Contents
Community Profile ................................................................. 3
Background ........................................................................... 3
Previous Projects ..................................................................... 4
Swan Hill Rural City Council’s Community Planning Program ........................................ 5
Linked and Supporting Plans and Strategies (To be completed) ............................................... 5
Management of the Plan .......................................................... 5
Making a Variation to the Plan .................................................... 6
Dispute Resolution .................................................................. 6
Community Vision for Robinvale .................................................. 6
Structure of Robinvale 2031 ......................................................... 6
1- Access to Services ................................................................. 7
Priority Area 1 - Health & Medical Services ........................................ 7
Priority Area 2 – Agriculture, Retail & Commercial Enterprise ........................................... 7
Priority Area 3 - Telecommunications ........................................... 8
2- Promoting Participation ............................................................. 9
Priority Area 4 – Leadership & Governance ........................................ 9
Priority Area 5 – Diversity & Inclusion ........................................... 9
Priority Area 6 – Education & Training ............................................ 10
3- Building Infrastructure ............................................................. 11
Priority Area 7 – Housing ............................................................ 11
Priority Area 8 – Recreation, Cultural Arts & Tourism ....................................................... 11
Priority Area 9 – Built Environment ................................................ 12
Implementation Plan Example (2016 – 2020) ......................................................... 13
Priority Projects (To be decided on by management group) ............................................... 13
Community Profile
Robinvale is a picturesque town located on the banks of the Murray River in north-west Victoria, approximately 470km north-west of Melbourne. Aptly named the 'Jewel of the Murray' it has no shortage of natural beauty and wonders. At the 2011 Census Robinvale’s Urban Centre population was officially 2,134 with many more living outside of the urban centre on agricultural and horticultural properties. As Robinvale is surrounded by labour intensive agriculture, this population can grow to double what it is truly recorded at during some seasons. Robinvale has a diverse community made up of some 40 cultures and over 20 languages being spoken, highlighting the diversity and cultural richness of the town.

Background
‘Robinvale 2031’ is the finished product of months of hard work by La Trobe University, Swan Hill Rural City Council and the Robinvale Community. This plan came about during the review of the Robinvale Community Plan in 2015. The level of engagement by the community was far beyond what was expected and needed to develop a two-to-three year community plan as had been done previously. With so many valuable insights, ideas, stories and aspirations from the community, creating another short-term plan would have meant losing too many of these valuable insights into the Robinvale community.

It is envisaged that this plan will not only inform and set about the planning and implementation of community projects for Council’s Community Development team but be a useful insight for the entire organisation and beyond. From this plan it is envisaged that action plans can be developed and implemented as the community works with council to meet its priorities and make Robinvale an even better part of the region. This plan is in no way final, in fact it is hoped that as new community issues and priorities emerge they will indeed find their place in this plan to keep it as relevant as possible.

Over 200 people have fed their thoughts, hopes, aspirations, stories, ideas and time into this plan. In October 2015, an empty shop was utilised in Perrin Street as a ‘drop-in’ centre where residents were able to visit when it suited them and speak with La Trobe researchers and staff as well as Council officers from community planning, community development, economic development and aboriginal community planning.

Other community engagement activities were also conducted including:

- Formal interviews with service organisations;
- Formal focus group discussions with health service representatives, mothers group, youth group;
- Presentations, group discussion and cognitive mapping with Robinvale P-12 College;
- Presentations about Bromley Road design possibilities by St Mary’s Catholic school students;
- Urban design workshops with general community; and
- E-mail, comments/discussion on Facebook & Twitter (which extended to mid-November).
Previous Projects

Community Planning first began in Robinvale with the 2009 Community Plan. There were 10 community projects identified and included in the latest version of the Robinvale Community Plan from 2011-2013. Below is a table of these projects and their outcomes. The projects that are yet to be completed have been carried forward for inclusion in this plan. As the table shows, many are either underway in some form or are an ongoing community effort that the community felt was important to continue to support.

