

BLUEPRINT FOR TIMBOON REVIEW: UPDATING PRIORITIES

The *Blueprint for Timboon* community plan was developed through the latter half of 2011, through a town survey (which received 136 returns) and a public meeting (attended by 75 people) on 24 November 2011, where 21 township priorities were settled upon.

In addition to this list of priority actions, the planning process discovered a list of attributes which Timboon and district residents most valued about their town. Timboon’s outstanding natural assets headed this list by a large margin, followed by the township’s businesses and shops, medical and health services, sporting clubs and the Timboon P-12 School. The friendly nature of the township community also came in for mention.

As with a number of other community plans, some of the key community aspirations identified demanded the formulation of a more detailed plan of actions in order to influence the primary issue raised. So it was with the plea which formed the town’s top priority – ‘More shops, fill empty shops’. Having regard to the attributes most valued by the community, the Survey Taskforce formulated a Vision for the *Blueprint* plan. This referred to the diversification of the town’s economy and the enhancement of Timboon’s ‘brand’ – built around the natural environment, local produce, tourism and retail, as well as the health and education services and recreational opportunities which make Timboon a sought after residential and commercial address.



The Survey Taskforce identified a program of 13 project elements focused around improving the presentation and amenity of Timboon historic heart – the Railway Park Precinct. This place-making approach secured a State government grant of \$70,000 to match the Shire’s initial investment, and was augmented by private funding from BHP Billiton and Timboon Action fund-raising. Other contributions by Council (the public art project and refurbishment of the public toilets) resulted in the delivery of a \$250,000 project which has transformed the town centre, upgraded recreational and social amenities, improved pedestrian connectivity and strengthened connections to the retail centre and other services. It would be wrong to claim a causal connection, yet the project has realised its intended outcomes of attracting new retail investment and strengthening Timboon’s brand identity.

P	Project
1	Construction of Footbridge/Boardwalk (From public toilets to Picnic Area)
2	Mens Shed Tools
3	Central Town Garden
4	Story of Timboon Interpretive Trail
5	Town Entry Signage (+2)
6	Food Trail Signage/Map
7	Community Events Fund
8	Outdoor amphitheatre with stage/performance space
9	Construction of sheltered picnic area and barbeques
10	Heated Swimming Pool (Feasibility Study)
11	Publication on local features and events, with map of town and walking tracks
12	Community Garden
13	Connect natural gas to Timboon

BLUEPRINT FOR TIMBOON REVIEW: 21 PRIORITIES: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Priority	BSCC Community projects	Actions	Completed	Underway
	See previous summary list of projects	10	4	2
1	More shops or fill empty shops			
2	Improve availability of arts, music, creative opportunities and cultural activities			
3	Construction of sheltered picnic area and barbeques	1	1	
4	Heated swimming pool feasibility study	1	1	
11	Publication on local features and events, including map of town/ walking tracks			
17	Develop community vegetable garden (with Hospital/ School)	1	1	
21	Connect natural gas to Timboon (Form Action group)			
Priority	Projects currently underway	Actions	Completed	Underway
7	Develop, extend and promote Craters to Coast trail	3	-	3
9	Upgrade facilities and image of school	2	-	2
13	Develop and promote tourism attractions, including local produce trail	2	-	1
20	Retirement village/ Support Abbeyfield project	1	-	1
Priority	Private business interests	Actions	Completed	Underway
1	More Shops or fill empty shops	5	3	
8	Develop overnight tourism accommodation, including caravan park and camp sites	3	-	
12	Develop bigger, better, cleaner supermarket	1	-	
14	Upgrade shopping centre – shopfronts, circulation and access	1	-	2
Priority	Corangamite Shire Works projects	Actions	Completed	Underway
5	Upgrade and improve availability of parking	2	1	
10	Introduce measures to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety including the installation of pedestrian crossings	4	2	
15	Improve existing public toilets and construct new toilets in key locations	3	1	
16	Maintain and increase public and community transport	2	1	
18	Construct more footpaths and repair existing paths	3	1	
Priority	Environmental projects (Landcare and Community groups)	Actions	Completed	Underway
6	Clean up and rejuvenate Power Creek with walking and recreation areas	3		1
19	Protect and restore natural environment (including weed removal)	1		1
Totals		49	16	13

