

Nowa Nowa and District Community Plan 2012 - 2016





This page: A view through the forest along Gorge Rd, Nowa Nowa

Cover: Trestle Bridge (O'Grady's Bridge) Wairewa Rd Wairewa

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This Community Plan is supported by ***OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture***, a Shire-wide project developed for communities in East Gippsland.

In 2011-2012 this project was introduced to the communities of Nowa Nowa and District (Nowa Nowa, Wairewa, Toorloo Arm), Bruthen and District, and Paynesville and District.

Community planning occurring through the ***OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture*** initiative will continue as an ongoing cycle of planning and implementation across the Shire.

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



Sculpture Walk along the Nowa Nowa Arm of Lake Tyers, Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve

Our Plan

Community Planning in East Gippsland

In 2010, East Gippsland Shire Council initiated the development of a series of new community plans in partnership with the people of its towns and villages. In 2011-2012, the *Nowa Nowa and District Community Plan* was supported through this shire-wide initiative **OurPlace, OurPlan, OurFuture**, which uses a place-based approach to planning for communities.

More information about current community planning activities can be found under *Plans and Projects* on the Shire's website www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au or by phoning 03 5153 9500.

What is a community plan?

This community plan is a collaborative effort between the Shire and your community, recording strategies and actions to help Nowa Nowa and District build support and focus resources to promote its people, their livelihood and their environment.

How was this community plan developed?

During 2011 and 2012 a series of community conversations was held. Some of these were formally organised with groups, others were more spontaneous with individuals. This is how we were able to capture a broad view of what the community values and the things it would like to see progress.

Content from previous community planning efforts was reviewed with the community and relevant strategies incorporated. External agencies, such as the CFA, DSE and Landcare as well as local Committees of Management and sporting clubs were also engaged.



CFA Captain Robert "Red" Geddes at the Wairewa CFA Shed

Community involvement

Community input was sought via the Boggy Bulletin, the weekly Shire advertisement, Nowa Nowa Primary School newsletter, and flyers available at the Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre, Nowa Nowa General Store and Mingling Waters Café. Shire officers also engaged directly with:

- *Thursday Club Seniors, Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre, March 2012.*
- *Nowa Nowa Community Development Group, May 2012.*
- *Nowa Nowa Primary School, February-June 2012.*
- *Group representatives from the Rail Trail CoM, DSE, Nowa Nowa Pony & Riding Clubs, Wairewa CFA, various arts groups including the Rural and Community Arts Box.*
- *Representation from people at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.*

A draft community plan was released for comment in May 2012. With around thirty responses to our request for feedback it was possible to further clarify the goals and strategies recorded for the Nowa Nowa and District community.

A final version of the *Nowa Nowa and District Community Plan 2012-2016* was endorsed by Council and published in August 2012. You are now reading this plan.



Kayaking - Nowa Nowa Arm of Lake Tyers

Children's involvement - *Capturing Children's Voices* project¹

Children at the Nowa Nowa Primary school were invited to use photography and journaling as a way of recording their thoughts about their community, what they like and what they would like to see change. The images and ideas recorded have informed the Nowa Nowa and District Community Plan. An exhibition of images taken by the children from the six participating primary schools was held at the Brabuwooloong Gallery in June 2012. Students from Nowa Nowa and Bairnsdale primary schools attended the exhibition opening.



Carolyn Rice from UnitingCare talks with children from Nowa Nowa Primary School

Children said they value: Our peaceful surrounds, open spaces, family, art, music, pets, sports and outdoor activities like pony club, tennis, bike riding and swimming in the river. We enjoy the trees and bush and feel supported by our school and community health centre.



Rachael Dooley, UnitingCare, and Councillor Mendy Urie congratulate students participating in the Children's Voices exhibition at the Brabuwooloong Gallery in Bairnsdale.

Children said they would like: More play equipment at the recreation reserve for little and big kids, improved educational opportunities like university access and to attract more visitors by making old buildings newer. To look after the bike track better, stop vandalism in the town, and manage rubbish with more bins. To have shops such as a toyshop and petrol station at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, more organised sports and better use of sporting infrastructure. To have broken things fixed so that they are safe, and for everybody to stop smoking cigarettes.

What we know so far, acknowledgement of past community planning

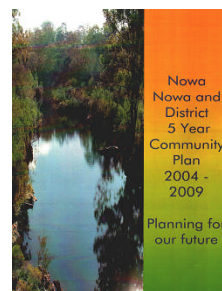
There are three community plans which pre-date the development of this plan. We acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the previous planning groups, and have referenced some of the people and content of their plans in the development of this plan.

