
Twin Rivers District Community Plan 2019

Community Vision:

We want a peaceful and welcoming district that is friendly and inclusive, with an energy that is buzzing and alive. A progressive community that is adaptive to change and balances the health of its environment, people and economic prosperity.

**Nicholson Johnsonville Swan Reach
Tambo Upper Bumberrah**



Acknowledgements

East Gippsland Shire Council and the community of the Twin Rivers District acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years¹. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders past and present.

The community members of the Twin Rivers District have made a significant contribution in the development of this plan in terms of time and the completion of the community survey. The commitment of the community to the process is testament to their passion for the future of the District.

Place Planning is a major initiative within the East Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021². Resources were committed to undertake a pilot of the place based district planning process. Council officers from the Community Planning team and across a range of other

departments have supported the district community planning process including the facilitation of workshops and providing information to community.

Minds@Work, an independent consultancy group, facilitated sessions and skilled up staff and community around the IDEA model.

The importance of our partner agencies and local service providers in being involved in the process and the delivery of information workshops has been critical in understanding how we are and can all 'work in place'.

The One Place One Plan Project was funded by the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund and has been run across the Cann Valley District, Errinundra to Snowy District and Twin Rivers District.

Key Terms:

ABS:
Australian Bureau of Statistics

CFA:
Country Fire Authority

Council:
East Gippsland Shire Council

DCRG:
District Community Representative Group

DELWP:
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

DET:
Department of Education & Training

EGCMA:
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

RRV:
Regional Roads Victoria

TRCG:
Twin Rivers Community Group

References:

¹ East Gippsland Shire Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2015 – 2018

² East Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021

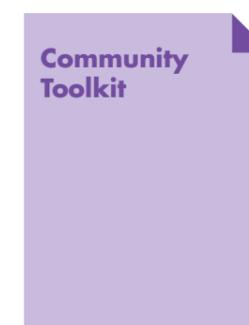
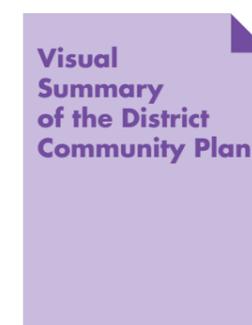


New Year's Eve fireworks in Nicholson 2018

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Other documents related to this plan:



A Guide to Reading this Plan

The Twin Rivers District Community Plan (the Plan) provides a strategic direction for the people living and working in this community and the agencies that support them. A separate Action Plan will accompany this document and be updated to reflect the achievements and changes that occur over time.

Section 1:

Introduces community and place planning, the purpose of this community plan and the previous planning work undertaken in this district. It provides details about the timeline of the project, engagement activities and community participation in the journey to develop the Plan. It includes an overview of the process used to develop the Plan and the IDEA model used to support community thinking from ideas to actions.

Section 2:

Provides a detailed community profile of the people living in this community, drawing on demographic data and the findings from the community survey and community workshops. The history and geographical location of the district is explored, providing the context to the key assets that were mapped in the district. The community profile provides insight into the people that live in the district and what is important to them. Four outcome areas are identified and discussed in detail with the support of data gathered through the community

1. **Healthy & Sustainable Environments**
2. **Prosperous Economy**
3. **Safe & Healthy Communities**
4. **Resilient & Connected Communities**

Section 3:

Focuses on the implementation of the Plan and how this will be undertaken. It does not have specific details about each priority and timeframe, this will be captured in the Action Plan that will be developed by the community and agencies. It will be reviewed and refined regularly to implement this District Community Plan. The future challenges and opportunities for each of the four outcome areas are explored. (see pages 30 to 33). Through the workshops, the community prioritised the 118 ideas from their Ideas Bank (see page 34) to four ideas that were worthy of further development. These are highlighted and outlined in this section. Described as priority ideas, the role of the community, Council and partner agencies is included for each. It outlines the formation and role of a District Community Representative Group (DCRG) in monitoring and implementing the Plan. In this district that group is the Twin Rivers Community Group (TRCG) which was established in 2012 to implement the 2012 Community Plan.

Section 1: Development of the Twin Rivers District Community Plan

“Fun because we deserve to have fun in our community”

Local Resident

“New arrivals feeling part of community”

Local Resident

“Community working together for better outcomes”

Local Resident

“A better environment and lifestyle”

Local Resident



Developing the Plan at Johnsonville Hall

Introduction

Purpose of the District Community Plan

To provide a comprehensive insight into the community of the Twin Rivers District, and the people who call this 'place' home. It will give community members, East Gippsland Shire Council (Council) and partner agencies an understanding of:

- The people who live in this district and their needs
- The vision the community has for itself and what it values
- How the community currently operates and supports services
- The assets, resources and strengths available in this community
- The top priorities the community wants to work on over the next five years
- The roles and responsibilities of community, Council, and partner agencies in making the plan happen
- An Ideas Bank, that community can draw on throughout the life of the District Community Plan

This plan provides a new direction for how community, Council and partner agencies can work together to achieve positive outcomes for the people who have chosen this district as their home.

Council and other agencies have a number of strategies and plans which underpin and inform what they do. The District Community Plan (the Plan) provides a platform at a place-based level to integrate Council and agency strategies and plans with the local community priorities to achieve the best outcomes.

Separate documents accompany the Plan including an action plan that will be revisited by community, Council and partners on an annual basis (the Annual Action Plan), and a toolkit with a range of resources and information to support community, Council and partner agencies in implementing the Plan.

This district has a District Community Representative Group (DCRG) to work together on the priorities within the Plan on behalf of all people in the district. The DCRG enables the community to coordinate and cooperate to achieve their goals and provide a means for Council and agencies to engage with and work alongside a group that is representative of this district.

Place Planning

Some, but not all communities in East Gippsland have had Community Plans for nearly a decade. A review of the previous Community Plans identified the need to change the way Council works with the community. This new approach is called Place Planning. Twelve districts were identified across East Gippsland, each with its own distinctive history, culture, people and natural environments.

Council was successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund, to pilot the development and delivery of a place-based planning approach in some of the most remote districts within the shire. This project has brought together community, Council and agencies to share information, exchange

ideas that will enable informed decision making about how best to meet identified needs.

Developing a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the people that live in this district is central to Place Planning. The District Community Plan brings together detailed demographic information about who the people are that make up this district, why they live where they live, what is important to them, their future aspiration for their communities and how they will work together and with key stakeholders to achieve this.

The priorities within the Plan are not a 'wish list', they are ideas that were identified by the community that have been prioritised using the 'IDEA' Model which is outlined further on page 10. Prioritisation is based on the evidence gathered around the issues, challenges and opportunities within the district.

The process of creating the Plan has focused on building relationships and trust between community members and groups, Council and other key agencies. It outlines how the community will work together and live their values. The Plan establishes an agreed set of local priorities and provides evidence of local investment needs. It will inform future planning decisions and where resources can most effectively be targeted around services and infrastructure. It aims to help clarify the roles and responsibilities of the community, Council and other agencies around the identified priorities in the Plan.

Building & Learning from the Past

The Twin Rivers District includes the townships of Nicholson, Johnsonville and Swan Reach and the rural settlements of Bumberrah and Tambo Upper. This Twin Rivers District Community Plan 2019 builds on the success of the Twin Rivers Community Plan 2012 – 2015.

One of the key factors in the success of the Twin Rivers Community Plan 2012 – 2015 was the establishment in 2011 of the Twin Rivers Community Group (TRCG) and associated working groups. These groups led a number of the projects in the plan and worked in partnership with Council and other agencies to achieve their top priorities. A Road Safety Working Group developed a strong partnership with Council and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) supporting significant investment of around \$2 million in improvements across the district to address road safety issues experienced in all three towns.

Highlights of the achievements between 2012 and 2019 include;

- November 2015 Road Safety Survey and Report: Road Safety Working Group.

