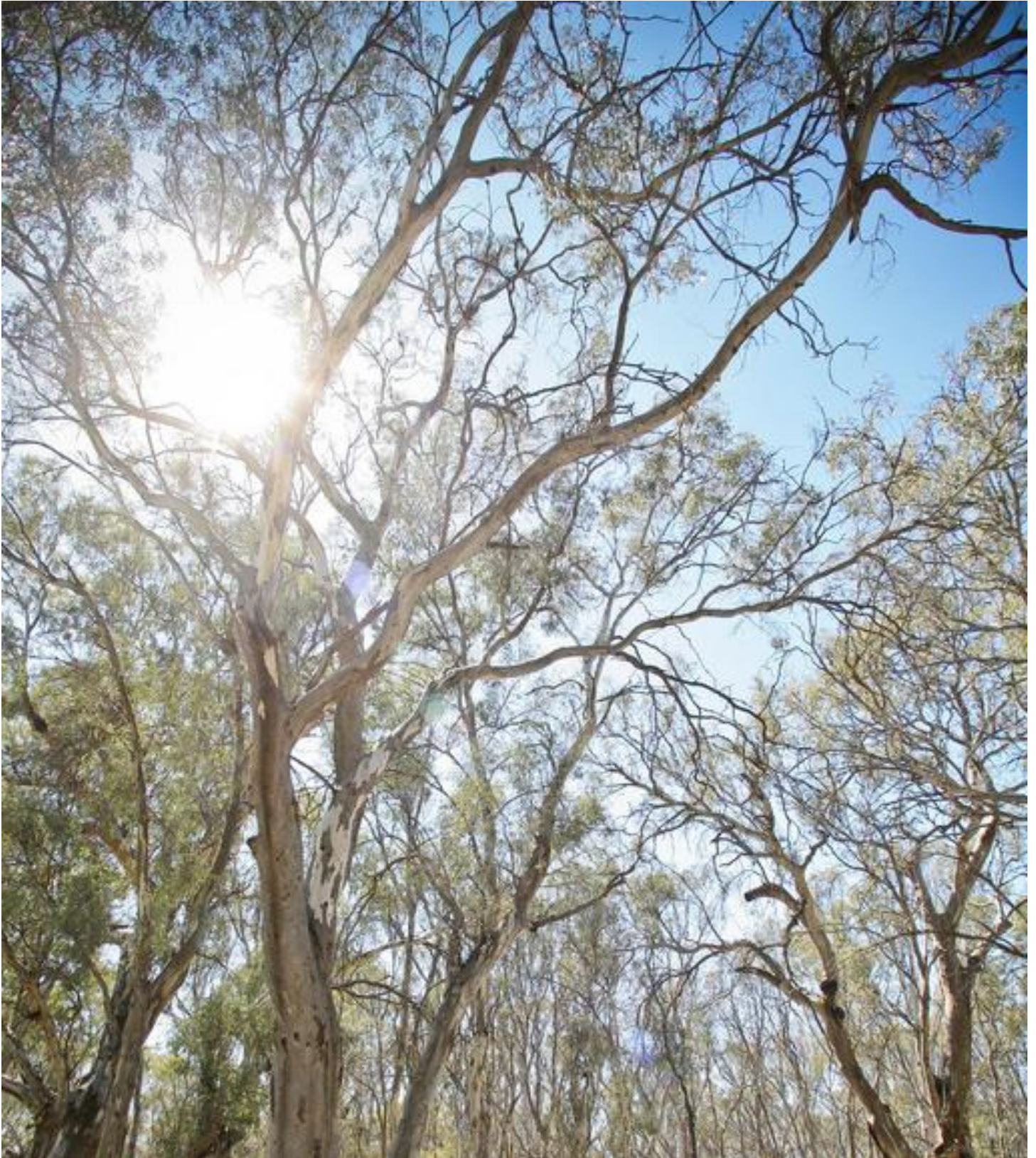


NYAH & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY PLAN 2017 - 2021





WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

The Swan Hill Rural City Council supports communities in the Swan Hill Municipality who wish to develop their own Community Plans. Community Planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provide invaluable input into Local, State and Federal Government planning.



NOSTALGIC NYAH

Nyah District is home to the first rice grown in Australia. In 1905 Joe Takasuka and family arrived from Japan and began experimenting with different rice varieties, finally succeeding with rice suitable for Australian conditions. Takasuka's Levee Bank was built with horses and scoops to control floodwaters from Gunbower Creek during his rice growing trials. This 7km track takes you through the forest beside the river, passing small middens where Aboriginal people camped and fished above the floodwaters. You will cross a small earthen bridge over Gunbower Creek, about 500m from the forest exit, near where it flows out of the Murray River at the site of Nyah's first irrigation scheme. In 1899 Jim Thwaites and Andrew Heath obtained an official licence to block Gunbower Creek's inlet/outlet to the main river and divert forest floodwaters for irrigation purposes. They dug a channel across the forest and a tunnel into the hillside to a point directly under Jim's block. A shaft 70' deep met the end of the tunnel and water was pumped up the shaft into a concrete basin from where it was lowered to each of the blocks. The concrete basin is still there with information telling the story of this early Event, Two Bays Nursery (1917-1930's) and Homestead. Ray Eyles, a Sydney nurseryman, arrived with his family in 1917 and was employed here. His grafting efforts were a success in this warmer climate and a thriving business ensued, selling both citrus and other plant varieties worldwide. The roadhouse, Caravan park, public swimming pool and the homestead on the rise at the end of an avenue of Plane Trees, still identify the Two Bays name.

