



# CARISBROOK & DISTRICT OUR COMMUNITY 2030



# OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

## **The Carisbrook & District Community Plan 2030 sets out the community’s vision for the next ten years.**

Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community’s voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in October 2019 and was completed in April 2020.

Residents in and around Carisbrook and district were invited to share their input into the planning process in a variety of ways:

- an online survey
- community postcards
- a drop in session
- listening posts
- a focus group
- children’s drawing activities
- roving interviews
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Carisbrook & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government).

This project was delivered with funding from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund.



## OUR VISION

**In 2030 Carisbrook & district will be:**

**A strongly connected, safe, active, healthy and sustainable community that cherishes and maintains its heritage and history and natural environment, has well-maintained and functioning infrastructure and a flourishing local economy.**

# OUR TOWN

**Carisbrook is located 7 kilometres from Maryborough, 40 kilometres from Castlemaine and 163 kilometres north west from Melbourne.**

Carisbrook, on the Tullaroop creek has a number of local assets: a recreation reserve, a primary school, tennis courts, a harness racing club, post office, churches, general store, pub, service station, a cafe and local newspaper.

Carisbrook has many historical sites of note today such as the bluestone gutters, the log police lock-up and the Carisbrook Anglican Church.

## Our History

Carisbrook provided services to miners during the gold rush era. The first store opened in 1853 and an Anglican church and school began in 1855. There were bakeries, a brewery, a flour mill, four hotels, brickyards and several stores when Carisbrook was proclaimed a borough on 7 August 1857.

Matilda (Tilly) Aston (1873-1947), blind writer and teacher, was born in Carisbrook, living there until 1882 when she enrolled as a boarder at the Melbourne School for the Blind. There is a cairn in Carisbrook commemorating Tilly Aston.

On 1 October 1915, when the borough’s population was fewer than 1000, it was united with Tullaroop shire and in 1995 with Central Goldfields Shire.



“Neighbours are kind and helpful to each other.”

“The lack of full-time employment makes people move to look for work.”

“We have good facilities – sports, school services, café, pub.”

# CENSUS SNAPSHOT



## POPULATION: 1115

- Male: 50.1%
- Female: 49.9%
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people: 0.4% (Victoria 0.8%)



## AGE

- Median age in Carisbrook 44 years (Victoria 37 years)
- Children aged 0-14 years made up 20.7% of the population (Victoria 18.3%)
- 17.9% of the population are aged 65 years and over (Victoria 15.6%)



## DWELLINGS: 488

- 13.7% of dwellings were unoccupied (Victoria 11.7%)
- Median rent: \$165/week (Victoria: \$325)



## HOUSEHOLDS

- 71.9% were family households
- 24.5% (104 people) were living in single person households (Victoria 24.7%)
- 3.5% were group households
- 4.1% of households had no car



## EMPLOYMENT

- 53.7% worked full-time (Victoria 57%)
- 35.9% worked part-time (Victoria 31.4%)
- 6.4% were unemployed (Victoria 6.6%)
- 4.1% were away from work (Victoria 4.9%)



## INCOME

- In Carisbrook 30.6% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (Victoria 20.3%) and 3.7% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 (Victoria 15.5%)



## INTERNET

- 21.3% of households in Carisbrook did not have access to internet at home (Victoria 13.6%)

## IN CARISBROOK & DISTRICT WE LOVE...

- The people
- Sense of community
- Great local assets and facilities
- Local primary school
- Country/rural living
- The central location
- History and heritage
- The natural environment
- Community safety
- Small country town
- Train service

## KEY ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Ageing community
- Access to health care services
- Flood mitigation
- Maintaining heritage
- Transportation
- Climate change
- Lack of activities for children and young people
- Council governance
- Community and Council partnerships
- Equitable access to resources/funding
- Maintaining community infrastructure
- Volunteering



# OUR KEY PRIORITIES

- 1 **OUR COMMUNITY**
- 2 **OUR ECONOMY**
- 3 **OUR ENVIRONMENT**  
(BUILT & NATURAL)
- 4 **OUR LEADERSHIP**

# OUR COMMUNITY

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### STRONG SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND TOWN PRIDE

1. Hold regular community events and activities focussed on strengthening community connections.
2. Offer regular recreational and social activities for children and young people: explore rotating activities throughout the Shire with community bus support.
3. Seek funding for the development of a 'Carisbrook Town App' where community and visitors can access information on news, events, contacts for local groups, visitor and shop-local information.
4. Seek funding for the development of a community garden in Carisbrook.
5. Plan local activities such as 'tidy towns' and 'Clean up Australia' that will increase community pride in Carisbrook & district.

### A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

1. Work together with health service providers to increase visiting health and doctor services and health promotion/group activities for residents (especially for ageing residents, women and those that are isolated or under-resourced).
2. Explore community transport models that could better support ageing and isolated residents with their medical needs e.g. 'community Uber'.
3. Advocate for quality GP and health and wellbeing service access (e.g. mental health and drug and alcohol services) in Central Goldfields Shire.
4. Offer a range of free recreation activities for residents in Carisbrook.
5. Seek funding to install water bubble taps/water stations around town.
6. Develop an arts precinct with local arts/cultural activities.
7. Seek funding for the installation of outdoor exercise equipment in Carisbrook.
8. Seek funding for the re-development/restoration of the town hall as a multi-use 'community centre' with community house, visiting health clinic rooms, exercise classes, recreation and social activities and a community garden.

