



# Cape Clear, Illabarook, Rokewood Junction Community Plan 2013-15





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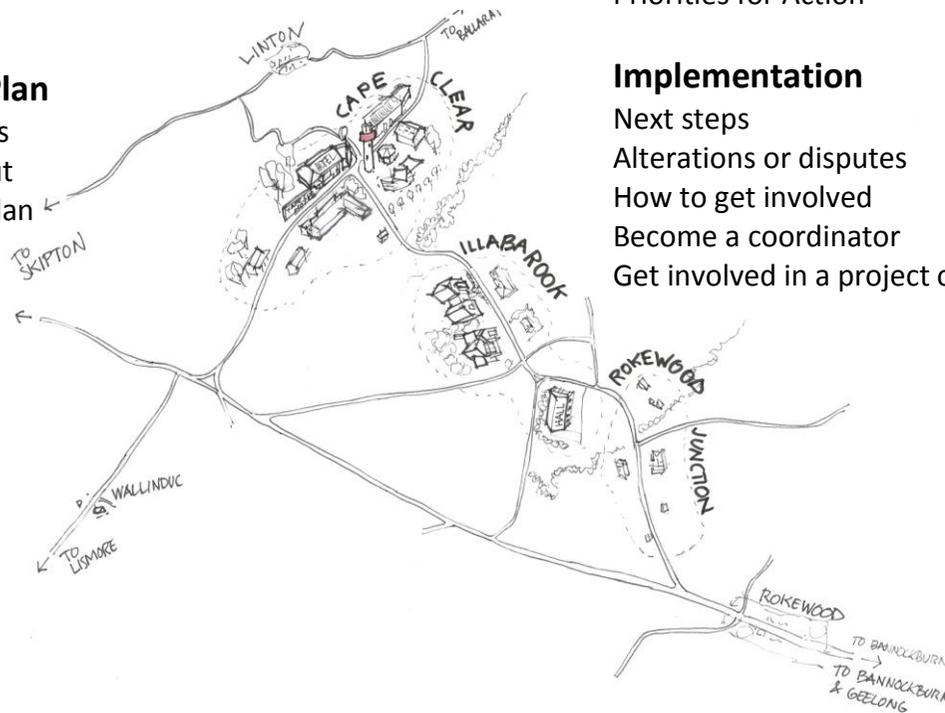
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Cover image: Terry Kelly, 2012



## About Community Planning

### Community Plans

Council believes that local communities are best at identifying and resolving local issues and that building 'community capacity' is essential to developing vibrant healthy communities.

The approach to community planning in Golden Plains is that planning is not done by Council for its communities but by communities themselves.

Communities are given the opportunity to be more focussed on their own township issues and plan for the future. Residents come together to develop a vision of their community which will protect and enhance their township's identity.

Community planning benefits communities because it allows towns to create a vision for their future by gaining broad participation and sharing responsibility. These processes allow communities to take control over their futures, to determine what they want for their towns, and not have the town's direction imposed on from outside.

### Council plans and community plans

Priorities identified in Community Plans are a key reference point in the Strategic Plans developed by Council. The local communities present their priorities for consideration by the Council agenda through presentations to Council. Current community plan priorities

are reviewed at key points throughout the year by senior management and Councillors to inform Council planning.

Communities generally have a number of very different priorities in their Community Plan.

Some of these are short term projects that can be done easily; others are long term projects and may take years to come to fruition.

### Community consultation

The development of the community plan is through engagement with the local community. The facilitators and Community Coordinators identify the key stakeholders and then plan and implement the method to consult with their community. The draft community plan is exhibited for comment and feedback. Pending exhibition and comment the community plan is finalised by community coordinators who have nominated or have been nominated during the consultation. Coordinators can then present their plan to Council.



## About Community Coordinators

### Co-ordinators

Community Coordinators within Golden Plains Shire play an important part in leading their local communities to plan and implement the projects that will help them to realise their vision.

Volunteer and nominated residents fulfil the role of Community Coordinators to consult, develop and implement the objectives in the plan. Coordinators foster partnerships to complete the projects, not to do the work all themselves. Community Coordinators are catalysts within their community.

A catalyst is a person who assists others to make change. As a catalyst they are not expected to 'do the work', what is asked of them is that they 'precipitate action' within their community to make the change.

### Coordinators:

- Assist their community to determine their vision
- Take up a role in the writing up of the community plan
- Assist in the adoption of the plan by their community
- Work with the broader community to scope the priorities in the community plan
- Identify local project champions
- Identify key stakeholders for each project
- Keep the wider community informed through regular communication and updates

The program is a working relationship between Coordinators, Facilitator and Council.

New Coordinators or people interested in assisting with a particular project or event are always welcome.