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<p>Of the 49 actions identified in the original <i>Blueprint for Timboon</i> plan, 16 have been completed and a further 13 are underway. These projects in train include the long-awaited construction project to upgrade facilities at the Timboon P-12 School, the commencement of planning for the Town Centre Improvements Project to be executed in 2015/16, footpath proposals and work on development of the extension to the Craters to Coast Trail. Five of the 21 priorities have effectively been completed, and a good third of the items on the list are effectively ‘parked’, awaiting developments or opportunities to be prioritised for action. Some are ‘parked’ with other agencies which have responsibility for their design and implementation. (See list on the following page.)</p> <p>There have been three public meetings held to review the Blueprint for Timboon. The first was held on 26 November 2014, however due to unforeseen circumstances a number of attendees were unable to attend. The small but enthusiastic audience of 18 people was insufficient to justify reordering priorities set by the 158 people involved in the shaping of the original plan. Meetings of Timboon Action involving a similar number of people and the Town Walk meeting held on 13 January 2015 (37 people surveyed and 27 people in attendance) contributed views on new priorities for the Plan. Another public meeting to review and update the Blueprint was held on held on 25 February 2015, and it drew 41</p>	<p>attendees, including 19 people who were participating for the first time. In all, an estimated 60 to 70 people have been involved in the <i>Blueprint</i> review exercise.</p> <p>Two new priorities have been added – the construction of a mountain bike trail in bushland adjoining Cowley’s Creek and the proposal to better support Timboon Action. The other five priorities derive from the original Blueprint plan, either as activation of dormant projects or as responses to issues identified previously. The adjacent list assigns priorities with reference to original and current voting numbers, although this is immaterial as all projects will all be pursued simultaneously. (The Food Trail Map project carries over from the original plan.)</p> <p>At the conclusion of the review meeting held on 25 February 2015 seven Action Groups were formed, varying in membership from two to 12 people. (Opportunities will be provided for others to join these groups.) In pursuit of the objective to better support Timboon Action, the Action Groups are to meet between Timboon Action’s monthly meetings to report their progress and to obtain advice and support on project planning and implementation.</p> <p>The Town Centre Improvements project will be led by the community but facilitated by the Shire. (Indicative funding of \$300K is subject to Council’s annual budgetary process.)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Prioritised Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Town Centre Improvements</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Construct mountain bike trail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Story of Timboon – Township history and culture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Publication on local features and events, with map of town and walking tracks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Design and erect new Town Entry Signage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Review and consolidate of all signage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Install RV/ Caravan dump point</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Better supporting Timboon Action</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>An enthusiastic group of cyclists will prosecute the Mountain Bike Trail project, which is proposed to connect to the Rail Trail extension at Glerum’s Road).</p> <p>Both the Story of Timboon and the Publication on local features and events arise from the original Blueprint plan of three years ago. Options have been outlined as to the form these projects could take.</p> <p>There is a community aspiration to develop new Town Entry Signage for Timboon, with a view that the previous effort falls short on visual impact. An opportunity exists to work with Vicroads on Review of all Signage, and the proposed installation of a RV/Caravan dump point will connect to a broader dialogue concerning tourism infrastructure across the Shire.</p>	Prioritised Actions		1	Town Centre Improvements	2	Construct mountain bike trail	3	Story of Timboon – Township history and culture	4	Publication on local features and events, with map of town and walking tracks	5	Design and erect new Town Entry Signage	6	Review and consolidate of all signage	7	Install RV/ Caravan dump point	8	Better supporting Timboon Action
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Ranking	Priority objectives	Prioritise	Park	Delete
1	Town Centre improvements (see also Item 14 below)	*		
	Story of Timboon – history and culture interpretive trail (carried over)	*		
	Food Trail Map (carried over from original plan)	*		
2	Improve availability of arts, music, creative opportunities and cultural activities		*	
3	Upgrade and improve availability of parking		*	
4	Clean up and rejuvenate Power Creek with walking and recreation areas		*	
5	Develop, extend and promote Craters to Coast trail		*	
	Construct bushland mountain bike trail (see also Item 4)	*		
6	Develop overnight tourism accommodation, including caravan park and camp sites		*	
	Install RV/Caravan dump point (see Item 8)	*		
7	Upgrade facilities at Timboon P-12 School		*	
8	Review of all signage (revised formulation of existing priority/ pedestrian crossing)	*		
9	Publication on local features/ events, including map of town/ walking tracks (see 13)	*		
10	Develop bigger, better, cleaner supermarket		*	
11	Develop and promote tourism attractions, including local produce trail		*	
12	Upgrade shopping centre – shopfronts, circulation and access		*	
13	Better Support Timboon Action	*		
14	Construct new toilets in key locations		*	
15	Maintain and increase public and community transport		*	
16	Construct more footpaths and repair existing paths		*	
17	Protect and restore natural environment (including weed removal)		*	
18	Connect natural gas to Timboon (7)		*	

Public meetings held over 26 November 2014, 13 January 2015 and 25 February 2015 contributed to the prioritising of eight projects for action in the immediate term, five projects which can be considered completed, and the remainder ‘parked’ as either being carried out by designated agency (eg Priority 9 School facilities upgrade) or yet to be activated.

