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# Dookie and District Community Plan 2017









# 1. Introduction To Our Community Plan

In June 2002, residents of Dookie and District were given the opportunity to have input into the creation of the district's first Community Plan. From this, the original Community Plan was created and projects were developed and completed or, in some cases, became no longer relevant with the changing desires of the community. In 2012, further consultation occurred to ensure the Community Plan still reflected the needs and desires of the Dookie and District community.

Our previous Community Plan's have allowed us to complete a variety of projects over the years. This has included:

- Stage 1 of the Rail Trail
- Consultation for the Sugar Gum Tree Sculpture Project
- Back fencing for the CWA Gardens
- The Dookie Youth SPOT – Stage 1
- Festive decorations
- Development of a local bank of stories of historical significance
- Numerous events

Now, 5 years on from the 2012 plan, we have conducted another round of consultation to once again update the Community Plan and ensure it is in-line with our community's aspirations. This 2017 plan will help guide the Dookie and District Development Forum over the next several years, with an annual review of the Action Plan (contained at the end of this document) occurring every 12 months to ensure the actions remain reflective of the emerging needs of the community.

We invite you to peruse our plan...and consider getting involved with the Committee!



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the hard work of the committee and residents of Dookie and District, the creation of this plan would not have been possible. Greater Shepparton City Council would like to acknowledge and thank Alice Tallis, Di Feldtmann, Judy Bryant, Don Bryant, Gaye Sutherland, Helen Ellis, Janet Batten, Jeanette Ryan, John Sims, Joy Sims, Peter McManus and Ruth Horton.

## 2. Our Vision

### *"Dookie and District – A Community Going Forward"*

While our actions and priorities may have changed over the past several years, our commitment to our original vision has not: we believe that Dookie is inclusive and provides a future for everyone – whether you're newly arrived or as ingrained into the landscape as our rolling hills! We also continually strive to make Dookie a unique and vibrant place.

**A Future For Everyone** – a progressive community working towards a sustainable environmental, social and economic *future for all*

#### Key Features

- A connected, cooperative, happy and safe community
- A community supporting local businesses and creating opportunities for new businesses
- A model of best possible land management

**A Unique and Vibrant Place** – a district recognised as unique and vibrant by its distinctive natural features, a mix of community activities for all ages, progressive agricultural production, small business opportunities and a well utilised university campus.

#### Key Features

- Integrated campus and town community
- Hills, red soil and the colours of the seasons
- Variety of enterprises and community activities



### 3. Our Demographics

Demographic data unique to Dookie and District is not available due to the way the Australian Bureau of Statistics categorises our region. However, provided below is the data for the Rural East region of Greater Shepparton, captured in the 2016 census. Rural East comprises of, but is not limited to, Dookie, Mount Major, Cosgrove, Pine Lodge and Caniambo.

Category	Statistics	Category	Statistics
Population	1,137	Population Density	0.02 persons per hectare
Most Represented Age Group	55 to 59	Second Most Represented Age Group	15 to 19
Three Largest Ancestries	Australian, English and Irish	Most Followed Religion	Western (Roman) Catholic
Highest Level of Schooling Most Residents Attended	Year 12 or equivalent	University/TAFE Attendance (in 2016)	56 residents
Most Prevalent Income Level	\$1,000-\$1,249 weekly gross (10.2% of residents)	Fully Owned Home	42.8% of residents
Mortgage	35.6% of residents	Renting	16.6% of residents
Most Common Dwelling	3 bedrooms	Internet Connection	75.5% of residents have internet access

### 4. Our Plan

#### 4.1 Consultation

In updating our plan, we wanted to get as much input from the Dookie and District community as possible. We realised the importance of giving every resident in the area a chance to have their say and guide the future direction of the region.

In order to achieve this, the following occurred:

- An online survey was developed and the link distributed to residents of the area.
- Two letterbox drops occurred:
  - The first included a printed copy of the survey distributed to 220+ homes throughout Dookie and District (with survey collection boxes within the town). Survey total received: 57.
  - The second included a flyer which advertised the end of consultation prioritising evening.

