



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 26 February 2014

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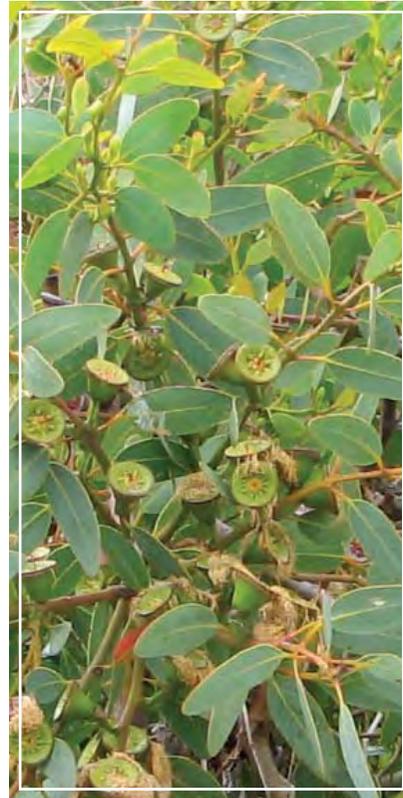
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E.11 – PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C80 'SAFE, HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES' ADOPTION

Appendix 4 – South Gippsland Recreation Strategy 2007

Recreation Plan:

VOLUME 1 Issues & Strategy



South Gippsland Shire



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Four volumes make up the South Gippsland Recreation Plan:

Volume 1. STRATEGY & ACTIONS

Volume 2. LOCALITY ANALYSIS

Volume 3. CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Volume 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

This document is Volume 1. STRATEGY & ACTIONS.

It provides the strategic directions for future planning of recreation facilities in South Gippsland Shire.

A recreation facilities inventory was also prepared for this project and submitted as a separate database. All detailed directions concerning the development of assets in open space not included in the Open Space Strategy 2007 are dealt with in this Recreation Plan.

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- clubs and community groups and schools who were interviewed and made submissions.

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1. Introduction

This plan

The aims of this plan are to:

- to establish a profile of programs and services, and prepare an inventory of recreation facilities by locality
- to analyse recreation demand and activity projections for the next 10-20 years
- to develop a Recreation Plan and determine priorities to:
 - increase participation in leisure and sport
 - maximise the value of recreation service and facilities
 - address key issues
 - provide a vision, and long term objectives for recreation facilities and services.
- to determine the nature of services and facilities feasible for Council to provide that will meet demand and Council's service objectives.

Relationship with the Open Space Strategy 2007

Consultation processes (with stakeholder groups, schools, committees of management, agencies and staff) were conjoint for the two projects.

The Open Space Strategy considers overarching issues associated with provision and planning for open space in South Gippsland. This Plan considers the strategic development and management of infrastructure provided for recreation on open space and elsewhere.

Methods

The following tasks were undertaken as part of this study:

- a review of literature and background information
- consultation with stakeholders:
 - call for submissions
 - interviews with stakeholders and staff
 - workshops/briefings with community, Councillors and staff
 - distribution and analysis of a householder survey
- site inspections
- mapping of local open space and the preparation of an inventory
- analysis of demographic data and demand for activities
- preparation of locality analysis
- identification of key issues
- development of strategies
- preparation of a draft for public exhibition.

Policy context

The previous Plan

The previous South Gippsland Shire Council *Recreation and Open Space Plan*, adopted in September 1999, includes the following key strategies:

- to establish Council as a facilitator, provider and manager of recreational opportunities in partnership with the greater community
- to facilitate the efficient and effective management of recreation resources throughout the Shire
- to establish an effective consultation framework between Council, recreational uses and recreation providers so that needs can be clearly identified, discussed and responded to in an environment of co-operation, respect and support
- to ensure an appropriate level of recreation funding incorporating an equitable spread of Council subsidies, the seeking of grants, local fund raising and consistent approach to cost recovery through user fees
- determine appropriate levels of funding and subsidisation, through equity and consistency in provision of recreation and open space services.

Also the following gaps were identified:

- the need for consultation and dialogue between users, providers and managers
- the need to share, coordinate responsibilities in management between Council, clubs, associations, committees of management, the private sector and the community

Relevant Council plans and policies

The key Council policies and plans of relevance and reviewed for plan are:

- Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement (South Gippsland Shire Council)
- Council Plan 2006-2010 (South Gippsland Shire Council)
- South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan (Version 2) 2006
- The Bicycle/Walking/Riding Paths and Trails Strategy 2001 (South Gippsland Shire Council)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2006-2010, August 2006 (South Gippsland Shire Council)
- Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan, Gippsland Coastal Board 2002
- Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study – South Gippsland Shire Municipal Reference Document, DSE January 2006
- South Gippsland Shire Council, Coastal Management Project - Background Report, October 2005.

Also, a wide range of documents and plans concerning specific localities and parks and facilities were reviewed.

2. Demand for recreation activities

Demographic profile

Five principal demographic factors influence sport and leisure participation:

- age
- income
- education
- ethnicity
- gender

These affect sport and recreation activities in different ways. For example, the core age for tennis is broader than the core age for basketball (which is, generally speaking, 'a young' sport). Some activities are favoured by cultural groups. For example, people born in non-English speaking European countries commonly play soccer, but not netball.

Settlement types

Consistent with the Open Space Plan, this Plan categorises settlements in terms of their type, sphere of influence and population size because these influence how open space and recreation facilities are best provided, and therefore how they should be resourced.

The major towns in South Gippsland Shire are:

- Leongatha
- Korumburra
- Mirboo North
- Foster¹

Towns classified as small towns are: Poowong, Nyora, Loch, Toora, Tarwin Lower/ Venus Bay, Welshpool/ Port Welshpool, Fish Creek and Meeniyan.

All other localities are classified as rural / coastal hamlet or low density residential areas. (Appendix 1. lists all localities by settlement type and major recreation facilities available).

Population size, age and gender

Changes in population, particularly age and gender structure, are the strongest influences on participation in sport and recreation. South Gippsland Shire covers an area of approximately 3,295 km². In 2004 the population was 27,243 people and showed the following trends²:

- a high proportion of 10 to 14 year olds
- a low proportion of 20 to 39 year olds
- a high proportion of 40 to 59 year olds.

Key demographic characteristics for the Shire are³:

- Low population growth overall (
 - A relatively low 0.4% annual growth compared to Victoria as a whole (1.2% average annual growth) although some localities will experience considerable growth
- Relatively low weekly household income
 - Compared with Victorian weekly household income figures is a higher percentage of the South Gippsland population receiving a low income.
- Low unemployment rate
 - Compared to both the Victorian unemployment rate (5.6%) and the Gippsland rate (8.2%), South Gippsland Shire is lower (4.9%).
- Low indigenous population
 - Currently Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders make up approximately 0.5% of the South Gippsland Shire's population, consistent with the Victorian average.
- Few people born overseas
 - Only 10.7% of South Gippsland's population was born overseas compared with 23.3% for Victoria. Of these, almost 80% speak only English.

² ABS Population by Age and Sex (2004) Cat No. 3235.2

³ Gippsland Research and Information Service, Statistical Profile South Gippsland Shire, Monash University (December 2005).

¹ Towns in Time (2001)

Visitor population

In addition to permanent residents, some areas of the Shire experience considerable visitor population increases during peak holiday periods (primarily December to March). This includes people staying in holiday homes, guest houses, motels and hotels, caravan parks and campsites.

In peak season the population in some localities may more than double and:

- a high proportion of visitors travel for holiday and leisure purposes
- many visitors will stay in their own holiday homes
- the predominant age group of visitors is likely to be 15 to 24 years

Activities undertaken by visitors are likely to include social sports such as:

- tennis
- bowls and golf
- surf sports
- equestrian activities
- skate and cycle sports.

Demographic profile projections

The Shire's overall population is expected to experience growth to the year 2030, with all growth expected in the Central and Western Districts, with the exception of Eastern district's population which is expected to decrease as illustrated in the following table (Table 1).

Table 1: Projected population; 2006 to 2030 ⁴

Statistical Local Area	2006	2010	2020	2030
South Gippsland (S) - Central	13,288	13,864	15,284	16,918
South Gippsland (S) - East	5,868	5,799	5,572	5,347
South Gippsland (S) - West	8,086	8,325	8,881	9,467
Total LGA	27,243	27,988	29,736	31,732

Key demographic changes in the population projected to the year 2030 include:

- a decrease in the number of young adults especially in the eastern statistical area where a 60% reduction is expected in the number of people aged 15 to 34 years)
- a significant increase in the number of people aged over 60 years with the number of people aged over 60 years expected to grow 104% (to a total of 13,445 persons and 42% of the total population), although the overall population of South Gippsland is expected to grow only 17%
- a decline in the number of children aged 0 to 14 years is expected to occur by about 20% across the Shire (the number of children 5 to 14 years is likely to decline between 4% and 6%).

⁴ Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria in Future (VIF) 2004 Projections, Estimated Resident Population as at June 30th By Statistical Local Areas. Note that population projections are not published for smaller locations.

Impact of demographic changes

Older adults

Because more older adults are active, demand in South Gippsland for physical activity is likely to decline more slowly than previously expected.

Increasing numbers of residents aged over 60 years will result in demand for different recreation needs and opportunities, including for:

- walking and cycling paths
- non-competitive recreation activities (eg tennis, swimming)
- public toilets, paths, seating and shade, and areas to socialise with family, such as picnic areas
- higher seats with backs and arms in public places
- indoor recreation opportunities (eg carpet bowls, badminton, table tennis, table games, gentle exercises)
- facilities that are accessible for people using wheel chairs and mobility aids
- specific opportunities for people with hearing and vision impairments
- warm water at pools for hydro therapy and aquarobics.

In areas where there is likely to be an increasing proportion of older adults, demand will be particularly strong for walking, and sports such as lawn bowls and racquet sports (eg tennis, badminton and table tennis). As well, interest in walking and gardening groups and cycling is likely to continue to be strong.

■ Encouraging participation by older adults

A variety of options are available to encourage participation by an older, more active population, including programs and classes (eg tai-chi, yoga), provision of better information targeting older adults, and

provision for activities such swimming, walking, ballroom dancing, golf, gym, cycling, bush walking.

Also, providing assistance to do the activity (eg help to get there, identifying someone to do the activity with) will all be important if older adults are to be encouraged to stay active.

If more facilities were made accessible to people using wheelchairs, and more toilets, seats, ramps and wider flat pavements were provided, more older adults may be encouraged to stay connected and get out and about. And if a range of sports facilities had surfaces suitable for older adults (ie synthetics grass for tennis) more people may play later in life.

Housing types

There is evidence to suggest that an increasing proportion of people in the Shire will be living on smaller lots and thus will be seeking opportunities to participate in sport and physical activities away from home. Hence there will be increasing numbers of people who need to be accommodated in public recreation facilities and open space.

As the population ages, more people will need supported accommodation and hence there is a likelihood that more villages for older persons will need to be provided in the Shire (eg hostels, retirement villages, nursing homes).

However, the increased number of older people may offer an opportunity to increase the diversity of housing types and the nature and quality of open space and recreation facilities provided to serve this market.

Decreasing numbers of young people

Changes in the size of age groups is likely to be more pronounced in some areas. For instance, young people often choose to leave rural areas.

The decline in the proportion of young people from 0-14 yrs will impact on sports that traditionally target young people. Sports may need to centralise facilities to enhance the viability of those sports.

Despite their fewer numbers, it will be important to retain a range of activities for young people to do, to avoid the risk of even more young people leaving the Shire.

It will be increasingly important provide activities that target young women (eg netball, equestrian activities, soccer and cycling) including the provision of social opportunities for exercise.

Income

Income is a significant determinant of leisure behaviour, and is likely to affect the use of recreation facilities in several ways.

Lower income families may have lower expectations of recreation facilities, because income is often an indicator of education levels. Also, income has an impact on sports participation: the capacity to afford to join a club, as well as the ability and willingness to spend time and money on transport to games.

The increasing cost of providing indoor facilities typically leads to an increase in the cost of use. Thus, the affordability of new facilities needs to be considered.

Activity trends

Increased activity

An analysis of available participation rates show that the proportion of the population participating in physical exercise, sporting and recreation pursuits is increasing. It tends to peak at 15-24 years of age and decline steadily to 65 years. However, recent measurement of participation rates suggests that more older people are remaining active. However, trends suggest that people are seeking active pursuits that do not require ongoing routine commitment (eg regular attendance, volunteer contributions) despite many people seeking to undertake physical activity in a social or organised setting.

Changes in activity

Most leisure activities enjoy cyclic fluctuations in participation, however some activities have consistently shown growth. The following activities, sourced from ERASS and applied to the projected population for South Gippsland Shire are projected to experience growth up to 2021 in Victoria.

Table 2: Participation rates in activities likely to increase in popularity

Activity	Participation rates	
	2006-16	2016-21
Walking (excl. bushwalking)	2.0%	+1.0%
Aerobics/fitness	+2.0%	+1.0%
Swimming	+2.0%	+1.0%
Yoga	+1.0%	+0.5%
Running	+1.0%	+0.5%
Surf sports	+0.5%	+0.25%
Soccer (indoor)	+1.0%	+0.5%
Cricket (outdoor)	+1.0%	+0.5%
Badminton	+0.5%	+0.25%

Activities showing increased demand

- Programmed activities such as group fitness related activities that may be conducted in indoor facilities at sports reserves
- Incidental, non-routine social and physical activities as leisure such as going to the park with other young mothers (mums group), older men riding together, or having a game of golf.
- Physically challenging but one-off competitive activities but without routine obligations, such as fun runs, annual organised bike rides, open water swims, corporate triathlons.
- Diverse fitness-related activities especially trail based activities (eg. *walking, dog and cycling*) and a relative decrease in the dominance of traditional sports in terms of the proportion of physical activity.
- Activities that are convenient that can be undertaken close to home or work
- Pet ownership and leisure related activities such as dog walking and pet exercising
- Inclusive opportunities and services that include all the community, not only those with high levels of physical and intellectual ability
- The neighbourhood as a leisure environment and hence the desire for pleasant streetscape and footpaths or trails on which to walk.
- Sports that can be played indoors including in modified formats and on synthetic surfaces.

Other activity trends include:

- a decrease in sport and physical activity in schools
- changing lifestyles and smaller private spaces that act to constrain physical activity and incidental play, particularly for children.

Higher expectations of residents

There is a changing culture of volunteerism towards shorter-term, task-orientated roles, and projects with higher recognition and reward for outcomes. The expectation that today's young person will be involved in a committee of management for twenty years is unlikely to be met.

As the Shire becomes a destination for retirement living, an escape for 'sea changers' and a place providing respite from the pressures of city living, it will face the challenge of meeting the expectations of new residents who have formed their views in an urban location. These expectations might include having facilities closer to home, or of a higher quality, than is viable in a small rural community.

Conflicts over land use have the potential to escalate. For instance, some new residents have complained about noise and activity from existing farms. In terms of sports and leisure facilities, valuable broad-acre sport and recreation facilities (eg orienteering, shooting, motocross/ motor racing) are typically located in rural areas so as to minimise their impact. However, new residential development may abut this existing use. Planning needs to address these issues.

Some small towns, despite their declining populations, have an expectation that the facilities they have always enjoyed will remain forever. In some small hamlets, communities have sought to upgrade local facilities to a level that is clearly not viable if it were to be provided across the entire municipality. Council needs a clear strategy for dealing with this issue and an agreed system for prioritising capital works.

Visitor population

The location of the Shire, its close proximity to Melbourne, and the presence of Bass Strait and Corner Inlet make the Shire and its townships popular holiday destinations. The population increases substantially during peak holiday periods, especially in townships such as Venus Bay.

For non-permanent residents, surf sports are likely to be important.

The fluctuation in population and increase in visitation in summer months have implications for sport. There is a significant increase in demand for some activities and therefore opportunities and issues exist for resident clubs and facilities. These need to be addressed.

Visitor numbers impact on recreation provision and therefore on the recreation plan by:

- creating demand for social sport in peak periods
for example, tennis, cycling, swimming, lawn bowls, skate and BMX, surf sports, sailing, boating and fishing and other water based sports
- offering opportunities to target visitor interests
and for local clubs to capitalise on visitor markets (eg casual hire of club facilities)
- generating pressure on townships to have a full suite of facilities possibly over and above that which would otherwise be viable, and possibly impacting on the viability of regional or Shire-wide facilities
- introducing city/metropolitan based expectations
thus creating demand for higher quality of, and more variety in, facility provision in smaller, rural/seaside townships
- generating planning issues
particularly the need to focus on district provision and major townships for the development of higher order sport facilities.

Housing impacts

In the larger towns - and perhaps some coastal villages - there may be additional communal living opportunities created (ie for older adults) and some higher density dwellings constructed in years to come. Therefore there may be proportionally fewer private yards and spaces for incidental play and exercise, companion animals, horticulture and social gatherings and canopy trees.

It would be beneficial for Council to consider how these may be provided in convenient and semi private or public settings.

Expressed demand

A householder survey was conducted to guide Council's decision-making about the ongoing provision and development of recreational activities and facilities within the South Gippsland Shire. Respondents were asked to consider what they do for 'recreation' away from the home. The following is a summary of key findings from the survey. Full details can be found in Volume 3. Consultation Findings.

Activities participated in

Walking was the activity that more people (both males and females) did regularly for recreation. The participation rate in walking (34.7%) is slightly lower than the Victorian ERASS participation (37%).

Table 3: Participation rates in the top five recreation activities

Female: percentage participating		Male: percentage Participating	
Walking	40.3%	Walking	28.5%
Swimming	21.6%	Fishing	19.0%
Bike riding/ cycling	10.5%	Bike riding/ cycling	18.4%
Netball	8.2%	Golf	15.4%
Tennis	7.1%	Australian Rules football	11.3%

Activities respondents would like to participate in

Some 34% of respondents indicated that there was no activity that they would like to do, that they currently do not. (A further 21% did not respond to the question).

More respondents (both male and female) would like to "go to the gym" than any other activity cited as liked but currently undertaken.

For males, fishing, bike riding and walking were the main activities that respondents would like to do, while females would like to walk, swim, cycle and play ten pin bowls.

Respondents who wanted to go to the gym and/ or swim indicated that having facilities conveniently located, suitable programs and classes and discounted or less expensive opportunities would enable them to do these activities.

Respondents who would like to walk or cycle for recreation seek facilities conveniently located and of better quality, along with information about what is available and where.

Priority facilities

Bicycle paths and walking trails were the facilities seen as the priority should funding become available (indicated by 20% of respondents). Other priority facilities include:

- Swimming pools (6.7%)
- Fitness centre/ gymnasium (6.1%)
- Theatres (5.0%)
- Boating launching facilities (4.3%)
- Libraries (3.9%)

Meeting respondents' recreation needs

Walking and cycling paths, maintaining and developing parks and gardens and reducing costs through assistance with grants and funding were the main things that respondents indicated the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs.

Performance of recreation facilities and services

The three most important recreation-related facilities and services identified were:

- re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- maintenance and upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves
- support for community and sporting clubs.

The three services that were perceived as having the poorest provision by the South Gippsland Shire Council were:

- information about recreation and sports opportunities
- re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- coordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with disabilities and young people

The largest gap between the importance of facilities (ie their value to respondents) and the perception of service provided (ie perceptions about their care) was seen in the following three items:

- re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- co-ordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with disabilities and young people
- maintenance and upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves.

3. Existing recreation facilities

Overview

A recreation inventory was prepared for this project. Appendix 1 lists the key types of recreation facilities by locality.

For a relatively low population South Gippsland has a good range of recreation facilities, including community halls and indoor meeting spaces, indoor sports courts, tennis and netball courts, outdoor grass playing fields, swimming pools, playgrounds, golf and bowls clubs, and equestrian facilities, as well as water based recreation facilities and foreshore reserves, beaches and rivers.

Much of this land and infrastructure is owned by the Crown. Most recreation facilities in the Shire are provided in conjunction with (and managed by) the community through committees of management.

Analysis by locality

For the purposes of planning, localities in the Shire have been classified in a hierarchy that relates to population, the form of settlement, the preferred model of provision, and the likely scope of facilities. This hierarchy will be used in part to determine levels of funding to be allocated for future recreation infrastructure. (Volume 2. Locality Analysis identifies issues and actions for each locality.)

Facility issues

A number of common facility issues were raised or identified as part of this study. These include:

- the condition of aging sporting infrastructure
- the need to drought proof reserves for the years to come

- the need for increased support to manage, maintain and develop infrastructure, and
- the difficulties in providing the desired standard of infrastructure in all localities, especially the small hamlets.

Some particular types of facilities would benefit from further strategic planning.

- Swimming pools are generally at the end of their useful life and need considerable funds to redevelop basic infrastructure.
- Rail trails and other off-road trails are in high demand and need expansion.
- Some equestrian facilities lack long term tenure.
- A dedicated athletics track is lacking in the Shire.
- Tennis courts are common across the Shire but many are in poor condition or in need of resurfacing or upgrading (either due to match demand or to address drought conditions).
- Several indoor courts sports facilities need redevelopment or considerable upgrading to meet demand and current playing standards (eg Foster and Korumburra).
- Skate and BMX facilities need development works and management plans.

A system to help prioritise capital works is required due to the large number of facilities that would benefit from an upgrade. These issues are explored in the next chapter.

4. Main recreation issues for the Shire

Summary

The key questions arising from this project are:

- What should be the focus of Council's role in recreation in the next five or more years?
- How can we provide paths and off-road trails to meet the demand for cycling and walking?
- How should the issues surrounding sport be addressed?
- How should the demand for swimming and the need to upgrade existing swimming pools be addressed?
- How should funding and resource priorities be addressed?

Each of these issues is addressed in the following pages.

4.1 Council's Role in Recreation

Council currently has several roles in recreation. These include:

- the development of policies, and the conduct of planning and demand analysis
- planning, provision and management of sport and recreation facilities
- stakeholder co-ordination and partner support including internal coordination of recreation issues, liaison with and co-ordination of external organisations, and support to clubs and community groups
- the generation, management and dissemination of information to residents, peak bodies and community organisations about recreation and sport opportunities and issues.

Currently Council does not have a role in direct programming of leisure opportunities. This is currently beyond Council's available resources. Also, a large component of the provision and management of facilities is undertaken in partnership with the community.

During the course of this study, a number of matters were identified that require consideration in terms of framing Council's future role in recreation. A shift in focus of role, resourcing or policy is desirable.

Focus on planning and policy

Council has been pro-active in this area. However, with limited funds, and increasing challenges as well as changing demographics, a greater focus on planning, and particularly on the planning of facilities is required.

Creating incentives to meet municipality-wide objectives could have significant benefits longer term and create savings in management and lifecycle costs.

Some aspects of funding for community projects may compromise strategic municipality-wide planning of facilities. Therefore, additional planning is required to avoid compromise whilst still enabling community involvement.

Council's expertise in recreation planning needs to be recognised. The co-ordinator should exercise greater influence on local facility planning, as well as siting and design of facilities.

The householder survey showed the value of some Council facilities and services for leisure, such as libraries, halls, and health programs. There is a need to consider these as leisure facilities in future planning processes.

Beaches and the cinema were the two types of facilities identified in the householder survey as being used by more people for leisure, over and above any other facility. This reinforces the need for Council to see beyond the traditional construct of "recreation facilities" in order to encourage participation in physical and social recreation pursuits across a wider variety of settlement types, age groups, and by people with different backgrounds and abilities. Neighbourhoods, beaches and local open spaces complement formal sports facilities and indoor meeting places as primary leisure settings. These need to be designed to provide better value for physical and social activities and play.

Recreation planning input into strategic and land use planning is vital, as is the move away from single-age and single-use facilities. In the case of playgrounds, this would see a move to enhance play experiences for multiple age groups in more "playful" social and family focused leisure settings in parks, where paths, seats and plant material, as well as play and natural elements, are provided.

It will be increasingly important to monitor demand as demographics change. This can be done cost-effectively when Council communicates with its committees, or with residents (such as when rate notices are mailed, or polling occurs, or at facilities or services subsidised by Council). Council is able to provide incentives for community groups to supply feedback information about user preferences and to collect important information related to demand. This could be achieved via eligibility criteria embedded grant schemes. A stronger policy on this issue will assist with decision-making and priority-setting within Council, while enabling community groups to assist Council – and themselves – to meet planning objectives.

Schedules provided as part of this Plan are intended to contribute to the policy base.

Planning and management of facilities

The provision of facilities will always be an important way to provide certain leisure experiences, and as the householder survey indicated, the greatest encouragement to participation will be achieved through conveniently-located facilities. However, it is important that Council's emphasis on planning is not on the facility itself, but on the experience and benefits that residents and visitors derive from it.

Marketing and information

Council can influence whether, and how, the majority of people participate in sport and recreational activities. This can and should include encouraging and assisting older adults and people with physical disabilities to stay active and connected to their communities, and to pursue leisure activities of their choice. If additional steps are to be taken to address social and physical barriers in this regard, Council can begin to target this increasingly large market.

Council should increase its emphasis on marketing and information about recreation. Council has a major role to play in the provision and distribution of information about recreation and leisure opportunities. Information is the key to opportunities and, without information, choices may not be realised.

Council needs to expand its role in information distribution and management. This role should include the promotion of the benefits of leisure and recreation, activities and participation. It may be achieved via web-based as well as hard-copy material, by utilising club directories, and by continuing to develop a dialogue between stakeholders, partners and providers, users and residents.

If these measures succeed, Council will need to get better value from existing infrastructure for more people.

Stakeholder co-ordination and partner support

Council has an important role to play in continuing to support and nurture community organisations to sustainability, and encouraging better organisational development, succession planning and program capacity development (especially for Committees of Management who contribute significantly to the Shire). This can be done in conjunction with GippSport.

At the same time, Council may need to reduce the facility management burdens these organisations must carry. This may be achieved by re-organising funding opportunities to align more with the capabilities of organisations and their available funds. Also, encouraging greater sharing between organisations, and the development of larger, more sustainable bodies responsible for more recreation sites, may also be desirable.

Council should retain a Recreation Advisory Committee and broaden its skill and interest base. The Recreation Advisory Committee could include a representative from GippSport, local sports councils, indoor sports and fitness groups, swimming, tennis representatives, as well as a AAA provider, and a representative with a marketing background.

Similarly it may be beneficial to establish an open space advisory committee which includes DSE, Gippsland Water, and ParksVic, as well as LandCare, play and environmental groups, walkers and cyclists, equestrian and water-based activity groups.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS: COUNCIL'S ROLE

Enhance Council's roles in recreation planning whilst continuing to involve community

- ☑ Ensure recreation planning plays a key role in land use and community facility planning
- ☑ Continue to involve the community in recreation and sports decisions through a recreation advisory committee, local town sports councils and committees of management
- ☑ Increase the skill and interest base on the recreation advisory committee to include other stakeholders, and establish an open space advisory committee

- ☑ Reinforce the emphasis in planning facilities should not be on the facility itself, but on the experience and benefits derived from it
- ☑ Use community grants schemes to encourage good planning and marketing, and to collect demand information

Increase the marketing and information distribution role of Council

- ☑ Develop and utilise the recreation inventory for marketing and information about recreation opportunities
- ☑ Prepare a web based directory of clubs and community groups and a range of simple cheap information products to encourage more people to use existing services and facilities, and find suitable opportunities to match their interests.
- ☑ Work with GippSport to assist clubs to develop and host email addressed for the efficient broadcast of information about sport and recreation
- ☑ Continue to publish a recreation newsletter for all sports and recreation clubs

4.2 Paths and off-road trails

Benefits of walking and cycling

Walking and cycling are the core leisure activities undertaken by the population for fitness and pleasure. The South Gippsland Open Space Plan identifies off-road trails as a major priority for Council as they provide:

- the foundation for children to learn the basic skills of way-finding and cycling
- benefits through physical exercise, getting outdoors and connecting with other members of the community, and the benefits of an improved sense of well being through the release of tension and escaping from routines and surroundings
- leisure choices, enhanced accessibility to other community facilities, and sustainable transport options
- important attractors for visitors, with benefits to the local economy
- increased accessibility for an increasingly large proportion of the population as it ages and the proportion of people with mobility impairments increase.

Local demand for cycling and walking

The householder survey identified that bicycle paths and walking trails were the facilities seen as the priority for development should funding become available (indicated by 20% of respondents).

Walking was the activity that most people (males and females) did regularly for recreation, this is consistent with trends in participation in ERASS⁵. However, the participation rate of 34.7% is slightly lower than the Victorian ERASS participation rate of 37%.

⁵ Standing Conference on Recreation and Sport 2006- *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey – 2005 Annual Report*

Participation in walking by male respondents (28.5%) is higher than ERASS (25.6%) with female respondent participation (40.3%) lower than ERASS (48.2%). Respondents aged 35 to 64 years had the highest rates of participation in walking, this is consistent with ERASS.

Walking and bike riding were also the activities that people wanted to do that they currently do not do (2nd and 3rd after going to the gym). Ways to encourage people to walk and cycle include:

- having facilities conveniently located
- providing better quality facilities, and
- information about what is available and where.

Cycling/ bike riding was the third most participated in activity in South Gippsland (after walking and swimming) with a participation rate of 14.2%, slightly higher than ERASS. (ERASS lists cycling as the 4th most participated in activity in the Gippsland Region behind walking, aerobics/fitness and swimming). Male participation in cycling was higher than female (18.5% compared to 10.5%), with participation rates highest in the 25 to 49 year age groups.

Walking tracks and bicycle paths were the third most commonly used recreation facilities in the South Gippsland Shire, after beaches and the cinema and were listed as the facility that should be of greatest priority should funding become available.

Provision, maintenance and development of walking and cycling paths were listed as the main single thing that the Shire could do to meet respondent's recreation needs. However, in terms of a recreational facility or service, respondents ranked the importance of developing walking, cycling and equestrian trails as fifth only.

This plan reinforces the South Gippsland Open Space Plan recommendations to, where possible, expand and develop:

- the major trail routes and circuits around each locality, utilising existing reserves, paths, unmade road reserves, foreshores, creek corridors and disused rail and tramways.
- Park perimeter paths around major reserves, and
- End of journey facilities and activity hubs

A major issue for Council is how to fund the increasing demand for trails and footpaths as well as their maintenance. Currently footpaths are treated separately to off-road trails, with their own maintenance and inspection program.

Trail projects and building can be conducted by community organisations and volunteers, project managed by Council and constructed using small teams of 4-6 trail workers (apprentices) plus a crew supervisor and trail co-ordinator.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

■ Extend the rail trails

- ☑ As a priority seek to extend the Great Southern Rail Trail, and publish more information about cycling routes including the rail trails and associated facilities.

■ Identify and secure off-road trails route for long term construction

- ☑ Work with Parks Victoria and other land managers to secure routes for trails on government land, including disused public roads.
- ☑ Update the South Gippsland bike plan to include off road trails and include routes identified schematically in Volume 2. Locality Analysis

■ Enhance strategic planning and design of trails

- ☑ Implement guidelines that protect the environment through which trails pass, and address risk and accessibility issues (See schedule 2.)
- ☑ Develop a capital works program for footpaths and off-roads trails.

