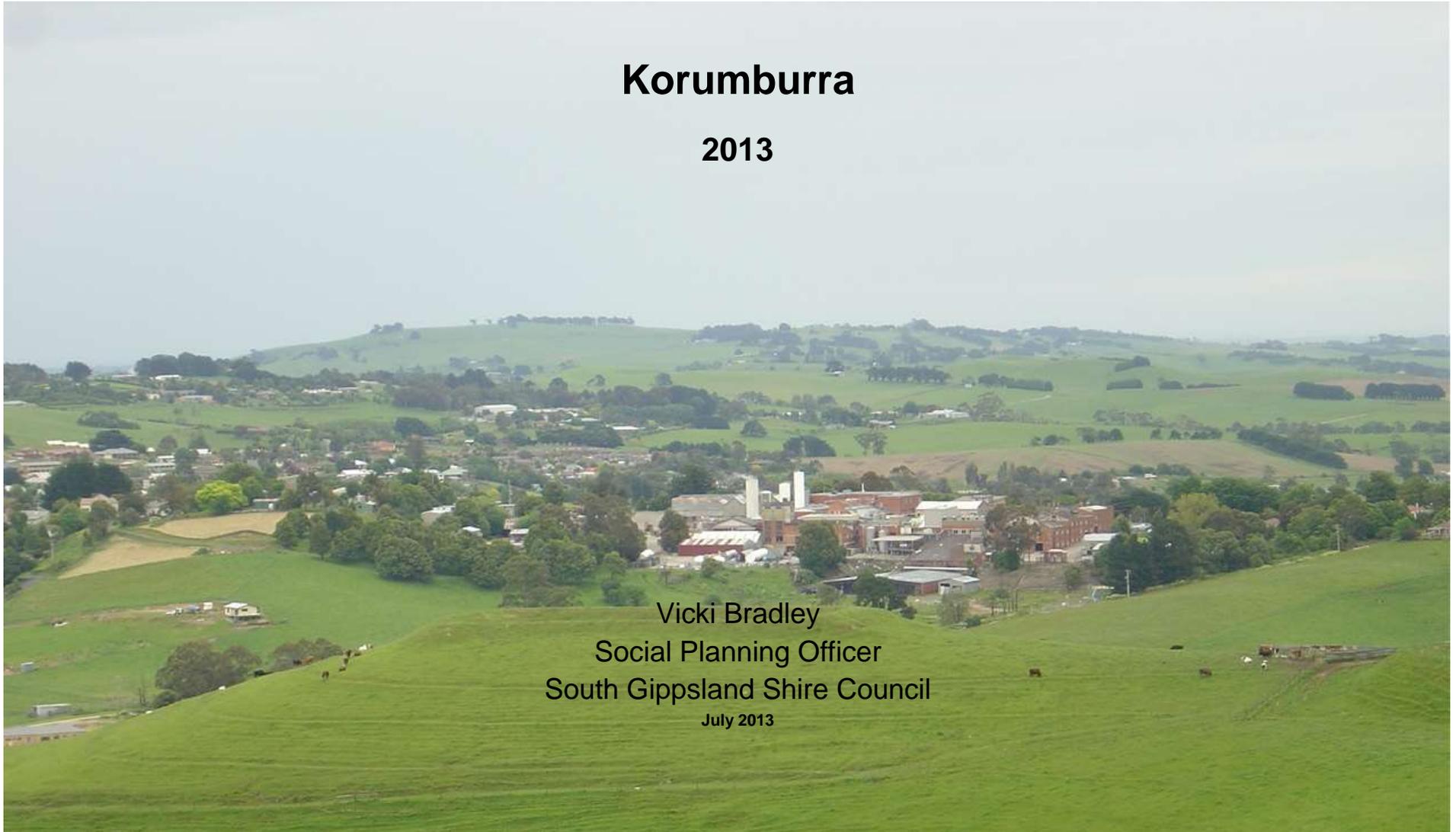


# COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

**Korumburra**

**2013**

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South Gippsland Shire Council  
July 2013



Final

South Gippsland Shire Council

July 2013

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## Executive Summary

*“First life, then spaces, then buildings: the other way around never works - Jan Gehl”*



Korumburra is expecting relatively significant population growth and demographic change over the next 20 years. The rezoning of land for residential development and infill development results in Council planning for growth of the population from 4,174 in 2011 to 6,301 people by 2031 at an average annual growth rate of 2.55%.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that an average of 50 additional dwellings will be constructed each year over the next 20 years.

Community infrastructure includes the public and private facilities and services required to accommodate and support community services, programs, activities and a person's access to them. Community infrastructure plans are being prepared for Korumburra, Leongatha, Mirboo North, Venus Bay and Nyora to inform planning in each of these towns.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Guide the development, timing, design and location of community infrastructure over the next 20 years
- Identify and prioritise services and facilities required for an emerging population
- Support the allocation of funds to community infrastructure.

This document will be available for a number of Council actions:

- Negotiate development contributions
- Inform community planning discussions
- Identify current best practice
- Inform strategic planning of the town centre including provision of retail, community spaces and services that are easily accessible
- Inform service level planning for Korumburra by Council and other service providers
- Advocate for appropriate provision of services in Korumburra.

Council is seeking to work in partnership with the community, other agencies and providers to offer an enhanced sense of community identity through the establishment of multi-purpose, shared community infrastructure to promote participation in social, education, arts, sport and recreation activities and programs.

### Background and Context

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<sup>1</sup> .id consulting for South Gippsland Shire Council.

Korumburra is the second largest urban settlement in the South Gippsland Shire and the major service centre for the western section of the Shire. It is an important business, industry, education, health and community centre for the South Gippsland region. The township is surrounded by rural hinterland used mainly for dairy, beef and snow pea farming.

With population growth there will be an increase in the proportion of families, retirees and youth. The number of people aged 19 and under is forecast to remain at the current 25% of the population to 2031. The age group forecast to have the largest proportional (relative to population size) in the next 10 years is 70 - 74 year olds who will increase by 93% to 286 persons.

Significant population growth fuels demand for accessible, coordinated and well-designed community infrastructure. Integrated community facilities and services are a vital component for creating healthy communities that support social inclusion and enhance the wellbeing of residents. New residential developments must be linked with existing areas and the town centre to ensure a socially vibrant town centre that provides equitable, accessible facilities and services for everyone in the community

This report describes 11 areas for community infrastructure planning based on an analysis of demographic, policy, consultation and service data. The 11 areas are Aged and Disability; Early Years Services; Youth; Arts and Culture; Commercial, Retail and Tourism; Community Meeting Spaces; Education, Learning and Libraries; Health; Law and Emergency Services; Open Space, Streets, Parks and Playgrounds; and Sport and Recreation.

### Identified Community Infrastructure Priorities (next 5 years).

Community infrastructure priorities for the next 5 years have been selected to meet immediate shortages and needs. Priority age groups for the next 5 years include:

 Early Years

 Youth

For the broader Korumburra community, priorities include:

 Education, Learning and Libraries

 Commercial, Retail and Tourism

 Open Space, Streets, Parks and Playgrounds

## Korumburra Community Infrastructure Priorities Timeline



While actioning the infrastructure priorities for the next 5 years it is also important to look ahead to the following 10 and 20 years to begin planning well in advance to address the other community infrastructure needs.

### *Early Years*

Kindergarten and childcare services in Korumburra are at capacity with waiting lists for childcare. Young children will continue to require access to kindergarten and childcare services.

In line with best practice an integrated children's centre located close to schools is proposed. The Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre would include kindergarten, long day childcare, occasional childcare, maternal and child health service, a multipurpose meeting room to cater for specialist consultations, toy library, playgroup, new parents groups and immunisations.

An integrated children's centre is considered high priority and would provide improved quality and accessibility to early childhood education and care services. It provides a more sustainable service model enabling service providers to work in an integrated, flexible and interdisciplinary way contributing to high-quality and innovative practice. Funding is currently being sought with a site identified and initial plans prepared.

### *Youth*

There are limited services or facilities for youth in Korumburra. Sports and recreation facilities cater for young people in formal sports as part of the broader community. Youth specific services outside of schools in Korumburra are scant. The number of people aged under 15 is forecast to increase by 236 (30.1%) over the next 10 years. The number of people aged under 19 years is currently 25% of the total population and will remain at that proportion to 2031.

Youth specific services are a high priority. Areas suitable for youth to meet, both indoor and outdoor would also provide places for service delivery. Outdoor social meeting areas that are adequately lit, have multi-purpose seating, and enough space to be used for performance and entertainment or markets will provide a central community activity area and would meet the needs of the whole community including young people.

Safe indoor areas for quiet study, informal meeting with others, youth specific service provision or waiting for lifts from parents or friends are needed within the town centre.

### *Education learning and libraries*

Schools have the capacity to expand to accommodate the increase expected in the next 10 years of people aged under 15 years. In contrast Milpara Community House and the Korumburra Library will be unable to provide library services and adult education for a larger population within their current facilities.

A community hub located within the central business district in a prominent main street location is proposed. The Korumburra Library and Milpara Community House as key tenants in the community hub could extend the range of courses and services available to the growing community. Ideally this multi-purpose facility would also provide a range of training rooms, art display space and a commercial kitchen.

### *Commercial Retail and Tourism*

Korumburra has a range of retail, industry and tourism attractions. Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, located to the East of Korumburra is a major tourism attraction. Two current studies in finalisation look at commercial, retail and tourism opportunities in Korumburra.

The Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan outlines opportunities, advantages and challenges for the regeneration of Korumburra's town centre to a prime commercial, service and community hub.

The Coal Creek Feasibility Study investigates options to develop the lower area of the Coal Creek site to increase tourism opportunities for Korumburra and South Gippsland Shire more broadly.

### *Open Space, Streets, Parks, Playgrounds*

Whilst surrounding farmland providing rural views from most residential areas provides the feeling of open in Korumburra with, there is limited open space available for community use. There is a need to ensure the supply of accessible open space, parks and playgrounds close to all residential areas. Connection for pedestrians to schools, parks and the town centre is needed. An increase in older adults and youth will lead to higher demand for pedestrian friendly infrastructure which is conveniently located.

There is a need to develop links between existing open space, parks and paths to provide pedestrian access between residential areas and the town centre, schools and formal recreation precincts. Healthy by Design principles guiding developer contributions is needed to ensure adequate allocation of open space; wide, accessible walking and cycling paths; public toilets, seating, shade, parks and playgrounds that are accessible to wheelchairs, bicycles, skateboards and pedestrians. Connection between new and existing residential areas is a priority.

A centrally located outdoor public space in the town centre where community gatherings and events can be held is required to provide a meeting space for all community members.

## Summary

Two approaches will support many of the community infrastructure priorities for the growing community of Korumburra:

### 1. Multipurpose, shared and flexible facilities and spaces:

- a. An integrated children's centre with kindergarten and childcare centre close to schools;
- b. A community hub with library and community centre located in a prominent readily accessible area close to shops and the town centre
- c. Development of Coal Creek Community Park and Museum for additional tourism uses including accommodation.



Multipurpose centres create a focal point for community activity. They increase efficiencies in the built form and provide better return on infrastructure costs by enabling multiple service providers to share facilities, extend hours of use and increase convenience for the community. An integrated children's centre can provide a multi-disciplinary approach for professionals with opportunities to transfer knowledge and practices. Service coordination is enhanced resulting in less delay for access to services.

Community hubs bring people together and build a sense of place. A centrally located community hub with associated outdoor area provides a public meeting place where community events and activities can be based. It would contribute to community identity for existing and new community members. A library and community house co-located will increase learning areas for those not in the school system including the older population.

2. **A network of paths and open space connecting residential areas, recreation areas and the town centre.** The larger population groups of youth and older people

will be the greatest beneficiaries. As non-drivers, the young and old will use shared paths to connect with social opportunities in the town using modes of transport unique to these age groups.

Good planning within new residential developments provides connections between new and existing areas, an essential element to a connected community in the future. Partners in the delivery of multipurpose, shared facilities are the key to ensuring design and governance of the facilities meet the needs of all service providers and facility users.

## Conclusion

Community infrastructure is essential to provide spaces and places for participation in community life and provides opportunities for community building. Contributions from new residential and town centre developers, funding grants and the sale of key Council land can be allocated to fund some of the proposed community infrastructure costs. This plan will assist in supporting a coordinated approach to providing the community infrastructure needs for Korumburra.

## 1 Korumburra current and forecast Demographics

The following provides a general description of the demographic profile for Korumburra in 2012. It relies heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census either directly or through pre-analysed and graphed data prepared by .id Consulting for South Gippsland Shire Council.

Korumburra is the second largest urban settlement in the South Gippsland Shire, experiencing the fastest growth rate. It is a major service centre for the western section of the Shire. Korumburra is an important business, industry, education, health and community centre for the South Gippsland region. It is situated on the South Gippsland Highway surrounded by rolling hills. Korumburra includes a township surrounded by rural hinterland which is used mainly for dairy, beef and snow pea farming.

Settlement of the area dates from the 1840s, with land used mainly for pastoral purposes. The township was established in the 1880s, spurred by coal discoveries. Growth took place from the 1890s into the early 1900s, largely due to black coal mining and the construction of the railway line. The last mine closed in 1958. The most significant development occurred during the post-war years. The population has increased steadily since the mid-1990s, as a result of new dwellings being built.

Korumburra is located 120km, a 90 minute drive from central Melbourne. It has two primary schools, a secondary school, preschool, childcare centre, hospital, apprenticeship training centre, ambulance, police, volunteer fire brigade, court house and aged care residential facilities. Recreation options are extensive and varied. Korumburra has a large industrial precinct, rich agricultural land and a bustling shopping strip.

Considerable population growth is expected in Korumburra as a result of increasing ease of access via road to Melbourne with the construction of the Pakenham bypass in recent years and the completion of the KooWeeRup bypass in the next 2 years. Opportunities to work within 1 hour of Korumburra are numerous with Dandenong, Pakenham, Warragul, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, and the Latrobe Valley all within this range. The provision of reticulated natural gas to the town has allowed Burra Foods to expand their processing. As a result of rezoning for residential development in Korumburra (C52 and C66) and infill development, it is estimated that an average of 50 additional dwellings will be constructed each year over the next 20 years.



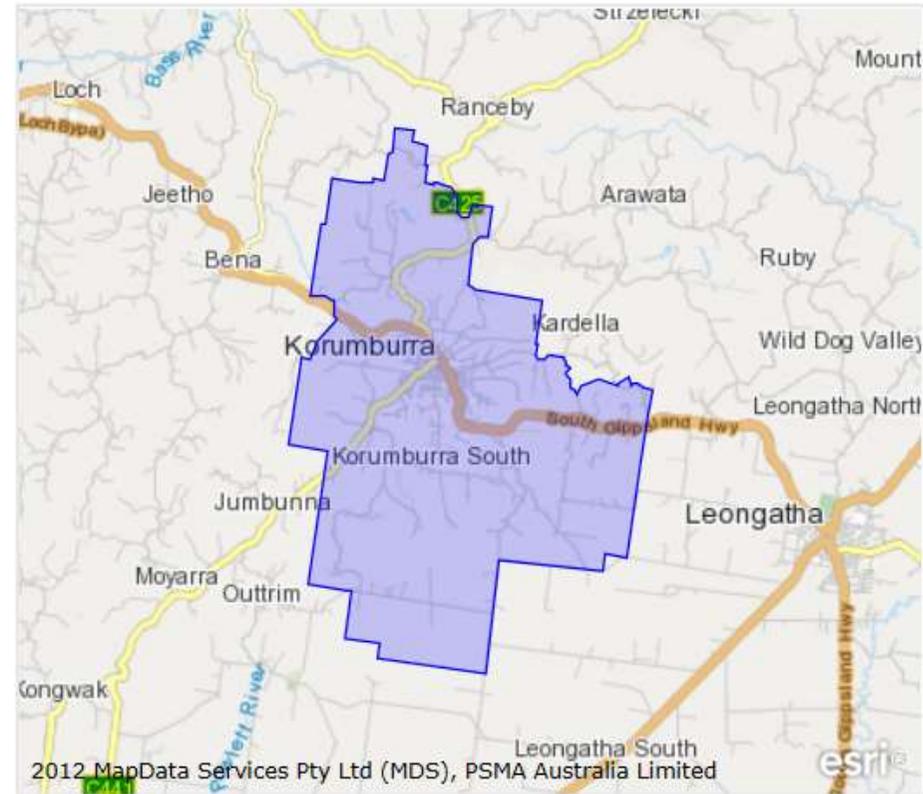
## Current demographics

### Summary

TABLE 1: KORUMBURRA DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Australia   Victoria   State Suburbs	
	<b>Korumburra</b> Code SSC20738 (SSC)
<b>People</b>	<b>4,373</b>
	Male 2,120
	Female 2,253
	Median age 43
<b>Families</b>	<b>1,164</b>
	Average children per family 2
<b>All private dwellings</b>	<b>1,964</b>
	Average people per household 2.4
	Median weekly household income \$874
	Median monthly mortgage repayments \$1,322
	Median weekly rent \$187
	Average motor vehicles per dwelling 1.9

MAP 1: KORUMBURRA STATE SUBURB 2011



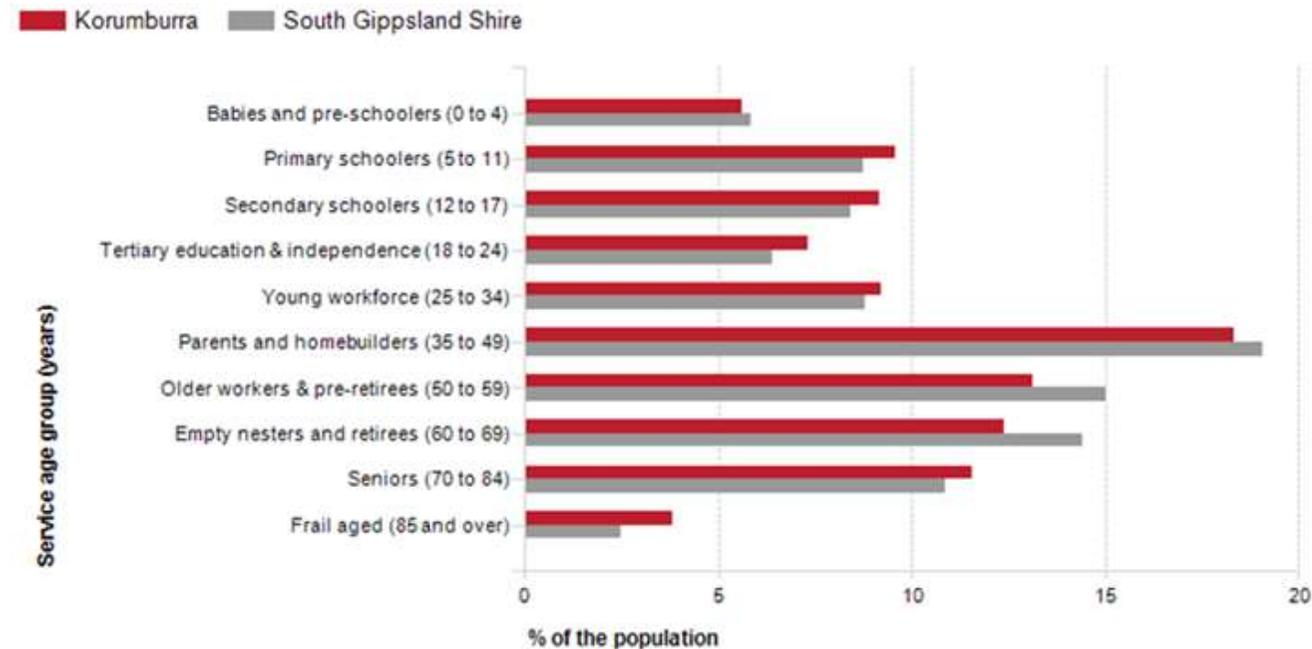
Source<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> ABS, 2011 Census QuickStats Korumburra, viewed on 30 November 2012, [http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC20738](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC20738)

## Population

The 2011 Census recorded 4,373 people living in 1873 households in Korumburra comprising 16.07% of the total population of South Gippsland. By 2031 the population will have grown to 6,304 people living in 2902 dwellings comprising 17.5% of the total population of South Gippsland. This represents an annual average percentage change of 2.26% in Korumburra and 1.41% for South Gippsland. In 2011, the most populous age group in Korumburra was 5-9 year olds, with 321 persons. This is followed closely by 10 – 14 year olds with 314 persons. The largest growth in these age groups is expected in the next 10 years.

FIGURE 1: AGE STRUCTURE 2011



Source<sup>3</sup>

The graph above shows variation in the age structure in Korumburra in 2011 to that of South Gippsland. Analysis of the service age groups of Korumburra in 2011 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a higher proportion of people aged 17 years and under and

<sup>3</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting.

those aged over 60 years. Overall, 24.3% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 27.7% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 23.0% and 27.7% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

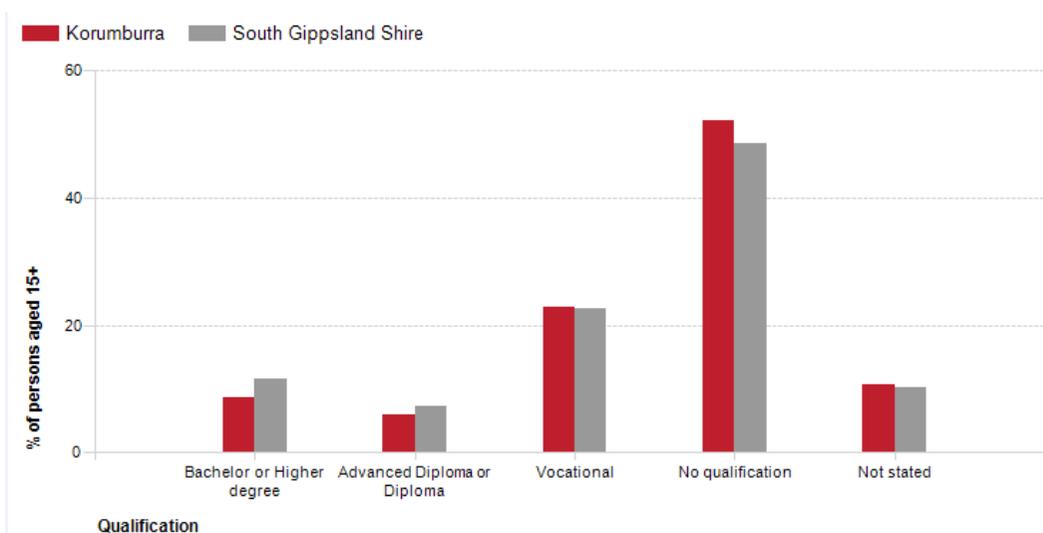
In Korumburra 5.8% of people speak a language other than English at home. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English, in Korumburra was Italian, with 2.5% of the population, or 103 people compared to South Gippsland where 1.1% speak Italian at home. Of the whole population in Korumburra, 28 people report having difficulty understanding English.

## Education

In Korumburra there was a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree; Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications), and a higher proportion of people with no formal qualifications than in South Gippsland. Overall, 44.4% of the population left school at Year 10 or below, and 29.4% went on to complete Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 40.1% and 33.1% respectively for South Gippsland Shire. The socio-economic status of residents is influenced by their level of school education and post-secondary training and qualifications influence as are employment opportunities and level of income.

Korumburra had a higher proportion of unqualified people than South Gippsland. There were a higher proportion of people with vocational qualifications and less people with other post-secondary qualifications in Korumburra than in South Gippsland. Source<sup>4</sup>

FIGURE 2 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED 2011



## Employment

*The labour force is a fundamental input to domestic production. Its size and composition are therefore crucial factors in economic growth. From the viewpoint of social development, earnings from paid work are a major influence on levels of economic well-being.<sup>5</sup>* In a population where over 95% of the labour force are employed (50% of the whole population), income remains low with 68.3% earning less than \$599 per year. While the employment rate is on par with regional Victoria, income for people living in Korumburra is 6.8% below that of regional Victoria. In Korumburra in 2011 there were 1,942 people in the workforce, of which 54.3% are working full time and 34.3% part time, 6.6% away from work and the remaining 4.8% unemployed.

<sup>4</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting.

<sup>5</sup> ABS, 1995, *Australian Social Trends 1995*, viewed on 30 November 2012, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/2f762f95845417aeca25706c00834efa/5776C5B40EE1EBC8CA2569EE0015D892?opendocument>.

The voluntary work sector is an important part of Australia's economy. The level of volunteering can indicate the cohesiveness of the community and how readily individuals are able to contribute to that community. South Gippsland Shire has a higher percentage of volunteers in comparison to Victoria and Australia. In Korumburra 25% of the population reported doing some volunteer work in the previous 12 months in comparison to 17.7% for Victoria.