- Local service clubs and organisations were approached by Dookie and District Development Forum members to increase survey participation.
- Promotion of the consultation occurred via the Greater Shepparton City Council website, Facebook, Greater Shepp Update and word of mouth.
- A prioritising evening occurred in which residents were invited to vote (via dot democracy) on their most preferred actions, which were identified through the prior consultation leading up to the event.

Attendance: 30 residents.





## 4.2 What We Heard From The Community

We had a great response from the community, both in terms of the quantity of feedback received and the quality of feedback. This feedback allowed us to see if the actions contained within the 2012 Dookie Community Plan were still current, as well as gather new actions that are pertinent to the area going forward. As per previous Dookie and District Community Plans, we have divided the actions up into four pillars. These pillars also correspond with the Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2017 – 2021, and include:

1. Social – projects and events that increase social connectedness in the town
2. Economic – actions that can stimulate our local economy and drive business
3. Built – buildings, facilities and services that are important to our continued well-being and growth
4. Natural – ways in which we can increase the enjoyment of our natural environment

On the next page we will highlight some of the actions from each area. At the end of this Community Plan you will find the **Action Plan**: this section details all of the actions that comprise the 2017-2022 Dookie and District Community Plan. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure the actions are still relevant and reflect the goals of the community.



## SOCIAL

- Continued development of facilities and activities for youth (including the Dookie SPOT and associated landscaping such as a botanical garden)
- Maintain the range of community and sporting opportunities, including supporting the local club's strategies
- Encourage contributions to the Major Saddleback News, Lifestyle Dookie calendar and ongoing website reviews

## NATURAL

- Update and implement the Dookie Streetscape Plan, including signage
- Continue to advocate to Council for ongoing road maintenance and roadside vegetation maintenance
- Promote awareness of local Dookie Flora and Fauna, including interpretive signage

## BUILT

- Extension of the Rail Trail (towards Cosgrove & Moira Shire)
- Street lighting – investigate the street lighting in dark areas of Dookie Township & surrounds and work with Council to implement solutions
- Waste water treatment and reuse plant for Dookie Townships (sewerage) (Advocacy)

## ECONOMIC

- Support and maintain vibrant local businesses, and assist with the start-up of new businesses
- Advocate for the alignment of local Council plans and zoning with local community needs
- Investigate requirements for overnight caravan stays



## 5. Implementation and Acknowledgement

The implementation of the Dookie and District Community Plan will require working in partnership with a number of stakeholders. Many of these partnerships have already been formed from our previous years of action, so continuing to work together is crucial to the success of many of the projects listed in the Action Plan. Where required, we will work with Council, State/Federal Departments, University of Melbourne and key community, business and industry groups. All of the listed priorities will require further research, planning, design and potential fundraising by the community in order to progress these action further.

The community will be the sole driver of this plan: actions will be driven and advocated for by the Dookie and District Committee and the wider community. While we are a strong and resourceful committee, we are always open to welcoming new members and encourage everyone to get involved. Please contact us:

- **Jeanette Ryan** – Chairperson - [jeanetteryan01@gmail.com](mailto:jeanetteryan01@gmail.com)
- **Janet Batten** – Secretary - [jbatten20@gmail.com](mailto:jbatten20@gmail.com)

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Dylan McIntosh for the artwork he provided on the front cover of this plan. Dylan McIntosh is a local artist living in Shepparton. Dylan lived in Dookie for most of his childhood and has very fond memories of this time of his life.



