



# DUNOLLY & DISTRICT OUR COMMUNITY 2030



# OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

## The Dunolly & 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 Dunolly 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 post
- a focus group
- children's drawing activities
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Dunolly & 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 Dunolly & district will be:

**A sustainable,  
healthy, connected,  
economically viable  
and vibrant community  
that values and  
celebrates its history  
and heritage.**

# OUR TOWN

**Dunolly is located 24 kilometres from Maryborough and 182 kilometres north west from Melbourne.**

Dunolly has many assets that are important for the town and the surrounding district. **Physical assets** include the recreation reserve, bowls club, golf club, tennis courts, swimming pool, the Neighbourhood House and Arts Hub, the Senior Citizens building, the Rural Trans-action Centre, the RSL, CFA and the SES, The Historic Precinct, museum, Gordon Gardens and the Rene Fox garden are also significant public places.

**Community assets of** note include the preschool, primary school, post office, medical clinic, hospital and residential aged care facility. Dunolly and district has a number of **business assets** including the supermarket, garage, collectible shops, butcher, cafés/ eateries, pub, pharmacy, caravan park, motel, B&B’s and other small businesses.

The community groups and sporting clubs, and diverse cultural assets such as arts and craft groups, the weekly community newspaper, the historical society and churches also enrich the community.

## Our History

The Central Victorian town of Dunolly is located on the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung people who called the area Lea Kuribur.

During the Gold Rush of the 1850s, Dunolly and the surrounding district, more gold nuggets were discovered than anywhere else in Australia and became known as the “Golden Triangle”. Gold found in the area included the largest gold nugget in the world, the 69 kilogram “Welcome Stranger”, which was found in nearby Moliagul. A replica of the famous nugget can be seen at the Goldfields Historical and Arts Museum. The allure of gold still brings prospectors to Dunolly from far and wide trying to find their fortune.



“Dunolly is a comfortable, safe and friendly town with caring individuals.”

“We have magnificent heritage buildings here.”

The Dunolly Historic Precinct today incorporates a number of historic buildings: the 1884 town hall on Broadway and the 1863 courthouse, stables and lockup, and 1950s police station on Market Street.

# CENSUS SNAPSHOT

The Census snapshot data for Dunolly included below reflects the area in the map pictured (SSC-ABS Census area).



## POPULATION: 893

- Male: 51.5%
- Female: 48.5%
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people: 1.6% (Victoria 0.8%)



## AGE

- Median age in Dunolly is 57 years (Victoria 37 years)
- Children aged 0-14 years made up 11.8% of the population (Victoria 18.3%)
- 32.5% of the population are aged 65 years and over (Victoria 15.6%)



## DWELLINGS: 519

- 19.8% of dwellings were unoccupied (Victoria 11.7%)
- Median rent: \$153/week (Victoria: \$325)



## HOUSEHOLDS

- 51.8% were family households
- 43.9% (183 people) were living in single person households (Victoria 24.7%)
- 4.3% were group households
- 4.3% of households had no car



## EMPLOYMENT

- 45.3% worked full-time (Victoria 57%)
- 36.3% worked part-time (Victoria 31.4%)
- 13.7% were unemployed (Victoria 6.6%)
- 4.7% were away from work (Victoria 4.9%)



## INCOME

- In Dunolly 51.5% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (Victoria 20.3%) and 4% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 (Victoria 15.5%)



## INTERNET

- 29.7% of households in Dunolly did not have access to internet at home (Victoria 13.6%)



## IN DUNOLLY & DISTRICT WE LOVE...

- The friendly and caring people
- Small country town setting
- Community connections
- Good local facilities
- The central location
- Peace and quiet
- History and heritage
- The natural environment/bushland
- Community pride
- Safety
- Arts/cultural activities
- Local bakery

## KEY ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Ageing community
- Declining population
- Limited public transportation
- Climate change adaptability
- Poverty/disadvantage
- Access to health and wellbeing services
- Limited housing options
- Boredom
- Community leadership
- Lack of activities for young people
- Isolation
- Road upkeep/safety
- Attracting and retaining volunteers
- Support for local business



## 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 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Plan and deliver intergenerational activities/events and projects e.g. technology.
2. Hold regular community events/activities focussed on strengthening community connections.
3. Install a community notice board in Dunolly e.g. at the new library.
4. Welcome new residents to Dunolly and district.
5. Hold a yearly community 'Expo' to promote community services and groups to the wider community.
6. Offer social sports that aren't tied to formal competitions.
7. Offer arts/cultural workshops and activities for residents of all ages.

### A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

1. Develop a Dunolly service directory and promote to community members so that there is a stronger understanding of what is available for residents.
2. Encourage residents to drink tap water through the installation of bubble taps/water stations in Dunolly.
3. Advocate for adequate GP and health and wellbeing service access in Dunolly and in the Central Goldfields Shire.
4. Explore creative community transportation models that could be trialled in Dunolly.
5. Work with Council and health stakeholders to improve/increase service delivery for elderly residents so that they can be supported to live at home as long as possible. Review meals on wheels delivery barriers to improve access.
6. Advocate for extended pool hours in Dunolly: especially during extreme heat days.
7. Extend the offering of local sports (beyond football).
8. Explore ways to train more local residents in aged care support services.
9. Seek funding for a Men's Shed in Dunolly.
10. Identify heat retreat' and bushfire safety areas for residents on days of extreme heat and fire danger.