- 2018/2019 Road safety improvements across Nicholson, Swan Reach and Johnsonville: pedestrian refuges, dedicated turning lanes, bus stop relocation and upgrades, lighting, school crossing realignment and road sealing works.
- Speed limit changes in Swan Reach and Nicholson.
- Implementation of Safe to School program in two schools and the kindergarten.
- Improved pedestrian connectivity in Nicholson, Swan Reach and Johnsonville: new concrete footpaths, shared pathways, safety fencing and pedestrian refuges and landscaping.
- Works along the Rail Trail including infrastructure, pathways, revegetation works, signage upgrades and water drinking station.
- A variety of environmental works and improvements including weeding, planting, rabbit control, fencing and National Tree planting day activities.
- Johnsonville Hall improvements including lights, painting, carparking, entry points,

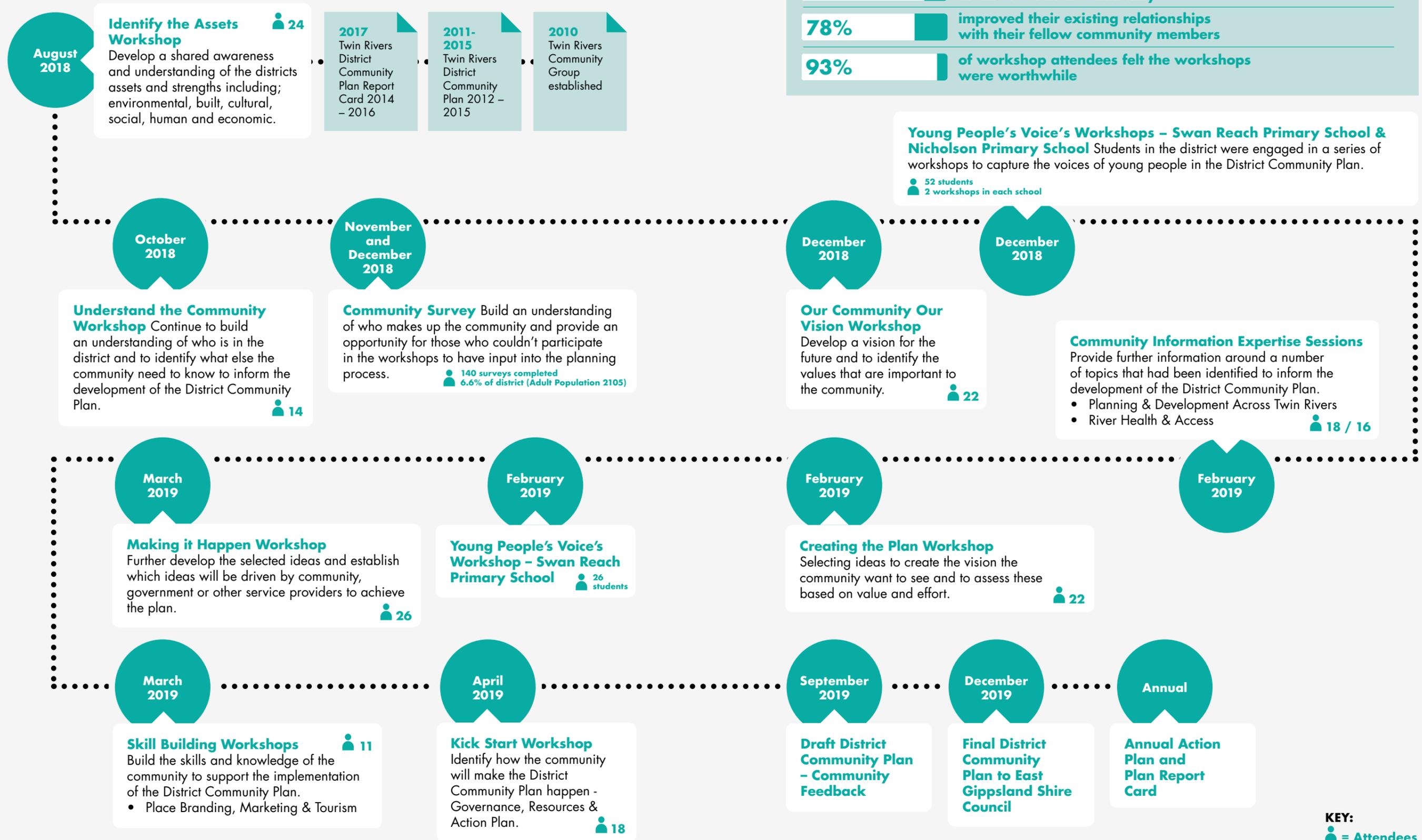
- pathways and connectivity within the township.
- Installation of a new playground at Swan Reach Reserve.
- River health monitoring, fishing competitions, awareness programs and local events.
- Redevelopment of the Johnsonville Rowing Facilities at Harry Clues Reserve.
- District events such as the Bream Classic and the New Year's Eve SkyFest.

A detailed outline of the achievements in the community over this time can be found in the Twin Rivers Community Report Card 2012-2017.

Many of the priorities identified by the community in the previous plan remain at the centre of this new plan including: protecting the environment; creating a better network of pedestrian and cycling access across the district; supporting and developing community connectedness, continuing to improve road safety, maximizing tourism, and managing the urban growth.



How the Plan was Created



659hrs hours collectively contributed by the community to the process

128 people involved in workshops

84% of workshop attendees met new members of their community

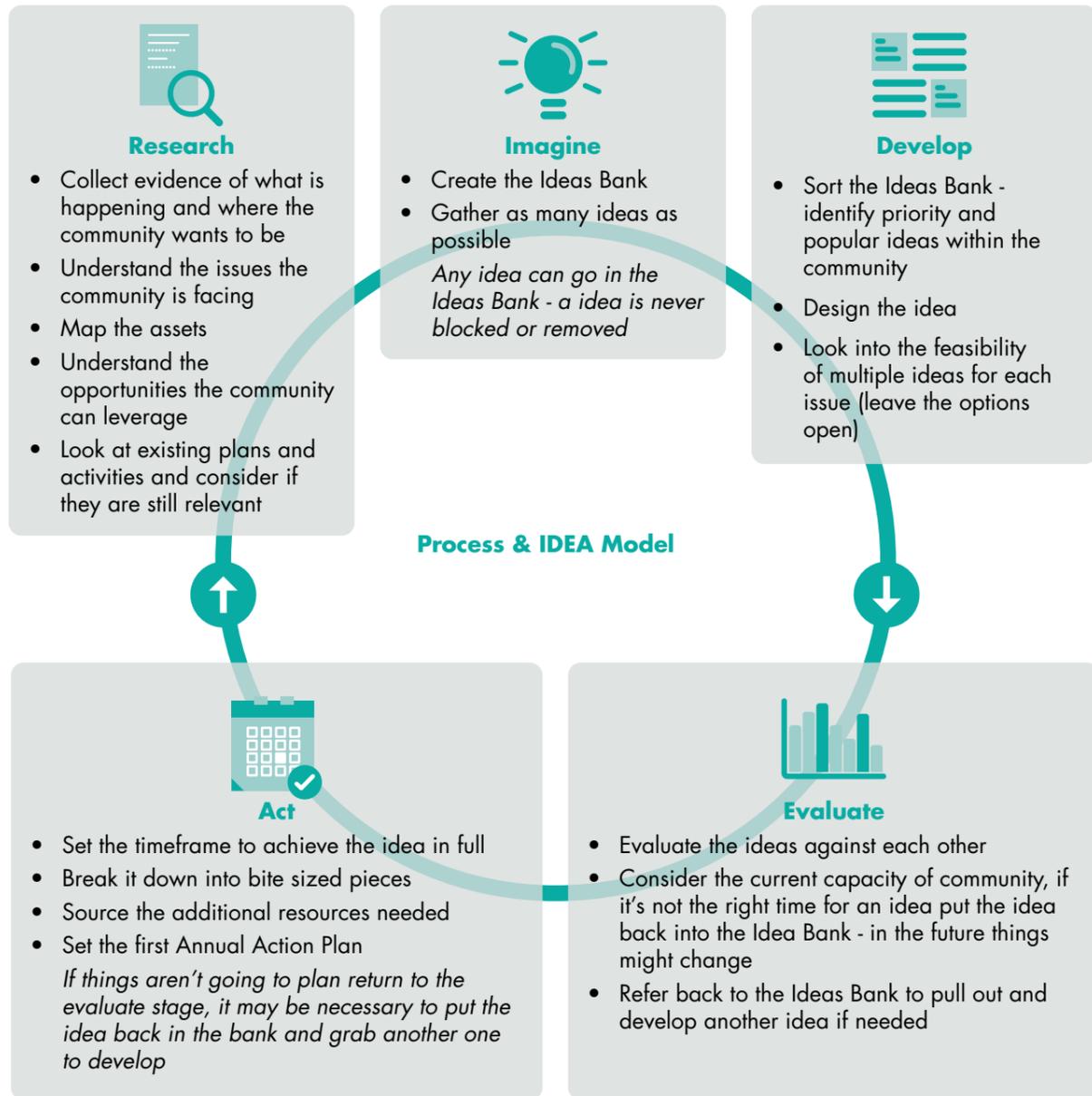
78% improved their existing relationships with their fellow community members

93% of workshop attendees felt the workshops were worthwhile

KEY:
 👤 = Attendees

Process & IDEA Model

The IDEA Model is a way of helping people to think through their ideas and develop something from an idea into well thought out and planned actions.



A Community Toolkit that includes tools as well as data collected through the research stage is available by contacting Council, contact details are on the back of this document.

Section 2: Community Profile



Community Vision:

We want a peaceful and welcoming district that is friendly and inclusive, with an energy that is buzzing and alive. A progressive community that is adaptive to change and balances the health of its environment, people and economic prosperity.

Community Values



Safety
feeling safe and connected to an inclusive and friendly community



Peaceful Natural Surrounds
our rural lifestyle and fabulous rivers



Central location
between Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance with so many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

We must acknowledge the tension between the peacefulness and the growth that different community members desire.



Johnsonville Dance 2017

The District

The Twin Rivers District is made up of the three townships of Nicholson, Johnsonville and Swan Reach and two rural settlements being Tambo Upper and Bumberrah. The district derives its name from the Nicholson and Tambo rivers that flow from the Great Dividing Range down to the Gippsland Lakes.

