

**STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2019 - 2023**



STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND ACTION GROUP INC

STRATHBOGIE TABLELAND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2023

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Executive Summary

Between February and June 2019, the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG) reviewed progress on our current Community Action Plan, gathered information and suggestions from local community groups and conducted community consultation sessions to identify actions to further strengthen and develop our community.

The result is the attached Strathbogie Tableland Community Action Plan 2019-2023 (pages 7-8), which builds on previous achievements, and capitalises on the skills and capacity within the Strathbogie Tableland community. This Plan, which aligns with strategies identified in the Strathbogie Shire Council Plan, was circulated throughout the wider community for feedback during July 2019.

Along with the initiatives to be undertaken by the community, the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group Committee believes the following are priorities for Council action and resource commitment:

- Establishment of a diesel fuel distribution point located at the Recreation Reserve
- Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve building improvements
- Construction of a footpath from Main Street to the Recreation Reserve
- Completion of the Spring Creek Reserve shelter furnishings, disabled access and landscaping
- Roadworks associated with Spring Creek Reserve, to ensure safety of visitors, improved traffic management and parking.

Introduction

Strathbogie Tableland Action Group (STAG) was one of the first Action Groups established by Strathbogie Shire Council (SSC) in 2005 under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989. In 2017, the Council introduced a new Community Planning Program, and while the legal status of Action Groups has changed and they have a new title (Community Planning Reference Groups), their responsibilities are much the same:

To provide feedback and advice to Council on the following objectives:

- Represent the community through a democratic process of open, community planning sessions and the development of a Community Plan
- Implement actions which are identified in the Community Plan which strengthen and develop communities
- Advocate on behalf of the community to other government agencies for appropriate funding for initiatives identified by communities

(Strathbogie Shire Community Planning Program Guidelines - July 2017)

Community Planning Process for 2019-2023

Background

Since 2005, in partnership with the Tableland community, STAG has developed, reviewed and revised our Action Plans on several occasions, and much has been achieved in the past fourteen years. Under the most recent Community Action Plan (2015-19) some key achievements include:

- Streetscape planning and improvements – Hall painted; landscaping; Telstra exchange mural; public toilet signage; Christmas decorations
- New facilities at the Recreation Reserve – pizza oven; shelter for oven and children's picnic table (soon to be completed); planning for diesel distribution point
- New facilities at the Memorial Hall – fans and insulation; defibrillator; photocopier
- Improvements at Polly McQuinn's – picnic facilities, signage, traffic exclusion
- Footpath from Magiltan Drive to Spring Creek Reserve.

(See Appendix 1)

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With each review of the Action Plan the community revisited and reaffirmed its vision and community values.

Community Vision

- A peaceful rural community based around the township of Strathbogie and surrounding lifestyle and productive rural properties.
- A cohesive community that draws on the experience and talents of both its longstanding and newer residents to work together for the benefit of the whole community
- A community with a strong sense of pride and celebration

Community Values

The community values the natural environment, particularly the lack of development and traffic and the strong community life of the Tableland: the safety, the diversity, the opportunities to participate and being made to feel welcome. It is also very proud of its history.

Information gathering

Project Team - The STAG Committee has acted as the Project Team throughout the planning process. The Committee is made up of representatives from key local community groups, including: Memorial Hall Committee; Recreation Reserve Committee; Communications Committee; Country Fire Authority; Landcare; Golf Club; Bogart (Arts Group). This provides a direct link to these groups to identify and prioritise projects, as well as opportunities for collaboration.

Local demographics – 2016 Census data shows that the total population of the Strathbogie township and surrounds is 304. A number of other demographic characteristics have informed the community planning process:

- A large proportion of residents are over the age of 60 (38.2%), compared with the Victorian average (21.0%). The median age is 54.
- By contrast, there are significantly less children, adolescents and young adults than the state average.
- The percentage of single person households, i.e., people living on their own, was 39.1%, much higher than the total Victorian figure of 24.7%.
- Less than half the Tableland population is 'in the labour force' (full/part time/seeking employment).
- The majority of Strathbogie residents were born in Australia (77.2%), with the most common other country of birth being England (5.9%) – 88.3% of people speak only English at home.
- No residents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Community Directory – In 2018 STAG updated the *Strathbogie Tableland Community Directory*. This project provided timely information about changes in our resident population; those leaving the Tableland and more importantly, newcomers with whom to engage.

Community Consultation and Engagement

A Community Action Planning Workshop was held on February 24th 2019. This was widely promoted by STAG Committee members via their networks and advertised via existing communication channels, including the Tableland Talk Newsletter and BogieTree email group.