## Dookie and District Action Plan

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Overnight parking for RV vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate requirements for overnight stays and preferred location</li> <li>Source any required funding and permissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Marketing bodies</li> </ul>		<p>-Investigating requirements for an overnight stay area. Businesses and residents consulted by DDDF in 2016. Revisit as less than 1/3 of township returned survey.</p> <p>-Investigation of feasibility for overnight RV parking in small towns included in tourism strategic plan.</p>	Social
Increased activity at the Dookie College Campus incorporating the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach university to investigate possible activities or events</li> <li>Advocate for public use of the swimming pool at the campus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>University of Melbourne</li> <li>Saddleback News</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Social
Recognition and celebration of the positive community attributes of Dookie and District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate potential activities or events that could achieve this goal</li> <li>Seek funding as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Dookie Lifestyle</li> <li>Major Saddleback News / Website</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Social
Encourage contributions to the Major Saddleback News, Lifestyle Dookie calendar & social media platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for submissions for material for publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Lifestyle Dookie</li> <li>Major Saddleback News</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> </ul>		<p>-Dookie Lifestyle working on updating the website – information will feed into the Major Saddleback News</p> <p>-Upgraded in 2015</p>	Social
Investigate options for using the Maternal Child Health building for other activities (e.g. community hub, arts hub, tourist info)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further consultation required to assess potential usage options</li> <li>Work with MCH coordinator in Council to implement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> </ul>		-Ideas collated during plan review survey. To be reviewed.	Social

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Painting or art projection on old silo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate preferred options for artwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> </ul>		-Silo to be included in the Heritage Overlay (Stage 3)	Social
Tourist drive signage (via Dookie College, Tallis, Dookie, Cosgrove, Lemnos, Shepparton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with GSCC and Vic Roads to scope project feasibility</li> <li>Secure permissions</li> <li>Secure funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Vic Roads</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Social
Maintain the range of community and sporting opportunities in Dookie, including supporting the local club's strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend sporting and recreational club AGMs to investigate ways in which to support</li> <li>Share potential grant opportunities to clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community Groups</li> <li>Sporting Org's</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Social
Upgrade/Redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve land to improve drainage issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation Reserve committee to investigate funding to undertake these works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Recreation Reserve Committee</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turf and extra curbing implemented.</li> <li>Extra seating installed</li> <li>Concept planning occurring for retardation basin.</li> </ul>	Built
Rail Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to seek funding options for Stage 2 of the Rail Trail (to Cosgrove)</li> <li>Continue to advocate to Moira Shire for Rail Trail from their municipality</li> <li>Investigate installation of tie-up rails and a water trough for horses (near the exercise station)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Friends of the Rail Trail</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> <li>GSCC</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further development of Rail Trail to Cosgrove to be broken into 3 stages. Budget bids to be submitted and funding opportunities sourced.</li> <li>Advocacy for Rail Trail to continue north into Moira Shire.</li> <li>Aligns with Council's Cycling and Tourism strategies.</li> </ul>	Built
Continue to investigate walking/riding track options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a network of tracks which are environmentally friendly and incorporate development of wildlife corridors with a focus to include interpretive signage and routes of historical significance ("historical trail")</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Dookie and District Historical Society</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Funding Bodies</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dookie to Mt Major is funded for the 2017/18 year.</li> <li>Rock Correa walk completed.</li> </ul>	Built



Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Continued development of facilities for youth, including the Dookie Youth SPOT (Stage 2,3,4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the Youth SPOT and improved park facilities. Landscaping of SPOT could include botanical garden.</li> <li>• Inclusion of free public WiFi (available to both SPOT and CWA Gardens patrons).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDDF</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• SPOT committee</li> <li>• Ramp it Up Committee</li> <li>• GSCC</li> <li>• Recreation Reserve Committee</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Construction of Youth SPOT Stage 1 completed. Stage 2 being scoped</li> <li>-Back fence constructed at CWA Gardens 2016</li> </ul>	Built
Investigate the feasibility of a multipurpose facility next to the rail line which will house the historical society, a covered information area and a platform (to receive tourist/commuter trains)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding for scoping/feasibility study</li> <li>• Investigate options for this project with community, Council and DDHS.</li> <li>• Vic Track and relevant State authorities will have to be consulted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dookie and District Historical Society</li> <li>• Funding bodies</li> <li>• GSCC</li> <li>• DDDF</li> <li>• Vic Track</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Built
Investigate street lighting in dark areas of Dookie Township and surrounds and work with Council to implement solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community to stipulate areas of concern to Council</li> <li>• Funding to be sought for lighting improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• GSCC</li> <li>• DDDF</li> <li>• Powercor</li> </ul>		-Areas of concern reported to Council August 2017	Built
Identify the development constraints for the Dookie Township and support future re-joining proposals to increase the supply of residential zone land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents to work alongside Council to identify concerns and seek possible solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• GSCC</li> <li>• DDDF</li> </ul>		-Dookie Township recommended for further low density housing. Further studies need to be undertaken.	Built
Widening and maintenance of Saddleback Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee to advocate for required works</li> <li>• Identify environmental significance of roadside vegetation and implement protection measures.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDDF</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• GSCC</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Built