The district is located centrally between Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance with many residents travelling to these service centres for work, leisure, sport and health. The current population of the district is 2,607 people (ABS 2016), with just under half of the total residents living in the Nicholson area. The rural landscape and close proximity to services attracts new residents and development.

The three townships provide residents with important local services including a general store, post office, fuel and tourist amenities. Each township offers complimentary facilities which support the district amenity including recreation reserves, public hall, schools and kindergarten as well as boating/rowing facilities on both rivers. The three schools in the district service local residents and those choosing smaller educational settings for their children on their commute between Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance.

History

The Tambo and Nicholson Rivers have played a central role in the human history of the Twin Rivers District.

The Gunaikurnai people have been custodians of the waterways

in the Gippsland region for thousands of years. Waterways and their floodplains were, and remain, important to Aboriginal people, providing food, materials for implements such as bark for canoes, and meeting places. The Gunaikurnai nation is made up of the five major clans. The Twin Rivers District is part of the area from Bairnsdale to Bruthen taking in the Mitchell, Nicholson, and Tambo Rivers that is home to the Brabralung people³.

The rivers played a critical role in the development of this district, providing a means of transportation for the development of various industries. Livestock runs were established in Swan Reach, Nicholson, Johnsonville and Tambo Upper. In 1878 tracks were cleared between Nicholson, Johnsonville and Bairnsdale and clearing of the road from Swan Reach to Lakes Entrance commenced. In the 1880s timber barges carried logs to saw mills on the wharves at Johnsonville. Timber was an important industry with red gum exported by paddle steamer to Melbourne for street paving⁴. In Nicholson fish were packed in brine and transported to the gold fields in Omeo by pack horse. The river flats provided fertile soils to grow a number of crops including beans, hops, oats, wheat, sunflowers and maize.

The hop industry boomed relying once again on the rivers to transport bales by ship to Bairnsdale, Sale and Melbourne⁴.

In the 1890s some landholders entered the dairy industry with creameries established in Johnsonville and Nicholson. Agriculture remains an important industry within the Twin Rivers District although recent years have seen increasing land subdivision for residential and lifestyle properties.

In 1916, the construction of the Nicholson River Railway Bridge was completed. This bridge is historically significant for the State and is listed by the National Trust⁵. The establishment of land transport saw the creation of coach services and the growth of settlements to include small schools, hotels, general stores and post offices, with many of these services remaining central to these communities today.

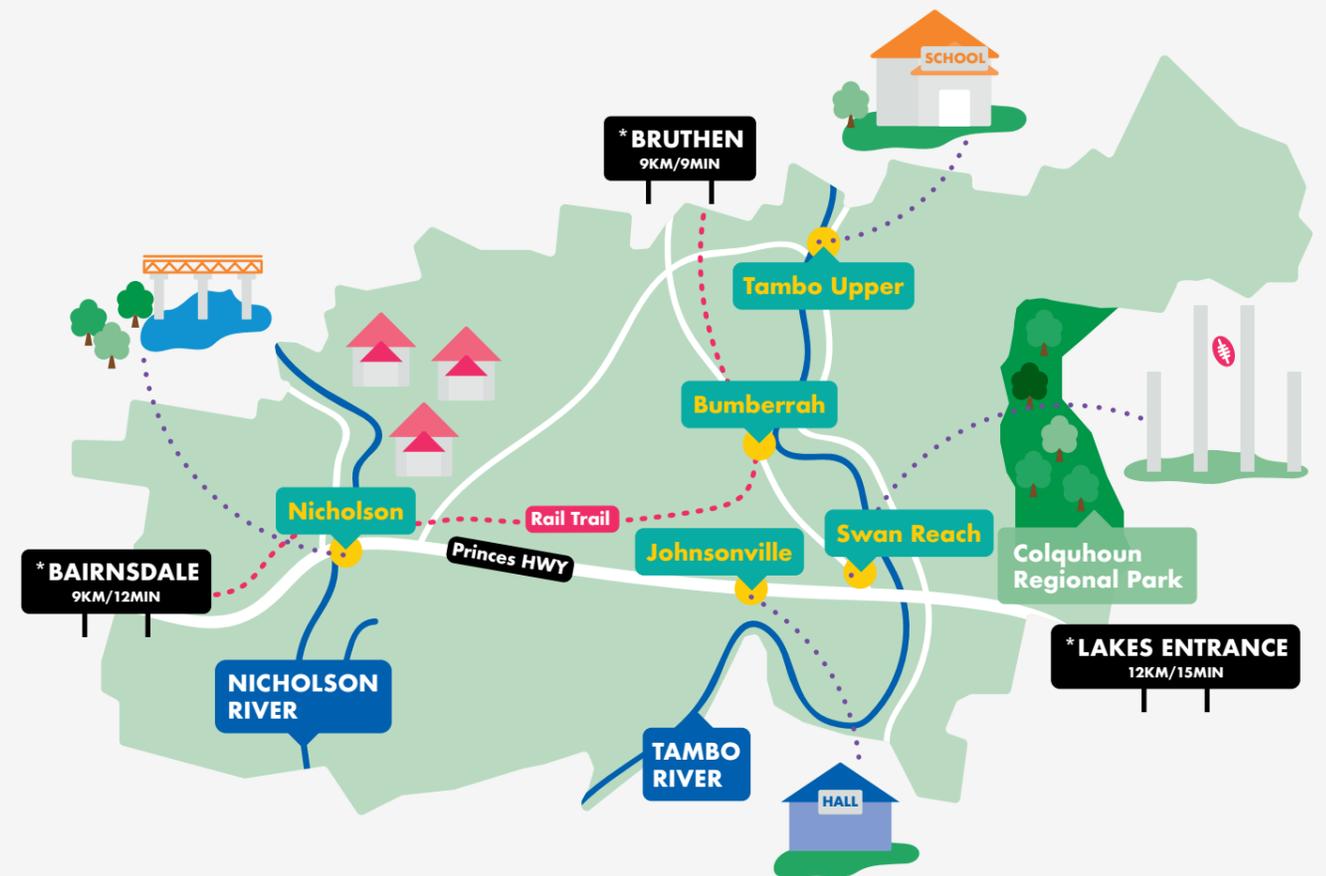
References:

³ Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (2015)

⁴ 'East Gippsland – Past and Present' F Amendola (c 1987)

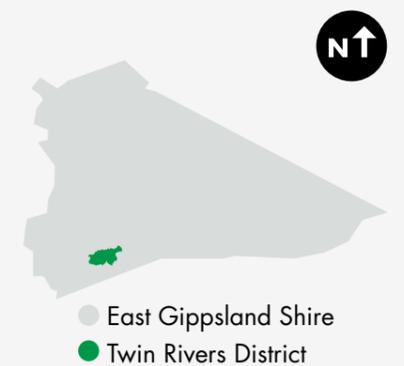
⁵ Victorian Heritage Council (2005)

District Map



*Distances from district boundary

| Travel within the district | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Johnsonville to: | KM | TIME |
| Nicholson | 7.5 | 9min |
| Tambo Upper | 8.5 | 10min |
| Bumberrah | 5.9 | 9min |
| Swan Reach | 3.9 | 3min |



| | Twin Rivers District | East Gippsland |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Population | 2,700 (2017 ABS) | 46,142 (2017 ABS) |
| Land area TOTAL | 17,857 ha (179 Km2) | 2,093,053 ha (20,931 Km2) |
| Council Land Area | 28 ha | |
| Crown Land Area | 3,040 ha | |
| Private Land Area | 14,122 ha | |

District Assets

This section of the plan summarises the assets in the Twin Rivers District along with issues and opportunities. It is important for the community, Council and agencies to understand the assets

in the district and to use this to guide planning. This strength-based approach seeks to identify where the community is currently positioned in terms of assets – built, environmental, economic,

social, people and cultural. The assets have been grouped under the outcomes of the District Community Plan.



People
Provides a snapshot of those living in the district based on the community survey and ABS Census Data 2016.



Healthy & Sustainable Environments
Environmental assets include air, land, water, plants, animals, mineral and energy resources that support all life and human activity.



Prosperous Economy
Economic assets include current and future industries, and employment opportunities to support people to live in the district.



Safe & Healthy Communities
Assets relating to health and wellbeing include personal and community safety and access to services.



Resilient & Connected Communities
Built, social and cultural assets relate to how the district connects and communicates and the facilities which bring the community together.

People



This profile has been drawn from ABS 2016 Census Data and results from a community survey that was used to build an understanding of the people that make up the district.

Older Adults (60 years and over) retiring to the area and Adults (25-60 years) who are attracted to the area to raise families. The development of new housing estates in Nicholson and Swan Reach is forecast to contribute to significant population growth.