**TABLE 2: VOLUNTEER WORK 2011**

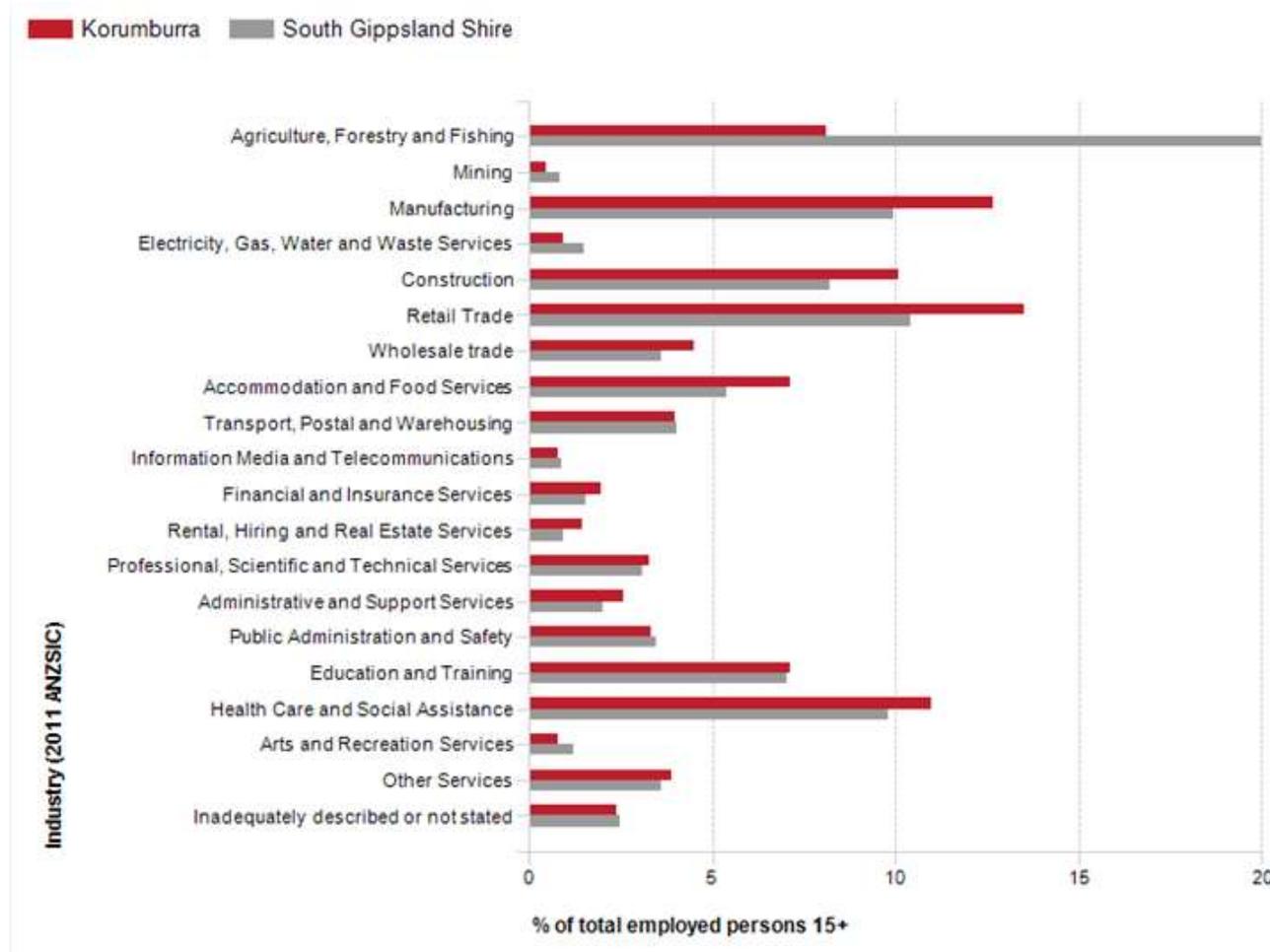
Volunteer status	Number	%	Victoria
Volunteer	820	24.6	17.7
Not a volunteer	2,266	68.0	74.4
Volunteer work not stated	243	7.3	7.9
Total persons aged 15+	3,330	100.0	100.0

Source<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

FIGURE 3: INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT



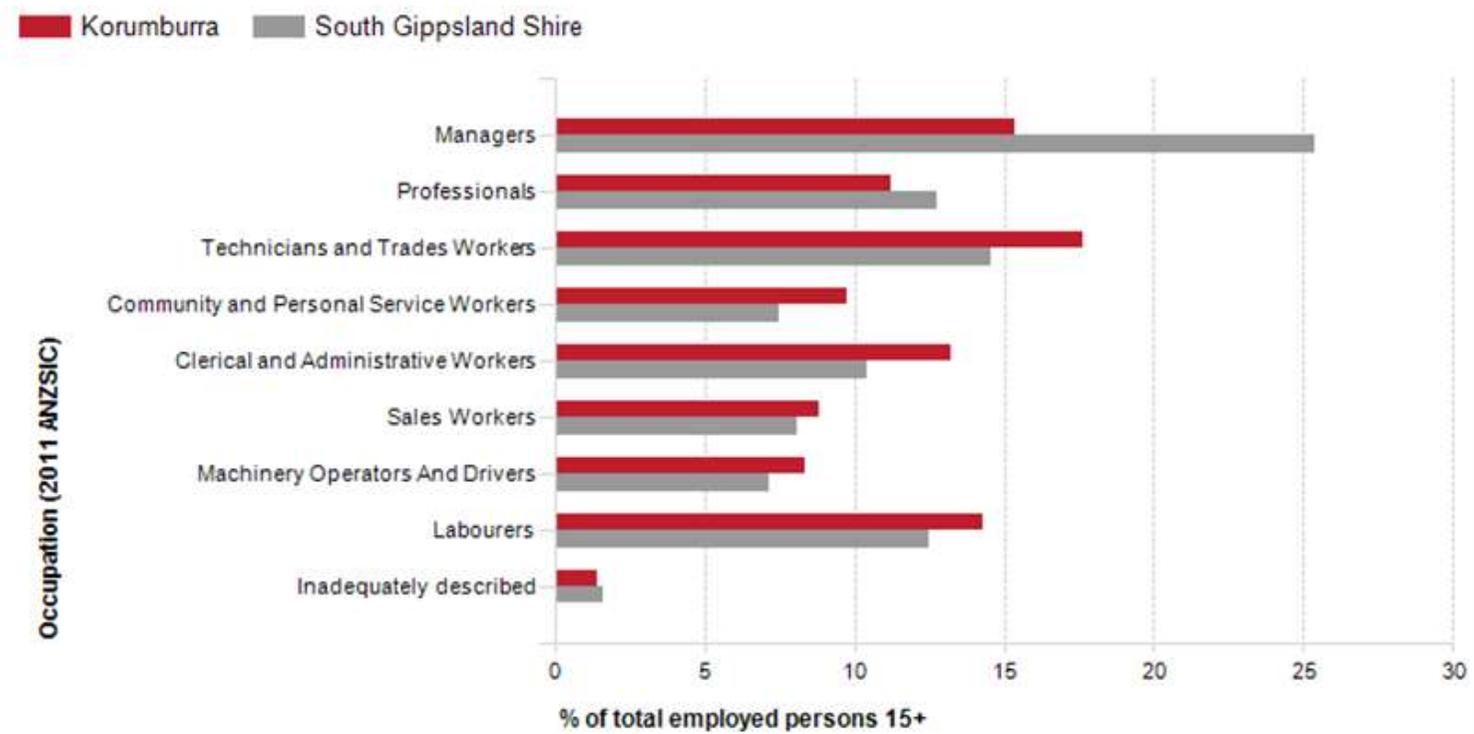
Source<sup>7</sup>

The graph above shows the three most popular industry sectors: Retail Trade (197 people or 13.5%); Manufacturing (184 people or 12.6%); Health Care and Social Assistance (160 people or 11.0%). In combination these three industries employed 541 people in total or 37.1% of the

<sup>7</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

employed resident population. In comparison with South Gippsland, Korumburra has a larger percentage of people employed in retail trade, manufacturing, construction and accommodation and food services.

**FIGURE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION**



Source<sup>8</sup>

**Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA)**

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of

<sup>8</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

disadvantage (e.g. Indigenous and Separated/Divorced). A low SEIFA score for an area does not necessarily imply anything about individuals living in the area as the score is for the area overall. All areas of Korumburra score as disadvantaged below 1000 with many collector districts in the area more disadvantaged, scoring below 900. In Korumburra factors such as educational attainment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations may contribute to the low SEIFA scores.

### INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (SEIFA)

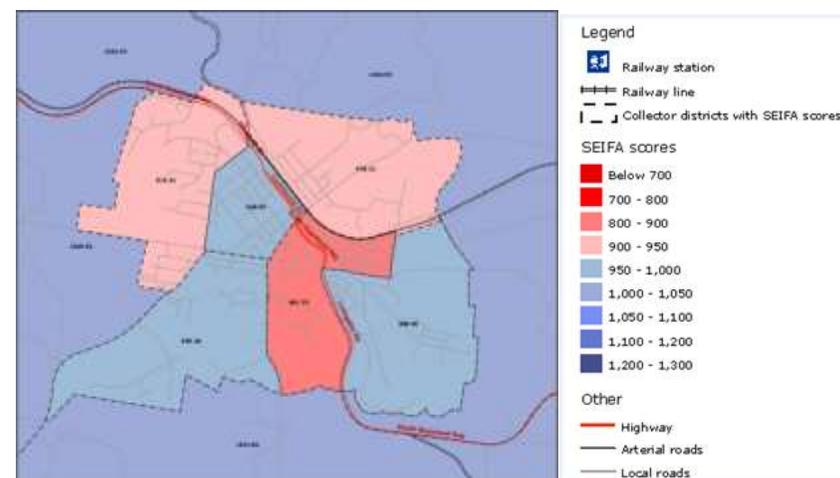
The index of relative socio economic disadvantage (SEIFA) is a relative measure and can be represented as the overall town relative to other towns or as areas within a town relative to other areas in the same town. The table below represents relative SEIFA scores of Korumburra with other towns. Map 2 shows the relative SEIFA scores within Korumburra.

TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF DISADVANTAGE KORUMBURRA

Area	2011 index
Korumburra	963.1
Regional VIC	977.7
Leongatha	989.6
South Gippsland Shire	999.5
Australia	1102.0
Mirboo North - Baromi	998.1
Victoria	1009.6
Nyora - Poowong & District	1018.4

Source<sup>9</sup>

MAP 2: KORUMBURRA



Source<sup>10</sup>

### The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a measure of young children’s development in different communities. It is a population measure of children’s development as they enter school. The AEDI measures five areas of early childhood development: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); and communication skills and general

<sup>9</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

<sup>10</sup> Department of Health, *Gippsland Health Online*, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/regions/gippsland/gippslandhealthonline/index.htm>

knowledge. Data are collected every 3 years. A higher percentage of children attending school in Korumburra are vulnerable in one or more domains and two or more domains than other South Gippsland towns or the Victorian average.

**TABLE 4: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE – SOUTH GIPPSLAND**

Local Community	Number of Children	Vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDI %	Vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDI %
Korumburra	67	16.9	10.8
Fish Creek/Yanakie and Foster	46	17.4	10.9
Koonwarra/Tarwin Lower and surrounds	43	12.2	9.3
Leongatha and surrounds*	29	4.3	4.3
Mirboo North and surrounds#	41	16.2	8.1
Poowong, Nyora and surrounds#	47	10.5	5.0
Victoria	67,931	19.5	9.5

\*data collection is less than 60% of ABS 5 year old population and may not accurately reflect population of children

#data collection is greater than or equal to 60% and less than 80% of ABS five year old population, interpret with caution

Source<sup>11</sup>

### Household and family structure

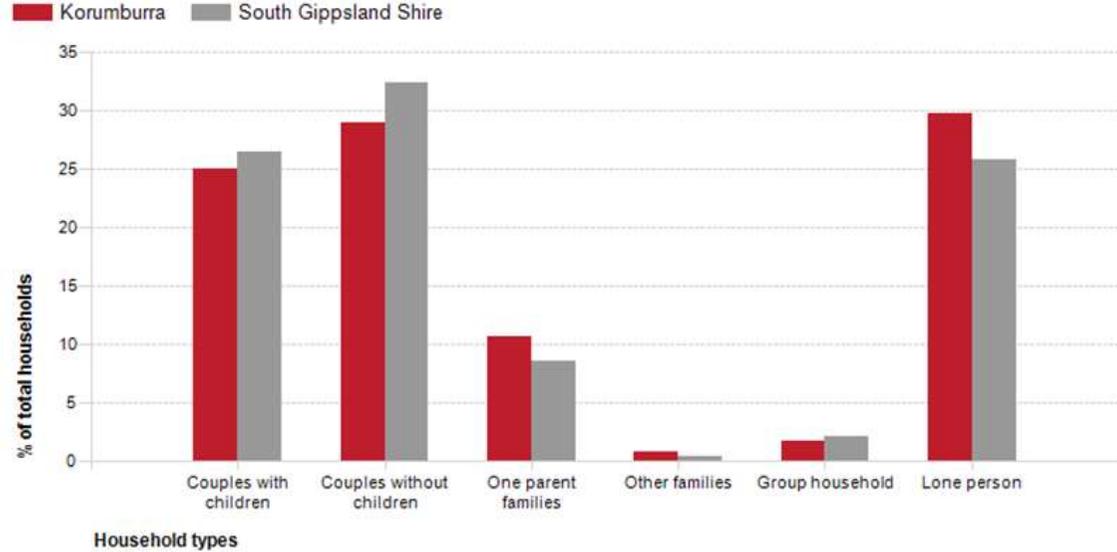
In 2011 there were 1,663 households in Korumburra, 205 more households than in 2006. New households mostly comprised couples without children (+68 households) and lone persons (+61 households).

In comparison with South Gippsland, Korumburra had a higher proportion of one-parent families and a lower proportion of couple families with children in 2011. Overall, 25.0% of total families were couple families with children and 10.6% were one-parent families, compared with 26.5% and 8.6% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

<sup>11</sup> Australian Early Development Index, 2011, *Australian Early Development Index Community Profile*, South Gippsland, p.32, viewed on 30 November 2012, <http://maps.aedi.org.au/profiles/vic/static/reports/26170.pdf>.

There was also a higher proportion of lone person households and a lower proportion of couples without children. In Korumburra 30% of households contained only one person, compared with 27% in South Gippsland Shire. The proportion of couples without children was 29.0% compared to 32.4% in South Gippsland Shire.

**FIGURE 5: KORUMBURRA HOUSEHOLD TYPES**



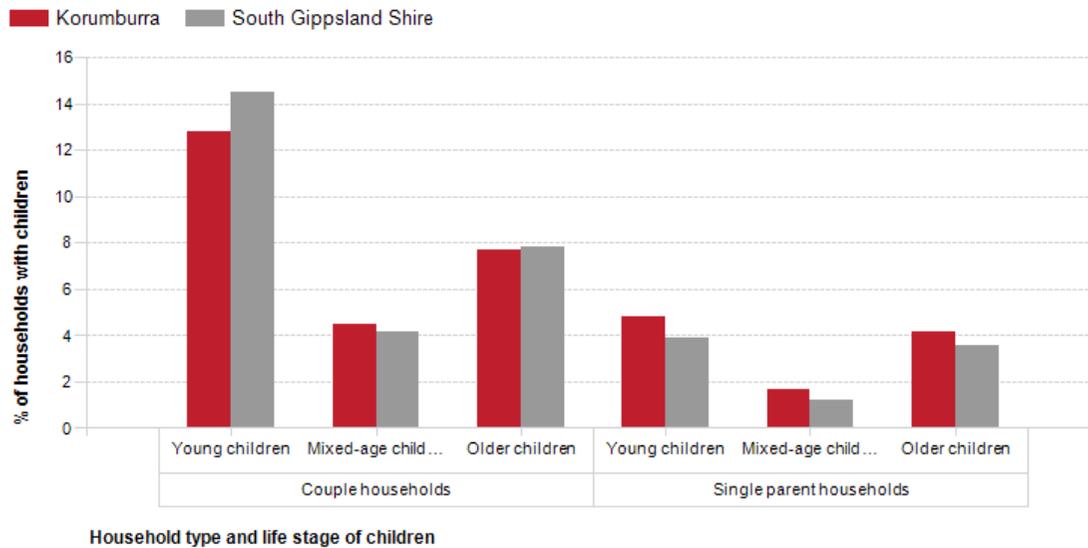
Source<sup>12</sup>

In Korumburra in 2011 there were 213 couples with young children, comprising 13% of households. Households with children require different services and facilities than other household types, and their needs change as both adults and children age. A suburb lifecycle is created where many families in the same area are at the same stage in their individual lifecycles. Knowing where a suburb is in a cycle of change helps planners make evidence-based decisions about the demand for services both now and in the future.

There were a larger proportion of single parent households with young children and a larger proportion of single parent households with older children in Korumburra than in South Gippsland. Overall, the proportion of single parent households with young children was 4.8% compared to 3.9% in South Gippsland Shire while the proportion of single parent households with older children was 4.1% compared to 3.6% in South Gippsland Shire.

<sup>12</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

**FIGURE 6: HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN**



Source<sup>13</sup>

### **Dwellings**

In 2011, there were 1,680 separate houses in Korumburra, 170 medium density dwellings, and no high density dwellings. Of all dwellings in Korumburra, 89.8% were separate houses; 9.1% were medium density dwellings, compared with 94.1% and 4.6%, in the South Gippsland Shire respectively. There are no high density dwellings in South Gippsland at all.

In 2011, a total of 88.7% of the dwellings in Korumburra were occupied on Census night, compared to 71.9% in South Gippsland Shire. The proportion of unoccupied dwellings was 10.9%, which is smaller compared to that found in South Gippsland Shire (27.8%). Many coastal towns in South Gippsland have high levels of unoccupied dwellings resulting in a lower South Gippsland average.

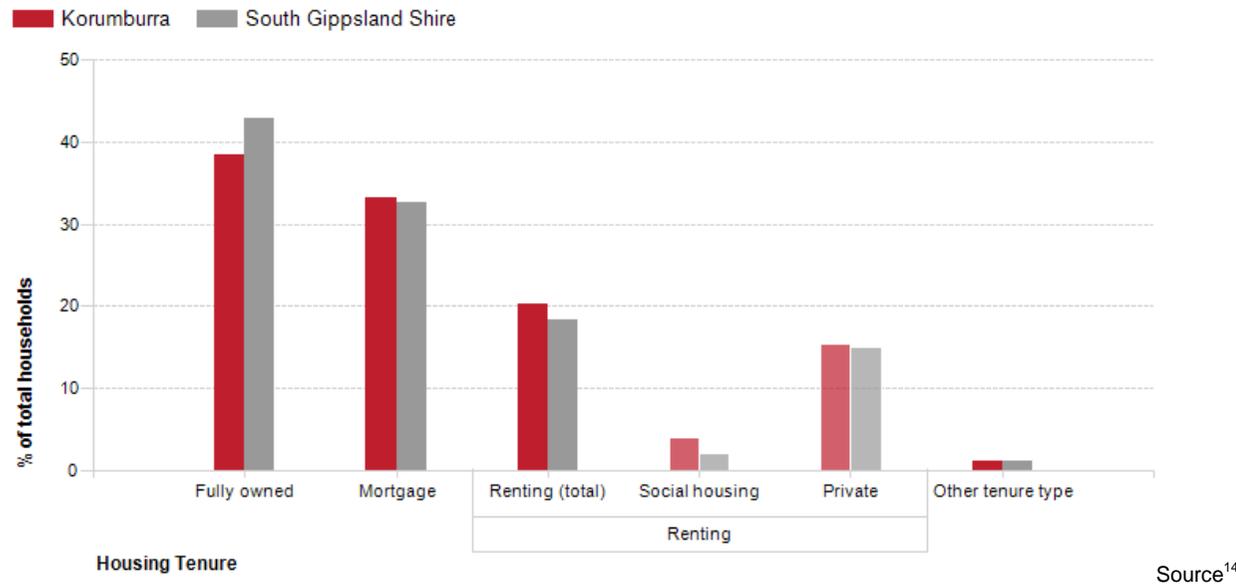
### **Home ownership/ tenure**

Home ownership when compared to household income and socio-economic status can provide information on housing affordability and stability of the population. In Korumburra 72% of households are purchasing or fully own their home a smaller proportion than South Gippsland. In Korumburra more people are purchasing their dwelling; and more people were tenants in rental properties than in South Gippsland. There are

<sup>13</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

twice as many people in social housing in Korumburra 4% than in South Gippsland 2% however since 2006 this has dropped by 12 people or 1.4%. While there is information available of how much people are paying in mortgage repayments or rent in Korumburra this cannot be directly cross referenced to the household income to assess the percentage of household income people are spending on housing.

**FIGURE 7: HOUSING TENURE**



## Future population projections

### Forecast population summary

From 1996 to 2011 95 % of Victoria’s population growth has been within 150km of the Melbourne CBD. These areas are known as Melbourne’s hinterland (Map 3), defined as the areas immediately beyond metropolitan Melbourne and within 150km of the Melbourne CBD. Korumburra is a particularly affected by peri-urban pressures along with Warragul, Drouin, Wonthaggi and San Remo.

Korumburra is within 120km of Melbourne and is expected to attract considerable growth over the next 20 – 30 years. The current population demographic including age structure, housing type needs to be considered when planning for this growth as well as how the demographics of

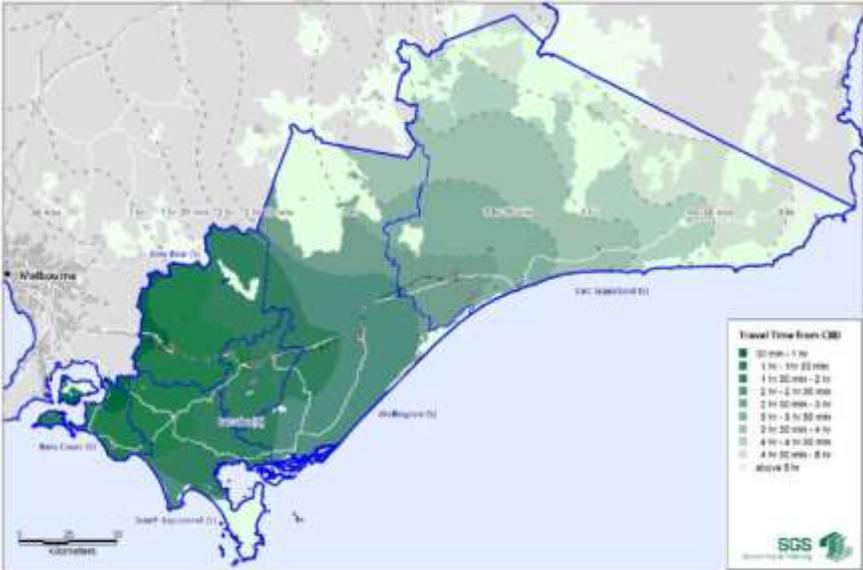
<sup>14</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

the population may change with people moving into the town from other areas. For example, the needs of the current most populous age group of 5 – 9 year olds will be considered, as well as those moving into the new houses that will be built in the town that will include both older and younger lone people.

MAP 3: MELBOURNE'S HINTERLAND



MAP 4: TRAVEL TIME FROM CBD



Source: SGS Economics and Planning

Source<sup>15</sup>

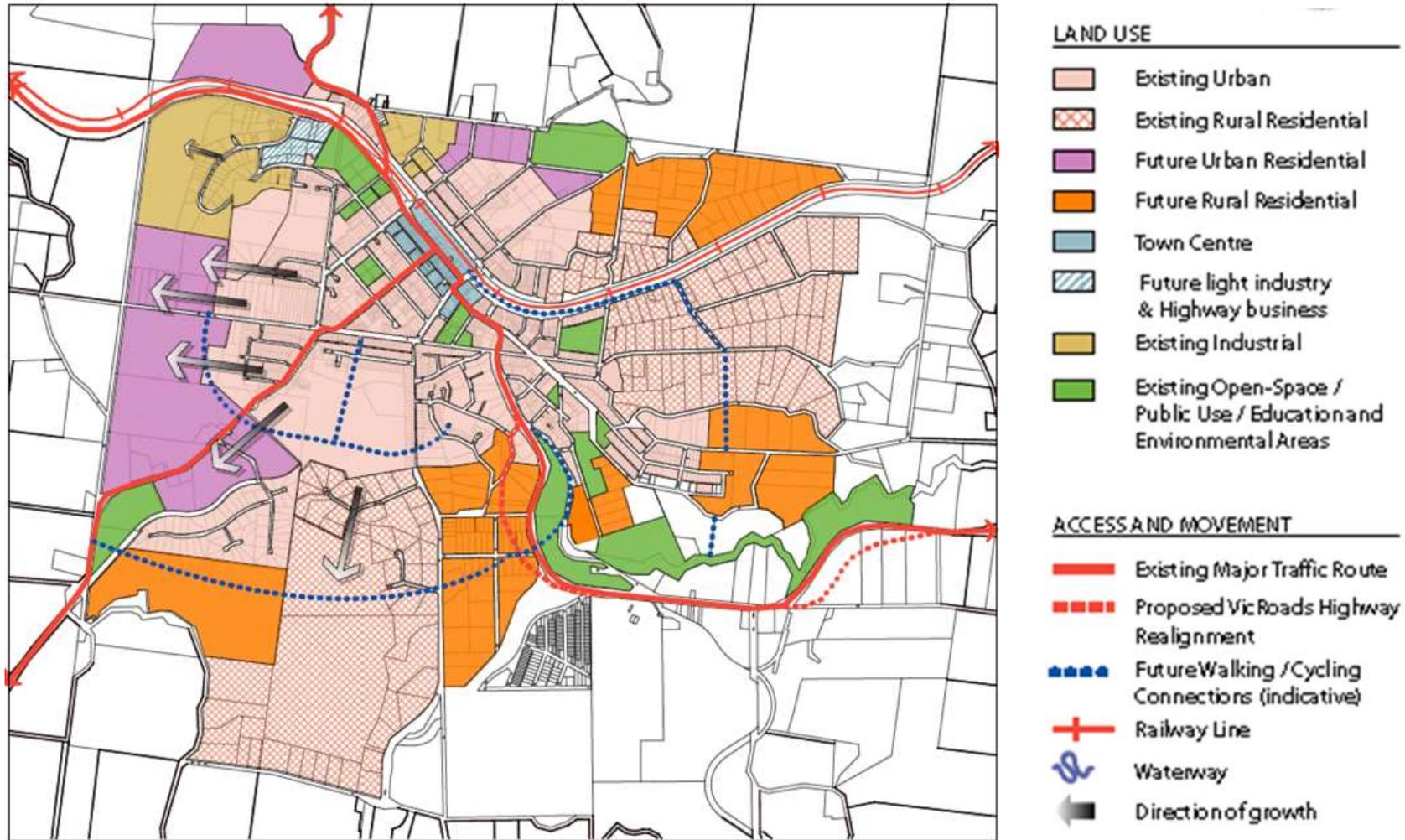
<sup>15</sup> SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd, 2012, *Gippsland Integrated Land Use Plan, Population Framework (Draft)*, Gippsland Integrated Land Use Plan Project Steering Committee

TABLE 5: FORECAST GROWTH IN POPULATION AND HOUSING SUMMARY KORUMBURRA 2011 – 2031

Korumburra	Forecast year				
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Population	4,174	4,724	5,271	5,798	6,300
Change in Population (5yrs)	384	550	547	527	502
Average Annual Change (%)	1.95	2.51	2.22	1.92	1.67
Households	1,732	1,977	2,212	2,443	2,667
Average Household Size (persons)	2.35	2.34	2.33	2.32	2.31
Population in non-private dwellings	96	96	126	126	126
Dwellings	1,885	2,150	2,406	2,656	2,900
Dwelling occupancy rate	91.88	91.95	91.94	91.98	91.97

The map below shows existing urban and rural residential areas and the areas expected to experience future urban and rural residential growth.

MAP 5: KORUMBURRA EXISTING TOWN BOUNDARY AND FORECAST GROWTH



Source<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, 2010, *Korumburra Structure Plan Map*, viewed on 30 November 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra\\_Structure\\_Plan\\_Map.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra_Structure_Plan_Map.pdf).