1. In 2004, with Regional Development Victoria funding and support from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and East Gippsland Shire Council, the *Nowa Nowa and District 5 Year Community Plan 2004-2009* was completed, facilitated by Aileen Cullen and Liz Clay.

Some outstanding priorities identified in the *Nowa Nowa and District 5 Year Community Plan 2004-2009* include:

- Rail Trail development and promotion
- Develop footpaths, tracks and signage
- Build the Nowa Nowa Nudes as an event
- Arrange annual hard rubbish pick-up
- Live music for young people

These priorities have again have been articulated during the current community planning activities.



¹ Capturing Children's Voices is part of the Communities for Children program involving UnitingCare Gippsland, The Smith Family, Early Years East Gippsland, and East Gippsland Shire Council. This initiative was undertaken from January-June 2012.

2. The *Community Plan 2011-2016 Nowa Nowa, Lake Tyers, Wairewa and Surrounds* is a further Community Plan led by Helen Sheil in consultation with Marjorie Thorpe, Julia Hunter, Francine Gilfedder, Leanne Edwards, Roseanne Trevaskis and Heather Costigan.

3. The *Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Community Plan* was developed with the assistance of the Department of Planning and Community Development, facilitated by Paul McDonald. This plan is current and is viewed as a companion document to this document. It will be a desirable outcome of the current community planning processes that outcomes from both plans be progressed.

What do we hope to achieve through this plan

This community plan is an expression of what the people of Nowa Nowa and District have said they want for the future of their place. With a strategic focus, this plan will provide a platform for the community to work together, and in partnership with local government and external agencies. It will be a useful tool to confidently communicate, validate and progress ideas to action.



East Gippsland Shire Council supports a large range of services and assets funded by a combination of rate payments and state and federal government grants. This community plan will assist the Shire in prioritising funding and efforts to things that it is responsible for with a focus on those that will help make Nowa Nowa and District a better place to live including:

- Libraries and library services.
- Community centres.
- Kindergartens.
- School crossings.
- Playgrounds sports grounds and skate parks.
- Health programs and immunisations.
- Recreation centres.
- Public toilets.
- Animal and mosquito control.
- Pest and weed control.
- Planning and building.
- The Livestock Exchange.
- Boat ramps and jetties.
- Roads, bridges and footpaths.
- Street lighting.
- Community grants.
- Food safety.
- Waste collection and management.
- Public events and festivals.
- Tourism promotion and economic development.



Our Future

What do we do well?

- Community support for the Gippsland Rail Trail.
- Bike tracks, mountain bike tracks (park), bike culture.
- Walking tracks.
- Outdoor activities on the lake, like kayaking and fishing.
- Arts, cultural and community events.
- Pony Club and Adult Riding Club, Angling Club.
- Boggy Bulletin.
- Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre.
- Innovative and sustainable industry; PW Adams Timber Mill, Montana Timber Holdings.
- Value and protect our environment (together with DSE and CMA).
- Nowa Nowa Primary School and Save the Children Kindergarten.

What could we do better?

- Improve transport options, especially for the people at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.
- Funding and support for the ongoing development and maintenance of the East Gippsland Rail Trail.
- Develop a Masterplan for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve.
- Support bike tourism with ongoing improvements to accommodation and amenities.
- Protect and preserve our iconic man-made features, like the railway trestle bridges.
- Improve sustainable fish species in Boggy Creek; flathead and bream.
- Work with Landcare, and other groups, to improve weed control and maintain walking tracks.
- Manage feral animals like cats, rabbits and foxes.
- Maintain our roads and assets (East Gippsland Shire Council - e.g. potholes, lawn mowing, tree maintenance).
- Support maintenance and improvements to our tennis courts in Nowa Nowa and Wairewa.
- Celebrate and support local Aboriginal Culture.
- Support existing business enterprises, better promotion of the town.
- Raise community awareness of and support for the needs of our farming community.
- Emergency management, a CFA Brigade in Nowa Nowa.
- Improve digital service access; mobile, broadband, wireless and other digital services.
- Whole-of-catchment management strategy.
- Improve highway intersection risks and signage, working with VicRoads.

What do we need to plan for in the future?

