



VIC 3717

YEA

**OUR
FUTURE
VISION**

YEA COMMUNITY PLAN 2020

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

We respectfully acknowledge the Taungurung People, their elders past, present and emerging in Yea and beyond, recognising the deep connection among their people and with the land.



Credit: R. Wealands



DRAFT 2020 - 2023

OUR HISTORY.

The local 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.

1824 Explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell were the first white men to traverse this area. They named our river The Muddy Creek and the early settlement was known by this name.

1837 The first settlers, five young men known as the 'Goulburn Mob', overlanded from Goulburn in NSW and took up enormous squatter's runs.

1855 Thomas Pinniger was sent to survey the Muddy Creek settlement, which was then re-named 'Yea' after Colonel Lacey Walter Gilmour Yea, a hero of the Boer War who was killed-in-action as the new township was being surveyed.

1857 Early reports of some gold in the area but not until 1859 was payable gold found in the Yea area.

1860 The first Yea State School No 699 was opened. (Before this, school was held in a tent.)

1875 Yea Flora Fossils were first noticed on Limestone Road, Yea, and in 1935 were identified as being from the genus Baragwanathia from 415 million years ago (when Australia was still part of Gondwanaland), the oldest flora fossil in the world. The site was added to the Australian National Heritage list.

1882 Construction began on the railway line from Tallarook to Yea and was completed in record time by late 1883.

1905 Dairying was a major industry in the district with the Yea Dairy Company producing 24 tons of butter per week, including for export to England.

1907 Seven sawmills were operating in the district including two in the Yea township.

1925 Electric power established in Yea.

1891 Site reserved for Yea Show yards and recreation ground, with the first Yea Show held in 1918.

1890–1900 Yea Bowling Club, Cricket Club, Football Club, Tennis Club and Rifle Club established and each allotted ground for their various activities.

1928 Yea won the 'Ideal Town' competition and Yea Shire Council commissioned a town fountain with the prizemoney.

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

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

1978 The Tallarook to Mansfield Railway line closed.

1990 Yea Railway Station declared a Heritage building. Friends of Yea Railway incorporated to begin fundraising to restore derelict station and railway yards to community park.

1994 Yea Shire Hall Centenary celebrated. Original hall had an imposing façade with timber 'country' hall behind. Several renovations and extensions over the years.

1999 Yea River Wetlands officially opened by Mr Malcolm Reid, President of the Gould League Society of Victoria.

2002 Rosebank extended to include Nursing Home facility after the Yea community raised \$110,000 towards costs

Major floods caused devastation throughout the district in 1844, 1884, 1889, 1930, 1934 (the 100-year-flood benchmark) and 1973. The building of the Eildon Dam has mitigated this catastrophic flooding.

Many major bushfires have swept through various parts of the district destroying forestry, homes, outbuildings, fences and livestock.

The township of Yea was seriously threatened in 1900 and 1969. In 2009, devastating fires raged through the whole of the Southern part of the shire with enormous loss of lives and homes.



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WHO ARE WE?

2016 ABS DATA FOR YEA.

1600

PEOPLE LIVE IN YEA
(APPROX.)

52 years

MEDIAN AGE OF YEA
RESIDENTS

1.7%

OF POPULATION
IS INDIGENOUS

455

PEOPLE OVER THE
AGE OF 65 YEARS

16%

OF YEA'S POPULATION
IS AGED 0-16 YEARS

83%

OF RESIDENTS WERE
BORN IN AUSTRALIA

90%

OF PEOPLE SPEAK
ONLY ENGLISH

33%

OF PEOPLE HAVE
VOLUNTEERED OVER
THE LAST 12 MONTHS
(above the state average)

14%

OF PEOPLE AGED
OVER 15 YEARS ASSIST
OTHERS DUE TO
DISABILITY, ILLNESS
OR OLD AGE

65

THERE ARE 65 SINGLE
PARENT FAMILIES

52%

OF PEOPLE WHO
WORK ARE
FULL-TIME WORKERS

75

THERE ARE AT LEAST
75 ESTABLISHED
GROUPS IN YEA
(see Appendix 2 for details)

HOW WE GOT HERE.

THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STORY.