The Twin Rivers District has two distinctive demographic groups;

Demographic representation of the survey

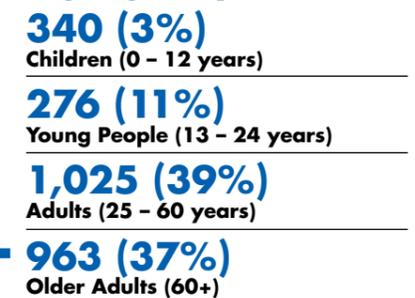
140 surveys were completed representing 6.6% of the district Adult Population

| Place of residence | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Bumberrah | 4% |
| Johnsonville | 15% |
| Nicholson | 42% |
| Swan Reach | 25% |
| Tambo Upper | 10% |
| Other | 4% |
| Age | |
| Under 18 | 3% |
| 25 to 34 | 7% |
| 35 to 49 | 12% |
| 50 to 59 | 16% |
| 60 to 69 | 33% |
| 70 to 84 | 28% |
| 85 and over | 1% |

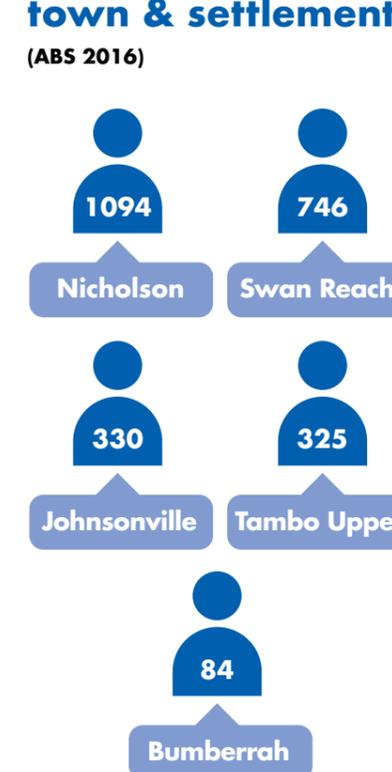
Who we are (ABS 2016)



Age groups (ABS 2016)



Population of each town & settlement (ABS 2016)



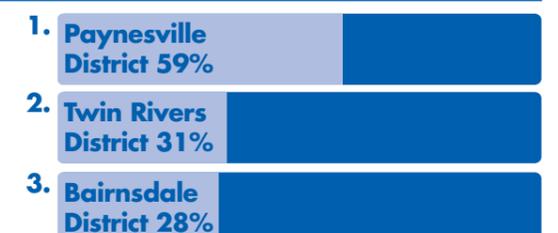
Median age 52 (East Gippsland 50)

Growing Population

A consistent level of demand for residential property has existed for a number of years in Twin Rivers. Between 2003 and 2010 building approvals averaged 20 new dwellings per annum and growth is forecast to continue at approximately this rate until the year 2040, taking into account existing land subdivision estates and development infill (Twin Rivers Land Use Plan Economic Assessment for future land requirements, 2011). The projected population forecast for

the Twin Rivers District is that it will grow by 31% to 3,518 people by 2041, peaking between 2027 and 2031 (Profile ID 2019). By this time the retirement age cohort of the population is expected to have increased by 67%, the number of young people by 40% and the working age population by 17% (Profile ID 2019). Understanding the changing profile of the community is crucial to planning age-based facilities such as schooling, childcare, recreation and medical and aged care.

Twin Rivers District is the second top projected growth area in East Gippsland by 2041 (Profile ID 2019)



People



Identity & diversity

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
1.3% (Twin Rivers)
2.8% (East Gippsland Shire)
(ABS 2016)

| Cultural Diversity | Twin Rivers | East Gippsland | Victoria |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| Overseas born | 11% | 11% | 28% |
| Language at home other than English | 2% | 3% | 26% |

The top five things that people value about the district

(Community survey, 2018)



1. Peace



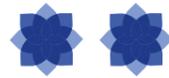
2. Environment



3. Community



4. Location



4. Beauty

Housing

In the district there is a high proportion of households who own or are purchasing their home and a lower proportion renting compared to the East Gippsland average (ABS, 2016). The largest household by type is couples without children followed by families with children and people living on their own (ABS, 2016). This is important to understand levels of service and types of facilities in demand and areas where demand may grow or shrink as the population changes.



94% agreed that they were happy about their housing situation

62% agreed that they felt they have adequate options in the district for their future housing needs

(Community survey, 2018)

Living in the district

61% of the respondents had lived in the district for more than 10 years

68% report that they will definitely will stay in the district

14% report that they probably won't stay or aren't unsure

(Community survey, 2018)

| Housing | Twin Rivers | East Gippsland |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Own | 49% | 42% |
| Purchasing | 32% | 26% |
| Renting | 11% | 21% |
| Affordability | | |
| Mortgage Repayments <\$2,600 per month | 8% | 7% |
| Mortgage Repayments <\$1,200 per month | 41% | 44% |
| Rent Payments <\$1,000 per month | 68% | 58% |
| Households | | |
| Families with children | 30% | 29% |
| Families with young children | 16% | 15% |
| Families with mixed age children | 4% | 4% |
| Families with older children | 11% | 10% |
| Couples without children | 41% | 32% |
| Lone Person Households | 22% | 28% |

(ABS 2016)

Healthy & Sustainable Environments



The Twin Rivers

The district is set on two iconic rivers, the Tambo and Nicholson, which continue to be central in the way that the community live, play, work and connect. The rivers have played a significant role in the history of the district and have been identified by the community as important to their future. Many of the local businesses within the district rely on the recreational use of the rivers through boating and fishing activities. These water sources are used for rural and urban use as well as tourism and recreation. The Community have identified the conflict between boating and swimming access to the river. The community value the fishing, canoeing, boating, camping, hiking, sporting activities, picnics, sightseeing and game hunting opportunities provided by the waterways⁶. Residents want to be able to access their rivers with the provision of appropriate infrastructure. The health of the waterways is critical to sustain residents' quality of life and maintain the natural assets environmental values.

The Nicholson River is 72km in length and has a catchment of 615 square kilometres⁷. The Nicholson has largely an undisturbed upper catchment that is in excellent condition and managed as State Forest. In contrast, the floodplain and estuary reaches are extensively cleared for grazing and is generally in moderate condition⁷.

The Tambo River is 253km in length and has a catchment area of 3,020 square kilometres⁷. The Tambo has an extensive estuary

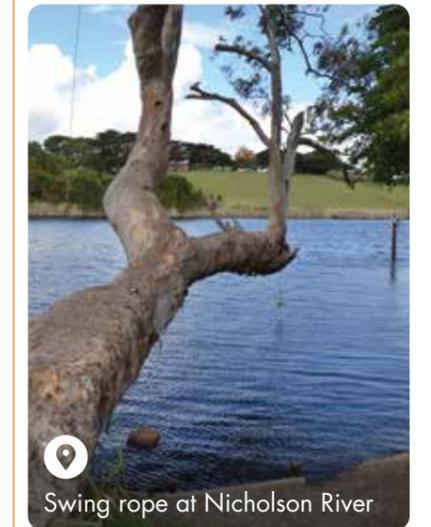
extending from The Cliffs (upstream of the township of Swan Reach) to Lake King. Significant wetlands along the estuary reach of the river are part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site which is listed as internationally important under the Convention on Wetlands⁷. The mining, shipping, agriculture and logging activities of the past have resulted in a great deal of disturbance in the catchment and along the river⁸. The condition of the Tambo varies, the Index of Stream Condition (2004) rates the undisturbed reaches in the forested areas in the upper catchment in 'Good' or 'Excellent' condition. The floodplain and estuary reaches are in moderate condition. The floodplain below Bruthen is extremely fertile and was one of the first areas in the region to be cleared for agriculture. Drainage of this naturally low-lying land has been a major concern for farmers, a problem compounded by the deposition of sand from upstream and the aggradation (rising) of the river bed⁷.

Many community groups, such as Landcare and the local angling clubs are currently involved with monitoring and improving the health of the rivers. Due to the importance of the rivers to both the tourism economy and the local residents, river health is one of the top priorities selected by the Twin Rivers community for the District Community Plan.

Floodplains & Flooding

Historical records of floods for the major rivers in East Gippsland date back to the late 1800's and demonstrate that flooding is a relatively regular occurrence in the municipality. This flood history

coupled with the potential effects of climate change on inland and coastal floodplains provides some understanding of the likely future frequency and extent of flooding. CSIRO climate change modelling indicates that there is likely to be lower average annual rainfall, increased temperatures and an increase in the frequency and duration of droughts in East Gippsland. The frequency and intensity of rainfall events is predicted to increase which is likely to result in increased flooding in the region⁹.



Swing rope at Nicholson River

References:

⁶ East Gippsland Waterway Strategy 2014-2022

⁷ East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (2019)

⁸ Improving East Gippsland Rivers Priorities for River Health 2007-2012, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

⁹ East Gippsland Floodplain Management Strategy November (2017)

Healthy & Sustainable Environments



Water Security

Water security relates to the capacity of the district to have sustainable access to water to support livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development. Water security was identified in the community survey as one of the top five challenges the district has experienced in the past. It rated lower in the survey as a challenge for the future of the district, however in workshops some individuals still saw this as an issue with farmers buying in water during drought periods and not all parts of the district having access to mains water.

Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability

East Gippsland's economy and communities are heavily reliant on the natural environment, both directly and indirectly. As well as supporting primary industries such as fishing, forestry and farming, the environment is a key

component of the appeal of the area for tourism and makes a major contribution to the lifestyle of residents. The municipality is vulnerable to inundation and fire and climate change has the potential to increase vulnerability to extreme natural events¹⁰.