■ Support the development of local trails by the community

- ☑ Continue to assist local groups establish the feasibility of trails in each locality and construct and manage those of a high priority.
- ☑ Identify key trail networks and perimeter paths around each township (see Volume 2. Locality Analysis).
- ☑ Support the creation of end of journey facilities and activity hubs along trails, as well as links from rail trails to community facilities and town centres.

4.3 Providing for sport

Summary

- ☑ Sport provides considerable benefits to individuals and communities.
- ☑ Sporting infrastructure needs to be strategically planned and resourced so as to be sustainable.
- ☑ Clubs and Committees need support to maintain operations and viable facilities.
- ☑ Sport needs to embrace marketing and changing demographics and increase participation.

Community consultation undertaken for this project highlighted the significance of sport to South Gippsland, and the considerable benefits residents derives from it, including increasing physical activity, community strengthening, staying connected, and personal development.

Strategic planning of infrastructure

There is concern that sports facilities - so crucial to small towns - are in decline because they cannot be maintained at the standard necessary to stay safe, they cannot compete with bigger clubs, and because the population that supports them is falling. Clubs claimed the current generation lacked the commitment to manage or support facilities in the same way as previous generations.

While it was acknowledged that Council did not have the funds to support every existing sports facility, committees felt they needed additional support to manage sport infrastructure.

There is a need to upgrade many facilities due to age. Changes in demand, aging populations, and the lack of water has impacted on preferences for surfaces. In particular, more tennis and bowls clubs are likely to want to move to synthetic surfaces.

The small population of the Shire limits the range of sports that can be delivered. However some sports such as soccer, as well as athletics, and equestrian sports that are important and growing, will need to secure long term home bases.

A number of netball courts have recently been upgraded as part of the package of grants delivered through Sport and Recreation Victoria, Football Victoria and Netball Victoria and WorkSafe. A similar scheme could be brokered for tennis to provide lights and improve the condition of court surfaces in a strategic way, and in selected locations. This may provide better results than encouraging all courts to be upgraded according to the strength of the preferences of the local community which may not always be in the best interests of the sport of tennis, and the wider community.

Due to increasing costs, water restrictions, and fewer, older people available to manage sporting facilities, Council should consider providing incentives for more sharing of facilities. Also, the provision of fewer support facilities per reserve may increase sustainability and cost-effectiveness in terms of management in the long term.

In structure planning for major town centres, opportunities to attract commercial indoor sport and leisure providers (eg tenpin bowls, gym/fitness facilities), for which there is currently a high demand, should be facilitated.

The consultation for this project highlighted that, while children may be pressured into sport while young, they are likely to abandon it by 18 years of age. Many go away to attend school, which makes it difficult to play for local clubs. When they return they aren't connected to clubs.

There is a desperate need to keep junior players, and provide ways of including young people that can't commit to two training sessions a week and play on weekends, as to provide an incentive to keep them from moving away. Better communication with peak sporting bodies, leagues and associations will help with some of these issues and set a wider strategic direction, particularly across the Gippsland region for each sport.

There is a strong demand for the non-club based sports such as BMX/ mountain biking and skateboarding. Facilities providing for these sports will be important in supporting young people, and providing essential social outlets and physical activity.

A hierarchy of skate facilities are beneficial to provide across the Shire to ensure they are well maintained and provide a diversity of opportunity inline with the population. In small centres where large skate parks may not be viable multi-purpose hard courts with portable ramps may be cost effective at community hubs or in conjunction with centres.

Shade is a major issue at sporting reserves and playgrounds. Council should work with partners in open space management to develop further shade.

Committees of Management

In terms of the provision of sports facilities, Council's role has always been to work in partnership with communities and this will continue. However, greater clarity about what will be supported, and how, is needed.

In order to maintain competitive strengths between sports and towns, it is important to avoid developing facilities to the same standard, each addressing the same market. Thus, a hierarchy of facilities able to deliver a diversity of opportunities will be required in each sport and across towns. For example, it would be a mistake to replace all tennis court surfaces with synthetic grass to suit older players, when some courts could be multi-use, where higher grade players compete on hard court or clay.

Issues associated with the operation of Committees of Management of sporting reserves include:

- lack of funds to keep infrastructure at an acceptable standard
- difficulty undertaking tasks (eg grading roads, removing large, senescing trees)
- succession planning (particularly with dwindling numbers of volunteers and an aging population), and
- difficulty negotiating strategic developments that encourage sharing with a range of sports.

These issues can be compounded where several Committees of Management operate, all needing to be resourced, and where some committees are the responsibility of the DSE, not Council.

Encouraging participation

In order to increase participation there will need to be more emphasis on social foundation sports activity, opportunities to learn, and play casually (especially for older adults and teenagers) as well as development programs and opportunities through schools. The provision of lights for evening play and better information distributed about opportunities will be also be important. Existing sports facilities could be used more, especially during the day when clubs are not using facilities.

Demand exists for programs and classes that could be housed on existing sporting reserves or in indoor sports courts or halls. Whilst programs are not Council's role, providing incentives for Council infrastructure to be used - by the community, private leisure providers, and the public health sector - could be. Where there is demand, fitness activities may be provided as outreach programs through SPLASH or at existing swimming pools. Demand for social badminton (played previously in many halls) could also be investigated.

Water-based sport and recreation activities are in high demand in the Shire, with two surf life saving clubs, as well as angling and boating clubs meeting demand. Despite requiring relatively little infrastructure, these sports should be supported in a similar manner to other sport and recreation clubs, and dialogue should be developed between all clubs.

Schedule 3 includes a proposed sports policy. This provides aims, objectives and principles that will assist in planning and prioritising funding. These should be regularly be refined, promoted and reinforced by funding criteria.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS: SPORT

Focus on strategic planning of infrastructure on a municipality- wide level, in conjunction with peak bodies, local clubs and Sport and Recreation Victoria

Actions could include:

- ☑ Endorse a policy on which to base development and funding decisions. (See Schedule 3)
- ☑ Continue to encourage Master Planning to minimise incremental development
- ☑ Establish a hierarchy of sports facilities to guide levels of provision and maintenance
- ☑ Work with Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria to role out a strategic upgrading of tennis courts across the Shire and review options to provide cost effective tennis opportunities in small towns
- ☑ Work close with VLBA and LBVA to support the bowling clubs in the Shire remain viable and address surface issues.
- ☑ Review the condition and adequacy of equestrian facilities across the Shire and seek to provide a permanent base of equestrian sports in Korumburra, Leongatha and Nyora.

- ☑ Seek to provide athletics with the dedicated training track in the Shire and plan in conjunction with clubs in Bass Coast.
- ☑ Consider options to include soccer on existing grounds in strategic locations
- ☑ In structure planning for major town centres consider opportunities to encourage indoor sport fitness and commercial leisure uses.

Refine the number structure and funding and roles of committees of management in line with a hierarchy of localities and facilities and the new sports aims, and so as to address current issues

Actions could include:

- ☑ Support the development of “sports councils” and joint management committees where there are several sporting reserves in towns to: encourage sports to work together strategically, seek funds for facility upgrades, share and maximise the use of facilities, and minimise resources needed to manage infrastructure.
- ☑ Work closely with the DSE to streamline issues associated with Committees of Management of sporting reserves and provide consistent levels of service and opportunities for committees and users.
- ☑ Revise annual funding for, and the nature of tasks committees of management are responsible for. Consider addressing grading of entries and driveways and the removal of senescing trees through a special grant, or contracting Council labour and equipment for these tasks.

Assist sports reserves and clubs to address water and climate change issues in conjunction with relevant authorities

Actions could include:

- ☑ Work closely with the water authorities to role out water collection, reclamation and recycling schemes on all majors sports grounds.
- ☑ Assist committees to address shade on sports reserves through the planting of a significant number of additional trees, and providing permanent roofed shade structures in strategic places
- ☑ Prepare a drought relief for community sport plan

Increase participation in sport by marketing, upgrading facilities to accommodate a wider range of activities, and encourage clubs and providers to embrace a wider range of users

Actions could include:

- ☑ Prepare a web based directory of recreation clubs and facilities with details of the nature of existing facilities and contact details (to encourage use)
- ☑ Connect and jointly promote existing facilities to enhance use. For example: connect facilities to rail trails, signpost, encourage clubs providers, schools and committees to run joint development and outreach programs.
- ☑ Continue to upgrade the accessibility of existing infrastructure to make facilities more inclusive for parents, older adults and people with a disability.
- ☑ Assist sports to include people from a broader range of age groups and abilities (as players, officials and in administration)

4.4 Swimming pools

The 1996-2001 South Gippsland Shire Council Pools Strategy identified the following aims of the South Gippsland pools:

- To provide safe pools within a reasonable travel distance:
- That they meet all safety standards
- Ensure a quality experience for all patrons and staff
- That they be provided in partnership with the community.
- Regional facilities in Leongatha (indoor heated), and sub-regional in Toora
- To continually improve and upgrade facilities to the best level of service to meet community expectations.
- All pools will comply with the RLSSA “guidelines for safe pool operations”
- To make pools more responsive to the “leisure water” market and cater better to families, children, older adults and people with disabilities.

The only thing that has changed is that the provision of an indoor-heated pool in Toora is not now realistic, although some roof and wind protection is provided at Toora to extend the season and the market.

Swimming is a very important activity for Council to support. However, it is expensive to provide well. Even an initiative offering transport to enable residents easier access to fewer pools will only provide for a very small number of existing users. If the objective is to increase participation, then maintaining the same number but increasing the standard of facilities and service, while extending the season and improving marketing is likely to be more effective. At the same time, opportunities to reduce costs, and offer

secondary spending opportunities, as well as services that can subsidise costs (eg a gym at Leongatha) should be explored.

Swimming is the second most regularly participated-in activity in the South Gippsland Shire, after walking. The percentage of people who swim is estimated to be 16.5%, higher than the ERASS Victorian participation rate for 2005 of 13.9%.

During 2003-04, the average expenditure by Australian households on goods and services relating to sports and physical recreation was \$15.70. The highest expenditures recorded were for swimming pools (\$3.41 per week), sports facility hire charges (\$2.30 per week), and other sports and physical recreation equipment (\$2.03 per week).⁶

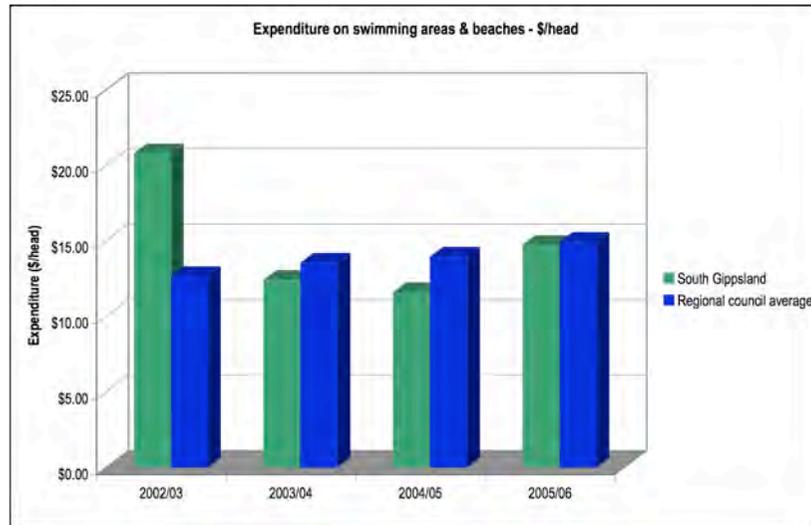
South Gippsland Shire Council spends approximately \$400,000 per year on swimming areas and beaches, an estimated \$15 per capita. Over the last 10 years the average cost per visit was approximately \$4 for 78,200 visits⁷

Expenditure on swimming areas accounts for 14% of the Shire’s spending on recreation and culture, higher than the average regional municipality in Victoria (10%). See chart following.

⁶ Sports and Physical Recreation Expenditure ABS 2003/4

⁷ Internal council report 2005

Figure 1: Per capita expenditure on swimming areas & beaches



Swimming is a very beneficial exercise for older adults, however in order to attract this market, facilities may need to be made more accessible. Water temperatures may also need to increase and programming and assistance may need to be provided. Transport to Leongatha indoor pool may need to be targeted to increase the use by older adults. Other-wise the pools will principally address the recreational market for families and young people. There is strong demand for outdoor swimming from this market, especially where the landscape setting of the pool can include parkland environment, for social activity, and play elements which may include water play, slides and basketball etc. can be provided.

Swimming was not a significant issue raised in the consultation, other than the following comments. See Appendix 2 for details of the existing swimming facilities and the findings from the household survey related to swimming.

- There is some concern that Leongatha no longer has an outdoor pool.
- Toora needs to plan to keep facilities in good condition and sustainable
- Korumburra needs to be retained as a 50m pool – the only one in the Shire (some said it should be made indoor) and
- The condition of the pools in the Shire be kept consistent with current user expectations.

The main issues raised through site inspections and stakeholder consultation were:

- Most pools have limited accessibility for people with a disability.
- The pools are generally at an age whether consideration should be given to replacing infrastructure to make it more efficient, and provide at least an other 30 years life.
- Most sites are not very prominent and therefore may not capture usage from visitors and promote local use. There doesn't appear to be any significant marketing of the pools.

Management

- All of the pools have community involvement. Four of the six pool's management is overseen by a Section 86 Committees of Council.
 - Poowong committee is the same as that responsible for the Sports Centre.
 - Foster pool is an appointed special committee of Council (Section 86 Local Government Act), and the land is managed by Council which has been annexed from the Foster Reserve.
 - Leongatha is leased from the Crown Committee of management and operated under contract to the YMCA.
 - Korumburra is a subcommittee of a user group (the Swimming Club).

- In most instances Staff is provided under contract by Council. Although there are disadvantages of this, such as the ability to undertake marketing and product development.
- There have been issues in the past in obtaining accurate financial and attendance information of an appropriate standard in the same format for each pool. This is essential for Council to plan.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Retain and upgrade the stock of outdoor pools

Actions could include:

- ☑ Continue to provide outdoor pools in Toora, Foster, Mirboo North, Poowong and Korumburra. Plan for the redevelopment of infrastructure at these sites, commencing with Mirboo North.
- ☑ At the time of redevelopment consider other possible co-locations of Foster swimming pool to increase management efficiency and marketability.
- ☑ Provide toddler and (where possible) warm water pool and water play opportunities at most pool sites.

Upgrade the quality of experiences, support facilities and accessibility of pools to target a broader range of people

Actions could include:

- ☑ Continue to manage and develop Leongatha as a regional indoor aquatic centre, and in future add a gym.
- ☑ Consider opportunities to make the pools more attractive to older adults through programming, transport, accessibility works and warm water.

- ☑ Ensure all pools are fitted with: current energy and water efficient systems, pool blankets, hoists for accessibility, and where possible ramp entries.⁸ Ensure all pools have clean, modern and accessible toilet and change facilities, with running hot water.

Enhance marketing and management of swimming opportunities

Actions could include:

- ☑ Continue to improve management, marketing and governance of outdoor pools, retaining local involvement.
- ☑ Ensure standards of accounting and documenting attendance are specified for any contractor or committee. Ensure also that roles and responsibilities of Council, committees, and contractors and volunteers are clearly spelt out in a head of agreement for each pool.
- ☑ Seek to simplify management and funding arrangement where DSE is the Land owner.
- ☑ Improve signage from highways and town centre for each pool.

⁸ (except 50m Korumburra -if this affects competition use)

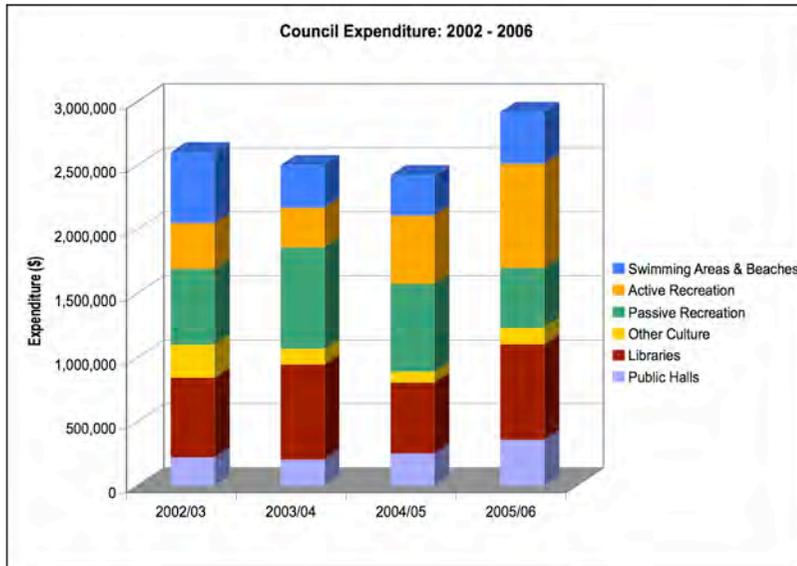
4.5 Funding and resource priorities

From 2002/03 to 2005/06 South Gippsland Shire spent an average \$2.6M per annum on recreation and culture, comprising an estimated 11.5% of total expenditure.⁹

On average, libraries and passive recreation have been the two areas of greatest spending averaging \$667,000 and \$631,000 respectively. However in 2005/06 spending on active recreation captured the largest percentage of the budget with spending of \$818,600. Spending on swimming areas and beaches averaged just over \$402,000 per annum.

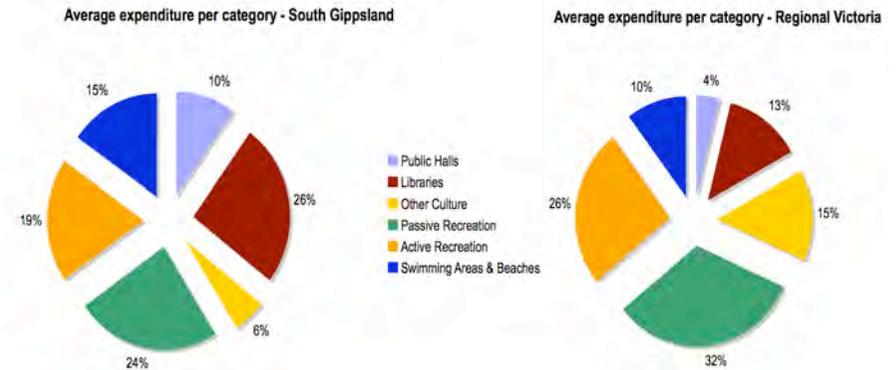
The following chart highlights changing expenditure on recreation and culture over the period 2002/03 to 2005/06.

Figure 2: Council expenditure on Recreation and Culture 2002/03 to 2005/06



South Gippsland’s per capita expenditure on recreation and culture is considerably lower than other regional Councils¹⁰.

On average the South Gippsland spends \$97 per person on recreation/ culture each year, an average of 11.5% of total council expenditure. This is compared to \$136 per person for regional Councils across Victoria, where on average 16.5% of total budget is spent on recreation and culture.



The chart above indicates that expenditure on sport (19%) by South Gippsland Shire is well below the 26% for regional Victorian Council and is lower than that spent on “passive recreation” and libraries.

Council may need to increase the proportion funds spent on sporting reserves to address the declining standard of infrastructure, and the reduction in capacity of volunteers.

⁹ Victorian Grants Commission information 2006. Recreation and Culture includes “swimming and beaches, active recreation, passive recreation, other culture, libraries and public halls.

¹⁰ based on the 2003-2006 expenditure on recreation and culture as published by the Victorian Grants Commission.

Priorities and sources of funds

Council has a relatively low rate base and hence very limited funds for supporting recreation facilities and programs, and therefore it is imperative that there is a good system to prioritise resources. Limited funds also means Council needs to supplement their rate funds with other sources. These may include:

- Open space developer contributions. These should be used for land acquisition in strategic areas, otherwise for development of existing recreation resources
- Revenue from leases, enterprises associated with the development such as private operators or clubs serving sports facilities, and selective food and beverage services. This should be a consideration when developing regional facilities or those in high visitor areas
- Government grants such as those available for:
 1. Regional development programs
 2. Community actions grants
 3. Department of Victorian Community's
 4. Vic Health
- Partnerships and joint ventures with schools and other non government agencies, sporting organisations and interest groups. These may be most relevant where new indoor or outdoor sporting facilities are required
- Other Council devised schemes: Council orchestrated a raffle where community groups sold tickets and were able to take a contribution of the takings. This has been very successful over a number of years but interest in this has tapered off in the last few years.

Supporting committees and community projects

Recreation facilities and services are currently provided in partnership with the community, largely by supporting committees of management who manage reserves, swimming pools, halls and other indoor facilities.

These committees are provided with an annual allocation of funds (operational grants). Council currently funds these in the order of \$75,000 per annum. The hierarchy of the facility and the township (population it serves) will determine the basis of funding for operational grants, in addition to other policy qualifiers such as whether facilities are shared. The policy principles underlying support are provided in Schedule 3: Sports Policy.

The issue here is how much should each committees receive, and on what basis. Also some reserves and facilities such as swimming pools and halls are crown land and not managed by Council committees. Generally these committees (which include some significant reserves such the Leongatha Recreation Reserve) are supported as if they were on Council land.

A major issue for most Councils is that the planning and maintenance of the recreational infrastructure may be sufficient or strategic enough to maintain participation rates, and the condition of facilities is let deteriorate to point where major works are then required to redevelopment infrastructure. Then, as the population ages, and expectation increase, further resources may need to be invested to continue to deliver the same participation outcomes. If operational grants to committees were increased facilities may not be let go to the extent where they then need major work to continue to be used.

Other community groups and their projects are supported through a community grant scheme, as well as assistance to seek funds through grants from other state government departments. Council employs a community grant officer and project manager to deliver projects. This is a considerable strength of the current system. Community consultation for this plan indicated it is really important that Council continue to advertise the grants that are available to groups.

The community grants scheme is very progressive in that it provides funds for feasibility studies, as well as other small projects. It is well supported however, it means that the projects meet specific needs of individual groups, not necessarily the municipal priorities Council would otherwise support. Additional qualifiers- based on the priorities from this plan, in the short term, should be introduced to assess community capital works projects: These could include:

- Directly addresses an agreed action in the Recreation Plan
- Extends the network of shared off-road trails
- Improves the quality, functionality and viability of existing facilities
- Addresses a valuable asset in poor condition/ risk management issue
- Is undertaken in a location that has a projected residential population increase
- Specifically target and promote participation for adolescents, females, older adults and people with a disability
- Provides another use for an existing facility /Is a joint project between clubs, sports and or schools, and it promotes co-operation and sharing of facilities
- Enhances environmental sustainability: Increases tree canopy, reduces the need for use of potable water, increases energy efficiency and /or provides shade
- Involves a marketing and information dissemination initiative

The householder survey asked residents to rate alternatives to fund reserves. Allocating funds on the basis of priorities identified by the town was the alternative preferred by most people; with approximately 75% of people agreeing with this option. This reinforces the potential benefits of having town sports councils to make decisions about sports priorities on a township basis. Slightly fewer people agreed equal access should be provided to funding for all committees -as an alternative.

The funding of synthetic surfaces, tennis courts and bowling greens should be preceded by a strategic assessment including: the town and facility hierarchy, the impact of the works on similar facilities in neighbouring towns, impact on the sport, and ability to adequately maintain and fund replacements. Further policy direction to determine the relative importance of specific assets and their viability as well as greater control over asset development and management, may also be required, before these works are funded.

The following table highlights respondent's attitudes to the alternate methods of funding.

Table 4: Community attitudes to allocating funds

Funding allocation options	Disagree		Don't know		Agree	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
On the basis of priorities identified by the town	6%	7%	11%	11%	76%	75%
Equal access to funding for all committees	11%	12%	17%	16%	65%	67%
Matching funding on a per capita basis for each town	26%	26%	18%	18%	46%	47%



Other alternatives that were given as to how funding should be allocated to reserves include:

- Provide funding to sports with a smaller profile to increase participation
- Make funding proportional to participants but don't increase funding
- Shared around all groups
- Ensure the community has a say not just a local minority
- Provide funds to upgrade infrastructure based on age and quality
- More people agreed with "increasing the amount of funding available in the Community Grant Scheme" than disagreed (with 68% of females and 69% of males agreeing to this alternative).
 - More people disagreed (than agreed) with the alternative to introduce a recreation/ sports levy for ratepayers.
 - Similarly more people also disagreed than agreed with the alternative to redevelop fewer number of facilities to a higher level (focusing on district rather than local level).
 - Other alternatives suggested to assist committees of management fund infrastructure upgrades included:
 1. Obtain funding from State/ Federal Government
 2. Provide labour to assist with activities e.g. parks and garden staff
 3. Use facilities for multiple activities
 4. 'Work for the Dole' schemes

Prioritising actions in this plan

The main issues for Council in implementing a plan such as this is how much can be done in what time frame and how actions can be funded.

Many of the actions are ongoing policy directions or planning – following specific guidelines after their integration into corporate policy rather than just capital works. However this planning may need to be resourced.

One of the key issues is how priorities are determined to fund recreation works or facilities and how funds are allocated to support the community in managing recreation facilities.

A simple spreadsheet using weightings can assist with prioritising actions by locality and overall. See Schedule 5.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS: FUNDING PRIORITIES

Increase the proportion of funds available to sporting reserves in the short term

- ☑ Increase funds for committees of management with a firmer policy base for the allocation of operational grants

Utilise a reserve and township hierarchy and weighting system to prioritise funding allocations

- ☑ Refine policy base and qualifications underlining funds provided for community groups to assist with meeting Shire wide objectives and priorities
- ☑ Embrace the desire to make funding decisions on a township basis by working toward sports councils, who have a role in prioritising projects for funding.

Provide assistance to community to seek grants

- ☑ Continue to ensure larger capital projects are assessed for: the viability and impact on other facilities, and the sport, before Council support is given.
- ☑ Ensure that the scale of operational tasks are practical for a committee to undertake and they can continue to focus on delivering community sport activities

- ☑ Continue to provide assistance in securing grants (through a grants officer and providing capability to project manage capital works projects delivered through grants).
- ☑ Continue the community grants scheme for planning projects and local capital works
- ☑ Continue to look for innovative fund raising schemes to assist community recreation groups (such as the community raffle)

5. The Plan 2006- 2016

5.1 Vision

The vision for Recreation provision in South Gippsland is :

- ☑ A diversity of opportunities for physical and social recreation are provided in every community
- ☑ A hierarchy of facilities matches the range of needs, competition standards, available resources, willingness and ability of the community to support these
- ☑ The benefits of leisure participation and all available opportunities are widely promoted and acknowledged
- ☑ The needs and aspirations of residents are monitored, and people with a disability, older adults and adolescents are included along side all others
- ☑ The contribution made by clubs, associations and committees are acknowledged
- ☑ The necessary leadership and planning is provided to enhance social, economic and environmental benefits of recreation and sports for local communities.
- ☑ Land managers, clubs, committees and community organisations are engaged in recreation planning, provision and management processes

5.2 Key Goals

The key goals to be addressed in this strategy are :

GOAL 1. Leadership in recreation policy and planning

Enhance Council's influence on the facility planning and provision process and the quality of leisure experiences

GOAL 2: Off-road trail development

Create a network of off-road trails throughout the Shire and around each locality

GOAL 3: Sports development

Encourage more people to continue to play a sport of their choice, and Provide the appropriate quality and quantity of sports infrastructure to maintain current participation

GOAL 4. Swimming pools

Provide a wider range of outdoor swimming opportunities for a wider range of the population

GOAL 5: Funding priorities

Introduce mechanisms to fund priority projects, that are effective, equitable and assist with implementation of financial and recreation planning objectives

5.2 Implementation Plan

The following table summaries the key strategies of this plan.

