

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

**Better community communications** including various ways of communicating community activities and events, as well as bringing people together.

**Interaction with the Yea Streetscape plan** including providing further guidance on maintenance and painting in the main street.

**A local museum** finding a home for the historical society.

**Aquatic services** advocating and investigating options for improved services, including a heated pool.

**Establishment** of a retirement village.

**2030Yea** Encouraging local energy projects to make Yea totally renewable by 2030, including development of a local micro-grid to enable local sharing and trading of renewable power.

**Honouring the Taungurung** people and their role in Yea's history and future – including support of local Indigenous research and developing information and signage.

**Wetlands management** including expansion of southern wetlands and ring of elms, supporting community hub and implementation of Yea Wetlands master plan.

**Creating an arts hub** including investigating the possibility of activating the Shire Hall or elsewhere as an arts hub.

**Creating a Yea town group or Consultative Committee** including representatives from all community sectors, to advise Council and other organisations.

**Advocacy for Improved road safety** including the possibility of reducing speed limits through town, improved pedestrian crossings, more footpaths and other safety improvements.

# THINGS WE LOVE

- Big enough to be well-served and small enough to know and be known
- Warm and friendly; great community
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Country 'feel' and convenience
- Beautiful natural environment; wetlands
- Cultural heritage of the Taungurung
- Proximity to Melbourne yet far enough away
- No poker machines
- Central to the Murrindindi Shire
- Good place to retire
- Positive ethos of town centre and layout
- The park in the centre of main street
- Yea is a Cittaslow town

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Yea Community House  
T. 5797 30 70  
E. info@yeahouse.org.au  
W. yeahouse.org.au  
W. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityplanning

This project was supported by Murrindindi Shire Council with generous funding from IAG and their local brand WFI Insurance.

### References

Australian Bureau of Statistics data 2016:  
[https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC22909](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC22909)

Blanks, Harvey A 1973, A Story of Yea, Melbourne Hawthorn Press, 1973

Grow Well Dindi (formerly RESPOND) is a community-led project to support child health and has some actions that align with this Plan.  
<http://lhpcp.org.au/respond/>



OUR FUTURE VISION

Attach

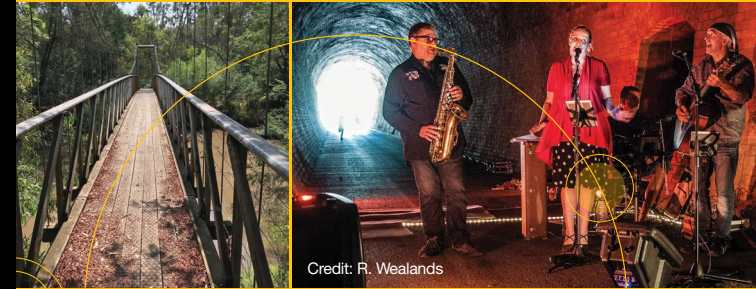
# SUMMARY YEA COMMUNITY PLAN 2020

We respectfully acknowledge the Taungurung People, their elders past, present and emerging in Yea and beyond, recognising their deep connections with the land and waters in this area.

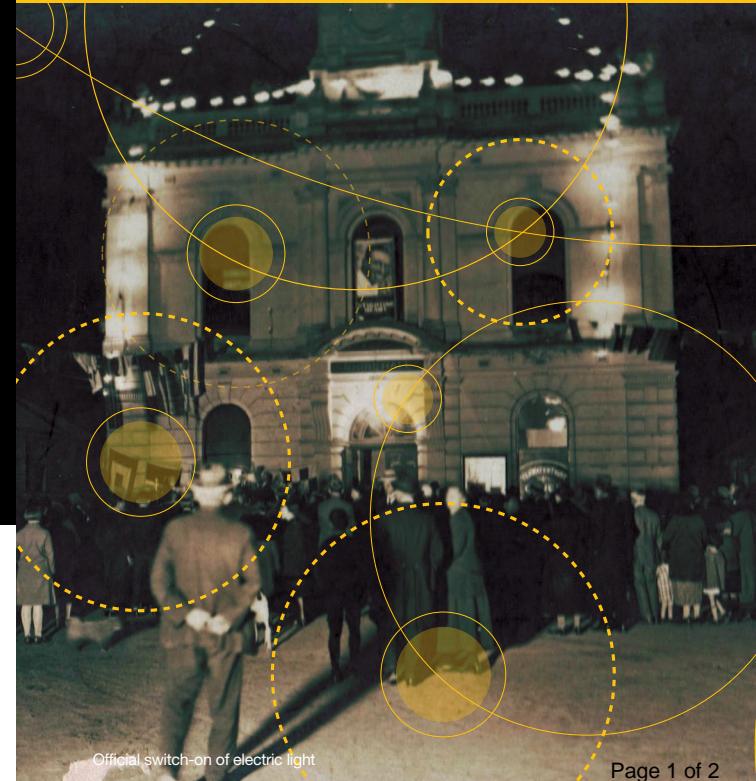
Yea is a beautiful place to live where we feel safe, supported and connected, and where we care for our environment and community.