The Victorian Government has identified Gippsland as being warmer and drier in the future due to climate change. The Community was asked in the survey what they think this might mean for the Twin Rivers District. The key themes identified were increased fire risk, drought and the impact on farmers, changes in the rivers and lakes including decreased water flow, increased salinity, algae and loss of fish, decreased access to water and changes to the landscape including dryness, less visual attractiveness, less farming and more development.

Agriculture

Given the close proximity to Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance, the district has seen a change in land use from agriculture (farming) to residential development. This change has seen a reduction in the amount of farming land available and an increase in land prices, which has limited the ability of existing farms to expand their businesses. However, agricultural enterprises continue to operate, including fruit, berries, wine and cattle grazing.

The peacefulness and the growth that different community members desire was acknowledged as a tension in the district from both the survey data and the workshops. The community sees a future opportunity capitalising on the local food economy and what this has to offer to residents and visitors.

References:

¹⁰ [East Gippsland Shire Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2017](#)



Boating on the Tambo River, Swan Reach, 2017

Prosperous Economy



Employment & Income

Half of the community survey respondents felt they had access to the amount and type of employment desired however only one third agreed there were sufficient work opportunities within their community to support the lifestyles they wanted.

The Twin Rivers community is highly mobile, residents can travel to the main service centres of the municipality for employment in under half an hour. Approximately 8% of residents worked from home in 2016 (ABS), 71% of residents used a private vehicle as their method of travel to work and 3% walked to work. This data supports the anecdotal evidence in the workshops that a large proportion of residents work outside of the district.

In 2016 the size of the Twin Rivers labour force was 1,167 people of which 517 were employed part-time and 551 full time, a further

886 people (41% of over 15 years of age) were not in the labour force. This is to be expected in line with the socio-economic profile of an older district. As a percentage, the number of people not in the labour force is slightly lower than the East Gippsland average but higher than the Regional Victorian average. Overall, 94% of the Twin Rivers labour force was employed and 6% unemployed, which is comparable with the East Gippsland averages for both (ABS, 2016).

Respondents to the community survey reported that two thirds had adequate income.

An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population in Twin Rivers in 2016 shows the three most common industry sectors were:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance (13%)
2. Construction (12%)
3. Retail Trade (9%)

Income

30% of respondents were unsure or thought that they did not have adequate income



Employment

54% of respondents had the type & access to employment they would like



38% of respondents felt they had access to work opportunities in their community that supported the lifestyle they wanted

(Community survey, 2018)



Swan Reach Primary School Fair 2017

Prosperous Economy



A number of the businesses located in the district are linked to nature based tourism or primary production. Fishing and boating are a key drawcard and support accommodation and dining businesses. The variety of growers and producers in the district

including wineries/cellar doors and culinary schools add to the diversity of the tourist experience.

It is unlikely any significant demand for retail, commercial or industrial development will eventuate in Twin Rivers given

the proximity to Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance, and due to the smaller population size, therefore, the future economic role of these townships will continue to be based on local convenience services and tourism¹¹.

Global Trends in Travel¹²

1. Destinations need to avoid sameness, and identify a point of difference
2. Focus on growth market opportunities;
 - Active families
 - Active 55+ year olds
 - Contemporary women
 - Millennials
 - Visiting friends and relatives
3. Experiences over destinations such as¹³;
 - Experiential travel - guides and tour operators who offer more immersive experiences
 - Transformative travel - self discovery and trying new things

- Serendipity and surprise - visitors discovering hidden treasures
 - Health and Wellbeing - cycling and walking trails with add on experiences
 - Food and Drink - local people offering immersive, curated and unique experiences
4. High quality service standards expected and environmental sustainability and social responsibility increasingly important as a point of difference
 5. All markets are digitally connected and an online presence is important as it is used as the platform for information and bookings

Businesses In The District 2019

General Store and Post Offices in the 3 towns, Hotel/Motel, Caravan Parks, Mechanics Workshop, Garage and Fuel, Bus Depot, Fruit Farm, Marine Storage, Marine Sales and Repair, Haberdashery/Craft Supplies, Garden Supply/Plant Nursery, Wineries/Cellar Door, Cooking School/Supplies, Accommodation, Schools, Civil Construction, Pizza Restaurant, Industrial Warehouse, Café/Restaurant, Equine Services, Hairdresser, Solar Supplies, Farming, Kindergarten, Primary Production (grazing and growing)



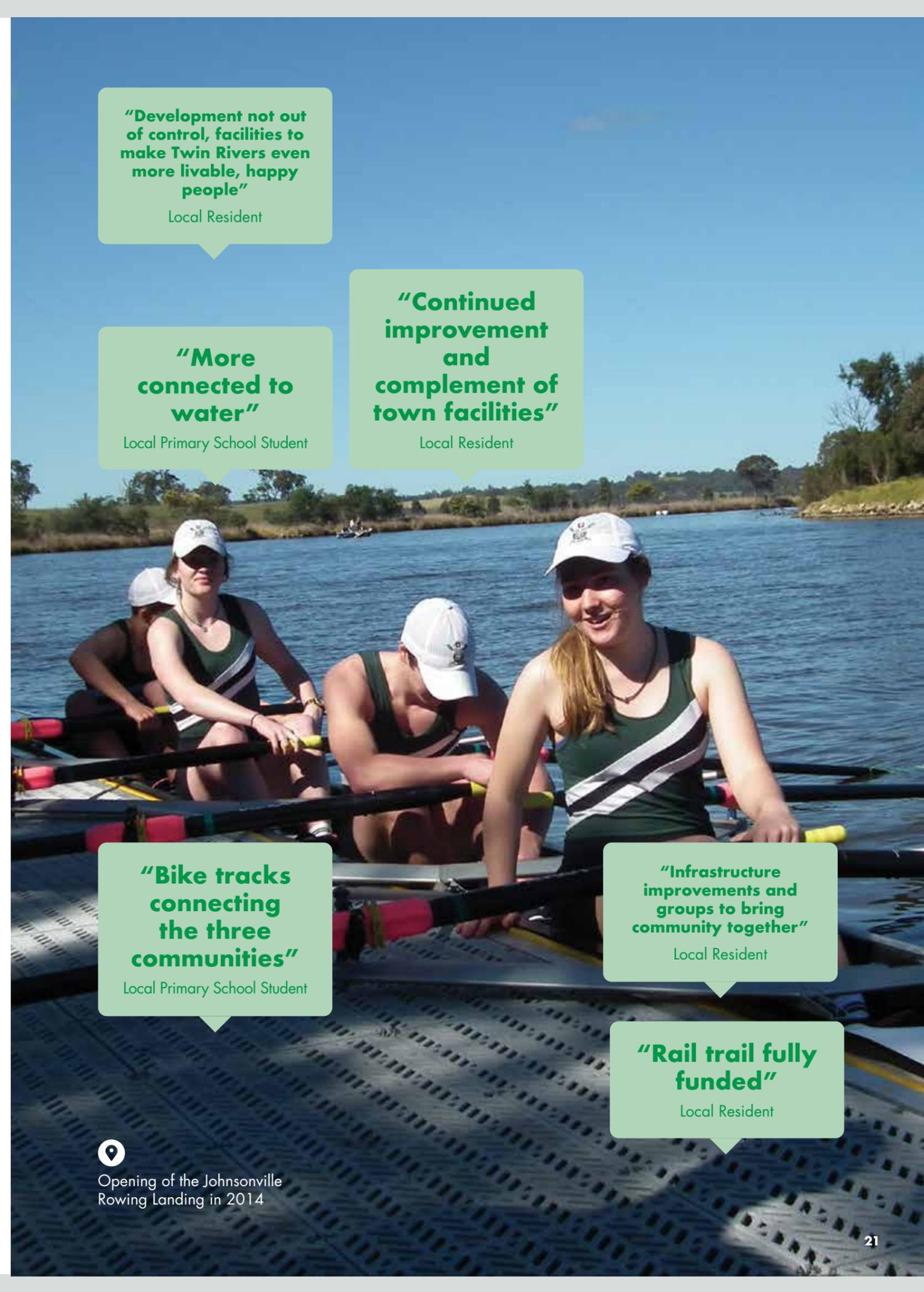
Johnsonville Fruit Farm, 2016

References:

¹¹ [Twin Rivers Land Use Plan Economic Assessment of future land requirements \(2011\)](#)

¹² [SKIFT Insight \(2017\)](#)

¹³ [Destination Marketing Store in March 2019](#)



“Development not out of control, facilities to make Twin Rivers even more livable, happy people”

Local Resident

“More connected to water”

Local Primary School Student

“Continued improvement and complement of town facilities”

Local Resident

“Bike tracks connecting the three communities”

Local Primary School Student

“Infrastructure improvements and groups to bring community together”

Local Resident

“Rail trail fully funded”

Local Resident



Opening of the Johnsonville Rowing Landing in 2014

Safe & Healthy Communities



Ageing Population & Access to Services

Half of the community survey respondents agreed that they had adequate access to health services in the district. With the increase in retirees moving to the area and the ageing of existing residents, access to health and other services will increasingly become an issue. In the future residents want a local general medical practitioner within the district and a transport system that can take people to specialist medical appointments further afield. Improved transport or a volunteer community driven car are seen as important to ensure that the community can age in place.