Table 1 Actions and progress toward completion of the Robinvale Community Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Progress Toward Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Town beautification</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bromley Road (Current)</td>
<td>New design options identified for Bromley Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Centenary Park (Future)</td>
<td>Town entrances have had updated signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Town Entrances (Future)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group—Town Beautification Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Robinvale country market</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing successful market run by rotary club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Robinvale Euston Rotary Club</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Memorial park</strong></td>
<td>Plans completed and works happening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Memorial Park Steering Committee</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Strategic marketing and development</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing efforts by REBA (Robinvale Euston Business Association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shop Locally Campaign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Robinvale Information Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graffiti Trailer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Robinvale &amp; Euston Business Association</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Physical activity</strong></td>
<td>Riverfront walking and gym equipment installed and well used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Walking Paths and Tracks with interpretive signs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group—Walking Track Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Robinvale Advancing Country Towns</strong></td>
<td>Managed through RDHS and Glenn Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Almond blossom festival</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing community led event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Almond Blossom Festival Committee</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Tongan led community garden</strong></td>
<td>Community Garden established at Robinvale College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Tongan Community</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Acknowledgement of our local Indigenous war veterans</strong></td>
<td>Not completed – potential for this to be addressed in Memorial Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Focus Group - Local Indigenous Network Youth</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Environment and climate change</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing – addressed partly through sustainability strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Swan Hill Rural City Council’s Community Planning Program
Community Planning in the Swan Hill Rural City Council began in 2009 and has since involved 11 of the shire’s towns. Robinvale is the first to be presented with a longer term plan due to high level of engagement.

For community planning to be a success, the community absolutely must be involved and drive the projects included in this plan. Without the community involved in this plan, projects can never happen on the ground. This provides a fantastic and rare opportunity for the people of Robinvale to influence the future of their home for years to come.

Robinvale 2031 already has a budget allocated for its implementation meaning real action will come from this plan. It is simply a matter of the community getting involved.

Linked and Supporting Plans and Strategies (To be completed)
The plans and strategies listed below are a sample of the documents that council currently works with and from that directly impact Robinvale.

- Robinvale Economic Development Strategy
- Council Plan
- Active Transport Strategy
- Municipal Community Plan
- Bromley Road Masterplan
- Robinvale Riverfront Plan

  - To be completed by group with Community Planning Officer’s assistance

Management of the Plan
The plan will be managed by a group of Robinvale community members. Each project should have a focus group that is then represented on the main group to report back on their progress each meeting. The main group will have a Senior Manager or Director in attendance at each meeting to provide feedback and information to relevant council departments about the projects occurring. This person will also be able to report back to the group on important council news and plans impacting on Robinvale.

The group is still free to act upon initiatives outside of the Community Plan of their own accord. It is suggested that any issues with large community support be included in the Community Plan however to enable greater resourcing and assistance to come from Council.

The plan will be reviewed every four years with a progress report produced identifying each priority area and the actions taken within the respective area.
Making a Variation to the Plan
Over time, community priorities change as the community and external factors change. For this reason changes to this plan are possible through the Robinvale community planning group. However, these changes must go through a process that is transparent and fair as set out below following on from the original Robinvale Community Plan.

This Community Plan document shall not be altered in any way unless written notice specifying proposed alteration in full shall have been delivered to the Secretary of the Robinvale community planning group at least 60 days before a scheduled meeting of the group and further that not less than two thirds of the number of Robinvale Community Planning Group members attending at that meeting shall vote in favour of the amendment/s.

Dispute Resolution
In the event of a dispute, all parties must meet to discuss and resolve the matter as soon as possible.

If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they may agree to hold a mediation meeting with an independent mediator appointed by Council. The role of the mediator is only to guide the parties toward settling the dispute, not to make a decision to resolve the dispute.

All parties must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard to ensure natural justice is applied during the mediation process.

Community Vision for Robinvale
To be developed by the community planning management group.

Structure of Robinvale 2031
The information that was received during consultation with the Robinvale community was seen to fit into three overarching themes. These themes then had several priority areas that were raised by many people in the community. Within each priority area are the recommendations that were provided to us most often during the consultation. These recommendations are the goals that the community plan will seek to achieve over the coming years.
1- Access to Services

Access to services is a crucial part of making any community liveable. Services like healthcare, telecommunications, specialist medical services, community safety and a range of shops and employment opportunities were all brought up as important for Robinvale’s future.

**Priority Area 1 - Health & Medical Services**

Robinvale has over a quarter of its population aged over 55 years old based on the 2011 census data. There are also over 20% of the population under the age of 14 based on the same data. This alone makes good healthcare important in order to look after the young and older community members now and as people continue to grow older.

Projects to address Priority Area 1:

- Work with RDHS to identify how residents can access specialist services through mobile visits, transport options to Mildura or local internships

**Priority Area 2 - Agriculture, Retail & Commercial Enterprise**

Robinvale is a hub for food production. The district around Robinvale produces approximately 60% of Australia’s table grapes, 70% of Australia’s almonds and 80% of Australia’s olive oil. Agriculture and Horticulture also makes up 38% of the jobs in the Robinvale community.

Retail and Commercial business is an important service for Robinvale to maintain access to continue to thrive as a town. Over past years retail and commercial businesses have been declining as people shop elsewhere and markets change. Maintaining the look and feel of Perrin Street and supporting retailers, traders and commercial enterprise were all seen to be important by the community.

