awareness Days and visits to individual properties), re-establishment of 'Fireguard' and assistance with planned burns on private property were raised across each session. While not strictly relating to CFA, planned burning (being better engaged, mosaic burning) and safer roadsides were also raised as areas needing more attention.

Information Sharing

Some communities currently use a WhatsApp approach to keeping each other informed; however, it was acknowledged that not all residents have the technology or the want to use this app. The Newsletter and Blackboard were key contributors to information sharing across the community, particularly for upcoming events around fire preparedness and a call out for more contributions was encouraged. A few residents indicated that they do not have a mailbox so some information about what is happening may be compromised. Some residents discussed a localised phone tree; this would need to be considered within the community to ensure the purpose of the phone tree was well-defined and who would have access to individual details. Communication access and reliability were identified across the sessions.

Community Connection

Across the Clifton Creek Community, there is a strong connection to place and each other, with residents often describing themselves as a "community within a community". A continued connection enables these communities to look after each other.



Question 3b:

Vibrant and Connected Community

- What might help make our community vibrant and connected?

All participants attending the sessions shared their reflections and observations to help the community stay vibrant and connected. An acknowledgement was made that some community members are exhausted, and the community would be grateful for a 'paid' organiser to help run the activities. Active participation in activities and events (and even taking the lead) was determined a key priority.

Local Events and Activities

All participants referred to many activities and events over the past three years and acknowledged the time and effort of local community members and others who have led the organisation. A call for more diversity of events around smaller cohorts of community members was also observed. A mixture of guided and non-guided activities would also encourage people from other communities to visit. The Playgroup (which is being withdrawn at the end of 2023) was also raised to continue to meet the needs of the parents who have young children not of school age. A range of proposed ideas have been picked up in the Ideas Bank in the Recommendations and in Appendix 1.

Sharing of information

As with the Safe and Prepared Community theme, the praise and support of the Blackboard and Community Newsletter were constant themes to continue sharing information on what is happening within the community. Some participants called for a more "organised approach" through a calendar of events/activities.

Infrastructure

Calls to continue the connection between community infrastructure were raised, with a pathway between the hall and the school and Blacks Camp being identified.

Question 3c:

Healthy and Sustainable Environment

- What would help us support the health of our community and the sustainability of our environment?

Some participants identified this question as a strictly "environmental question," some identified it as being broken into two parts: the 'health and wellbeing of the community' and an environmental question.

Weeds and feral animal control

Continued support for controlling fireweed and other feral animals like cats and foxes. An acknowledgement also goes to the two existing Landcare groups and the work being done to assist landholders. One landholder said it would be great to have 'on property' access like fire preparedness, especially for those new to the area. One comment was, "We would like more collaboration between the two Landcare groups to help us as landowners."

Fuel reduction burns/Forest Management.

Clifton Creek residents hold different viewpoints concerning forest management and planned burning. A prioritisation process that allows the community to prioritise key issues individually and independently will ensure that all views are heard and considered.

Health and Wellbeing

Many residents acknowledged that recovery for an individual means many different things over a timeframe that meets the individual's needs. Community members also expressed that connection to place and each other contributed significantly to the health and well-being of individuals. Events and activities run within the community were deemed as a positive addition to continuing the connection to each other. Many residents across the Clifton Creek community still require continued support for individual recovery.

No further feedback was received from any individual when extra time was offered post-sessions.

All individuals across all the sessions were comfortable that the three priority areas are still relevant for the area.

Conclusions:

The latest phase of community engagement through the facilitation tool of Kitchen Table Conversations has seen over 60 people from the Clifton Creek area participate and acknowledge the work that was undertaken since May 2020 and share their final views on what might be missing to further strengthen a Community Plan for Clifton Creek.

Some of the key themes included:

- > The strength of community members working together.
- > The ongoing contribution of the Country Fire Authority.
- > Acknowledging a diverse range of people living within the community.
- > The benefit of social events.
- > Continuation of the Newsletter and use of the Blackboard as respected and beneficial ways of sharing news and upcoming events.