OUR FUTURE VISION



Credit: R. Wealands



Official switch-on of electric light



## OUR HISTORY

The local Aboriginal clan, Waring-illam-balluk of the Taungurung people of the Kulin Nation, have lived on this land for 60,000+ years and their descendants still have strong connections with this land and the Yea and district community.

**1855** Muddy Creek was surveyed to form a town, which was renamed Yea in 1879

**1857-1859** Gold discovered in the Yea area

**1857** First school in Yea, State School est 1860

**1875** Yea Flora Fossils first noticed and in 1935 identified by Dr Isabel Cookson as Baragwanathia

**1890-1900** Yea Bowling, Cricket, Football, Tennis and Rifle Clubs established and each allotted ground for their various activities.

**1905** Butter Factory began in current premises.

**1911-1915** Centre for timber, grazing, gold mining.

**1957** Yea Swimming Pool built from community fundraising and volunteer workmen.

**1968** Yea Civic Centre officially opened incorporating Council offices, courthouse, town library, baby health centre and pre-school.

**1993** Shire of Yea built new livestock saleyards in Flat Lead Lane.

**1994** Yea Shire Hall centenary celebrated

**2002** Rosebank extended to include nursing home

**2006** Naming of the Franklin Track in the Wetlands, in honour of local Aboriginal man "John Franklin" and his family

**2009** Devastating fires raged through the southern part of Murrindindi Shire

**2011** Yea became an internationally accredited Cittaslow town

**2014** Opening of Y Water Discovery Centre and accredited Visitor centre, with a Committee of Management including Taungurung representation

**2016** NAIDOC celebrations first held at the Y Water Discovery Centre

**2017** Indigenous garden "Badji Baanang" officially opened at Y Water Discovery Centre

## WHO ARE WE?



### 2016 ABS DATA FOR YEA

**1600** people live in Yea (approximately)

Median age of Yea residents **52 years**  
(state average is 37 years)

**1.7%** of population is indigenous

**455** people over the age of 65 years

**16%** of Yea's population is aged 0-16 years

**17%** of people were born overseas

**10%** of people speak a language other than English

**33%** of people have volunteered over the preceding 12 months (state average is 19%)

**14%** of people aged over 15 years assist others due to disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age

**71%** of Yea residents access home internet

There are **65** single parent families

**52%** of people who work are full-time workers

There are at least **77** established groups in Yea.

## HOW WE GOT HERE

### COMMUNITY PLANNING

In May 2019, 80 people attended a dinner launch of Yea Community Planning at Beaufort Manor, where initial project ideas and dreams for Yea were gathered.

Community groups and organisations actively involved since that time include:

Yea Rotary Club, Y Water Centre and Wetlands Committees, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Cittaslow, Yea RSL, Yea Community House, Scripture Union of Victoria, St Luke's Anglican Church, Yea Football and Netball Club, Yea Arts Inc., Yappers, Yea Historical Society, Yea market, and Nexus Primary Health.

The Core Planning Group (10 – 20 members) met monthly in the second half of 2019, with focused discussions including for the arts, environment and heritage.

A Community Planning Steering Group (6 members) met monthly from late 2019 through to early 2020 to steer the final prioritisation event and draft the Community Plan.

In February 2020, almost 60 community members came together for dinner at the Yea Shire Hall to prioritise the top projects that would make the most difference to Yea.

From 118 project ideas, 11 priorities emerged and related Action Teams were formed by community volunteers. These are the priority projects included below.

The full list of project ideas is available on request.