- Improve wastewater management for better health of local waterways.
- Continued protection and management of our natural assets.
- Ongoing improvements to recreation facilities; playgrounds, BBQ's and community buildings.
- Footpaths and safe pedestrian access across roads in the main township and around the primary school, improved all-abilities inclusion.
- Develop more whole-of-community activities and events.
- Support for clubs and community groups, improvements to infrastructure and governance
- Combine resources for events and community groups by strengthening links between adjacent communities of Nowa Nowa, Wairewa, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Buchan, Bruthen and Orbost.
- Improved community transport options.
- Ongoing support for our innovative and sustainable local timber industry
- Improve tourist experiences with initiatives like interpretive signs and detailed touring routes.

Objectives, Strategies and Actions

A plan for moving our ideas to action

Ideas recorded in this plan will be progressed through a Council-supported implementation phase, where objectives will be prioritised, project teams formed and funding options explored.



Liveability

Making our community a healthy, productive and fulfilling place to live.

Objectives	Strategies and Actions
Support safe pedestrian and vehicular access to and around Nowa Nowa and District.	• Improve street lighting and directional signage, work with VicRoads on continual improvements to highway intersection risks at Nowa Nowa. • Continue to develop and improve network of footpaths and safe access points in the township and at the Nowa Nowa Primary School. • Work with the Shire's Rural Access Officer to improve all-ability access. • Communicate with the Shire about maintenance of road reserves to improve visibility at highway intersections and tree clearances.
Address transport needs and access to services, especially for youth, older people, and people at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.	• Develop community based solutions for young people working outside the community and older people attending appointments. • Work with the Shire and other agencies to develop improved public transport options. Give feedback to the Department of Transport on the new Marlo-Bairnsdale bus service. • Support Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust to help develop public transport options that are inclusive of their needs. • Ensure school students have transport options from school to home, and supporting their participation in after school sport.
Improve community connectedness by strengthening cultural identity and activities in community spaces.	• Support the "Boggy Bulletin" and activities at the Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre and the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. • Initiate a community veggie garden in Nowa Nowa, including Nowa Nowa Community Health's Thursday Club (seniors) participation. • Develop and support live music and music lessons, and more activities for youth like organised sports and arts. • Explore opportunities to celebrate and support local Aboriginal Culture.
Support the Nowa Nowa Primary School to achieve key objectives.	• Support programs that improve attendance and participation, literacy skills and oral language skills. • Provide opportunities for active roles in the community, such as working with the Recreation Reserve CoM on new to play equipment options, and developing the new skate park.
Support the health and well-being of residents through recreational activities.	• Assess the benefits of investing in a new skate park for Nowa Nowa, proposed in Council budget 2013-2014. Liaise with the Shire and the Nowa Nowa Primary School students. • Arrange opportunities for participation in organised sports like football and netball, basketball and soccer. • Support organised efforts to maintain and protect iconic features, like the railway trestle bridges and Rail Trail, and leverage tourism opportunities. For example, Wairewa Rd Bridge (O'Grady's) could be put back into use. Work together with DSE, Rail Trail CoM and CFA. • Support the Rail Trail development and continual improvements.



Liveability

Making our community a healthy, productive and fulfilling place to live.

Objectives	Strategies and Actions
Support the health and well-being of residents through recreational activities. (Cont'd)	• Develop a Masterplan for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, including currently planned maintenance and:- • Progressively replace play equipment, with input from the children at the Nowa Nowa Primary School. • Support development of amenities along the foreshore, install solar lights at the boat ramp and picnic tables. • Maintain the BMX Track and promote its use. • Support improvements to existing buildings to provide space for dining amenity and undercover shelter. • Support further exploration of the Burnt Bridge project. Work with DSE. • Support ongoing maintenance efforts at the Wairewa Hall, especially refurbishment of the outdoor social area and BBQ. • Support maintenance and improvements to the tennis courts:- • Consult with Wairewa Hall Committee on future maintenance needs or alternative use options for the Wairewa tennis courts. • Consult with Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve CoM on future maintenance needs, resurfacing of the second court and new lighting for night games.
Develop excellence in Emergency Management.	• Develop a whole-of-community approach to Emergency Management. • Support the development of a Nowa Nowa CFA Brigade; identify suitable land (possibly near old railway station) and shedding.
Support community celebrations and events.	• Support Nowa Nowa Nudes as an event and art workshops. • Support Wairewa bush dances and Wairewa Christmas Tree • Promote community use of Wairewa Hall (e.g. Farmers Markets) • Develop and support future events like Rail Trail in a Day, Nowa Nowa Primary School Centenary 2012, Mt Nowa Nowa Challenge, etc.
Improve township appearance and amenity.	• Request an annual collection of hard rubbish to address dumping in the bush; negotiate with the Shire. • Highway landscaping and main-street beautification; work toward improving quality of plantings with the Shire and the Nowa Nowa Community Development Group.
Support our older people to stay living in the community.	• Advocate for improved essential services. Mobilise network of local volunteers to care for and assist with the aged, develop a phone tree and implement in times of emergency. • Provide accommodation options for the aged (affordable small-scale housing). Respond to new Census data re ageing profile in our community and explore potential need for building independent living units. Further community discussion required.



