Robinvale is aptly named the “Jewel of the Murray”. You may have already noticed the vast areas of almonds and olives on your drive into our region. The Robinvale district is also well known for growing table and wine grapes, avocados, carrots, herbs, potatoes, stone fruit, and much more. Families on the land grow tomatoes, garlic and zucchini for their use, or for sale locally. Stop in at a roadside stall, at the Tourist Information Centre in town, or at the monthly Robinvale Country Market for fresh and produce from the grower to you – all year round. Robinvale is proud of its multicultural community, many of whom are attracted to the rich agricultural industry and the vast employment opportunities of the region. Robinvale boasts one of the widest stretches of river along the Murray. Fish, camp, bushwalk, bike ride and picnic to your heart’s content at countless places along the river’s edge for many kilometers. Find your own little bit of nature while you’re here. When you visit Robinvale, an absolute “must see” is the Rural Life Museum. Filled with wonderful treasures from early Robinvale, the Museum is an absolute delight and the great part about it is it will only cost you $2.00 to see everything it has to offer. Situated on the main highway, you can’t miss it as you enter Robinvale from either direction. The Museum has something for everyone – horse-drawn farming implements; blacksmith and farming tools; traction and early dried vine fruit equipment; household items and much more.

Pride of the Museum is a fully restored 1890’s Hercules Gas engine, which Members are very happy to fire up for your enjoyment, or perhaps the steady thump of the 50 horse power Blackstone is more to your liking. Members are very proud of their photo display of all 252 World War 2 Returned Servicemen who were granted dried vine fruit blocks as part of the 1947 Robinvale Soldier Settlement Scheme, which was a major kick-start for “modern” Robinvale. As part of the War theme, the Museum also boasts a WW2 Willy’s army jeep, which has a story you can’t miss when visiting Robinvale. You will be pleasantly amazed at how much there is to see at the Rural Life Museum and how interesting it all is. Be prepared to spend a bit of time; you won’t be able to hurry through! If you should unexpectedly find the Museum closed, a quick phone call to one of the Members listed at the entrance will have the Museum opened for your personal tour in no time at all.

After this trip down memory lane, you can walk along the old Railway line (just behind the Museum) to see the water tank used by steam trains, as well as the train turntable. In Bill McIntyre Park, you can see the lift span from Robinvale’s old Bridge and read about its history. You can walk or drive to Robinvale’s Windmill – reputed to be the largest in the southern hemisphere – admire and enjoy the beautiful Murray River and wander along McLeannan Drive to Robinwood Homestead, built by the Cuttle family, one of the earliest families to make their home here. The Homestead is now open as an historic house, available for viewing or hire, and highlights our connection with Villers-Bretonneux. Cuttle’s purchased land here and their 17 year old son, Robin, was to establish a farm on the banks of the Murray River. However, World War 1 broke out and Robin Cuttle was desperate to join the air force. As Australia had no air force of its own, Robin sailed to England to enlist. Being 6’7” tall, Robin was unable to fit into the cockpit of the planes and had to enlist in the British Army instead. Some time later, he was a Rear Gunner and distinguished himself in battle, winning the Military Medal. Robin was shot down near Villers-Bretonneux in rural France in May 1918. His family named this Town ‘Robinvale’ (may be read as ‘Farewell Robin’), in his honour. The Villers-Bretonneux and Robinvale connection continues through our town-twinnings. The specially dedicated rooms at Robinswood are well worth a visit and highlight Robinvale’s significant historic connection with this region of France dating from World War 1.

A drive around the lush horticultural area surrounding Robinvale is a rewarding experience and will illustrate why Robinvale grapes are much sought after in the fresh fruit markets. The road names in the horticultural area were designed to reflect the ‘soldier settlement’ origins of the area and the part the Australian soldiers played in the Second World War. Battles and significant military engagements they took part in are reflected in the naming of the districts roads, from the deserts of North Africa to the steamy jungles of Borneo. Road names such as Crete, Damascus and Tobruk are visible from the Murray Valley Highway on the outskirts of Town. On the Robinvale-Sea Lake Road you may notice signs for Saleiberg, Madang and Shaggy Ridge Roads, all indicating regions where the Soldier Settlers fought.