### CELEBRATION AND PROMOTION OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE

1. Update heritage information boards in Carisbrook.

"I've been here for seven years and still have to travel out of town to see a GP because none of the doctors in Maryborough are taking new patients."

# OUR ECONOMY

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY

1. Conduct annual events that will bring tourism into Carisbrook.
2. Develop tourism route opportunities locally (e.g. heritage, culture, food, agriculture) and promote Carisbrook as a tourism destination.
3. Expand opportunities for agriculture-based tourism e.g. paddock to plate, farmgate, markets etc.
4. Seek funding for a dump-point and work together to make Carisbrook an RV friendly town.

### VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Investigate opportunities for more local employment opportunities, including jobs for people with special needs.
2. Explore the viability of renewable energy and sustainability projects e.g. solar and renewable energy.
3. Investigate ways to attract new industry to Carisbrook that could increase local employment opportunities.
4. Advocate for more frequent and reliable rail services and accessible transportation.
5. Strengthen ‘shop-local’ and ‘source local’ support for local businesses in Carisbrook.

### POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Promote the liveability of Carisbrook and district.
2. Work together with Council to lessen red tape e.g. for planning and permit processes.
3. Create an overall town plan for new stages of urban expansion in Carisbrook.
4. Plan for housing that can accommodate the downsizing needs of ageing residents.

“The district’s historic building becoming more widely known, and the Carisbrook becoming part of a cultural tourism route, with food venues along the route.”

# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## (NATURAL & BUILT)

### SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Maintain, extend, connect and improve footpaths in Carisbrook.
2. Seek funding to extend walking and cycling path networks.
3. Seek funding for streetscape renewal in Carisbrook.
4. Seek funding for a skate park in Carisbrook.
5. Seek funding for a splash-park in Carisbrook.
6. Plan for water security and improved domestic water quality for Carisbrook and district.
7. Complete the funded recreation reserve building project.
8. Create a plan for the future development and promotion of the Brian Dowie Conservation Reserve, including investigating a free camp/caravan area.
9. Install recycling/rubbish bins in key areas of Carisbrook.
10. Work together with Council to maintain sport and recreation facilities in Carisbrook.
11. Seek funding to improve netball facilities in Carisbrook.
12. Maintain community buildings in Carisbrook so that they can continue to be used into the future.
13. Seek funding for an off-leash dog park in Carisbrook.
14. Review town signage in Carisbrook and update and improve where required.

### FLOOD MITIGATION

1. Work together with Council and key stakeholders to address flood mitigation needs in Carisbrook including installation of the levee, drainage and regular cleaning of the creek and drains.
2. Seek funding for the installation of a new bridge.

### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL HERITAGE

1. Work together with Council, Heritage Victoria and private owners to maintain, repair and manage heritage buildings and bluestone drains in Carisbrook.

### PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Seek funding for further development of the creek so it can be used more by community members and visitors
2. Develop a community advisory committee to create a locally relevant tree plan with Council for Carisbrook.
3. Explore climate action/drought initiatives including those that assist with community safety.

“Brian Dowie Reserve is a beautiful location, a great family outdoor space to develop and promote.”

“We need planning processes that support growth.”

“Total solar power, flash-flooding development, much more social housing.”



# OUR LEADERSHIP

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

1. Actively connect with Council's 'champion' for Carisbrook to ensure leadership and support from Council with the Carisbrook & District Community Plan and its identified community projects.
2. Actively lead the implementation of the Carisbrook & District Community Plan.
3. Develop and implement a local structure focussed on improving community decision making on local matters.
4. Advocate for equitable allocation of resources e.g. grant funding across the Central Goldfields Shire.
5. Create partnerships with industry, community organisations and all levels of government that have shared priorities with the Carisbrook Community Plan.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

1. Recognise, promote and support volunteers and actively encourage the involvement of new volunteers, especially younger and 'new' residents.
2. Encourage, support and build the capacity of local leaders in Carisbrook.
3. Develop and activate a process with Council for active support with grant-seeking and fund raising for local community groups.

"I would like more opportunities for volunteers to be recognised and celebrated."

"I'd like to see Council governance improvement and trust and transparent communication to build back respect."

"We need more community input into decision making – perhaps a more formal process such as a community committee that meets quarterly."

# PUTTING OUR PLAN INTO ACTION

## Implementation of the Carisbrook and District Community Plan will be led by the local community.

Central Goldfields Shire Council's 'Champion' for Carisbrook & district will attend meetings and offer guidance, advice and support wherever possible.

Relevant key stakeholders/project partners will be invited to work with the Carisbrook community on shared priorities.

An action plan template has been developed to assist with project planning and regular review of community priorities.

### Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in making Carisbrook and district an even better place to live in 2030 contact:

#### Manager Community Partnerships

Central Goldfields Shire Council  
(03) 5461 0610