There are many diverse community members with differing opinions. There is a need to continue to capture as many voices as possible through any engagement processes.

There is a lot of fatigue in the community – having succession plans within representative groups and ‘checking in’ with residents about their capacity to offer their time is important.

Overall, this has been an overwhelmingly positive exercise reflecting the goodwill and generosity of the community. It has meant that a significant portion of the broad Clifton Creek community has had an input into ideas for the future.

The organisers would like to extend their thanks to everyone involved in conversations, contributions and thoughts throughout November 2023.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the information in this report is circulated to the Clifton Creek Community to ensure the residents who participated in the engagement process have been heard.

Priorities identified below are considered for ongoing action due to strong community support and a positive likelihood of being implemented. However, if there is energy within the community to lead other action or activity and there are people willing to take on that leadership, they would be most welcome.

Information from this report and all previous community engagement will be held and incorporated into the development of a Bairnsdale Place Plan that will be developed with the assistance of Council at a later date.



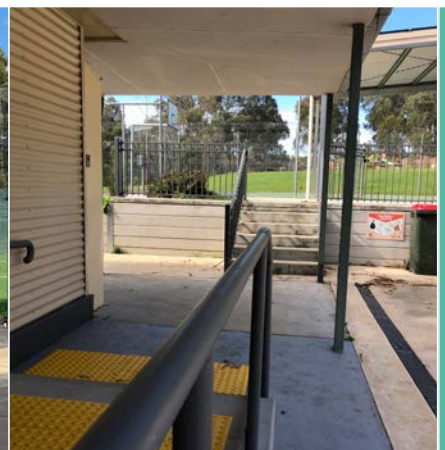
TABLE OF PRIORITIES WITH STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT

PRIORITY 1 – SAFE AND PREPARED COMMUNITY		
Recommendation	Support	Partners/Funding
LOCAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT Establish Local Incident Management Plans for sub-areas within the region.	Some smaller communities indicating strong support for separate locality LIMPs. Development supported by EGSC	East Gippsland Shire Council – Resilience and Recovery Officer, Emergency Management CFA
IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY Veg management, access, culverts, driver awareness	EGSC has broad responsibility for road maintenance.	East Gippsland Shire Council – Road Safety Coordinator, Assets and Environment. Slashing – Community Laws Regional Roads Victoria for the Great Alpine Road.
REVIEW, UPDATE & MAINTAIN MAILING & COMMUNICATION LISTS	Strong community support. EGSC has been supporting with provided lists.	Place Manager and Community
EXPLORE PUBLIC HALL AS A SAFER PLACE OF LAST RESORT Install sprinklers around the hall, generator cover, Training in STAND (Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters)	Guidelines re what constitutes a safe place of last resort need to be considered. Unsure if this is feasible. Support from those who might use this option. Other areas within community will have different options via LIMP.	Would require support from hall committee. Make application to Council then CFA do an external assessment – if they approve then signage must be installed: https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/bushfire-shelter-options/bushfire-place-of-last-resort/neighbourhood-safer-places-bushfire-place-of-last-resort-signage-manual
FOSTER CFA & RESIDENTS COLLABORATION CFA fire awareness education /advice/ assistance to be available	Strong support.	Local CFA and community. District 11 Community Engagement Officer: Jodie Burt: J.Burt@cfa.vic.gov.au May need additional funding for special activities.
ENCOURAGE PROPERTY FIRE PLANS Annual locality gatherings focussed on fire plans	Strong support.	CFA funded. Local expertise. May need additional funding for special activities. East Gippsland Shire Council – Resilience and Recovery Officer
MAINTAIN NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNICATIONS Updating phone trees & WhatsApp groups	Strong support. Key people in each sub-area needed to coordinate.	Community. No specific funding needed.