Goal	STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
Goal 1. Leadership in recreation policy, and planning Enhance council's influence on the facility planning and provision process and the quality of leisure experiences	Enhance Council's roles in recreation planning whilst continuing to involve community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure recreation planning plays a key role in land use and community facility planning 2. Continue to involve the community in recreation and sports decisions through a recreation advisory committee, local town sports councils and committees of management 3. Reinforce that the emphasis in planning facilities should not be on the facility itself, but on the experience and benefits derived from it 4. Use community grants schemes to encourage good planning and marketing, and to collect demand information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase the skill and interest base on the recreation advisory committee to include other stakeholders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish an open space advisory committee
	Increase the marketing and information distribution role of Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop and utilize the recreation inventory for marketing and information about recreation opportunities 6. Continue to publish a recreation newsletter for all sports and recreation clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a web based directory of clubs and community groups and a range of simple cheap information products to encourage more people to use existing services and facilities, and find suitable opportunities to match their interests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work with Gippsport to assist clubs to develop and host email addresses for the efficient broadcast of information about sport and recreation
Goal 2: Paths and off-road trails	Extend the rail trails	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. As a priority seek to extend the Great Southern Rail Trail, and provide information about cycling routes including the rail trails and associated facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>Identify and secure off-road trails route for long term construction</p>	<p>8. Work with Parks Victoria and other land managers to secure routes for trails on government land, including disused public roads.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify key trail networks and perimeter paths around each township (see Volume 2. Locality Analysis)</p>
<p>Enhance strategic planning and design of trails</p>	<p>9. Implement guidelines that protect the environment through which trails pass, and address risk and accessibility issues (See Schedule 2.)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update the South Gippsland Bike Plan to include off-road trails and include routes identified schematically in Volume 2. Locality Analysis</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop an integrated capital works program for footpaths and off-roads trails</p>
<p>Support the development of local trails by community groups</p>	<p>10. Continue to assist local groups establish the feasibility of trails in each locality and construct and manage those of a high priority</p> <p>11. Support the creation of end of journey facilities and activity hubs along trails, as well as links from rail trails to community facilities and town centres</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>Goal 3: sports development</p> <p>To encourage more people to continue to play a sport of their choice</p> <p>Provide the appropriate quality and quantity of sports infrastructure to maintain current participation</p>	<p>Focus on strategic planning of infrastructure on a municipal wide level in conjunction with peak bodies, local clubs and Sport and Recreation Victoria</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Endorse a policy on which to base development and funding decisions. (See Schedule 5.) 13. Continue to encourage Master Planning to minimise incremental development 14. Establish a hierarchy of sports facilities to guide levels of provision and maintenance 15. Work close with VLBA and LBVA to support the bowling clubs in the Shire remain viable and address surface issues 16. Consider options to include soccer on existing grounds in strategic locations 17. In structure planning for major town centres consider opportunities to encourage indoor sport fitness and commercial leisure uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review the condition and adequacy of equestrian facilities across the Shire and seek to provide a permanent base of equestrian sports in Korumburra, Leongatha and Nyora <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seek to provide athletics with the dedicated training track in the Shire, and plan in conjunction with clubs in Bass Coast <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work with Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria to role out a strategic upgrading of tennis courts across the Shire and review options to provide cost effective tennis opportunities in small towns
	<p>Refine the number structure and funding and roles of Committees of Management in line with a hierarchy of localities and facilities as well as the new sports aims, and to address current issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Support the development of “sports councils” and joint management committees where there are several sporting reserves in towns (to encourage sports to work together strategically, seek funds for facility upgrades, share and maximise the use of facilities, and minimise resources needed to manage infrastructure) 19. Work closely with the DSE to streamline issues associated with Committees of Management of sporting reserves and provide consistent levels of service and opportunities for committees and users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revise annual funding for, and the nature of tasks committees of management are responsible for. Consider addressing some tasks such as the grading of entries and driveways and the removal of senescing trees outside the annual operations grant (i.e. as a special grant, or contracting council labour and equipment for these tasks)



	<p>Assist sports reserves and clubs to address water and climate change issues in conjunction with relevant authorities</p>	<p>20. Work closely with the water authorities to role out water collection, reclamation and recycling schemes on all majors sports grounds</p> <p>21. Assist committees to address shade on sports reserves through the planting additional trees, and providing permanent roofed shade structures in strategic places</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a drought relief for community sport plan</p>
	<p>Increase participation in sport by marketing, upgrading facilities to accommodate a wider range of activities, and encourage clubs and providers to embrace a wider range of users</p>	<p>22. Connect and jointly promote existing facilities to enhance use. For example: connect facilities to rail trails, signposts, and encourage clubs providers, schools and committees to run joint development and outreach programs</p> <p>23. Continue to upgrade the accessibility of existing infrastructure to make more facilities inclusive for parents, older adults and people with a disability</p> <p>24. Assist sports to include people from a broader range of age groups and abilities (as players, officials and in administration)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a web based directory of recreation clubs and facilities. Include details of the exact nature of existing facilities and contact details, to encourage use</p>
<p>Goal 4. To provide a wider range of outdoor swimming opportunities</p>	<p>Retain and upgrade the stock of outdoor pools</p>	<p>25. Continue to provide outdoor pools in Toora, Foster, Mirboo North, Poowong and Korumburra</p> <p>26. At the time of redevelopment consider other possible locations for the Foster swimming pool to increase management efficiency and marketability</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan for the redevelopment of infrastructure at the outdoor swimming pool sites, commencing with Mirboo North</p>

<p>Upgrade the quality of swimming experiences, support facilities, and increase accessibility to target a broader range of people</p>	<p>27. Where possible provide warm water and toddler pools and water play opportunities at outdoor pool sites</p> <p>28. Continue to manage and develop Leongatha as a regional indoor aquatic centre, and in future add a gym</p> <p>29. Consider opportunities to make the pools more attractive to older adults through programming, transport, accessibility works and warm water</p> <p>30. Ensure all pools are fitted with: current energy and water efficient systems, pool blankets, hoists for accessibility, and where possible ramp entries¹¹ and have clean, modern and accessible toilet and change facilities with running hot water</p>	
<p>Enhance marketing and management of swimming opportunities</p>	<p>31. Continue to improve management, marketing and governance of outdoor pools, retaining local involvement</p> <p>32. Document the standard of accounts and attendance information required of any contractor or committee. Ensure also that roles and responsibilities of Council, committees, contractors and volunteers are clearly spelt out in a head of agreement for each pool</p> <p>33. Seek to simplify management and funding arrangements where DSE is the land owner</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve signage from highways and town centres for each pool</p>

¹¹ (except 50m Korumburra -if this affects competition use),



<p>Goal 5. Introduce mechanisms to fund priority projects, that are effective, equitable and assist with implementation of financial and recreation planning objectives</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of funds available to sporting reserves in the short term</p>	<p>34. Increase funds for committees of management with a firmer policy base for the allocation of operational grants</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refine policy base and qualifications underlining funding allocations for community groups, to assist with meeting Shire-wide objectives and priorities</p>
	<p>Utilise a reserve and township hierarchy and weighting system to prioritise funding allocations</p>	<p>35. Embrace the desire to make funding decisions on a township basis, by working toward sports councils in the major towns, who have a role in prioritising projects for funding</p>	
	<p>Provide assistance to communities to seek grants</p>	<p>36. Continue to ensure larger capital projects are assessed for their: viability, impact on other facilities, and the sport, before Council support is given</p> <p>37. Ensure that the scale of operational tasks are practical for a committee to undertake so that committees can concentrate on delivering community sporting opportunities</p> <p>38. Continue to provide assistance to secure grants through a grants officer, and provide capability to project manage capital works projects delivered through grants</p> <p>39. Continue the community grants scheme for planning projects and local capital works</p> <p>40. Continue to look for innovative fund raising schemes to assist community recreation groups (such as the community raffle)</p>	

Appendices

Appendix 1. Major recreation facility types by locality, & settlement type

Settlement type	Locality	Indoor sport (basketball/netball/soccer)	Indoor Hall/ community multi-purpose ¹²	Tennis/netball/courts	Bowls club	Swimming pool	Sport fields/ oval	Equestrian Reserve	Golf	Major non sport park eg Arboretum	Water based Rec / foreshore	Existing/ pot. rail trail
Small town	Poowong	X	X	X		X	X					
	Nyora		X	X			X	X				X
	Loch		X	X	X		X					X
	Toora		X	X	X	X	X			X (Heritage Pear Orchard)	X	X
	Tarwin Lower /Venus Bay		X	X	X		X	X			X	
	Welshpool/ Port Welshpool	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
	Meeniyan	X	X	X	X		X	X (At Stony Creek)	X			X
	Fish Creek		X	X	X		X					X
Major town	Foster	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
	Korumburra	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Leongatha	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Mirboo North	School Only	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Hamlet / rural settlement	Dumbalk		X	X			X					
	Koonwarra		X	X			X		X	X		X
	Outtrim		X	X			X					
	Stony Creek			X			X	X				X
	Nerrena		X	X			X					
	Yanakie		X	X				X				

¹² May be used for indoor bowls and badminton for example

Settlement type	Locality	Indoor sport (basketball/netball/soccer)	Indoor Hall/community multi-purpose ¹²	Tennis/netball/courts	Bowls club	Swimming pool	Sport fields/oval	Equestrian Reserve	Golf	Major non sport park eg Arboretum	Water based Rec / foreshore	Existing/pot. rail trail
	Kongwak		X	X			Shared School Only					
	Agnes			X							X	
	Allambee		X	X							X	
	Buffalo		X				Not In Use					X
	Hallston		X	X								
	Hedley		X									X
	Mardan		X	X								
	Poowong North		X	X								
Hamlet with no sports field/ rec reserve	Trida			X								
	Tarwin Middle		X									
	Berry's Creek		X	X				X		X		
	Bennison							X				
	Mirboo			X			X					
	Bena		X	X								X
	Strzelecki		X	X								
	Waratah Bay										X	
	Sandy Point		X	X							X	
	Walkerville			Community Meeting Only							X	
	Port Franklin		X	X				Not In Use			X	

Appendix 2: Demand for swimming

Swimming Pools in South Gippsland shire

Pool	Facilities	Address	Land owner	Management	Season	Opening Hours
Foster swimming pool	Outdoor 25m	Reserve Road Foster 3960	Crown	Foster pool is an appointed special committee of Council (Section 86 Local Government Act), and the land is managed by Council which has been annexed from the Foster Reserve. Staff employed by Contractor to Committee	4 dec - mid march	Mon - Fri 6.30am - 7.30am. 9.am - 7pm, Sat 10am - 7pm, Sun 11am - 7 pm
Korumburra swimming pool	Outdoor 50m	Korumburra 3950	Council	Section 86 Committee of Council. Staff employed by Contractor to Committee	first hot weather after 9/11- mid March.	Open 11am - 6pm/ 7pm - 9pm
Korumburra indoor heated pool	Indoor 15m	Korumburra 3950	Council	Not known		School Sessions and Water Baby Classes
Splash leongatha	Indoor heated 25m/8 lane	Roughead Street, Leongatha 3953	Crown	Advisory Committee. Council leases land from leongath Rec Reserve committee a Communiyt Committee of management to the Crown. Contractor YMAC employed by Council		Monday – Thursday 6am-8.30pm, Friday 6am – 6pm, Saturday 8am – 4pm Sunday 10am – 4pm
Mirboo North swimming pool	Outdoor 25m	Jordan Way Bath Reserve Mirboo North 3871	Crown	Section 86 Committee of Council. Staff employed by Contractor to Council		11am-6pm (7days). Mon to Fri 6.30am - 7.30am/ 11am - 9pm (Hot weather)
Poowong swimming pool	Outdoor 25m	Main Street Poowong 3988	Council	Section 86 Committee of Council. Staff employed by Contractor to Committee	Season 2 Dec- March 10	6pm - 9pm (Hot weather)
Toora swimming pool	Heated-outdoor 25m - part overhead shelter	14 Cunningham Street Toora 3962	Council	Section 86 Committee of Council. Staff employed by Contractor to Council		Mon-Fri 10am-7.30pm Saturday 1pm-6pm Sunday 10am-8pm (Hot Weather)

Demand For Swimming

Swimming is the second most regularly participated in activity in the South Gippsland Shire behind walking. The percentage of people that swim is estimated at 16.5%, higher than the ERASS Victorian participation rate for 2005 of 13.9%.

Twice as many females than males participate in swimming regularly, with participation rates of 21.6% and 10.7% respectively. Walking is the only activity females participate in more than swimming, while males participate in walking, fishing, bike riding or play golf or football more than swimming.

Swimming participation for females in South Gippsland decreases steadily with age, while male participation remains high for males in their 30's and 40's before dropping off rapidly.

3.1% of respondents indicated that they would like to swim when they currently do not, with more people wanting to go to the gym (6.1%), go walking (3.6%) and bike riding (3.3%). Fish Creek, Meeniyan and Yanakie were the towns where more people wanted to swim when they currently don't. These people indicated the following things would encourage them to go swimming,

- Facilities conveniently located
- Availability of suitable classes/ programs
- Provision of better quality facilities
- Provision of discounted/ less expensive opportunities

Swimming is the most participated activity in Nyora and Welshpool and is a prominent activity in most townships however participation rates are very low or were not mentioned in Loch, Kongwak and Poowong.

Swimming pools are the 7th most used facilities in the South Gippsland Shire with the beach being the most used facility. Respondents also indicated that swimming pools should be priority if funding was to become available, 2nd in the priorities list after walking and cycling paths. The main townships where swimming pools were highest on the list of priorities included Foster, Mirboo North, Meeniyan and Toora.

Additional comments in regards to swimming pool provision and services included:

- Maintenance of local pools is vital
- SPLASH is identified as an asset to the Shire but there is some disappointment surrounding the closure of the outdoor pool for summer use and the cost and payment structure of swimming lessons at SPLASH
- Foster residents indicated a hot pool would be beneficial, while some residents indicated the pool in Leongatha was too cold.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1: Core service provision by outdoor recreation facility/ open space function type and catchment

Recreation Function	Local Catchment	District Catchment	Regional Catchment
Sport	<p>Provide as kick about/ social or junior sports in conjunction with primary schools.</p> <p>Irrigated level 2 (2nd lowest level) and undrained playing fields with only basic turf quality unless required by shared club use.</p> <p>No pavilions, and only basic support facilities such as toilets.</p> <p>Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting and shade.</p>	<p>Sufficient land to accommodate a core range of competition sports in one major sports reserve (ie minimum 2 playing fields).</p> <p>Multiple playing fields for the one sports code, in addition to ancillary space offering pleasant landscape settings for non sporting recreation, opportunities; seating and shade, play and contact with nature, environmental interest, and may fulfill the role of a local park for urban residents within 500 metres.</p> <p>(Irrigated outer level 3)</p> <p>Irrigated and drained sports playing fields to (Irrigated level 1) although quality of turf and support facilities will vary. Onsite car park, training lights, shared pavilion, kiosk, publicly accessible toilets, shade, at least minimal spectator facilities, seating, signage and rubbish collection system.</p>	<p>The core range of sports to be provided to be based on ABS participation data, local participation data (local surveys), and local demand (existing participation and club/association preferences).</p> <p>Higher quality support facilities, possible synthetic playing surfaces(if turf irrigated to and managed to Level 1 as other competition sports graded playing surfaces) possibly enclosed, competition lights, pavilion- possibly including club and social rooms. Onsite sealed car park. Some spectator facilities possibly under cover, public toilets, shade, seating, signage, and rubbish collection system.</p> <p>May include broad acres sports areas in rural areas eg. water sports equestrian, shooting, motor sports etc.</p>
Access Way/ Trail	<p>Local links to District and Regional trail.</p> <p>Visually pleasant, linear or contiguous open space.</p> <p>A hierarchy of paths in every new residential development; shared footways (connecting onto) and a regional (rail) trail.</p> <p>Basic level may be single foot tracks in non urban areas (not suitable for wheelchairs or skating)</p>	<p>Trails at a district level are likely to include three levels of trails that serve district sports and recreation uses (1. trails designed specifically for bushwalking and/or mountain biking in forested areas). 2. Those that link more than one rural community and/or provide a link to a regional trail. They are likely to include, unsealed shared trails for use by horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, and sealed trails designed for cycling skating and assessable to people using wheelchairs and mobility aids. 3. Circuits around the perimeter of major parks; in a consolidated gravel pavement.</p> <p>See also design guidelines for trails in Schedule 2.</p>	<p>Region trail routes along the river and connections to the Great Southern Rail Trail or other trail sand for equestrian use.</p> <p>Sealed trails to be a minimum width of 2.5 metres with directional signage at nodes. Connect to SFR areas. May include grassed or gravel trails for equestrian, pedestrian or mountain bike use.</p> <p>Bicycle trails and routes as per Bicycle Strategy.</p>

NB: These classifications primarily relate to open space and are defined in the Open Space Plan. It is assumed that open spaces can be classified as to whether irrigation is required and for those that can be irrigated, 3 levels can be specified.

Schedule 1: Core Service Provision by Outdoor Recreation Facility/ Open Space Function and Catchment (cont.)

Recreation Function	Local Catchment	District Catchment	Regional Catchment
Social/ Family Recreation (SFR)	<p>Within 500 metres of every household (without having to cross a major road/ railway, or other major physical barrier).</p> <p>Includes areas for co-operative play and games, some props and range of surfaces, kick about space, equipment for exercise, areas with places to hide and retreats from activity, screened from boisterous play. Shade (either mature trees and some structure) seating, paths. Caters to a range of age groups. At least families, children and older adults.</p> <p>Centrally located in community activity node eg. adjacent to schools, local hall shop or community facilities.</p> <p>Absolute minimum size of 0.75ha and minimum dimensions of 70 metres in any direction. (Irrigation area to level 2)</p>	<p>As per Local level provision.</p> <p>Meeting place; shade and shelter, seating and drinking water all accessible to people with a disability.</p> <p>Some areas to have picnic/ BBQ, toilets. additional facilities might include skate facilities free access tennis courts etc.</p> <p>Some to have irrigated green lawns. Formed path (not necessarily sealed) (Irrigation level 3) lights and rubbish collection system.</p> <p>Provisions under "Play" also apply. Minimum size 2ha. (Areas with Irrigation to level 2)</p>	<p>Significant shade and shelter, seating, BBQ, public toilets. Fully accessible to people with disability, formed paths.</p> <p>Possibly access to refreshments and other commercial services.</p> <p>Provisions under "Play" also apply. (Irrigation to level 2)</p>
Conservation of Flora/ Fauna		<p>Manage in accordance with significance.</p> <p>Controlled access or viewing area.</p>	<p>Controlled access or viewing area. No pets.</p> <p>Some information or interpretation.</p>
Historic/ Cultural Protection		<p>Controlled access or viewing area.</p>	<p>Some information or interpretation.</p>
Relaxation/ Contemplation	<p>No facilities other than paths and seats, shade/ shelter etc.</p> <p>Focus on diversity of natural features/ and plant material.</p> <p>Minimise areas of grass in favour of ground covers/ beds</p>	<p>No facilities other than paths and seats, bridges, boardwalks, shade/ shelter etc. interpretation</p> <p>Select areas irrigated up to level 2</p>	<p>Controlled access and viewing areas where appropriate. No facilities other than paths and seats.</p> <p>Select areas irrigated up to level 2.</p>
Visual Amenity	<p>No facilities.</p> <p>Preference for ground covers or small areas of grass with subsurface irrigation</p>	<p>No facilities. May include formed garden beds and horticultural displays, or large scale tree planting.</p> <p>Preference for ground covers or small areas of grass with subsurface irrigation</p>	
Community Horticulture/	<p>In high density urban where there is potential demand.</p> <p>Fencing, signage and water.</p>	<p>Not required if provided by others, agricultural industry present, or supervised programs allowing horticultural/ construction activities and access to fire and water within Local (ie., through schools).</p>	<p>Fencing, signage and water. Other facilities as required. Onsite car parking.</p>

SCHEDULE 1: Core Service Provision by Outdoor Recreation Facility/ Open Space Function and Catchment (cont.)

Recreation Function	Local Catchment	District Catchment	Regional Catchment
Play	<p>A diversity of play settings, activities and equipment to be incorporated into each SFR area. In addition provide some specific play settings in more remote settings, especially unmanicured natural area.</p> <p>Access to all three types of play; Physical/ gross motor activities, Social/ dramatic, Creative/ cognitive play provided by equipment and landscape features.</p> <p>Playgrounds provided should complement the play opportunities available in private open space and in the neighbourhood generally.</p> <p>Each playground should be designed to target a specified age group, and provide shade & shelter.</p> <p>A range of play activities within each playground made accessible to children and adults with disabilities. Two or more seats for every playground. Access and parking areas for prams.</p> <p>Irrigate one key ears in each locality</p>	<p>One in each district to be designed specifically to cater to disabled children within a SFR area. (See provisions under SFR area).</p> <p>Range of play settings varies from park to park in precinct, district, and region.</p> <p>Range of opportunities for each age group equitably distributed across each district.</p> <p>Two or more seats for every playground. Access and parking areas for prams and persons with a disability. Shade, constructed shelter.</p>	<p>One major regional playground to be provided in a SFR area.</p> <p>May be a secondary function of a larger park with special natural or other qualities. Preferably include water feature.</p> <p>Caters for full range of activities/ age groups.</p> <p>A number of seats for adults. Shade.</p> <p>Adjacent picnic area and accessible toilets.</p> <p>All areas and amenities and substantial play areas accessible to disabled persons.</p>
Relaxation/ Contemplation	No facilities other than paths and seats.	No facilities other than paths and seats.	Controlled access and viewing areas where appropriate. No facilities other than paths and seats.
Environmental/ Visual Amenity	No facilities.	No facilities. May include formed garden beds and horticultural displays, or large scale tree planting.	
Community Horticulture/ Vegetable Growing/ Farming	In higher density urban areas where there is demand. Fencing, signage and water.	Not required if provided by others, agricultural industry present, or supervised programs allowing horticultural/ construction activities and access to fire and water within neighbourhood (i.e., through schools).	Fencing, signage and water. Other facilities as required. Onsite car parking.

SCHEDULE 1: Core Service Provision by Outdoor Recreation Facility/ Open Space Function and Catchment (cont.)

Recreation Function	Local Catchment	District Catchment	Regional Catchment
Water Based Recreation		Secondary contact only. Range of edge treatments to provide for specific uses and safety (see guidelines).	Preferably one primary contact. Minimum width of foreshore 50 metres. Edge treatment to provide for specific uses, maximise diversity and safety. Seating, shelter and some formed paths. Boat launching areas.
Cemetery/Memorial/ Remembrance		Manage any remnant vegetation according to its significance. Where site of historic interest encourage interpretation or access for casual visitor use.	Design for public recreation/ interpretation.
Open Space for Drainage/ Storm Water Management	Not to be used for the core SFR area for a neighbourhood. Nor for Sports Turf unless at Local level, and over and above the recommended standard of provision. Open space may abut encumbered land to extend the opportunities available on the designated open space. Hazard warning signs where flash flooding may occur.	Could include some low flow ephemeral watercourses for recreation, where appropriate.	

Schedule 2. Off-road trail guidelines

Definitions

An off-road trail has can be described as:

- trail treadway or trail tread, (what you walk on)
- the trail right of way - that is cleared for the passage of the user (this may also be considered a clear fall zone (A minimum of 900mm on both sides of the trail is desirable)
- the trail corridor, which includes the treadway, right of way and a buffer or protection zone on either side of the treadway. (This insulates the walker from activities detrimental to the walking experience, and the environment of the trail as viewed (zone of travel influence).

This buffer- and the concept of the whole corridor in trail planning is very important especially in riparian zones to protect these fragile areas from trampling. In a more urban context the buffer is important to enhance the diversity and quality of the setting the rider passes through as well as ensuring adjacent land owners privacy is also not affected by a trail.¹³

¹³ A good example of this style of corridor (but a more significant scale is the corridor in which Puffing Billy runs in the Dandenongs). This corridor is protected an overlay in the planning scheme.

Hierarchy of trails

It is recommended that there be a hierarchy of four main levels of trails. The hierarchy may be used descriptively to classify existing tracks. This can be useful in “establishing an asset value, levels of maintenance and identifying changes over time”.¹⁴

1. Local off-road trails: generally unsealed paths around a local park or local neighbourhood that would be typically used by immediate local residents. In township areas where new trails in open space may not be possible off road trails can be created in road verges, by widening a foot path, or placing a new path in the verge away from the building private fence lines. In urban areas these paths can be constructed with a line of trees either side.
2. Trails designed specifically for bushwalking and/or mountain biking in forested areas. These typically would serve visitors and local users; be a narrow walking trail or a single track, developed by users, (or constructed around trees and rocks) not generally formed from other surface.
3. District shared trails. Those that link more than one rural community and/or provide a link to a regional trail. They are likely to include, unsealed shared trails for use by horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, and sealed trails designed for cycling skating and assessable to people using wheelchairs and mobility aids. Circuits around the perimeter of major parks; in a consolidated gravel pavement.

¹⁴ AS 2156.1—2001 Australian Standard™ Walking tracks Part 1: Classification and signage.

Typically these would be 2-2.5m in width. These tracks would typically be designed according to the Australian Standard (AS 2156.1—2001).

At the other end of the spectrum of district trails these may be single tracks where “there is an opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks or” signs”. Users can expect extended periods of solitude with few encounters with others.

4. Rail trails. These serve a regional market and are likely to have trail head facilities, and a high level of directional signage and interpretation. These trails would typically include support facilities (ie seats, drinking fountains, bins and possibly car parking, toilets at nodes, and where users can expect frequent encounters with others. They are typically wider than other trails ie 2-3m, and would include additional view corridor on either side. These trails should conform to access and mobility standards (ASA 1424.1) as an accessible path of travel and if sealed; have the width that can accommodate inline skating (minimum 2.5m width).

Other Suggested Guiding Principles

- A trail network of defined pathways with opportunities to digress to view features. Access to seating and drinking water at nodes.
- Off-road trail within 800 metres of every house in urban areas.

Surfaces

- The surfaces of formed paths should include consolidated gravel pavement or granitic sand, “Castella rock” asphalt, or concrete etc.(not screenings or toppings with some large size particles which are difficult for older people to walk on and for many people to cycle on)

Width and design of trail corridors

- Open space corridors with off-road trails, being designed to run through a residential area should never be less than 10 m wide and not generally are best not to be less than 30m wide.
- This allows for some buffer between the trail and adjacent residents or other land uses, and minimises security concerns, creates a sense of defensible space for users, enhances sightlines, enables the planting of large trees along side the trail for filtered shade, enables space for passing, or families to stop, off the path to tend to children’s pets etc. and provides, break-out spaces or seats at key nodes.
- Trails should provide for a mix of sun and shade, but care should be taken to reduce hazards to visibility caused by dappled shade on paths used by cyclists.

Facilitating good drainage

- Trails should slope down to one side or have a crown. Wide planted swales are preferable to dissipate run-off.
- Avoid using grates with wide slits in the trail or verge, a wavy pattern is preferred, or run slits perpendicular to path.
- Sight distances for skating trails need to be at least as great as for a car traveling at the same speed.
- The siting and design of a trail system should anticipate the desire to reach specific destinations and return home without using the same route.
- Pathway routes should be designed to create a sense of destination and attraction at nodes for persons moving along

Trails along or adjacent to watercourses or open space corridors

1. Where possible the open space adjacent to rivers or creeks should accommodate a trail system which is sited so as to maximise, (not limit) the recreation and environmental potential of the space through which it passes.
2. Trail should not dominate an open space corridor by running straight through the middle. In stead where width enables the path should gently meander around spaces which can be used for other specific activities.
3. The trail should move close to the watercourse in places and others at some distance, to protect riparian vegetation and vary views. It should link local paths and open spaces, community facilities and residential areas to the river.
Where trails are to be built on both sides of a water course the surface treatments should complement, not duplicate each other. In smaller or more environmentally significant creek corridors, pathways should be located on the periphery of the corridor rather than on the creek bank, or be informal for use by walkers and exclude cyclists.
4. Instead of running a trail parallel to a linear feature, or watercourse on the waterway edge without a buffer, it should have a buffer and a single approach to the watercourse- so there is only single impact point.
5. Pathways should be sited so as not to dominate the use of a linear space, but should be sited to; connect a series of contiguous activity areas or spaces, allow areas for rest, viewing of wildlife, vegetation or views, retain the integrity of pockets of vegetation, screening of residences, or to allow for the development of facilities at nodes along the trail.

Trail provision in new subdivisions

6. In new township subdivisions there should be a clear hierarchy of pathways from those serving individual dwellings, to communal pathways serving local foot traffic, and at the highest level, shared trails with through traffic.
7. Pathways should be provided by developer's in new subdivisions as part of the basic embellishments required in open space.
8. Trails should be designed and sited so as to preserve or create landmarks or identifiable features at nodes.

Schedule 3. South Gippsland Shire sports and recreation infrastructure policy

The South Gippsland Shire, like other Local Governments in general is in the business of sport to provide a range of benefits to individuals and the community.

The value, or benefits of sport, are the desirable consequences of participation and involvement (eg social engagement community development, enhanced physical activity etc.

Council is in the business of creating an environment where these benefits are maximised.

The focus of Council's involvement in sport is not the facilities it provides or manages, but the benefits derived from use of those facilities, by its ratepayers.

Council has a primary role in facilitating the prerequisite activity, leadership, organisational and environmental conditions that provide these positive outcomes.

Council is not in the business of organising ongoing sports competition or recreation programs or the administration of those.

The provision of a basic range of infrastructure to support sport and recreation participation is one of Council's core businesses.

Council's Sports Aims and objectives

In facilitating the provision of sports facilities Council aims to:

- promote the benefits of an active lifestyle
- primarily to increase participation in sport (and then increase involvement as non players and spectators).
- primarily provide for the *foundation*, and *participation*, levels of sports development before subsidising *performance* and *excellence* levels.¹⁵
- maximise the opportunities for all residents to play and view sports of their choice, regardless of age, gender, culture or ability
- provide a hierarchy of sports facilities to ensure sport can be sustained at varying levels of competition, to encourage a good depth in competition, and enhance choice.

Policy objectives

- To enhance the return on investment in facilities by ensuring facilities are marketed and utilised to the maximum
- To ensure the quality of playing surfaces matches the level of competition appropriate for the municipality to support (hence requiring regional or state support for facilities suitable for regional and state level competitions.)

¹⁵ Foundation; the development of basic movement skills. eg., school sports. Participation; playing for or reasons of enjoyment, fitness or social contact, eg., junior sport or local mums playing social volleyball. Performance; where the focus is on players improving in club competitions to meet personal goals, eg., district cricket. Excellence; where competitors, aim to achieve public measured levels of success, ie., State/ national /league competitions.

- To ensure long term viability of the sports facility and clubs, by ensuring clubs do not overcapitalise on developments, and that facilities are located so as to strengthen the sport, the existing club membership base
- To create partnerships and joint responsibilities with clubs in the development and management of sporting facilities, and develop partnerships with stakeholders such as local schools, tertiary institutions, peak bodies, to minimise competition between local facilities, encourage joint use, reduce Council's expenditure on new facilities and avoid duplication of services
- To provide incentives for sporting clubs to contribute to the marketing, and development of facilities and to adequately maintain and upgrade facilities over the facilities whole life cycle: for the benefit of the local community.
- To make available and market facilities to visitor markets and for casual public use.
- To provide incentives (through grants) to clubs to meet Council's sport aims, and assist the growth and development of the sport.
- To ensure facility and reserve developments are preceded by a feasibility study and on multiple facility reserves, a reserve master plan
- To ensure costs to clubs are kept down so they don't need to be fund raising instead of running the sport.

Planning framework

Both reserves and townships are broadly classified in order to provide basis for determining funding. In addition there are some other qualifiers that determine whether a project will be funded and to what degree it is a shared facility.

There are three levels of township: Large town, small town, and hamlet.

There are three levels of reserve: local, district and regional

There are three types of funding:

1. 1. Community grants - these are largely for small local projects (\$5,000 capital works) and planning projects for all reserves
2. A capital works project funds; for infrastructure development undertaken at a recreation reserve that is supported by reserve Committee of Management and Council. - mostly supporting district facilities
Up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) applications will be considered for support by Council through Sport and Recreation Victoria annual Minor Facilities Grants Program.
Up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) applications will be considered for support by Council through Sport and Recreation Victoria annual Major Facilities Grants Program.
3. An operational grant is money provided for recurrent ("every day") expenses such as utilities and minor maintenance for committees of management. An operational grant is not to be used for any events or capital works projects (excluding routine/cyclical maintenance). It is expected that all operational funding will be expended within the grant period.

Implementing a hierarchy of facilities

- Local facilities
At the lowest level facilities should be more accessible, affordable, multipurpose and lower quality. These will be funded by community grants
- District level facilities
- The second level of the hierarchy will include more specialised surfaces and lighting, support facilities, multiple fields, some spectator provision, but will still be shared. At this level facilities will be used for club competition and will need to meet association standards for the sport. Facilities at this level will be planned, may need to be supported by a feasibility study and generally funded through state government or sports grants. In most cases it would be expected that clubs would contribute to the capital cost of facilities.
- Council will primarily support the provision and subsidisation of these two levels of facilities: local *foundation* and *participation* levels of sports development, and facilitation, rather than provision for the higher levels.
- The third and highest level- will include more regional level facilities ie synthetic surfaces, a turf wicket etc.

Additional qualifiers for funding

- Operational funding is dependent on defined reserve classifications, and the hierarchy of the settlement type in which the reserve is located.

- Council will subsidise facilities open to the general public and useable by more than one club (of the same and different code) to a greater extent than those used exclusively by members of one club (except where multiple club use is not possible such as in the case of: lawn bowls, croquet, golf).
- Council will only support pavilion developments where they are shared by summer & winter tenants and by two clubs that play during the same season.
- Council will only develop pavilions where they serve two or more grounds, and two or more clubs/ sports.
- The funding of synthetic surfaces, tennis courts and bowling greens should preceded by a strategic assessment including: the town and facility hierarchy, the impact of the works on similar facilities in neighbouring towns, impact on the sport, and ability to adequately maintain and fund replacements. Further policy direction to determine the relative importance of specific assets and their viability as well as greater control over asset development and management, may also be required, before these works are funded.
-

Schedule 4. Method of prioritising actions by township

This Appendix provides an outline for calculating recommended planning and capital works directions for key townships and their recreation facilities. A separate spreadsheet file of the Appendix has been provided with this Plan as an example.