## Drivers of population change

At the township level, the primary drivers of population change are age structure of the existing population; housing markets attracting to and away from an area; associated demographic characteristics (fertility patterns, household types etc.); supply of dwellings; and the mix of housing stock in the area.

Dwelling additions - The addition of dwellings is the major driver of population growth, providing opportunities for new households for existing residents (such as young people leaving the family home and divorcees) or households relocating from other areas.

Current age structure - The age structure of the local population impacts on the South Gippsland Shire Council's household types and size. It is impacted by the likelihood of the local population having children, the propensity for people to move and death. An older population will have fewer births, more deaths, while a younger population will have the reverse.

Birth rates - Birth rates are especially influential in determining the number of children in an area, with most inner urban areas having very low birth rates, compared to outer suburban or rural and regional areas. Birth rates have been changing, with a greater share of women bearing children at older ages or not at all. This can have a large impact on the population profile with comparatively fewer children than in previous periods.

Death rates - Death rates are influential in shaping the numbers of older people in an area's population. Death rates too have been changing with higher life expectancy at most ages, with men gaining on women's greater life chances.

Migration - Migration is one of the most important components of population change. While births and deaths are relatively easy to predict due to reliable age specific behaviour; migration is volatile, often changing due to housing market preferences, economic opportunities and changing household circumstances. Migration patterns vary across Australia and change across time, but most moves tend to be short and incremental in nature. Regional areas have larger moves due to the distances between towns and cities, where people often move for economic reasons, mainly the availability of employment or education and training opportunities.

The most mobile age groups in the population are the young adults. They tend to move to attend educational institutions, seek work and express a change in lifestyle. It is for this reason that young people often move the greatest distances and sometimes move against pre-established patterns. Market research has shown that empty nesters are more likely to move to smaller accommodation if appropriate and affordable alternative housing is supplied in the local area that is accessible to established social networks.<sup>17</sup>

Factors outside of the town –

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<sup>17</sup> ID consulting, 2012

Employment – The connection of natural gas has allowed the expansion of production at Burra Foods and Murray Goulburn. Increase in housing development in neighbouring local government areas increases opportunities for Korumburra residents in the building trade to readily access employment within 1 hour of the town.

Comparative housing costs - The cost of real estate in neighbouring municipalities and towns highlights more affordable options available in Korumburra for people migrating to the area.

Residential land and housing available – Neighbouring towns have experienced considerable growth in the previous 16 years. In areas such as Inverloch in the Bass Coast where growth has been high, land supply will become limited in the next 20 years. Land supply in Korumburra allows for high growth rate in the next 20 years.

### **Korumburra population growth**

The population of Korumburra is expected to increase from 4373 in 2011 by 1217 people to 5,590 by 2021, at an average annual growth rate of 2.7% per annum. This is based on an increase of over 500 households during the period in both new residential developments and infill areas within the existing town boundaries. Households in Korumburra have an average of 2.4 persons per household and are expected to remain this size with population growth. Between 2021 and 2031 population growth is predicted to slow to an average 1.8% per annum resulting in a population of 6,628 by 2031.

Stable migration is expected across the 2011 – 2031 period. There will be a major gain in young families (0-14years) and (25 – 39 years). There will be a gain of older couples (45 – 54 years) and elderly persons (75 years and over). Many young adults (15 – 24 years) will continue to leave the family home and move to Melbourne for work or education.

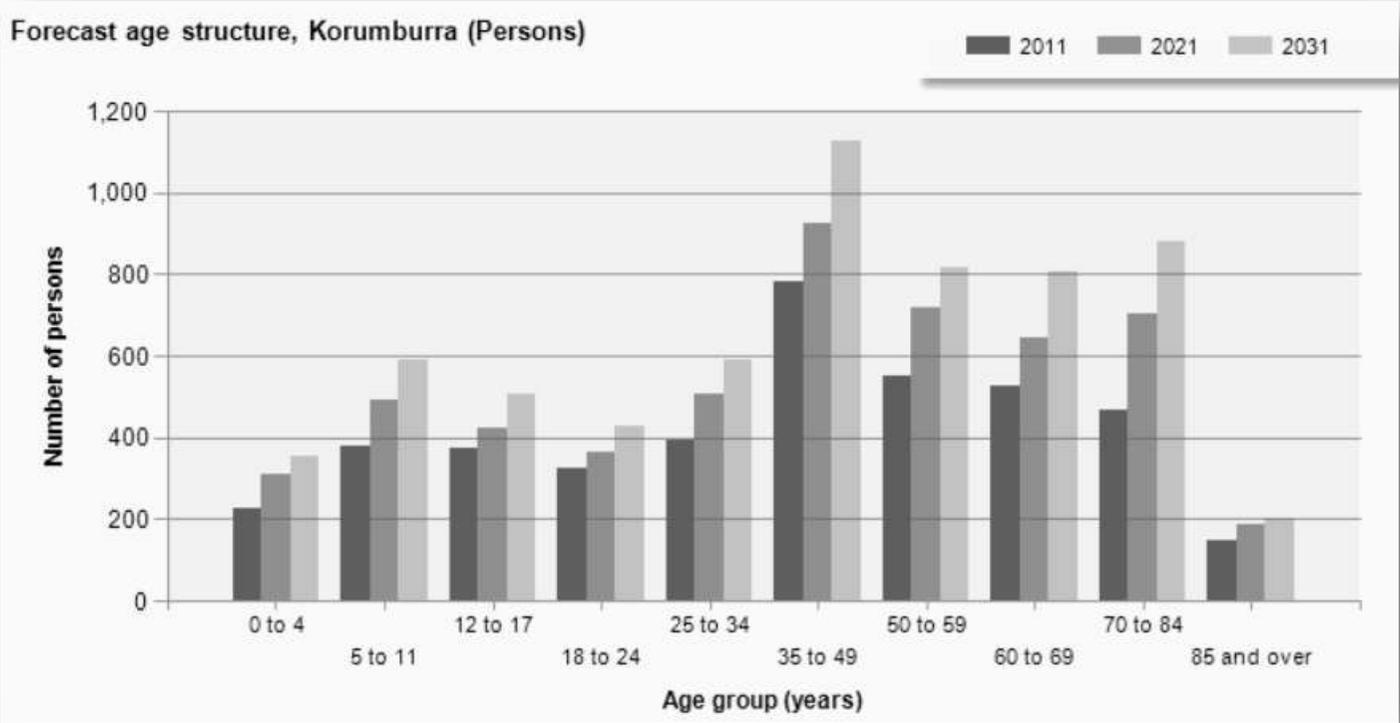
Whilst most people moving into Korumburra will be of British ancestry it can be expected that a greater variety of ancestry will be represented in the future community. Currently in Korumburra there is a large percentage of people with Italian ancestry (5.8%), it is expected that this proportion will drop over the next 20 years as that group ages.

### **Age structure**

In 2031 the most populous forecast age group will be 10-14 year olds, with 436 persons followed by 5 – 9 year olds with 418 persons. In 2021 and 2031 people aged 10 – 19 years will comprise over 13% of the population. The number of people aged 19 and under is forecast to increase to 25% of the population by 2012 and remain at that proportion to 2031.

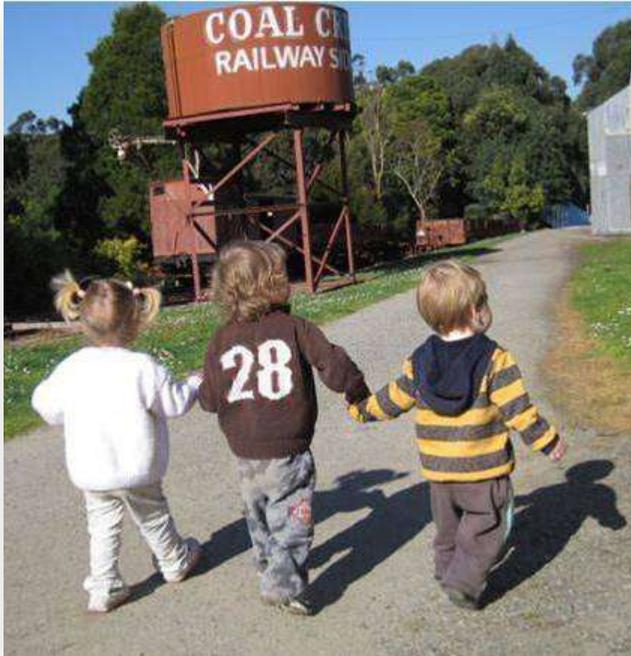
The age group which is forecast to have the largest proportional increase (relative to its population size) by 2021 is 70-74 year olds, who are forecast to increase by 93.2% to 286 persons.

FIGURE 8: FORECAST CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE 2011, 2021, 2031



Source<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> ID consulting, 2012



## 2 Early Years Introduction

This section describes community infrastructure priorities for kindergarten, long day childcare, other child care and playgroups. Other services for children under school age include Maternal and Child Health Services, Immunisation and specialist children's services and are included in the health section of this document.

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

#### South Gippsland Municipal Early Years Plan 2011 – 2016

The Victorian Government recognises that quality kindergarten services, through engagement of children in high quality learning experiences benefit all children and their families. The Council of Australian Governments national partnership on Early Childhood Education requires all states and territories to provide 15 hours of early childhood

education in the year prior to school by 2013 (Universal Access).<sup>19</sup> These programs are to be delivered by four year university qualified early childhood teachers.

Policy and funding information on kindergartens is described in the Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12 available from: <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/earlychildhood/childrensservices/kindergartenpolicycriteria.pdf>.

A range of policies influencing the provision of early years services include:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, The UN Framework for creating Child Friendly Cities, Universal Access - access to a preschool program for all children in the year before they start school; National Quality Framework for Early Education and Care services.

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<sup>19</sup> Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, *Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria, 2010-12*, March 2010, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/earlychildhood/childrensservices/kindergartenpolicycriteria.pdf>.

## Current Provision

### Kindergarten and childcare

Kindergarten and childcare services in Korumburra are currently at capacity due to limited building space to cater for the number of children under 5 years old. Kindergarten programs for 3 and 4 year olds are provided in a stand-alone building located in Victoria Street. The 50+ year old building is at capacity for the current population. To provide capacity to deliver 15 hours of four year old kindergarten from 2013 (Universal Access) an extension of the existing 50 year kindergarten building has been completed. This will ease the pressure on facilities to provide kindergarten services for the next 3 years. Maternal and child health services, originally housed in the kindergarten building now operate from the hospital site in Gordon Street.

Kindergarten attendance in South Gippsland is amongst the highest in the state at 102.6%. This figure is higher than 100% due to some children requiring a second year of 4 year old kindergarten and many are not attending kindergarten in the town where they live.



### Long Day Care

Long day care is provided at the Birralee Childcare Centre located in Victoria Street in a stand-alone facility. It is governed by a Committee of Management. The centre is operating at maximum capacity with waiting lists for vacancies and future placements. Currently there is not capacity for occasional childcare in this facility.

### Family Day Care

Family Day Care is managed by Uniting Care Gippsland. There is currently no family day care available in Korumburra. Attempts to recruit new carers in Korumburra have been unsuccessful. It is reported that qualification and legislative requirements are a barrier to recruitment.

### Playgroups

Playgroups are available in Korumburra at the Baptist Church in Mine Road, The Walsh Centre in Bridge Street, Milpara Community House and at Coal Creek Community Village and Museum. Operation of groups are as follows: Baptist Playgroup - Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am – 11.30am, The Walsh Centre Playgroup - Tuesdays from 10am – 12noon and Milpara Community House – Fridays 10am – 11.30am. Council provides a playgroup at Mechanics Institute, Coal Creek Wednesdays 10am – 11.30am.

## Consultation

A community working group, the Korumburra Children's Hub Working Group (Working Group) was formed from committee members of Korumburra Kindergarten and Birralee Child Care Centre plus other key stakeholders. The aim of this working group was to investigate the options for an integrated children's centre that would provide facilities for both kindergarten and childcare in a single facility in Korumburra. GHD consultants were engaged by this group to conduct the Korumburra Kindergarten Feasibility Study 2010. This study assessed a number of sites close to schools where an integrated children's centre may be located.

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Centre for Community Child Health Melbourne has been engaged by the Working Group to conduct a series of workshops to discuss governance of an integrated children's centre. The purpose of these workshops was to establish a shared understanding of why change is required amongst the key stakeholders; concerns about integrating childcare and kindergarten services in Korumburra; establish a shared vision and purpose for an integrated children's centre; identify a preferred model of management and governance of the proposed centre; and identify actions required to progress the process of establishing an integrated children's centre.

Negotiations with neighbours adjacent to a site in Mair Crescent have taken place to ensure access for an integrated children's centre which is close to both primary schools in Korumburra. Consultation has occurred with the current kindergarten teacher in preparation of kindergarten room sizes. It has been agreed that room with a capacity for 33 children would be acceptable providing that staffing met ratio requirements. This was preferable to providing smaller kindergarten groups more frequently over longer hours of the day – starting at 8am or finishing at 5pm.

## Future Demand

In 2011, the most populous age group in Korumburra was 10 - 14 year olds, with 315 persons with 5 - 9 year olds having 304 persons. The current population of 4 year olds in 2011 was 58 children. The population of this cohort is expected to increase to 88 children by 2031 a rise of 3 additional children in 2013 then rising by an additional 1 or 2 each year after that. This does not indicate a significant growth for 0 – 5 year olds as a proportion of the whole Korumburra population although consideration needs to be given to increasing current service provision for 0 – 17 year olds.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) planning and analysis indicates that the existing primary school and secondary school sites have the capacity to meet the needs of the projected population for Korumburra.

In April 2012 the supported playgroup program was refunded for Council, after running successfully from 2009 – 2012.



## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS EARLY YEARS SERVICES

Kindergarten	3-year old kindergarten – 1 place per 3 children aged 3 years 4-year old kindergarten – 1 place per child aged 4 years 1 x 4 year old kindergarten to 10,000 people
Long Day Care	1 centre licensed for 120 places to 8,000 – 10,000 people
Family Day Care	Service limited by ability to recruit suitable carers
Playgroup	1 playgroup to 5,000 people

20

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Gippsland Shire Council supports the development of an Integrated Children’s Centre in Mair Crescent, Korumburra to address unmet needs for childcare services and predicted growth in demand for kindergarten. Council has joined the kindergarten and childcare centre with financial support for the centre. Federal funding for the balance is currently being sought.

### Best Practice

Integrated children’s services provide better outcomes for children and families, particularly vulnerable or hard to reach families. The co-location of services supports community building and local connections, social and economic capital. Integrated children’s centres provide a one stop shop for busy parents and parents with multiple needs and reduce confusion for parents about where to seek help, therefore providing more comprehensive service delivery. Integrated children’s centres can provide a multi-disciplinary approach for professionals with opportunities to transfer knowledge and practices. Service coordination is enhanced resulting in less delay for access to services.

<sup>20</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority, April 2008

### **Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre**

Early years services to be co-located in an integrated children's centre located in Mair Crescent, Korumburra. This site is close to both the state primary school and St Joseph's catholic primary school. The Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre will include kindergarten, long day childcare, occasional childcare, maternal and child health service, a multipurpose meeting room to cater for specialist consultations, toy library, playgroup, new parents groups and immunisations.

An integrated children's centre in Korumburra at the proposed site in Mair Crescent reflects government policy to:

- improve access to high quality kindergarten education in the same place as long day care and other children's and family services
- improve access to early childhood services by children from vulnerable and/or disadvantaged backgrounds
- establish more services for children and families on or near school sites
- promote integrated, inclusive and collaborative early childhood education and care services that meet the needs of young children aged 0-8 years.

### **Kindergarten**

To cater for the growing kindergarten population and high attendance rates, the kindergarten would require two rooms. Initial plans specify two rooms, one catering for 33 children and a second catering for 22 children. Allowing for two 4 year old groups operating out of each room over the week, this allows for 110 places. The additional 22 places available above the 4 year old population would allow for the provision of 3 year old kindergarten programs using the same rooms, equipment and playgrounds.

### **Long Day Care**

Planning for a long day care centre includes an integrated children's centre with the capacity for 65 children in 3 rooms. When planning for childcare a variety of factors need to be considered. The factors to be considered should be the child's age, the level of employment of each parent, family income, proportion of single parent families, the number of children in the family and the availability of grandparents and childcare alternatives.

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<sup>21</sup> Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 'Research and Evidence' in *Integrated Children's services*, last updated 9 March 2011, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/integratedservices/research.htm>.

Further detail of the factors considered when calculating childcare requirements were sourced from the ABS 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey, the main findings of which can be found in ABS Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008 (cat. no. 4402.0).

### Other services

Other services to be co-located within an integrated children's centre include consulting room for maternal and child health services and a multipurpose meeting room. Maternal and child health services are currently provided from Gippsland Southern Health Service site in Gordon Street, Korumburra. Ideally locating this service with other children's services will provide convenience for parents and encourage maintenance of regular consultations with maternal and child health nurses. The provision of childhood immunisations at this site should also be considered.

Korumburra has many organisation specific meeting rooms, however there remains a need for a multipurpose meeting room co-located with an integrated children's centre. This meeting room would include large storage areas to house specific equipment and materials for the user groups. It would be anticipated that this room could be used by the toy library, playgroup, a waiting room for immunisations and maternal and child health and for kindergarten and childcare committee of management, parent and staff meetings.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EARLY YEARS SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
EDUCATION: 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN	Korumburra Kindergarten Victoria Street	Sessional kindergarten governed by committee of management	Table 3 Integrated children's centre needs and projections spreadsheet.xlsx
LONG DAY CHILDCARE	Birralee Childcare Centre Victoria Street	Childcare Centre, committee of management	Integrated Children's Centre
OCCASIONAL CHILDCARE	No occasional care currently provided for children under 5 years.	No service currently available	Occasional childcare required
FAMILY DAY CARE	Uniting Care Gippsland coordinates Family Day Care in South Gippsland.  No infrastructure requirements	No service provided in Korumburra due to lack of carers available.	Family Day Care provides flexibility in care
PLAYGROUPS	Baptist Church 39 Mine Road Catholic Church Walsh Centre 1 -3 Bridge St Milpara Community House Shellcotts Rd South Gippsland Shire Council: Coal Creek Community Village and Museum	Mon/Tues 10 – 11.30  Tues 10 – 12  Fri 10 – 11.30  Wed 10 – 11.30	Playgroups can be established to meet a variety of needs depending on the auspice organization and the needs of the participants. Integrated children's centres provide opportunities for co-location of playgroup and toy library.

TABLE 3: REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT KORUMBURRA

USE	DETAILS	OCCUPANTS	FLOOR SPACE REQUIRED
WAITING AREA (FOYER) WITH PRAM SPACE	Shared by all services including M&CH	Consideration be given to width to allow for prams, wheelchair, couch etc	
STAFF TOILET	Shared by all services		
PUBLIC TOILET WITH SHOWER	Shared by all services		
CHILD CARE (LONG DAY CARE) TOTAL - 65	3 rooms (0-2, 2-3, 3-5 yrs)	0-2 year old room no. of chn(16) 2 -3 year old room no. of chn(16) 3- 5 year old room no. of chn(33)	3.25 sqm per child
KITCHEN	Commercial		
CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR OFFICE	For work and meetings with parents	Occupants 4	
LAUNDRY FOR CHILD CARE			
PLANNING ROOM AND STAFF OFFICE	One shared across all services	Capacity for 8 staff	
KINDERGARTEN - TOTAL (55)	2 rooms (operable wall separating room, to allow for maximum flexibility)	Kindergarten Room 1 no. of chn (33) Kindergarten Room 2 no. of chn (22)	3.25 sqm per child
TOILETS FOR CHILDREN	Shared by Child care and kindergarten		
STORAGE	Shared by child care and kindergarten		
STAFFROOM (STAFF LUNCH AREA)	Shared by all staff	Capacity for 8 staff	
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH	Consulting Room	2 adults	
MULTIPURPOSE MEETING ROOM	Large storage space (cupboards) and meeting room for community meetings, Playgroup, immunisation, toy library (if required)	Meeting Room allowing for 20 occupants	
CLEANERS STORE ROOM	Shared for all services	Need to be large enough for storing vac	
OUTDOOR STORAGE	More than minimum required		
OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE			



### 3 Youth Introduction

#### Introduction

In 2031 the most populous forecast age group will be 10-14 year olds, with 436 persons followed by 5 – 9 year olds with 418 persons. In 2021 and 2031 people aged 10 – 19 years will comprise over 13% of the population. The number of people aged 19 years and under is currently 25% of the total population and will remain at that proportion to 2031.

This chapter describes services and facilities specifically designed and allocated to youth aged between 10 and 19 in Korumburra. Further discussion of the education and training needs of young people are included in the chapter Education, Learning and Libraries.

Youth services and infrastructure may include school holiday programs, youth counselling, youth engagement, youth development, support and advocacy, access and meeting places both indoor and outdoor and information provision.

#### Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Policy. South Gippsland Shire Council aims to increase opportunities for young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via their facilitation of the Youth council.

#### Current Provision

There are limited youth specific services or facilities located in Korumburra. Youth specific services are often regionally based and generally located in Leongatha, 14km from Korumburra. Extensive sports and recreation facilities cater for young people as part of the broader community. Youth specific clubs include scouts, pony club and swimming club. Schools and an apprenticeship training organisation cater for some training opportunities; however there are no onsite TAFE or further education services for young people in Korumburra.

#### Transport

Public transport between Korumburra and Leongatha is via V/line coach with 8 services running approximately every 2 hours. To Leongatha, the earliest service is at 8.20am and latest returning service from Leongatha is 6.55pm. Young people without a driver's licence wishing to

access services in Leongatha need to do so during these hours or have a family member or friend drive them. Access to centres west of Korumburra towards Melbourne via V/line coach leave Korumburra from 6am with the last service returning from Melbourne 10.50pm.

A private bus service has recently been established running services between Korumburra, Leongatha and Meeniyan. For Korumburra residents there is a service picking up at 9.15am and returning at 1pm for \$8 one way or \$12 return. It is unlikely this would be a service accessed by youth due to time and cost.

Two town bus services operate on school days only in the morning and afternoon between the Secondary College and primary schools. Korumburra Secondary College has the highest percentage of students travelling by school bus in comparison to other secondary schools in South Gippsland with 9 school bus services bringing students to schools in Korumburra each school day. Students travel to Korumburra from properties on the outskirts of Strzelecki, Ranceby, Poowong, Nyora, Loch, Bena and Arawata to the North and Krowera, Moyarra, Kongwak, Outtrim and Kardella to the South.

The L2P Driver Education Program is an initiative facilitated by Council to help drivers to achieve the skills and experience required to gain their probationary licence. The program targets young people who experience difficulty in finding a supervisor to help them achieve the required 120 hours of driving experience. This program is available to young people in any area of South Gippsland.

Some residential development patterns have created isolated communities that, whilst being close to the town centre and Secondary College, are very difficult and indirect to access by foot or bicycle. An off-road bicycle path connects the outskirts of Korumburra to the Secondary College but is in poor condition. The Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 recommends the replacement of this path with a shared path with a minimum width of 2.5 metres.

### **Youth Council**

South Gippsland Shire Council encourages young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via the youth council. The main function of the Youth Council is for young people to get together and take an active part in helping youth activity in South Gippsland. Youth Council members range between 12 to 25 years of age. Generally there are about 15 young people on the team from across South Gippsland.

### **Recreation and Leisure**

Korumburra Skate Bowl is located in the Korumburra Showgrounds complex away from other activity areas for young people.

Sporting clubs in Korumburra welcome young members. Australian Rules football, soccer, cricket, netball and basketball have junior teams. The Korumburra Swimming Club participates in the South Gippsland swimming competitions training in Korumburra when the outdoor pool is



open. The pony club caters primarily for younger members meeting once a month. Other groups include Scouts and Girl Guides and church based youth clubs.

Art classes including ceramics are available in Korumburra and are open to the whole population. The Korumburra wind orchestra has a broad membership including youth and practice weekly at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

### Youth specific health services

Youth Access Clinics provide a drop in service (no appointment necessary) and are bulk billed. Young people accessing the clinic need a Medicare or health care card. The closest youth access clinic is located in Leongatha.

### Consultation

This plan will provide an opportunity to consult with young people in Korumburra to discuss youth specific services and spaces in Korumburra. A community consultation held in March 2012 to discuss the future plans for the Korumburra library and meeting rooms heard concerns from older community members about the mixing of youth services and facilities with those for older people.

Council's community strengthening team facilitates the youth council and will work with the Korumburra community to help develop goals and actions for the whole community including youth. This consultation will discuss public space initiatives and services to include youth in the local Korumburra community.

### Future Demand

In 2031 the most populous forecast age group will be 10-14 year olds, with 436 persons. Taking their place will be 5 – 9 year olds with 418 persons. In 2021 and 2031 people aged 10 – 19 years will comprise over 13% of the population. The number of people aged 19 and under is forecast to increase to 25% of the population by 2021 and remain at that proportion to 2031. In the majority of South Gippsland towns young people comprise a much smaller percentage of the population in comparison to the majority of towns where people over 60 years are the most populous group.



Connectivity between residential areas, schools and recreation facilities for pedestrians will be under increased demand with 93ha of land in Korumburra being rezoned for residential development (RZ1). These new developments are south west of the town centre providing ready access to the secondary school. With suitable links within the developments and improvements to the shared bike path to the secondary school, these residential developments will be appealing to families with children. It is expected that older people looking for lifestyle changes will also comprise the new residents for these areas.



### Transport

For youth, walking and cycling are important modes of transport that allow independent access from residential areas to schools, the town centre, bus stops and recreation areas. There are nine school buses servicing Korumburra schools each day from outlying areas. Outside of school days, young people in these outlying towns, not on the main V-Line route, are unable to reach Korumburra on public transport. Centralised activities, services and facilities for youth in Korumburra will place demand from young people living in neighbouring towns to travel into Korumburra on weekends and school holidays.

Public transport services to Leongatha and to Melbourne may increase with population growth in both Korumburra and Leongatha. An inter-town bus service operating between Leongatha and Korumburra may reduce duplication of services and facilities for these communities and aid transport particularly for the younger and older population who do not have a drivers licence or no longer drive.

### Youth council

Opportunities for young people to advise council is currently restricted to Leongatha based meetings. Council is happy to support the establishing of youth council sub-groups in any other towns in South Gippsland including Korumburra. The younger age profile of the Korumburra community and that of the neighbouring town of Poowong may see an interest in establishing a Korumburra and district youth council. This youth council may take the role of lobbying for youth services and facilities in the town, organizing youth events and providing guidance to Council on the community infrastructure needs for the growing younger population.