In May 2019, 80 people attended the launch of Yea Community Planning at a dinner at Beaufort Manor.

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 approximately monthly in the second half of 2019. Sub-group meetings have explored the arts, environment and heritage.

The Community Planning Steering Group (6 members) met monthly from late 2019 through to early 2020, to steer the final prioritisation process and drafting of the Community Plan.

In February 2020, a dinner was held at the Yea Shire Hall to bring community members together to prioritise the top projects that would make the most difference to Yea.

Almost 60 community members attended. From 118 potential project ideas, 11 priorities emerged and related Action Teams were formed by volunteers from the community.

These are the priority projects that are included below. The full list of projects that were not prioritised at this time is also included as Appendix 1.

PRIORITY PROJECTS.

11 PROJECTS WITH LOCAL ACTION TEAMS.

- **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**.
- **Renewable energy micro-grid** Investigating development of a local 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 and other safety improvements.



YEA

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THINGS WE LOVE.



Beautiful natural environment; wetlands'



'Warm and friendly; great community'



'Positive ethos of town centre and layout'



'The park in the centre of main street'



'No poker machines'



'Good place to retire'



'Big enough to be a well-serviced community and small enough to know and be known'



'Country 'feel' and convenience'



'Cultural heritage of the Taungurung'

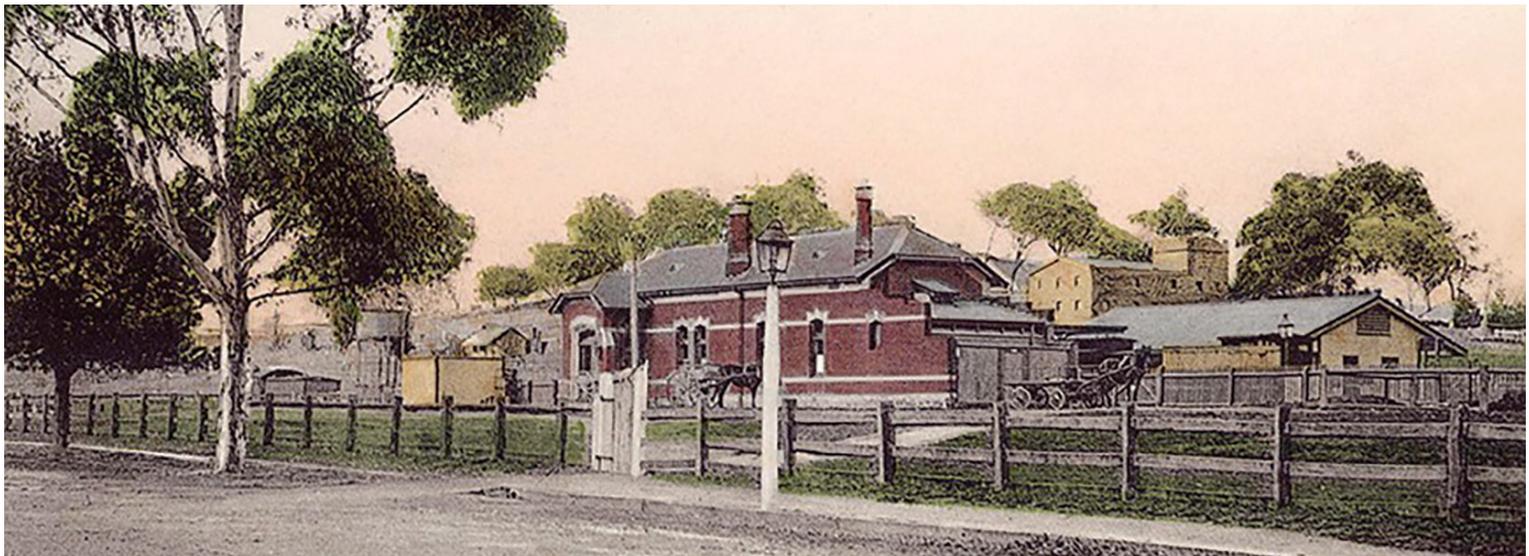


'Central to the Murrindindi Shire'



'Proximity to Melbourne yet far enough away'

OUR COMMUNITY.