Priorities are based on the following set of weighted assessment criteria, with the aim to ensure the greatest benefits can be achieved in the areas of greatest need, both shire-wide and by individual settlement type.

Assessment criteria

Weighted assessment criteria is based on whether each individual project:

- Directly addresses an agreed action in the Recreation Plan
- Extends the network of shared off road trails
- Improves the quality, functionality and viability of existing facilities
- Addresses a valuable asset in poor condition/ risk management issue
- Is undertaken in a location that has a projected residential population increase
- Specifically targets and promotes participation adolescents, females, older adults and people with a disability
- Provides another use for an existing facility /Is a joint project between clubs, sports and or schools, and it promotes co-operation and sharing of facilities

- Enhances environmental sustainability: Increases tree canopy, reduces the need for use of potable water, increases energy efficiency and /or provides shade
- Involves a marketing and information dissemination initiative

Scoring

The township priority tables following have been designed with each recommended action being scored a 0, 1 or 2 against each assessment criteria.

0 = no score or does not meet criteria

1 = partially meets criteria in some capacity

2 = fully meets criteria.

Notes

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the priority tables.

Weightings for each assessment criteria are provided at the top of each column.

Total Score for each action reflects aggregated 0, 1 and 2 scores allocated for each criteria, then multiplied by their weighting.

Priority for Township accounts for all actions for a specific township, and ranks them by their total score (with 1 being the highest priority).

Municipal Priority ranks each action from 1 (highest priority) to 71 (lowest priority) based on their total score.

LOCATION	Weighting	TYPE OF ISSUE (PLANNING, ASSET MANAGEMENT, DESIGN, CAPITAL WORKS)	TYPE OF FACILITY (BMX, PARKS, SKATE PARK, SWIMMING POOL, TRAIL, NETBALL COURTS ETC)	PRIORITY FOR TYPE OF FACILITY											SCORE	PRIORITY FOR TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPAL PRIORITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
				1. Addresses agreed actions in the Recreation Plan	2. Extends the network of shared off road trails	3. Improves the quality, functionality and viability of existing facilities	4. Addresses a valuable asset in poor condition/risk management issue	5. Is undertaken in a location that has a projected residential population increase	6. Specifically targets and promotes participation adolescents, females, older adults, and people with a	7. Provides another use for an existing facility as a joint project between clubs, sports and or schools, and it	8. Involves a marketing and information dissemination initiative	9. Already funded or possible external funding						
	ACTION BY TOWNSHIP			3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	1	70	
POOWONG		PL	PARKS	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	1	70	
NYORA		PLANNING	BMX	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	6.5	3	19		
BENA		PLANNING	PAVILION	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	8.7	1	4		
LOCH		ASSET MANAGEMENT	GOLF COURSE	3	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	4.6	6	44		
STRZELECKI		DESIGN	TENNIS COURTS	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	7.8	2	8		
LEONGATHA		PLANNING	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	5.7	5	34		
KORUMBURRA		DESIGN	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	6.3	4	23		
MIRBOO NOTH		PLANNING	HOCKEY	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	6.5	5	19		
KONGWAK		PLANNING	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	5.9	8	28		
KOONWARRA		DESIGN	SKATE PARK	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	5.3	11	39		
OUTTRIM		CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	5.8	9	30		
BERRY CREEK		CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	7.1	4	13		
VENUS BAY		PLANNING	GOLF COURSE	3	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	6.4	6	21		
TARWIN LOWER		DESIGN	TRAIL	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	6.4	6	21		
WARATAH BAY		CAPITAL WORKS	LAWN BOWLS	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	5.4	10	37		
SANDY POINT		PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	9.3	1	1		
WALKERVILLE		PLANNING	PAVILION	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	8.4	2	6		
MEENYAN		CAPITAL WORKS	NETBALL COURTS	2	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	7.5	3	10		
FISH CREEK		PLANNING	INDOOR COURTS	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	5.1	12	41		
DUMBALK		PLANNING	SKATE PARK	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	7.3	2	11		
YANAKIE		PLANNING	BMX	2	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	6	4	26		
BUFFALO		PLANNING	REC RESERVE	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	8.1	1	7		
STONY CREEK		CAPITAL WORKS	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	6	4	26		
FOSTER		CAPITAL WORKS	SWIMMING POOL	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	5.9	6	28		
PORT FRANKLIN		DESIGN	TRAIL	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6.7	3	15		
WELSHPOOL/ PORT WELSHPOOL		ASSET MANAGEMENT	GOLF COURSE	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	64		
TOORA		MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2.2	1	71		
		MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3.6	1	58		
		CAPITAL WORKS	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	42		
		MAINTENANCE	TENNIS COURTS	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	3.6	2	58		
		PLANNING	TRAIL	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4.3	6	47		

Schedule 5. Funding principles from the open space plan: Summary

Principles for acquisition of New Open Space:

- The acquisition of open space (in areas identified as under served or where new residential development is likely to occur) will be identified during structure planning and rezoning processes, and negotiated using the Planning and Environment Act 1986 through controls such as the Development Plan Overlay (or similar).
- The location of key acquisition sites contained in or noted in the actions/ plans accompanying this document, will need to be reflected in relevant township specific strategic documents and subsequently in the South Gippsland Planning Scheme.
- Additional sites in townships may be required and secured in accordance with Section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988.
- The following items are in accordance with and make reference to the South Gippsland Planning scheme schedule to clause 52.01
- All new land acquisition must meet identified functional requirements and have a "whole of life" cost analysis. Where possible these will be cost neutral for Council (i.e. increased rate revenue from development will at least fund ongoing maintenance/management of new land)
- If there is no identification of a need for more land within a subdivision development then Council will require a cash-in lieu contribution to support Council's key priorities as identified in either the Open Space Strategy or Recreation Strategy. This requirement must be supported in the schedule to clause 52.01 of the South Gippsland Planning Scheme.
- In existing residential areas Council's identified priority is for Cash-in-lieu contributions to fund the upgrading, embellishment or replacement of infrastructure (in that order) to meet Open Space and Recreation requirements
- Upgrading, embellishment or replacement of existing infrastructure shall take precedence over development of new facilities/infrastructure or capital works unless acquisition or provision is identified as the key priority in the Open Space Recreation plan.
- In townships where there will be limited future development, and hence little opportunity or requirement for new open space then upgrading, embellishment or replacement of existing recreation and open space assets will be dealt with by the methods outlined in the South Gippsland Shire Recreation Strategy.

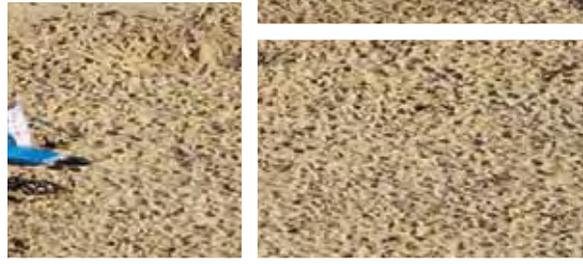
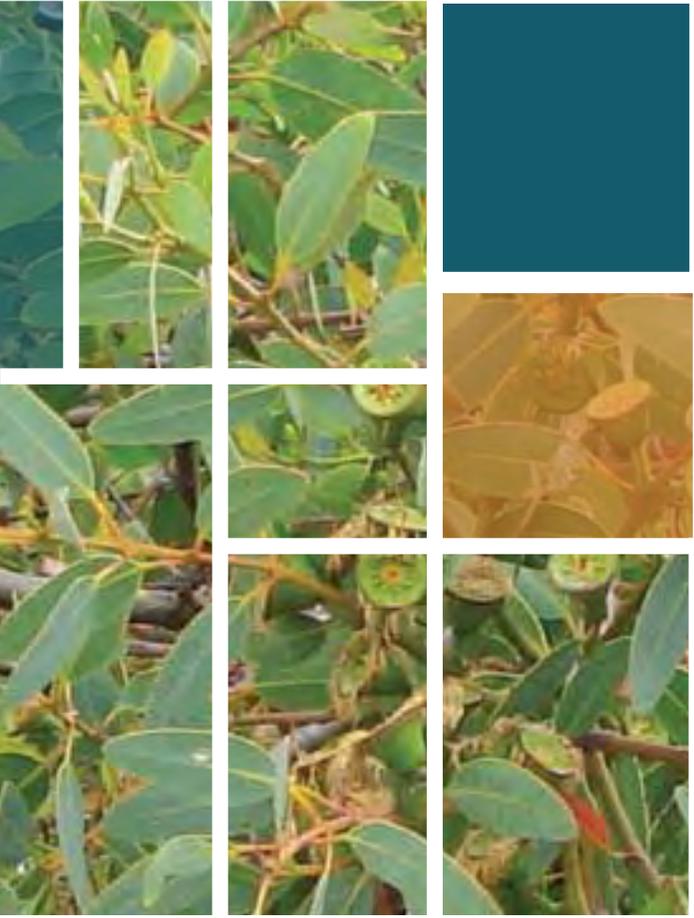
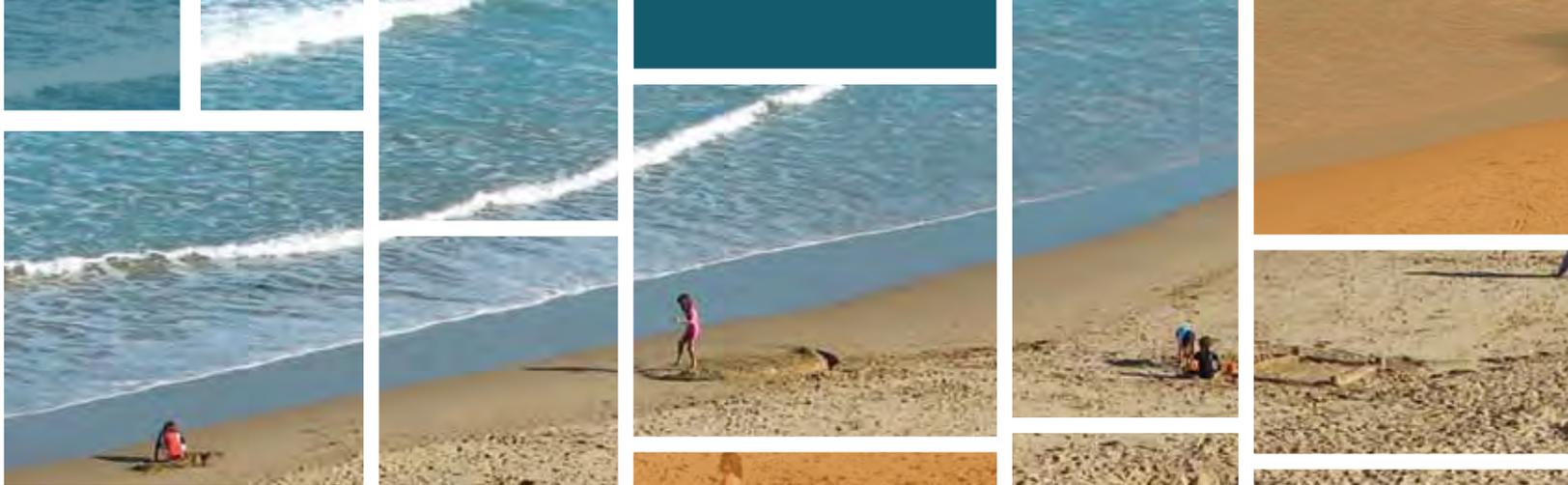
Key Uses of Open Space Developer Contributions (land or cash):

- Walking paths and trails to create circuits, and connect existing key community nodes/hubs (e.g. schools, parks, recreation facilities, commercial hubs, existing trails). Ensure that any new subdivisions cater for pedestrian trails that link the subdivision to existing residential areas and key community hubs.
- Refurbishment, Renewal and Replacement of existing infrastructure with the priority being existing parks and recreation reserves.
- Swimming Pool Upgrades (Refurbishment)
- The provision of one Social /Family Park in new residential development where there is no existing park within 500m, or less if the area is isolated from the nearest park by a major barrier (e.g. highway, waterway, industrial estate etc) that would prevent walking by primary school age children. These general areas are identified on the town maps.

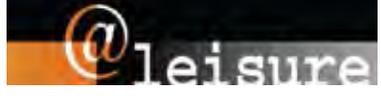
Administration

- In townships where there may be limited future development, and hence little opportunity for developer contributions then upgrade, embellishment or replacement of existing Open Space and Recreation assets will be dealt with by the methods outlined in the South Gippsland Shire Recreation Strategy (e.g. Council Grants, State/Federal Government Grants, Council budgets, Community facilitated partnerships etc).
- Council will establish financial accounts that clearly document: the income from developer contributions, and its source, and define a clear expenditure item/project for allocation of the developer income

South
Gippsland
Shire



Recreation Plan
VOLUME 2
Locality Analysis



About this document

This document is one of four prepared for South Gippsland Shire Recreation Plan: Volume 2. Locality Analysis

The other documents prepared for the Open Space Strategy are:

Volume 1. Issues and Strategy, and

Volume 3. Consultation Findings

Volume 4. Implementation Plan.

An inventory was also prepared for this project and submitted as a separate database.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The South Gippsland Shire is divided into 5 regions for the purpose of planning.

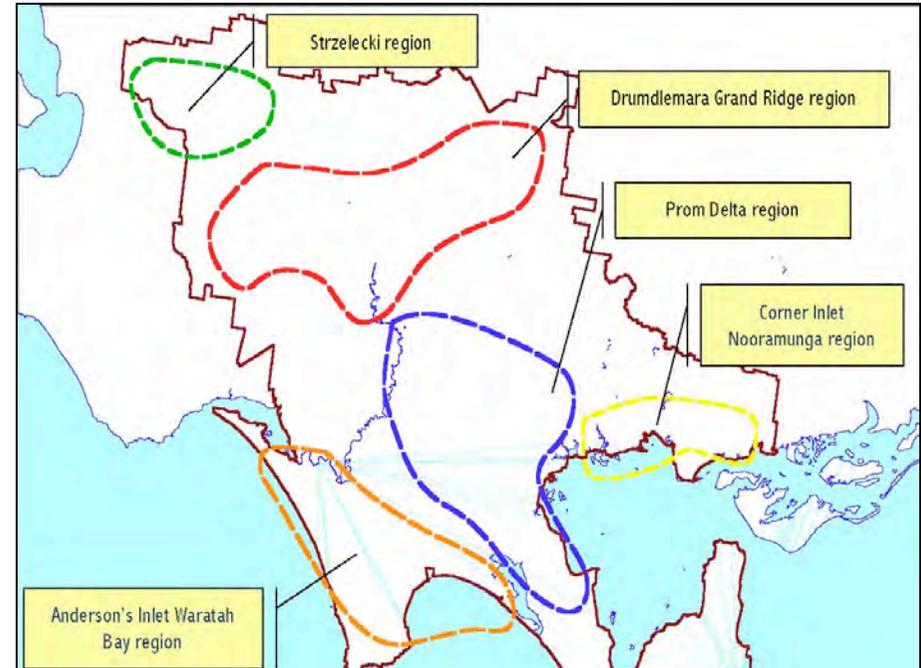
An analysis has been conducted for each of the regions across the Shire reviewing the population and demographics, supply of open space, directions for future planning, issues and actions to arise from previous plans, issues from the community and actions to be taken.

The regions covered in this analysis are outlined in the following table indicates the key localities for each region.

Strzelecki region	Drumdemara Grand Ridge Region	Prom Delta Region	Anderson's Inlet Waratah Bay Region	Corner Inlet Nooramunga Region
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strzelecki • Bena • Loch • Poowong • Nyora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korumburra • Leongatha • Kongwak • Koonwarra • Mirboo North • Outtrim • Nerrena 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster • Meenyan • Stony Creek • Fish Creek • Buffalo • Yanakie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venus Bay (Estates 1,2, and 3) • Waratah Bay • Tarwin Lower • Sandy Point • Walkerville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Franklin • Welshpool • Port Welshpool • Toora

The following figure shows the approximate borders of the regions across the South Gippsland Shire.

Figure 1. South Gippsland Shire Regions¹



¹ Source: South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

2. THE STRZELECKI REGION

Demographics

The following table depicts the population² of the larger towns in the Strzelecki region.

Table 1.0 Population: Strzelecki region

	Poowong	Loch	Nyora	Region Total
Total population	306	200	538	1044
Region %	29	19	52	

Bena is the only additional smaller township³ in this region.

Key influences

Some key influences on the region are⁴:

- Improved transportation links to Melbourne means the region has high growth potential and a likely increase of people with more urban expectations in relation to sport, recreation and open space provision
- The relatively small population for available sporting facilities
- The population centres are small, hence offer limited choice for sport and leisure

- There has been a high population growth experienced over the last ten years
- There is potential for further significant population growth in the next ten years
- Due to the significant growth potential, having an open space plan in this region is critical.

² Note the population figures are from the 2001 census as 2006 figures had not been released when this report was prepared.

³ Townships with populations under 100 at the time of the 2001 census

⁴ South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

2.1 POOWONG

Overview of supply

Poowong is very well served by a central hub of sporting facilities including football /cricket ground, swimming pool, tennis, squash and basketball facilities.

All major parcels of open space are Crown land. There are several smaller reserves on Council land that are relatively undeveloped and most have no identified function.

Poowong's settlement type is classified as a small town. This assumes that desirably there would be one major focus for community facilities and sport, but satellite spaces for social /family recreation may be required because of geographical layout of township, barriers created by major road etc. These will not be encouraged.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 2.1 Recreation facilities in Poowong

NAME	ADDRESS	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Poowong Recreation Reserve		Sport	Managed Turf	TZ
Poowong Swimming Pool		Water based recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Lookout		Lookout/ridgeline	Open parkland	RUZ
Bimbadeen Park		Way side stop	Open parkland	TZ
Poowong Primary School		Education	Sports Facility	TZ
Ranceby Rd Reserve		Social /family recreation	Open parkland	
Attenborough Crt Reserve		Buffer/ environmental protection	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Block Reserve		No identified function	Open parkland	RUZ
Reserve		No identified function	Open parkland	RUZ
Poowong District Indoor Sports Centre	Ranceby Rd	Sport	Sports Facility	
Bass Valley Caravan Park	Bena Poowong Rd, Poowoong	Caravan park	Parkland	
Library	Poowong Rd	Social /family recreation	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
North Hall	Timms Rd	Civic/forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Poowong North Recreation Reserve	Timms Rd	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	

Issues and challenges

The layout of the Poowong Recreation Reserve provides constraints in terms of access and the location of specific facilities (such as the playground), which is not prominent to passers by. Site levels also impact on access to the pavilion and associated facilities. There would be a benefit of undertaking a master plan to identify possible design improvements to access and layout. There are some space constraints that limit car parking and access to a permanent water supply.

Opportunities

- Opportunities exist to develop a green spine throughout the land zoned for township growth. Land along the valley/depression within the LDRZ area could be reserved for public use and a trail developed, which could be linked via Poowong Recreation Reserve to Bimbadeen Park and into the linear PCRZ area to the southeast.
- In the event of further population growth in this area, another trail linking the primary school to the west of the residential area should be considered
- A secondary green link could be formed by connecting the lookout with the two council reserves at 166 and 167, with an off-road trail and continuing this into the current linear PCRZ reserve.

Key demand issues

The Lions Club of Strzelecki Inc. believe that:

- Additional space adjoining the Poowong Recreation Reserve needed as the reserve is currently experiencing parking problems

Poowong Consolidated School (PCS) identified:

- Increased interest in soccer
- Funding for expert coaches to come out and run programs, and
- More support from Council and state sport bodies would be appreciated.

Community forum

The key issues arising in the community forum were as follows:

The Recreation Reserve:

- Cricket is played jointly with Loch
- Facilities are relatively modern, football rooms are multi-purpose
- Significant power access is now available throughout the Reserve so can host the Dairy Expo.
- The dairy expo experiences some parking issues
- The ground is in 'good condition' - which is managed by a Committee of Management. Football club generally maintain the playing surface, and has had many upgrades.

- The Recreation Reserve *requires additional land*, which is currently owned by a developer and will be expensive to acquire - looking for Shire assistance to take a land contribution through future sub-division. The addition of land will help to create and retain a centralised sports precinct.
- Have 2 services clubs, a sports stadium catering for squash and basketball, swimming pool (seasonal).
- Primary school is looking to develop a cycling track, through Education Dept funding. Looking at potential to connect to the Rec Reserve.
- Stadium
 - Squash and basketball generally, badminton is no longer played. Could be potential to add some new activities. Draw participants from the neighbouring district(s). Stadium users have dropped off over the past few years. Squash are back to 1 grade, no junior competition anymore.
 - Basketball used to have 7-8 junior teams, back to mixed junior teams (maybe 5 or 6).
- Swimming pool
 - The preference would be to retain and improve the existing swimming pool.
 - It would be expected that an improvement would be justifiable throughout the community.
 - In the short-term the heating of the pool may help to prolong the operating season.

Household survey findings

- Bicycle paths and fitness centres were seen as priority facilities to provide in Poowong if funds became available.
- Walking and cycling paths and the development and upkeep of outdoor sporting facilities would meet recreation needs of respondents.
- Walking was the main activity that people in Poowong would like to do, but do not.
- Other comments included:
 - Poowong community facilities are well above average and are heavily supported financially by the local community
 - The Poowong/Nyora area is a high density horse area, but apart from the Loch/Nyora Pony Club, Council ignores this prominent family recreation activity
 - Support for all community volunteer groups is needed.

ACTIONS: should resources become available

The key directions identified in this plan for Poowong include:

1. Identify routes for a network of trails ultimately connecting points of interest, (to include the Pioneer Chapel, 1st swimming pool, tunnel under Loch Poowong Rd, Burnetts Cairn, camping site on Bass Valley Road, cemetery, log house, and the Nyora Flora and Fauna Reserve, Henry Littledyke Reserve) the Recreation Reserve and community facilities, and connect to Nyora
2. Consider rezoning:
 - i. The main parcels of open space in the town to PPRZ- Public Park and Recreation Zone
 - ii. Public swimming pool from TZ- Township Zone
 - iii. Poowong Recreational Reserve from TZ
 - iv. Bimbadeen Park and Ranceby Rd Reserve from RUZ- Rural Zone
 - v. Attenborough Crt Reserve from RUZ and TZ to PPRZ
 - vi. Council Reserve and Council Block Reserve from RUZ- and consider linking these parcels into a secondary green spine through the township
3. Concentrate all future open space developments within the LDRZ- Low Density Residential Development area, and TZ area north of Poowong-Ranceby Rd, as this is where future population growth is expected to occur.
4. Consider setting aside a 'green spine' through this area, along the valley/depression, and linking this to Bimbadeen Park and into the linear PCRZ area.
5. Consider relocating Ranceby Rd Reserve to a more central location? Or keep this reserve and develop another area with a social /family recreation function in a more central location.
6. Purchase an additional portion of land on the western boundary of the Recreation Reserve to allow for additional car parking and provision of a permanent water supply for the Reserve.
7. Support the community to increase utilisation of the stadium
8. Plan for the future upgrade of the outdoor swimming pool

2.2 NYORA

Overview of supply

Nyora's settlement type is classified as a small town. This assumes that desirably there would be one major focus for community facilities and sport, but satellite spaces for social /family recreation may be required because of geographical layout of township, and barriers created by major road etc.

Nyora is home to over 50% of the population for the Strezelecki Region, and it has several large parcels of public open space; (such as the recreation reserve and speedway, the Village Green, the cemetery and the Pony Club site). Open space and sport and recreation facilities however do not appear to be developed to serve district or regional markets as in other places such as Meeniyah and Fish Creek.

The railway reserve provides the core of open space in the town at present, however the tourist train currently runs through here to Wonthaggi, and therefore there are some constraints as to how this will be developed and there are issues with promoting crossing over the track ie to the Recreation Reserve.

The village green with a skate trail and playground appears only partly developed and could be enhanced by a major redesign and planting program. It may however need to be relocated as the current site has been ear marked for the development of a commercial heart.

The newer subdivisions are not well connected to the central hub of sport and community facilities. Future planning needs to address this.

The range of recreation facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 2.2 Recreation facilities in Nyora

NAME	ADDRESS	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Nyora Recreation Reserve		Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Loch/Nyora Pony Club Facility		Sport	Bushland	PUZ6
Village Green (railway land)		Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PUZ4
Primary School		Education	Sports facility	TZ
Linear Reserve - Follett Dve.		Off road trail	Waterway corridor	LDRZ
Wuchatsch Reserve		Conservation of Biological Heritage	Bushland/ forest	
Hall and surrounds		Civic forecourt/ community gathering	Open parkland	TZ
Bush reserve block		Conservation of Heritage	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Cemetery		Cemetery/ memorial park	Open grassy areas	PUZ5
Nyora Town reserve	Mitchell Street	Social /family recreation	Parkland	
Nyora Flora and Fauna reserve	Nyora Poowong Rd	Conservation of Biological Heritage	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	
Pony Club Reserve	Yannathon Rd	Sport	Managed turf / Bushland	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Nyora Urban Design Framework (2005)

The key issues relating to open space identified in this report include:

- Population of Nyora likely to more than double.
- The critical importance of a sewerage system for the township. The town needs a reticulated sewer that will facilitate economic development and population growth.
- The need to rationalise the activities occurring on the village green and to create a strategic plan for its use and ensure consistent development forms and style.
- Lack of pedestrian bicycle and horse trails throughout the town. Lack of footpaths in the core of the township, especially around the school and linking the school to the town centre.
- Access to and use of existing recreational/sporting facilities
- The future of the existing railway station and associated Crown land
- The future of the Nyora Speedway, and how it could add value to the community (more and diverse usage) and/or perhaps be relocated to a more appropriate location
- The isolated, separate and disconnected nature of the newer rural residential areas
- The inherent problems of providing urban infrastructure to isolated low density residential areas
- Concerns as to traffic flow, increase in heavy traffic, traffic separation from pedestrian/horse and recreation rider safety
- The importance of linking the outer areas of the community (the 3987 post code area) to the town and it's various facilities, the school etc

- The need to enhance developments/community areas through native planting and the linkage of remnant bush/park areas through native habitat corridors
- Recognising, supporting and encouraging the high concentration of horse ownership and usage within the community
- The opportunities to link Nyora with other towns (Lang Lang, Loch etc) through pedestrian, bicycle, horse trails
- The opportunity to promote the town as a "centre" for horse and equestrian activities.
- Weed control, especially in Crown land areas of the town

■ Strategic Plan for Nyora Recreation Reserve

The plan addresses some key issues for the reserve – namely: need to upgrade the pavilion/toilet change facilities and social rooms, poor car parking provision & traffic flow issues, relationship with the school (in particular the new school oval and drop off), need for a shared path linking the school and reserve to the township, additional netball court, long term desire for indoor courts, vegetation, water management and future / improvement of the speedway.

Opportunities

- Nyora – very large equestrian focus- consider a new site for an equestrian facility- or redevelopment of the existing site to cater for other disciplines and better parking. Equestrian uses would not be a suitable use of the Recreation Reserve if speedway closes. The recreation reserve suggest there may be demand for an indoor equestrian centre in the town.
- Nyora Urban Design Framework, recommends retail development on the Village Green (because of the prominence of the intersection etc. and moving the Village Green along a little bit.
- There is an opportunity to develop a trail circuit to link existing open spaces, and also form a boundary to the township. This would address issues with the layout of recent subdivision, as well as the demand for equestrian activities and cycling and walking paths.
- There is potential to develop a major green corridor including a trail along the former railway line, encompassing the Recreation Reserve and Speedway, Primary School, Follet Drive, Bush Reserve Block, and Village Green.
- A site off the southeast corner of the zoning map has great potential for trails (?)- zones as PUZ- transport, but hasn't been used for this since 1970s
- There are probably 100s of km's of unmade government roads, almost all on crown land that have potential as trails
- Consider redeveloping the hall site in association with the village green or on the recreation reserve and selling the hall/ tennis court site
- Potential exists to enclose the township within a seamless green link to the north, east and south, which can also define the growth boundary of the area.
- Consider providing a new site for pony club/ equestrian activities or develop the current pony club site to serve a range of disciplines

- There is also potential for a number of secondary green corridors and trails throughout the township, including from the northwest corner into the central railway link encompassing the pony club; and from the Recreation Reserve and Speedway northeast to Glovers Road including Follett Drive.
- The future of the Nyora Speedway on the Recreation Reserve is being investigated and a master plan will be prepared to identify future uses of the space.
- Support the upgrading of facilities at the Recreation Reserve in accordance with the soon to be released master plan.

Key demand issues

Nyora District Development Association

The Nyora District Development Association identified:

- The vacant railway land at the corner of Mitchell Street and Davis Street in Nyora as a future open space. This land abuts the Village Green, which Council leases from the railway authorities; we believe it would provide a logical extension to the Village green. With pathways and linkages and thoughtfully planted trees it would provide a great space in the heart of the town.
- The open drain between this land mentioned above needs to be addressed

Household survey findings

- Going to the gym (11%), bicycle riding (11%) and swimming (11%) were the three activities that more people in Nyora would like to do that they currently do not do.
- Walking and cycling paths were highlighted as the main thing that the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet more people's recreation needs.
- Walking paths and trails as well as footpaths were the facilities that people in Nyora see as being priority if funding became available.

ACTIONS: should resources become available

The key directions identified in this plan for Nyora include:

1. Construct off-road rail routes to link as a priority: the Recreation Reserve, school and pony club site and Village Green.
2. Support community construction and working trails.
3. Encourage the taking of any open space contributions for the purposes of creating a shared pathways through the township and to service any future population expansion to the west of the existing township, and providing funds to support development at the Recreation Reserve.
4. Develop one major park for equestrian uses and support with off-road trails
5. Review the condition, management and future of the skate trail within the Village Green
6. Identify a (treed site) for a future social/ family recreation area to serve additional residential growth, north of the Poowong/Lang Lang Rd.
7. Prepare a master plan for the new Village green site as a town park and ensure retail and commercial establishments address the space.

8. Protect the remaining bushland on the pony club site as the only bushland of any size in the township, and rezone as PPRZ.
9. Consider the development of an additional large social /family recreation space in the west of the township with an off-road trail connection back to the village green as part of any further residential development.
10. Protect the parcel of significant flora and associated bushland to the northeast of the township, and provide a future open space abutting this site to serve future residential land use.
11. Consider relocating the hall to a more prominent location such as the new Village Green or in conjunction with the school, and encourage collocation with other community facilities
12. Encourage the Recreation Reserve to work closely with the school on proposed developments at either site, and should there be demand for any further indoor recreation facility consider providing it in conjunction with the school.
13. Support the implementation of the Strategic Master Plan for the Recreation Reserve, including better design and upgrade car parking and existing netball, tennis club/ change rooms/ and address shade, amenity and minor risk manage issues. Consider the possible long-term relocation of the speedway to a more suitable site in a remediated sand belt area to make way for a second playing field.