### Recreation and Leisure

Formal recreation options for youth will increase membership and expand the existing range of sporting clubs available in Korumburra. Details regarding capacity for formal recreation to meet future needs are described in the [Sport and Recreation](#) chapter of this document. Increased opportunities for unstructured physical activity both indoor and outdoor and associated social meeting places will be in demand for the 25% of the population aged 19 and under from the present to 2031.

Youth specific clubs are limited to those connected to the school, the scouts, a church youth club, swimming club and pony club. Many young people attend the regional catholic college in Leongatha but socialise within Korumburra. Traditional forms of formal socialisation are in sporting clubs which cater for the broader community.

### Youth specific spaces

An increase in the youth population will see an increase in existing club membership but will also demand youth friendly places to meet and study, local youth events and informal activities to participate in, and local youth services to access. The provision of specific infrastructure to allow young people to socialise, engage and recreate with the broader community is important for the overall health and wellbeing of the community.<sup>22</sup> Bringing youth to the central business district provides increased opportunity to socialize with the broader community, provides greater safety and access to shared community infrastructure including the library, retail and public transport.

### Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Some states have developed urban design guidelines for children and youth as part of broader youth policies<sup>23</sup>, as crime prevention strategic planning<sup>24</sup>, and to improve safety and inclusion of children and youth in the local community<sup>25</sup>. Neighbouring councils such as Casey Shire Council have developed extensive youth strategies to address needs of their large youth population.

The youth specific urban design guidelines reflect themes of access and circulation, inclusive design, mixed uses (and users), safety and surveillance, separate but visible areas, performance needs and basic services. Below is a summary of these guidelines.

TABLE 1: YOUTH DESIGN GUIDELINES – FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY PUBLIC AREAS

<p>Access and Circulation</p> <p>Allow for access and circulation on foot, bikes, skateboards or scooters.</p>	<p>Maximise access to public transport.</p> <p>Locate pick up and drop off points as close as possible to public spaces and young people’s activities.</p> <p>Bus pick up and drop off points should be well-lit, have seating, 10 minute parking, increased public space for school bags, secure bike storage facilities, be positioned in active locations with casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Walking and cycling paths which should be well-lit and provide surveillance opportunities.</p>
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<sup>22</sup> NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009, *Built 4 Kids: A good practice guide to creating child-friendly built environments*, viewed on 30 November 2012, [http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/Built4Kids\\_complete.pdf](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/Built4Kids_complete.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Dept. Urban Affairs and Planning, 1999, *Urban Design Guidelines With Young People In Mind*, Planning NSW.

<sup>24</sup> R. White, 1998, *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department, Canberra

<sup>25</sup> NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009.

	<p>Safe, easy to use, connecting routes to youth facilities such as skateboard ramps, basketball courts where skateboards, bikes and scooters can be used.</p> <p>Allow shared use of public areas that are varied, lively, safe and suitable for a variety of users or groups.</p>
<p>Range of users</p> <p>Integrate rather than segregate young people from the wider community.</p>	<p>Public spaces which are flexible to accommodate wide range of users. Larger spaces and wider paths to accommodate walkers and a wheeled item such as pram, wheelchair, bike or skateboard.</p> <p>Seating in public areas at the edge of footpaths where through movement and access to shops is not blocked, seats can be easily observed. This provides opportunities for watching passers-by and hanging out as an activity rather than an obstruction.</p> <p>Youth specific facilities integrated into town centre and positioned where there is passing life and activity at street level possibly in shop fronts.</p>
<p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>Encourage range of uses</p>	<p>Encourage range of uses including 'magnets' for young people such as food outlets and cafes.</p> <p>Include a mix of retail, commercial and entertainment as well as government agencies and community services.</p> <p>Encourage residential uses above shop fronts in town centre to facilitate activity, providing youth services and facilities at street level.</p>
<p>Making safer places</p> <p>Improve perception of safety in public spaces.</p>	<p>Avoid extensive blank walls at ground level. Active edges such as glazed shopfronts are preferable and provide casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Activate the public domain through maximising the number of entries to buildings from the street.</p> <p>Provide adequate lighting to back lanes to support their use as safe shortcuts and pedestrian routes.</p> <p>Landscaping of public spaces should not obscure pedestrian eye-level sight lines or sterilize large areas.</p>
<p>The public stage</p> <p>Provide venues for public entertainment and public communication</p>	<p>Design formal and informal spaces for public entertainment.</p> <p>Design street furniture to be multi-functional for both seating and as a stage.</p> <p>Design spaces large enough for a variety of uses/users including markets, public performances, and other community activities.</p> <p>Public noticeboards or poster kiosks as a forum for community communication and to control bill posting.</p>

	Public art to channel youth self-expression and control graffiti via sculptural, walls, murals or paving.
Keep public space public Retain free public spaces, open at all times.	Provide spaces in the public realm in addition to any shopping malls or arcades. Keep public spaces uncluttered, simple and flexible. Prevent car parking in public spaces.
Separate but visible	Provide skate parks in public areas in locations that are visible to other public spaces users but separate from main paths of movement.
Basic services Public services that are discreet but accessible	Co-locate public toilets, sanitary facilities, phones in public areas where they are easy to find, discreet and where surveillance opportunities exist.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide outdoor public space to accommodate the needs of all community members, a civic centre that includes good access for pedestrians and those on bikes, scooters and skateboards. This area should be adequately lit, have multi-purpose seating and enough space to be used for performance and entertainment or markets.

Move the skate park from the recreation reserve into a more public space where casual surveillance is available. Ensure that access to and from the skate park does not impact on other pedestrians or path users.

Indoor areas for quiet study, informal meeting with other young people, youth specific service provision or waiting for lifts from parents or friends are needed close to the town centre. This area should be integrated with facilities or services for the broader community in active locations with both casual surveillance opportunities and privacy.



Council does not have a funded youth support service. Funding to support youth infrastructure should be sought from developer contribution funds and community partnerships and allocated to community infrastructure and open space allocation for Korumburra. Partnerships with local community service clubs and support organisations would allow priorities identified via youth surveys in the town to be realized via a range of funding sources.<sup>26</sup>

### **Best Practice**

The best approach to youth-related issues is one which is holistic, community-based and involves young people in the process. As members of the broader community, young people's human rights should be consulted and catered for in relation to community infrastructure including public spaces and service provision. Provision of a diverse range of options, youth services, public transport, formal and informal means of participation and inclusion, development of competencies, clear guidelines and codes of conduct all support the rights of young people.

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<sup>26</sup> R. White, 1998, *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

TABLE 2: YOUTH SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES – CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
YOUTH SPECIFIC OUTDOOR RECREATION	Recreation reserve management committee  Dept Education and Early Childhood Development	Skate park at showgrounds  Sporting clubs – swimming club, pony club,  Secondary School hard surfaces, slopes and steps for range of informal ball and wheeled activities	Move skate park closer to town centre with increased surveillance, visibility and access to services and retail. Pursue expansion of users in swimming pool master planning. Pony club to maintain presence at showgrounds to ensure independent access on horseback. Continued use of secondary school facilities. The school is located away from the town centre and other services. Many students attend the regional catholic college so do not identify with Secondary College.
YOUTH SPECIFIC INDOOR MEETING SPACES	Scouts Association	Scout hall used for scouts - Tuesday and Thursday 4.30 – 9pm	Maintain scout hall open to broader range of youth users.
PATHS AND TRAILS		As outlined in the South Gippsland Paths and Trails strategy 2010	Wider shared paths to allow for walking and wheeled vehicle side by side. Pursue funding via developer contributions.
STUDY SPACES	Korumburra Library	Private study desks within current library.	Continued allocation of study space within library. Additional space for mix of youth social and study needs within town centre – possibly access centre or pop up shop space in vacant shops.
PUBLIC REALM	No specific town public meeting space	Parks and public areas are away from the town centre. A common meeting place near the railway station and Kelly's Bakery car park.	Public meeting place which includes informal entertainment areas, multi-functional street furniture which can double at a stage/plinth, poster kiosks, small break out sitting areas, toilets and free from cars. Provide wide path access through town centre to allow pedestrians, wheelchairs, bikes and skateboards to pass or walk side by side with ease.
YOUTH SERVICES	No youth specific services in Korumburra	Youth specific services – youth council, youth access clinic in Leongatha	Establish outreach youth council in Korumburra or youth town planning group. The needs of youth will be identified by this group.



## Aged and Disability

### Introduction

Council provides home and community care to frail older people, younger people with disabilities and their carers. Accessibility to buildings is essential for all members of the community. Older residents and people with a disability may be unable to readily leave the home to access the services they need requiring services delivered to the home. Carer support services and respite are provided by Council and external care package providers.

It is recognised that people with disabilities and people who are ageing participate as full members of the community. Some people with disabilities and older people have additional services and access needs. This chapter addresses the additional needs the older community and people with a disability may require in Korumburra.

For the purpose of this project aged care and disability services include:

- Retirement villages
- Residential aged care (low and high care)
- Home and community care (HACC) (Assessment services, home care, personal care, respite, property maintenance, meals on wheels and community transport)
- Senior citizens centres and Italian senior citizens centres
- Aged care assessment services (ACAS)
- Personal Alert Victoria (PAV)

- Post-acute care program (Home nursing, home care, personal care, allied health, home based respite)
- Aged care mental health service
- Allied health, acute services, outpatient care, volunteer program, community services
- Planned activity groups, one on one respite and community outreach programs.



## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 (AAP) Focuses on addressing issues older residents have identified as important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age.

South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWB) The MPHWB Plan contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including older residents and those with a disability.

The Improving Liveability for Older People (ILOP), an initiative of the Department of Health. South Gippsland Shire Council is one of twelve Councils to receive an ILOP grant, receiving funding to implement this project over two years from 2012-2013.

South Gippsland Access and Inclusion Plan works to improve the way Council services respond to the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers and service.

### Broader Policies

Gippsland Regional Dementia Plan 2011-2014 (Department of Health) This plan has been developed in recognition of the prevalence of dementia across Gippsland which is expected to increase in the next ten years.

Gippsland HACC Diversity Plan is a strategic population planning initiative that support and encourages Home and Community Care service delivery which is responsive to and respectful of the specific characteristics of the person seeking services.

The Living Longer Living Better aged care reform package gives priority to providing more support and care in the home, better access to residential care, more support for those with dementia and strengthening the aged care workforce.

Community Common Care Standards are applicable to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD) and the National Respite for Carers Program.

The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program is Victoria's principal source of funding for services that support frail aged people, younger people with disabilities, and carers. In Victoria the program supports over 275,000 frail older people and people with disabilities. HACC is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments and provides priorities for funding of HACC services.

The Active Service Model is a quality improvement initiative that focuses on promoting capacity building and restorative care in community care service delivery.

The Disability Act 2006 (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2007. It replaced the Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services Act 1986 and Disability Services Act 1991.

The Aged Care Act 1997 guides the provision of services including community packaged care programs—the Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), the Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and the Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD) programs.

Victorian Government residential aged care policy 2009 describes the Victorian Government role in supporting accredited residential aged care providers.

## Current Provision

Aged care and disability services in Korumburra are provided in purpose built facilities, community meeting places and in the home. Council provides home and community care to frail older people, younger people with disabilities and their carers. Many older residents are unable to readily leave the home to access the services they need. Home and community care provides service to people in their homes that including community transport, home maintenance, home care, personal care, respite and meals on wheels. Home and community care services are also provided by other providers under a brokerage system.



### *Home and Community Care (HACC)*

Council provides Home and Community Care (HACC) Services to community members in Korumburra. HACC services include community transport, home

maintenance, home care, personal care, respite and meals on wheels. A small fee is charged based on the income of the client. Latrobe Community Health Service provides a HACC response unit, linkages packages and veteran's home care. Gippsland Southern Health Service provides allied health, post-acute care, planned activity groups, one on one respite and community outreach programs to the home. Home and community aged and disability care packages are also available as described below.

### *Community Aged Care Packages*

Community Aged Care Packages – are provided via other service providers that bid for government funding to deliver services or provide private services on a user pays basis. Currently Community Aged Care packages are provided in Korumburra by Baptcare, Benetas, Australian Home Care and Calvary Silver Circle to people with ongoing care needs. Community members may apply for services to Council or these providers on an eligibility criteria or pay for service model.

### *Carer Support and Respite Services*

Council provides carer support and respite via their HACC services. Baptcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle, Latrobe Community Health Service and Mental Illness Fellowship also provide support to carers of frail aged, people with a disability and people with mental illness. These services extend to children whose parent has a mental illness. Support includes in-home respite, residential respite, help with leisure activities for the carer, day programs, camps weekends and accommodation support and short term residential respite and study assistance for the carer.

### *Disability Services*

People with a disability requiring disability specific employment, education and day services must travel to Leongatha or Wonthaggi for services. For many people with a disability in the labour market, opportunities within Korumburra for employment are available to suit the individual.

An Individual Support Package is funded by Department of Human Services, Disability Services. It is allocated to a person for assistance with meeting their disability support needs. The funds may be used to buy a range of supports chosen by the person to help achieve their goals. This may include individually delivered supports and/or group based supports such as a day service. An Individual Support Package can help people to continue to live in the community by providing supports to live as independently as possible; strengthen relationships with family, friends and other community members, and participate in the community.

### *Residential Aged Care*

Residential aged care is provided by government and non-government providers. The Australian Government is responsible for regulation, funding and planning of residential aged care. The



Victorian Government facilitates the development and enhancement of the industry in the state via public sector service provision. In Korumburra there are currently 3 residential care facilities: Alchera House, Hillside Lodge and Carinya Lodge Hostel. Alchera House is a government funded high care residential nursing home with 20 beds catering to the most infirm patients. Hillside Lodge is a government funded low care residential facility with 28 regular beds and 2 respite beds. Carinya Lodge Homes is a not for profit, community based organisation operating a low care hostel with 41 regular beds and 2 respite beds. There are a total of 93 residential care beds currently provided in Korumburra.

District nursing provides community nursing services in the home and is described in the health section of this document.

#### [Low cost housing for over 55 year olds](#)

Independent living units at Carinya Lodge Homes provide low cost living units for older people. There are currently 29 units with approval to build another 27 independent living units.

### **Consultation**

Community consultation conducted with aged and disability service providers indicated that rehabilitation and day respite services were needed in Korumburra. Community based, integrated facilities to house these services were identified as the preferred model, whether located in current health services or in a community hub or buildings associated with the local swimming pool.

The *South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016* included extensive consultation regarding the needs of older community members. Methods included survey of 1200 residents with a 20% response rate, community forums, contact with local community groups, information to Home and Community Care Clients, partnership input from health services and council staff. This plan includes the need to recognise the value of older people through their experiences, skills and impact within the broader community.

The *Improving Liveability for Older People (ILOP)* program implements programs in response to community wishes identified through extensive consultation. These include physical activity, social connection and cooking activities.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for the next period, 2013 – 2017 includes extensive consultation across the South Gippsland community and service providers via interview, focus groups, print and online survey. The plan will be adopted by Council by July 2013. An implementation plan describes the actions of Council to support the health and wellbeing of the community including older community members and people with a disability.

The South Gippsland Access and inclusion plan provides actions for Council to support the needs of people with disabilities in South Gippsland. Consultation with the whole community including people with a disability took place in development of this plan for 2013 – 2017.

## Future Demand

People over the age of 65 in Korumburra currently comprise 19.7% of the population with another 8% aged between 60 and 65. This is expected to increase by 373 (45.2%), and represent 22.7% of the population aged over 65 by 2021. A further increase of 273 people over the age of 65 by 2031 bringing the proportion of over 65 year olds to 23.3% of the total population.

TABLE 1: POPULATION KORUMBURRA FORECAST OVER 65 <sup>27</sup>

Year	Number of people over 65	Percentage of whole population
2011	825	19.7%
2021	1198	22.7%
2031	1471	23.3%

“The level of participation in the community is often dependent on the level of physical and cognitive ability of people. Maintaining health and wellbeing as we age is therefore integral to continuing participation.”<sup>28</sup>

Council currently contributes approximately 17% to the cost of the Home and Community Care program with the remainder funded through State Government and client service fees. It is anticipated that Council’s contribution will remain at that level unless government policy commitments change.

Current settings and modes of delivery will continue. The level of aged and disability service provision is likely to change over the next decades in response to people living longer with chronic disease in their own homes. Council’s role in aged services may expand and become more diverse extending into partnerships with health services for delivery of support programs for people with specific conditions such as Parkinson’s disease. While services provided in the home will experience increased demand with a growing older population, nursing homes and hostels will also grow.

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<sup>27</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2006 Forecast* analysed by id Consulting.

<sup>28</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, *Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016*, p.1, South Gippsland Shire Council , viewed on 25 July 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/AppE.1\\_Active\\_Ageing\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/AppE.1_Active_Ageing_Strategy.pdf).



Retirement and lifestyle villages are beginning to become more prevalent in Gippsland with people seeking country living with the services provided in retirement villages. Carinya Lodge Homes provides 29 independent living units in Korumburra for aged persons who are self-sufficient. Whilst a retirement village is not proposed in Korumburra, approval has recently been granted to build an additional 27 independent living units at Carinya Lodge Homes. As a result there will be an increase in the demand for many Council services including HACC, community transport, recreational activities for older people, community house activities, passive open space and medical services.

Senior citizens' centres in their current model of operation will not be the preferred location for social interaction by the 'baby boomer' age group in their older years. Use of the current senior citizens centre in Korumburra is currently in decline and can be expected to decline further with different interests of coming generations. Increased opportunities for community based physical activity programs and rehabilitation programs within shared facilities and for a

range of age groups including people over 65 will be increasing demand with growth in this sector of the community.

Residential aged care – The Victorian Government residential aged care policy 2009 states that low care is increasingly a less favoured option with older people choosing to stay at home for as long as possible with government support. Government community care policies and programs have promoted and supported people to remain in their own homes.

While data shows there is less demand for low level care, demand for high level care is increasing. If the supply of residential high care services fails to meet this increased demand there will be greater pressure on Victoria's community care, sub-acute and acute service system. The current provision of residential aged care services by government and non-government providers will meet increasing need for residential aged care services for the ageing Korumburra community. Moving into residential aged care within one's home town allows continued interaction with family and friends.

### **Industry Benchmarks and Trends**

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. Provision of services and facilities for aged and disability should consider availability of accessible public facilities within a town the size of Korumburra located in the central business district.

The following planning criteria have been applied by State Government in growth areas to define provision of aged care services:

TABLE 2: AGED CARE SERVICES GROWTH PLANNING CRITERIA

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE	88 places per 1,000 residents aged 70 and over
RESPITE CARE	1 respite / planned activity group per 40,000 to 60,000 people
MEALS ON WHEELS	1 dispatch centre per 40,000 to 60,000 people
SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE	Provision to meet in 1 large multi-purpose meeting place per 8,000 – 10,000 people

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Active ageing facilities and services to support older people to actively participate in community life and community physical activity and maintain a sense of belonging to their local communities. Bring together the services occurring in separate disconnected facilities across Korumburra such as Milpara Community House, Senior Citizen's Centre, West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, community recreation for older people, and hospital and private rehabilitation activities into an accessible, centrally located facility. Community hubs are flexible, multi-purpose facilities where a mix of services and spaces are clustered together on one site. Community hubs can provide inter-generational interaction with mixing across age groups for people of all abilities.

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<sup>29</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

## Identified Models for Delivery

Increasingly government funding supports people remaining in their own home and continue living independently.

Facilities such as walking paths connecting residential areas with passive recreation spaces, sporting facilities, health services, community centres, library and cultural areas are needed to encourage older people to participate in activity. Access design standards need to be considered in the construction of new facilities and in renovation to existing facilities to ensure the Disability Act is adhered to.

Residential aged care services have an important social role in communities. Ideally they are closely connected with the community and are integrated with community social structure. These services should provide a range of supports and ongoing linkages that ensure the continued wellbeing and involvement of older Victorians from all backgrounds, at all stages of life and all levels of need for support in the broader community.

Information about services for older people and people with a disability should be kept up to date to ensure other service coordination between services and referrals between services occur. Those in the community who are ageing and their carers may require new services as their abilities become diminished or they become eligible for new services. Information about the full range of services and eligibility requirements, both private and public will allow informed decision making and by people with disabilities, older people and their carers when applying for services.

In the home an expanded HACC program will be required to accommodate the growth in aged services and people remaining at home living independently.

A community hub provides many opportunities for older people in the coming decades. Incorporating the Senior Citizen's meeting room into a community hub which also houses a library and community house allows co-location with lifelong learning via the library and community house as well as other age appropriate activities such as planned activity groups and physical activity groups for older people such as the Health Ageing and Prevention of Injury Program (HAPI) currently provided at the hospital and in the community by Gippsland Southern Health Service.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	RELEVANT FEDERAL/ STATE / LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC)	South Gippsland Shire Council  Veterans Affairs Latrobe Community Health Service	Department of Health Victoria and Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) Department of Veterans Affairs	In home care provided via intake and assessment criteria to determine eligibility. Specific service for veterans For people with mental illness	Continue current model of delivery with increased advocacy for funding to meet need to Departments of Health
PERSONAL CARE PACKAGES	Baptcare Benetas Silver Circle	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA)	Eligibility assessed via intake system. Service provided in the home	Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation
CARER AND RESPITE SUPPORT SERVICES	Latrobe Community Health Service Baptcare Benetas Mental Illness Fellowship	Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA)  Not-for profit	Eligibility assessed via intake system. Service provided in the home.  Day services and respite camps	Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation
RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE	Gippsland Southern Health Service  Private provider	Department of Health Victoria  Private provider	Alchera House – high care residential nursing home (20 beds) Hillside Lodge – low care residential nursing home (28 beds and 2 respite beds) Carinya Lodge Hostel – low care residential (41 beds and 2 respite beds)	Expansion of both high and low care residential aged care is to be expected with the ageing population. Planning of expansion of facilities in the public and private health system is required.

## Arts and Culture

### Introduction

Council is an active member of Creative Gippsland and supports arts and cultural events across South Gippsland. The private sector also plays a significant role in the provision of arts and culture via galleries, entertainment venues, hotels, arts and culture education courses.

Flexible arts and cultural space is used for the production, presentation, exhibition and performance of art including music, studios for workshops practice and rehearsal space. More general discussions of community meeting spaces are discussed in the [community meeting spaces](#) chapter of this document.

Creative Gippsland is a collaborative partnership of Council staff responsible for arts and culture in each of the six Gippsland Shire Councils. Each member supports their own network of artists, performers, galleries and venues. It is also supported by Regional Arts Victoria's Wellington-based Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO). A range of festivals and events are on offer across a variety of venues in Gippsland throughout the year.

The delivery of arts and cultural activities promotes South Gippsland Shire as a destination, attracts visitors, engenders community pride and strengthens the connection between the arts community and Council.

Community and tourism events are described in the South Gippsland Economic and Tourism Strategy.

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Arts Victoria is pursuing policy initiatives that support the contribution of arts and culture to liveability and competitiveness. Investment in cultural precincts, along with support for vibrant and diverse arts programming statewide, are two ways of enhancing the reputation and attractiveness of Victoria as a place in which to live, work and invest.



## Current Provision

The Rotary Federation Art Gallery is currently co-located with the Korumburra Library and Korumburra meeting rooms on the corner of King and Commercial Streets. The gallery space hosts the annual Rotary Art Show and other exhibitions throughout the year. The site has associated storage space below the building used for the Rotary art display equipment.

Coal Creek Art Gallery is home to regularly changing exhibits in a climate-controlled display space. It is located at the entrance to Coal Creek Community Park and Museum and is open seven days per week. Coal Creek also hosts a range of festivals and events throughout the year.

Blowfly Gallery is located in the main street of Korumburra, Commercial Street and is open 11am – 6pm Wednesday to Sunday and is available for hire to groups of two to four artists. The gallery space is available for performances, photo shoots, workshops and functions.

There are currently no designated outdoor performance or art spaces in the township of Korumburra. Some areas of Coal Creek Community Park and Museum have been used for outdoor live play performances where there are also regular themed events including ghost tours, Easter events and Halloween.

Murals painted by a local artist currently adorn the sides of buildings in Commercial Street and Mine Road depicting key historical events in the history of Korumburra.

There is no dedicated performing arts centre in the Shire of South Gippsland. There is a regional performing arts centre in Warragul, 42 km to the north of Korumburra.

Council is an active member of Creative Gippsland and supports arts and cultural events across South Gippsland. The private sector also plays a significant role in the provision of arts and culture via galleries, entertainment venues, hotels, arts and education courses.

## Consultation

The Korumburra Rotary Club is supportive of relocation of the Rotary Federation Art Gallery provided the community space is improved and maintains a prominent visible highway position and supports its colocation with performing arts space and community hub. A performing arts space with a stage and seating for a large audience was identified as a need in Korumburra. There are some existing halls in Korumburra with a stage and space, however many are associated with churches making them unavailable during spontaneous church events such as funerals. These are listed in the



community meeting spaces chapter of this document. Relocation of space for the Rotary Art Gallery was also discussed with the Rotary club and broader community.

### Future Demand

Korumburra will require arts and cultural facilities and activities for the current population, people moving to live in Korumburra over the next 20 years and visitors to the town. Arts and culture facilities should be co-located where possible with other community facilities in a prominent position in the town that is readily accessible to all.

Access to display space for art both indoor and outdoor will continue in Korumburra. Currently most visitors come to Korumburra for Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, however galleries located further east in Leongatha and Fish Creek may provide opportunities to expand tourism around art in Korumburra either by using Coal Creek as an outdoor art space as well as the indoor gallery area or through community art focused projects.

Suitable art spaces outdoors in Korumburra will be identified as part of the Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan that aims to identify preferred locations for public and business uses, and future improvements to public spaces and community facilities through innovative building and landscape design measures. Community consultation confirms support for this concept by the Korumburra Rotary Club.

Performing arts space will be needed for a range of smaller performances within the town. There are currently a range of performing arts venues with stages available in Leongatha 14 km from Korumburra.



### Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns, much of the South Gippsland population require services on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

**TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR ARTS CENTRES**

Regional arts centre	1 per municipality – closest Warragul Regional Arts Centre
Co-located performing arts centre	1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people

Community arts centre	1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people
Multi-purpose community centre	1 to 40,000 – 50,000 people – high level
Multi-purpose community centre	1 to 8,000 – 10,000 people – low level

Source<sup>30</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Spaces for display of local artwork could be incorporated into a flexible facility which could be used as a community hub in association with key tenants the Korumburra library and Milpara Community House. Studio space could be accommodated within this facility with space for wet activities suitable to art, playgroup and cooking needs.