Projects to address Priority Area 2:

- Develop and implement a shop local campaign;
- Work with government and contractors to address issues with contracting processes;
- Identify and attract businesses that are needed and will be sustainable in Robinvale;
- Continue to improve the Perrin Street streetscape;
- Identify and develop a suitable space for artists to work and sell work from; and
- Advocate and investigate the development of a renewable energy industry in the district.
Priority Area 3 - Telecommunications

Access to good telecommunication services is becoming more important every year as businesses are able to thrive online no matter where they are based. Connections to other countries for immigrants and reliable phone service are also critical parts of making Robinvale liveable.

Projects to address Priority Area 3:

- Advocate for improved services from telecommunications bodies including services suitable for low and middle income families in particular as below:
  - Access to affordable and reliable internet service; and
  - Advocate for improved mobile phone and broadband coverage.
2- Promoting Participation

Promoting participation in community life and in employment is seen by the Robinvale community as an important focus area for the future of the town. This theme covers areas like leadership, governance, inclusion and education and training. To live in a vibrant and liveable community often means establishing a tight-knit community willing to get involved in many aspects of community life from volunteering to mentoring and training youth.

Priority Area 4 – Leadership & Governance

A community with good governance and leadership is able to present and advocate for its needs, create community solutions to problems and engage with the right authorities to continue to develop their community. The Robinvale community identified a number of challenges to promoting good governance and leadership in their community surrounding volunteerism, local government service provision and difficulties bringing multiple cultures together to work and make decisions on community issues.

Projects to address Priority Area 4:

- Work with Robinvale – Euston Community Alliance to advocate to government and non-government agencies for funding to complete projects identified in the community plan;
- Work with Council to identify and advocate for community needs; and
- Advocate for improved relationship and contributions from large industry to the Robinvale community.

Priority Area 5 – Diversity & Inclusion

Robinvale is an incredibly diverse community. It is estimated that there are 40 different cultures in Robinvale and over 40% of households have more than two languages spoken. Robinvale is also home to a large population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with an estimated 10.7% identifying as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the community. Robinvale has large communities of Vietnamese and Islander people further adding to the diversity. Such a diverse population offers many opportunities for amazing festivals and food as well as a wealth of knowledge about the world. The diversity of Robinvale does have challenges with the community identifying some racism that occurs and difficulties for new arrivals to learn English among concerns identified.

Projects to address Priority Area 5:

- Continue to support and grow local events and festivals including:
  - Almond Blossom Festival;
  - Carols by Candlelight;
  - Lunar New Year; and
  - Robinvale Ski Race.
• Support new events and festivals where possible;
• Develop an English Language resource for new arrivals from non-english speaking backgrounds;
• Develop an invitational ‘Inspirational speakers’ and workshop program aimed at Secondary level students;
• Encourage entrepreneurship by linking local successful business people to share their stories;
• Compile and work through a list of small research based projects in conjunction with local and regional education providers (eg. Photo-essay on local migration stories, aboriginal history and stories, soldier settlement);
• Extend NACHOS program to include collaborative cooking where people learn to cook from peers from different cultures; and
• Attract funding for the development and operation of a Multicultural Resource Centre.

Priority Area 6 – Education & Training

Education and Training for Robinvale is seen as critical for the success of the community and particularly the youth in the district. Ensuring high quality education is available enables families to stay in and move to Robinvale while also offering the best chance for careers to be formed in the district. This priority area focuses on enabling people to participate in education and effective training to go on to add to the local workforce and economy for Robinvale and beyond. The community identified multiple challenges in this area but also provided multiple recommendations.

Projects to address Priority Area 6:

• Support the Robinvale L2P program;
• Support the development of the Community Hub at Robinvale College, particularly the construction of project work spaces;
• Investigate opportunities for community work experience to be undertaken by students (i.e. in the information centre);
• Investigate funding opportunities to develop social enterprise that facilitates skills development and gaining of certificates (i.e. youth cafe, farm tours, pop-up restaurants);
• Work with education providers to enable access to education and skills training via online, blended learning and on-site assessments; and
• Develop extended learning or advanced learning programs during school holidays
• Work to improve access to childcare.
3- Building Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a critical part of every liveable town or city. During consultation, participants were asked what made Robinvale great and where Robinvale could benefit from some improvements. Many of these suggestions were relating to physical infrastructure improvements as highlighted in Priority Area 10. However, many suggestions also related to the community building social infrastructure and focusing on tourism and recreation opportunities in the future. This section highlights the three crucial Priority Areas of Housing, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Tourism and Built Environment.