2.3 BENA

Overview of supply

Bena is relatively close to Korumburra, and therefore there are no plans to further develop public open space here.

There is a plans for a large block residential development in existing TZ south of the highway however there are no expectations for future population growth in Bena and too small to sewer.

Bena's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential.

Bena has a small tennis court and hall complex, and community hall and way side stop. The primary school, a little out of the centre of Bena but served by an off-road trail, has recently closed.

The low grade/quality tennis courts present risk issues and lack of maintenance prevent these from being viable. (See the recreation plan for further discussion concerning tennis).

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 2.3 Recreation facilities in Bena

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Tennis Courts	Sport	Specialised sports surface	TZ
Mc Grath Park	Way side stop	Open parkland	TZ
Essex St Reserve	No identified function	Open grassy area	TZ
Walking Track	Off road trail	Open parkland	RDZ1
Primary School	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2

Opportunities

- Essex St Reserve and McGrath Park are zoned TZ not PPRZ. There several potential opportunities to enhance the value of existing open space opportunities in Bena. These include:
 - Consider the future use of the former primary school, to provide a playing field for use by residents, as no grass playing fields are available in the other sites.
 - Develop Essex St Reserve further into a social family recreation facility and consolidate this space with the abutting hall and tennis courts, or Expand McGrath Park into a social /family recreation facility.
 - The Wet forest (EVC 30) south of Bena should be reserved as public conservation should the property be subdivided

Key demand issues

The tennis club cannot use their courts at the moment as they have been affected by the dry.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Develop one main reserve for social /family recreation within the township
2. Enhance the existing walking track into a green spine throughout the township, especially if the School land can be utilised by the community
3. Designate a walking route from the town south west along the rail reserve along a creek corridor to the wet forest, to Greens Rd to join the existing trail from the school to the township
4. Consider reserving the forested area south of the township if the property is subdivided

2.4 LOCH

Overview of supply

Loch is likely to remain about the same size until the town is sewerred, and then it will probably grow.

Loch's settlement type is classified as a small town. This assumes that desirably there would be one major focus for community facilities and sport, but satellite spaces for social /family recreation may be required because of geographical layout of township, barriers created by major road etc.

Loch has a good range of different types of open space and facilities, especially given its small population. These include recreation reserve, (which has - cricket, tennis, walking, camping, exercise, youth activities), a bowling club, social/ family recreation area, a market site and a public hall. There is a mix of Crown and Council owned land, as well as land held in community/trust ownership. A number of sites are not zoned as public parks or recreation.

The lawn bowls club is strong (because it serves Nyora and Poowong also).

The range of facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 2.4 Recreation facilities in Loch

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Loch Recreation Reserve	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Sunnyside Park	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Speight St Reserve	No identified function	Open grassy area	RDZ1
Loch Primary School	Education	Sports facility	TZ
Loch Lawn Bowls Club	Sport	Managed turf	TZ
Centennial Park	Visual amenity	Ornamental, Zoological or Botanical Garden	TZ

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Mini Wetlands (Part Road Reserve)	Conservation of biological heritage		
Loch Public Hall	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	TZ
Loch Market Site	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PUZ4
Falls site	Water based recreation	River /foreshore	PCRZ

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Loch Urban Design Framework (2005)

Issues identified in the community survey and community meetings concerning open space and needing improvement include:

- Footpaths and youth facilities
- Access to the Memorial Reserve, creek and ex-swimming hole
- The appearance of Centennial Park and toilet access
- Maintenance and responsibility of open space

New ideas and initiatives that were identified from the community surveys and community meeting related to open space include:

- Further residential development within walking distance of town centre
- Bicycle and pedestrian tracks/network/loops
- Pedestrian and bicycle tracks to the Creek and Hilda Falls
- Children's playground
- Skate park
- Environmental walk around town

The key issues to stem from the Urban Design Framework and that relate to open space, concern pedestrian and bicycle linkages and the Allsop Creek.

Opportunities

- Opportunity exists to create a network of off-road trails to connect the key community and recreation facilities. This could include the development an open space (along the railway line, encompassing the Recreation Reserve, Block 126 (used for markets), Speight St Reserve and Sunnyside Park, between the railway line and the junction of the former South Gippsland Highway and the current Highway route (and further south?).
This corridor could also function as a growth boundary edge.
- Future residential development could be focused in the area between the two highway routes, with land north of this forming the open space network.

Key demand issues

The Loch Community Development Association

- Sunnyside Park, Centennial Park, Loch Memorial Reserve, Lions Market Site and the Cape Horn Lookout should be protected as future open space
- The following improvements should be made in local parks:
 - Environmentally friendly toilets
 - Improved wheelchair access
 - Skate parks
 - Dog poo dispensers
 - Shade sails over playgrounds
 - Assistance with weed spraying at Cape Horn Lookout
 - Council should consider safer pedestrian access between Sunnyside Park and the Reserve

There is feeling that the Loch townships require additional pedestrian and bike paths specifically: Ferriers Rd to Loch Rd, The Recreation Reserve to Hilda Falls, and the railway track between Loch and Nyora.

Loch Memorial Reserve Trustees

- Use increased after state government funds to put in gazebo's & BBQ's, picnic tables with wheelchair friendly so lots of groups. Camping increased
- Major issue: Cleaning of facilities by volunteers only, vandalism, maintenance
- Nowhere to do indoor cricket at moment
- Don't need to increase open space but help with maintenance of what got
- Skate facility going in Loch (in Sunnyside Park) voluntary groups

Community Forum

Key issues raised regarding Loch were as follows:

- The reserve is segregated from the town and requires better access from town centre and the market site- suggest an underpass to improve access, particularly for walkers and school students
- Reserve have a grant application in for clubroom refurbishment and to install fitness stations. Potential for tennis court resurfacing.
- Received VicHealth grant for new equipment. Received grant for water tanks and applications in for clubroom improvements.

- Thinking about space between the town centre and recreation reserve - seeking greater input from the community regarding improvements
- Skate park: have an upcoming auction to raise funds for skate park landscaping, in conjunction with Council and SRV.
- Attempts to make the bowls club more attractive for the younger population. Possible installation of a synthetic surface - potentially seeking Council and funding assistance
- Difficult to attract new members from within a small township.
- All experience volunteer and committee representation difficulties

Household survey findings

- Bike riding, fishing and going to the gym were the only activities that respondents from Loch indicated they would like to do but currently do not do
- Lawn bowling facilities and bicycle/ walking paths were the main facilities seen as priority if funding became available

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Focus future open space developments on trail networks and design enhancements of existing facilities
2. Consider rezoning Sunnyside Park and Speight St Reserve Centennial Park, and the bowling club from TZ to PCRZ
3. Encourage future population growth between the former and existing highway routes to ensure future residents are a walkable distance from existing recreation and open spaces and that develop contributions can focus on creating off road trails and the development of the social /family recreation areas.
4. Protect bushland/treed area beside the school (site 121).

5. Support the development of better pedestrian connections to the Recreation Reserve from the township and from the market site to the Recreation Reserve, from the Recreation Reserve to Hilda Falls, and the railway track between Loch and Nyora.
6. Support the lawn bowls club to remain viable
7. Consider siting any additional open space or sports facilities required in the south; adjacent to the bowls club.
8. Support the development of a skate park and the preparation of a management plan
9. Upgrade support facilities at the Recreation Reserve and undertake additional planting for shade and amenity

2.5 STRZELECKI

Overview of supply

Strzelecki's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential. The area has high scenic qualities.

The reserves identified in Strzelecki are the tennis courts, public hall and the Seabrook Park picnic ground.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 2.5 Recreation facilities in Strzelecki

NAME	ADDRESS	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Tennis Courts	Korumburra-Warragal Rd	Sport	Social/ family recreation	
Public Hall	Korumburra-Warragal Rd	Social/ family recreation	Community meeting place	
Seabrook Park Picnic Ground	Korumburra-Warragal Rd	Lookout/ ridgeline	Open parkland	

Opportunities

Consolidate or upgrade tennis and hard court facilities

Key demand issues

The Lions Club of Strzelecki Inc.

The key issues identified by the Lions Club of Strzelecki Inc were:

- The issues of additional space adjoining the Poowong Recreation Reserve was a matter of a recent discussion at the committees most recent meeting as the reserve is currently experiencing issues with parking.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Review the need to upgrade the tennis courts
2. Upgrade the picnic area table set at the lookout to a robust accessible table.

3. DRUMDLEMARA GRAND RIDGE REGION

Demographics

The following table shows the population of the larger towns within the Drumdlemara Grand Ridge region.

Table 3. Population: Drumdlemara Grand Ridge Region

	Leongatha	Korumburra	Mirboo North	Region Total
Total population	4,234	3,037	1,382	8,653
Region %	49	35	16	

The smaller townships (under 100 persons at the time of the 2001 census): within this region are: Outtrim, Kongwak and Koonwarra.

Key influences

Creeks Some key characteristics of the region are⁵:

- the larger townships play important roles in the surrounding smaller town and wider municipality
- it has the highest population within the municipality
- there is potential for relatively high growth in the region due to the availability of services and infrastructure in the immediate area.

⁵ South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

3.1 LEONGATHA

Overview of supply

The settlement type of Leongatha's is classified as large town. This assumes that a number of open space sites for social /family recreation may be needed to serve the township; with a reasonable equitable distribution. This would include one or more locations for township or district level sport.

Leongatha has a number of sectors defined by major roads each of these will fill with residential development in future. Several of these are not well served with a social /family recreation space. The town is not very walkable.

Leongatha has one large sporting reserve as well as several schools that also provide major ovals in the north and north east of the town. The town also has two major open space corridors: the rail trail (heading south from the railway station reserve) and to the east of the township; Coalition creek and Tarwin River and several drainage way and transmission easements.

In the south (and possibly the west) the provision of neighbourhood parks is not adequate to serve the current distribution of residents.

Including school playgrounds there are some 14 playgrounds in Leongatha. The southern east residential area and the south west of the rail trail is not well served by formal playgrounds.

The Leongatha Recreation Reserve is a very large reserve that is at capacity. There may not be major benefits in expanding on this site due to car parking and access issues that additional facilities may bring. There may however be benefits of considering a second site

for sport in the south that can also serve the needs for social /family recreation in this sector, and be served by the rail trail.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.1 Recreation facilities in Leongatha

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Leongatha Recreation Reserve	Showground/ sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Equestrian Park	Sport	Sports Facility	PPRZ
Power Line Easement	Access way trail	Open parkland	PPRZ
Drainage Easement	Drainage/ floodway	Waterway corridor	R1Z
Mary McKillop College Oval	Education	Sports Facility	R1Z
Christian School	Education	Sports Facility	R1Z
Secondary College/ Gipps TAFE	Education	Sports Facility	PUZ2
Primary School	Education	Sports Facility	PUZ2
St. Lawrence Catholic Primary School	Education	Sports Facility	R1Z
McIndoe Park	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Bowling Club	Sport	Specialised Sports Surface	PPRZ
Tania Park	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Kinder & Open Space	Education	Open Grassy Area	PUZ3
Mary Checkley Reserve	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Wetlands	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PPRZ
Reserve – DSE	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Horticultural Park	Community horticulture	Open parkland	PPRZ
Rail Trail	Off-road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Arthur Bentley Reserve	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Sloan Avenue Park	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Ellen Lyndon Park	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Robins Park – Parkview			
Drainage Reserve	Drainage/ floodway	Waterway corridor	R1Z
Park Easement – Warralong Court	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
A'beckett Street Guide Hall	Community meeting place	Open parkland/ bush land/forest	PPRZ
Bent Street Reserve	No identified function	Open grassy area	R1Z
St. Andrews Drive	No identified function	Open grassy area	LDRZ
Centenary Park	Way side stop	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	B1Z
Apex Park	Visual amenity	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	PUZ4
Griffin Road Playground	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Railway Station Reserve	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Open parkland	PUZ4
Cemetery	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Open parkland	PUZ5
Horn Street BMX Track	Social /family recreation	Specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Caravan Park	Social family recreation	Open parkland	
Library	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Memorial Hall / Mechanics Institute	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Playground Reserve	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Public gardens reserve	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	
Flora Reserve	Conservation of biological heritage		
Kings Park	Social/ family recreation	Open Parkland	
Leongatha North (Fairbank) Tennis Courts	Sport	Specialised Sport Surface	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Draft Leongatha Structure Plan (2002)

Opportunities and constraints identified in the structure plan include:

- If Leongatha experiences significant population growth, new or expanded sports or community facilities may be required.
- New recreation land and facilities could be provided through new subdivisions, although this may not provide all the land that is required. Another option is to expand the current Leongatha Recreation Reserve to allow larger developments to be placed in one location.
- Leongatha has a recreation reserve located conveniently in the centre of the town for the local community.
- Future planning needs to link recreation facilities with bike or walking trails, and provide green belts.
- Co-locate facilities helps reduce costs, and creates economies of scale, by allowing multipurpose use.
- Accessibility of facilities to all community groups needs to be considered.
- The Recreation Reserve may need to be enlarged in the future, and planning will need to allow for expansion preferably on the northern boundary (incorporated into the Recreation Reserve or as a green belt buffer).
- Paths & trails could provide links not only to recreation facilities but education precinct/s, new subdivisions and commercial centre.
- Consideration should be given to better utilising the significant recreation facilities at the 3 secondary schools and better joint

- community/school co-operation/partnerships to minimise duplication of expensive infrastructure.
- The development of the existing velodrome into an indoor venue combined with the natural geographic features that cyclists like (i.e. hills!) was proposed.
- Specific opportunities identified associated with parks and open space included:
 - Need to link bike and walking trails with green belt, schools, housing and recreational activities.
 - Open space needs to be distributed across the town, and provide access through the various locations as well as potential habitat linkages.
 - Passive recreation areas need to be accessible by all households.
 - As a general rule, all housing should be at least within 400 metres of a playground with children's play equipment. Currently at least 60% of residences are more than 400 metres from playgrounds
 - The public open space vision specified in the Plan was: to set aside land for Public Open Space, Wetlands and Conservation areas that can be used for multiple purposes.
- The public open space objective identified was:
 - Identify other areas, which have been proposed for conservation and determine their likely long-term viability and costs of management.
 - Provide wetland buffers to reduce impact on adjacent urbanization of nuisance insects arising from wetlands.
 - To ensure that land for Public Open Space is of high quality and is in a usable state prior to it being surrendered to the Responsible Authority.
 - Actions to be Implemented included:

- Require developers to produce, in consultation with Council, Management Plans for all areas of Public Open Space given as part of the subdivision process.
- Ensure that the Management Plans include a development program and the developers' contribution to this program.
- The main recommendation concerning Reserves and Open Spaces was: further land be earmarked for future public use such as high school sites, open space, drainage, regional roads and sites for public utilities.

■ Leongatha Structure Plan issues

Population projections for Leongatha indicate an annual population growth rate, from 2006 to 2026 varying between 1.2 % in 2006 and 2.0% in 2011. This will see the town with a population of 6850 in 2026, an increase of 2060 over the 2006 figure, and 1180 additional households (55 to 60 new households per annum).

Key issues relate to recreation identified in the paper include the following:

Cycle and Pedestrian access ways

Leongatha is currently not an easy town for pedestrians and cyclists to access. Recent residential development patterns have created numerous isolated residential communities that, whilst being physically close to the Town Centre, are very difficult and circuitous to access from the Town Centre by foot or bicycle. Central Leongatha has an existing network of lanes and rear right of ways. These can greatly assist in facilitating access, movement and linkages and should be maintained wherever possible.

Water supply

Currently there are no significant water recycling programs associated with SGW operations due to cost implications. Infrastructure exists to potentially irrigate the Leongatha Recreation Reserve from the Leongatha Sewerage treatment plant.

The appropriate use of grey water, the installation of water tanks and the use of drought tolerant plants and landscapes throughout the town should be encouraged by the Structure Plan and supporting planning provisions.

Industrial Development Opportunities

The Structure Plan should consolidate industrial activity in the northern part of Leongatha.

The suitability of land currently land zoned for industrial, but undeveloped, to the north of the existing industrial areas requires investigation.

Opportunities for further industrial development to the west of the existing industrial estates (adjacent to adjacent to the Golf Course and recreation reserves) should be investigated having regard to capacity and potential environmental issues that may arise and potential impact on views, vistas and the landscape of the western approaches to Leongatha.

Note: There is some concern about this proposal from the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, as there has been proposal to extend the Recreation reserve in this direction to meet additional sports needs.

Civic, Entertainment, Community, Open Space and Recreation Facilities

The Structure Plan does not address these issues – other than to say it should encourage the retention of civic community, entertainment and cultural activities within the Town Centre.

Opportunities

- There are a number of easements and drainage corridors that may create opportunities to provide trail links through the town and connect onto existing creek corridors. There are opportunities to connect the equestrian site with the schools and connect with Coalition Creek in the east.
- The town would benefit from a green corridor around the western side, in a similar way to Coalition Creek on the east.
- There is potential for land acquisition to create linear trail down to link with Simons Road. Ideal here as buffer for potential future business area. This could then be connected with Coalition Creek and ultimately the rail trail. The issue with this link to the road is then finding a safe means to cross the South-Gippsland Highway.
- Where possible there should be off-road trail branching off the rail trail and running east west.
- The schools provide very important sports facilities and have additional opportunities to develop facilities for more specialised sports such as athletics. Look at the possibility of the aths club going to a school site or a second sporting reserve abutting the rail trail and Simons Rd in the south.
- Pressure from A&P society over past 5-10 years to expand north or west of the Recreation Reserve for horses etc, golf course also pressuring for another 9 holes. It is a beneficial to have golf close the CBD, but 18 holes here is unlikely to be warranted with another course serving the township. The tennis club also wish to expand.

- A second satellite reserve could provide a second home for sport and a social /family recreation for the new residential areas as well. A new sports ground does not necessarily need to be an oval; growth could be a rectangular playing field (hockey, soccer and croquet), or athletics, or tennis centre (primarily indoor facilities), with SFR reserve tacked on too, in a reasonably small scale.
- Equestrian groups are doing a feasibility for expansion into green wedge
- Some PPRZ sites to west are incorrectly zoned (actually private property). One is a wetland area. DSE presumably own another site with cows on it? Site north of wetlands is private with big house and gardens- unlikely to be developed. It is hard to access wetland area from there.
- There is potential to do something more exciting with the railway precinct. It has a special character but is not readily accessible, and is not close the main town centre
- If a new consolidated town centre was to be encouraged it is imperative that planning should include leisure planning expertise and that it consider the possibility of a town plaza or central civic open space at its heart. Future structure planning should also consider the provision of incentives for major commercial leisure facilities such as ten pin bowling and fitness clubs and any future arts or performance centre.

Key demand issues

Leongatha and District Soccer Club

The key points highlighted within the submission from the Leongatha and District Soccer Club were:

- There has been increase in participation of soccer in the district
- A larger soccer facility is required
- Lights are currently only available on Aussie Rules clubs for night training
- There is a need to investigate the feasibility of a year round soccer venue with lighting

Leongatha High school

The key points made included:

- In 3 years time -rebuild of whole school, outdoor basket ball and tennis are a priority as they are very run down
- Alcohol surrounding the sporting culture a big issue
- Travel is a big issue, local kids have done very well but large distance and cost involved.

Leongatha resident

The key points raised by the resident were:

- The apparent absence of natural areas around Leongatha for passive recreation
- Feel that if there were more areas for passive recreation in Leongatha it would attract more people to the town and mental health issues would be improved.
- Understood that there was a visionary plan to create a walking track and wetlands along Coalition Creek south of the Nerrena Road.

Leongatha Little Athletics Club

- Facilities are too small for the increase in the number of athletes.
- Currently do not have a full 400m track or enough space inside facility to manage all events.
- Using additional area outside of velodrome. These areas, particularly long jump, are in need of upgrading.

Leongatha Recreation Reserve and Table Tennis Club

- The Leongatha Recreation Reserve is considered to be at capacity.
- The Table Tennis Club highlighted that they would like to extend it's facility but due to the Reserve being at capacity it would require additional land for any further extension of use.

Leongatha Karate

Currently using Youth Club in Leongatha- but the lease is about to expire and possibly not be renewed, unsure if any other facilities available they could use.

Community Forum

Key issues raised at the community forum included:

- Township is projected to undergo population growth - and ageing
- Could prioritise on population numbers, levels of participation, maximising facilities, promote sharing.
- Players often play in a range of areas and may not reflect local population figures.
- Recreation Reserve
 - Committee of Management doing a good job- too many users for all to sit on C of Management
 - Benefits for families and participation to have facilities and sports within the one precinct - share facilities, less travel
 - Is constrained by land availability
 - Future location for the regular circus - previously provided at the Rec Reserve
 - Where possible retain facilities and activities in one central area (ie. ie Recreation Reserve)
- Could relocate croquet and use for tennis expansion
- With a reorganisation of the golf course may find additional land for an aths track
- An advantage of the golf course is that it is walkable from the town centre.
- Athletics
 - Seeking direction of possible future Athletics Track
 - No option to participate in senior athletics, significant travel is required.
 - Could be significant demand from surrounding townships to use a quality athletics track ie Bass Coast
 - The level and depth of competition at Leongatha in Little A's brings participants in from other regions and areas
 - A preferred site for a new track would be the Rec Reserve, but alternative locations may be acceptable.
 - Losing students and residents that move away from there area to train and participate in athletics, as well as those that regularly commute to athletics training
- Direction and advice towards funding opportunities
- Arts and Crafts
 - Community facilities to accommodate arts and craft activities
 - Mesley Hall to cater for performing arts
 - Limited facilities for 'dance' activities and performances
- Schools
 - Better promotion of school facilities that could offer community facilities
 - Difficulties with using school facilities and they need to be available when the community needs them

- Equestrian clubs
 - Need to upgrade equestrian park and secure long-term tenure of the land.
 - Seeking assistance for a course redesign, and desire to improve the area vegetation.
 - Limited on-site parking
 - Are losing competition and events to alternative sites that can better cater for them.
 - Constraints with pavilion and amenities - additional shade and showers required.
 - Pony clubs / riding clubs appear to experience similar issues, particularly space constraints - could look at a possible regional scale facility or a diversity of facilities that could each provide for different disciplines.
 - Local adult riding and pony clubs are increasing, locally.
- Tennis
 - Leongatha Tennis Club - have 8 porous courts -limited use during water restrictions. Hard courts are too hard for some older players, not their preferred surface. Plans to install water tanks. Plans to undertake a feasibility study for a major surface replacement.
 - May not be enough courts enough to cater for future demand
 - Direction needed regarding the future and support for courts in rural areas.
 - Leongatha and a court at Foster are the only porous courts in the Shire - this brings in players from the around the Shire.
 - Perhaps a hierarchy around the shire to meet the diversity of demand - social, casual, visitors, competition
- Travel is a constraint for competition and training, particularly if activity is centralised in one location
- Leongatha has a range of facilities and opportunities for visitors - it helps to draw them in and also retain them.
- Has the ability to offer a good depth of competition and a range of activities.
- Perhaps greater assistance required for less traditional and smaller sports / activities.
- Provide access to available Council skills, staff and experience (ie. Access to parks and gardens staff for improvements - redressing surfaces, sealing car parks, perhaps at a reduced rate for local clubs)
- Potential for sharing of facilities and the implications for doing or not.
 - Need for greater sharing of resources and equipment, particularly maintenance equipment - perhaps controlled and monitored by Council
 - Opportunities for sharing eg - public toilets
- Squash
 - courts may need improvement
 - competition in place and links developed with schools / school programs.
 - Possible future facilities - ten pin bowling Could be provided in a multi-use capacity with gymnasium, squash etc.
- Growing demand for fitness classes and hydro pool to cater for the ageing population. High demand for aquarobics at Splash.
- The health and physical activity classes could be supported by Council,- by venues with community groups and / or private sector to operate them Halls:

- The flexible and multi-purpose use of halls can also make it difficult for clubs that don't have access to storage or dedicated space
- Look at future design and development for truly multi-purpose facilities.
- Some halls and facilities are often cold, noisy, lack storage space
- Accessing funding to upgrade these facilities is often difficult to obtain.

Household survey findings

- Activities that respondents from Leongatha would like to do that they currently do not do include going to the gym and ten pin bowling.
- Bicycle paths and walking trails, art and crafts centres, an athletics track and libraries were the facilities that respondents from Leongatha indicated would be priority if funding became available.
- Walking and cycling paths were the main things that the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet Leongatha respondents recreation and open space needs.
- Comments include:
 - There is a need to accept Leongatha as a regional centre. Provide better facilities in Leongatha rather than replacing mediocre facilities throughout the Shire.
 - Bigger and better facilities at Leongatha Community House.
 - Create more on-road cycle paths around Leongatha and improve facilities at recreation reserve.
 - Venues for older adult specific fitness/ aqua programs are needed. Demand for aqua exercise for older adults is increasing but little opportunity to increase exercise opportunities due to demands of the rest of the population on pool.
 - Leongatha has many sporting facilities but clubs and committees need help to get grants to maintain the facilities the town has.

- Although SG Splash is a great place to swim, we were disappointed when the outdoor pool closed.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Consider setting aside a new sports/ social family park in the south to serve new residential development
2. Develop a network of off-road trails across town using creek and rail corridor and drainage reserves; creating linkages between the key reserves school and new residential areas. Ensure footpath links north west to town centre
3. Address lack of accessible paths in residential areas through development contributions
4. Seek to retain a good diversity of different types of spaces including bushlands, wetlands, horticultural spaces, and reserves for sport and social/ family recreation accessible from the town
5. Work with DSE and the Recreation Reserve Committee to review the layout of facilities on the Recreation Reserve, and consider a minor expansion and upgrade to include the skate park, reorganisation of one golf course green (retain as nine holes) to facilitate other sports use.
6. Address anomalies in zoning of parks and reserves
7. Ensure that future structure planning includes professional leisure planning input and considers the location of commercial leisure facilities in any redeveloped town centre

8. Investigate the site options for emerging / expanding sports provision to accommodate a dedicated athletics track, permanent home for equestrian sports and soccer and the need for expansion/resurfacing of tennis facilities
9. Work closely with the schools to maximise the opportunities to develop and manage shared sporting, recreation and arts related infrastructure, and enhance sports participation
10. Work with DSE and Recreation Reserve Committee to:
 - 10.1 Develop infrastructure to irrigate the Leongatha Recreation Reserve from the Leongatha Sewerage treatment plant as a priority and
 - 10.2 Investigate the feasibility of adding a gym/weighting /fitness facility at Splash
11. Work with the Committee of Management to better manage the skate park on the Recreation Reserve
12. Redevelop the BMX track in Leongatha and prepare a master plan for the whole reserve
13. Further investigate the expressed demand and location for future arts and craft facilities and additional library services in Leongatha in conjunction with the structure plan
14. Establish a dog off-leash park in Leongatha

3.2 KORUMBURRA

Overview of supply

Korumburra has been classified as a large town. This assumes that a number of open space sites for social /family recreation may be needed to serve the township with a reasonable equitable distribution. This would include one or more locations for township or district level sport.

The major recreation facilities in Korumburra are the two sports reserves (the showground and the Recreation Reserve) Coleman Park and the swimming pool, (the only 50 metre pool in the shire) Coal Creek Reserve, Hudson Park and Korumburra Public Park (an arboretum) netball courts and caravan park. There is an indoor recreation centre for basketball and volleyball, as well as lawn bowls, croquet, tennis, and equestrian facilities.

There is a good variety in types of open space, but the town lacks a town or civic park at its heart, and sport is fragmented across the town.

The key reserves have been reserved as open space in the planning scheme (however there are not many in the SW).

There are several areas zoned residential within the township, that are not served by any sizeable park for social / family recreation.

There are few off-road paths in Korumburra and many streets do not have footpaths. Considerable benefits would accrue from strategically located off-road paths for walking and cycling, as well as landscape improvements to enhance the aesthetic appeal and amenity value of streetscapes and sports facilities.

Some smaller reserves taken in recent subdivisions are of low quality and are not yet reserved as public park.

Korumburra has a good range of sporting facilities accommodating: cricket, basketball, volleyball, netball, badminton, football, bowls, tennis, croquet, pony

club, indoor bowls, shooting, skate park, aerobics, swimming – and motor cycle club at Outtrim.

The range of facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.2 Recreation facilities in Korumburra

NAME	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Caravan Public Park	Caravan park/ sport	Specialised sports facility	PPRZ
Korumburra Public Park	Conservation of biological heritage	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	PPRZ
Showgrounds	Showground/ sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Tennis Court Reserve	Sport	Specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Stadium, Bowls & Croquet Reserve	Sport	Specialised sports surface/ Managed turf	PPRZ
Coleman Park	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Swimming Pool	Water based recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Secondary School	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2
St. Josephs Catholic Primary School	Education	Sports facility	R1Z
Primary School	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2
Korumburra Reserve	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Reserve (Part Coal Creek)	Conservation of heritage	Open parkland	PPRZ
Reserve / Playground Entrance to Coal Creek	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Undeveloped Open Block	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PPRZ
Apex Park – Playground	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Hudson's Park – Council Linear Highway Reserve (Leongatha Road)	(Leased out) Way side stop	Open parkland	PPRZ MUZ

Road Reserve	Way side stop	Open parkland	PUZ4
Reserve	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Open parkland	IN1Z
Pony Club on Council Land	Sport	Sport	IN3Z
Peterson Street Reserve	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	R1Z
Drainage Reserve	Drainage/ floodway	Waterway corridor	R1Z/ RUZ
Open Reserve	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Open parkland	R1Z
Railway Park	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Open parkland	PUZ4
Open Space PTC Land	No identified function	Open grassy area	RDZ1
Anderson Reserve	No identified function	Open parkland	R1Z
Airlie Park Open space	No identified function	Open grassy area	RLZ
Wayside Stop – Council	Way side stop	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	B1Z
New Park in Hannah Rise Crescent			R1Z
Ritchies Reserve	Biological heritage	Bushland / Forest	PCRZ
Cemetery	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	
Coal Creek Reserve	Conservation of cultural heritage	Open parkland	
Drill Hall	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	

Korumburra Indoor Sports Centre	Sport	Specialised sports surface	
Korumburra Golf Club	Sport	Managed turf	
Senior Citizens	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	

Issues and actions from previous plans

Draft Hudson Park Management Plan 2007

Council commissioned the development of a 5 year management plan for the Park in late 2006 to address the ongoing issues of noxious and environmental weed management, rubbish and the adjacent Coal Creek Waterway Reserve (managed by DSE) and agisted livestock straying on to adjoining property.

The Plan identifies historical and significant environmental values found at Hudson Park and proposes that the two areas within the Park (Eastern and Western Grazing Areas - currently being leased for grazing be revegetated to indigenous species and permanently protected.

Note: The site is zoned for Public Park and Recreation not conservation purposes. Future recreation uses do not appear to have been investigated for the site, other than walking. The plan proposes paths constructed of compacted crushed rock.

Note: Where possible an alternative more accessible surface would widen the range of users.