Fire Risk

Recent fires in the district have reinforced the risk that these events can pose to land subdivisions and growing populations. Previously unoccupied land used for agriculture is now populated. Less than half of community survey respondents agreed that they could access the information they needed

to prepare for and manage an unexpected event.

Large areas of the district are cleared and grazed land, however the retained areas of private forest generally carry very high to extreme fuel loads. On high fire risk days this will contribute significantly to fire behaviour, with grass fires also having the potential to spread rapidly¹⁴. A regular program of fuel management by authorities in corridors north of the Great Alpine Road and east of the Tambo River assists in reducing fire risk. Fast running grass fires and retained private native vegetation needs to be considered as part of a bushfire management plan. As part of a collaborative (Safer Together) approach private property owners should consider how they will manage fuel loads, provide access for resources and be prepared for fire¹⁴.

Road Safety

Motor vehicle speed is an outstanding road safety issue the

community wants addressed. Recent upgrades to the Princes Highway by RRV and Council have resulted in pedestrian refuges, improved footpaths and formalised parking in the three townships. A speed limit reduction in the Nicholson and Swan Reach was achieved in 2016. However, with the local and visitor population increasing, the community identified a desire to reduce speed limits on district feeder roads to 80 and 60km/hr. Local roads are also used by cyclists and walkers (including children accessing schools) where no footpaths are present. Safer roads across the district is a priority for both adults and young people.

Recreational Water Activities

Improvement of access to and health of the rivers is a key community priority. Access for swimming has been eroded in recent years through bank stabilisation and water vehicle access works. Identifying, protecting and maintaining local swimming spots and water quality is integral to safeguarding the equity of river access for swimmers. Infrastructure that enables recreational water access improves resident's health and wellbeing by encouraging physical activity and attracting tourists who contribute to the local economy. For some years, the community has advocated for a boat ramp at Swan Reach and more jetties and swimming platforms. This would require the cooperation of agencies including Council, DELWP and East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA).

Reference:

¹⁴ Department of Environment Land Water and Planning - Forest Fire Management (2019)

Safety

94% agreed that the community is a safe place to live



85% agreed that the community has a reputation for being a safe place



43% agreed that they can access the information to prepare for and manage an unexpected event



Health

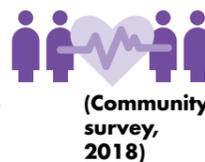
85% agreed that in general, they have excellent health



49% agreed that they have adequate access to health services in the district



44% agreed that the health and wellbeing of the community is strong



"Connecting pathway plan formalized"

Local Resident

"Murals on the walls"

Local Primary School Student

"I would like it to continue to be and feel like a country town"

Local Primary School Student

"Twin Rivers Community Hub becoming a reality"

Local Resident

"Compost bins and a town garden. The compost bins would deliver compost to the garden where they would sell crops for cheap prices and be a great place to get a starter job"

Local Primary School Student



New Year's Eve in Nicholson 2017

Resilient & Connected Communities



Community Connectivity

Connectivity in the district relates to the community members ability to access adequate pathways within townships and settlement areas, between townships and to Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. It also includes opportunities to connect socially.

A total of 61% of the survey respondents agreed that there was adequate access to transport. Importantly, people who are unable to drive, particularly children living in the district are most disadvantaged. In workshops with the Swan Reach and Nicholson Primary School students, many expressed a desire to walk or cycle to school or visit their friends, the river or local businesses. They were unable to do this due to a fear of snakes, traffic, lack of footpaths and parents worrying for their safety.

Student mode of transport to school

(Sample of 56 students from Nicholson & Swan Reach Primary Schools)

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Walk | 20% |
| Cycle | 11% |
| Bus | 16% |
| Car | 54% |

Children are particularly impacted by connectivity issues within and between townships however adults also struggle to walk around their communities. The lack of connecting footpaths to new subdivisions around the Nicholson-Sarsfield Road is causing particular issues for residents in

Nicholson and was raised throughout the planning process.

Only 48% of survey respondents agreed that pedestrian and cycle pathways within the district were safe and convenient, despite the existence of the Rail Trail which is considered a fabulous leisure and tourism asset by the community. As a result, connecting pathways was chosen as a priority project for the district.

The ageing population is also impacted by connectivity to Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. Many workshop participants expressed concern for themselves and their neighbours' ability to access shopping and medical services should they become unable to drive.

The school workshops and community survey identified that residents eat out, and do their shopping and sporting activities outside of the district. Activities that do happen within the district are; collecting the mail, some sports, and for many primary aged kids school and playing with friends. This highlights a lack of ability for the community to connect outside of school activities for primary aged children.

As a result, creating a sense of community and bringing locals together was an important aspiration expressed by workshop and survey respondents alike. A number of ideas around this arose including a community garden, more local events and a community hub which is a community priority.

Community Groups & Volunteering

There are many active community and service groups throughout the Twin Rivers District which provide an essential service as well as an important opportunity for people to connect with each other. ABS (2016) data indicates that there is a lower proportion of people who volunteered for an organisation or group in the district than the East Gippsland Shire average. People who were part of a community group or Committee of Management for a public facility agreed that they found it hard to attract new members and share the load.

When asked in the community survey why they didn't volunteer, 40% stated they did not have time or didn't want to, 37% didn't know what was going on or what would be expected of them, 14% did not find the meetings of interest or the time/location convenient, 9% didn't feel welcome or think they had the skills to help. For people who did volunteer, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and sporting clubs were the most common responses.

While trust between neighbours was strong, overall community connectedness, inclusiveness, attitudes to welcoming new people, helping people out and community pride were lower. Only 66% of people felt that they were valued by their community. The sense of involvement in community issues was low with 37% of respondents agreeing that they got involved with most community issues.



New Year's Eve in Nicholson 2017

"We have to walk beside the road on the grass and we are worried about snakes"

Local Primary School Student

"The road is dangerous to ride on, there isn't any room on the side of it to ride"

Local Primary School Student

"I live close enough to walk or ride but the road is not safe"

Local Primary School Student

Communication within the District

The three primary schools have regular newsletters during the school terms. Most residents collect their mail from a post box at the general stores/post office. Some Tambo Upper residents access their post boxes in Bruthen. The general

stores are central locations in each township to display information and many fliers and posters are distributed thanks to the community mindedness of these businesses.

The Twin Rivers District has a Twin Rivers section that appears on the last Monday of the month

in the Bairnsdale Advertiser, and often in the Lakes Post, to which any resident can contribute if they contact the media outlet. This was established by the TRCG and continues to be supported by the group along with advertising from the local businesses.

Community involvement



66% agreed that they felt valued by their local community

80% agreed that they were proud to live in the community

40% agreed that they could change the things they cared about in their community

37% agreed that they got involved with most community issues (Community survey, 2018)

Access to activities

66% agreed that they had access to a range of arts and cultural activities within the district

73% agreed that they had access to a range of sports and leisure activities within the district

(Community survey, 2018)

Identity & diversity



59% agreed that the district has a defined identity

33% agreed that the community's local history is being preserved and promoted

42% agreed that the community acknowledges traditions and celebrations

37% agreed that a diversity of culture and tradition is present (Community survey, 2018)

Resilient & Connected Communities



Community Facilities

The existing facilities are located across the district in a pattern reflecting the times of when they were built. Given changes over time including population, how people live and connect in place, and its current condition, the suite of community facilities is now not supporting its local community needs. This will be further compounded by the population growth forecast to the northern parts of Swan Reach and Nicholson.

The district has three schools (Swan Reach, Tambo Upper

and Nicholson), a kindergarten (Swan Reach), three community halls (Tambo Upper leased to Tambo Upper PS; Nicholson and Johnsonville managed by a Committee of Management), two tennis courts (Nicholson and Johnsonville), a recreation reserve (Swan Reach) and a number of churches. The public open space across the district includes the East Gippsland Rail Trail (Nicholson, Bumberrah, Tambo Upper), Harry Clues Memorial Park (Johnsonville), Peter Cunningham Reserve (Nicholson), Hebbard Park (Nicholson), Karangi Park (Tambo Upper) and Michael Oxeer Reserve

(Nicholson). Johnsonville & Nicholson have well used boating facilities; Nicholson has boat moorings and Johnsonville rowing facilities.

The place planning project has identified the need for Council, DELWP and the Department of Education and Training (DET) to work together alongside the community to review the facilities across this district. There is a need to develop a plan for the future use and opportunities, so that they are fit for purpose, sustainable and flexible to meet the changing needs of the district.