The 1920's town with old-world charm, Nyah West, was given a Heritage Precinct listing in 2002.

“Nyah District is a liveable, quiet and safe community”

In 2006 during the National Trust's 50th year celebrations, it received a Judges Choice Award in the “Most Intact Streetscape” category. Today, the town retains most of its 1920's streetscape with little alteration or new construction. Nyah was the original township, its name meaning “This Bend of the River”.

In 1893 the Government resumed most of the Tyntynder Pastoral Lease and offered land grants of 50-100 acres of virgin Mallee. Men cleared as much virgin Mallee as possible each year, planting grain, seeing it grow and die, while some hopefuls carted water to keep a few fruit trees alive.



NOSTALGIC NYAH

Paddle Steamer and coach traffic served the district with River Street the hub, where a private home became the general store, post office, hostelry, bank and wine shade with a blacksmith and hall nearby. In 1905 the Grain Shed was built on the river bank and used for storing Paddle Steamer goods.

In 1910 the first Pumping Station opened and district irrigation began with wood piles providing fuel for both Paddle Steamers and the Pumps.

Along the river bank in A.N.Lewis Park and either side of the Boat Ramp are three bollards which honour an Aboriginal lady shearer, a woodpile cutter and Captain Pearl Wallace, the first woman Paddle Steamer Captain whose steamer, the Kookaburra sank near here in 1967. From 1919 this spot was originally the Nyah Koraleigh Punt site till the Bridge was opened in 1941. The Nyah District sees evidence of a variety of irrigated and dry farming pursuits. At first every Blockie grew grapes for the Dried Fruit industry. On the dry country, grains, sheep and cattle are still the main farming pursuits. The Memorial Gates, which list the names of local men and commemorate those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in WW1 and WW2, were erected in 1927.

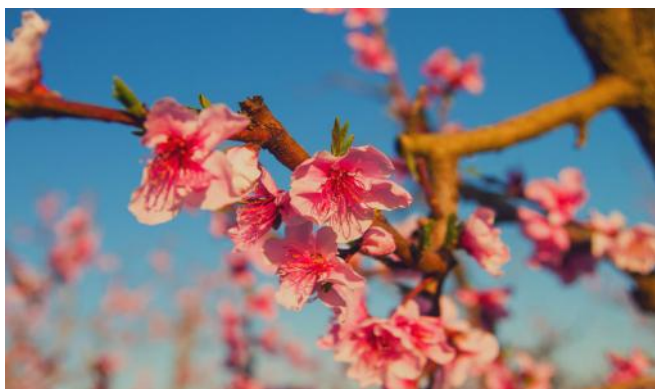
The Community Centre Sports Ground, affectionately known in early days as the 'Rec', was the venue from 1897-1965 of the exciting New Years Day Sports and Carnival.

The Nyah Gift Foot Race was of State interest and an entire country population of adults and children looked forward to and enjoyed the day of competition, entertainment and family gatherings.

Heritage Park was opened by Governor John Landy

in 2003. The Park has interpretive panels and photos of district history. From 1913 to 1996 the Nyah Primary School was here. On the east side of the school ground several old, large trees mark the probable site of an Aboriginal Burial Ground.

Vinifera meaning "Valley of Vines", was the winning entry in a naming competition. It's proven very apt as it still grows some of the best grapes in the district.



NYAH DISTRICT ACTION GROUP (NDAG)

MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The Nyah District Action Group has been elected by the community to manage the Plan.

It is the responsibility of Focus Groups to plan and implement projects identified by the community.

Community Plan reports and updates on each project are to be presented by the Focus Groups at scheduled NDAG meetings.

For further details refer to NDAG Community Plan 2008/09. A full NDAG Community Plan Review report can be obtained on the Swan Hill Rural City Council website at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY PLAN STATEMENTS

1. Youth Priorities - The Nyah district community to support the youth to identify and include a couple of youth projects within the community plan.
2. The Nyah district community to continue to support the Nyah District Action Group's projects

THE NYAH DISTRICT ACTION GROUP SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

- Support the Memorial Hall Committee
- Recreation and Sporting Facilities
- Continue to support the Op-shop
- Men's Shed



1193

48

MEDIAN AGE



20%
PARTICIPATED IN VOLUNTRY WORK

9%

UNEMPLOYED

ACTION PLAN

2018/19

Major Projects

Project Description	Actions	Responsibility/Partners
REDEVELOPMENT OF NYAH WEST PARK	Investigate options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRCC • NDAG