Outdoor public space which allows for display of temporary art installations should be made available. A consistent colour palate from which buildings in the town are decorated provides a consistent image for the town. Consideration to continuing the use of murals on new buildings in Korumburra to be consistent with current townscape and feature local timbers recovered from rail trail development in eastern areas of South Gippsland.

Smaller events, presentations and openings could be accommodated in a shared open area associated with a civic centre. A further study into the current facilities including halls with stages for performing arts events is required to meet needs for the immediate future. Given the presence of existing halls in Korumburra and large performance facilities in Leongatha, an additional performing arts venue in Korumburra is not viewed as a priority.

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<sup>30</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority

## Best Practice

Cultural infrastructure includes people and organisations, technology, places and buildings. “People and organisations, with their skills, expertise and experience, sometimes referred to as ‘soft infrastructure’, are critical to cultural infrastructure...” (Cultural Infrastructure Direction 2012-2014, p.2) Technology enables innovation and artistic practice. Different forms of technology contribute to the wide range of cultural and artistic work. Arts and cultural activity happens in many different ways and in varied places.

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Public transport to Leongatha and Warragul is limited. The ‘Bus About Town’ service recently established to run between Leongatha, Korumburra and Meeniyan may consider special bus services to Leongatha and Warragul when major events are scheduled. A community booking system for special events to collect interested names for small bus charter to attend events may be facilitated by a service club or business in the town to meet occasional transport needs.

Coal Creek Community Park and Museum continues to be a great venue for large events and festivals. Outdoor installations may be housed here on a regular basis. Existing tourists to the park who are interested in art may then link this visit to other galleries in neighbouring towns such as Loch and Fish Creek.

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<sup>31</sup> Dept of Culture and the Arts, *Cultural Infrastructure Direction 2012-2014*, Government of Western Australia, viewed on 15 October 2012, <http://www.dca.wa.gov.au/DCA-Initiatives/cultural-infrastructure/cultural-infrastructure-directions-2012-2014>

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED ART AND CULTURE IN KORUMBURRA

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
<b>BUILDINGS:</b>  <b>ART GALLERIES</b>	Council Coal Creek Rotary Art  Private	Art hanging space and storage in Council building  Blowfly gallery	Continued provision of art hanging space in Council buildings for specific Outdoor art space in central community meeting space in town centre
<b>FESTIVAL SPACE</b>	Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.	Managed by Council with increasing visitor numbers annually.	Coal Creek to continue as the site for festivals and outdoor installations.
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	Not yet provided in Korumburra	Private business provides technology to enhance art and cultural activities from outside of the town.	Support technology as a tool to increase access to and engagement with arts and culture. Investigate technology as a creative medium. Use technology for preservation and sharing of cultural materials.
<b>PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS</b>	Skills, expertise and experience of the people of Korumburra are rich and varied.	Skills and expertise of community is directed via individual community groups and organisations.	Develop Community Directions Statement for Korumburra to support arts and culture in the community.  Provide opportunities for skills and professional development that contributes to creative people in the local community.

## Commercial, Retail and Tourism Introduction and Definition

Korumburra has a range of retail, industry and tourism attractions. A State Government Priority Develop Panel Report (2010) identified need for increased retail in Korumburra.<sup>32</sup> Coal Creek Community Park and Museum is a major tourism attraction. One of two Visitor Information Centres for South Gippsland is also located in Korumburra within Coal Creek.

### Policy and Council Plans and Strategies

South Gippsland Council Plan 2010 – 2014. Council values attraction and investment in the area. Facilitating new business attraction and investment is a key goal in the Council plan.

South Gippsland Shire Council Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2012 – 2017 aims to build on South Gippsland's economic strength to enhance the economic wellbeing and quality of life of its residents.

Korumburra Retail Centre Assessment 2007 Identified increased need for retail in Korumburra. This was reiterated in a 2010 report of the State Government's Priority Development Panel. The Korumburra Structure Plan provides guidance for planning Korumburra over the next twenty years. Farming in Korumburra surrounds includes dairy, beef and horticulture.

Tourism Victoria: 2020 Tourism and Events Industry Strategy Focuses on industry wide, strategic issues across both the tourism and events sectors.



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<sup>32</sup> Priority Development Panel, *Korumburra Town Centre and Structure Plan*, South Gippsland Shire Council, May 2010, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/AppPDPKorumburraFinReport.pdf>.

## Current Provision

### Retail

The Korumburra shopping precinct comprises a long sweeping main street with retail stores on either side. Just off the main street are a couple of smaller streets featuring additional shops and service providers. A range of retail stores include newsagents, clothing, sports, gift stores and notably a number of cafes, restaurants and two hotels. An independent supermarket is located on a site behind Mine Road.

### Industry and commercial

Korumburra has 60 hectares of industrially zoned land. The Korumburra industrial estate is home to many businesses. The town's largest employer is Burra Foods located in Station Street where a major expansion has recently been completed. The Korumburra Structure Plan notes that the closure of the Korumburra Saleyards adjacent to the existing industrial estate allows the potential for light industry and highway business purposes and may allow space for further commercial development in the future.<sup>33</sup> Korumburra Hospital (Gippsland Southern Health Service) and Carinya Lodge aged care facility are also significant employers in the town.



### Tourism

One of two Visitor Information Centres in South Gippsland is located in Korumburra and provides local, regional and statewide tourist information and services. Coal Creek Community Park and Museum has free entry and attracts visitors from Melbourne, interstate and international. It is open from Thursday to Monday and seven days per week during Victorian school holidays. Coal Creek hosts a variety of community groups and events throughout the year. The education program continues to attract funding to support education programs for a wide selection of schools. South Gippsland Tourist Railway is based in Korumburra and runs a tourist service throughout the year between Leongatha to the East and Nyora to the West, running weekends, school and public holidays. The town features a number of accommodation options including a motel and Council owned caravan park leased to private manager. Other tourism attractions and accommodation are located out of the town centre.

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<sup>33</sup> Priority Development Panel, May 2010

## Consultation

Consultations were held with community groups and the broader community early in 2012 to discuss services and facilities for Korumburra with particular focus on the Korumburra Community Meeting Rooms and Library. Council's community strengthening team attended meetings with community groups currently using the Korumburra meeting rooms. A consultation meeting was held in March 2012 which was well attended by a broad representation of the Korumburra community. Discussions included use of the Korumburra library and meeting room site on the corner of King and Commercial streets for a supermarket and retail shopping centre. Discussions also included location of the Korumburra library, community meeting rooms the potential use for the Korumburra sale yards site. Provision of a new community hub and new integrated children's centre were also discussed. Any proposal for a new purpose built community hub would require further investigation of funding opportunities via developer contributions or sale of Council land.

Additional consultations held to develop the Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan discussed business and tourism as priorities for the town centre. Specific contribution from Korumburra Rotary to this plan included the options to re-establish a Korumburra website to assist in promotion of the town and revival of the Karmai Giant Worm Festival as a tourist attraction.

## Future Demand

### Retail

A retail assessment undertaken in 2007 identified increased need for retail in Korumburra<sup>34</sup>. This was reiterated in a 2010 report of the State Government's Priority Development Panel. There is continues investigation for improved retail opportunities within Korumburra which may include a shopping centre with supermarket. Expressions of interest were invited in October 2012, as part of the Korumburra Central Project for a supermarket located on the site of the current Korumburra Meeting Rooms and Library site. Whilst there is still a recognised need for another supermarket in the town, its location is still under discussion.

### Business

The growing population, proximity to Melbourne and availability of key infrastructure, such as natural gas, will provide an ongoing demand for business particularly those that can provide employment. Commercial land is in short supply due to the topography of the town and historical development around the railway.

### Tourism



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<sup>34</sup> T Nott, *Korumburra Retail Centre Assessment*, South Gippsland Shire Council, April 2007.

The changing demands of the tourism environment, such as an ageing population, visitor requirements and market will drive the need to maintain and improve the tourism product of the town. Local businesses have opportunities to provide tourist information or local produce from shops in the town centre to support promotion of the area and local businesses.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigate Korumburra retail development in a prominent position in the town centre that allows accessible parking and public transport access. This further invigorates the existing retail providers in the town attracting diversity in the range of retail in the town. Improved access from off street parking behind Commercial Street could incorporate walk- through retail opportunities for shops in Commercial Street.

Motel/ small conference facility is required in either Korumburra or Leongatha. This 4 star facility would cater for tourists and business professionals visiting the area. An existing motel may be refurbished and become part of a large chain to meet this need.

Coal Creek Community Park and Museum: A detailed feasibility plan has investigated redevelopment of Coal Creek Community Park and Museum to improve viability through increased visitation, branding and revenue. The feasibility plan proposes four recommendations: 1. rationalisation of the site; 2. development of a core route through the historic precinct; 3. restaurant, function centre and light show; and 4. overnight education facility for between 240 and 480 visitors. Increased access around the park has also been discussed. Pursuing these options will address a number of needs for Korumburra and would provide another point of entry into the facility.

Exposure of the Railway Station to Commercial Street will increase tourist interest and potential future use of the railway precinct for further tourist use. It has been suggested that management of this area would allow for off street parking for caravans and recreational vehicles.

### Research

The concept of Economic Gardening was first developed by Chris Gibbons in Littleton, Colorado in 1987 - City of Littleton Business / Industry Affairs([www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org)). The strategy is used in many regional areas of the USA with great success and has resulted in economic and employment growth in the communities in which it has been implemented.

The primary aim of the initiative is to work cooperatively with established businesses to support growth and therefore the potential to generate local employment. It is also outward looking by encouraging businesses to seek markets beyond the local region - thus attracting wealth to our local area.

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The Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan proposes a range options for the town centre to promote business and tourism within the town. The economic development team continues to support existing businesses and industry in town to diversify or extend their business. Any expansion of businesses currently located in the industrial estate would require rezoning of land either adjacent to the current industrial estate or relocation to the old sale yards site.

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<sup>35</sup> Littleton's Economic Gardening [www.littletongov.org/bia/economicgardening/](http://www.littletongov.org/bia/economicgardening/).

Table 1: CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED RETAIL AND TOURISM SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
RETAIL	A range of retail stores include newsagents, clothing, sports, gift stores and notably a number of cafes, restaurants and two hotels. An independent supermarket	Independently managed and owned businesses	Continue independent management and ownership with potential for major supermarket chain as key tenant in new development with associated small retail on site.
TOURISM	Coal Creek Community Park and Museum  South Gippsland Tourist Railway  1 x motel  1 x caravan park.	Managed by Council with increasing visitor numbers annually  Tourist rail with limited days operation  Private providers  Council with lease	Feasibility study for Coal Creek to improve financial viability recommends conference centre, school camp facility and concentration of historical buildings at entry to park. Tourist rail continue with greater exposure of railway station from Commercial Street.  Refurbishment of existing motel or additional motel /conference centre  Develop pedestrian access to town from caravan park
INDUSTRY	Major manufacturing businesses	Some key businesses expanding	Support to existing businesses to encourage expansion and employment  Support development of old saleyards site for light commercial and bulky goods stores with highway frontage

## Community Meeting Spaces

### Introduction

Flexible indoor meeting spaces are affordable and available for use by a variety of different groups for a range of different purposes. They can cater for sport and recreation, education, community group meetings and events. The quality and accessibility of the buildings vary greatly with some buildings more suited to passive than active uses. Flexible spaces can be configured in numerous ways and adjusted to meet the needs of different sized groups for different types of activities. These include active and passive activities that might require wet and/or dry spaces. Storage for equipment, furniture and program supplies needs to be carefully planned.



### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Department of Education and Training (2005) *Schools and Community Facilities*, Melbourne

Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, (2009) *Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities*

Department of Planning and Community Development, (2010a) *A Guide to Delivering Community Precincts*

Department of Planning and Community Development (2010b) *A Guide to Governing Shared Community Facilities*

### Current Provision

There are many meeting rooms available in Korumburra which are dispersed across the town. These are managed by incorporated community groups, Section 86 committees of management, sports clubs, churches and Council. Detailed mapping of current meeting rooms in Korumburra is not complete; however there appear to be many meeting spaces that are under-utilised.

Some barriers to efficient use of current meeting rooms in Korumburra may include

- Location of meeting rooms outside of the Korumburra Town Centre
- Lack of knowledge within the broader community regarding cost, access and booking arrangements for current meeting rooms
- Perception by outside user groups that meeting rooms such as the Senior Citizens meeting rooms or Soccer Club rooms are limited to use by those groups only
- Committees of management reluctant about sharing use and management of their meeting rooms
- Physical access of older buildings restrict use by older people and people with a disability
- Cost for use of some meeting rooms can be prohibitive for some groups
- Church based meeting rooms often have good quality meeting rooms, halls with stages and kitchens but are unavailable at short notice if there is a funeral.
- Current room size limits some activities e.g. Milpara Community House is limited to groups over 15 people
- Disrepair and inaccessibility of some meeting rooms
- Insurance costs a deterrent to groups to make the rooms available for hire

## Consultation

The Korumburra Central Project investigated the redevelopment of the Korumburra meeting rooms and surrounding land for retail development including a supermarket. These plans are currently on hold while the Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan is developed. There remains strong support for an integrated community hub to be developed on this site with strong support from the West Gippsland Regional Library, Milpara Community House and Korumburra Rotary Club through consultation with current tenants of the Korumburra meeting rooms and library, Korumburra businesses and community groups.

The Historical Society has provided details regarding their storage, counter and preparation area needs if they were to relocate to another site. At this stage



consideration of a purpose built extension at Coal Creek Historical Park and Museum has been considered as an option. This would locate the historical society within Coal Creek with its museum status and historical collections.

The West Gippsland Regional Library Service has developed a strategic plan for a future library service for Korumburra located within a shopping centre or community hub. The Library Service proposes 'a larger library be retained on the current site in a new building to retain its prominent easily seen location.' The library is keen to explore the opportunities and efficiencies that can be gained through a community hub but emphasises that the current site is to be retained as a priority.

Milpara Community House committee members and coordinator have indicated support to meet in a combined community meeting space such as a community hub. Current services provided at Milpara such as Centrelink, Emergency Food Bank and Small Business Victoria training would be readily accessible in a community hub located in the central business district of the town. Funding for a new facility in Korumburra would require investigation of funding from sources such as developer contributions or sale of Council land.

A Korumburra Community Hub reference group will be established to further develop the specific needs for a community hub providing opportunities for further consultation. This will complement consultation led by the Community Strengthening team with the Korumburra Business Association, Senior Citizen's Club and Milpara Community House.



An emerging priority from community consultation is support for a flexible multi-purpose facility that includes meeting and training rooms that are linked to a central point to access community information, program activity space and services. Consultation with service providers indicate there is a need for a centrally located facility with large and small meeting rooms for counselling, justice, employment, health, activity and social groups. Preference is for this facility to be located on the current Korumburra Meetings Rooms and Library site on the corner of Commercial and King Streets.

Recent development of the Korumburra Bowling Club Strategic Plan, Korumburra Showgrounds Master Plan and Korumburra Recreation Reserve Master Plan has identified priorities for development of buildings for community meeting space. Korumburra Indoor Recreation Centre identifies this facility as a 'hub' for community and sporting events.

Currently this facility is perceived to be the town hall and can seat up to 500 people. The facility is used for large events including presentation nights, events and community meetings. The facility also has a range of office and meeting spaces capable of catering for a range of activities / functions.

## Future Demand

Flexible indoor community meeting spaces are generally demand driven. The provision of a community hub with key tenants of the Korumburra Library and Milpara Community house would provide increased opportunities for shared education and learning opportunities and would require training rooms to accommodate increased classes. Funding for a community hub may be sourced through sale of Council land and developer contributions. There are adequate community meeting spaces for the next 20 years if existing buildings are used by more groups and accessibility is improved. Early years specific meeting rooms would be available at the purpose built integrated children's centre with kindergarten, childcare and maternal and child health services.

The number of existing meeting rooms and their current limited use provides opportunities for their increased use. It is in the interest of current meeting room committees of management to consider opening up the use of their facilities to additional groups. Negotiation between existing and new users of meeting spaces might discuss the type of spaces required and any arrangement of new systems of management for shared facilities. Combining responsibility for maintenance, hire and promotion of meeting spaces among a number of community groups for each facility would ease the cost and time required to maintain the meeting room. This combined management could result in increased use, increased income from users, more community members to share the responsibilities of management of a facility and the potential of shared membership amongst user groups.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. The following should be considered as a guide only.

TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR MEETING ROOMS

Level 1 Meeting Space for Community Activities (local government, schools, churches, private-for-profit)	1 - 20 people (30m <sup>2</sup> ) 21 – 50 people 51 – 100 people 101- 200 people (400m <sup>2</sup> )
Level 3 Community or Government Secondary College	200+ people (400m <sup>2</sup> )

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Any multi-use buildings such as a community hub and integrated children's centre should include flexible meeting spaces. Readily accessible flexible storage methods provided in multi-use centres can allow for security and maximise the range of users for a facility. Meeting rooms associated with service provision allows for a focus for activity, sharing of resources and increased service integration. A community hub should be readily accessible to community members of all ages and abilities.

Existing meeting spaces could be made available for use by more community groups. Detailed mapping of available facilities and negotiation between committees of management and interested user groups would assist this process. New user groups could be involved to increase participation in management of facilities, ease the burden of finding committee members, increase use of facilities, and provide income for facility management. Where community meeting spaces are shared, all user groups should be given the opportunity to have representation on committees of management.

There is a general trend towards the development of a range of groups, clubs and services using the same venue rather than the historical provision of individual, stand alone and exclusive (used by one group only) facilities. The historical provision of facilities for single group use is inefficient and costly for maintenance and community connection. Combined facility use provides a more financially viable use of facilities and increased opportunities for interaction and partnerships between user groups. Activity centres should be located close to similar services. For example children's centres close to schools or education precincts and community hubs located close to the town centre or associated with other combined services such as recreation precincts.

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<sup>36</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

## Best Practice

There has been an increasing trend over recent years towards the aggregation of community infrastructure in activity hubs. Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas (2008) describes the objectives of hubs to:

- Meet the functional needs of communities
- Provide a vibrant focal point for community life by offering a diverse range of community service providers
- Provide for the co-location of services and clubs to enable the sharing of resources, increase the level of service integration and encourage greater resident utilization and participation
- Enable residents to more easily and freely access services and participate in community activities
- Provide for the co-location and integration of facilities to optimize the use of land and support infrastructure such as car parks and pavilions, reduce car travel, encourage social interaction, reduce maintenance and enhance sustainability.

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<sup>37</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008

TABLE 2 KORUMBURRA MEETING ROOMS MATRIX

 = catering provided by venue ✓ = available

Meeting Room and address	Number of rooms	Capacity	Heating /airconditioning	Access	Stage	Kitchen	Licensed	Venue contact
<b>Alex Scott meeting rooms</b> Bridge Street	1	10 board room set up 30 theatre set up	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Alex Scott Real Estate 03 5655 1133
<b>Anglican Church Hall</b> Bridge Street		Hall x 120 people seated 2 x Small rooms x 10	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	Anglican Church Jenny Ramage (03) 5655 1007
<b>Austral Hotel</b>	2	Function room upstairs – 100 dining setup, 200 theatre set up, heating only – has a stage, no wheelchair access.  Rotary room down stairs- 40 seated Evaporative cooling, no stage	✓	✓	✓		✓	Austral Hotel Doug Wight (03) 5655 1021
<b>Baptist Church</b> Mine Road		<i>Not available for hire to outside groups</i>						Baptist Church Ian Wilkinson (03) 5655 2077
<b>Bowling Club</b> Charles Street	1	96 seated with tables	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	(03) 5655 1246 <a href="mailto:johnm@dcsi.net.au">johnm@dcsi.net.au</a>
<b>Catholic Church</b> Walsh Centre Bridge Street	1	90 seated with tables	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	Catholic Church Leongatha (03) 5662 2020
<b>Catholic Primary School</b> Bridge Street	1	Library IT centre 45 - 50 people Keys required for toilet must request on booking	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	St Joseph Catholic School (03) 5655 2040

Meeting Room and address	Number of rooms	Capacity	Heating /airconditioning	Access	Stage	Kitchen	Licensed	Venue contact
<b>Coal Creek Community Park and Museum</b> South Gippsland Highway	5+	<b>Auditorium</b> 90 theatre style 25 U – shape 15 boardroom 40 class Room	✓	✓	x	catering available	x	Coal Creek Rowena Ashley (03) 5655 1811
		<b>Pig and Whistle</b> 90 theatre style 60 dining room	?	x	x		✓	
		<b>Mechanics Institute</b> 90 theatre style 25 U-Shape 15 boardroom 40 class room	✓	x	✓	x	x	
		<b>Court House</b> 90 theatre style 25 U – shape 8 boardroom	x	x	x	x	x	
		<b>Men's Shed</b> Not available for outside use	x	x	x	x	x	
<b>Community Access Centre</b> Radovick Street	1	30 seated theatre style	✓	✓	x	x	x	Section 86 Committee Chair - Iris Raps 03 5655 2607 / 03 5655 2607
Korumburra Recreation Reserve Richard Street	2	Football club hall seats 100.  Room 2 seats 40, no kitchen.	Wood heater	✓	x	x	x	Recreation Reserve Allan Summerfield (03) 5655 2709
<b>Croquet Club</b>	1	Max 30 people	✓	✓	x	✓	x	Ian Mathews

Meeting Room and address	Number of rooms	Capacity	Heating /airconditioning	Access	Stage	Kitchen	Licensed	Venue contact
Victoria Street								5655 2408
<b>Golf club</b> Warragul Rd	1	156 seated with tables	✓	✓	x		✓	Don Hislop 5655 1886
<b>Indoor Recreation Centre</b> Elizabeth Street	1	Stadiums x 2 x up to 500 seated Drill Hall x 80 seated Meeting room x 30	✓	✓	x	✓	x	Caretaker/Manager - Adam & Donna Smith 5655 2112
<b>Italian Social Club</b> Bridge Street		Big room x 100 plus seated Second room x 50 seated	✓	✓	x		✓	President – Ross Lomangno 5658 1540
<b>Kindergarten</b> Victoria Street		<i>No longer available, now a play room</i>						Lynn Stein 5655 1218
<b>Secondary College</b> Jumbunna Road	3	Performing Arts Centre x 120 retractable seats, has heating.  Gym seats x 550  Flexible Learning Centre x 70 seated at tables. Projector & screen	✓  x  x	✓  x  x	✓  x  x	✓  x  x	x  x  x	5655 1566 <a href="mailto:korumburra.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au">korumburra.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Showgrounds Complex</b> South Gippsland Highway	2	Amenities Block x 80 seated	✓	x	x	✓	✓	Showgrounds complex Bev Kurrle 5674 3318 Agriculture and Pastoral Society President - Ian Cash 5655 1995

Meeting Room and address	Number of rooms	Capacity	Heating /airconditioning	Access	Stage	Kitchen	Licensed	Venue contact
Showgrounds Complex	1	Netball Pavillion x 80 seated	✓	x	x	x	x	Korumburra/Bena Football Netball Club 0438 304 858 <a href="mailto:korexhaust@dcsi.net.au">korexhaust@dcsi.net.au</a>
	1	Young Farmers Club Rooms	x	x	x	x	x	Pony Club Michelle Perks 5655 2611
<b>Korumburra Meeting rooms</b> (old council chambers) Cnr Commercial & King Sts (old Council Chambers)	3	Main room x 70 – 80 theatre	✓	✓	x	✓	x	West Gippsland Regional Library 5655 1105
		Art Gallery x 10 seated  *limited tables and chairs	✓	✓	x	✓ (small)	x	Korumburra and District Historical Society Janet Wilson 5657 2267
<b>Milpara Community House</b> Shellcotts Road	3	2 rooms x15 each seated. Counselling room x 4 people	✓	✓	x	✓	x	Milpara Community House Sandra Webster 5655 2524 milpara@dcsi.net.au
<b>RSL Hall</b> Mine Road	2	50-60 seated. 1 room has a billiard table	✓	x	x	✓	x	RSL Perry Neil 5655 2119 or 5655 1545
<b>Scout Hall</b> Queen Street	2	Large room 100 seated  Smaller room 10 seated	x	✓	x	✓	x	Scout Leader – Shirley Reeves 5655 2273

Meeting Room and address	Number of rooms	Capacity	Heating /airconditioning	Access	Stage	Kitchen	Licensed	Venue contact
<b>Senior Citizen's Club</b> Radovick Street	3	Large room x 80 seated Small room x 40 seated Small room x 20-25 seated	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ x x	✓ x x	x x x	Senior Citizen's Club Heather Workman 5655 1122
<b>State Primary School</b> Mine Road	1	Gym x 300 portable staging	x	✓	✓	✓	x	David Gray 5655 1309
<b>Tennis Club</b> Victoria Street	1	X 20 seated	x	x	x	✓	x	Matt Poklington 0402 736 693
<b>Uniting Church Hall</b> Bridge Street	1							President – Mary Tumino 5657 3365 <a href="mailto:armstrong55@bigpond.com">armstrong55@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Vic Rail Hall</b> Station Street	1	X 45 seated	✓	✓	x	✓	x	Don Wylie 5655 1522

## Education and Learning and libraries

### Introduction

Korumburra has two primary schools and a secondary school. Secondary school students also attend the Catholic Regional College in Leongatha. Library services are provided in the old Council offices corner King and Commercial Streets. Milpara Community House provides services from a pair of converted houses. Adult education courses provided at the Community House are often limited due to the space available.

The infrastructure types described in this section are:

- Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Libraries
- Adult education and community training
- Industry based apprenticeship training

Kindergarten and Childcare is described in the [Early Years](#) chapter of this document.

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

[Schools as Community Facilities](#) The Victorian Government has released guidelines designed to help government schools and communities develop partnerships around sharing school facilities. The guidelines discuss the benefits of entering into a sharing agreement and provide information on the legal framework that surrounds this type of agreement.

[People Places – A guide to public library buildings in New South Wales 2000](#) The West Gippsland Regional Library has adopted a service model based on the NSW benchmarks.



## Current Provision

Korumburra has one state primary school, one catholic primary school and one state Secondary College in Korumburra. The library is currently located with street frontage in Commercial Street (South Gippsland Highway). Adult and community education is currently provided through Milpara Community House with support of Adult Community and Further Education funding (ACFE). Milpara Community House also provides social and health services to the community. Apprentice Group Australia has training rooms for industry based apprenticeship training in the industrial estate.