The Euston Weir and Lock (off Pethard Road, Robinvale) is a lovely place from which to watch the Murray flow by …… grassy lawn and shady trees at the banks of the River are free to use for picnics and barbecues. The Euston Weir and Lock staff are available all year round to assist with the navigation of boats up and downstream and to collect fish stocks for the Fisheries Department from the ‘fish way’ situated on the far side of the River. Have a chat with one of the friendly staff or wander down to the lock itself and observe the River at close hand. Across the Bridge and into New South Wales the historic township of Euston was once a thriving paddle steamer port and was, at one stage, considered as the site for the capital of Australia because of its access to the major cities in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. There are still some fine examples of history in and around the town to interest the visitor, such as the Euston Courthouse and plaques along the streets which denote historic sites around the town. These places of interest are all a pleasant stroll away from each other. The Euston Cemetery is located a little further out of town on an unsealed road. Some of the graves date back to the late 1880’s. There are dozens of graves that are unmarked, save for crosses made of welded steel pipes. The Euston/Robinvale Historical Society welcomes visitors to its monthly Open Days at the Courthouse. The volunteers are well-versed in the rich history of this township and will be sure to answer any questions you may have. Buy a booklet or two as a souvenir of your visit. The Tourist Information centre in Robinvale has further information regarding opening hours and contact details.

It you wish to stretch your legs some more after strolling around Euston, drive down under the Bridge on the Euston side of the River and enjoy a serene amble along the river’s edge on the sealed walking track. The walk takes you past billabongs until you reach the river itself where a pergola provides shade, shelter and drinking water. From here you can take a rest and enjoy the variety of bird life such as black swans and pelicans and see a view of the outskirts of Euston, further downstream. Take a moment to see what the township of Robinvale has to offer, with refreshments and shopping opportunities in Perrin Street.
## Community Plan Projects

1. **TOWN BEAUTIFICATION**  
   - Bromley Road (Current)  
   - Centenary Park (Future)  
   - Town Entrances (Future)  
   **Focus Group—Town Beautification Group**

2. **ROBINVALE COUNTRY MARKET**  
   **Focus Group - Robinvale Euston Rotary Club**

3. **MEMORIAL PARK**  
   (Special Note: Before any works of any description can be undertaken written approval will need to be obtained from the Responsible and Referral Authorities)  
   **Focus Group - Memorial Park Steering Committee**

4. **STRATEGIC MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
   - Shop Locally Campaign  
   - Robinvale Information Centre  
   - Graffiti Trailer  
   **Focus Group - Robinvale and Euston Business Association**

5. **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**  
   - Walking Paths and Tracks with interpretive signs  
   **Focus Group—Walking Track Group**

6. **ROBINVALE ADVANCING COUNTRY TOWNS**

7. **ALMOND BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**  
   **Focus Group - Almond Blossom Festival Committee**

8. **TONGAN LED COMMUNITY GARDEN**  
   **Focus Group - Tongan Community**

9. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR LOCAL INDIGENOUS WAR VETERANS**  
   **Focus Group - Local Indigenous Network Youth**

10. **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

## Community Plan Statements

1. To undertake every possible effort to engage and consult with people who live, work, visit and play in the Robinvale district. To collect and include their information in the Community Plan.

2. The Robinvale District Community Plan will provide information to the wider community with regard to previous, current and future consultations/planning processes that have or will take place to benefit people who live in our community.

3. The Rural Life Museum, Robinswood Homestead and the Railway Station are three community assets the community has identified as important to the future of Robinvale. These assets capture the enriched history and are positive tourist attractions in the Robinvale district. Any advancements are to be reported on through the community plan forums/meetings.

4. The Robinvale community is committed to their Economic success and will work together with Council to develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy.

## Management of the Plan

### The Manager

The Plan is currently being managed by the Swan Hill Rural City Council’s Community Planning and Development Officer.

### Focus Groups

- To report regularly to the Manager.
- To liaise with the Manager and stakeholders in the course of development.
- To develop action plans and implement activities relating to the project, as agreed on by the community.
- To engage broad sections of the community in the development of projects.
- To review all activities undertaken with regard to the project for which they are currently responsible.
- There is no need to have formal terms of reference as the Focus Group has sole responsibility to develop the priorities assigned to them.

### Community Plan Focus Group Reports

An invitation is extended to community members to drop by the Robinvale Resource Centre to discuss the Focus Group Reports with the Manager and available Focus Group members between 1.00 pm and 5.00 pm bi-monthly on the second Monday of the month.

For further information please contact Fiona Gormann Community Planning and Development Officer, Swan Hill Rural City Council on 5036 2333 or email fgormann@swanhill.vic.gov.au