## OUR PRIORITY IDEAS

### SHORT TERM

**Improved tennis courts:** reinstating and developing for community use, including site clean-up and drainage repair.

### LONG TERM

- **Development of local mountain biking trails and jumps**
- **Development of skate parks and other parks for young people**
- **Supporting activation and community use of the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre –** including liaising with the TFDC Committee and exploring all options
- **Advocating to improve local phone and internet services**
- **Advocating for a hard rubbish service –** including investigation of alternative and viable options with business or community providers
- **Celebrating local history –** Create a local Toolangi-Castella history collection and acknowledge and connect with indigenous groups about indigenous cultural heritage, both past and present
- **Increase the number of walking and horse-riding trails –** including improvements to the Tall Trees Trail and signage for all key sites and tracks.

## THE COMMUNITY PLANNING JOURNEY

Ideas, values and preliminary votes were collected through dinners, meetings, door knocks, surveys of Toolangi primary school students and junior fire brigade volunteers, community house display, and discussions with various community groups. A community planning group met from mid-2019 into 2020 to progress the planning process.

Over 60 ideas were collected and in February 2020 a final community dinner was held to decide on the top plan priorities. Through a formal voting process at the dinner, and taking into account the preliminary voting, a total of 8 priorities were chosen. Action teams were formed to ensure these priorities would be owned and implemented by the community.

## IMPLEMENTING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Action teams for the 8 priorities will work together to implement those priorities. Each of the 8 priorities were only included in the plan because they had an active Action Team – this ensured the Community Plan would be a living, active plan.

The remaining ideas may be revisited as needed in the future. All of the ideas collated throughout the community planning process can be viewed on the web page - see below.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Toolangi-Castella and District Community House**  
Phone: 5962 9060, or: email: [tdchinc@bigpond.com](mailto:tdchinc@bigpond.com).  
For more about the Community Planning journey, go to: [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityplanning](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityplanning)

*This project was supported by Murrindindi Shire Council with generous funding from IAG and their local brand WFI Insurance.*

# TOOLANGI-CASTELLA COMMUNITY PLAN 2020-2023

**Connecting with  
our community  
Doing things better**

**OUR VISION:** Caring for our unique environment and infrastructure and connecting people within and beyond the local area, while nurturing inclusive community involvement and leadership - past, present and future.

This is a Community Plan for the Toolangi-Castella community. It identifies our local strengths and challenges, priorities for our future, and helps us collaborate on solutions for our community.

**We respectfully acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri people, and their elders past, present, and emerging in Toolangi, Castella and beyond.**

# TOOLANGI-CASTELLA COMMUNITY JOURNEY

## STORY OF THE PAST

We acknowledge all who have built the Toolangi and Castella community through volunteerism, dedication, hard work and their own other unique contributions.

### PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PLANNING SUCCESSES.

- Toolangi-Castella Community House
- CJ Dennis Hall renovation and upgrade
- Tall Trees Trail all-purpose track
- CJ Dennis Reserve Playground
- Community garden and wood-fired oven
- New CFA building
- Men's shed
- Opportunity shop
- Castella Central Park and Toolangi-Castella Bushfire Memorial



## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT TOOLANGI-CASTELLA...

## STORY OF NOW

**WHO WE ARE.** (2016 ABS data for Toolangi-Castella)



**612** people



**156** families



**22%** of households have a person living on their own



**16%** children (0-14 years)

**8%** young people (15-19 years)

**11%** senior (65+ years)

**4%** live with a disability that requires support

### Industries

Strawberry runners and other horticulture, forestry and tourism

♥ Small community that works together, many activities through the Community House, CJ Dennis Hall, and community garden

♥ Clean air, tall trees, ferns, water, native birds and animals, and gardens

♥ Beautiful country town that's both close and remote, feels safe

♥ Outdoor lifestyle for walking, horse riding, fishing, or just quietly enjoying.

## STORY OF OUR FUTURE

### PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

We want places and activities for us to come together. Where through the spirit of volunteerism and community, people can thrive. We acknowledge our history and want to build it in to our future.

### COMMUNITY ASSETS

We want to maximize our assets such as the Community House, forest discovery centre, recreation reserve, community garden, tennis courts, and walking and horse riding trails.

### NATURAL AND HERITAGE VALUES

We want to maintain our beautiful town, rural and forest environment to ensure we flourish. This includes our gardens, the forest and animals, critically endangered and other threatened flora and fauna, sustainable living, trails, indigenous culture and heritage, town history, artistry and poetry including celebration of CJ Dennis.

### SERVICES

We want to support & promote our businesses. This could be improved by building our access to and awareness of available services, as well as advocacy for things that can make our community better.