## Schools

Korumburra Primary School has an average enrolment of around 400 students and 23 full time equivalent staff. Students living outside of Korumburra attend the primary school from the towns of Nyora, Jeetho, Poowong, Outtrim, Kardella, and Kongwak. An after school hours care program, 'Korumburra After School Recreation Environment', is offered 5 nights per week between 3.20pm and 6.00pm. Students graduating from the Korumburra Primary School mostly attend Korumburra Secondary College. Some students attend Leongatha Secondary College, Mary McKillop Regional Catholic College in Leongatha, Newhaven College on Phillip Island and St Paul's College in Warragul.

St Joseph's Primary School has an average enrolment of around 75 students, 8 full time equivalent staff. Students living outside of Korumburra (22) come from the towns of Bena, Poowong, Kardella, Whitelaw, Jumbunna and Arawata. Students from St Joseph's Primary School also attend the 'Korumburra After School Recreation Environment' at Korumburra Primary School.



Students graduating from here attend Mary MacKillop Regional Catholic College in Leongatha (between 30 – 70%) or Korumburra Secondary College (between 30 – 70%).

Korumburra Secondary College is a state funded co-educational school located 2.5 km out of the town centre on the Jumbunna Road. It has an average school enrolment of 550 students from years 7 – 12, 38 effective full time staff and between 15 and 20 support staff. The school offers Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

## Library

Korumburra Library is located on the corner of King and Commercial Streets Korumburra. The library service is provided through a service agreement between the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC)

and South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shire Councils. People Places (2000)<sup>38</sup> provides for a hierarchy of facilities adopted by WGRLC. A principal library provides services to the whole municipality and supports services from other small libraries. Leongatha is the principal library in South Gippsland. Korumburra is a community level library. There are also neighbourhood level services and a mobile library service in South Gippsland.

The current site provides 303m<sup>2</sup> allocated to the library collection and 23m<sup>2</sup> staff and service space. The current library service is co-located with an art gallery, meeting rooms and historical society storage, customer service counter and meeting room. There is no visual connection between the above area and different entrances to most rooms in the building. The current site has a steep entry from King Street. There is ample car parking behind the building however the terrain is steep and there is no lighting available at night from the Library entry to the rear car park. This site is currently being investigated as part of the broader Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan following planning amendment (C71) proposed for a retail refurbishment 'Korumburra Central' that would include a major supermarket and other retail shops on this site.

Public libraries return community benefits and value at least 3.6 times on every dollar spent. The report Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries; A study of socio economic value of libraries (2011) indicates current spending in Victoria on library services is \$36 per person per year, very affordable considering the resulting community benefits.<sup>39</sup>

### Adult and Community Education

Milpara Community House currently provides adult and community education and community support services. It is located in Shellcotts Road, a residential area of Korumburra approximately 1 kilometre from the centre of town. Whilst this is no more than a 12 minute walk, its current location is not within the central retail area of town and may be unknown to new residents to the town. Milpara Community House is an ACFE funded 'Learn Local Organisation' providing short courses in computers, jobs skills, first aid, art and craft, creative writing, yoga, English as a second language, food safety and Small Business Victoria workshops and other activities requested by the community. Links for accredited training are provided in partnership with Community College Gippsland (CCG).



Milpara Community House also provides a venue for the following community groups: Australian Breastfeeding Association, Fibromyalgia Support Group, South Gippsland Community Houses Network, South Gippsland Parenting Network, Korumburra Playgroup, Work Solutions Gippsland, Uniting Care Gippsland, Vision Australia volunteers and Employment Innovations Victoria/Ostara – Disability Management

<sup>38</sup> State Library of New South Wales, 2011, *People Places: A guide for public libraries in New South Wales*; 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Sydney.

<sup>39</sup> SGS Economics & Planning, 2011, *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries*, State Library of Victoria, p.3.

Service. A Well Women's Clinic is provided, a variety of counsellors and visiting services use meeting rooms. Community support services including a Centrelink agency, legal aid, and an emergency food bank are provided. Milpara also auspices a men's shed that is located in the old joinery building in Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

Industry based apprenticeship training is provided by Apprenticeships Group Australia, a not-for-profit registered training organization. Training rooms are located in the Korumburra industrial estate. Links and partnerships in education and industry are supported by South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGBC LLEN) for Korumburra community members. Their office is located in Leongatha.

## Consultation

The Diocese of Sale is supportive to any expected expansion required at St Joseph's Primary School as a result of an increased student population in the future. Land owned by the church is available adjacent to school for expansion. Strategic planning by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has identified the need to respond to the forecast increase in the population of young people under the age of 17. Community Infrastructure for early childhood services is the current focus for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

## Future Demand

The population aged under 19 in Korumburra is 26.2% and will remain above 25% for the next 20 years. In 2021 the most populous forecast age group will be 10-14 year olds, with 429 persons. The number of people aged under 15 is forecast to increase by 421 (53.7%). This will impact on current school infrastructure and service provision at primary and secondary schools and apprenticeship training in Korumburra.

The population of Korumburra over the age of 60 will increase from 27% in 2011 to 30% by 2031. The learning needs of the older population are most likely to be met in the library and community house settings. Allowance will need to be made for establishment of university of the third age (U3A) or similar education opportunities for the older population. Opportunities for older people to share their experience and skills with the community should be valued.

## Schools

Primary and secondary schools (state and catholic) in Korumburra have adequate land available to cater for the increasing population of people of school age from 2012 – 2041. The school aged population (5 – 17years) will remain the most populous age group from current to 2031. Expansion of the current secondary school on its current site in Jumbunna Road is under question due to drainage and parking issues. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are responsible for the planning and provision of public primary and secondary schools. The Diocese of Sale guides the management of the Catholic primary school.

Both Korumburra Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School have space available to cater for additional buildings and play space required to cater for the extra students. It is anticipated that accommodating an increasing number of secondary school students on the current site on Jumbunna Road could be difficult due to drainage issues limiting parking and play area expansion.

Community suggestions include development of an education hub on the old saleyards site in Korumburra that would include Secondary College, community house and library. This land is privately owned and earmarked for industrial and retail development so it is unlikely that this option would be possible in the current financial and funding environment.

### Library

Initial strategic planning by the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has occurred describing infrastructure needs for a future library service for Korumburra. The *Future Library Service for Korumburra 2012* incorporates calculations of floor space, preferred location, future library models and service delivery projections.<sup>40</sup>

Calculations made as part of the report indicate future needs for library services cannot be catered for in the current library area. West Gippsland Library Service proposes a larger library be retained on the current site in a new building to retain its prominent, easily seen location. If needed this would involve co-location with others on this site including a retail shopping centre or as part of a multi-purpose community hub with lead tenancy shared with Milpara Community House. Whilst the library is happy to be co-located with Milpara Community House the option of another site away from the main street is not preferred by the library service.

An exercise to assess the capacity of the Victoria Street kindergarten site to house the library, community house and other community training rooms and meeting areas has been completed. While it has been confirmed that this site has the capacity to adequately house the library service and community house the West Gippsland Regional Library Service emphasises that a more prominent site, preferably a redevelopment on the current site would retain the prominent, easily seen location is preferred. Developer contributions and the sale of Council land may contribute to the development of a new library in a community hub co-located with the community house resulting in a point of for education and community activity.



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<sup>40</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library, 2012, *Future Library service for Korumburra 2012*

Increasingly older people are becoming increasingly computer literate. This may allow electronic connection to learning and libraries from the home. For early years and youth and the introduction of e-books, digital libraries and user created content will be highly relevant as will the blurring of lines between recreation and study areas. Community requires both physical and virtual space. Future Library Services for Korumburra 2012 considers the capacity of public libraries to meet the individual and community expectations for technology into the future and notes that ICT infrastructure and cost are elements largely outside the control of both libraries and local government.



### Adult and community education (ACE)

Adult and community education services delivered at Milpara Community House - are currently at capacity due to restriction of size at the current Milpara Community House facility. Small and medium rooms allow capacity for groups of up to 15 people. There are limitations for larger groups on site such as exercise classes that require more space. It is anticipated that multipurpose meeting rooms designed with flexible room sizes would allow a broader expanded range of courses to be provided for the Korumburra community in a new site.

In addition to adult education, other services currently provided at Milpara Community House could be enhanced in a multi-purpose community hub. Access to adult and community education would be improved with location of the community house closer to the centre of town. Sharing a site with the library would provide increased exposure to community members previously unaware of the community house and their services.

If funding for a new building could be sourced through developer contributions or sale of Council land, a commercial kitchen should be included in the planning. A commercial kitchen located on site would provide opportunity for group cooking programs such as community kitchens or 'cooking for one or two'. The kitchen would allow a preparation area for casseroles and similar for the emergency food bank that could then be stored in freezers on site. This kitchen could provide a central location in the town to prepare catering for events. When combining counselling services with other services, confidentiality should be considered. If an emergency food bank is to be located in a shared multipurpose building, confidentiality should also be considered for community members accessing the emergency food bank.

### Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. Provision of education

services and facilities for aged and disability should consider availability of accessible public facilities within a town the size of Korumburra located in the central business district.

The following planning criteria have been applied by State Government in growth areas to define provision of education services:

### Schools and Adult Education

TABLE 1: SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY HOUSE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Primary Schools	1 school to 8,000 – 10,000 people = 1 primary school / 3,000 households
Catholic Primary School	1 school to 18,000 people
Secondary Schools	1 school to 25,000 – 30,000 people = 1 secondary school / 9,000 households
Catholic Secondary School	1 school to 58,000 people
Independent non-government school	1 school to 40,000 people
Government Specialist School	1 school to 55,000+ people
Community House Programs	Meeting spaces that include component elements of larger community facilities. Floor and land areas required will depend on the type and range of activities to be accommodated but should include 1 – 2 dedicated rooms for private counselling services, multi-purpose training rooms with internet access, multi purpose meeting rooms with internet access that can be used for training, physical activity groups, with wet and dry areas.

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### Libraries

Library floor space calculations based on the People Places: A Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales Third Edition<sup>42</sup> benchmarks have been developed for a future library service in Korumburra and respond to forecast population projections. These calculations

<sup>41</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

<sup>42</sup> State Library of New South Wales, 2012, *People Places: A Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales (Third Edition)*

indicate that with the increase in electronic resources in libraries, floor space required to 2031 is greater than that currently available. The catchment for the Korumburra Library includes Poowong, Loch and Nyora, towns also expected to experience population growth in the next 20 years.

A total solution for library service requirements of the whole shire should be considered rather than the development of a particular library venue in isolation. A balance of investment and services between the library services across the shire should be retained, with particular reference to the Principal Library in Leongatha.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Schools

The Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) and Catholic Education office are responsible for the allocation of services on existing sites in Korumburra for primary and secondary education. Support for expansion on both state and catholic primary school sites has been approved. Whilst there is no need for additional schools to be planned, drainage, parking and expansion issues at the Korumburra Secondary College should be addressed to allow increase of the current capacity.

#### Best Practice

International, Commonwealth and State policy direction encourages the development of 'Community Hubs' which supports the co-location and/or integration of community spaces. Community Hubs provide multiple spaces clustered together on one site servicing the neighbourhood / district / sub-region / region. Council's future planning approach is reflective and responsive to this trend.

Community hubs create a sense of belonging and community, allow different people to meet and interact and create a focal point for community activity. Community hubs bring people together and build a sense of place. They increase efficiencies in the built form and provide better return on infrastructure costs by enabling multiple service providers to share facilities over and increase range of hours.

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### Library, adult and community education, and community house

The co-location of the Korumburra Library and Milpara Community House in one building would bring two providers of education and learning together allowing consolidation of public access computers and meeting rooms/ areas. Training / meeting rooms and library

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<sup>43</sup> S Rossiter, 2007, *Feasibility Study of Community Hubs for the Parramatta Local Government Area- Briefing Paper*, Elton Consulting, Bondi Junction.

space may be used for education opportunities currently offered by the library and community house with room to extend the range of courses and number of participants

*Future Library Service for Korumburra 2012* recommends that the library of the future in Korumburra could be located in a prominent position in a shopping centre or community hub and should include meeting rooms and learning spaces.<sup>44</sup> Consideration of redevelopment of the current library site into a multi-purpose hub would retain the prominent location for the library whilst also ensuring the site becomes more accessible to the community for a range of uses. A submission by the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation supports entering into a community hub model with preference that it be based in a new building on the current library site.

Co-location of Milpara Community House in this hub could allow an increased range of courses and offer the opportunity to host Community College Gippsland Courses in Korumburra. Linking the library with other services within the town would further enhance the value of all services to the community. Libraries have demonstrated socio-economic value in four critical areas:

- Providing free public access to computer and information technology resources
- Creating better informed communities
- Promoting lifelong learning and literacy and
- building connections between individuals, groups and government.<sup>45</sup>

Apprenticeship training rooms are well placed in the industrial estate and can be responsive to demand. Desk based training for apprentices could be provided within a shared library/community house training area if adequate space is provided.

A community hub located within the central business district in a prominent position in the main street of Korumburra services is proposed. This facility would have two key tenants and a range of other meeting rooms and a commercial kitchen. The Korumburra Library and Milpara Community House have been identified as potential key tenants in the community hub, however co-location with retail is an alternative.

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<sup>44</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library, 2012

<sup>45</sup> State Library of Victoria, 2005, *Libraries Building Communities*, 'Executive Summary', Melbourne, p.5

The Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres 2012 report indicates that community/neighbourhood houses and libraries can be successful tenants. They experience improved opportunities for partnerships and networking, improved facilities, improved access to services, additional resources, improved location and profile and more. There can also be a number of challenges with sharing facilities; the report recommends development of a hub planning committee from the earliest possible opportunity. Best practice in developing community hubs include:

- Clear and timely documented vision, goals and agreements.
- Equity in relationships of stakeholders
- Evaluation of hubs.<sup>46</sup>

A Korumburra community hub planning group should be convened to discuss whether a community hub model is suitable for the Korumburra community and if so then how it should be established, funded and managed. This group would comprise community members, all potential tenants of the hub and hub owners. Consultation with key tenants of the proposed community hub should include development of governance structures, a memorandum of understanding between hub tenants and careful design to ensure the purpose of the building matches those of the tenants. Maintaining the identity and purpose for each key tenant is important to consider. Council will undertake evaluation of the community hub with key tenants and the community. The West Gippsland Regional Library Service, Milpara Community House and Korumburra Rotary Club have expressed interest in participating in a community hub planning group.

Combination of retail, library and community house is possible for the current library site and may provide increased affordability for a new facility. Management of the building by other users and the community in a retail model will require careful consideration. Funding for a purpose built community hub would require investigation of funding sources including sale of Council land, developer contributions or corporate sponsorship.



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<sup>46</sup> D Perry and A Savage, 2012, *Mixed Reception: An Evaluation of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres' Experience in 30 community hubs*, Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (ANHLC), Melbourne.

## *Technology*

The introduction of the National Broadband Network (NBN) will assist in the establishment of on-line learning and remote delivery models for education, particularly in post-secondary education. This will provide opportunities to link secondary school virtual classrooms maximizing staffing across schools and increasing subject availability at Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) level.

Monash University and GippsTAFE currently offer many courses delivered via distance education. The National Broadband Network (NBN) will assist in delivery of these courses at a greater speed to households and public facilities. Any new developments in the Korumburra area should include allowance for NBN fibre to the premises. New public facilities built with NBN connection in mind will allow increased opportunity for flexible education delivery within Korumburra.

Increased upload and download speed will assist the operation of the Library Service with internet access within the library and electronic book loans.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EDUCATION AND LEARNING SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
KORUMBURRA PRIMARY PRIMARY SCHOOL	DEECD land and building maintenance	Stand alone building single service owned by DEECD	Development on current site
KORUMBURRA SECONDARY COLLEGE	DEECD – land and building maintenance	Buildings on large parcel of land owned by DEECD	Development on current site or investigation of alternative sites
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL	St Joseph's Catholic School – Korumburra Bridge Street	Buildings located on corner site owned by Diocese of Sale	Consider extension onto adjacent Catholic Church land
MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE	Community house Council building Shellcotts Road	Two connected converted dwellings in residential area owned by Council.	Key tenant in multi-purpose community hub closer to centre of town. Expansion of adult education capability.
KORUMBURRA LIBRARY	West Gippsland Regional Library	Located in old Council Office building in prominent main street site with meeting room and art gallery West Gippsland Regional Library is funded by 3 local governments and State Government.	Key tenant in a community hub or retail facility located on current site.
INDUSTRY BASED TRAINING FOR APPRENTICES	Apprenticeship Group Australia	Registered training organization located in industrial estate	Current model or location in community hub.

## Health Services

### Introduction

The rural health care system consists of a diverse range of public, private and not-for-profit services. Health services in Korumburra include a public hospital, private general practice, maternal and child health services, counselling, drug and alcohol services, ambulance, allied health services, district nursing services, aged care services and residential aged care. Other health services provided through private businesses located in the retail areas of Korumburra include dentistry, osteopathy, sports therapy, physiotherapy, myotherapy and a pharmacy.



A description of aged care services including residential aged care are described in the [Aged and Disability](#) chapter of this report.

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

[South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017](#) provides strategic direction to Council and health and community services organisations to support the public health of the South Gippsland community. The vision of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 is *'to provide safe, supportive environments for our communities to be the healthiest they can be and to flourish'*.

The Victorian Government is responsible for delivering a wide range of health services to the community. This is achieved through planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health service providers and activities which promote and protect Victorians' health, including:

- health care services through public hospitals, community health services, ambulance services, dental services and public mental health, drug and alcohol services
- residential and community care for older people, assistance to enable people to function independently in their own homes, positive ageing programs, healthy and active living programs and seniors cards

- health promotion and protection through emergency management, public health and related preventative services, education and public health regulation.

The Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 – 2022 Rural and Regional Health Plan<sup>47</sup> provides the blueprint for the planning and development priorities for the Victorian healthcare system. The plan addresses the health system; workforce recruitment, development and training; service integration and governance.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011 – 2015 provides a framework and priorities for preventative health. The plan aims to *'improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by engaging communities in prevention, and by strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventative healthcare across all sectors and all levels of government.'*<sup>48</sup> The plan has nine priority areas and four priority settings in which to work. These are local communities and environments, workplaces, early childhood and education settings and health services.

The Gippsland Regional Plan is a long-term strategic plan that aims to manage the emerging challenges in the Gippsland region to shape a successful future. Priority six, Health and Wellbeing, one of 10 priority areas, identifies the need to *'improve the health and wellbeing of a range of people in Gippsland who currently have below average health status.'*<sup>49</sup>

Support networks exist for primary and community health in Victoria. These include Primary Care Partnerships, a State funded voluntary alliance of health organizations working in partnership in health promotion, service coordination and integrated chronic disease management. Council and the majority of health services and social welfare services located in Korumburra are members of the South Coast Primary Care Partnership delivering shared projects that support the Korumburra community.

Gippsland Medicare Local is a Federally funded organization that supports integrated provision of private, primary health in Gippsland. General practices and private allied health providers are supported in service provision and training by the Gippsland Medicare Local. Gippsland Medicare Local will have an increased role in public health promotion in coming years.



<sup>47</sup> Department of Health, 2011, *Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 – 2022*, Melbourne

<sup>48</sup> Department of Health, 2011, *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*, Prevention and Population Health Branch, Melbourne, p1

<sup>49</sup> Gippsland Regional Plan Project Control Group, 2010, *Gippsland Regional Plan*, p16

## Current Provision

Council services funded by the Department of Health included Home and Community Care (HACC), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and immunisation. Council HACC services are described in Aged and Disability section of this report.

## Immunisation

Immunisation services are provided by Council and the Korumburra Medical Centre for all of the community according to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines. Council provides immunisation services in the current Korumburra meeting rooms located on the corner of King and Commercial Streets on the first Wednesday of each month. This service is for children aged 2 months to 4 years and adults. Secondary school immunisations are provided at the Korumburra Secondary School annually. The Council immunisation team also provides education to the community about current immunisation priorities. Immunisation services are mostly provided by the Department of Health with community education an additional service supported by Council.

## Maternal and Child Health

A Maternal and Child Health Service is provided at the Korumburra Community Health Centre located in the Korumburra Hospital grounds. The service is provided Wednesday and Friday 8.30 – 4.30 and alternate Thursdays 8.30 – 4.30. An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program is available via referral from the Maternal and Child Health nurse. Families most likely to benefit from this program are mothers with post-natal depression, significant parent/infant bonding issues, teenage parents, mothers with physical or intellectual disabilities, families with multiple births or other special needs.

## Korumburra Hospital

Korumburra has a hospital providing specialist general acute, minor surgical, urgent care, aged and residential, allied health and community services. The hospital is located in Gordon Street to the north of the town and tourist rail line and is managed by Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS). The site has rooms used by a variety of other service providers including Gippsland Pathology, Latrobe Community Health Service and Latrobe Regional Health. The hospital has 16 acute beds and 20 residential care beds and a modern well-equipped theatre.

Urgent care services are provided at the hospital in partnership with doctors from the Korumburra Medical Centre. Nursing staff attend to patients that present to the hospital until doctors on call are able to attend to their needs. Services are provided on a fee for service basis. The nearest funded emergency department is at Bass Coast Regional Health in Wonthaggi 33km from Korumburra.





### Allied Health

Allied health services in Korumburra are provided by public and private providers. Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) provides allied health services including audiology, dietetics, continence nurse, cardiac rehabilitation, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry and stomal therapy. District nursing services are provided by Gippsland Southern Health Service in the home.

GSHS provides planned activity groups and chair based exercise groups in community meeting rooms on the corner of King and Commercial Streets and a Well Women's Clinic at Milpara Community House. Milpara Community House also provides exercise classes in the community meeting rooms. Health promotion programs are also delivered in the Korumburra community focusing on the priorities of physical activity, access to healthy and affordable food, and mental health and wellbeing.

Latrobe Community Health Service provide aged care assessment, counselling and case management, gamblers help services and carer respite from the Korumburra Hospital.

Private health service providers include allied health and alternative and complementary therapies. These include but are not limited to dentistry, osteopathy, Pilates, myotherapy, podiatry, counselling and life coaching.

The Korumburra Pharmacy is located in the business district of the town. The pharmacy provides services to the community in close consultation with patients, doctors and specialists. Weekly medication dose packaging is provided by the pharmacy to local residential aged care providers and community members in their own homes. A home delivery service is also provided.

### Doctors and Primary Health

Korumburra Medical Centre has six consulting rooms and a well-equipped procedure room. The practice provides a wide range of general practice services to a diverse population. It provides medical cover for the Korumburra Hospital in areas of urgent in-patient and out-patient care. Visiting Medical Officers from the practice attend the Korumburra Hospital on a fee for service 'on call' basis.

### Carer Support

Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) provides carer support programs including Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre (CRCC). Mayfair House provides planned overnight respite and dementia education and training for carers. Carer support also includes case management for aged care services including a home and community care response unit, disability services including Auslan interpreter service, and flexible support packages and veterans' home care.

Respite services in the home are provided as part of Council's Home and Community Care service. Fees are calculated based on income and respite is usually readily available. Baptistcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle Latrobe Community Health Service and Australian Home Care also provide respite as part of their community aged care packages. Four respite beds are available in aged care facilities in Korumburra, 2 beds at Carinya Lodge and 2 beds at Hillside Lodge.

## Consultation

A focus group discussion held with invited health providers provided information to the Health and Aged and Disability community infrastructure chapters of this assessment. Organisations represented at the focus group were Gippsland Southern Health Service, Korumburra Medical Centre, Carinya Lodge, Latrobe Community Health Service, Calvary Silver Circle, Baptistcare, Korumburra Pharmacy and South Gippsland Shire Council. Key issues identified included visiting medical specialists, home and community care, respite, rehabilitation, emergency care and built infrastructure. There was a lack of knowledge regarding the range of services and service providers available to the Korumburra community between some of the participants. A list of health, disability and aged care services is been collated by the South Coast Primary Care Partnership and will be distributed to health service providers in the town. Electronic directories for health services are available and regularly updated

Gippsland Southern Health Service is reviewing services provided from its Korumburra campus with the redevelopment of the hospital in Leongatha. Strategic plans are investigating an integrated primary care centre (IPCC) to be constructed following the completion of the current redevelopment in Leongatha. For Korumburra a community rehabilitation centre is being considered, however at this stage there is no capital funding to allow this development.

Korumburra Medical Centre has experienced growth in patients in the last 5 years which is now 100 whole patient equivalents. There are 6,800 different people using the Medical Centre with patients coming from Poowong, Loch, Nyora, Grantville, Corinella and Wonthaggi. The centre is currently building an additional 5 consulting rooms to cater for the growing number of patients.

Carinya Lodge Homes is building additional independent living units described in the Aged and Disability chapter of this document.

## Future Demand

In response to people living longer and carrying out self-management of chronic diseases at home, Council's role in provision of services may diversify into partnerships with health services for delivery of support programs for people with specific conditions. Partnerships may also be entered into in the provision of physical activity programs for older people in partnership with local health service planned activity groups and health promotion programs.

As the population of Korumburra increases and people are living longer, managing chronic disease, demand on acute health, primary health, community and social services in the town will increase. As increasing numbers of residents remain in the home as they age, services provided to the home such as district nursing, meals on wheels and home and community care services will experience greater demand. A detailed

description of the needs for aged and disability services is described in the Aged and Disability chapter in this document. The large population of children currently under school age will place demand on immunisation services to secondary school children in future years.

The early years population will also experience gradual growth requiring planning for provision of maternal and child health services. The specific needs of this group are described in the Chapter Early Years Services. These younger groups, coupled with the significant increase in older people will require increased immunisation services to the Korumburra community.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

TABLE 1: INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS FOR HEALTH

Community Based Health Precinct	1 to 50,000 people
Level 3 Health Centre	1 to 50,000 people – 100,000 people (includes GP care, nursing, some specialist care, access to diagnostic, procedural and observation facilities)
Level 2 Health Centre	1 to 10,000 – 50,000 people (includes services such as drug and alcohol services, counselling services, community nursing, allied health services and integrated health promotion and primary prevention)

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While the above service benchmarks indicate Korumburra has high level of health care provision these growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only with reference to neighbouring health services provided in Leongatha, Wonthaggi and Latrobe Hospitals.

With Leongatha located 14.5 km from Korumburra, the community is fortunate to have the range of health services provided for a township its size. Whilst people of Korumburra may travel to Leongatha for services, consideration should also be made of the towns to the west including Nyora and Poowong which are also expecting significant growth.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Health services in Korumburra will increasingly cater for the ageing population. Younger children and youth who will make up a quarter of the population should also have their needs considered when planning for future services.