Cape Clear, Illabarook, Rokewood Junction Community Coordinators generally meet on a Tuesday evening in the hotel at six weekly intervals; for further information please contact:

Lorraine Cameron tel: 5342 2210  
e: [lorraineannecameron@gmail.com](mailto:lorraineannecameron@gmail.com)

Craig Cook tel: 5342 2448  
e: [VK3CMC@bigpond.com.au](mailto:VK3CMC@bigpond.com.au)

Helen Rizolli tel: 5342 2268  
e: [tooronga4@bigpond.com](mailto:tooronga4@bigpond.com)



## Introducing Cape Clear, Illabarook & Rokewood Junction

The three towns were originally part of Currie's Station that stretched generally from Cape Clear area to Nintingbool. The portion of the property was later sold to Mrs Gordon Gibbs in 1844 with the land then owned by the Elder family who were well known squatters in the Rokewood community.

Gold was discovered in 1855 in the Watsons Hill area and many people came from all over the world. In 1863 the "Grand Trunk" mine at Springdallah yielded its first rich gold and mines started in the Cape Clear area at the same time. In 1863 the Cape Clear Hotel was built and a town was started in its location.

### Cape Clear

Cape Clear was named by two of the early miners, Reardon and Henry Boardman who were from Cape Clear in Ireland. (*ref: The Victorian History Library, Prahran Mechanics Institute*) The original Cape Clear is an Ireland and is the southern most point of Ireland, apart from the Fastnet Rock that is home to the tallest lighthouse in Ireland in Ireland and also gives its name to a famous yacht race – both having provided inspiration for Cape Clear in Victoria.

The town continued to grow as the discovery of rich gold at "Grand Trunk" opened up mining as far as the Pitfield Planes. At one time Cape Clear had several hotels and a street of shops including a bakery, blacksmiths shop, and general store. The present Cape Clear Hotel has been re-built at least once; the earlier timber hotel dating from the Gold

Rush era is shown in the early photograph below, presently on display in the Cape Clear Hotel. The painting bottom left, also on display in the hotel, depicts the remains of the original butcher's shop at Illabarook. The Bentick family was from there. The building had been derelict for many years and was only pulled down a couple of years back. Alongside this is a sketch of the former Presbyterian Church in Illabarook which still stands.





## Illabarook

Previously named “Bulldog” or the “Bulldog Diggings”, this area developed as town in its own right during the gold-rush period, with several hotels, numerous stores and a school that opened in 1861, becoming a government funded school in 1864.

In 1875 the school was renamed the Illabarook Primary School and it is likely the town was also renamed around this time. According to the *Victorian History Library* the name was provided by Mr Stuart Mathews adapted from the aboriginal word ilburoo meaning fly. The town survived intact well into the twentieth century with a strong football and cricket team, however the store then run by a Mrs Robinson burnt down in the 1930's and now only a few reminders such as the Illabarook Hall remain.



*Left: The present Illabarook Community Hall;*

*Right: a gathering in the old hall in 1895 to witness the turning on of the gas light. This hall burnt down in the 1940's and was opposite the Presbyterian Church and next to the Bentick House, both of which survive to this day.*

## Cape Clear, Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Community Plan 2013

## Rokewood Junction

Rokewood Junction also grew into a significant settlement in the gold era. In 1868 a post office opened to serve the district, only closing in 1976. *(Wikipedia 2014)* It also boasted a bakery, telephone exchange, school and hotel.

The three towns continued to thrive whilst there was gold but declined as soon as the gold prospecting declined. Farming has now been the solid backbone of these communities with sheep being the key farming pursuit and more recently, cropping has been introduced.

The area is still excellent for farming and also attracts anyone seeking a rural lifestyle in an attractive setting.



*Golden Plains Community Planning*



## How we prepared the Plan

The process to review the previous plan:

- the coordinators identified items that could be carried forward.
- A survey was prepared and put online by the council.
- A summary of the ideas for long and short term goals and a list of achievements from the previous plan were displayed at the community concert in October.

From the feedback at this event, the coordinators have produced a summary of priorities and top ideas.

*Consultation meeting and workshop attended by community members, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013 – concert at Illabarook Hall;*



## Administering the Community Plan

The Cape Clear, Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Community Planning Group will support the implementation of the community plan by:

- Coordinating the efforts of the community
- Maximising access to resources and funding
- Involving community groups and residents to contribute in the initiatives and priorities

The community planning group will ensure that improving coordination within the community is a priority when planning and developing projects. Broader involvement will mean well planned and organised projects will increase the chances of other levels of government supporting implementation.

The community planning group will also ensure that for major projects, working parties will be established that will enable broad sections of the community to contribute and participate in areas of their interest or passion. In order to undertake the various projects or initiatives the community planning group may form a new group or use an existing group to take the lead in developing those detailed plans or to implement projects.



The community planning group will undertake a review of the community plan at least every two years but is willing to amend the community plan if there is sufficient justification and a public process involving its alteration.

All residents and groups are encouraged to participate or contact the Cape Clear, Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Community Planning Group to find out more and how the community plan process can help them achieve their projects or initiatives.