"If you are interested you will be welcomed and included in Dunolly."

"We need services so that our ageing community can age in place."

# OUR ECONOMY

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY

1. Install a caravan dump point and work together to make Dunolly an RV friendly town.
2. Promote and enhance tourism in Dunolly.
3. Review the available food outlets for weekend visitors and plan options to support in-creased access for visitors.
4. Explore the viability of a dedicated visitors information centre in Dunolly.
5. Plan an annual festival or event to attract tourists to Dunolly.

### VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Explore ways to increase support for local businesses e.g. shop local campaigns etc.
2. Advocate for high speed 5G internet services in Dunolly.
3. Explore the viability of having free town Wi-Fi in Dunolly.
4. Examine ways to attract new industry to Dunolly to build the economy and increase employment.
5. Explore solar/ renewable energy schemes that could make energy more affordable for residents.
6. Advocate for an easier and more efficient building permit process.
7. Advocate for improved public transportation services in Dunolly e.g. passenger rail, more community bus services.
8. Advocate for a business support officer position at Council to support business/economic development.

### POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Promote the liveability of Dunolly and district.
2. Explore initiatives to encourage new residents and business to move to Dunolly and district e.g. rate relief.
3. Develop a welcome refugee policy for Dunolly and district.
4. Build independent living housing in Dunolly to accommodate the needs of downsizing and single person residences (Independent Living Project).

“We need more infrastructure and investment in the region to encourage young people to stay in the area.”

“We need to make it attractive for businesses to start up in Dunolly.”

“Suitable housing for older town and district residents as proposed by the Independent Living Units Project.”

# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## (NATURAL & BUILT)

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

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

1. Complete the Dunolly Library Project so the community has access to good local library services.
2. Seek funding for new clubrooms/ community hub and playground at Deledio Reserve.
3. Improve accessibility for all abilities into buildings in Dunolly.
4. Seek funding for heating for the Dunolly pool.
5. Seek funding for the installation of air conditioning at the Town Hall.
6. Work together with Council to improve, extend and connect footpaths in Dunolly.
7. Explore the feasibility of creating mountain bike trails in Dunolly and district.
8. Install additional seating and tables in Gordon Gardens and Rene Fox Memorial Garden.
9. Seek funding for an additional public toilet facility in Dunolly.
10. Review community access to the Dunolly Town Hall and seek ways to increase community use.
11. Seek funding for the installation of lighting at the tennis courts.
12. Extend walking and bicycle and horse trails in Dunolly and district.
13. Upkeep roads to ensure safety, including grading of dirt roads e.g. Alice street where water stand-pipe is located.

#### STREETSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AND SIGNAGE

1. Update the streetscape and install new entrance signage in Dunolly.
2. Improve town and directional signage in Dunolly and explore adding speed limits on the road in Broadway.

#### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL HERITAGE

1. Review and plan for the future needs of the Dunolly Museum.
2. Protect, promote and maintain the history and heritage of Dunolly and district.

#### PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Examine ways to adapt to dry conditions and ensure access to good quality water for residents.
2. Explore innovative ideas for waste management e.g. recycling/reuse.
3. Advocate for the bush/bush activities to continue to be open and accessible for community members and visitors.

“Given the age of the population and the fact the park is used for the weekly food truck night, one table is not sufficient.”

“We need more footpaths around town for people and gophers, we shouldn’t have to go on the road.”

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

1. Actively connect with Council’s ‘champion’ for Dunolly to ensure leadership and support from Council with the Dunolly & District Community Plan and its identified community projects.
2. Strengthen leadership from Central Goldfields Shire with community development processes, governance and grant seeking.
3. Connect with other towns in the Shire who may have shared/common community planning goals/activities.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

1. Recognise, support and celebrate volunteers and actively encourage the creative involvement of new volunteers. Especially younger and ‘new’ residents.
2. Build young people’s leadership skills and experience through training, mentoring and involvement in community projects and initiatives.
3. Strengthen connections, communication and relationships between community groups in Dunolly and work together to avoid duplication.
4. Actively lead the implementation of the Dunolly & District Community Plan.
5. Source grant writing and governance training and support for community groups and volunteers.
6. Hold a yearly community dinner/get together/picnic for volunteers.

“Getting volunteers to run groups and events is a challenge.”

“Council project committees should be welcoming and have diverse membership including those with a disability.”

“Be transparent with community about what the Shire is doing and where money is spent.”

# PUTTING OUR PLAN INTO ACTION

## Implementation of the Dunolly and district Community Plan will be led by the local community.

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

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

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

### Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in making Dunolly & District an even better place to live in 2030 contact:

#### Manager Community Partnerships

Central Goldfields Shire Council  
(03) 5461 0610