■ Korumburra Local Structure Plan 2007 Issues and Discussion Paper

The paper indicates a current population of 3310 people. Korumburra is experiencing the fastest growth rates in the region, varying between 0.6 % in 2006 and 1.4% in 2026. This will see the town with a population of 4550 in 2026, an increase of 1240 over the 2006 figure of 3310.

This population increase, and increases in the population of the region that Korumburra services, will create demand, by 2026 for 740 additional households (35 to 40 new households per annum).

The recreation related issue identified in the plan relate largely to 3. Cycle and Pedestrian Access Ways. Korumburra is currently not an easy town for pedestrians and cyclists to access. A town the size of Korumburra should provide safe and secure opportunities for all forms of non-motorised transport. Recent residential development patterns have created numerous isolated communities that, whilst being physically close to the Town Centre, are very difficult and circuitous to access by foot or bicycle.

■ Plans for the Drill Hall and Indoor Recreation Centre Foyer

A proposal to extend and modify the drill hall on Korumburra Recreation Reserve was reviewed. Note: This may not be beneficial in the long term as it may constrain the redevelopment of the indoor centre to better meet future community needs.

Opportunities

Two ovals and specific sports facilities ie tennis, and netball courts all at separate locations are costly for a community to provide and infrastructure at each is in need of upgrading. There is no obvious opportunity to co-locate two

outdoor playing fields unless the some land may be available when the saleyards are developed.

The Showgrounds Reserve

If some land is available in the Korumburra saleyards redevelopment it would be beneficial to consolidate grass sports playing fields in one place – at this site, leaving Korumburra Reserve as a social /family park or down grading it to a smaller sports park for example; soccer or hockey. Another option if additional land were to become available would be to consolidate equestrian uses on the Korumburra Showgrounds Reserve (rather than to continue to lease an industrial site for pony club).

There is pressure at the moment to further develop the industrial area (but unlikely due to steep topography?) and therefore it may be necessary to need to relocate the equestrian/pony club (currently leased).

As a major sports reserve and landmark on the highway, the showground would benefit from additional works to enhance landscape value and amenity for users and replace aging furniture, senescing trees and minor infrastructure, as well as integrate it better with the adjacent sports facilities.

A major tree planting program would be beneficial and reassessment of car parking and access to all sports facilities in this precinct (integrating sports at the showground with basketball/volleyball, bowls, croquet, and tennis in the immediate vicinity).

The likely refurbishment of the drill hall and extension of courts at the indoor recreation centre may be more cost effectively achieved as a redevelopment of the centre to provide three indoor courts that meet specification for volley ball netball and basketball and provide additional outdoor netball courts in the vicinity.

The north west sector

The swimming pool as a 50 m outdoor pool is very important to the shire for carnivals and elite training. It may need capital works in the medium term.

There would be an advantage to create an off-road connection to Whitelaw Rd.

Residential development is proposed north west of Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road. The site south of this road may become high density residential and therefore will require access to a social /family recreation space and the Korumburra Sports precinct.

The north east sector

Apex have put in a proposal to build a picnic/play area beside the bakery on railway land adjacent to the wayside stop.

Further subdivision of residential areas south east of the hospital (in the NE) and in the south and east of the residential zone in the township may provide opportunities to serve areas not currently provided with open space to meet resident's needs.

In the Northeast sector there is no parkland other than a central drainage reserve. There are plans for further residential to south west, in which case more public open space will be needed: beyond just an off-road trail. There may be potential to wrap some parkland around the proposed retirement village land.

There would be benefits of creating a walkable connection back into town from the Caravan Park and Korumburra Public Park.

The south east sector

Hudson Park (is leased out) is the whole PPRZ zoned area including the PUZ6 area (transfer station, landfill with a quarry). This site may close down and therefore present opportunities for public recreation or equestrian use. If land north of Hudson Park (currently RUZ) becomes high density residential there will need for provision of social /family recreation.

If Coal Creek becomes a social /family recreation area it may serve the whole quadrant as well as provide a major network of off-road paths.

The Lions Club is establishing a trail through the link to Ritchies Reserve. In any development of Coal Creek this off road trail should be extended back toward the CBD.

The south west sector

If there were additional development around the high school, it would be advantageous in the long term to expand the second oval to full size and build a community pavilion here to support community use. A trail link south from future high-density residential into the school would also be beneficial.

There are few opportunities in undeveloped land to create a trail however there may be several unmade roads, a drainage corridor or road verge in which such a path could be created.

There is potential for public open space at north connection of Main and Essie Streets. Is wet boggy land. A childcare centre has been proposed in this location. This would be a logical place to develop a social /family recreation space.

On-road bike paths may be the only possible connection options between the CBD and the schools.

If a larger social/ family recreation space were provided in the NE it may be possible to rationalise several small parcels of open space in this vicinity.

There is an opportunity to bring all the sports stakeholders closer together and seek funds for strategically important projects if a body such as a Korumburra sports council.

Key demand issues

Korumburra Croquet Club

The club is installing rain tanks.

Korumburra & Districts Pony Club

Lack of facilities and ability to develop the land is the key issue.

The club finds it difficult to source sufficient funds.

Community forum

The key issues raised in the forum were:

Funding:

- The majority of funding for facilities in the town has come from the community. This may not be sustainable in the future.
- Previous success achieved through the "Shire Raffle"
- There is a disparity in funding between reserves / locations / committee's
- Recreation facilities are currently servicing needs, but may not in the future if the population grows.
- Activities now include: Cricket, basketball, volleyball, netball, badminton, football, bowls, tennis, croquet, pony club, indoor bowls, shooting, skate park, aerobics, swimming - motor bikes at Outrim. Wide distribution of existing sporting facilities, preference would be have them centrally located.

Showground:

- Major project at the sporting precinct happening - grant has been approved

- Basketball has a very high participation - ages 5 to 35 age groups is 35%, highest in Victoria
- Volleyball - stadium is inadequate to cater for volleyball. One of the top rural regional volleyball competitions in Victoria - has a strong junior program the courts are under-sized, no run-off and height restrictions. Look at potential development / expansion.
- Football club concerns regarding the size of the 'top' recreation reserve and have moved activities to the Showgrounds - concern is that the ground is leased and costs. However it is the only facility that can cater for football club expansion
- Potential new location for tennis and lawn bowling club should population grow
- Traffic management and car parking issues associated with the showgrounds / sporting precinct - a decent access from the Highway would assist to provide an overall improvement. Potential to create an access from the sale yards (which have been sold - maybe for commercial development).
- Future planning for floodlighting of the lawn bowls club - can bowl year round on the synthetic green
- Master planning exercise for the showgrounds precinct - question the future of the "drill hall".
- Potential to create a "sporting council" to oversee and plan the future of sport in the township / district. Help to set the direction in a coordinated way, with a prioritised plan.

Swimming pool

- Korumburra is the only Olympic sized swimming pool west of Dandenong out - draws regional schools to host carnivals and tournaments. It is a priority swimming pool for maintenance and improvement
- Help to increase communication amongst and between groups.

- Ensuring the correct equipment is available to cater for a range of participation markets
- 16 bowls clubs in South Gippsland with the majority having synthetic greens
- Golf course
- Korumburra Public Park - the need to improve the walking trails / tracks, it is one of the only locations to cater for major walking tracks
- Promotion of existing facilities and activities - "what to do and where".

Household survey findings

- Going to the gym along with walking, bike riding and bushwalking were the activities that respondents from Korumburra would like to do that they currently do not.
- Bicycle paths and walking trails were the facilities seen as priority if funding becomes available.
- Walking / bicycle paths were the single thing that respondents indicated the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs.
- Comments include:
 - Shire's responsibilities extend outside the geographical area of Leongatha/ more development in towns other than Leongatha
 - Part of the recreation centre at Korumburra should be made into a gymnasium. It would provide an extra service for the Community and already has the showers and toilets needed for such a facility.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Address 3 key residential areas currently underserved by open space for social / family recreation and off-road trails
 - 1.1 If Coal Creek closes as a tourist park develop as a social /family recreation areas to serve the whole quadrant in south east as growth continues.
 - 1.2 Plan to provided new residential development north west of Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road with a social/family recreation space and off-road trail access to the Korumburra Sports precinct and CBD.
 - 1.3 Plan to create additional social family recreation space and an off road trail In the north-east sector
 - 1.4 Plan to create additional social family recreation space and an off road trail In the southwest sector
 - 1.5 Consider opportunities to create parkland around the proposed retirement village land.
 - 1.6 Add an open space connection along the waterway (at Willow) to connect in the north-east with William Street and the recreation reserve / tennis courts and then south-east to Whitelaw.

2. Look at options for development associated with the Korumburra Secondary School.
 - 2.1 If additional development occurs around the high school, plan to: expand the second oval to full size and build a community pavilion to support community use, and develop trail access to the school especially from the south.
3. Provide a network of off-road trails and local walking circuits across town
 - 3.1 Support and extend the Rotary Club trail to Ritchies Reserve.
 - 3.2 Seek to create a walkable connection back into town from the Caravan Park and Korumburra Public Park.
4. Consider acquiring a portion of the land abutting the saleyards to enable the extension of sporting facilities at the Showground – such as a second playing field or additional equestrian uses, and to enhance the accessibility and functionality of the reserve generally.
5. Upgrade street scapes (tree planting)
6. Find a suitable site for the development of a home base of the pony club in Korumburra
7. Explore options to house equestrian/pony club uses on a permanent site considering: at the Showgrounds if saleyards land becomes available; at Hudson Park /or waste transfer station, or at Korumburra Reserve if not required for team sports.
8. Consider the long term redevelopment of the indoor centre to become three courts suitable for volleyball basketball and netball, (a possible gym) and address parking, aspect and address relationship with other sports facilities, and upgrade support infrastructure, trees and shade and access) to the whole precinct.
9. Review the future uses of the Recreation Reserve (depending partly on whether the showground is able to expand), to include hockey, soccer, athletics or as a social/family park with some other sports such as petanque, croquet etc.
10. Plan for the upgrade/ redevelopment of the Korumburra swimming pool as the facility ages
11. Seek to establish a sports council to oversee the development of sporting facilities in Korumburra
12. Establish a dog off-leash park in Korumburra

3.3 MIRBOO NORTH

Overview of supply

Mirboo North's settlement type is classified as a large town. This assumes that a number of open space sites for social /family may be needed to serve the township with a reasonable equitable distribution. This would include one or more locations for township or district sport.

The north side of the township of Mirboo North is served by two large sports reserves of regional significance; an 18-hole golf course and two field recreation reserve. There is also the former railway reserve that now offers a major town park and rail trail. None of this land is owned by Council.

Mirboo North has a high quality hall, a multipurpose building at the Recreation Reserve, (used for a palates class), a scout hall (not shared with other activities), skate park, and library. There is an indoor court at the secondary school used by the basketball club (1x small court) and for tai kwando. Other facilities include:

- "green room" used by the school for recreation,
- A&P large shed (used for storage but want to retrofit for indoor netball and footy training),
- RSL hall (used for tai-chi),
- community gardens
- the schools have the only hockey field in the Shire

Council owns a significant treed reserve to the north of the town that houses the local swimming pool. There is a small literary garden adjacent to the library.

All major reserves appear to be zoned appropriately for this purpose.

The main town park is well located to serve the central shopping area.

The south of the town is not well served by open space and any further residential development may trigger the need to have a central social space or a pedestrian open space connection to the town centre.

The only open space taken as part of newer subdivisions are small drainage ways and pocket spaces.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.3 Recreation facilities In Mirboo North

NAME	ADDRESS	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Parkland reserve	Allen St	Drainage/ floodway	Open parkland	PPRZ
Parkland Reserve	Ogilvie St		Open Parkland	
Baromi Park	Ridgeway	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Baths Reserve	Baths Rd	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Bushland/ forest	PPRZ
Baths Reserve - Pool	Baths Rd	Water based recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Mirboo North Bowls Club	Strzelecki Highway	Sport	Specialised sports surface	R1Z
Surrounding Transfer Station				PCRZ
Mirboo North Golf Club	Galvins Rd	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Ingliss Avenue Playground / Park	Ingliss Avenue	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	R1Z
Jespon Court Reserve		No identified function	Bushland/ forest	RLZ
Primary & Secondary School	Berry's Creek Rd	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2
Mirboo North Railway reservation	Former Railway Line, Mirboo	Off-road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ

Reserve – Burchell Lane		No identified function	Open grassy area	B1Z
Strzelecki Highway Reserve	Strzelecki Highway (Mirboo North-Thorpdale Rd)	Buffer/ environmental protection	Bushland/ forest	R1Z
Walter Tuck Recreation Reserve	Thorpdale Rd	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Wells Road Reserve		No identified function	Open parkland	
Gippsland water treatment plant		Water reserve		
Community House	Off Cooper St	Civic forecourt gathering		
Dickies Hill Picnic & Bushland Reserve		Social/ family recreation	Open Parkland	
Hall	Ridgeway St	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Nicholls Rd Recreation reserve	Nicholls Rd	Sport	Open parkland/ managed turf	
Library		Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Public Recreation Reserve		Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	
Mirboo North Boolarra Rail trail	Former Railway Line, Mirboo	Off-road trail	Open parkland	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Mirboo North Structure Plan (2004)

The Mirboo North Structure Plan was prepared in November 2004. The key areas identified for public open space within the township were:

- Gippsland water treatment plant
- Baromi Park on the northern side of the Strzelecki Highway adjoining the commercial centre
- Baths Road Reserve
- Mirboo North Recreation Reserve and Golf Course
- The Mirboo North-Boolara Rail Trail

The key issues to emerge concerned with sport and recreation were:

- Land availability for sport and recreation
- Open space within new subdivisions and provision of walking and cycling path connection
- Consider the expansion of existing recreation facilities
- Consider additional access to existing recreation reserves
- Consider rezoning for recreation and open space
- Consider passing the management of caravan park to the private sector
- New developments and upgrades should include bicycle lanes and shared trails.

Recommendations made included:

- There is no immediate need for additional recreation land or facilities and all existing assets should be retained and protected.
- Provisions of future linkages need to be in aligning with Council strategy.
- In subdivisions the general allotment of 5 per cent of land should be assigned to open space or a percentage of the land value.
- Current access to recreation reserve will need to be further reviewed, some of the recommendations to relocate businesses to the northern side of the highway are not considered viable.

The key structure plan strategy concerning recreation and open space was: Community recreation/open space needs to be consolidated and strengthened. This is to be supported primarily through the following actions:

- Council to liaise with VicRoads to implement bicycle/ walking/ trails strategy
- Open space linkages to be provided at time of subdivision
- The review of the South Gippsland Open Space Strategy.

■ Baromi Park Walking/ Shared Paths Feasibility

There is a plan for the walking paths through Baromi Park. This plan establishes the recommended surfaces and routes for paths, with minor variations to existing paths.

The recommended path system may unnecessarily divide the park into small spaces. Some consideration could be given to the path skirting at least one large area that could be used for events and kick to kick, for example.

Opportunities

The Recreation Reserve is one of the few in the Shire that has two full sized grounds at the one site (although one wicket doesn't run north /south). Two grounds add to the viability of clubs and opportunities to accommodate the smaller sports as well as large clubs in each season.

To enhance the relationship between the shopping centre and the main town park – if further development of retail/ commercial (ie café) premises occur – orient them to address the park.

To provide clarity about what is public park and what is private on the edges of Baromi Park. Ensure the proposed do not dissect key activity spaces in the park.

There are senescing Monterey pines in some public parks in Mirboo North. These may need to be replaced in the short term.

The main road north has a high quality roadside vegetation that where possible should be retained. There are several large conservation reserves on the outskirts of the town, that provide walking destinations.

Extend current paths ways to the school and bowls club and due north.

There is some opportunity to create a connection (may exist) along waterway corridors to the south.

If residential development occurs around the school site, ensure that public access is provided though that development (informal path used by children retained) and where possible expand the useable open space and sports grounds at the school. The school has the only indoor basketball court. There is demand to expand this to two courts and allow further community use.

Key demand issues

Mirboo North Secondary College indicated:

The gym is shared with the primary school and community, basketball competition is played there as is Tai kwon do etc. The school has a hockey ground. There is a growth in soccer and girls cricket in Mirboo North. The school could use another indoor sport court.

Alcoholism in junior footy, and travel are both serious issues for sport.

Community forum

The key issues arising in the forum were as follows:

- Creative Village: the advisory group for Baromi Park, found walking / cycling / off-road trails are in high demand
- Information
 - Lots of activities are available, the issue is knowing *what* is available: community newspaper, notice board outside supermarket, disseminate info through the Mirboo Country Development group (website), community list at Library etc
 - Because of working arrangements, it is often difficult to access information about what is available and meeting/mixing with other people
- Funding available through netball/football clubs (via SRV)
- Is the Mirboo North Shire hall used to capacity? It is expensive to hire/rent, and quite large (too large for some activities)
- Is governance training run by the Shire? Previously it was for S86 committees. A 'How To' manual may be useful (see agencies eg. DSE for this type of information). Also, the Community Strengthening Dept advocate grants via the Community Engagement Seminar
- Swimming pool
 - Many Latrobe Valley people travel to the pool (3 depths, beautiful setting, BBQ provision, town hangout in Summer for teens and families).
 - Mirboo North pool is a summer events pool, need to travel to other pools in the municipality for year round use. Has a unique setting (cold water, outdoors)
 - The pool will require major funding in future years
 - Pool issues over next 5-10 years: aging, concern over structural failure, need to plan for future. Issue: fix to original 60's design, or upgrade for today/future? Need family change rooms, accessible facilities, café, first aid room, decide whether to cover it... People like the setting, don't know if people want change
- Many people travel the rail trail and Lyre Bird walk
- Concern over how many of the recommendations in plan can actually be implemented
- Rec Reserve:
 - main oval has 14ft drop, drainage problem requiring major \$, tennis courts (x4) require re-seal also used for netball, surrounding area requires upgrade/seal (eg around hall and playground), Cricket Club looking to develop turf wicket.
 - #1 priority: reseal around hall (or maybe the upgrade of the oval)
 - need assistant to regularly regrade entrance to reserve
- Golf Course: great asset, home to Vic Junior Golf
- Bowls Club: recently got a synthetic green, looking now towards internal clubhouse retrofitting, also require formal car parking
- Off road trails
 - Ideally want a trail from beyond the Bowls Club, past the School, past Baths Rd Res, through Baromi Park, onto a pedestrian underpass to the Rec Reserve
- Gym
 - Existing Gym: have idea to purchase the block next door to expand, especially during school hours. It would be a community development in conjunction with the schools.
 - There is huge demand on the Gym between the 2 schools. Hall is over timetabled, and there are issues when it is raining during school PE classes

- May need to talk to the School Council re: future of the hall and demand for indoor space
- Building an auditorium, to be used for school classes, also (secondary) for community use
- Good Sports Programs have been making positive change
- Underage drinking, a cultural issue, not a sport club issue. Also an issue of only a few activities for youth to do in a small town
- Structure Plan: public open space / Gippsland Water Treatment Plant? Probably referring to the Lyre Bird Walk? Structure Plan: Land available for sport and recreation: was mentioned -not an issue of land shortage, but retaining what is currently there and avoiding incremental development in open space
- Funding/ grants
 - Supporting volunteers: an ongoing issue of time and money to off-set grant applications, can drain enthusiasm for involvement. Mirboo Country Development is the umbrella group intended to support community groups as a whole
 - The Shire has a Grants Officer who works on sizable grant projects. Groups need/want assistance filling in application forms, but too big a job for the one Grants Officer to do
 - Have 500-600 volunteer groups in the municipality
 - Beside the Library is a small literary garden, started from a grant, getting larger than the community group can't support and now want the Shire to manage the maintenance of it
 - Councillors have \$10k discretionary fund for community groups- at times small assistance is a huge help (eg. pot hole grading)
 - Question to ask when grants come to increase: should they increase in cash donations or through provision of some services/tasks by the Shire?
 - Some tasks are not done well by volunteers/out of their league: eg. project managing the implementation of the Baromi Park plan.

- Need agreement over who is responsible for what eg the Shire and volunteers

Household survey findings

- Fitness centre/ gymnasium and swimming pools were the facilities that residents of Mirboo North indicated should be priority if funding became available.
- 17% of respondents indicated they would like to go to the gym for recreation when they currently don't, other activities people would like to do was also go swimming and walking.
- Upgrading of current facilities were also indicated as a priority if funding became available, 70% of all respondents that indicated priority funding should be spent on upgrading current facilities resided in Mirboo North.
- Walking/ cycling paths and footpaths were the main things that people indicated would help to meet their open space and recreation needs. Maintaining/ developing parks and gardens would also meet the needs of respondents in Mirboo North.

Other comments include:

- I would like to see better walking tracks developed, particularly in Mirboo North
- Management of recreation reserves with the large amount of different users is a huge problem, volunteers on these committees are getting tired and must volunteer their own time & resources as well to keep costs down, because reserves they are under funded
- Please help volunteer groups to raise money for better sporting facilities.
- We need a indoor training facility at the Mirboo North Recreation Reserve for our netball and football club. There is a building sitting there empty, not being used

- Road maintenance needs to be applied regularly to encourage motorcycle riders and club members to use south Gippsland as a motorcycle touring destination. Road maintenance is often conducted without motorcyclists in mind
- Need to make sure that provision is made for public open space when planning new subdivisions in near towns. Such spaces will assume more and more importance as time goes by - passive recreation, seating, gardens (using indigenous species), pathways
- Maintenance at local swimming pool vital - it is a wonderful community hub and a tourist attraction

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Redesign the edges of Baromi Park to protect the integrity of the park from further encroachment by car parking and adjacent residential uses
2. Attempt to preserve the trees along roadways in Mirboo North and rail trail to protect the character of the area.
3. Plan for the replacement/removal of the senescing pine and other large trees in parks and reserves.
4. Establish what sites are west of the golf course (west of the road), and determine any potential to develop a trail away from the road edge.
5. Ensure that there is a pedestrian trail system through any new subdivision north of the bowling club and connecting to school and back to town
6. Create a major off-road trail north of Baromi Park to the most northerly residential area, east to the Recreation Reserve and rail trail, and west to the pool reserve and then north to the large crown reserve.
7. Address minor risk management issues at the Recreation Reserve, and Baromi Park.
8. Increase the management of the skate park – address cleaning and minor repairs.
9. Continue to upgrade Baromi Park:
 - 9.1 Make key play elements and furniture accessible in Baromi Park as the main social hub.
 - 9.2 With any future development of shopping areas – design so that they address Baromi park.
 - 9.3 Ensure path routes through Baromi Park support a range of spaces for different activities in the park.
10. Assist the Recreation Reserve Committee to:
 - 10.1. Investigate the possibility of utilising the A&P society shed for an indoor training centre for sports
 - 10.2. Address issues of the slope in the Recreation Reserve, and the design and maintenance to the entrance
 - 10.3. Apply for funds to upgrade the tennis courts, and seal around the hall
11. Upgrade signage of existing parks and reserves
12. Support the community to develop and distribute additional information about recreation opportunities in Mirboo North.
13. Investigate the options to develop a share two court stadium in conjunction with the schools
14. Investigate the condition of the existing outdoor pool shell and plan for the redevelopment of this facility as a subregional outdoor swimming centre.

3.4 KONGWAK

Overview of supply

Kongwak's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential. These are generally settlement types under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club. This settlement type assumes that there would be only one main social /family recreation and sport site and that further subdivision will not trigger the provision of new decentralised sites.

For a very small town, this locality has a good diversity of basic facilities in open space.

Only the Pioneer Park is zoned as public parkland.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.4 Recreation facilities in Kongwak

NAME	ADDRESS	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
RN Scott Reserve	Kongwak	Social /family recreation	Specialised sports surface	TZ
Primary School	Kongwak	Education	Sports facility	TZ
Pioneer Reserve	Kongwak	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Avenue of Honour	Kongwak	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Tree plantation/ specimen planting	RDZ1
Memorial Hall	Kongwak	Civic forecourt gathering	Open parkland	TZ

Key demand issues

Kongwak Community Group

The key points raised by the Kongwak Community Group were:

- Pioneer Park is a valuable piece of land and should be protected, due to its native vegetation and the collection of seeds
- Pioneer Park is one of the few pieces of bush land left in the district
- Additional playground equipment is required within Scott Park in Kongwak and pledges it is well maintained

Kongwak Tennis club

The club is looking at updating wire fencing.

Household survey findings

- Boating facilities, fishing platform/ pier and lakes or riverside parks were the facilities that were seen as priority if funds became available for respondents from Kongwak.

Opportunities

The location of the Foster Creek and its public reservation provide an opportunity to create several walking tracks in a circuit along the Korumburra /Wonthaggi Rd to connect back to Pioneer Park, and north passed the hall left along the unsealed road to Foster Creek and back to Pioneer Park or the RN Scott Reserve.

The hall and RN Scott Reserve are not zoned for Public Park and Recreation.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Develop, sign and market an off-road trail circuit north and south of the RN Scott Reserve
2. Protect the Avenue of Honour along the Korumburra Wonthaggi Rd.
3. If there is future residential development, use open space contributions to fund upgrades to the tennis courts or playground

3.5 KOONWARRA

Overview of supply

Koonwarra's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential- these are generally settlement types under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club. This settlement type assumes that there would be only one main social family recreation and sport site and that further subdivision will not trigger the provision of new decentralised sites.

Koonwarra has a good range of open space functions present, including sport, conservation, off-road trail, recreation/ environmental appreciation, and community horticulture.

It doesn't have a central park for social /family recreation, as the recreation reserve is a little removed from the town and social /play facilities are limited. However the rail trail provides a central hub and off -road connection to the Recreation Reserve. Most reserves are well signposted.

The range of recreation facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.5 Recreation facilities in Koonwarra

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Recreation Reserve	Koonwarra	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Rail Trail	Koonwarra	Off road trail/ Wayside stop	Open parkland	PPRZ
Nirvana Park	Koonwarra	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Open parkland	PCRZ
Bush Reserve	Koonwarra	Conservation of natural heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Koala Dve bush Reserve	Koonwarra	Conservation of natural heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Sustainable Communities Centre	Koonwarra	Community horticulture	Community garden	TZ
Hall Park	Koonwarra	Visual amenity	Open parkland	TZ
Golf Course	Koonwarra	Sport	Managed turf	
Memorial Park	Koonwarra	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	

Key demand issues

Koonwarra Recreation Reserve Committee:

- Drought is issue
- Has a very small number of volunteers to draw from.
- Use by all age groups, caravans, lots of walkers & bike users
- Council provided grant to maintain the reserve.

Household survey findings

- Bike riding is the activity that more people of Koonwarra would like to do that they currently do not do.
- All Koonwarra respondents indicated that walking and bicycle paths should be priority if funding were to become available, walking/ bicycle paths were also seen as the single thing that would meet respondents open space and recreation needs.
- Comments include:
 - Also promote the arts in the region with exhibitors/competitors and artist in residence opportunities at schools
 - People who use Shire facilities for sport and recreation are really a minority of ratepayers and receive a disproportionate amount of rate benefit.
 - Completion of Southern Rail trail from Koonwarra to Meeniyan a priority

Opportunities

To better utilise the wide creek corridor for walking and cycling.

Increase the play value of the playground at the Recreation Reserve.

Develop a network of trail connecting different open space in the Koonwarra.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Develop these circuits as a network of trails connecting the rail trail, Nirvana Park in the community environment centre, hall and open spaces in the Koonwarra.
2. Prepare master plan for future development at the Recreation Reserve to include water saving and recycling and if play facilities are to be retained- redesign to enhance play value.
3. Sign post the directions to the range of parks from the rail trail -as walking circuits.
4. Consider developing the hall site or the former school for more social recreation opportunities (using development contributions) should considerable growth be experienced in the township.
5. If there is future residential development, use development contributions to fund trail works (as per No. 2.) playground, tennis court, or recreation reserve upgrades

3.6 OUTTRIM

Overview of supply

Outtrim's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential- these are generally settlement types under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club.

There is one main public open space in Outtrim. It contains a main cricket oval, two sets of practice wickets, a tin cricket pavilion, small brick community centre, former school building, playground, BBQ, picnic tables, two asphalt free access tennis courts and hit up wall. The Reserve is also a fire refuge area. This area appears not to have regular users but is hired by visitors for social matches and gatherings.

There is also a strong motorcycle club track in Outtrim.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.6 Recreation Facilities in Outtrim

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Outtrim Recreation Reserve	Outtrim	Social /family recreation	Open parkland/ managed turf	PPRZ
Korrumburra Motor Cycle Club Track	Outtrim	Sport	Specialised sport surface	RZ
Bushland Reserve	Outtrim	Conservation of an area of natural interest	Bushland/ forest	

Key demand issues

Korrumburra Motorcycle Club

- Over 100 members use track at Ryeburn Rd and Leongatha-Outtrim Rd, Outtrim
- The club provides a safe location for people to ride, many successful events bringing money to the township and surrounds
- Their space is under threat by residents moving onto small acreage developments near the track, and noise complaints.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Consider the need to protect the motorcycle track from opposition from future residents or plan a buffer surrounding it.
2. Upgrade basic furniture and playground maintenance of Outtrim Reserve when funds become available

3.7 BERRY CREEK

Overview of supply

Berry Creek's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential- these are generally settlement types under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club.

There is a hall and several reserves and in this locality (Mossvale Park, and Recreation Reserve used by the Pony Club) Mossvale Park is an ornamental garden/ arboretum with a large number of specimen trees. It is served by a playground, toilets and picnic facilities / shelter.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 3.7 Recreation facilities In Berry Creek

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Mossvale Park	Berry Creek	Relaxation/ Environmental appreciation	Ornamental/ Botanic Garden	
Berry's Creek Hall Reserve	Berry Creek	Civic forecourt gathering	Open Parkland	
Pony Club	Berry Creek	Sport	Open Parkland	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Mossvale Park Master and Management Plan (1998)

The master/management plan is to provide a basis for the maintenance, development and management of Mossvale Park over a five-year period between 1998/9 to 2002/3. There was SWOT assessment of the park undertaken with the key issues to arise from this were:

- Increase the aesthetic appeal through the planting of native vegetation
- Providing a safer entry to the park
- Strengthen the open spaces within the park and to reinforce these through additional planting
- Develop circulation through the park through walking tracks
- Adopt a policy for the planting of specific trees within the park
- Provide a new toilet block and other facilities
- Explore new signage and brochures to provide historical and horticultural information
- Retain fire refuge area, and use for parking and major events
- To create a list of friends of the park whose interests lie in assisting with the parks development.

Opportunities

To create friends group for the park: to enhance its management and sustainability.

Key demand issues

No issues about open space in Berry's Creek were raised in interviews with stakeholders or in submissions from the community.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Continue to implement the management plan for Mossvale Park
2. Seek to establish a friends group to assist with the management of the Mossvale Park

4.0 ANDERSON'S INLET / WARATAH BAY REGION

Demographics

The following table shows the population of the larger towns in the Anderson's Inlet / Waratah Bay region.

Table 4.0 Anderson's Inlet / Waratah Bay region population

	Venus Bay	Tarwin Lower	Region Total
Total population	441	127	568
Region %	78	22	

The smaller townships within this region (with populations under 100 at the time of the 2001 census) are: Waratah Bay and Sandy Point.