People who were unable to attend were invited to submit their ideas in writing prior to the meeting or send them along with a delegate. Suggestions needed to meet the following criteria: be executed within the Shire; have community support; have human resources available to progress them; and be achievable.

Over thirty community members attended the workshop – more than 10% of the Tableland population. The session ran in a brainstorming format. Ideas submitted were always constructive and often met with thoughtful discussion. These were then written up on whiteboards along with the names of those involved. (See Appendix 2 for full list). A follow up meeting to further prioritise projects was held on May 19th.

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Plan for Implementation

STAG receives funding from Council each year to put towards annual priorities identified from the Community Action Plan. STAG also makes submissions to Council for inclusion of larger projects in its Annual Budget.

In addition, community groups (other than STAG) can apply for funds under the Council's Community Grants and Small Projects Grants schemes. STAG provided support to a number of applicants in the 2019/20 Community Grants round. STAG also distributes information about other non-Council funding opportunities when available, and can provide support to community members who apply for grants.

Some community groups or community members require no further resources, other than volunteer time and commitment, to get their projects up and running. STAG can support these activities in a number of ways including promotion of events on the community website and in Tableland Talk, and liaison with Council if required.

Emergency Circumstances

It may be necessary from time to time for the Action Group to suspend projects on the Action Plan because of an emergency that has occurred within the community or region. The emergency must be of a significant community nature that requires broad community action as a priority above all other actions.

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Community Action Plan

Strathbogie Tableland Community Actions are aligned with the strategies identified in the Strathbogie Shire Council Plan (SSCP). See also Appendix 1.

SSCP Goal 1	To enhance community health and wellbeing
SSCP Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Plan for improved community health, wellbeing and liveability</i> - <i>Engage and participate with the community in Council / Community initiatives</i> - <i>Enhance community resilience including supporting and increasing the participation of volunteers</i> - <i>Support and drive community, arts and cultural events</i>
Related Strathbogie Tableland Community Actions	<p>Provide a welcoming environment for newcomers and promote social inclusion and volunteer opportunities by supporting a range of community interest groups and regular community events.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History Group - digital scanning - Bogart - Arts Festival and events - SCOFF (Strathbogie Community of Food Finders) - Events at Recreation Reserve, Golf Club and Memorial Hall - Landcare activities - CPR and First Aid training
	<p>Ensure ready access to information about community events and resources and other topics of interest, by supporting effective communication channels, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tableland Talk monthly newsletter - Community website: www.strathbogie.org - Bogie Tree email group - Main St information display board
	<p>Encourage greater participation in volunteer activities and more diverse representation on community committees, e.g., more women and young people</p>
	<p>Identify opportunities for greater integration between school and community initiatives</p>
SSCP Goal 2	To sustainably manage our natural and built environment
SSCP Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Promote and support sustainable environmental initiatives</i> - <i>Mitigate and adapt to a changing climate</i> - <i>Protect and enhance our natural environmental assets</i> - <i>Protect and enhance our built environment</i> - <i>Provide efficient and effective waste management programs</i>
Related Strathbogie Tableland Community Actions	<p>Work with relevant authorities to extend, improve and maintain the Bridge to Bridge walking track to include Spring-Magiltan Creek and Seven Creeks Wildlife Reserve Trail</p>
	<p>Make submission to Council re increasing kerbside waste collection</p>
	<p>Undertake ongoing emergency planning and monitoring initiatives</p>

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SSCP Goal 3	To provide quality infrastructure
SSCP Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Provide best practice management of all assets including roads, bridges and facilities</i> - <i>Provide passive and active recreational facilities</i>
Related Strathbogie Tableland Community Actions	Upgrade Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve facilities
	Undertake a range of infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Footpath from Main Street to Recreation Reserve - Roadworks at Recreation Reserve - Pedestrian bridge at old Armstrong Ave bridge site - Toilet facilities at Strathbogie Cemetery
	Provide community input to Council re the completion of the Spring Creek Reserve shelter to include furnishings, disabled access, indigenous naming, improved traffic management and parking to ensure the safety of visitors and reinstatement of native vegetation
	Upgrade and maintain equipment at the Memorial Hall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update audio visual equipment - Install Wifi - Maintain defibrillator
	Advocate for improved road conditions on the Tableland, including bicycle lanes
SSCP Goal 4	To support and drive economic development
SSCP Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Promote and support local business and produce</i> - <i>Support tourism and business development</i> - <i>Provide innovative and sustainable land use planning</i> - <i>Attract new residents</i> - <i>Grow investment and employment opportunities</i>
Related Strathbogie Tableland Community Actions	Work with relevant authorities to establish a diesel fuel distribution point located at the Recreation Reserve
	Provide publicly accessible potable water source in Main Street
	Investigate the feasibility of developing camping facilities at the Golf Course
	Finalise unique township entry signs
	Promote Tableland Tracks and Trails as tourist attractions
Install bicycle racks in Main Street Strathbogie	

