



Bannockburn Community Plan 2023-2027

About our Town: Bannockburn is in the south-east of the Golden Plains Shire and has an estimated population of 6,470 residents and 1,793 families (ABS, 2021). Bannockburn is situated around 22 kms northwest of Geelong and is easily accessible via the Midland Highway.

Originally a farming community, Bannockburn has experienced significant growth in recent years and comprises a mix of long-term residents and newcomers seeking a semi-rural lifestyle. While agriculture remains an important part of Bannockburn's economy, the township has diversified with the growth of residential developments and small businesses. Bannockburn offers a blend of rural lifestyle and modern amenities, making it an attractive place for those looking to enjoy a quieter pace of life while still being connected to larger urban centres.

Our Community Vision

Our vision for the Bannockburn is:

“A welcoming, safe and connected community that is inclusive and environmentally aware.”

Our Community Coordinators

Shona Eland, Beth Kershaw, Stuart McCallum, Andrew Milne, Peta Mundine, Wendy Pearmain, Derek Scott, and Cameron Steel. With support from Cathy Altmann, Doug Gadd, Amy Gray, Phil Hanan, Dawn McKenzie, Rod McKenzie, and Pat Rohan.

Start Date: August 2023

Finish Date: June 2024

Achievements From Our Previous Plan:

- A heritage brochure
- Claret and Golden Ash trees being planted in Milton Street
- Ironbark arbor with Indigenous art
- Higher profile for a bike trail to Teesdale

Working Together

Community Coordinators will continue to liaise with interested community members as we move into the implementation phase of the community planning process. We will attempt to identify and connect with individuals and community groups who would like to contribute towards the successful implementation of the priority projects over the next four years. This is a plan for everyone who lives, works, plays, and has a connection to Bannockburn.

What is the process for Community Planning?

Preparation to develop the plan commenced in August 2023 with four Community Coordinators coming forward to lead the process on behalf of the community. The Community Coordinators discussed improvement opportunities, ideas, and initiatives that might benefit the Bannockburn community over the next four years. Following this, the Bannockburn community was informed about the planning process and asked for feedback and ideas via an online and paper-based survey shared via Facebook, stand at Bannockburn Market (November 2023 and February 2024), flyers displayed by main street traders, newspaper article, and via communications networks. The community feedback was reviewed. Nine key priority projects were identified and considered for seed funding. The draft plan was then prepared and shared with the community for feedback before being finalised.



Bannockburn Key Priority Projects 2023-2027

A welcoming and vibrant Bannockburn

Activities proposed include: Creating beautiful and welcoming entrances. Themed signage that reflects our agricultural history. New public art installations, artwork, and seasonal decorations along the main street. Inter-generational gardening activities and colourful plantings.

Benefit to community: Increases sense of community pride, celebration, and involvement.

Project Partners: Council, local MPs, community groups, schools, and contractors.

Seed funding: \$2,000

Local program of activities and events

Activities proposed include: Creating a centralised list of local activities and events. Encouraging community groups and traders to arrange affordable, local, family-friendly activities including dining and nightlife options. Running family-friendly and youth activities.

Benefit to community: Supports the promotion of community activities and events and strengthens community connections.

Project Partners: Council, community groups (scouts, youth, and over 60 years), schools, traders, volunteers, and contractors.

Seed funding: \$1,300

Community newsletter for Bannockburn

Activities proposed include: Seeking expressions of interest for roles (such as editor, editorial committee, regular contributors, advertisers). Accessing known local expertise and networks (such as Leigh News and Meredith and District News). Produce editions (digital and print) on a pilot or trial basis with the aim of producing a regular edition.

Benefit to community: Increases community connectedness and capacity to promote local activities, services, groups, and businesses.

Project Partners: Council, local MP, local newsletter operators, community groups, local businesses, and contractors.

Seed funding: \$3,000

Marking our history and heritage

Activities proposed include: Installing markers such as plaques and signage to signify historical and significant sites throughout the town. Creating a centralised database of sites with key details to inform the signage wording and support access to additional information via QR code. Sites may involve arts trails, walking trails, historical or cultural sites, street names, or past community leaders.

Benefit to community: Provides information for visitors and creates a sense of community pride and legacy.

Project Partners: Council, neighbouring historical groups, local MPs, community groups, schools, and contractors.

Seed funding: \$2,000

Greening Bannockburn

Activities proposed include: Advocating to Shire for more greenery. Planting more gardens, shade trees, and greenery. Streetscape and garden areas being cared for by local volunteers of all ages and Council's maintenance team. Social interaction activity.

Benefit to community: Improves visual appearance and increases sense of community pride as well as volunteering and connection opportunities.

Project Partners: Council, Beautify Bannockburn Group, community groups, schools, volunteers, and contractors.

Seed funding: \$200

Advocacy – Movements around Bannockburn Central

Activities proposed include: Advocacy for improving the supermarket area and safer traffic movement in, out, and around the shopping precinct.

Benefit to community: Improves community access and safety and the appearance of the shopping precinct.

Project Partners: Council, Bannockburn shopping centre owners, and community.

Seed funding: \$Nil

This community plan has been developed by our community, for our community with support and assistance from Non Profit Training and Golden Plains Shire Council Officers.





Bannockburn Key Priority Projects 2023-2027

Advocacy – Public and community transport connections for Bannockburn

Activities proposed include:

Advocacy to increase access to rail, bus, community bus, small bus services, off-highway bike paths, and a rail trail. More frequent and regular transport services at convenient times and on demand. Pick-up and drop-off points at locations that increase connectivity into and from Bannockburn. Improve transport and cycling infrastructure to connect Bannockburn with Ballarat, Batesford, Geelong, Teesdale, and North Geelong. Access for people of all ages and abilities.

Benefit to community:

Improves access to public and community transport options. Encourages active transport and reduces reliance on private vehicles.

Project Partners:

Council, local MPs, Regional Roads Victoria, neighbouring townships, local transport services, volunteers, and community.

Seed funding: \$Nil

Advocacy – Facilities to support recreation vehicles and tourism

Activities proposed include:

Advocacy to explore allocating a space close to town that is recreation vehicle friendly, for camping and caravans with basic facilities such as shade, tables, and a sewage outlet. May be located near public toilet (such as High Street or Victoria Park), within walking distance of the shopping precinct. Access expertise from local operators. Suitable on-street parking with signage for large vehicles and vehicles towing a caravan or trailer.

Benefit to community:

Permits family members, visitors, and tourists to stop, stay, enjoy, and support the local traders.

Project Partners:

Council, other local operators (Smythesdale), and community groups.

Seed funding: \$1,000

Advocacy – Safer pedestrian movements

Activities proposed include:

Advocacy for better or more pedestrian crossings along and around High Street. This street accommodates a lot of traffic including heavy and large vehicles. Crossings to consider all-abilities, wheelchairs, scooters, and prams.

Benefit to community:

Improves accessibility and community safety.

Project Partners: Council, Regional Roads Victoria, local MPs, and community.

Seed funding: \$Nil