Credit: R. Wealands



APPENDIX 1.

OTHER PROJECT IDEAS.

The following list contains all the project ideas that Yea community members contributed during the community planning process, that were not prioritised for this plan.

- Restore white fountain
- Establish simple volunteer fruit-picking system
- More activities for senior citizens, especially those (14) using mobility scooters
- Varied activities for youth/children
- Establish a night-time photography group
- African Drumming Circle
- Dance classes
- Driver Reviver Program on public holidays (via contact with SES)
- Rebuild bandstand and rose garden
- Charging Station for electric cars
- Charging points in café for mobility scooters
- Fenced dog park
- Community networking – meet and greet events
- Advocacy group for ban on glyphosates - establish
- Watch-dog group for monitoring extensive farming eg along creeks – establish
- Advocacy for better use of river to junction of the Goulburn. Could include cooperating with Y Water, fishing groups, GBCMA, Landcare, etc
- Town compost and bio digester
- Protect native vegetation, including old-growth forests - advocacy
- Protect heritage trees such as red gums - advocacy
- Improve Constitution Hill: track, lookout, astronomy
- Refund service of bottles and cans - advocacy
- More green places - advocacy
- Promote green living – promotion, education, advocacy
- Protection of farming land - advocate for less subdivision
- Strengthening the Yea Agricultural Show which could include amalgamating the Yea and Alexandra shows
- Cemetery work – establishing location of graves of Taungurung people, and the possibility that they may be outside cemetery boundary and upgrading historical graves, also fencing re-done
- Historical street signage and a walk with the Taungurung story included within it
- Connect history to other tourism assets

- Review local place-names and signage, including re-considering the use of names of past colonialists
- Develop the Long Walking Trail for walking gently - following a path from Toolangi to Yea and Marysville via rivers, forests, billabongs, mountains. Marking indigenous and non-indigenous places of cultural/spiritual significance.
- Protect existing Heritage buildings
- Soldiers memorial: provide maintenance and could be relocated for safety at big events and easier traffic management
- Record the stories of older residents
- Hold a regular historic café get-together – to invite stories and artefact sharing
- Support more economic development
- Hold annual ‘think-tanks’ on rural job development: “Creative Ideas Forums”
- Greater links with business
- Encourage environmentally sensitive industry and eco-tourism
- Bulk food shop – establish or build on existing resources
- Further develop star-gazing for astro-tourism
- Further develop nature-based tourism
- Refresher on Cittaslow video ‘What We Love about Yea’
- Advocacy for improved signage and parking including:
 - Signs for caravans getting off the main road
 - Improved signs for parking
 - More parking on vacant block for lease
 - Clearer signage around town generally
- Support the Community Bank
- RV camping at Rec Reserve
- Gardens and street planting improvements including on main street and median strips and railway reserve
- Improve signage and walks at Wilhelmina Falls, near Murrindindi
- Tours of the hills
- Open the Gate event – celebrating hobbies and other interests
- Greater coordination of groups to improve capacity and capability
- More resources to support activities of Yea Community House
- Community coordinator: recruit and support volunteers, all groups, share info etc
- Groups working together to share resources
- Calendar of community events
- Representative youth voice
- Community Challenge billboard, showcasing community groups - to create healthy rivalry

- Revive Neighbourhood Watch
- U3A
- Volunteer succession planning
- Community House to manage Shire Chambers
- Farmers' market
- Halfway house for people exiting jail with 24 hour access & support
- Relocatable homes for homeless people
- Advocacy for more medical services, including psychiatric, drug and alcohol services
- Pioneer Reserve - increase usage
- Advocacy for online learning options for rural young people – to keep them local Combined with Advocacy for flexible learning options (pathways beyond high school for local youth)
- Community (training) café: provide employment and training for young people
- Community education foundation
- Advocacy for 24 hour police
- Advocacy for improved waste management - including green waste
- Advocacy for better transport options:
 - more buses
 - train to Melbourne
 - development of a community transport hub
 - local public transport
- Increase the profile of Nexus and other services already available
- Gym: Youth or all-ages
- Coordinated whole-of-town sports club:
 - Sports training for young people
 - Mountain bike track
 - Volleyball team
- Advocacy related to the Rail Trail:
 - clearer bike track through Railway Reserve and the middle of town
 - improved signage
 - seal most popular sections
- Advocacy to improve the Railway Reserve including a climbing wall, sand and water and 360 degree spinning
- Upgrade Rec Reserve
- Explore uses for land behind Pioneer Reserve
- Utilise racecourse reserve more
- Seal the road to Cheviot tunnel
- Toilets and picnic tables at Cheviot tunnel
- Support for events in High St gardens
- Coffee festival (with so many cafes)
- Music festivals
- Town orchestra
- Outdoor community stage
- Art gallery