<sup>50</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

For the increasing number of people receiving health services to the home and those who are managing their own health, opportunities for a choice of social and physical activities within the town that are accessible to people of all abilities would benefit them socially. More health focused self-help groups requiring support from Council and other service providers are likely to be in demand. Further detail on community meeting places is available in the Community Meeting Spaces chapter in this document.

### Best Practice

A systems approach should be adopted and is important for achieving responsive, person centred care over time through the different stages of disease progression. The Wagner Model for improving chronic illness care was developed by the MacColl Institute for Healthcare Innovation (USA) and has been endorsed by the Victorian Department of Health as the model for guiding Integrated Chronic Disease Management initiative in Victoria. It aims to provide a framework that helps to identify the systems changes necessary to improve the coordination of care for people with chronic disease. Evidence indicates that people who participate in chronic disease management programs have a better quality of life experience fewer complications are more likely to remain in their own home and reduce their overall use of health care resources.

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### *Maternal and Child Health*

Maternal and Child Health Services co-located with other early years services in the Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre provide convenience for the community and improved service coordination. With an increased population requiring immunisation services, Council immunisation services may be provided at both the integrated children's centre and in a facility closer to the town centre. The small meeting room facilities co-located at each of these centres could be matched with services suited to the key users of each facility.

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<sup>51</sup> Aged, Community and Mental Health, 2000, *Literature Review of Effective Models and Interventions for Chronic Disease Management in the Primary Care Sector*, Department of Human Services

At the integrated children's centre, parents could be invited to use meeting rooms for playgroup, toy library and other associated meetings.

### ***Home based care***

Home based care and support services will expect increased demand for services with an increase in the older population and more people remaining in the home. As more people age and develop self-management skills for chronic disease, they are expected to remain independent and continue living at home. Provision health costs can be expected to move from acute settings such as hospitals into community and outreach service settings. Advocacy for funding in these areas should be strongly supported.

### ***Korumburra Hospital – Acute, allied and community health***

Continued planning for delivery of health services in the existing hospital system on the current site should include plans to complement a redeveloped Leongatha Hospital. Community health services could be delivered in multi-use community facilities planned for Korumburra where planned activity groups, self-help support groups and physical activity groups may be offered.

Specialising in the provision of a rehabilitation centre based on the Korumburra Hospital site would provide the only funded rehabilitation service in the area.

### ***Doctors and Specialists - Private Practice***

Encouraging doctors to the medical clinic and visiting specialists and surgeons is a high priority. Many overseas trained doctors do not have medical board registration with Korumburra Medical Centre lacking the senior doctors to provide the supervision required. On call out of hours services provided by the Medical Centre makes it difficult to retain General Practitioners in the area.

Redevelopment of the Leongatha Hospital provides increased and improved surgical suites. Visiting surgeons may be attracted to operate regularly from the improved facility. Equally the redevelopment of specialist consulting rooms at the Leongatha Hospital will allow a greater number of specialists the space required to deliver increased services. Better transport options such as the community car, Bus About Town and broad knowledge about half price taxi cards will allow Korumburra community members to access specialists at Leongatha.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED HEALTH SERVICES FOR KORUMBURRA

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	RELEVANT FEDERAL/ STATE / LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIED HEALTH COUNSELLING VISITING SPECIALIST SERVICES	Gippsland Southern Health Service	Department of Health Victoria Department of Health and Ageing	Hospital with consulting rooms for outside users Radiology, allied health, community health	Current service model, expanded on current site Rehabilitation Centre
DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE	Gippsland Southern Health Service	Department of Health Victoria	Home visit	Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation
KORUMBURRA MEDICAL CENTRE	Private practice	Private business	Medical centre in Korumburra and visiting service to Poowong to 2012	Increased consulting rooms or move to hospital site
IMMUNISATION	South Gippsland Shire Council	Department of Health Victoria	Korumburra meeting rooms 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month Secondary school as scheduled	Korumburra hub, Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre and Secondary school. Extended hours as required
LATROBE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE COUNSELLING SERVICES	Latrobe Community Health Service	Department of Health Victoria Department of Justice, Gamblers Help	Colocation on Korumburra Hospital site	Retain services in Korumburra at site where privacy can be maintained.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	South Gippsland Shire Council	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and local government through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	Wednesday, Friday and alternate Thursdays 8.30am - 4.30pm.	Co-location in Integrated Children's Centre. Consider expanded hours to meet needs of increased births x 1.5%
PRIVATE ALLIED HEALTH AND COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH	Korumburra Sports and Spinal Clinic Burra Health	Private business	Consulting rooms operating hours	Current model
SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	Latrobe Regional Health 4 Gordon Street	Department of Health Victoria Department of Health and Ageing	Outreach service on phone triage	Retain current model of delivery

## Law and emergency services

### Introduction



All emergency services are provided by the public sector with support from community organizations and volunteers. Councils are required under legislation to undertake municipal emergency management, response and recovery activities that include:

- Advocating for service provision needs where there are recognised gaps
- Assessment of land to determine fire hazards
- Provision of a municipal emergency coordination centre and back-up centre through multipurpose use of existing facilities
- Provision of relief centres and neighbourhood safer places.

This section describes law and emergency services in Korumburra including

- ambulance
- fire
- police
- State Emergency Service
- legal services - Children's, Magistrates court and Sherriff's office.

### **Policy and Relevant Council Documents and Plans**

South Gippsland Emergency Management Plan revised July 2012 To ensure the South Gippsland community will have appropriate management strategies in all emergencies the Shire has prepared a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) in accordance with the requirements of Section 20(1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986. The aim of this Plan is to detail the agreed arrangements for the prevention of, the response to, and the recovery from emergencies that could occur in the South Gippsland Shire as identified in Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act, 1986.

South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan 2011/ 2012, 2013/2014 is a sub plan of the Emergency Management Plan. The purpose of the MFMP is to chart the planned and coordinated implementation of measures designed to minimise the occurrence, and mitigate the effect of bushfires in South Gippsland, and the planned use of fire for a variety of purposes

Ambulance Victoria plans to increase the Korumburra Ambulance branch to a 24 hour branch within the next 3 years<sup>52</sup>.

Victoria Police: It is proposed to extend police roster hours between Korumburra and Leongatha police stations.

### **Current Provision**

Under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, CFA receives funding of annual estimated expenditure through the State Government, insurance companies (through fire service levies on insurance premiums) and from other companies under Section 80A of the Act. Councils are required under legislation to undertake municipal emergency management, response and recovery activities that include:

- Advocating for service provision needs where there are recognised gaps
- Assessment of land to determine fire hazards
- Provision of a municipal emergency coordination centre and back-up centre through multipurpose use of existing facilities
- Provision of relief centres and neighbourhood safer places.

### **Ambulance - Ambulance Victoria**

State Government funded service. Ambulance branch manned during daytime 7 x days and on an on-call basis out of hours. The nearest 24 hour branch is located at Leongatha, 14km to the east. The Korumburra ambulance provides services to Korumburra and towns west of Korumburra with back up services from Grantville or Lang Lang. Allocation of ambulances is via the 000 emergency telephone service managed by an independent dispatch organisation.

### **Police - Korumburra Police**

State Government funded service. Open 8 – midnight x 7 days per week and on-call.

### **Fire - Korumburra Urban Fire Brigade (CFA)**

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<sup>52</sup> Ambulance Victoria 2012, *Ambulance Victoria Strategic Plan 2010 -2012*, viewed on 12 July 2012, [http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Media/docs/28336\\_Dec09\\_v2\\_COLOUR-51a3ac1e-b8e5-447c-bbb5-cf42ee589ad9-0.pdf](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Media/docs/28336_Dec09_v2_COLOUR-51a3ac1e-b8e5-447c-bbb5-cf42ee589ad9-0.pdf).

Under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, CFA receives funding of annual estimated expenditure through the State Government, insurance companies (through fire service levies on insurance premiums) and from other companies under Section 80A of the Act. Korumburra has a voluntary on-call service to the town and surrounding district. Equipment available allows for rural and urban fire-fighting. Township protection plans are developed in consultation between the CFA, community and Council. Korumburra does not have a township protection plan as it is not deemed to be at risk of bushfire or grassfire. The Municipal Fire Management Plan describes Korumburra as at low vulnerability to fire attack from grassland to the NNW. Council manages this risk through power line clearance, fire plug and hydrant installation and management, and reserve management. Other responsible agencies are the CFA and V-Line for railway land clearance.

### Korumburra Court and legal services



Magistrates and Children's Court and Sherriff's Office located on Bridge Street. Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays 9am – 4.30pm. Legal services - Legal Aid services for Korumburra are provided from the Morwell office. There are two private law firms with offices in Korumburra.

### State Emergency Service

There are two State Emergency Service teams in South Gippsland, one located in Leongatha 14 km from Korumburra and the other in Foster. The Leongatha based service provides storm and flood responses to Korumburra and district.

### Emergency Relief Centres

A review of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan was undertaken in early 2012 resulting in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan V1.4 July 2012. This plan identifies an emergency relief centre in Korumburra. Emergency relief centres are established by Council to provide basic, essential needs to people affected by an emergency. Emergency relief centres are temporary to support the immediate needs of those affected during the initial response to an emergency. They are only established

in the event of an emergency if people need to evacuate. Emergency relief centres are established to offer shelter for people without a place to stay; however, it is encouraged that people should seek to stay with family or friends wherever possible.

## Consultation

Informal interviews have taken place with personnel from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and Korumburra Urban Fire Brigade to determine future plans for expansion of services. Strategic plans are regularly developed for emergency services outlining intentions for future provision of these services.

## Future Demand

### Ambulance

As the population ages, so will the demands on the ambulance service. People experiencing breathing difficulty or cardiac events need an emergency service in as shorter time as possible to expect a positive outcome. On-call services in Korumburra at night and the next nearest service located at Leongatha, do not meet response guidelines. Plans to increase the ambulance roster to 24 hours is currently on hold.

Ambulance services in Victoria have been experiencing and increase in demand for more than a decade. Since 1999-2000 the ambulance caseload in Victoria has grown by an average of 5.1 per cent per annum, with both emergency and non-emergency incidents increasing by nearly 65 per cent. Other ambulance services around the world are experiencing similar demand pressures. These demands include demographic change (ageing and population growth), which accounts for about 25 per cent of the increase in emergency demand. Trends in the health of the community play a key role, notably the increasing burden of chronic disease. Other factors also include changes in medical practice and patient management (e.g. the trend to early discharge and treatment in the community), social changes (e.g. the increasing number of people living alone), reduced accessibility to other health services in some areas (especially general practitioners) and rising community expectations<sup>53</sup>.

### Police

The *Victoria Police Blue Print 2012 – 2015* describes an expected increase in demand for all services in response to a growing population. In line with the Victoria Police Blue Print increased hours of rostered police would be required with the increase in the population of Korumburra to help the community feel safe and be safe by 'ensuring police are accessible, visible and respond promptly'

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<sup>53</sup> Ambulance Victoria Strategic Plan 2010 - 2012

A combined increase in police services across Leongatha and Korumburra will cater for the increased populations expected in both towns. This is possible for police services that are not time critical and to towns located 14km apart. As each town increases so too can the police rostering in response to need and funding available.

### **Fire - Korumburra Urban Fire Brigade (CFA)**

Korumburra Fire Brigade is currently located on an adequate site for current services but there may need to be consideration for future expansion and another site with growth in the number of dwellings and larger retail developments. The possibility of rerouting of the highway may also impact on the location of the fire station. South Gippsland Shire has a higher proportion of the population who are volunteers. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) relies on volunteers to provide the fire fighting service to the town and district. Demand on the service is likely to increase with an increase in the number of dwellings and retail area. The increase in the population also provides opportunity for an increase in volunteers with the CFA.

### **Korumburra Court and legal services**

Judicial facility provision strategies will depend on needs assessments undertaken by the Department of Justice. As the population increases across South Gippsland and Bass Coast the services provided at the Korumburra Court may need to respond with increased days provided. There are currently two weekdays available for this expansion.

### **Industry benchmarks and trends**

The key criteria for determining the need for facilities are population size and the capacity of nearby stations or units to satisfy area demands and meet response times. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

The following general standards apply to the provision of emergency services in growth areas and metropolitan areas:



TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Services Precinct Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES	1 per 40,000 people
Or stand-alone facilities as follows	
Police Station	1 station per 37, 037 (metropolitan Melbourne)
CFA	1 station per 14, 739 (growth area average)
Ambulance Victoria	1 per 56,583 residents (growth area average)
SES	1 per 108,866 (metropolitan Melbourne) 45 volunteers per unit

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\*\* NOTE: For towns in South Gippsland the capacity of stations and units to meet response times is key to their provision within Korumburra.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal provision levels for emergency services should ensure appropriate response time outcomes are achieved (ASR Research 2008).

### Best Practice

In the past most emergency services have been located in stand alone facilities. More recently, where circumstances allow, emergency services precincts with fire, police, ambulance and SES facilities have been developed.

<sup>54</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

It is recommended that the larger population of Korumburra will require full 24 roster services of both Ambulance and Police located in the township. An increase in people moving to Korumburra from metropolitan Melbourne and an increase in youth may result in an increased demand on Victoria Police. An increase to a 24 hours roster at Korumburra Police Station provides an increase in police members available to respond to needs in Korumburra relating to road traffic accidents, law enforcement and community engagement.

An increase in older people living at home will place increased demand on emergency ambulance services. Older people are at greater risk of time critical health incidents requiring timely emergency ambulance such as cardiac and pulmonary events. A new ambulance branch is currently under construction to house increased staff required for a 24 hour roster.

Emergency service provision to meet the needs of a growing community requires regular review taking into account the town population, surrounding farm population and towns west of Korumburra. The towns west of Korumburra rely on ambulance or police services based in Korumburra. Service planning for ambulance and police should consider these towns and the farm populations outside of the Korumburra town.

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EMERGENCY SERVICE AND LAW SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
AMBULANCE	Ambulance Victoria Princes Street	Daytime roster x 7 days / on-call	Increase to 24 hour roster within next 5 years
POLICE	Victoria Police Bridge Street	8am to midnight x 7 days / on-call Broad call out district	Extend service hours for Korumburra and Leongatha in next 5 years.
KORUMBURRA URBAN FIRE BRIGADE	Mine Road	Voluntary service to urban and rural fires and road traffic accidents	Current model with consideration for larger facility

KORUMBURRA COURT	Magistrates Court Children's Court Sherriff's Office Bridge Street	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 4.30	May require increase in days court services are provided
LEGAL SERVICES	Legal Aid services Two private law firms	Legal aid from Morwell Office Within offices in town and neighbouring town services	Continue current model.

## Open Space, Streets, Parks and Playgrounds Introduction

There are opportunities to enhance quality and refine the form and function of open space to better reflect population changes and community needs. The design of quality open space within residential and commercial areas provides health, lifestyle, social, economic and environmental benefits.

There is a lack of open space for community use in Korumburra and footpaths for pedestrian connection from residential areas are incomplete in many areas.

The following infrastructure in this section relates to non-structured active and passive outdoor activity and include

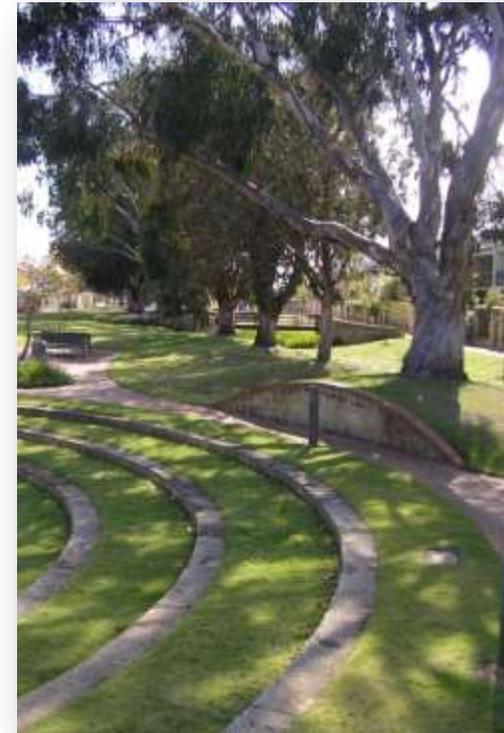
- Open space
- Playgrounds
- Paths and Trails
- Community gardens
- Public realm

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities including ovals, playing fields and courts, indoor sports and recreation and aquatic facilities are described in a separate chapter entitled Recreation and Leisure

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Australian Government Active Urban Design Protocols 2011

Heart Foundation of Australia (2009) Blueprint for an Active Australia



South Gippsland Shire Council [Korumburra Structure Plan July 2010](#)

South Gippsland Shire Council [Asset Management Strategy 2007](#)

South Gippsland Shire Council [Open Space Strategy 2007](#)

South Gippsland Shire Council [Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016](#)

South Gippsland Shire Council [Paths and Trails Strategy 2010](#)

South Gippsland Shire Council [Recreation Plan: Volume 4 Implementation Plan](#)

Victorian Government [Urban Design Charter](#)

The South Gippsland Council Plan 2010 – 2014<sup>55</sup> and the Council Annual Plan 2013 – 2014<sup>56</sup> commit to provide open space, parks, reserves and recreation areas in accordance with the Open Space Strategy. Along with the Recreation Plan, these plans ensure open space management regimes are continuously monitored and maintained to protect natural assets and maximise their long-term benefit to the community. The SGSC Paths and Trails Strategy supports this by identifying work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the municipality. The plans also commit to provide and facilitate a range of recreational, sport and leisure opportunities for all sectors of the community.

The Korumburra Structure Plan 2010 addresses recreation and open space requirements as follows: 'To ensure the Korumburra community has adequate access to' a range of appropriately located recreation and open space facilities. That 'public land in and around the town in maintained and protected' referencing the recommendations of the South Gippsland Open Space Strategy.<sup>57</sup> The recommendations of the Recreation Plan, Open Space Strategy and Korumburra Structure Plan are relevant for Korumburra for the next 20 years and should be used in reference for future planning for open space, streets, parks and playgrounds.

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<sup>55</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, *South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2010-2014*, Leongatha, viewed on 24 August 2012 [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/CouncilPlan2010\\_\\_2014.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/CouncilPlan2010__2014.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, *South Gippsland Shire Council Annual Plan 2012/2013*, Leongatha, viewed on 24 August 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Corporate\\_Services/AnnualPlan2012-201327June2012.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Corporate_Services/AnnualPlan2012-201327June2012.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, 2010, *Korumburra Structure Plan*, Leongatha, p17, viewed on 24 August 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra\\_Structure\\_Plan\\_July\\_2010.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra_Structure_Plan_July_2010.pdf)

## Current Provision

### Open space

There is considerable open space available to Korumburra residents in the form of crown land reserves, Council land and private open space in rural areas. There are opportunities to enhance quality and refine the form and function of open space to better reflect population changes and community needs. Council acknowledges that the design of quality open space within residential and commercial areas provides health, lifestyle, social, economic and environmental benefits. Pocket parks and more formal recreation areas provide space to kick a ball informally or for children to run and play.

In Korumburra, Coal Creek Community Park and Museum and the Korumburra Botanic Gardens provide considerable open space for passive recreation, however there remains residential areas of Korumburra without access to open space within 400 metres. Currently Coal Creek Community Park and Museum provides open space within the park where community may meet, however its location is away from the main town business centre, is only open during business hours 5 days per week and is not accessible to all people.

The Korumburra Botanic Gardens are open to the public at all times and includes Olsen's walk and a picnic area. The dedicated sports fields and Korumburra show grounds also provide open space close to the centre of town that contribute to spaces available for passive recreation as well as the more formal sports described in the sport and recreation chapter of this document. Parks and playgrounds are located around residential areas of Korumburra with some linear parklands with paths located in the newer developments to the west of the town centre connecting through to the recreation precinct of the town.

Whilst there has been some allocation of open space in new residential developments, it is ad hoc and is inconsistent with Active by Design principles. Some new developments include dead end courts with no pedestrian connection to adjoining older areas with new developments. Where allowances for laneways and easements are available in developments, the inconsistency in their provision results in a lack of connection to neighbouring developments preventing pedestrian access from one area to another across town. The South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan: Volume 4 Implementation



Plan<sup>58</sup> recommends connection between areas within towns may include a waterway. Whilst this is not recommended to count encumbered land in open space allocation, their strategic use can provide pedestrian connection between areas. The South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007 noted 'the quality of local open space in the more recently developed settlements, (and in newer subdivisions) is considerably poorer than those in well-established areas'.<sup>59</sup> Therefore future residential development needs to be carefully managed to ensure adequate and good quality open space is provided



### Paths and trails

While many residential streets in Korumburra have footpaths there are still some that do not or places where footpaths are discontinuous. A series of laneways do not provide space for pedestrians or are in need of maintenance.

Despite a narrow dedicated cycling and walking path connecting the Korumburra Secondary College to the outer limits of the Korumburra township, this is not wide enough to provide adequate space for both walking and cycling. This is the only dedicated path of its kind in Korumburra. The South Gippsland Paths and Trails Strategy 2010<sup>60</sup> identifies a need for improvement and maintenance of this path. Recent planning amendments in Korumburra (C52) recommend the provision of developer contributions be used for these improvements.

### Playgrounds and parks

Playgrounds with children's play equipment are located in 7 parks across town.

Korumburra is dissected by the South Gippsland Highway and by the rail line. Pedestrian connection across the rail line is restricted to busy road connections and to a pedestrian near the railway station identified for maintenance. Safe access from the north of the rail line to the show



<sup>58</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council and @Leisure, 2007, *Recreation Plan: Volume 4: Implementation Plan*; Leongatha, viewed on 24 August 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Rec\\_Strategy-VOL\\_4.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Rec_Strategy-VOL_4.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council and @ Leisure, 2007, *South Gippsland Open Space Strategy Vol. 1: Open Space Strategy*, Leongatha, viewed on 24 August 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/Open\\_Space\\_Strategy\\_2007.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/Open_Space_Strategy_2007.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> Andrew Nixon Land Use Management, 2010, *Paths and Trails Strategy 2010*, South Gippsland Shire Council, Leongatha

grounds reserve is limited and creates a constraint for accessibility of this reserve especially for children.

The former rail line has been developed extensively as a rail trail east from Leongatha. While there is a significant rail corridor of land running through the centre of Korumburra, the South Gippsland Tourist Railway currently utilises the track restricting the development of an east west off road link through the centre of the township. Should the land become available in the future for conservation to a rail trail, it should be considered as a priority project for the town.

Many pocket parks allocated within residential developments are small with limited infrastructure. These areas can be ideal for kicking a ball or for children to run or fly a kite. There are poor connections between some residential developments, the town centre and the secondary school. Improved pedestrian access would allow more students to walk to school but would require land acquisition to make these improvements.

Well-designed parks and open space provides for a diversity of users extending beyond young children and their families. Parks can be a place to meet other community members and take a gentle stroll for all ages particularly when connected by footpaths and walkways to residential areas and the town centre. Parks can be considered as a destination for older people for whom walking can be their most accessible physical activity.

### Public Realm

The public realm is defined in this report as the connections and spaces between destinations. The public realm includes the natural and built environment used by the general public on a day-to-day basis such as streets, shopping centres, parks and public infrastructure. Some aspects of privately owned space such as the bulk and scale of buildings, or gardens that are visible from the public realm, can also contribute to the overall result.



The Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan aims to identify preferred locations for public and business uses, and future improvements to public spaces and community facilities through innovative building and landscape design. It will examine existing traffic and car parking layouts affecting the town centre. This will include highway re-routing and intersection upgrade designs. Much of urban design is concerned with the design and management of publicly used space (also referred to as the public realm or public domain) and the way this is used.

### Community Gardens

There is a community garden located at the Korumburra Hospital originally established for planned activity groups and now supplying produce to a local vegetable box distribution program operating from Coal Creek Community Park and Museum and cooking programs for older people. Within Coal Creek, vegetables are being grown but these are not tended or managed as a community garden. The Milpara Men's Shed group located within the park has plans to establish a community garden but at this stage it has not been established.

## Consultation

Consultations undertaken as part of the South Gippsland Open Space Strategy, Recreation Plan and Paths and Trails Strategy present key recommendations in the provision of open space, playgrounds and connecting paths and trails for Korumburra. These recommendations are still relevant for the township. The community strengthening team and sustainability team are receiving increased interest in community gardens for towns across South Gippsland including Korumburra.

In development of sporting club strategic plans and master plans, a key issue raised by all user groups of the recreation precinct is access between facilities in the precinct. Access to facilities for pedestrians or by vehicle is an issue, the signage is poor and there is no access between facilities and the footpaths in general in this area are poor or non-existent.

## Future Demand

Rezoning of 93 hectares of land in Korumburra will result to new housing developments to the west of the town. Opportunities for infill in the existing town boundaries are plentiful. The population of people and households is expected to grow significantly by 2031.

The residential rezoning for Korumburra infers creation of smaller lots and residents participating in physical activities away from home. An increasing number of activities will need to be accommodated on public open space. As a minimum requirement, open space should be located within 400 metres of dwellings in new developments and be suitable for use by all ages. Incidental physical activity should be maximized by providing developments linking pedestrian and cycle walkways across town especially to the centre of town, schools and recreation precincts.

The South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007 identified a need to progress cycling and walking trail developments to connect green belts, schools, housing and recreational facilities as part of potential future development. Open space needs to be distributed more equitably across the towns, and several sectors of these towns will need to identify sites for parks and sports facility expansions if residential growth continues.

The Recreation Plan: Volume 4 Implementation Plan identifies open space, off-road trails and local walking circuits as a priority for Korumburra. It identifies the need to provide open space for social, family recreation in residential areas with trail access from roadsides linking residential

areas to the Korumburra Sports precinct. There is a need to progress cycling and walking trail developments to connect green belts, schools, housing and recreational facilities as part of potential future development.

An increase in older adults is likely to trigger a higher demand for conveniently located facilities such as walking and cycling paths, public toilets, seating, shade, parks and playgrounds that are accessible to people using wheelchairs. The paths provided should be wide and flat where walkers, cyclists and mobility scooters can pass safely. As a larger proportion of the aged population cease driving, the providing suitable paths for walking become increasingly important.

Access to open space in a local neighbourhood is generally free of charge, local parks are important in providing accessible, low cost, family-based opportunities for social and family recreation including running and informal play such as kicking a ball. Passive recreation opportunities include space to take a walk, to sit and to socialise. These opportunities provide positive health outcomes to people who would otherwise be “at risk”. Council’s role is to work closely with the land development industry and other providers to deliver a diverse range of open space functions and opportunities which are conveniently located to serve each residential community.

### Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Applying simplified open space planning standards such as an “area to population” ratio (i.e. 4ha per 1000 people), or a percentage of land area, or allowing developers to determine what open space shall be provided; have been shown as ineffective in delivering a diversity of high quality open spaces opportunities which serve the majority of residents. A range of different open space types will be suitable for a variety of uses and benefits. These include making best use of local natural features such as waterways and encumbered land to extend and connect public open space. The distance between residential areas and open space is an important consideration with many areas of Korumburra lacking adequate open space within 400 metres of residential areas.

TABLE 1: OPEN SPACE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Neighbourhood level passive open space reserves	Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Requirement of the subdivision act where 5% of a developable subdivision as an open space contribution or via the local planning authority stipulating open space contribution between 5% and 10% Approximately 2% of all land is required just to provide a park of 1ha within 400 – 500m of all
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	<p>dwellings. Additional land is required to compensate for barriers such as rail, creek and industrial land plus arterial roadways that form barriers to pedestrian movement.<sup>61</sup></p>
Neighbourhood level passive open space reserve Level 1	<p>1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings Amalgamate 1ha parcels to form larger more functional reserves on a case by case basis</p>
Level 2	<p>3ha to 4ha within 2 kilometres of all residents. Equivalent to 5.43% of residential land area. Regional public open space where available along streams and permanent water bodies.</p>
Higher order passive open space reserves	<p>Linking People and Spaces: A strategy for Melbourne's open space network</p>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Best Practice

#### Healthy by Design

Sutherland, E and Carlisle R (2004) Healthy by Design: an innovative planning tool for the development of safe, accessible and attractive environments Vol. 18(11–12) NSW Public Health Bulletin

#### Key design principles

- ✓ Connectivity
- ✓ Environments for All People
- ✓ Mixed Density
- ✓ Mixed Land Use
- ✓ Parks and Open Space
- ✓ Social Inclusion
- ✓ Supporting Infrastructure
- ✓ Active Transport
- ✓ Aesthetics
- ✓ Safety and Surveillance

<sup>61</sup> Department of Planning and Community Development, *Victorian Planning Provisions* (clause 56.04) on 24 October 2012, <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/vpps/>

Allocation of adequate open space as specified in the above benchmarks should be standard provision in Korumburra. The current impression of open space in the town results from the surrounding farm land and vacant private properties, not from land that is available to the community. Parks should be designed to be appealing and accessible to the whole community, young and old.

Efficiencies should be made of existing open space linking parks and paths together to provide pedestrian access between residential areas and key areas of Korumburra including the town centre, schools and formal recreation precincts. Health by Design principles guiding developer contributions will ensure adequate allocation of open space and infrastructure to improve the ability of pedestrians to move around the town. Wide, shared paths with seating and lighting, allocation of land for shared community areas would allow space to kick a ball, walk or build a community garden.

Within the town centre the allocation of public areas for community gatherings and events would invite community engagement. Areas that allow through movement between destinations for pedestrians away from traffic are needed. Areas that are well lit, with open surveillance and available public conveniences increase accessible and safe places for all population groups.

### **Open space**

Open space required to serve new residential developments should be supplied in developable land. Preservation of native vegetation or heritage values should also be considered. The nature of any open space contribution shall be expressed as a percentage of the developable area. Encumbered land is not taken as open space to satisfy the demand for: sport, or social /family recreation functions but may be used to enhance connection between areas of open space. It can be beneficial to adjoin open space with drainage reserves for wildlife refuge and visual amenity.



Where there is no social /family recreation space within 400metres, Council will seek to take a minimum 5% (unless negotiated separately between Council and developer) of land subdivided as open space, or an equivalent cash contribution , as specified by the South Gippsland Planning Scheme and/or Subdivision Act 1988 (s18).

### ***Paths and Trails***

In Korumburra there are some large recreation reserves including the showgrounds where trails suitable for jogging, walking and cycling could be integrated around its perimeter. Many of the recreation facilities are located in a recreation precinct and are used by people of all ages and abilities. Accessible pathways are needed to link all the facilities together and then lead back to the town centre as well as providing opportunities for walking and fitness activities.

Active by Design principles recommend connections through townships that provide safe, inviting opportunities for social inclusion, non-motorised movement and open space for all community members. Active by Design principles align with the Infrastructure Design Manual and South Gippsland Planning Scheme requirements. Developer Guidelines should be established wherever possible for consistent application by both developers and statutory planning staff.



### ***Playgrounds and parks***

The range of parks currently available in Korumburra provide for a variety of uses and needs. Children's playground equipment does not need to be provided in all parks. Small parks can be treed areas with seating and lighting which provide for unstructured social family activity, rotundas for barbeques and relaxation and access routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples include landscaping, interactive art installations, water features etc.

## Public Realm

Outdoor public meeting areas are scarce in Korumburra. A central public meeting area located in the town centre allows easy access for pedestrians and may become a centre for social, community activity. This may be located as part of a community hub or adjoining any future supermarket shopping centre. A community hub may include a public forecourt with lighting, seating, trees and art/cafe/meeting spaces. This would entice people to sit and meet together both inside and outside. Other public areas in Korumburra such as the Post Office/Kelly's Bakery car park could be enhanced as a public meeting space on weekends to extend its current informal use. Investigation into safe access to this site is necessary and will be undertaken in the Korumburra Town Centre Framework plan.

Where there is available open space but no infrastructure it is possible to develop trial public realm areas using temporary concrete barriers, potted plants, tables and chairs. Temporary public realm areas may be installed for events in the same manner.

## Community Gardens

Community groups should be encouraged to use existing community gardens in Korumburra. Areas at Coal Creek are ideal for community gardens facilitated by interest groups. In subdivision design, open space for community gardens on public land and connecting walkways in to the west of Korumburra may be developed where there is resident commitment and interest.

Council supports community gardens that are managed by community groups. Community groups managing community gardens on Council land should be encouraged to plan the site of the community garden with Council strategic planners to ensure land is available for the long term and not allocated for other development. Funding to cover costs of establishing a community garden including a bond on Council land can be sought via Council's Community Grants Program or Councillor discretionary funds.

TABLE 2: OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAYGROUND, PATHS AND TRAILS KORUMBURRA CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	TOTAL No	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
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COMMUNITY GARDENS	2	On site at hospital, Gordon Street Coal Creek Community Park and Museum	Continued use of gardening as a method of physical activity and healthy food production. Extend gardens available at Coal Creek. Allow expansion of further areas at Coal Creek to interested community groups.
PARKS	10	1 x district park 1 x regional park 1 x neighbourhood park 7 x local parks	Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Ensure between 5% and 10% of subdivisions are open space. Approximately 2% of all land to provide a park of 1ha within 400 – 500m of all dwellings. Provide additional land to compensate for barriers such as rail, creek and industrial land plus arterial roadways that form barriers to pedestrian movement. Increase promotion of botanic gardens.
PATHS AND TRAILS		As outlined in the South Gippsland Paths and Trails Strategy 2010	1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings Amalgamate 1ha parcels to form larger more functional reserves on a case by case basis. Connect existing residential cul de sacs with pedestrian access between identified estates and secondary school. Ensure paths and trails are capable of shared use by wheeled equipment such as mobility scooters, bicycles and skateboards. Redevelop shared pathway from town centre to secondary school. Improve pathways to primary schools from all residential areas to allow prams and children on wheeled recreation equipment such as scooters and bicycles. Paths connecting facilities in recreation precinct and to the town centre. Link botanic gardens and caravan park to town centre via pedestrian/cycle path.
PLAYGROUNDS	7	Caravan Park/Botanic Gardens Apex Park Petersen St Queen/ Lewry Pl Wayside stop Hannah Rise Recreation Reserve Richard Street	Playgrounds maintained in current locations. Future playgrounds to cater for youth and young adults. Exercise stations located in parks across the town linked by accessible pathway and clear signage.



<p><b>PUBLIC REALM</b></p>	<p>Senior citizens car park/forecourt Coal Creek Community Park and Museum Informal meeting area between Kelly's Bakery and Post Office on weekends.</p>	<p>Central civic area including outdoor art, café, seating, shade in forecourt of community hub or proposed shopping centre. Outdoor stage, passive recreation and landscaping to invite use.</p>
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## Sport and Recreation - Indoor and Outdoor Introduction

Council has a strong commitment to the provision of sports infrastructure of appropriate quantity and quality to maintain participation. The community is the major provider of sport and recreation in Korumburra and it relies on the contribution of volunteers on committees of management and community clubs.

The following infrastructure types assessed in this section are

- Indoor sports and recreation
- Outdoor sports and recreation including sports fields and ovals and hard surface courts.
- Aquatic facilities

Open space, streets, parks and playgrounds for non-structured active and passive outdoor activity are described in a separate chapter.

### **Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy**

South Gippsland Aquatic Strategy 2009 [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page\\_Id=753&h=-1](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=753&h=-1)

South Gippsland Strategic Directions for Aquatic Facilities July 2011

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan: Volume 1 Strategy & Actions

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan: Volume 2 Locality Analysis

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan: Volume 3 Consultation Findings

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan: Volume 4 Implementation Plan

South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010

South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007

The Council Plan 2010 – 2014 and the Council Annual Plan 2012 – 2013 commit to support active lifestyles through the provision of recreational, sport and leisure opportunities for all sectors of the community. A review of the Recreation Strategy will be undertaken in the 2012 – 2013 year. The Open Space Strategy 2007 commits to the provision of appropriate quality and quantity of sports infrastructure to maintain current participation.

The Korumburra Structure Plan 2010 addresses recreation and open space needs as follows: 'To ensure the Korumburra community has adequate access to 'a range of appropriately located recreation and open space facilities'. That 'public land in and around the town is maintained and protected' referencing the recommendations of the South Gippsland Open Space Strategy.<sup>62</sup> The recommendations of the Recreation Plan, Open Space Strategy and Korumburra Structure Plan are still relevant for Korumburra today and in the next 20 years and should be used in reference for future planning for sport, recreation, open space, streets, parks and playgrounds.

## Current Provision

Council has a strong commitment to the provision of sports infrastructure of appropriate quantity and quality to maintain participation. In planning for recreation facilities and services South Gippsland Shire Council has identified the following key goals:

- Leadership in recreation policy and planning
- Create a network of off-road trails around each locality
- Provide the appropriate quality and quantity of sports infrastructure to maintain current participation
- Provide a wider range of outdoor swimming opportunities
- Introduce mechanisms to fund priority projects that are effective, equitable and assist with implementation of financial and recreation planning objectives

The plans listed above provide detailed description of the variety of indoor and outdoor sporting and recreation services and infrastructure in Korumburra.

The private, public and community sectors all have a role in providing for sport and recreation. Some sport and recreation opportunities can be operated at a profit and may be provided by the private sector. Currently sports and recreation offered in Korumburra by the private sector are the golf, bowls and croquet clubs, the heated indoor pool and the gymnasium at the sports stadium. Local government provides outdoor swimming pool, parks, recreation reserves and meetings spaces. Schools also have the potential to be a major provider of sport and recreation infrastructure that would complement the facilities available to the community. Schools also play a key role in exposing children to a range of sports and recreation activities.



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<sup>62</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council, 2010, *Korumburra Structure Plan*, Leongatha, p17, viewed on 24 August 2012, [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra\\_Structure\\_Plan\\_July\\_2010.pdf](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/Korumburra_Structure_Plan_July_2010.pdf)

Indoor and outdoor facilities are managed and maintained by volunteers. The community is the major provider of sport and recreation in Korumburra and it relies on the contribution of volunteers on committees of management and community clubs. These clubs and section 86 committees play an important role in assisting Council with asset management and maintenance responsibilities.

### **Indoor sports and recreation**

Korumburra has an indoor recreation centre catering for basketball and netball. A range of sports including AFL and soccer use the facility for indoor training during winter. A regional volleyball competition is now played in Leongatha. The renovation of the Drill Hall and Indoor Recreation foyer has resulted in the extension of indoor recreation area available.

The second court at the indoor recreation centre is used for large public gatherings which include debutante balls, exhibitions, presentation nights, weddings, large funerals and dances. It can seat up to 500 people. The function area at the showgrounds is also suitable for large social events or funerals.

Basketball has a high participation rate in Korumburra with 35% in the 5 – 35 age groups, the highest in Victoria. There is a small privately operated gymnasium located at the recreation stadium has recently reopened as a personal training studio. Fitness and activity programs are provided by Milpara Community House and Gippsland Southern Health Service for specific sectors of the community or as funding permits in local community halls.

Badminton, indoor bowls, aerobics and ‘chair-based’ activities are provided by the community and health sector in community facilities.

### **Outdoor sports and recreation**

Sports fields, ovals and hard surface courts allow for local football, netball, soccer and cricket. The football club has relocated to the showgrounds following the amalgamation of the former Korumburra and Bena Football clubs due to lack of space at the recreation reserve. Detailed descriptions of location and standards of outdoor sports and recreation infrastructure are described in the recreation strategy and remain relevant for this plan. The two primary schools and the Secondary College have outdoor playing fields for athletics and ball sports

Specialised facilities and clubs provide for lawn bowls, croquet, golf, shooting, motor cross (at Outtrim), skate park and pony club. Coal Creek Community Park and Museum also includes playgrounds and playing fields which are underutilised at present.



Korumburra Bena Football Netball club plays Australian Rules football at the showgrounds reserve adjacent to the Korumburra indoor recreation facilities. Netball is played in the indoor recreation centre close to the showgrounds, lawn bowls, croquet, and tennis courts. There is an undersized netball court and the showgrounds used for training. The showgrounds are also the site of the annual agricultural show, football, pony club and a skate park. The Korumburra showgrounds reserve is dramatically affected by drainage issues related to flow from the highway that are beyond the capability of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, the Showgrounds manager.

The Korumburra Soccer Club is based at the recreation reserve hosting the strongest club in the South Division of Gippsland Soccer League. The Soccer League uses the facilities extensively during the winter season with little capacity for another winter tenant at the recreation reserve. Cricket is played at the Recreation Reserve in summer and at the Secondary School oval.

The showgrounds reserve, bowling club, croquet and tennis club are adjacent to each other and close to the indoor recreation centre, however paths between the facilities are poor or not present. Signage to the bowling, club, croquet, tennis and indoor recreation centres is limited.

The Korumburra Golf Course is located approximately 4 kilometres from the Korumburra town centre along Warragul Road with 18 hole course of 5529 metres.

There are many individual meeting rooms associated with clubs in Korumburra for example soccer club rooms and cricket clubrooms, bowls club rooms, tennis club rooms and croquet club rooms. The pony club use the young farmers meeting room at the Showgrounds while the football netball club use other rooms at the showgrounds. The Korumburra Showgrounds and Indoor Recreation Centre each host the greatest variety of users of all recreation facilities in the town. At the Showgrounds Reserve catering for the needs of all users places pressure on a facility in need of maintenance to provide better drainage. The use of the reserve for the agricultural show, show jumping, sheepdog trials, auto club swap meetings and football coupled with poor drainage results in pressure on the playing surface of the reserve.

### **Aquatic facilities**

The Korumburra outdoor pool is the only 50-metre pool in the Shire. The pool is the main facility used by schools and swimming clubs for swimming events and carnivals. The 45 year old pool will have a master plan completed in 2012/13 to guide the improvement to support infrastructure such as change rooms, entrance/administration, kiosk, seating, shade and the car parking area. The pool also serves the aquatic needs of local residents in particular families with young children and teenagers.



A small indoor heated pool is operated privately by the swimming club in a building adjoining the outdoor pool. This pool provides the community with year round access to an aquatic facility and is primarily used for learn to swim lessons and rehabilitation.

## Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken by Council with the Korumburra and district communities in the development of the Aquatic Strategy, Recreation Plan; Open Space Plan and Paths and Trails strategy via town meetings and household surveys.

Issues identified from these consultations include:

- Funding for infrastructure maintenance
- Provision of recreation facilities to meet the future needs of a larger population
- Location of sporting fields and courts in a central area in the town
- Effective linking of all sports and recreation infrastructure via pathways between facilities and to residential areas
- Need to prioritise cycle and walking paths off-road
- Improving open space provision and amenity in all areas of the town. Ensure enhancement of land allocated for open space to increase amenity and aesthetics and provide connection across town. Link to natural waterways by providing walking and cycling paths.
- Provision of a larger gymnasium in the town.
- Consider allocation of some of the saleyards site for recreation and ensure links between this area, showgrounds and recreation area.
- Develop shared additional sporting fields at Secondary College – although issues regarding drainage may limit this.
- Provision of a dog at leash park in Korumburra

In the past 4 years there have been a range of strategic, business and master plans for the Bowling Club, Recreation Reserve, Indoor Recreation Centre and Showgrounds in Korumburra. A number of community infrastructure priorities have been identified in these plans.

The Korumburra Indoor Recreation Centre plans to develop for an elite training centre, gymnasium, a central base for coaching and training courses as well as a regional level sporting competition. Many sporting club plans focus on specific needs for maintaining their specific sporting facilities such as resurfacing synthetic bowling greens or reconstruction and drainage of retaining walls. This detailed planning is important for individual clubs, however broad planning for recreation facilities is also necessary.

## Future Demand

The larger population overall will allow for stronger club membership including increased volunteers for committees of management. A larger population will improve club membership and the opportunity to maintain a broader range of sports and recreation options. The increased

population will also allow the establishment of multiple teams for traditional sports. Changing preferences for participation to more informal, casual activities such as; walking and cycling needs to be catered for.

In 2021 the most populous forecast age group will be 10-14 year olds. To encourage membership of local recreation clubs and support recreation for this group it will be necessary to plan for expansion within existing clubs and to consider providing a greater variety of sports available in Korumburra. It is expected that as the key user group of outdoor swimming pools, there can be expected to have a greater number of young people accessing the swimming pool. School and swimming club events will bring more young people to the pool in addition to an increase in unstructured use of the pool by this age group. This will provide greater revenue through gate takings but will also increase pressure on the facility.

Whilst there is expected that people under the age of 19 will remain at a quarter (25%) of the population, there will be an increasing proportion of older people in the next 20 years. A diversity of opportunities to encourage healthy lifestyle choices in all parts of the community will be required. All existing population groups are expected to increase in the next 20 years and those moving into the town will comprise all age groups. Older people moving to Korumburra looking for a lifestyle change are usually keen to pursue an active lifestyle and become involved in the community. These people may join sporting clubs as players or nominate for committees of management. There may be increased expectation for greater variety of sports provided for all age groups from people moving into the area.

The growing older population of Korumburra will place pressure on existing facilities which traditionally cater for this age group including lawn bowls, croquet and indoor fitness activities where current facilities have been identified as needing refurbishment. Access to all the facilities will require walking and cycling tracks to account for the younger population on bicycles, people on foot, older people and people with a disability on mobility scooters or wheelchairs.

### **Industry Benchmarks and Trends**

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. The majority of facilities were developed with strong community support and fund raising prior to Council amalgamation. The result is duplication of high level sporting facilities in both Korumburra and Leongatha. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our towns which are relatively small with greater travel distances between them. For growth areas it is recommended that a minimum of 2ha of active open space excluding golf courses be provided per 1,000 people. This should be distributed between all types of sport and recreation infrastructure with more detail provided below:

TABLE 1: RECREATION GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Indoor aquatic /fitness centre	1 centre for every 40,000 to 50,000 people
Double court indoor recreation centre/stadia	1 centre for every 20,000 – 30,000 people
Neighbourhood active open space	1 area of 8ha in size to provide for two sports ovals per 6,000 people
Neighbourhood reserve pavilion	1 per 6,000 people or per designated active recreation reserve
Tennis	1 x court per 2,500 people 1 x 2 court free to the public tennis court no pavilion per 25,000 to 35,000 people 1 x 6 – 10 court complex per municipality
Netball	1 outdoor netball court per 3,500 people; 1 x double court netball court per 16,000 people 1 x 8 court complex per 50,000 people Maximise use of school sites where possible
Lawn Bowls	1 x 4 green facility for 40,000 people
Passive open space reserve	0.7 to 1ha of passive open space per 1,000 people or 300 – 400 households 205 to 4ha passive open space per 2km radius
Bicycle / Pedestrian Trails	As per Active by Design guidelines

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunities for future recreation development are described in the Recreation Plan and are still relevant for the growing population of Korumburra. The close location of the current Tennis Club, Bowling Club, Croquet Club, Showgrounds Reserve and Indoor Recreation Centre presents opportunities to develop a recreation precinct. Linking the facilities through pathways, parking, roadways, removal of fences, joint signage and sharing of facilities such as clubrooms would support better sharing of resources and better utilisation of

<sup>63</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

facilities. Pathways between the facilities in this area and pathways to the town centre would physically link current facilities into a precinct. A combined management model would support better sharing of resources and better utilisation of facilities. Linking this area to the town by clear pathways would also be necessary.

### ***Indoor sports and recreation***

Current indoor sports and recreation facilities have been greatly improved with the recent upgrading of the Drill Hall and its connection via a forecourt to the indoor recreation centre. Further investigation of the capacity of the current indoor facilities to meet the needs in the future to provide a greater variety of sports in these facilities would need to be taken in line with the master plan currently proposed by the committee. Potential use of other meeting rooms in the town for sports and recreation such as table tennis and badminton could also be investigated.

Further residential development around the secondary school indicates a need to develop partnerships with schools in Korumburra to extend use of indoor facilities outside of school hours. Current policies for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development support community use of school facilities.

### ***Outdoor sports and recreation***

Opportunities to develop of hockey and athletics in the town need investigation in the next years in either Korumburra or Leongatha. There are no hockey facilities available in the South Gippsland Shire, their location in Korumburra would be accessible from all areas of the Shire as well as Baw Baw and Bass Coast local government areas.

The provision of shade for outdoor sporting reserves and playgrounds is required through natural trees and built infrastructure. Shade should be increased in sporting reserves and playgrounds through the provision of natural and built shade. Cancer Council Victoria provides guidelines to identify tree species suitable for shade.

Drainage issues affecting the viability of the Secondary School ovals and netball courts need to be addressed immediately prior to any further consideration of expansion or recreation areas at the college. It has been reported that new housing developments above the school are causing water damage to the hard courts and ovals and limit extension of infrastructure at the school. The extensive rezoning of land around the Secondary College for residential development makes it a good site for development of shared community facilities. The Recreation Plan identifies the potential to develop a second oval at the Secondary College to full size and build a community pavilion to support community use to cater for these new developments.

### ***Aquatic facilities***

Korumburra swimming pool remains the centre for aquatic events, carnivals and school sports for South Gippsland. The South Gippsland Aquatic Strategy identifies that improvements to the pool would be required in the next 10 years. Improvements to the toddler's pools and the provision of additional activities such as sand volleyball courts and/or basketball half courts should be considered. The Korumburra Pool Master Plan will provide detail to timing and improvements required.

### ***Connecting the recreation facilities***

With proposed development of the recreation reserve, Coal Creek facilities, ovals and halls at the Secondary College, and the showground/ recreation precinct, it is important to connect all areas across town with high quality walking, cycling paths. Walking and cycling paths should also connect all residential areas to these sport and recreation facilities. Details of open space, walking and cycling paths are included in the Open space, streets parks and playground chapter of this document.



TABLE 2: OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN KORUMBURRA

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	TOTAL No	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
BOTANICAL GARDEN	2	Located adjacent to the caravan park out of town, the botanical gardens are not well known. The cemetery includes another botanical park.	Connect the Korumburra Botanical Gardens via a cycle and walking trail from the caravan park to increase access for visitors. Provide a shared path connecting the gardens to the centre of town is also recommended as part of a walking and cycling link. Improved signage.
CROQUET GREENS	1	Volunteer committee of management. Two greens and basic pavilion adjoin bowls club	Investigate shared use of bowls club building and stability of the site
EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES	1	Pony club on Crown land located in showgrounds complex. Currently using the farmers meeting rooms as club room. Located separate from the ménage. Access to the showgrounds from the main highway is problematic and ménage small for interclub activities	Increased space allocation to pony club ménage space and provision of adjacent meeting rooms. Continued provision of club space within town for easy access. Club has a current planning permit to develop a new facility out of town on Old Leongatha road for limited use for larger events.
GOLF CLUB	1	Managed turf private facility 18 hole course	Continued management of current facility
INDOOR COURTS	6	Indoor specialist sport surface Recreation Centre and adjacent Drill Hall currently used for basketball and volleyball. Council owned facility. 3 indoor courts available at schools	Combined management of recreation precinct to encourage shared infrastructure. Opportunities for upgrade of community halls for sports such as table tennis, badminton or fitness courses.
LAWN BOWLS	1	2 greens with clubrooms	Identification of new location or remodelling on the area to address drainage and access issues. Lighting and synthetic surfacing at current green could extend year round and evening use.
OUTDOOR COURTS - NETBALL,		4 Courts in poor condition at Caravan park 1 undersized netball court at Showgrounds Courts at caravan park are poor and require resurfacing if to continue. Pavillion unusable at this	Netball is currently played at the Indoor Recreation Centre. There is ample space to accommodate this sport with increasing teams at this facility. Court areas at the Secondary School will require drainage

		stage.	management.
PLAYING FIELDS	3	Korumburra Recreation reserve: two separate clubrooms for soccer club and for cricket club. Showground reserve with rooms and grandstand current home of football club. 1 x playing field located at each primary school. 1 x playing field at Secondary College	Playing fields located at the Secondary School may be utilized for use by new residential areas. Issues relating drainage will need to be addressed before any proposal for public use or expansion of recreation facilities on the site.
RECREATION PRECINCT	2	No current links between Indoor Recreation Centre, Bowling, Croquet, Tennis and Showgrounds.	Develop recreation precinct with paths linking facilities in this area. Combined committee of management.
SKATE PARKS	1	Located at Showground Location offers little passive surveillance. Showgrounds committee of management have requested relocation as they do not have the capacity to maintain this facility.	Areas to use skateboards, scooters and bicycles in the central business district /public realm in a manner that maintains safety for other users and provides passive surveillance.
SWIMMING POOL	1	The only 50 metre pool in South Gippsland used for swimming club carnivals, school sports and elite training.	Continue prioritization of this pool as centre for aquatic events, carnivals and school sports. Aquatic strategy identifies replacement of pool x 10 years, master plan will expand on this. Connect pool area via walking, cycling paths across town. Improvements to the toddler's pools and the provision of additional activities such as sand volleyball courts and/or basketball half courts should be considered.
TENNIS COURTS	2	Elevated clubrooms	Include in future recreation precinct.

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## YOUTH

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