PRIORITY 2 – VIBRANT AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

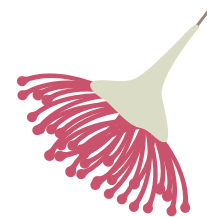
Recommendation	Support	Partners/Funding
CONTINUE REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS Different timing & venue of activities, during day and at night. Hall/new stage, school, various localities, tennis, Landcare, Sandhill Ashes with Sarsfield, Sunflower field See Ideas bank for lots of extra suggestions re activities	Strong support, but events need an organiser and most events need funding. As part of grant request for an event can include costs for an organiser. Tennis club committee organises tennis related events such as coaching and community events.	Community and partners depending on activity. Funding for an event organiser for events will need to be built into funding requests. The completion of the outdoor stage is likely to be a stimulus for a community event that would benefit from a funded organiser. The tennis club will apply for more EGCF funding in 2024 to continue subsidised coaching and community events.
COLLECTING CC FIRE STORIES & INTERPRETATION Signage, art installation or publication, murals, statues of wood and stone, map	Some support. Will need a group or lead from within the community.	Once a decision is made re the format of an interpretative structure or publication, funding will be needed to employ an organisation with expertise in this work. Funding required: East Gippsland Community Foundation
STATIC TANK PAINTING	Strong support but concerns re tanks leaking. 1 tank painted but leakage problems have damaged the painting. Some confusion re how to access funds and how to proceed. Will need a dedicated person(s) for each tank proposal	Funding was allocated through a leadership program. May need a top up to complete. East Gippsland Community Foundation. East Gippsland Shire Council to work to resolving leakage issues
MAINTAIN THE BLACKBOARD AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL	Strong support	Community representatives
MAINTAIN THE NEWSLETTER AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL	Strong support. Current newsletter editor offers lots of voluntary hours and EGSC funds printing Volunteers doing letterbox drops	East Gippsland Shire Council will continue to support printing
ADVOCATE FOR FUNDED PLACE MANAGER TO CONTINUE ASSISTING THE COMMUNITY	Strong support to have someone who can help organise events. However, unlikely that EGSC will continue funds for dedicated place manager	Place Manager contracts end 29 March 2024. Event organisers would need to be built into event budgets or an Events sub-committee created. Council connection and support will be available through officers based in Bairnsdale.

Recommendation	Support	Partners/Funding
NEW SMALL BLACKBOARD FOR BELLBIRD ROAD	Strong support	East Gippsland Shire Council. Coordinator Community Recovery
CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CLIFTON CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE HALL	General support School Library – opened for community activities Build connection between school children and community members Cooking for isolated/ vulnerable residents were identified	No specific funding unless a project identified. School has access to DEET funds.
MAINTAIN PLAYGROUP AT THE HALL	Strong support	Funding required but not through EGCF. Investigation of funding options through Uniting Vic/Tas for continuation of playgroup are underway
HEARING THE CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY, UNDERSTANDING THEIR WANTS AND NEEDS Playgroup, primary school students, youth group, secondary students, bus travellers	Strong support	No specific project identified. Funding for Youth project/activities sitting with the Hall committee
ADDRESS POOR HALL ACOUSTICS Canvas/soft furnishings and sand the floors	Some support but no-one specifically allocated to follow up	Funding required Hall Committee