Priority Area 7 – Housing

Housing in Robinvale was identified as one of the largest challenges facing the community. As Robinvale relies heavily on thousands of itinerant workers during harvest times for the surrounding agricultural enterprises ensuring there is access to safe, hygienic and legal accommodation is essential. The community identified that there is currently a lack of affordable housing and labourers are being housed in poor quality housing causing health and safety risks in the community. The types of housing within Robinvale are sometimes unsuitable for the large family structures of some new arrivals to Australia. It was also felt land-use planning in Robinvale is not working.

Projects to address Priority Area 7:

- Work with Federal, State and Local governments to develop options for improved housing options for low and middle income earners.

Priority Area 8 – Recreation, Cultural Arts & Tourism

Robinvale has a strong foundation of recreational, arts and cultural facilities, programs and events. There is widespread leadership and participation among a number of groups throughout Robinvale. The community centre, community garden, Rotary Park, museum, river, riverside caravan park, walking paths, tennis courts, pool, pub and golf club were identified as valuable local and tourist facilities. NAIDOC Week, Almond Blossom Festival, Lunar New Year, NACHOS community cooking, and the annual ski race were identified as positive and enjoyable community activities. There is strong Aboriginal history and culture, as well as an art centre in the area. The Tongan community is actively involved with the brass band, a choir and Carols by Candlelight. Most of the facilities and activities are family oriented, but do not necessarily cater to different age groups e.g.: youth specific or older people specific places and/or activities.
Projects to address Priority Area 8:

- Develop strategies for utilising empty shops as they become available;
  - Pop-up local history displays
  - Artist displays and workshops
- Find group to run day-trips to other entertainment facilities. Eg. Paintball, Bounce etc;
- Promote and grow the Men’s Shed;
- Continue to support and develop the Robinvale Community Garden;
- Work to establish an events group;
- Establish a youth ‘hang-out’ space with the help of young people;
- Work with SHRCC to attract shows and performances to be shown Robinvale;
- Investigate the establishment of a community radio station;
- Conduct a signage audit to improve directional signage in Robinvale;
- Design and implement an interpretive signage program to celebrate Robinvale’s heritage;
- Develop the Caravan Park, surrounding parkland and Robinvale riverfront area;
- Investigate options for local public transport options;
- Investigate viability of farm tours; and
- Investigate and establish a river tourism industry (i.e. cruises, houseboats and fishing etc.).

**Priority Area 9 – Built Environment**

Robinvale is characterised by a centralised town centre focused on Perrin Street, with single storey shop-fronts. Dispersed social services are located in the streets around this area. Low-density housing is primarily located to the south-east of the town centre which transitions to farm zoning to the east along the river and to the south. Rural residential living occurs in pockets to the south-east, north-west and south-west. Industrial zoning is mostly located to the west of the town, separated by Bromley Road and the railway corridor, although there is land dedicated to industrial uses to the south-east of the residential area. Land directly adjacent to the Murray River is public, zoned for conservation and resource purposes. Public parks are located throughout the township. Wide roads are the main transport service networks; pedestrian and recreational infrastructures are inconsistent with regard to connectivity, quality of pathways and shade. Participants identified a number of challenges ranging from a lack of footpaths to poor public transport.

Projects to address Priority Area 9:

- Improve lighting within Robinvale;
- Continue redeveloping residential parks;
- Implement beautification and road improvement projects for Bromley Road;
- Investigate how to make the courthouse more private to offer shelter and dignity to those using it;
- Robinvale Community Plan managing group to act as a liaising body for the community’s suggestions regarding improvements to the built environment; and
- Investigate and Implement shading options over car parking areas.

12

DRAFT COPY
Implementation Plan *Example* (2016 – 2020)

Priority Projects *(To be decided on by management group)*

This implementation plan will be reviewed every year to ensure it reflects the community’s priorities and aligns with Council’s budgets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Responsibility/Partners</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Estimated Cost <em>(To be confirmed during project scoping)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 - Recreation, Cultural Arts and Tourism</td>
<td>Continue to develop and support the Robinvale Community Garden</td>
<td>Provide support and promotion to the garden as requested by the managing group</td>
<td>Community Garden Management, Robinvale College, RIG</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>In-kind and subject to external funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - Built Environment</td>
<td>Rowe Street Park</td>
<td>Develop the park in accordance with design</td>
<td>SHRCC, Rowe Street Community</td>
<td>1-2 yrs</td>
<td>$2,000 (leverage funding) Subject to external funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - Telecommunications</td>
<td>Advocate for improved services</td>
<td>Request update and presentation on the progress of NBN rollout to community</td>
<td>RIG, SHRCC, NBN Co.</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This community plan was developed by the Robinvale Community with the assistance of the Swan Hill Rural City Council and La Trobe University.

The views and opinions are those of the community and not necessarily those of the Swan Hill Rural City Council staff or Councillors or La Trobe University and its staff.