Appendix 1

Strathbogie Tableland Action Group – Summary of activities 2015-2019 and planned for 2019-2023

Activities / Projects	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Recreation Reserve:								
Cover for verandah	X							
Construction of Rec Ground pizza oven			X					
Diesel fuel distribution point planning and management			X	X	X	X	X	X
Construction of shelter for pizza oven and children’s picnic table				X	X			
Rec Ground pizza night kids sports						X		
Rec Ground roadworks					X	X	X	
Memorial Hall:								
Defibrillator installation and training	X							
Insulation installation	X							
Defibrillator checking at Hall and Golf Club				X	X	X	X	X
Public potable water point in Main Street					X	X		
Update Hall AV equipment					X			
Install Wifi at Hall					X	X		
Upgrade Hall driveway					X	X		
Improve access when functioning as polling booth				X				
Spring Creek Reserve:								
Footpath Magiltan Drive to Spring Creek Reserve	X	X						
Spring – Magiltan Creek walking track (<i>Bridge to Bridge</i> extension)			X	X	X	X		
Spring Creek Reserve indigenous naming				X	X			
Spring Creek Reserve shelter and furnishings				X	X	X		
Spring Creek Reserve traffic management, parking					X	X	X	X
Infrastructure - other								
Streetscape planning and improvements	X	X	X					
Hall painted and fans installed		X						
Photocopier purchased		X						
Telstra exchange mural			X					
Polly McQuinn’s improvements		X	X					
Lobby for improved roads, including bike lanes		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Christmas decorations		X	X					

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Activities / Projects	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Public toilet direction signs				X				
Unique Township entry signs				X	X	X		
Submission re footpath from Main Street to Rec Ground		X	X	X	X	X		
Seven Creeks Wildlife Reserve Trail Development (<i>B to B ext</i>)			X	X	X	X		
Bundle Rec Ground and Hall improvements (buildings)					X	X		
Toilet block at cemetery						X	X	
Pedestrian bridge at old Armstrong St bridge site						X		
Submission re increasing kerbside waste collection					X			
Golf Club								
Reciprocal Golf Club and STAG Committee delegate				X				
Camping at Golf Club (feasibility study)					X			
Rambling style trails including golf course					X	X		
Community engagement and events								
www.strathbogie.org website and Tableland Talk	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sports activities	X							
Community / Seniors lunches		X	X					
Emergency planning – Personal Fire Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Display case update, maintenance and sharing				X	X	X	X	X
Update Community Directory				X				
Digitalise historical photos and documents – afternoon tea event					X			
Local interviews: documenting, archiving, presenting					X	X		
Spring Arts Festival (incorporating <i>Strathbogie has SPOKEN</i>)				X	X		X	
Regular events: guest speakers/dinner/music/entertainment				X	X	X	X	X
Draft Kids engagement policy					X			
Our Bogie Backyard: School/community integration				X	X	X		
Recruit women and youth to community committees				X	X	X	X	X
Tracks and Trails catalogue, write ups and improvement					X	X	X	X
Run First Aid courses				X	X	X	X	X

Appendix 2

Suggested Projects from Community Action Planning Workshop 24th Feb 2019
Digitalise historical photos
Public potable water point in Main St
Arts Festival
Update Hall AV equipment
Footpath to Rec Ground
New Township signs
Shelter furnishings
Unnamed Council Reserve at Spring Creek indigenous naming
Annual public & School events of "Strathbogie has SPOKEN"
Our Bogie Backyard: School/Community/Landcare integration
Public toilet direction signs
Reciprocal Golf Club and STAG Committee delegate
Defibrillator checking at Hall and Golf Club
Display case update sharing
Monthly / second monthly guest speakers with dinner / entertainment utilising various township venues – organise across local groups
www.strathbogie.org maintenance and update
Track & Trails development, catalogue / write ups
Diesel fuel pump
Kids engagement policy
Local interviews: documenting, archiving and presenting
Bundle Recreation Ground & Hall improvements
Recruit women & youth to Community Committees
Facilitate how to meet people: new resident visitations, pamphlets, meet your neighbour night
Bike lane marking and road widening / better shoulders
Blacksmith skills
Spring Creek Reserve traffic management, parking, slip lane
AEC and VEC use whole Hall to improve access
Rec Ground Pizza Oven & playground shelter
List of First Aid trained community members
Hall wi fi
Camping at Golf Club or Rec Ground
Rambler style trails including golf course
Engage visiting schools in local projects
Main St CFA Shed as Men's Shed
Toilet block at cemetery
Rec Ground pizza night kids sport (Thursdays)
Choral Singers workshop