Sustainability

Sustainable resource use, living harmoniously with the natural and built environments, community building.

Objectives	Strategies and Actions
Protect and manage our water assets.	• Work with the Catchment Management Authority and Landcare to achieve an inclusive approach to managing our water assets and support implementation of whole-of-catchment planning for Boggy Creek and Lake Tyers Arm. • Improve sustainable fish species in Boggy Creek, for example flathead and bream. Gain support from CMA and fishing groups. • Explore options for educating waterway users, children and tourism providers about river health. Waterwatch programs in schools. • Review wastewater management options for Nowa Nowa and District to improve health of local waterways. Refer to recommendations in the <i>East Gippsland and Wellington Shires Domestic Wastewater Management Plan August 2006</i>. Liaise with East Gippsland Water and the Shire to further progress implementation.
Protect and manage our natural environment.	• Support Landcare initiatives to effect improved weed control, especially introduced pest plants. • Work with the Shire, agencies and farmers to manage feral animals and pest plants. • Work with infrastructure agencies and the Shire to represent community needs when major works are undertaken, e.g. improvements to wastewater management. • Work with DSE and the Shire to further efforts that; support fire-management strategies, maintain fishing platforms, develop and maintain walks and reserves. • Support DSE with more focused effort to clear vegetation around Ironstone Creek Bridge (fire protection).
Improve our essential services provision.	• Engage with the Shire on future waste management proposals; refer to the current <i>Waste Management Strategy</i>, due for public consultation mid 2012.



Productivity

Developing strengths to support resilience and growth in our business and farming enterprises.

Objectives	Strategies and Actions
Build business diversity and resilience in our community.	• Support initiatives that facilitate businesses to thrive, improve tourism opportunities and support identified training needs. • Raise community awareness of and support for our farming community. Improve support for isolated farming families in times of stress. • Improve opportunities for our farming community by developing initiatives such as local farmers markets and improvements to the supply and distribution of produce.
Improve access to the internet and other digital services.	• Advocate for improved mobile phone and internet access, broadband and wireless, and other digital services. Context:- business productivity, emergency management and community connectedness.
Support promotion of the district and its tourism and recreational offerings.	• Work with the Nowa Nowa Community Development Group to create a series of touring routes for Visitor Information Centres, include information on paths and trails, events and in-season local produce.
Improve learning opportunities for local people.	• Explore ways of improving access to library facilities and securing lifelong learning programs. • Explore provision of adult certificate courses and access to university.
Develop existing tourism infrastructure and marketing collateral.	• Improve and develop township and tourism signage. • Support Nowa Nowa Community Development Group initiatives. • Identify funding source for new print run of existing tourism maps, with potential local business sponsorship opportunities. • Work with the Shire to deliver on locally relevant initiatives from the <i>Cycle Tourism Action Plan 2012</i>. • Develop and maintain walking and cycling networks, the Rail Trail and linkages to Lakes Entrance. Utilise the <i>East Gippsland Trails Strategy</i>, and work with Rail Trail CoM. • Resolve maintenance issues at the Mountain Bike Park, work with DSE. • Work with the Nowa Nowa Community Development Group to develop the Nowa Nowa and Wairewa interpretive signage project.
Assist our long-term industry to grow and develop sustainably.	• Support PW Adams Timber Mill to invest in equipment so it can value add to its product offering and create local employment opportunities. • Support Montana Timber Holdings to develop innovative products and emerging technologies and provide increased local employment opportunities by supporting their: • Development of sustainable energy sources and utilisation of residual wood to create bio-energy. • Development of standardised construction components for timber based structures. • Development of innovative new timber products such as industrial charcoal and other timber based fuels. • Growth of their core business, the Sawmill. • Indigenous employment program.



Governance

Shared decision-making, opportunities to input into community decisions, working together.

