



Berringa & Staffordshire Reef Community Plan

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is a process that brings people together to consider issues and take action to improve their community. Community members develop a plan that outlines projects they will undertake to make their town a better place to live.

Golden Plains Shire Council supports Community Planning by providing a professional facilitator to assist communities through the process, as well as providing grants to help implement projects in the plan.

Currently 22 communities across the Shire are working to make their townships even better places to live through community planning. To learn more about community planning visit

<https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-community/community-services/community-planning>

Community Coordinators

Local residents known as Community Coordinators, volunteer their time to coordinate the development and implementation of a community plan for their community. The following community members are Community Coordinators for this Community Plan.

- Candice Willis** crwillis84@gmail.com 0410 922 511
- Gemma Willis** gemmaclwillis@gmail.com 0413 389 415
- Peter Willis** xwillispox@gmail.com 5378 1753 0401 955 844
- John McNabb** 5342 2245
- Terry Guy** tguy@westnet.com.au 5342 8210 0418 503 091

Please contact your Coordinators for more information about this plan or for the date of upcoming meetings that you are welcome to attend.

Date plan was adopted
November 2019

Plan start date
November 2019

Plan finish date
November 2022



Summary of previous achievements

Many residents and local partners have worked together to implement past Community Plans. Together they achieved a lot including:

- Improvements to road safety at a number of locations on the Staffordshire Reef and Derwent Jacks Roads
- Road widening and intersection work at Staffordshire Reef, Strickland and Jubilee Roads. This improvement is greatly appreciated by all road users.
- Historic marker displays at Jubilee Reef
- Fliers for tourists
- Community Meals

"We couldn't be prouder of Golden Plains Shire Community Coordinators, and everyone involved in community planning – they go above and beyond for their communities and they're a big reason why Golden Plains is such a great place to live and visit" **Cr Owen Sharkey, Mayor**



How was this Plan developed?

Initial efforts to develop this community plan started in August 2019 when the Berringa and Staffordshire Reef communities were asked for ideas and projects via a survey. On 8th September, a public meeting was held at the CFA station in Berringa to discuss and progress ideas gathered through the survey. This allowed over 30 Berringa and Staffordshire Reef residents (women, men and children) to contribute to development of this Community Plan. The plan was then refined at a meeting with the Community Coordinators and distributed via email to the public meeting attendees.

2019-2022 Community Plan Key Projects

Advocacy Projects

Project Outline:

A number of advocacy issues were raised at the community meetings. Of these, it was agreed there would be four streams of advocacy to meet these needs.

- **Mobile phone access** - to advocate for better reception so that the community can be connected and have equal opportunity for business and education afforded to those who have more reliable access across metro areas for example.
- **Waste** – explore options for bringing back past methods for cleaning up the Berringa and Staffordshire Reef areas such as a scrap metal bin, hosting a clean-up Australia day event to clean up the roadsides and an extra tip run for residents. This is to beautify the area for residents but also to create an inviting and safe environment for visitors. In addition, there is an environmental benefit to these projects that will last into the future of the area.
- **Berringa Hill** – seek resources to develop site as a picnic area.
- **[Roads** – as roads advocacy is so significant to the area, it has its own heading. Refer below.]



Heritage

Project Outline:

To continue efforts at building awareness of the significant history of the area through signage and cross community promotion. The importance of these projects includes the educational value of sharing knowledge passed down through the generations, social opportunities, a way to engage locals and visitors, as well as supporting local business. Heritage sites give further reason for people to visit the area as well as generating community pride.

- **Develop the “Staffordshire Reef Triangle”** – continue work of past plans to develop the Triangle, including plaques and information boards on local WW1 soldiers, a mural commemorating the mining history of the area, a picnic table and fencing for the historic oak tree.
- **History trail** – An opportunity to connect with other local history groups and organise day trips to significant sites in Berringa and Staffordshire Reef to share stories and keep the history alive.
- **Display panels** – Investigate name signs for gullies and creeks along Staffordshire Reef and Derwent jacks Rds.
 - Research details concerning a light plane crash that occurred in the area in the 1960’s including a possible sight marker at the Staffordshire Reef shelter.

SEED funding allocated to this project: \$4500

Community Fete

Project Outline:

To host a fun and creative event that brings the community and surrounds together. This event will be a reference to ‘The Berringa Reunions’, which were previously held as an opportunity for people who have since departed to return to the area. The Fete will celebrate the community and all it has to offer with a focus on local arts and music and an extended opportunity to sell wares from the Op Shop. There will also be a link with the History Trail and a possible unveiling of the WW1 plaques.

- Stalls from local artists
- Music
- New version of the Berringa reunion
- Food/BBQ
- History Trail
- Local business supported
- Local schools involved

SEED funding allocated to this project: \$3000

Community Meals

Project Outline:

Continue to work with Council’s Active Ageing and Disability Services team as well as other partners to pursue funding for community meals.

- Social connectivity
- Multiple health outcomes
- Pleasure, fun and enjoyment!

SEED funding allocated to this project: Nil

Disclaimer; If major changes to the Community Plan projects need to be made within the life of the plan, Coordinators will conduct public process before making these changes.

Road advocacy

Project Outline:

Liaise across the community so that Council hears ‘one voice’ with regard to the state of the roads, and community priorities. This will build on previous advocacy that has already increased safety on the roads. “We want to continue our **zero-fatality** record as well as make the area more accessible to visitors.”

Coordinators will endeavour to set up a meeting with GPS Roads team to discuss the many concerns of residents about the areas main access roads.

The priorities for roads are:

- Address potholes and edges on Derwent Jacks Rd and Staffordshire Reef Rd.
- Widen blind-corners on Staffordshire Rd
- Community education program regarding bin placement
- Reduce speed limits
- Address drainage and consider the use of mirrors at blind corners

SEED funding allocated to this project: Nil

(External funding will be sought for these projects.)