PRIORITY 3 – HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation	Support	Partners/Funding
FORMALISE A CLEAN UP CLIFTON CREEK STRATEGY (SIMILAR TO “CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY” TO HELP REDUCE RUBBISH ON ROADSIDES	One community member identified that he would take this on as a project.	Community volunteers
FUNCI LANDCARE GROUP FOLLOWING UP SCOPING PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF NICHOLSON RIVER RESERVE AREA	Strong support within FUNCI. Consultants currently working on preliminary proposal.	If next stage of this project is approved to proceed a new application will be submitted by FUNCI. Landcare funding program
ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF PERMACULTURE PROJECTS AT THE HALL	A few determined people driving these projects.	Yet to be determined exact nature of project development but likely to need funding. Funding required. East Gippsland Community Foundation
GREATER COLLABORATION BETWEEN FUNCI LANDCARE AND CLIFTON CREEK COMMUNITY LANDCARE GROUPS	Strong support	East Gippsland Landcare Facilitator FUNCI and CC Landcare members
CLEAN UP SESSIONS AROUND THE HALL REC RESERVE INC PLAYGROUND & TENNIS COURTS Inc professional Signage to remind users to be respectful of facilities	Support, but usually the same dedicated people.	Community volunteers and lead to invite.
CONTROL OF NOXIOUS PLANTS AND FERAL ANIMALS Continue Landcare activities	Strong support	Landcare likely to fund this.
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOPS Acknowledging different recovery times for different people	Support still needed by some in the community who are impacted emotionally https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-community-recovery	Gippsland Lakes Complete Health – Bushfire Case support workers still available. Can connect to mental health services. Catholic Care Wellbeing officer (coffee machine in back of the car can still visit if requested) Rob Gordon DVD’s available via Council and talks from his latest visit can be viewed on their website.



APPENDIX 1:

IDEAS Bank A

Many ideas were offered as part of a brainstorming process, but without clear identification of how they would proceed. The ideas listed below can be implemented with designated leads and appropriate resourcing.

Work with more vulnerable/isolated residents to understand their needs (and with their permission)

Activities and events pertaining to health and wellbeing: Run more health-related classes.

Bike Path between the Hall and the School

Facebook – ensuring socials meets the needs and represents all Clifton Creek Community

Invite groups to run their festivals - eg Frouteville

COMMUNITY EVENTS

(Different timing & venue of activities during day and at night):

- * Food swaps
- * Book exchange
- * Markets
- * Feeds once a month (like Sarsfield)
- * Table Tennis
- * Progressive Dinners
- * Mobile Coffee Van visit
- * Feast Day
- * Art event for adults
- * Book club/game night
- * Band Nights
- * Weekly Friday night BYO everything get-togethers
- * Tennis (Sandhill Open)

Longer cycle of fuel reduction burns (mosaics/cooler burns) with better community engagement (which has a trauma informed response to conversations)

Grant application training

"Newcomer" resource provided to share information about 'who is who in the zoo' and how to look after a rural property (and who can help!)

Blacks Camp Precinct rehabilitation – collaboration with school students

Removal of dam on Nicholson River (work with agencies on appropriate release of fish like Australian Bass)

Ensure future Fire recovery assistance is well matched ~ eg experienced farmers chatting with fire affected farmer about fence replacement, not someone with a clipboard with no expertise in the matter at hand.

The demographic nature of Clifton Creek is changing. It is essential to keep up and understand who is moving in so that events/activities can keep pace with those who are moving into the community

Plant species that deflect flies and mosquitos like lavender (around BBQ area at the hall)

Set up a robust system to log and deal with requests from locals after fires. (Many people came into the community and promised the world. We have not seen them again.)

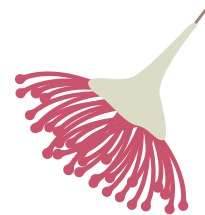
Create a calendar of events

IDEAS Bank B

Further ideas offered during discussions:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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A broad range of community members contributed their time and their ideas during this process. This document is a summary, but detailed notes from each Kitchen Table Conversation are available from Kathryn Macdonald, East Gippsland Shire Council. There will also be copies at the Hall.

Key contributors to the KTC planning, discussions, notes and final report were:

Tiana Felmingham, paid facilitator

Jodie Simpson, paid facilitator

Kathryn Macdonald, East Gippsland Shire Community Recovery Coordinator

Robyn Hermans, Clifton Creek Community volunteer

Judy Ireland, Clifton Creek Community volunteer

We would also like to thank and acknowledge the Community Recovery Team members, the Hall committee, Clifton Creek Primary School and all of the community members who generously opened their doors to host a Kitchen Table Conversation.



Australian Government