Some key demographic characteristics of the region are⁶:

- High level of residential and commercial development
- Fluctuating population
- Low permanent population
- High number of non-residential rate payers

⁶ South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

Summary of supply

There are 67 open space sites in this region. Only two are sport and 24 have no identified function. Open space in this region serving residents is typically small parcels, and there is a limited diversity of function and setting types, although this region has spectacular coastlines, beaches and national park close to the foreshore

4.1 VENUS BAY

Overview of supply

Venus Bay's settlement type is classified as a small town. This assumes that desirably there would be one major focus for community facilities and sport, but satellite spaces for social /family recreation may be required because of geographical layout of township, barriers created by major road etc.

Tarwin Lower is the hub intended to serve the permanent residents sports club needs of Venus Bay (although it has a very small population).

Whilst Venus bay is surrounded by foreshore, fore dune vegetation, Cape Lip Trap National Park, and on the other side; floodplain and Andersons Inlet, open space provided as part of subdivision to serve residents is largely without an identified function, very small and without defining character, or facilities to serve social /family recreation.

As at most of localities in the Shire, there are few footpaths or off-road trails. Some roads are signed as shared roadways!

There is no central town park or civic hub, or oval serving the residents of Venus Bay and community facilities and commercial land uses are scattered.

Most of the small lots left for open space are zoned for this purpose but they back on to the rear of other private yards.

The Caravan Park in Venus bay provides a logical node for recreation activities away from the water, in conjunction with the restaurants, retail etc, however this appears to be private and is zoned rural uses.

The form of settlement pattern limits walk ability and therefore permeability. Venus Bay assumes a more urban form than most small towns (rather than having a central hub of open space and recreation activities that would have been viable and desirable in this sized locality).

The community centre and associated recreation facilities whilst geographically central to the Venus Bay 1 estate – there are relatively remote due to the topography of the site. And the large blocks it abuts.

Venus Bay second estate has none of the commercial or community facilities offered at Estate 1. In addition, it has a much more natural feel with a considerable amount of indigenous vegetation being retained on private blocks as well as on public land. There is no space that can be used for social ball games or sports.

At the centre of the Venus Bay 2nd estate there is a large vegetated parcel of open space – Van Cleff Reserve with a playground. There is a park and boat launching area on Andersons Inlet with a playground and picnic facilities, and a spectacular kangaroo viewing point overlooking the Inlet. All other reserves in this estate (except 237) are very small and none have any development. There are ten small reserves that provide opportunities for walk throughs or the conservation of habitat and biological heritage, that are still zoned for residential purposes.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 4.1 Recreation Facilities in Venus Bay

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Paris Crescent Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Saturn Parade Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Unnamed Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Orion Road reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	Social/ family recreation	Bushland/ forest	PPRZ
Unnamed2 Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Cnr Juno Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	TZ
Jupiter Blvd. Park Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Community Centre- Canterbury Rd	Venus Bay Est 1	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Lewis Road Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Cnr Lewis Road and Canterbury Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Pandora to Mercury Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Reserve	Venus Bay Est 1	Civic forecourt gathering	Open parkland	PPRZ
Reserve – Lee and Constance	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Reserve Off Canterbury Road	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PPRZ
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	Venus Bay Est 1	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Crown Land surrounding Transfer Station	Venus Bay Est 1	No identified function	Open parkland	PUZ1
Riding/ walking trail to Tarwin Lower	Venus Bay Est 1	Off road trail	Open parkland	RDZ1
Surf Life Saving Club	Venus Bay Est 1	Water based recreation	Open parkland/ Coastal/ lake foreshore	
Van Cleef Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	Social family recreation/ Conservation of Biological Heritage	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PPRZ
Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Bushland/ forest	PPRZ
Reserve2 off June Crt	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Reserve3 Opposite end of Lynch Crt.	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Bushland/ forest	TZ
Fisherman' Park	Venus Bay Est 2	Social family recreation	Open parkland/ Coastal/ lake foreshore	RUZ
St Ives Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Kangaroo viewing Platform (end of Lees Rd)	Venus Bay Est 2	Lookout/ ridgeline	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land/ Coastal lake foreshore	PPRZ
St Ives Reserve (2 Blocks)	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Open parkland	TZ
Margaret Ave Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Gary Crt Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Sun Crt Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Condon Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Potential Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	TZ
Mc Millian Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	Social family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Zenna Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	Way side stop	Open parkland/ Coastal/ lake foreshore	PCRZ
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	Venus Bay Est 2	Conservation of biological heritage	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PCRZ
Neil St Reserve	Venus Bay Est 2	No identified function	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PCRZ
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Inc. Cape Liptrap Lightstation	Venus Bay Est 3	Conservation of biological heritage	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PCRZ

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Areas Between Settlements Coastal UDFs, Connell Wagner, January 2006

The Coastal UDFs (Urban Design Frameworks) addressed the Townships of Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower, Sandy Point and Waratah Bay.

Issues identified that relate to the management of the area between settlements included:

- Lifestyle development along the coast including residential subdivisions needing to incorporate leisure facilities.
- Rural land that is being acquired for residential subdivisions.
- The impacts of development outside town centres.

The report references the State Planning Policy Frameworks Open Space Clause 15.10, the objective here being to assist in the creation of a diverse integrated network of open space in line with the needs of urban communities and rural areas. There is also reference to zoning, within which, reference is made to Public Parks and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and setting aside land for the use of sport and recreation and where appropriate to conserve areas with significance.

The majority of the area between these coastal towns is zoned as Rural, with a large amount of foreshore land. There is however a small pocket of PPRZ between the Tarwin Lower and Waratah Bay Area that was identified.

Sub regional actions in areas between the Coastal settlement, identified actions to potentially develop walking and cycle path linkages between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and Waratah Bay and Sandy Point to facilitate social and economic outcomes.

■ Venus Bay Coastal Management Project - Lisa Riddle and Mike Scott, October 2005

The Venus Bay Coastal Management Project documents the known and potential Aboriginal heritage values within the Venus Bay township and develop options to enable the ongoing conservation of these sites. The key directions outlined include:

- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to continue work on the development of Heritage values maps
- Preparation of a planning practice note, as a best practice guide to be considered in the development process

- The development of an Information brochure to provide advice to residents on the implications of Aboriginal Cultural heritage in any new developments
- Alterations to the Planning Scheme, incorporating an Aboriginal Cultural heritage policy

The proposal of a drafted Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire and local aboriginal communities.

■ Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report (2001)

This report analyses public open space in Venus Bay and makes recommendations for how Council can deliver improved open space outcomes to the residents and visitors.

The document had the following conclusions:

- Council has numerous council owned public open spaces, acquired through developers' contributions, which are not viable for recreation purposes.
- The community needs public open space to become more accessible, identifiable and that which provides higher levels of amenity.
- Public open space with conservation value is more suited to passive recreation purposes; such as walking tracks, seating and viewing areas.
- The use of public open space for passive recreation is constrained by the lack of infrastructure.
- Public open space assigned for active use was identified as largely under-utilised; due to lack of amenities,
- Council should raise revenue through the sale of Council land to apply to the upgrade and redevelopment of strategically located reserves.
- Council will need to protect and conserve existing natural assets.

- It is considered inequitable that any funds raised from the sale of land is not to be directed into the upgrade of retained public open space or purchase of land.

■ Venus Bay/ Tarwin Lower Strategy DRAFT (1992)

The Venus Bay Tarwin Lower Strategy addressed four separate study areas: the Natural Environment, the Built Environment, People and Services, and the Economy. The report drew on a survey of residents, the results of which provided the basis for the majority of recommendations.

The Natural Environment section reviewed tracks for cycling and walking and off road 4wd vehicles. Recreational space was identified as an option for breaking up the density of subdivisions whilst providing for tourists. Recommendations included:

- Council to make available a proportion of rate income for the purchase of recreation open space.
- That no council reserve be sold or utilised for purposes other than recreation.
- That reserves and facilities require better maintenance.
- That council establish gravel surfaced bike/walking tracks
- Consider forming a policy to identify areas where some use should be prohibited and employ a ranger to enforce and control uses that damage the environment.

The Built Environment section reviewed sport and recreation. The obvious lack of sporting /recreational facilities with Venus Bay was noted. The need for a sporting complex, a public golf course, tennis courts and multi-purpose ovals were identified by survey respondents. Respondents also requested existing parks be better maintained.

Actions included: acquire land adjacent to existing open space to develop progressively to provide viable areas.

Within the Economy section there was reference to making the river and inlet more accessible, providing better facilities as well as access to beaches, recreation fishing and boating facilities to seek more revenue from tourism. The need to ensure the survival of fauna through replanting native vegetation, destruction of noxious weeds and control measures was identified, as well as to reduce erosion.

■ Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan Gippsland Coastal Board (2002)

The improvements to boating facilities recommended in the Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan for Venus Bay include: repair jetty.

Opportunities

Several small open spaces in Venus Bay may be best consolidated to provide several larger more useable parks, and to diversify the offering (eg 216). However some of the smaller spaces have vegetation of habitat value and these may be best left as open space and managed by the community.

Some houses have been built facing these small reserves making it difficult to consolidate them.

There would be considerable benefits of taking a large parcel in association with a community hub as a town park/village green that could allow for foundation (not club) level sport: possibly in association with the caravan park, or waste transfer station. In 2nd estate such a facility could be provided in association with the boat ramp and playground to create a major destination for visitors and encourage physical activity by residents. There is no site other than adjacent to the inlet that is large enough or flat enough for a playing field. The main social facilities in Estate 2 (at the boat ramp) are relative remote from the centre of the estate, and could be made more accessible by a shared path linking the two estate and the inlet. The toilet block is functionally obsolete and would be best replaced as soon as funds become available.

Some risk management issues should be addressed on the access to the jetty.

The sphere of attraction of this area could be increase with the development of a shared trail, board walk along the water, better picnic facilities, open space for kick to kick, possibly a hard court, and improved jetty.

Residents suggested the beaches be renamed more culturally relevant names- for example after the shipwrecks that occurred along the coast.

Key demand issues

Tarwin Lower /Venus Bay Association

Association has been, trying to limit inappropriate development in some areas and purchase land to return it to wetland status.

Within the existing subdivision, odd blocks are owned by Shire. Many are proposed to be or have been sold.

The Association is looking at retaining these small open spaces especially those with significant vegetation, (everything else is part of Coastal Park and still protected)

Friends of Venus Bay

- The Friends of Venus Bay would like Council to:
- Take into account a more detailed set of locally developed criteria for valuing existing open spaces in Venus Bay
- Retain and protect all existing public spaces by surveying, reclaiming and even rezoning
- Put in place a more equitable budget to assist with the revegetation and maintenance of Venus Bay open spaces
- Identify current maintenance costs
- Create a sound management structure for Venus Bay's open spaces via an overall plan developed in consultation with community representatives; and a system of local committees.
- Invest in more public open space in Venus Bay, perhaps setting a target of 5% of the subdivision by 2020.

- Support their recommendation that the community be consulted as to the proposals concerning public open spaces in Venus Bay,

Community Forum

No issues concerning Venus Bay were raised at the community forums.

Household survey findings

- Walking/ bicycle paths and tennis courts were the facilities respondents indicated should be priority if funding became available.
- Going to the gym (13%), swimming (8%), ten pin bowling (8%) and sailing/ boating (8%) were the activities that respondents in the Tarwin Lower/ Venus Bay area indicated they would like to do but currently do not do.
- Walking and cycling paths and the development and upkeep of outdoor sporting fields were the things that would meet respondent's recreation needs.
- Other comments include:
 - There is a need to address the "Hoon factor" in Venus Bay.

ACTIONS: should resources become available

1. Create a network of off-road trails through Estate 2. and to the Jetty and back to Estate 1.
2. Extend the existing shared path from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay Lifesaving Club, and to second estate and boat ramp, and create a shared pathway to the surf club, and to the community centre from the Caravan Park.
3. Retain the small reserves with trees and those with habitat value, and encourage the community to manage these.
4. Identify opportunities to expand (land swap etc, several of the smaller reserves in Estate 1, to make several larger reserves.
5. Retain the existing-treed open space with play equipment (not currently zoned as open space 220) in Estate 1, and revegetate others retained.
6. Review opportunities to diversify the setting types in the consolidated open space through revegetation or design and development.
7. Review the location of the skate park and prepare a management plan, addressing its condition and reduce possibilities of sand migrating onto the surface.
8. Consider retaining open space connections with the outside the current residential blocks, as once the existing blocks are fully developed, use of land in SE corner may be considered for open space.
9. Consider renaming the beaches 4&5 after local shipwrecks.
10. Identify opportunities to provide one central social/family park with ball court and /village green that can be used by visitors and for community events, and that is in a central location.
11. Upgrade the boat launching area as a social/family park, providing a board walk, walking trail, upgrade picnic, jetty and toilet facilities, landscape elements, and consider providing social ball play.

4.2 TARWIN LOWER

Overview of supply

Tarwin Lower's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential- these are generally settlement types under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club. This settlement type assumes that there would be only one main social /family recreation and sport site and that further subdivision will not trigger the provision of new decentralised sites. This locality however provides the only sports facilities that serve residents of Venue Bay.

Tarwin Lower has a good range of spaces: a main sports park, flora and fauna reserve, hall and tennis courts and the Tarwin River and foreshore. The golf course at Tarwin Lower closed a few years ago.

The Tarwin River offers a fantastic recreation resource for walkers, picnics, boating/ canoeing, fishing and visitors stopovers.

An off-road trail has been provided from Venus Bay to this point. Part of the trail along the river is a boardwalk.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 4.2 Recreation facilities in Tarwin Lower

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Recreation Reserve & Bowling Club	Tarwin Lower	Sport	Managed turf	TZ
Primary School	Tarwin Lower	Education	Sports facility	TZ
Walkerville Rd Reserve	Tarwin Lower	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Bushland/ forest	TZ

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Fisher Reserve	Tarwin Lower	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Fauna Park Reserve	Tarwin Lower	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Tarwin River Reserve/ Ripples Landing	Tarwin Lower	Off road trail/ Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ
Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall Mechanics Institute	Tarwin Lower	Civic forecourt gathering	Open parkland	TZ
Walking trail To Venus Bay	Tarwin Lower	Off road trail	Open parkland	RDZ1
Tennis Courts abutting the fire shed and road side memorial	Tarwin Lower	Sport	Specialised sports surface	RDZ1
Hall	Middle Tarwin	Community meeting Place	Open grassy area	
Tarwin Lower Boat ramp.				
Tarwin Catchment Streamside Reserve	Tarwin Lower	Conservation of biological heritage	Coastal/Lake/Foreshore	
Tarwin South Coast Protection Reserve	Tarwin Lower	Conservation of biological heritage	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	
Community Centre	Tarwin Lower	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	

Issues and actions from previous plans

See those listed under Venus Bay.

Opportunities

Promote the unique and locally made picnic table, and keep it in good condition.

The boardwalk along the river is in only a fair condition and will be need to be upgraded in coming years.

Market the Club sporting facilities in Tarwin Lower to serve residents of Venus Bay.

Key demand issues

Tarwin Lower /Venus Bay Association

Association has been, trying to limit inappropriate development in some areas and purchase land to return it to wetland status.

Within the existing subdivision, odd blocks are owned by Shire. Many are proposed to be or have been sold.

The Association is looking at retaining these small open spaces especially those with significant vegetation, (everything else is part of Coastal Park and still protected)

Key activities on the reserve include football, netball, lawn bowls, cricket and pony club activities. Participation at the reserve has increased since the sporting bodies have all been brought together. Toilet facilities are the current priority for the recreation reserve committee. The recreation reserve is also serving the needs of the Venus Bay community.

Community forums

- The key issues raised in the forums related to Tarwin Lower were related to Tennis:
 - Location of the tennis club is good: the more visible sport and recreation is the more vibrant activity is
 - Courts need to be resurfaced and lighting is required
 - Activity in tennis has remained constant, need to retain numbers and the quality of facilities
 - Casual participants in tennis is high during summer periods (also from Venus Bay)
- New netball courts were recently developed at the Recreation Reserve
- Funding for facility improvements is the main issue.
- New facilities may help to attract a more diverse group of players
- No floodlights on tennis courts
- Contributions towards facility improvement are draining on club finances
- River access improvement has been positive
- Limitations through lack of mains water access

Household survey findings

- Walking/ bicycle paths and tennis courts were the facilities respondents indicated should be priority if funding became available.
- Going to the gym (13%), swimming (8%), ten pin bowling (8%) and sailing/ boating (8%) were the activities that respondents in the Tarwin Lower/ Venus Bay area indicated they would like to do but currently do not do.
- Walking and cycling paths and the development and upkeep of outdoor sporting fields were the things that would meet respondent's recreation needs.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Upgrade the boardwalk and foreshore path in the short term, and enhance accessibility of this trail, and associated facilities.
2. Extend the shared path from along the river down to the Recreation Reserve, linking other community facilities.
3. Prepare a planting plan for the Recreation Reserve to provide shelter, shade and enhance amenity.
4. Continue to upgrade infrastructure at the tennis courts, and Recreation Reserve, and along the river foreshore.

4.3 WARATAH BAY

Overview of supply

Waratah Bay's settlement type is classified as a coastal hamlet/ low density residential area- these are generally settlements under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club. This settlement type assumes that there would be only one main social/ family recreation and sport site and that further subdivision will not trigger the provision of new decentralised sites.

Waratah Bay is 50 kilometres from Venus Bay; 10 kilometres from Sandy Point; and 40 kilometres from Leongatha (40 minutes north).

There is a private camp located at Waratah Bay, and a Caravan Park is located adjacent to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. It provides a range of facilities including a playground, barbecue areas, on site cabins and a kiosk. The kiosk is the only shop in Waratah Bay.

There are two small Council reserves located on the corner of Coinda Court and Gale Street, as well as a larger playground and wetland area on the corner of Moongana and Gale Streets, that are zoned Public Park and Recreation. There are also two small pockets of Public Park and Recreation Zone, one at the end of Warrain Court, and the other near the top of Waratah Avenue. There are a range of viewing platforms and access tracks along the foreshore, including boat access at one point.

There is no flat playing field or hard court area for ball games other than small open green space in the neighbourhood park.

There are several small access points to the beach – one for visitor access and the other includes an area designated as an outdoor classroom.

The range of facilities/spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 4.3 Recreation facilities in Waratah Bay

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Gale Street Reserve	Waratah Bay	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Coindah Reserve	Waratah Bay	Visual amenity	Open parkland	PPRZ
Foreshore Reserve	Waratah Bay	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ
Caravan Park	Waratah Bay	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PCRZ
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	Waratah Bay	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Waratah Avenue Reserve	Waratah Bay	Visual amenity	Open grassy area	PPRZ
Connection from Warrain Crt to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	Waratah Bay	Access way trail	Open parkland	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Urban Design Framework Settlement Background Paper Waratah Bay. Connell Wagner, June 2006

The Urban Design Framework aims to guide future development, infrastructure provision and management to ensure the development is sensitive to the environment. The key issues identified were:

- The environment is highly fragile, but valued for its fauna, biodiversity and recreational use.
- There is a high amount of open coastal land with significant inlets that hold high environmental values.
- Tourism places high pressure on the environment and resources.

The community values identified within the Waratah Bay Community workshop where:

- The tranquil, safe, family friendly nature of the town;
- The small scale and low density/low rise developments in the town;
- The local environment and the flora and fauna;
- The clean beaches and recreation opportunities available; and
- The proximity to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park.

The community workshop also identified that the community would like to see:

- A limit to population growth;
- No expansion of commercial areas within the town;
- The existing character, scale, vegetation, density and tranquility of the township maintained;

- Any future development to be respectful of the existing town character and recognised landscape values;
- Clear guidelines for removal and revegetation of indigenous flora, and maintaining beach views.

Other recommendations included:

- Rehabilitate the foreshore dunes
- Upgrade of toilet facilities at the beach entrance near the 'Gap';
- Redesign of car parking spaces at popular beach entrances; and
- Create a green buffer zone between the lower hamlet and upper residential developments.

Submissions received highlighted that the draft plans do not describe clear township boundaries or include sufficient public recreational open space.

Strategic directions for enhancing the environment included:

- Protect Cape Liptrap Coastal Park
- Promote Waratah Bay as the gateway to Cape Liptrap and as a tourism hub for nature based recreation
- Embrace environmental sustainable principles
- Protect the landscape values of the surrounds

Waratah Bay Foreshore Strategy Plan

Key actions identified in this plan include:

- Provide a gateway or focal point for visitors to the town
- Revegetate degraded areas and control weeds
- Reinstatement of vegetation at the Gap and provide sustainable visitor facilities.
- Assess environmental management of the caravan park

- Encourage provision for educational groups
- Market areas natural values to visitors clarify management and resource responsibilities

Opportunities

There is an opportunity to provide an off-road trail to the foreshore from the higher subdivision through or along the crown reserve to the caravan park and east of Waratah Avenue.

Should the township expand the opportunity to provide a kick about space / small playing field or foundation level sports facility – potentially in conjunction with the existing neighbourhood park or the caravan park, should be explored, especially if the block to the east) of the park (now RUZ) is subdivided and development contributions are taken.

Key demand issues

The Foster Recreation Reserve Committee of Management identified a need for tennis courts in Waratah Bay, as many of the members at Foster reside in Waratah Bay.

Household survey findings

- Bike riding, fishing, dancing, golf and sailing/ boating were the activities that people would like to do that they currently don't do.
- Boating facilities and walking/ bicycle paths were the facilities seen as priority if funding became available.
- Boating/ pier facilities and assistance with grants and funding were the main things that respondents indicated would meet their recreation needs.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Continue revegetation and weed control works on the foreshore
2. Establish an off-road trail network connecting the beach with residential areas, and the caravan park reserve.
3. If the area east of the current residential areas was ever subdivided consider acquiring additional land adjoining the existing neighbourhood park to allow for kick about space and additional planting and paths.
4. In conjunction with DSE and Parks Victoria, review the provision and distribution of opportunities to fish and boat launching facilities.
5. Consider provision of a multipurpose hard court / tennis netball basket ball court in association with the caravan park

4.4 SANDY POINT

Overview of supply

Sandy Point's settlement type is classified as a coastal hamlet.

Sandy Point has an extensive foreshore reserve running along the coast, which has two main access points Ned Neales and Surfers Walk (and two other walk throughs from the residential area to the beach).

There is a lifesaving club, community hall, beach picnic facilities, timber beach viewing platforms and boardwalks, tennis and 1/2 basketball court and two-playgrounds/ neighbourhood parks. One of these is fenced and the other is in beautiful nature-based setting.

One of the things that distinguishes this area from others is the beautiful native planting retained or establish in recreation reserves.

The range of facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 4.4 Recreation facilities in Sandy Point

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Ash Avenue Reserve	Sandy Point	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Bushland/ forest	PPRZ
Beach Parade Playground	Sandy Point	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Foreshore Reserve 1. (Ned Neales look out)	Sandy Point	Buffer/ environmental protection	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ
T.P. Taylor Reserve (hall, playground tennis court and ½ basketball	Sandy Point	Social /family recreation	Open parkland	PUZ6

court				
Waratah Surf Life Saving Club (Surfers Walk)	Sandy Point	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ
Graham Gve Reserve	Sandy Point	Buffer/ environmental protection	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	PPRZ
Linear Reserves - Talopea Drive	Sandy Point	Plantation	Open grassy area	RUZ
Transfer Station Site	Sandy Point		Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	RUZ
Fire Shed abutting PPRZ	Sandy Point	Civic forecourt gathering	Open parkland	PPRZ
Shallow inlet marine and Coastal park	Sandy Point	Conservation of biological heritage	Foreshore/Beach	PCRZ

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan Gippsland Coastal Board (2002)

Major Improvements to boating facilities recommended in the Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan for Sandy Point include:
Replace toilet block at Shallow Inlet. (Low Importance).

■ Sandy Point Urban Design Framework (2006)

The framework identifies the need to protect environmental attributes of the foreshore beach and inlet. The need to upgrade public facilities throughout the reserve were also identified.

■ Sandy Point Foreshore Management Plan Draft 2007

The management plan recommends some key actions relevant to this plan. These include:

- the rationalization and consolidation of reserve boundaries.
- maximize protection of significant natural values
- Improve management efficiency of the reserve and to maintain community involvement
- Council to manage the car parking and recreation facilities at Surfers Walk
- prepare a developmental and design for new visitor facilities at Shallow inlet foreshore
- improve public facilities at the Life Saving Club, access ways, showers, and visitor facilities etc
- update pedestrian beach access
- addressing boat parking on the beach
- address conflicts between water base recreation activities such as kite boarding /sail boarding an other beach activities
- limit camping areas to existing area
- designate a dog off-leash area

These recommendations are consistent with the directions in this plan. Where possible however additional camping in the reserve may be valuable.

Key demand issues

No issues about open space in Sandy Point were raised in interviews with stakeholders or in submissions from the community.

The TP Taylor Reserve Committee of Management have had a Business Development Plan and Feasibility Study prepared for the upgrade of the Sandy Point Community Centre. The need for this will be reviewed by Council shortly.

Household survey findings

- Bike riding, fishing, dancing, golf and sailing/ boating were the activities that people would like to do that they currently don't do.
- Boating facilities and walking/ bicycle paths were the facilities seen as priority if funding became available.
- Boating/ pier facilities and assistance with grants and funding were the main things that respondents indicated would meet their recreation needs.

Opportunities

Should there be a need for a low grade playing field to serve this locality It would need to be taken outside the current township boundaries. Ie in the south or east of the residential area.

If reserves and beach access points were upgraded to include facilities (ie picnic tables etc or play structures) suitable for people using wheel chairs or other mobility aids, it would open up these facilities to a much wider market.

Accessible access across the beach may be best attached to beach facilities such as lifesaving clubs.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Establish a trail network link with accessible access to the ocean beach and Shallow Inlet
2. Continue to upgrade visitor facilities to serve beach and water based recreation users, and make them accessible for people using wheelchairs and mobility aids.
3. Consider designating a dog off-leash area at Sandy Point
4. Support the implementation of the DSE Sandy Point Foreshore Management Plan
5. Introduce new accessible furniture / infrastructure in all reserves.
6. Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the community centre in TP Taylor Reserve, and the impact of this on other community facilities.

4.5 WALKERVILLE

Overview of supply

Walkerville, is divided into two parts, North Walkerville and South Walkerville, which sit, separated by a couple of kilometres accessible along the beach and by a gravel track. It is a rugged stretch of coast with limestone cliffs and sea caves offering few facilities, sensational coastal scenery and views of distant Wilsons Promontory. Old limestone kilns are evident at Walkerville South and Digger Island.

Walkerville's settlement type is classified as a coastal hamlet/ low density residential- these are generally a settlement under 200 people, with a limited range of land uses and community facilities and that the community is unlikely to support a sports club.

This settlement type assumes that there would be only one main social/ family park and sport site and that further subdivision will not trigger the provision of new decentralised sites (other than for conservation, trails, lookouts etc)

There is a small hall adjacent the foreshore in Walkerville North. There is a breakwater at Bell Point. There is a large forested foreshore reserve in Walkerville between the Promontory View estate (Walkerville North) and the water and a small foreshore reserve including a picnic area and camping ground. There are several tracks though the reserve to the beach from the Promontory Views Estate. This estate has no open space except a retarding basin. There are however a number of vacant blocks.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 4.5 Recreation facilities in Walkerville

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Retarding Basin	Walkerville (Promontory Views Estate)	Drainage/ floodway	Waterway corridor	PUZ6
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	Walkerville	Conservation of biological heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Walkerville North HALL	Walkerville North	Community meeting place	Open space park land	
Walkerville Foreshore Reserve	Walkerville North	Social family recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan Gippsland Coastal Board (2002)

Major Improvements to boating facilities recommended in the Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan for Walkerville include: Provide warning signage. (High Importance).

■ Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study –Municipal Reference Document, Plan-i'sphere, DSE January 2006

A number of areas were identified as having state or national significance, these are:

- Cape Liptrap to Waratah Bay –a diverse coastal landscape, with spectacular views and rock formations

- Wilsons Promontory –the varied landscapes, views and wilderness (national significance)
- Nooramunga Coast and Islands –visual qualities, mangroves, mudflats and the sandy islands

Areas identified as having regional significance were:

- Venus Bay Peninsula and Anderson Inlet
- Corner Inlet Amphitheatre

Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Management Plan

Key initiatives of the plan include:

- Upgrading camping area
- Rationalisation and upgrade of walking tracks
- Improvement to boat launching safety
- Clarification of roles re road & parks maintenance, erosion control
- Protect enhancement of flora and fauna
- Protect and Interpret historical sites
- Control pest plants
- Enhance visual amenity of the foreshore
- Increase community involvement in management and planning

Opportunities

Continue to address issues raised in the management plan that will assist Walkerville to maintain its competitive strengths.

If a town park was to be provided in the Promontory View estate, there are a number of vacant blocks (ie 2 blocks by 5) in areas relatively central to the estate that could be purchased or a land swap made to create a town park – with opportunities for social sports or exercise.

To create a main path network through the existing estate to the forested reserve on the foreshore.

Key demand issues

Concern was raised in a submission about a possible Marina to be developed at Walkerville.

Walkerville residents and ratepayers Association and Friends of Walkerville

The key points to come from the submission were:

- Foreshore areas are a key component of open space in the Shire, although the Shire does not manage many.
- Management of natural values in open space along the coast is often limited, with weeds a major problem.
- Due to limited resources, facilities are sometimes dated.
- Landscape values along parts of the coast are of state significance and design standards (including recreation facilities) need to be high. The Shire could develop a design manual to guide all open space structures, signs, facilities, planting etc.
- Coastal ratepayers pay substantial rates and are looking for a significant resource allocation by the Shire to coastal management – both environmental management and provision for informal recreation, whether on Shire or Crown land.
- Equitable provision of open space services and resource allocations are an important issue.
- Many ratepayers do not support development for single interest user groups, eg fishers at Walkerville, ie boat ramps/carparks etc.

- Sustainable management will become more important over time – Council should develop policies on use of recyclable materials (no new cypress pine or red gum etc), indigenous plantings, low water use, no or few bins etc. Climate change projections should also be considered in the Plan.
- Existing plans provide some useful information and presumably will be reviewed in the planning process, eg Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Management Plan, and Waratah Bay Foreshore Strategy Plan.

Household survey findings

- Bike riding, fishing, dancing, golf and sailing/ boating were the activities that people would like to do that they currently don't do.
- Boating facilities and walking/ bicycle paths were the facilities seen as priority if funding became available.
- Boating/ pier facilities and assistance with grants and funding were the main things that respondents indicated would meet their recreation needs.
- Other comments include:
 - Would it be possible for the mobile library to stop at North Walkerville, the driver passes this way every Monday and doesn't stop.
 - Too much money is already spent in Leongatha and the wider community is often denied access by local user groups

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Continue to implement the Management Plan
2. Consider the feasibility of consolidating several vacant blocks between Seaview Dr and Grevillia St. and creating a central park in Promontory View estate, and create a link from this to Fish Creek -Walkerville Rd.
3. Create a localised shared trail around the Promontory View estate, to link with the Foreshore Reserve.
4. Undertake a design exercise for the foreshore, upgrade basic community infrastructure and signage, and integrate the hall into the main foreshore reserve.