- Advocacy related to the Shire Hall
 - seal community usage more affordable/free
 - seal facade works and upgrade, activation
- Support Yea Arts more and cooperation between Yea Arts and performances
- More visual arts programs: Life drawing, watercolour painting etc.
- Grow the existing Garden Expo
- Public art: sculpture and other art in main street
- Advocacy for Council to remove barriers for events such as expensive OH&S and insurance
- Philosophy classes
- Community Cinema (Shire Hall or mobile)
- Make Yea a Wellness Town – a destination
- Support young people to eat healthily and be more physically active
- A mental health shop (like Juniper and Lamplight in Montmorency)
- Community meals
- Yea Welcome Pack including linking new people online
- More footpaths for improved accessibility
- Advocacy for more streetlights
- Community bushfire preparedness.
- Support & Services for disadvantaged eg. People experiencing family violence, mental health concerns, people with disability & their carers, PTSD
- Programs for men including Ex-soldiers
- Youth group
- Advocacy for a full-detour of Yea or night-time truck curfew

APPENDIX 2.

YEA COMMUNITY GROUPS.

List of Yea's 77 community groups. (Please note that this list is not exhaustive – rather, it was as accurate as the Steering Group could manage during the preparation of the Yea Community Plan.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, SPORTS

1. Yea Football Netball Club
2. Yea Golf Club
3. Yea Tigers Swimming Club
4. Yea Tigers Cricket Club
5. East Central District Rifle Club
6. Little Athletics
7. Yea Bowls Club
8. Yea Tennis Club
9. Yea Calisthenics
10. Yea Fishing Club
11. Yea Table Tennis Club
12. Yea Karate Club (Pioneer Reserve)
13. Tai Chi (Pioneer Reserve)

SERVICE CLUBS

14. Rotary Club of Yea
15. RSL
16. Legacy
17. Yea Primary P&F
18. Sacred Heart School P&F
19. Cemetery Trust
20. Pioneer Reserve Committee
21. CFA

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

22. Anglican – St Luke's
22. Roman Catholic – Sacred Heart
23. Yea Presbyterian Church

SENIORS ACTIVITY GROUPS

24. Probus

ENVIRONMENTAL

25. Yea Wetlands Committee
26. Friends of Wetlands
27. Yea Wetlands Trust
28. Y Water Discovery Centre Inc
29. Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek Landcare
30. Yea High School Junior Landcare
31. Yea River Catchment Landcare
32. Garden Club
33. Yea Birders
34. Yea Bee Club

ART/CRAFT

35. Yea Yakkers (Quilters)
36. Highlands Spinners
37. Pottery Club
38. Men's Shed
39. Yea Photographic Club
40. Camera Club
41. UFO (Unfinished Objects)
42. Mosaic and Leadlighting

DRAMA/ MUSIC

43. Yappers
44. Yea Arts Inc
45. Platform Youth
46. Yea & Highlands Piper & Drums
47. Murrindindi Film Society

TOURISM

48. Hot Rod Club

WALKING/ HIKING/ DANCE/ EXERCISE

49. Power Pals
- 50-52. Line Dancing groups x 3
53. Ballroom Dancing

COMMUNITY

54. Yea Community House
55. Yea Market Committee
56. Yea Agricultural Show
57. Yea Recreation Reserve Committee
58. Yea Progress Association
59. CWA
60. Yea Community meal

HISTORY/ WRITING

61. Yea Historical Society
62. Friends of Yea Railway
63. Genealogy (Yea Library)

BOOKS/ LIBRARIES

- 64-66. 3 x Book Groups
67. Friends of the Library (Bookshop)

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

68. Town Club
69. Meditation discussion and healing
70. Cancer Support Group
71. Cittaslow

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

72. Yea Childcare
73. Yea Youth
74. Scouts
75. Buds and Blossoms Rosebank program
76. PLATFORM Youth Theatre
77. Play Group

APPENDIX 3.

FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Children from the Yea Primary School provided the following drawings and statements in response to a question about what they love about Yea and what would make Yea even better.

I like that it is fun at Yea and you learn stuff.

I like the pool at Yea and the hardware shop because there is wood there.

I like the Railway Park in Yea because it's fun and it's full of younger kids and older kids.

Yea is a fun place to live!

Most of the people are nice and they will help you in Yea.

It was fun moving to Yea because it has lots of space and I met a lot of people and it's the best place I've ever lived! It's quiet and there are less people driving through. We don't get many tourists, so we have more space.

I like everything about Yea! I like when I go to the Wetlands.

I like that it's a small town and you can taste different foods at the cafes and restaurants. I like how Yea is friendly.

It would be great to add a water park onto the Railway Reserve Park for summer. I would like to extend the skate park, too.

I would like tarmac put on the road that goes from Racecourse Road to the Seymour Road because it has a lot of potholes and some school buses go on it.

I think we should have more rides at the Yea Show.

I like the Wetlands, it is a nice area for walking around.

I would like more seating areas at the Wetlands.

I like the Wetlands because it is calming when you walk through it. I like the wildlife there as well.

I like how people in Yea are nice, because when you say "Hi", they say "Hi" back.

I like how there's a lot of sport available in Yea and how everyone is involved.

I'd like more firetrucks in Yea.

I like how all the roads lead to Yea, it's a great little town to pass through and to get your food.

I like Yea because I have unlimited data in Yea!

I would like a water park in Yea.

I like that there are lots of people – my family and friends. I would like more parks.

I like going to the skate park.

I like the school at Yea. At Yea Primary School you meet friends every day.

I like the Railway Park in Yea, there are lots of things to play on.

I would like a church group for people our age (12 years) and a church for families to go to. I would like a Christian Youth Group.

I like the Railway Park because it has a big swing and a flying fox. I like that the footy oval is big.

I like the Yea Pool, you get to cool down.

I'd like a slide and a diving board at the pool.

I like that Yea is a small town and that everybody knowseach other. I would like more bike paths within Yea.

I like that it's a small town and you know where everything is. I would like more chairs at the Wetlands so you can listen to the birds.

I like that Yea is peaceful.

I like the fountain in Yea because of all the ducks. I like the ducks.

I would like an observatory on Mt Connie.

I like Yea because it has some shops you can look at. I would like the Rec Reserve seats to be fixed.

I like that Yea is a small town and you know everyone and you feel safe.

I like Yea, in Yea there are a lot of restaurants to eat at.

I like the bakery because they have good food.

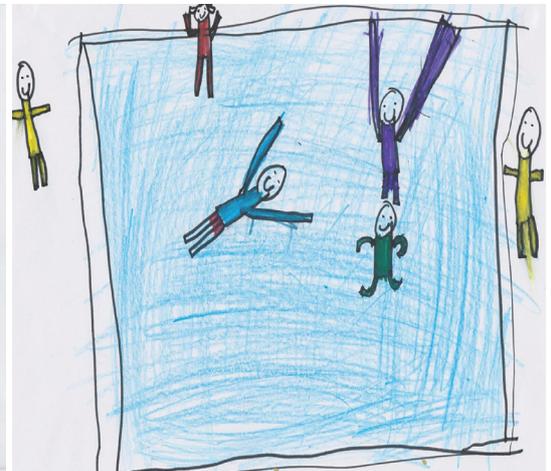
I like the townfolk because they are good people.

I like the schools because they are friendly.

I like that everyone knows each other. I like the Yea netball/football club.

I like the Yea Pool, it would be better if it was free.

I like that there are lots of animals around Yea.



My favourite thing about Yea is the pool and skatepark

I like fishing at the river in Yea.