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Ranking	Priority objectives	Agency	Status	Mentions
1	More Shops or fill empty shops	Private		68
2	Improve availability of arts, music, creative opportunities and cultural activities	Community		47
3	Construction of sheltered picnic area and barbeques	Community	Completed	
4	Heated swimming pool (feasibility study)	Community	Completed	34
5	Upgrade and improve availability of parking	Shire		
6	Clean up and rejuvenate Power Creek with walking and recreation areas	Landcare		
7	Develop, extend and promote Craters to Coast trail	Partnership	Underway	25
8	Develop overnight tourism accommodation, including caravan park and camp sites	Private		
9	Upgrade facilities and image of school	School	Underway	20
10	Introduce measures to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety	Shire	Completed	
11	Publication on local features and events, including map of town/ walking tracks	Community		
12	Develop bigger, better, cleaner supermarket	Private		20
13	Develop and promote tourism attractions, including local produce trail		Underway	
14	Upgrade shopping centre – shopfronts, circulation and access	Private		
15	Construct new toilets in key locations	Shire		11 (+7)
16	Maintain and increase public and community transport	State	Continuing	17
17	Develop community vegetable garden (with Hospital/ School)	Community	Completed	16
18	Construct more footpaths and repair existing paths	Shire	Underway	
19	Protect and restore natural environment (including weed removal)	Landcare	Continuing	
20	Retirement village/ Support Abbeyfield project	Community	Completed	
21	Connect natural gas to Timboon	State		7

BLUEPRINT FOR TIMBOON REVIEW

Summary of BSCC projects			
Project status	Priority	Project title	Agency/Notes
Completed projects	1	Construction of footbridge/ boardwalk from public toilets to picnic area	
	2	Men's Shed Tools	
	3	Central town garden	
	8	Outdoor performance space/ stage/ amphitheatre	
	9	Construction of sheltered picnic area and BBQs	
	10	Heated swimming pool feasibility study	
	15	Construct (upgrade) new toilets	
	17	Develop community vegetable garden	
	20	Retirement village/ Support Abbeyfield project	Abbeyfield Committee
	Projects in progress	5	Town Entry Signage
6		Food Trail Signage/ Map	12 Apostles Food Artisans Group
7		Develop, extend and promote Craters to Coast trail	Several partnerships
9		Upgrade facilities and image of school	Timboon P-12 School

BLUEPRINT FOR TIMBOON REVIEW

Summary of updated 'Blueprint for Timboon' projects						
Project status	Initial Priority	Project title	Votes 26/11/2014	Votes 25/2/2015	New Priorities	
Standing projects from original Plan	2	Improve availability of arts, music, creative opportunities and cultural activities (47 mentions)				
	5	Upgrade and improve availability of parking				
	6	Clean up and rejuvenate Power Creek with walking and recreation areas				
	7	Develop, extend and promote Craters to Coast trail (25)				
	10	Town Centre Improvements	7 (4)	3	1	
	12	Develop bigger, better, cleaner supermarket (20)				
Non-activated projects	4	Story of Timboon Project – Township history and culture	3	22 (2)	3	
	2	Community Events Fund	2	6		
	11	Publication on local features and events, with map of town and walking tracks	5 (2)	21 (2)	4	
	13	Connect natural gas to Timboon	2	6		
	14	Review and consolidate of all signage			6	
New projects		Better support Timboon Action	8 (3)	15 (5)	8	
		Investigate community management of Limeworks land	8	2		
		Restore of old weir	6	4		
	14	Install ornate street lighting	6	3		
		Develop mountain bike trail (Cowleys Creek bush)	5 (5)	25 (17)	2	
		Conduct audit of available accommodation	5 (2)	6		
		Place artwork in empty shops	4	3 (1)		
	8	Install RV/ Caravan dump point		17 (2)	7	
		Erect new Town Entry signage		20 (5)	5	