Community & relationships

90% agreed that they could trust their neighbours to look out for their property



78% agreed that if a stranger, someone different to them, moved into their community they would be accepted and welcomed



75% agreed that the community is connected and inclusive; everyone feels welcome



80% agreed that people in their community are very willing to help each other out



84% agreed that the local community feels like home



(Community survey, 2018)

In the past 5 years, respondents of the survey had

joined in a local community action to deal with an emergency



taken part in a local community project or working bee



Getting around



61% agreed that they have OK access to transport to allow me to do the things I want to do within my district

48% agreed that the district has safe and convenient pedestrian/cycle pathways



Nicholson Landcare Inc
Approx members: 35
Number of meetings per year: 5

Lower Tambo Landcare Group
Approx members: 13
Number of meetings per year: 12

Nicholson Primary School Council
Approx members: 8
Number of meetings per year: 8

Swan Reach Recreation Reserve Committee
Approx members: 9
Number of meetings per year: 4

Tambo Upper Hall Committee of Management
Tambo Upper Primary School

Nicholson Public Hall & Tennis Courts Management
Nicholson Primary School

Johnsonville Hall Committee of Management
Approx members: 9
Number of meetings per year: 6+

Rail Trail Committee of Management
Approx members: 9
Number of meetings per year: 4+

Mossiface/Tambo CFA

Twin Rivers Lions Club
Approx members: 18
Number of meetings per year: 12+

Nicholson Angling Club
Approx members: 56
Number of meetings per year: 12

Twin Rivers Community Group
Approx members: 19
Number of meetings per year: 12

Swan Reach Primary School Council
Approx members: 8
Number of meetings per year: 8

Tambo Upper Primary School Council
Approx members: 11
Number of meetings per year: 8

Nicholson Community Group

Twin Rivers Business & Tourism Association
Approx members: 13
Number of meetings per year: 12

Johnsonville CFA
Approx members: 35
Number of meetings per year: 52+

Swan Reach Kindergarten Parent Advisory Group
Approx members: 7
Number of meetings per year: 8

Nicholson Action Group
Approx members: 4

Harry Clues Memorial Park Committee of Management
Approx members: 10
Number of meetings per year: As required

Section 3: Implementing The Plan

Outcomes & Priorities

This section outlines the four outcomes the Twin Rivers community wants to achieve and their priority ideas. A separate Annual Action Plan accompanies this District Community Plan and will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Determining the Outcomes

A total of 118 ideas were harvested from the workshops and community survey to create an Ideas Bank for the community to draw upon (See page 34). The ideas were then refined to 16 interesting ideas. Work was done to define what each idea meant to the community and was then grouped into the four outcome areas: Healthy and Sustainable Environments, Prosperous Economy, Safe and Healthy Communities, Resilient and Connected Communities.

The community then identified the priorities that they would concentrate their energy and resources on for the first 12 months, from these interesting ideas. The amount of time, resources, skills, and availability were considered to ensure energy for existing ongoing group activities was retained.



Priority projects are represented with a star.

Working Together: Roles & Responsibilities

Not all ideas can be delivered by community, many ideas need the support of agencies (i.e. government land managers) and services (i.e. health providers). Each of the priority ideas have the roles and responsibilities identified:

- Where community can do it themselves;
- Where community and agencies partner together providing support, funding, resources or advocacy;
- Where agencies take the lead, keeping community informed about the when and how.

The remaining ideas were not chosen for work in the first 12 months of 2020. At the end of this period the DCRG will review the Annual Action Plan and decide whether to continue with the priority projects they are working on, or introduce additional projects from the interesting ideas already defined or the Ideas Bank.

Future Challenges & Opportunities

Whether it is change to the economy, environment or the community, the reality is that people will experience an increased rate and impact of change. The capacity of communities in East Gippsland to respond and adapt to these changes will be critical in order for them to achieve their vision for their communities and is the primary purpose of developing this District Community Plan. The results from the community survey provide insight into what people living in the district have seen as the past and future challenges and opportunities.

Top Challenges Past 10 years:

1. Fire
2. NBN
3. Healthcare
4. Traffic
5. Water Security, Environmental Sustainability, Ageing Population

Top Challenges Future 10 years:

1. Growing Population
2. Traffic
3. Transport
4. Ageing Population, Fire, Jobs
5. Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability

The survey results reflect the changes that this community has been through over the last 10 years and their growing awareness of their reliance on the natural environment and its sustainable management to secure their future prosperity.

Population Growth

The district has the second largest predicted population growth rate in East Gippsland. This will bring

with it the opportunity of new people with a variety of skills and ideas to contribute. The challenges include transport and access to services, land use, availability of jobs and a sense of community connection as the identity of the district evolves.

Community Facilities & Open Space

The people living in this district have consistently identified the importance of their open space and the Rail Trail, the natural environment and the remnant vegetation. The ability of residents to move safely within their 'place' provides health and safety outcomes. The Rail Trail is a significant link with open space that could provide this. The existing community facilities are important venues for social and community gatherings, however some do not meet the current standards expected of public facilities, e.g. appropriate toilets. Given the current and projected growth of the population, there is a need for Council and other land managers to review community facilities across the district, inclusive of open space amenity and provision of pedestrian infrastructure, to ensure that growth is well managed.

Road Safety

The management of traffic and road safety continues to be identified in this district. Significant road safety improvements have been made within the three townships over the last two years, however the speed zones into townships and the availability of pedestrian pathways in Nicholson and Johnsonville remain issues. The workshops undertaken with two local primary schools reinforced

the issues experienced by these vulnerable road users. Children and adults identified that the lack of pathways along key routes limits their ability to move around their communities and between townships.

Fire Risk

Fire risk remains a challenge for the district as identified by respondents to the community survey. As previously discussed, less than half of respondents felt they had access to information to prepare for and manage an unexpected event. A fire within the district in 2019 highlighted the community's vulnerability to the risk of fire.

Environmental Sustainability

Climate change and environmental sustainability were identified by survey respondents as a future challenge for the district. Given the local economy and the health and wellbeing of residents relies on the state of the natural environment, the need to retain and improve the health of the rivers and the surrounding vegetation is a priority. River health and access was one of the three top priorities that the community chose to work on from this plan.

Children & Young People in the District

Children and young people (0 – 25 years) make up almost one quarter (23%) of the population in the Twin Rivers District. Children and young people have much to offer the district and their involvement in coming up with and implementing ideas was encouraged and supported during the planning stage and now its implementation.



Outcomes & Priorities

Outcome 1. Healthy & Sustainable Environments

What this means to community:

| | |
|--|--|
| 1.1 Eradicate Litter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter along the roadside and river bank is currently an issue. |
| 1.2 Extension to Town Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safety during bushfire periods and deliver agricultural and economic benefits. |
| 1.3 Twin Rivers Community Group a Go-To group for all developers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a platform for a united community voice. Provide input into future development opportunities to ensure that they align with the vision and values of the district. |
| <p>★</p> <p>1.4 River health & improved access to the river (including shade, swimming platforms, jetties, ramps & access for all)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health of the Tambo River has been identified as moderate which is of concern. The rivers are vital to both the tourism industry and the lives of the residents. Improving river health and access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourages people to come to the district for recreation and boosts the local economy. Improves the experience for local residents who rely on the rivers for swimming health and wellbeing and other recreational activities. Identify local swimming spots across the district and ensure access is protected and improved. |
| Roles and Responsibilities | |
| What community does | What community and partner agencies do together |
| Continue with existing work on riverbanks led by local Landcare groups, establishment of Working Group to generate an action plan (July 2019) and scope river access & facilities. | Build on existing relationships, access and ensure the river health data is up to date, report/disseminate the data. |
| | What agencies do |
| | Gain agreement/define role of agencies (EGCMA, DELWP, Council) and other agencies to participate and support action plan. |



Tree planting in Nicholson 2014

Outcome 2. Prosperous Economy

What this means to community:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2.1 A strong local Food Economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides benefits to local residents to be able to access local fresh produce as well as economic benefits to the businesses in the district. (i.e. Food & Wine Trail) |
| 2.2 Events in the district that provide economic benefit to businesses and the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ongoing capacity and support for the events that attract visitors to the district. Bream Classic & SkyFest -Twin Rivers Business & Tourism Association events Other local events organised by community groups such as the Johnsonville Dance & Swan Reach Bi-Annual School Fair |



Food stall at New Year's Eve in Nicholson, 2017

Outcome 3. Safe & Healthy Communities

What this means to community:

| | |
|---|--|
| 3.1 80km speed limit on all feeder roads within the district | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current speed limits are not adhered to by drivers. Reducing speed limits on feeder roads to townships would improve safety for children, pedestrians and cyclists who use the roads where there are no footpath alternatives. |
| 3.2 Emergency management including bushfire (Education & Clean up) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is essential that there is a coordinated approach to reduce risks and management incidents. |
| 3.3 Improved healthcare options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district has an ageing population and there is significant growth projected which will increase the healthcare needs across the district. Visiting services and a GP within the district would benefit the community, as would a community bus/car system to help people make appointments. |
| 3.4 Road safety improvements-Completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides safe pedestrian access and addresses challenges created by the volume of traffic on the Princes Highway which passes through the district. |
| 3.5 Accessible toilet at Johnsonville Hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an accessible toilet for residents utilising the hall for events and meetings and for tourists in the town centre, which may encourage tourists to stop. |