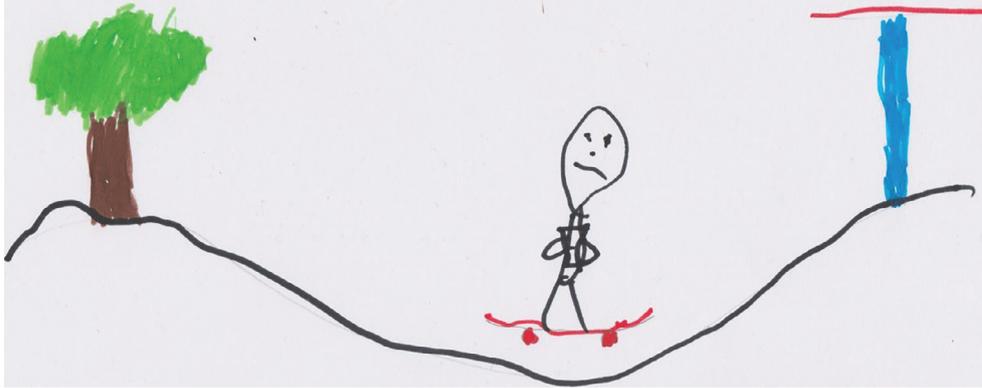


I like the birds in Yea.

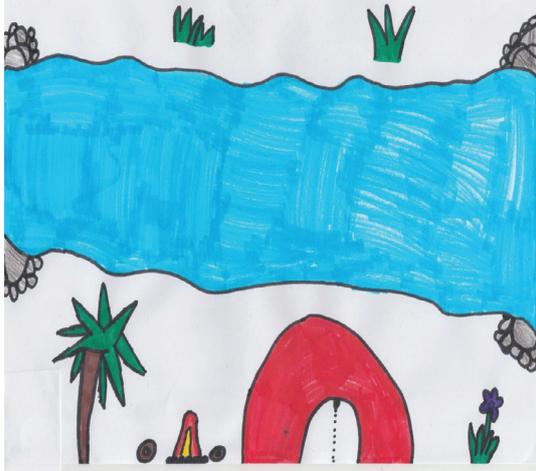


My favourite thing about Yea is the Pool because you learn swimming.

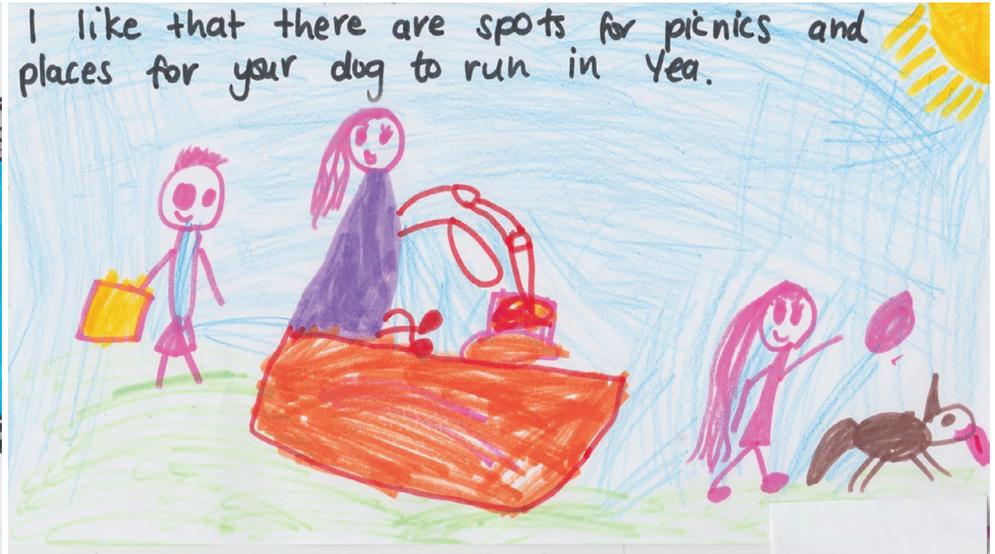
I like the Skate Park.



I like that there is lots of nature in Yea.



I like that there are spots for picnics and places for your dog to run in Yea.