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Promote awareness of the unique aspects of Dookie through interpretive signage (i.e. Indigenous history, historical points of interest, and flora/fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate options for promotion of flora and fauna</li> <li>Seek funding as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Vic Roads</li> <li>DDH Society</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Built
Update and implement the Dookie Streetscape plan, including new town entrance signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee to update Streetscape Plan</li> <li>Seek funding for implementation as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Town Beautification Committee</li> </ul>		-Updating of the CMM Fisher Stewart 1998 Streetscape plan in progress (M14/46736)	Natural
Continue to advocate for ongoing road maintenance and roadside vegetation maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSCC to provide advice on maintenance schedules of area.</li> <li>Residents can report areas of concern to GSCC front desk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Vic Roads</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Major Saddleback</li> </ul>		Ongoing	Natural
Support and maintain vibrant local businesses, and assist with the start-up of new businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An audit and directory of local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community/Bus</li> <li>Dookie Lifestyle</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> </ul>		-GSCC currently developing business database in Dookie -Business event to be held in Dookie Q1 2018	Economic
Tourist information section in local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach businesses to develop implementation options</li> <li>Collate tourist information material relevant to Dookie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Private businesses</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Economic
Promote and provide facilities and events that attract visitors to the area including supporting the Dookie Arts projects and welcoming new residents (i.e. Dookie Food Festival, town ball, youth music festival)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue developing and facilitating events for residents in the area</li> <li>Continue to support cycling events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Arts Committee</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> </ul>		-Dookie film group operating since 2015 with 10 films per year (monthly). 70 members. -Council will continue to work with the Dookie community to implement events and make them aware of events grants.	Social/Economic

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Support the expansion of the Dookie War Memorial site to adjacent land, including future redevelopment of cenotaph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide support to RSL where appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RSL</li> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Scouts Victoria</li> <li>GSCC</li> </ul>		Business case being submitted to Scouts Victoria and GSCC	Advocacy
Support the potential co-location of the Dookie Primary School and Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee to provide support where appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Dookie Primary School</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Kinder</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Advocacy
Ongoing commitment to grain handling operations in Dookie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Vic Track</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Vic Grain</li> </ul>		Not commenced	Advocacy
Investigate solar and wind energy options for Dookie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate</li> <li>Investigate site</li> <li>Determine community interest in public energy options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>		-University of Melbourne has conducted a wind feasibility study within Dookie. Result: not feasible.	Advocacy
Advocate for increased public transport options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>		-Access Spot to be installed in Dookie 2017	Advocacy
Sewerage - Sustainable water management plan that addresses grey, black and storm water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate to GV Water and Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Goulburn Valley Water</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>		-Waste water study underway (2017)	Advocacy
Development of a plan and implementation strategy for aged persons housing in Dookie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate and liaise with Church of England for potential land</li> <li>Land Capability Assessment to be done on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DDDF</li> <li>Community</li> <li>GSCC</li> <li>Aged organisations</li> <li>Funding bodies</li> <li>Church of England</li> </ul>		-Ongoing meetings with church	Advocacy