Swan Reach Kinder
walk to school day 2017

Outcome 4. Resilient & Connected Communities

What this means to community:

| 4.1 Create a sense of community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With many residents going outside of the district for work, leisure and sport there are currently limited opportunities for residents to come together, have fun and connect. | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|------------------|--|---|--|
| 4.2 Johnsonville Hall upgrades (Maintenance & upgrades) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the only hall which is large enough for community to come together and is considered the public hall for the district. Provide a central place for townships across the district to meet. | | | | | | |
| ★ 4.3 Community Hub / Men's Shed / Community Garden Precinct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will provide a central place for community to come together providing both social and health benefits. There are currently limited spaces and opportunities across the district for residents to come together. | | | | | | |
| Roles and Responsibilities | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>What community does</th> <th>What community and partner agencies do together</th> <th>What agencies do</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Form a new Working Group/Committee (July 2019), collect the evidence to support the case, identify potential sources of land and negotiate.</td> <td>Define the purpose and role of the Hub Gain agreement and define the role of agencies in supporting the development of the Hub</td> <td>DELWP (current Johnsonville hall land manager) Men's Shed Association (support and advocacy) Council (facilitation, planning support and advocacy) DHHS (support)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | What community does | What community and partner agencies do together | What agencies do | Form a new Working Group/Committee (July 2019), collect the evidence to support the case, identify potential sources of land and negotiate. | Define the purpose and role of the Hub Gain agreement and define the role of agencies in supporting the development of the Hub | DELWP (current Johnsonville hall land manager) Men's Shed Association (support and advocacy) Council (facilitation, planning support and advocacy) DHHS (support) |
| What community does | What community and partner agencies do together | What agencies do | | | | | |
| Form a new Working Group/Committee (July 2019), collect the evidence to support the case, identify potential sources of land and negotiate. | Define the purpose and role of the Hub Gain agreement and define the role of agencies in supporting the development of the Hub | DELWP (current Johnsonville hall land manager) Men's Shed Association (support and advocacy) Council (facilitation, planning support and advocacy) DHHS (support) | | | | | |
| ★ 4.4 Connecting pathways within townships & between for shared use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability for community members to move safely within their townships. The existing Rail Trail does not connect the three townships in Twin Rivers. Connected towns would improve safety for children to get around the community and encourage people to walk, cycle and get out into nature. | | | | | | |
| Roles and Responsibilities | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>What community does</th> <th>What community and partner agencies do together</th> <th>What agencies do</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Understand existing plans for the district, conduct a needs assessment utilising the work/evidence gathered through past projects, set up a Working Group, create a staged action plan (July 2019)</td> <td>Build on existing relationships (Council, RRV) to identify key connections and identify delivery opportunities.</td> <td>Gain agreement/define role of agencies to build shared use pathways.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | What community does | What community and partner agencies do together | What agencies do | Understand existing plans for the district, conduct a needs assessment utilising the work/evidence gathered through past projects, set up a Working Group, create a staged action plan (July 2019) | Build on existing relationships (Council, RRV) to identify key connections and identify delivery opportunities. | Gain agreement/define role of agencies to build shared use pathways. |
| What community does | What community and partner agencies do together | What agencies do | | | | | |
| Understand existing plans for the district, conduct a needs assessment utilising the work/evidence gathered through past projects, set up a Working Group, create a staged action plan (July 2019) | Build on existing relationships (Council, RRV) to identify key connections and identify delivery opportunities. | Gain agreement/define role of agencies to build shared use pathways. | | | | | |

Ideas Bank



Swan Reach Pasture Field
Day 2016

Housing, Planning & Regulation

- The way the Bushfire Management Overlay impacts us
- Balance between quiet and growth
- High quality, large block size subdivisions and careful zoning
- Bushfire management - cleanup roadside undergrowth
- Climate Change
- Co-housing options
- Better housing mix

Community, Recreation, Entertainment & Events

- Community events
- Connectedness
- Creating a sense of community in each village
- More activities
- More involvement in community groups
- Community garden
- Clubs for young people e.g. pony club, art shack, motocross track, skate park, sports, gaming centre
- Cinema
- Music events
- River events
- A great playground in the district
- A waterslide
- Improve fishing opportunities
- Improvement to the Nicholson River Reserve providing shade and swimming platforms, jetties and ramps for access for all
- Sports stadium
- River to land access for kids
- Puppy park/dog off leash area, more dog drink bowls and water fountains for humans
- Sensory garden

Economy & Employment

- Employment opportunities
- Commercial precinct
- Boat cruises and water mobility hire
- More places to eat different cuisines

Education

- Educate public to eradicate litter from the landscape.
- Focusing on rural school education/small schools
- Consolidated Schooling
- High School

Environment

- Clean air and water
- Environmental restoration
- Health of the Gippsland Lakes
- Clean up all sides of Council roads

Health & Services

- Better services - such as green waste collection and post delivery
- Better services for people with disabilities
- Extension of town water to rural areas
- Public Transport
- Community transport
- Health & wellbeing services
- Improved healthcare options
- Bush Nurse/Medical Centre

Infrastructure

- A central community centre for Swan Reach
- A men's shed for the Twin Rivers district
- Better roads, reserves and walking tracks around the new subdivisions with connecting track networks including school footpaths

- Better street lighting
- Bird feeders
- Boat ramp for Swan Reach
- Development of a Twin Rivers Community Hub/Health Centre/ Meeting rooms/community garden/activity centre/public garden area
- Disability toilet at Johnsonville Hall - centre of town
- Easy access to a RV stop with free dumping point
- Footpaths & riverside boardwalks
- Improve Streetscape/public open space to create sense of ownership.
- Better parking
- Put picnic table sets with shelters to protect from sun along Tambo River
- Upgrade public toilets
- Increased accommodation (public & commercial)
- Walking & bike tracks upgrade
- Better technology/State of the art internet
- Pool/water park
- Basketball court
- Gymnasium stadium
- Bike tracks connecting the communities
- New playground at the river for ALL ages
- Water park
- A maze
- Flying Fox off the bridge/Jump Deck
- Indoor basketball courts

Promotion

- Advertise the facilities we already have
- Improved signage of district/ common logo for Twin Rivers in all towns

District Community Representative Group

A District Community Representative Group (DCRG) provides a means for implementing the District Community Plan. The Twin Rivers Community Group (TRCG) worked on the previous Community Plan. The development of a new Plan provided the opportunity to review the role of a representative group. The TRCG wanted to be the DCRG for the new Plan. This would require some change, with an expanded membership inclusive of all community groups from the district. Council agreed to work alongside the TRCG to assist the expansion and development of the group, and working groups.

The purpose of the TRCG is to drive the District Community Plan by:

- Taking carriage of the Plan
- Being a united credible voice for the district - represent the district/play an advisory role
- Performing a coordinating role
- Having strategic discussions
- Managing the Ideas Bank
- Not interfering with existing groups

The following standards of behaviour were developed to reflect the values the community wish to realise, and how they will work together to implement the Plan:

- Work together respectfully
- Have an open-mind
- Ensure everyone has a voice
- Act with integrity and honesty

The TRCG includes representation of the community groups across the district as well as geographic and demographic representation. The following groups were represented on the TRCG in 2019:

- Swan Reach School Council
- Nicholson Landcare
- Swan Reach Kindergarten Parent Advisory Group
- Harry Clues Reserve
- Twin Rivers Business and Tourism Association
- Johnsonville Hall Committee
- Johnsonville CFA
- Mossiface/Tambo CFA
- Twin Rivers Lions Club
- Rail Trail Committee

The following active groups were invited to nominate a representative to participate on the TRCG in June/July 2019:

- Tambo Upper School Council
- Nicholson School Council
- Lower Tambo Landcare
- Nicholson Angling Club
- District Community Plan Working Group Conveners

Working Groups

Working Groups are established to deliver the priority projects.

Working Groups will have representation on the TRCG and may include partner agencies and others in the community. The Working Groups will utilise information and data collected from the Plan, to inform the scope of their work, priorities and actions. The role of a Working Group is:

- Do the doing
- Report back to the representative group and to work within the brief
- Don't expand the brief beyond the Annual Action Plan
- Make recommendations about changes to approach or the brief

Annual Action Plan

An action plan will be developed to outline the key projects and areas of focus. The Working Groups will develop the action plan for each priority idea. The action plan will outline:

- Partners/stakeholders
- Steps and actions
- Timing
- Who is responsible and the roles of different agencies or community.

It will then be reviewed and accepted by the TRCG. A report card will be used to provide a way of measuring achievements.

"A cohesive group to achieve the suggested plans"

Local Resident

"More diversity in our Twin Rivers Community Group – Young people, ethnicity, Aboriginal community"

Local Resident

Contact us in person

Bairnsdale: 273 Main Street

Lakes Entrance: 18 Mechanics Street

Mallacoota: 70 Maurice Avenue

Omeo: 179 Day Avenue

Orbost: 1 Ruskin Street

Paynesville: 55 The Esplanade

Bendoc: 18 Dowling Street

Buchan: 6 Centre Road

Cann River: 13 Princes Highway

Front Cover Image:

Swan Reach Primary School Fair 2017

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