Council Support

Project Description	Actions	Responsibility/Partners
PLANTER BOXES—MONASH AV	Restore 4 of 11 existing planter boxes in Nyah. Install planter boxes in Nyah West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDAG • SHRCC • Nyah PS
HERITAGE SIGN NEAR WELL AT TWO BAYS	Update and replace current sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDAG
REPLACE PARKS MAP NEAR TOILETS AND BBQ AT NYAH	Update and replace current sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDAG • Parks • SHRCC
HERITAGE WALK MONASH AV	Create the beginning of a Heritage walk throughout Nyah West. Plaques at significant locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDAG
YOUTH PROJECT	Investigate youth project - SKATE PARK, PUMP TRACK, FLYING FOX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRCC • NDAG
BBQ AT BOAT RAMP	Investigate BBQ location, refer to Rec Reserve masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRCC • Rec reserve committee
HISTORIC INFORMAITON	Collate an accurate account of historic events and historical life in Nyah District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDAG

Events

Project Description	Actions	Responsibility/Partners
CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL	Support the Christmas Carnival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Support Fund (ESF)



OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

PROMOTION & MARKETING OF NYAH DISTRICT

- Develop a website for business, tourism, sports clubs, community and infant welfare
- Erect a sign for Nyah West Shopping District at Two Bays corner
- Nyah West Shopping Centre sign
- More active tourism promotion – pamphlets for individual interests
- Information board that indicates where towns are and what services they offer
- More information for tourists about the area
- Activities poster

CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE

- Restoration and bird-proofing the Nyah pumping station building and historic pump
- Develop a heritage walk in Nyah and Nyah West
- Reactivation of the old historic irrigation pump at Nyah
- Helping owners of historical buildings shop fronts to revamp and cleanup.
- Ensure heritage is not a burden to its owners
- Making use of our heritage river forest
- Information at front of old shop buildings in both Nyah and Nyah West which indicates uses, ownership and time period
- Upgrade old shops in Nyah West
- Clean up old buildings (make safe)
- Historical review of the horticultural industry

INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NYAH REC RESERVE AND FACILITIES

- Development of a community use facility to commemorate 47 years of Harness Racing in Nyah
- Erect “no camping” sign south of AN Lewis park to the pump station
- Weed Nyah Recreation Reserve
- Plant a row of flowering eucalypts along the southern fence of the Nyah Recreation Reserve as a memorial to first white settlers
- Upgrade to the electrical outlets in the park
- Make fire places (circles of stones) for RV users so they know where to light fires
- Concentrate on maintenance on Nyah Rec Centre
- Coin slot showers
- Solar power showers



OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NYAH REC RESERVE AND FACILITIES

- Continue to upgrade the Rec Reserve for committee use
- Power sites for RV park
- Toilet block for old campers at Rec Reserve
- Undercover market
- Gate access to pavilion
- Nyah Rec Reserve fenced playground area for infants 1.5 years
- Boat ramp needs concreting
- Red gum removal around Rec Reserve
- Community BBQ at Rec Reserve

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Re-sheet Chinkapook-Nyah West Road
- Turn old Nyah school ground into a park with grass and a toilet, remove fences
- Reserve on the corner of Donald and Frederick Streets
- Improve house numbering on gutters
- Ensure buildings are structurally sound
- Lighting Two Bays corner & lighting at Nyah West
- Road work for (turning lane) turning into Nyah Rec ground from Murray Valley Highway
- Nyah hall heating
- Light for bus at Two Bays in correct place
- Suggestions for restoring old football ground (Nyah West)
- Nyah West Tennis club- New clubrooms
- Movies at Nyah West
- Build a skateboard ramp for the big children
- Develop a youth centre, small museum, internet café or tourist information centre in the old empty buildings

IMPROVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Rid footpaths and street reserves of weeds
- Removal of noxious weeds throughout district
- Clear burrs from walking areas
- Clean up roadside along Nyah West Road
- Clean up forest



OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

IMPROVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Clean litter from road ways
- Nyah & Vinifera forest need better management.
- Beautifying the side of Nyah West road
- New trees and shrubs
- Weeds

IMPROVE STREETSCAPES

- Clean up empty shops
- Flower box in street

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Seats along river walking track
- Bike track off the highway to Wood Wood and Piangil
- Improve/repair walking and cycling tracks (prickles)
- Support the swimming pool
- Concrete walk ways round Nyah Rec

IMPROVE SIGNAGE

- Signage for Nyah West bowling club near Two Bays
- Signs for no camping areas
- Detailed information board for both towns at caravan area
- Business information signs for locals and tourists
- Community billboard near the river adjacent to Nyah Rec ground, highlighting what's going on in the district
- More signage
- Renew bollard information plaques
- Sign to boat ramp on highway
- More information Aboriginal history area
- Signage for paddle steamer
- Maps of old town- Pinky's Bend
- The flume- information, signage
- Camp site signage on the highway

OTHER

- Land use and funding

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Harry Schlegel
Chairman
Email: happyharry007@hotmail.com