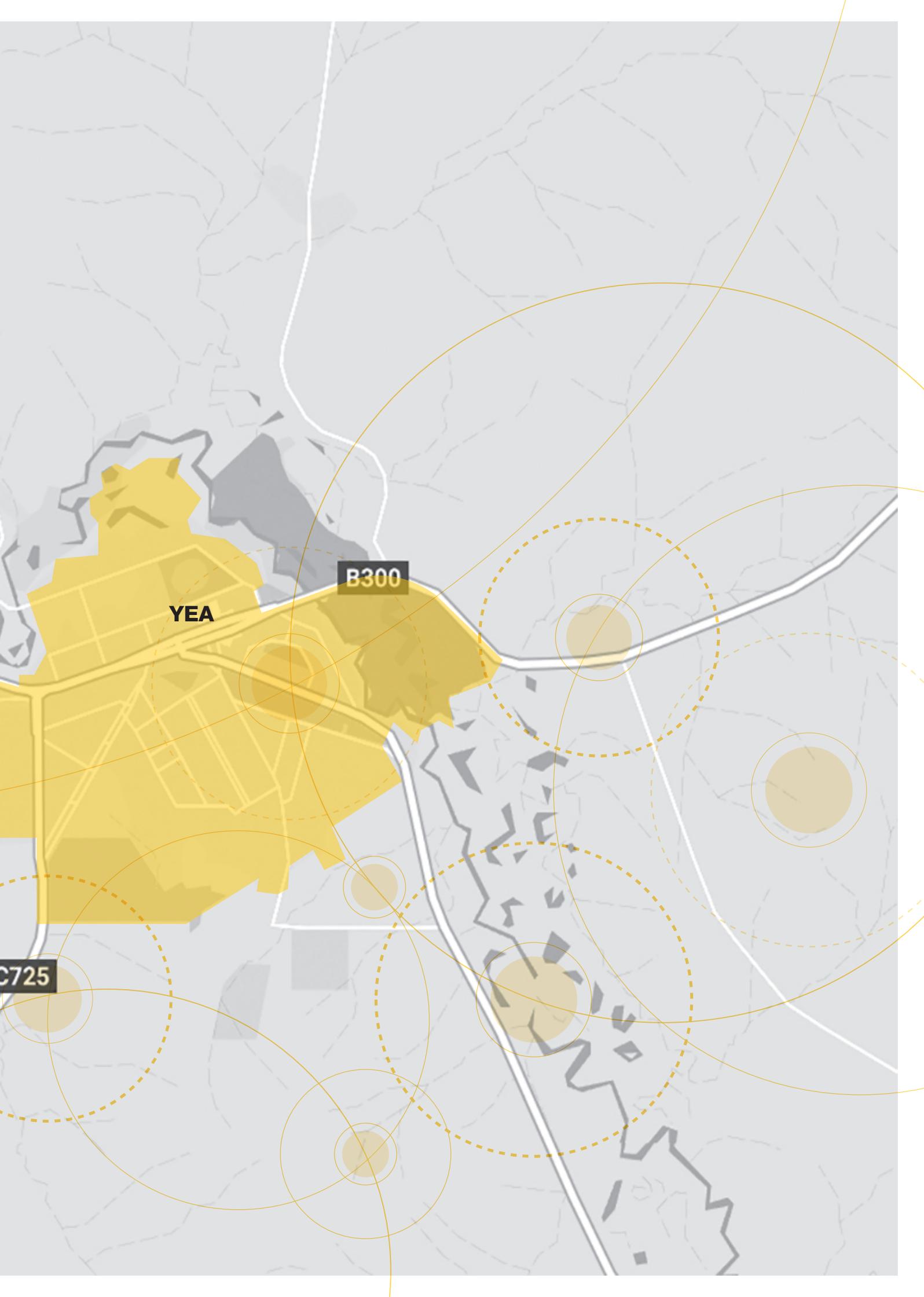


I like that there are lots of animals and trees in Yea.



OUR FOOTPRINT.

Ghin Ghin Rd



YEA

B300

C725

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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References

Australian Bureau of Statistics data 2016:
https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC22909

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

Map of Yea: <http://citypopulation.de/php/australia-victoria.php?cityid=215097>

Grow Well Dindi
(previously known as RESPOND)
data and actions:
<http://lhpcp.org.au/respond/>