## The previous Plan 20011 - 2013

The previous plan had 6 main headings:

1. Community Priorities
2. Events and Activities
3. Environment
4. Community Infrastructure
5. Community Wellbeing
6. Other Administrative Matters

### Ideas Carried Forward

i) Continue to develop town entrances to Cape Clear and Rokewood Junction. It is proposed to place a town entry feature at the north and south sections of the towns. This project has been identified as a way of promoting community self-esteem and is currently being designed. The

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concept for Cape Clear is continuing to develop the theme around the yacht race and water connections.

ii) Continue the bi-annual "Slow Net" Yacht Race

The first "Slow Net" yacht race was conducted in March 2011 and was considered a very successful event. However the community believes that it is important to continue this on a bi-annual basis with the next "Slow Net" yacht race event being conducted in 2015.

iii) Celebration of significant milestones of the post office and store

The Cape Clear community recognises the store and post office as being one of the oldest buildings in the community and each will be celebrating 150 years of operation in 2014. The idea of undertaking a celebration of this milestone is considered an important way of promoting the importance of these services to the community and recognising the most important contribution over an extended period. The community plans to undertake a form of celebration yet to be identified and developed.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

What we have achieved in the previous plan:

- ✓ Support to the biannual Yacht Race
- ✓ Equipment and disabled ramps for the local halls
- ✓ Advocacy on road and safety issues
- ✓ Recreation Reserve improvements
- ✓ Encouraging participation in the Walking group
- ✓ Support for the community concert held 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013



## Our Plan 2013-2015

### ACHIEVABLE SOON ideas:

#### Historical Boards

- Old photos and stories of our area
- Signage for local historical areas
- E.g. The shop is 151 years old and has been running continuously
- Repair, replace and update the tourist map in Lions Park

#### Community events

- Continue support for the biannual Yacht Race. Combine with:
- 150 years anniversary celebration for the school in 2015
- Working bees on national days e.g. 'Clean Up Australia', tree planting etc.
- A BBQ with the local CFA

#### Health Issues

- Support health initiatives
- Encourage health programmes such as Men's Health, First Aid training
- Encourage more participation in the walking group (photography walk?)

#### Cape Clear Recreation reserve

- Encourage people to use the reserve more often

#### Local Halls

- Encourage use for more functions



## **LONG RANGE ideas:**

### **Historical Boards**

- HOW CAPE CLEAR GOT ITS NAME –pamphlet/ information sign

### **Town Entrances**

- A local area WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT for visitors
- “Gimmick” ideas (yacht race theme?)

### **Community events**

- Continue support for the biannual Yacht Race
- Working bees on national days e.g. ‘clean up Australia’, tree planting etc...
- Organise a community farmers market (is there enough demand? Should it be a different kind of market?)

### **Health Issues**

- Support health initiatives
- Encourage health programmes such as Men’s Health, First Aid training

### **Local Halls**

- Should there be one better serviced hall; not trying to keep both Illabarook and Cape Clear?

### **Cape Clear Recreation reserve**

- Encourage people to use the reserve more often

## **Cape Clear, Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Community Plan 2013**

## **Priorities for action**

The priorities identified in community plans are important as they are a key reference point in strategic plans developed by Council and the overall Council Plan. The information is highly valued by Council and is used when determining priorities for external funding and for identifying the need for specific projects and programs

Based on the discussions and feedback received the Coordinators propose the following priorities:

1. Repair and replace the district tourist map in the Lions park
2. Update the tourist information on this map
3. Fix the lock on the reverse side of the Community notice board at the Cape Clear Post Office
4. Preparation of a local area WELCOME to the DISTRICT for future new arrivals
5. Provide ongoing support for the Biannual Yacht Race and other activities
6. Encourage more use of local halls for functions
7. Encourage groups to use the Cape Clear recreational reserve more often
8. Look to provide signage for the local historical areas
9. Re-evaluate the signage at town entrances. Possibly look for “iconic” ideas



## Implementation

### Administration and processes

The community planning group retains the right to establish procedures that will manage community affairs when implementing the community plan. These procedures will be developed to ensure transparency and democratic processes.

### Alterations to the Community Plan

Since the Community plan has been established through a public process, any alterations to the Community plan also need to be undertaken through a public process. The community planning group therefore reserves the right to establish the procedures associated with any proposed change in order to retain the Community plan as a vibrant, flexible and dynamic document.

### Review of the Community Plan

The Community plan will be reviewed approximately every two years through a public process to be determined by the community planning group.

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### Dispute Resolution

In the event of any dispute, all parties concerned should meet, discuss and resolve the matter as soon as possible. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they must hold a meeting in the presence of a person nominated through the Golden Plains Shire Council.

For further information contact

### Facilitators

Stephen Axford 03 9662 1999

[stephen@axos.com.au](mailto:stephen@axos.com.au)

Christine Wallis 03 9662 1999

[christine@axos.com](mailto:christine@axos.com)



### Community Development Co-ordinator

Damian Waight

03 5220 7159 [dwright@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:dwright@gplains.vic.gov.au)

0427 935 190

[goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