Objectives	Strategies and Actions
Support existing clubs and community groups; angling, pony, riding, Recreation Reserve, Rail Trail, Landcare, Nowa Nowa Community Development Group.	- Communicate club and group initiatives, promote achievements and encourage participation from seniors, to utilise their unique skills and knowledge, and other community members. - Support moving the small hall (old RSL hall) to the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve for use by angling, pony and riding clubs, and Rural and Community Arts Box. - Support the Rail Trail CoM to attract funding for maintenance, arts projects and improvements. - Identify and support training requirements for CoMs. - Identify opportunities for the community to support the Wairewa Hall CoM.
Work together with adjacent communities, including Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Bruthen, Orbost, Lakes Entrance.	- Combine resources to support and develop community events and festivals that celebrate and are inclusive of adjacent communities, e.g. Rail Trail in a Day. Strengthen funding potential and improved tourism opportunities. - Support cross-community interaction through sport and other organised structures.

Nowa Nowa and District – events

A listing of past, potential and ongoing events		
<i>Refer to the Boggy Bulletin for current events information, available at the Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre</i>		
Month	Event	
January - February	Nowa Nowa and Buchan Pony Clubs Combined Rally	
	Wairewa Bush Dance (New years day and during term school holidays)	
March - April	Mt Nowa Nowa Challenge	
May - June	Pony Club Gymkhana	Art Apparel Town Fundraiser
	Wairewa Hall - Grand Launch	
July - August		
September - October	Rail Trail in a Day	Pony Club Hickstead
	Bike Odyssey	District Garage Sale
November	Nowa Nowa Nudes (Bi-Annual)	Alpine Car Rally
	Nowa Nowa Primary School Centenary 2012	
December	Nowa Nowa Xmas Party	Wairewa Xmas Tree
	Monthly events	
Bi-Monthly	Nowa Nowa Community Development Group Meeting	
Monthly	Pony Club Rally & Adult Riding Club	Wairewa Landcare Group
Monthly	Angling Club	Nowa Nowa Folk Music Club (1 st Fri)
	Other	
	Hospital Creek Bush Band	Wairewa Singers
	Movies at Wairewa Hall (2 nd Sunday of each of each season)	Snowy River Home Educators (Tuesdays @ Wairewa Hall)

Acknowledgements

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the volunteers who assisted and supported the development of this plan. Special thanks to the following people who gave most generously of their time and local knowledge:

Heather and Steve Costigan – The Depot and Nowa Nowa Community Development Group
Francine Giffedder – Wairewa and District Landcare Group
Judy Hartley - Angling Club, Nowa Nowa Community Development Group, Thursday Snrs Club
Mike Ryan – Mingling Waters Caravan Park
Andrea Lane and Gary Yelen – Yelens Studio Gallery and Red Tractor Art & other arts pursuits
Helen Sheil - Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Training Centre and Nowa Nowa Caravan Park
Julia Hunter - and all the Staff at the Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre
Sue Spiller and Ken Jeanes – Nowa Nowa Primary School
Tarli Preston – Nowa Nowa Pony Club and Adult Riding Club
Maree and Neil Geddes – Recreation Reserve & Foreshore CoM
Michael Oxe - Rail Trail CoM
Sandra and Greg Huggins - Nowa Nowa General Store and Community Development Group
Leonie Cameron – Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust
Elizabeth and Brian Blakeman – Musical, theatrical and other community pursuits
George Kasikovic – Montana Timber Holdings

Getting involved

If you would like to be part of the coordinated effort being made towards objectives in this plan, we invite you to contact the Strategic Planning Unit at the East Gippsland Shire Council on 03 5153 9500. All levels of experience and commitment are welcome and appreciated.

Community planning context

This plan has been informed by a series of community consultations and activities initiated by the Shire during 2011-2012. We acknowledge work undertaken by previous community planning groups, and have referenced their documents in the development of this plan.

- *Nowa Nowa and District 5 Year Community Plan 2004-2009*
- *Community Plan 2011 – 2016 Nowa Nowa, Lake Tyers, Wairewa and Surrounds*
- *Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Community Plan*

The implementation of this community plan will take place with reference to and support from the Shire's strategic initiatives including:

- *East Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2009-2013*
- *Strategic Tourism Plan 2006 - 2011*
- *Economic Development Strategic Plan*
- *East Gippsland and Wellington Shires Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2006*
- *Arts and Culture Strategy 2011-12*
- *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2008 – 2013*
- *Access and Mobility Plan 2012*
- *East Gippsland Cycling Tourism Action Plan 2012*
- *East Gippsland Trails Strategy 2012*
- *Community Wellbeing Plan 2010-12*
- *Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2011*
- *Positive Ageing Strategy 2008-12*
- *East Gippsland Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-2013*
- *East Gippsland Shire Council Waste Management Strategy 2012*