5. THE PROM DELTA REGION

Demographics

The Following table depicts the population of the larger towns within the Prom Delta region.

Table 4.0 Prom Delta region population

	Meeniyan	Foster	Fish Creek	Dumbalk	Region Total
Total population	388	988	129	154	1,659
Region %	23	60	8	9	

The smaller townships within this region (with populations under 100 at the time of the 2001 census) are: Buffalo, Stony Creek and Yanakie.

Key influences

Some key characteristics of the region are⁷:

- The townships make up the gateway to the Wilsons Promontory National Park
- This region contains some of the Shires most picturesque landscapes

⁷ South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

5.1 MEENIYAN

Overview of supply

Meeniyon Settlement type is classified as a small town. This assumes that desirably there would be one major focus for community facilities and sport. However satellite spaces for social /family recreation may be required because of geographical layout of township, barriers created by major road etc.

The town of Meeniyon is dissected by the highway. Pedestrian access to the Recreation Reserve therefore is restricted for those living south of the highway.

For a small population, the township supports three major sporting facilities: at the Recreation Reserve (lawn bowls, football cricket and tennis) a golf course (privately owned) and a pony club. There is only one small Council owned open space in Meeniyon. (St Helens Park) however it is not zoned for Public Park and Recreation.

The school provides the only sand pit in town.

The range of recreation facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.1 Recreation facilities in Meeniyon

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Meeniyon Recreation Reserve	Meeniyon	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Rail Trail	Meeniyon	Off-road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ
Tanderra Park	Meeniyon	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ escape	Open parkland	TZ
Peoples Park	Meeniyon	Social family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Helens Park	Meeniyon	Social family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Primary School	Meeniyon	Education	Managed turf	TZ
Meeniyon Pony Club Grounds	Stony Creek	Sport	Specialised sports surface	
Meeniyon Flora and Fauna Reserve	Meeniyon	Conservation of biological heritage	Bushland/ forest	
Golf Course	Meeniyon	Sport	Managed turf	RUZ
Stadium and Car Park	Meeniyon	Sport	Specialised sport surface	

Opportunities

To create a better connection to the Recreation Reserve from the township via an off-road trail connecting the stadium, community and sporting facilities and key open spaces.

To create stronger working relationships between the Recreation Reserve Committee and all users on the Reserve.

Address risk issues associated with the practice cricket area at the reserve.

Secure an open space for the south of the township if there is further residential development in this areas (adjacent to the stadium?).

Consider opportunities to use the land association with the Stadium for leisure purposes.

Expand the Peoples Park as a wayside stop/ social family park, and zone it accordingly to serve the visitors, as the median park is being eaten away by cars).

There may be potential to use the forested area around the Recreation Reserve for walking etc.

To extend the rail trail and construct the trail to Yarram.

Key demand issues

Community forum

Key issues raised in the community forum, related to Meeniyan include:

- Desire to construct the rail trail link to Yarram.
- Recreation Reserve Committee and all users on the Recreation Reserve need to work more closely, particularly on capital work plans.
- There was be a joint sport club redevelopment at the Reserve, however it was taken over by one club.
- The cricket club is likely to relocate to the Dumbalk Recreation Reserve.

Household survey findings

- Swimming (15%) and dancing (8%) were the activities that respondents in Meeniyan would like to do but don't. 62% of respondents indicated that there was nothing they would like to do that they currently do not do.
- Walking/ cycling paths, maintenance and development of parks and gardens and assistance with grants and funding were listed as the main things that would meet the recreation needs of respondents in Meeniyan.

- Walking and bicycle paths, and swimming pools were the facilities listed as priority if funding became available.
- Other comments include:
 - The Great Southern Rail trail is an excellent well used open space area, run by volunteers with various funding. The rail trail through to Yarram would be a great thing to have.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Create a perimeter track around the Recreation Reserve and continue to enhance accessibility, landscape amenity, address risk management issues and link to rail trail.
2. Devise one off-road trail circuit around the town
3. Consider the integration of the stadium car park open space and the school ground to serve long term open space needs should the town develop considerably in the southeast.
4. Construct a rail trail extension to Yarram.
5. Assist the Recreation Reserve Management Committee to work more closely together, and prepare a strategic plan.
6. If ever any opportunity arises, expand the Peoples Park and rezone to PPRZ. (This is the only small social / family recreation space serving the small township, and is not zoned as public parkland. Upgrade the play and picnic facilities to make them accessible.

5.2 FISH CREEK

Overview of supply

Fish Creek settlement type is classified as a small town. Fish Creek has several sporting reserves, a rail trail, and a central park for social /family recreation.

A major central spine of open space that was the former rail reserve serves Fish Creek. The former rail reserve has opportunities to create a more prominent central social space that is currently partly obscured by shops and commercial buildings.

The Fish Creek runs around the outskirts of the town and around the perimeter of the Recreation Reserve.

The Recreation Reserve is a major hub for sports facilities. It currently offers netball/ tennis, football cricket and lawn bowls. There is no formal provision of open space to serve the south of the town other than an oval (Buckley Park) on the south side of town (rarely used for cricket and athletics) and a small reserve abutting the school. This reserve may be important to keep if there is significant residential growth, to serve residents on the south side of the Fish Creek /Foster Road. The second ground may provide opportunities for the school and as second winter sport such as soccer.

The range of spaces and facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.2 Recreation Facilities in Fish Creek

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Rail Trail Reserve	Fish Creek	Off road trail/ Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Falls Road Reserve	Fish Creek	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Terrill Park Recreation Reserve	Fish Creek	Sport	Managed turf/ specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Buckley Park Oval	Fish Creek	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Primary School Reserve	Fish Creek	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2
	Fish Creek	No identified function	Open parkland	PPRZ
Harding Lawson Park	Fish Creek	Way side stop	Open parkland	PCRZ
Great Southern Rail Trail	Fish Creek	Off-road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ

Key demand issues

Fish Creek District Primary indicated:

- General recreation participation increase: tennis significant increase, with minor increases to cricket, football, bowls
- Onerous task/ difficulties in running clubs. More involvement if less red tape
- Council could assist by: reduced requirements, increase recurrent funding and reduce need to chase funding, and professional admin person to support clubs

Bennison Adult Riding Club

Significant problem with drainage at the Bennison Recreation Reserve: on the pony club and Adult rider's facilities, as well as car parking area. This urgently needs to be addressed.

Would like more capital investment into the rail trail, from Fish Creek to Forster.

Community forum

Key issues raised in the community forum, related to Fish Creek include:

- There is plenty of local support to maintain facilities, but a decline in competitive clubs (tennis, cricket). There is still a strong social sport scene, but have to travel further for competition.
- Strong bowls club, but only one green- will raise funds for new (synthetic) green.
- Interested in further development of rail trail, and a connecting walking loop to Mt Nicoll.
- There is a desire to provide a caravan overnight stop adjacent to the rail trail to encourage people to stop over.

Household survey findings

- All respondents who indicated that there was an activity that they would like to do that they currently do not do, identified swimming.
- Community centres/ neighbourhood houses, lawn bowling clubs and outdoor sporting fields were the facilities that were indicated as being the priority if funding became available.
- Comments include:
 - Fish Creek is in dire need of assistance with regards to Scout Hall and recreation activities for both young and old. It is only a small town and volunteers cannot be expected to raise funds for all repairs etc. all the time.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Should there be significant residential development in this area consider the provision of an additional a space in the long term.
2. Provide a better pedestrian connection to the Recreation Reserve from the centre of town.
3. Seek to develop a circuit path around the town ie from Buckley Park to the rail trail then connecting to the Fish Creek corridor and then along Williamson Street. Support the development of a walking trail from the rail trail to Mt Nicoll.
4. Lease Buckley Park for grazing etc. in the short term, to provide funds for ongoing maintenance. Consider future use for any new sport ie soccer/ hockey, or further use by the school, or if further residential development occurs in the south retain for social/family recreation.
5. Address minor risk management issues on the Recreation Reserve upgrade paths adjacent to the scout hall to address accessibility.
6. Create a civic focus by redesigning the centre of the town / Falls Road Reserve to address the shops and relationship to the rail trail and enhance, functionality, visual amenity, accessibility, and public appeal on the highway.
7. Assist the Bowls Club to raise funds for a second green.
8. Consider creating a caravan overnight stop (to encourage people to stop over) adjacent to the Rail Trail, but away from the centre of the town. Minimise the impact of such an area on the towns character, and the visual and pedestrian amenity of the town, and utilise the central railway station area as a civic space/town park.

5.3 DUMBALK

Overview of supply

Dumbalk settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet. For a hamlet, Dumbalk has access to both sport and indoor recreation facilities, and a manicured town park.

There is only one parcel of open space reserved for public recreation in Dumbalk, (the Recreation Reserve) however there are several parcels of land that are used for public open space and recreation purposes. These include the former school (it has a hard courts, pleasant gardens and grounds, hit up wall and playground), the Memorial Park (a small town park with bandstand info map, playground, memorial etc.) and Hall.

The Recreation Reserve is a large (32 acres reserve with a cricket ground and tennis courts (used once a week) and is served by a shared path.

The Dumbalk Football club merged with and relocated to Meeniyan (25 mins or 16 km away).

The Dumbalk hall is used for dance, carpet bowls and community functions.

There are no footpaths other than in the main street. It would be possible to create an off-road path circuit to encourage people to walk.

Opportunities

Hall and school sites – if the school site ultimately closes (now main activities of Tarwin valley school are in Meeniyan) there would be benefits of keeping this in community ownership.

Opportunities are to provide to retain some field & hard courts sports/ open areas, playgrounds kick to kick, market, sport training-garden etc, in the school site.

Prepare a master plan for the Recreation Reserve before upgrading the infrastructure and playing fields at the Recreation Reserve to create two fields, and resurfacing at least one tennis court.

Key demand issues

Community forum

Key issues raised in the community forum, related to Dumbalk include:

- The Recreation Reserve has a new committee, and has gained funding to upgrade support facilities. A development is proposed to house two cricket grounds at the site. The tennis courts surface need work. The Reserve needs work if winter sport is to be accommodated.
- There is a need to create a trail around the Recreation Reserve. There is also a need for bikes/jumps, somewhere, and additional play facilities.

Household survey findings

- Ten-pin bowling was the main activity that respondents indicated they would like to do that they currently do not do.
- Bicycle paths and libraries were listed as priority facilities if funding became available.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Assist the Recreation Reserve to construct a shared trail around the perimeter of the ground, and resurface one tennis court if viable
2. Prepare a master plan of the Recreation Reserve prior to developing two playing fields and upgrading infrastructure.
3. Designate an off-road trail circuit around town and connecting existing community facilities.
4. Consider combining management committees for parks, trails and recreation facilities into one to increase co-ordination and efficiencies

5.4 YANAKIE

Overview of supply

Yanakie settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet. There are only two primary open spaces serving Yanakie: the main social recreation hub including the hall, playground, picnic sport and the camp draft area, and a small lot in a relatively new subdivision connecting two cul-de-sacs. This is likely to have been taken for connectivity /drainage purposes. There is also a motorcycle facility at Yanakie. on a parcel of Council land.

There has recently been some planting and revegetation works conducted around the main reserve and streets.

The range of facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.4 Recreation Facilities in Yanakie

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Lance Moon Reserve	Yanakie	Sport	Specialised sports surface	PCRZ
Linear Reserve	Yanakie	Access way trail	Open grassy area	LDRZ
Motorcycle track	Yanakie	Sport	Specialised sports surface	
Caravan Park	Yanakie			
Flora and Fauna Reserve	Yanakie	Conservation of biological heritage		
Yankie/Corner Inlet Foreshore Reserve	Yanakie			
Motorcycle Track	Yanakie	Sport	Specialised sport surface	

Opportunities

There would be benefit of any further subdivision being a more traditional design and all open space contributions being fed into the development of the existing Recreation Reserve – including a kick-about space on the recreation reserve for field games.

Furniture on the reserve needs upgrading, as does the surface of the tennis courts.

There may be an opportunity to create a walking path to the foreshore from the reserve.

Issues and actions from previous plans

The lack of accommodation facilities near National Parks is an issue raised by the Tourism Victoria in the Regional Tourism Plan for Gippsland. The plan indicates existing villages need to be further developed as hubs for visiting the National Parks, for example Yanakie for Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Major Improvements to boating facilities recommended in the Gippsland Coastal Boating Action Plan for Yanakie include:

- Construct a floating jetty. (High Importance)
- Provide barbecues. (Medium Importance)
- Provide fish cleaning facilities. (Medium Importance)
- Extend the car parking area. (Low Importance)

5. Encourage other sports and fitness uses in the hall.

Key demand issues

No issues about open space or recreation in Yanakie were raised in interviews with stakeholders or in submissions from the community, other than the value of the motorcycle track as a family recreation facility.

The Yanake Hall had a strong badminton competition at one time.

Household survey findings

- Going to the gym (14%), swimming (14%), walking (7%), fishing (7%) and golf (7%) were the activities that respondents indicated they would like to do but currently do not do.
- Boating facilities/ pier, maintenance and development of parks and gardens and grants and funding were the things that would meet respondents recreation needs.
- Boating facilities and a fitness centre or gymnasium the facilities that were seen as priority if funding became available.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Investigate the opportunities to create a walking trail circuit to the foreshore.
2. Continue to focus on upgrading the condition of infrastructure at Lance Moon Reserve: (at least one tennis court, furniture and playground equipment).
3. Consider the need to protect the motorcycle track from opposition from future residents or plan a buffer surrounding it and upgrade as funds become available.
4. Construct a jetty and provide fish cleaning facilities

5.5 BUFFALO

Over view of supply

There is a major rail trail running through the centre of Buffalo, served by a toilet and water tank. There is a small reserve with a hall and tennis courts and a former school site. The only sporting reserve is disused and (leased to a farmer. Although it is still zoned Public Parks and Recreation)

The school and the hall site are township zone. The disused recreation reserve is still zoned as public parkland.

Buffalo's settlement type is classified as a rural hamlet/ low density residential.

The range of places and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.5 Recreation Facilities in Buffalo

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Rail Trail	Buffalo	Off road trail/	Open parkland	PPRZ
Former School Site	Buffalo	Education	Sports facility	TZ
Vacant Block	Buffalo	No identified function	Open parkland	TZ
Hall and Tennis Court	Buffalo	Social /family recreation	Specialized sports surface	TZ
Former Recreation Reserve/ Cricket Ground	Buffalo	No identified function	Open grassy area	PPRZ

Opportunities

The school site would be a better location for a small oval to serve the town should it ever grow; because of its proximity to residents. Alternatively if spaces was available next to the hall it would be even better to consolidate tennis courts at the hall (newish) and a small oval – therefore enabling community activities such as markets, etc. Pony club activities may be good use of the old recreation reserve site - which is in reasonable proximity to the rail trail.

Key demand issues

Buffalo Progress Association

Working to Improve environment in Buffalo, and facilities at the rail trail hub where Buffalo station used to be. The main issue is the small population and lack of young people.

Household survey findings

- The activities that respondents in Buffalo indicated that they do for recreation include lawn bowls, indoor bowls and going to the cinema.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Support the Progress Association in developing the rail trail hub, including preparing a landscape master plan for the space
2. Create a trail link from the rail trail to the Buffalo hall & tennis courts
3. Investigate the future of the Buffalo Primary School for community uses.
4. Consider allowing the former recreation reserve to be used for equestrian uses, should there be demand.

5.6 STONY CREEK

Overview of supply

Stony Creek has two regional open spaces: the rail trail and the racecourse. The Racecourse houses a football ground, the Meeniyon Pony Club's facilities a main racetrack and training facility.

The former railway reserve provides the potential for a village green around which are small blocks (presumably designed for the development of a town) but currently they are in a rural zone and with good tree cover. There is also a small local playground and tennis court, a disused cricket ground and a disused tennis courts on the railway land.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.6 Recreation Facilities in Stony Creek

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Racecourse and Recreation Reserve	Stony Creek	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Rail Trail	Stony Creek	Off-road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ
Tennis Court Park and Playground	Stony Creek	Social/ family recreation	Specialised sports surface	TZ
Cricket ground*	Stony Creek	Showground/ sport	Managed turf	TZ
Stony Creek Hall	Stony Creek	Civic forecourt/ gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Native Flora Reserve	Stony Creek	Conservation of biological heritage	Native grassland/ wetland/ shrub land	

* Not in use.

Opportunities

There may be opportunities to promote the playground, hall and tennis court to rail trail users as a stop over.

Consider encouraging residential development around the end of the rail trail to enhance the viability of existing infrastructure.

Key demand issues

Stony Creek Football Club

The club indicates that they would like to upgrade the spectator area.

Community forum

A number of issues were raised by a resident about Stony Creek. These include:

- A "Go-kart" educational driver circuit is proposed
- The Pony Club also has plans to develop a camp drafting arena
- Nine horse racing meetings plus official racing trials were conducted at the reserve this season.
- Toilet facilities are grossly inadequate
- Supply of water for the facilities is inadequate
- There are issues associated with sharing and the condition of the pavilion: jockeys rooms and bars used as football change rooms and rubdown areas, with inadequate toilet and shower facilities, and external concrete steps and paving that are largely unsafe for football boots.
- Overlap of football and racing seasons causes obvious practical problems

Household survey findings

- Swimming (15%) and dancing (8%) were the activities that respondents in the Meeniyan area including Stony Creek would like to do but don't. . 62% of respondents indicated that there was nothing they would like to do that they currently do not do.
- Walking/ cycling paths, maintenance and development of parks and gardens and assistance with grants and funding were listed as the main things that would meet the recreation needs of respondents
- Walking and bicycle paths, and swimming pools were the facilities listed as priority if funding became available.
- Other comments include:
 - The Great Southern Rail trail is an excellent well used open space area, run by volunteers with various funding. The rail trail through to Yarram would be a great thing to have.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Assist the racecourse and Recreation Reserve users to prepare a strategy plan for the Reserve and its users.
2. Sign the racecourse and Recreation Reserve, hall, playground and tennis court from the rail trail and create a spur trail to the Recreation Reserve.
3. Review ongoing demand for facilities in this locality in the light of the small population and proximity to district facilities in neighbouring towns.

5.7 FOSTER

Overview of supply

Foster has a good palette of open space and recreation facilities. It has large treed reserves, the rail trail and the golf course on the outskirts, the showground, tennis courts, skate park, memorial hall/arts centre and scout hall. The location of the Stockyard Creek and associated reserves creating a central spine. The major area of open space is owned by the crown.

There is a good range of open space functions and setting types. Further residential development in the north will necessitate the need for an additional social / family space or major linear corridor and connections to the rail trail and sports facilities.

The location of existing parcels around the outskirts of the town provide an opportunity to create a trail circuit and thus creating better pedestrian access to existing community facilities and opportunities for recreation, exercise and environmental appreciation.

The settlement type of Foster is classified as large town. This assumes that a number of open space sites for social family may be needed to serve the township with a reasonable equitable distribution. This would include one or more locations for township or district sport.

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 5.7 Recreation Facilities in Foster

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Showgrounds	Foster	Showground/sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Primary School	Foster	Education	Sports facility	PUZ2
Golf Club & Recreation Reserve	Foster	Showground/sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Secondary College	Foster	Education	Managed turf	PUZ2
Pool	Foster	Water based recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Pearl Park	Foster	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Stockyard Creek	Foster	Drainage/floodway	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Kaffir Hill Reserve	Foster	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Station Road Park	Foster	Social family recreation	Open parkland	PPRZ
Open Space – behind Community Centre	Foster	Community horticulture/Social family recreation	Vegetable garden/ farm/ environmental park	PPRZ
Wilson Reserve	Foster	Visual amenity	Open parkland	R1Z
Highway Park	Foster	Way side stop	Open parkland	PPRZ
Skate Park / Scout Hall / Tennis Court	Foster	Social family recreation	Specialised sports surface	PUZ3
Crown Land Reserve	Foster	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Hall Reserve (FWMAC)	Foster	Visual amenity	Open parkland	PUZ1
Crown Reserve	Foster	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PCRZ
Crown Reserve?	Foster	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PUZ2
Rail Trail	Foster	Off road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ
Unknown (Land on Fleet St)	Foster	Conservation of heritage	Bushland/ forest	PPRZ

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Lawn Bowls Club	Foster	Showground/ sport	Specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Foster North lookouts	Foster	Lookout		
Community Centre	Foster	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Hall Reserve, Senior Citizens and War Memorial Arts Centre	Foster	Visual amenity, Civic forecourt gathering, Community meeting place	Open parkland	PUZ1
Library	Foster	Social/ family recreation	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Museum	Foster	Social/ family recreation	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Stockyard Gallery	Foster	Social/ family recreation	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	
Foster Water Supply Reserve	Foster	Water based recreation	Coastal/Lake/For esthore	
Whipstick Gully Bushland Reserve	Foster	Conservation of an area of natural interest	Bushland/ forest	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Planning for the Future of Foster

The Foster Community Association has prepared a report concerning the long-term plan for the town of Foster. The goal is to develop a vision based on priorities, needs and aspirations of the whole community so it may focus its efforts. The SWOT analysis identified the following concerning open space:

- Strong sports facilities
- Strong walking/ hiking trails
- Opportunities to improve recreation facilities
- Opportunity to protect and enhance natural environment

- The threat of wind-farms spoiling the landscape
- Recreation facilities were identified by 35% of the community as the highest priority, (these included playgrounds, swimming pools and sports facilities).

The environment section identified that: more nature parks, gardens and picnic areas are required;

The Stockyards Creek needs to be revegetated, weeds cleared, and the Strzelecki's and Foster North lookouts protected.

■ Foster Structure plan issues paper

The paper identifies population projections for Foster of 1120 by 2016 and 1250 by 2026, indicating a constant, but low, population growth rate.

This immediate population increase coupled with the anticipated increases in the larger area that Foster services will create demand, by 2026 for:

- 170 Additional households (10 per annum)
- 190 Additional new dwellings (average 10 per annum)
- 0.8 Ha Land required for future retail/commercial facilities
- 4 Ha Land required for future industrial facilities
- 23 Ha Land required for future rural residential development

Key directions are to:

- Improve recognition and natural environment of the Stockyard Creek throughout Foster. Stockyard Creek is a major environmental feature of Foster that is relatively hidden from the Town Centre.

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access through Foster, and investigate opportunities to establish a pedestrian track adjacent to the Creek, linking the Town Centre with the Rail Trail.

■ Basketball Stadium Feasibility

There is study in progress to investigate the feasibility of redeveloping the basketball stadium at the Showground.

Opportunities

There are opportunities to develop a strong network of trails connecting the major parcels of crown land around the edges of Forster. These could also serve new residential development and to create circuits for exercise and recreation that connect to the rail trail.

Extend the rail trail: this is seen as a priority by the community.

There are considerable opportunities to strength the viability of sport in the town strengthening the showground as a sporting hub, and considering the long-term opportunities to create a second playing field at this site should the caravan park ever relocate.

Council envisages demand for low density residential with good views etc to west (site 39), this would not require much in terms of public open space.

Consider long-term opportunities to better connect Foster with the Corner inlet – possibly along Stockyard Creek?

Key demand issues

Foster Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

The key points identified by the Foster Recreation Reserve Committee of Management were:

- The committee are supportive of the tennis club in securing a piece of land for additional tennis courts and a clubhouse on land in Pioneer Street Foster
- While Council have supported the proposal, approval is yet to be received through DSE
- The committee also identified a need for tennis courts in Waratah Bay, as many of the members at Foster reside in Waratah Bay.
- A proposal for courts on recently subdivided land was upheld as it was too close to residents, but with land being filled at Gale Street there might be the potential to locate tennis on this site along with some car parking.

Community forum

- The Cricket club aims to move all facilities onto the golf club site, from the Showground, but it gets very wet and has a lack of facilities. The club is concerned that they have to sign an occupancy agreement (CMP requirement re safe use of ground) for the use of the reserve.
- The tennis club plans to resurface 2 more courts in synthetic grass courts (this surface is more popular for older people) and ultimately expand number of courts also)
- No parents to help support junior tennis- had some interest by kids, but not enough parental support. Similar for basketball. Middle generation gap as older children move away.

- The skate park (timber ramp) is not in a good condition, the bowl is for older kids. There is a need for a facility for younger kids- before they can skate the bowl.
- The accessible playground at Showground has had funding approved.
- Clubs are concerned that Schools provide limited sport alternatives (just main stream sports and there is a lack of coaching/ knowledge for others (ie tennis).
- There was some concern raised that clubs in Foster can poach players from smaller areas (ie tennis from Toora) because they can fund better facilities. It was suggested that some competitions could be rotated so smaller clubs can have a source of income too!

Household survey findings

- The facilities that respondents from Foster indicated were priority if funding became available included swimming pools, walking/ bicycle paths, fitness centre/ gymnasium and the cinema.
- Going to the gym (9%), walking (9%) swimming (5%) and ten pin bowling are the activities that respondents would like to do that they currently do not do.
- Swimming pools, walking/ bicycle paths and maintaining or developing parks and gardens were listed as the things that would meet respondent's recreation needs.
- Comments include:
 - Have the rail trail continue on from Foster towards Toora. Even as far as Bennisson would be a great start. Greater maintenance of the rail trail is also required.
 - A hot (swimming pool) in Foster is required.
 - This area has excellent facilities. I notice a lot of money spent now and yet there are roads that need fixing, things like shoulders etc.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

The key directions identified in this plan for Foster include:

1. Review consistency of the Zonings of the few private blocks north of the showground (Landy St), tennis club land and blocks on the corner of Court Street and Station Road.
2. Establish connections from crown reserve 36 to the rail trail 40 and to the Stockyard Creek returning to the crown land in the north to create a circuit of trails for exercise, recreation and environmental appreciation.
3. Retain the Strzelecki and North Foster lookouts
4. Consider future expansion of Station Road Park
5. Extend the rail trail
6. Allow for the expansion of tennis club in Pioneer Street as demand arises.
7. Provide incentives to consolidate cricket and football on the main showground sports reserve. If the caravan park ever relocates consider the option for creating another playing field on the site.
8. Develop an accessible playground at the showground
9. Provide a small street skating area at the skate park and review the condition, management and future development of the skate park, including the metal half pipe.
10. Implement the Showground Master Plan
11. Implement the findings of the Foster basketball facility feasibility
12. Encourage sports clubs and the secondary school to work more closely
13. Plan to redevelop the Foster swimming pool as an outdoor pool in the medium term.

6. THE CORNER INLET/ NOORAMUNGA REGION

Demographics

The following table shows the population of the larger towns within the Corner Inlet Nooramunga region.

Table 6.0 Corner Inlet, Nooramunga population

	Port Franklin	Toora	Welshpool	Port Welshpool	Region Total
Total population	126	490	142	216	832
Region %	15	59	17	26	

Key Influences

Some key influences on the region are⁸:

- The proposed Barry Point Deep Sea Port is likely to have a significant impact on the region
- Overall the population has declined over the last ten years due to the loss of industry
- Port Franklin has experienced some population growth. There is an area still zoned Rural that has very small blocks as if it was to be an addition the township zone.

⁸ South Gippsland Overall Settlement Plan, South Gippsland Shire Council, Version 2 (31 May 2006)

Summary of supply

This region has quite a good diversity of open space function and setting types. The bulk of the open spaces are owned by the Crown.

6.1 PORT FRANKLIN

Overview of supply

Port Franklin is a small fishing village set near the mouth of the Franklin River at Corner Inlet. It has a caravan park, small village green and community centre (playground, basketball courts and cricket oval) which was the school) tennis courts, hall, foreshore reserve and a cricket ground (no longer in use).

The range of spaces and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 6.1 Recreation facilities in Port Franklin

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Former School Site / Community Park	Port Franklin	Social/ family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Elizabeth Cripps Memorial Reserve (hall)	Port Franklin	Social family recreation/ community meeting place	Open parkland	TZ
Port Franklin Cricket ground *	Port Franklin	Sport	Open grassy area	PCRZ
Foreshore Reserve	Port Franklin	Relaxation/ environmental appreciation/ water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PUZ7
Elizabeth Cripps Tennis Courts	Port Franklin	Sport	Specialised sports surface	TZ
Corner Inlet Marine Coastal Park	Port Franklin	Conservation of biological heritage	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PUZ7
Port Franklin Park	Port Franklin	Social /family recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PUZ7
Pony Club and Reserve	Port Franklin	Sport	Open Parkland	

* Not in use

Opportunities

Parks Victoria is redeveloping the water front walls. The river provides a fabulous opportunity to create long walking trails to connect with the rail trail.

Key demand issues

No issues about open space in Port Franklin were raised in interviews with stakeholders or in submissions from the community.

Household survey findings

Comments include: I would like to see more funding for the local foreshore committee for improvements to our parks i.e. Electric BBQ, rotunda, more tables.

ACTIONS: should resources become available

1. Plan for the replacement of the large senescing Monterey Pines at the old school site -that will need to be replaced in the short term.
2. Continue to support the maintenance of the village green, old school site and the tennis courts as core facilities for this community.
3. Assist with the establishment of off-road trail along the river to the rail trail and in a circuit around the town for exercise.
4. Establish a management plan for foreshore park, trail and boardwalk infrastructure.
5. Address conditions of the tennis court surface

6.2 WELSHPOOL / PORT WELSHPOOL

Overview of supply

Situated on the South Gippland Highway, Welshpool abutts the Great Southern Rail Trail reserve. The railway reserve is the major open space and prominent feature of the township from the highway. It is not highly developed.

Welshpool has a primary school, hall and playground, tennis court and a recreation reserve with cricket oval, netball/ tennis courts basketball court and golf course. Welshpool is some 5km from Port Welshpool.

Port Welshpool has a museum, bowls club, foreshore park, playground, skate park and tennis courts. The bowls club and tennis courts are not in prominent locations, and they are not located in one logical location. These aspects affect viability. There is a long jetty that is in disrepair and is currently closed to the public.

The range of recreation facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 6.2 Recreation facilities in Welshpool

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Recreation Reserve, Indoor court, tennis court, half court and Golf Club	Welshpool	Sport	Managed turf	
Anchor Park	Welshpool	Way side stop	Open parkland	PPRZ
Cemetery Reserve	Welshpool	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Open Parkland	
Memorial	Welshpool	Memorial	Ornamental garden	

Primary School	Welshpool	Education	Sports facility	PPRZ
Hall, Playground and Tennis court	Welshpool	Social /family recreation	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	PUZ2
Future Rail Trail	Welshpool	Off road trail	Open parkland	TZ
Tramway Reserve	Welshpool	Off road trail	Off road trail	RU
Tennis Courts	Welshpool	Showground/ sport	Specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Port Welshpool Foreshore Park	Port Welshpool	Social family recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	PCRZ
Museum and Grounds	Port Welshpool	Conservation of heritage	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	TZ
Tennis Courts	Port Welshpool	Sport	Specialised sports surface	PPRZ
Lawn Bowls Club	Port Welshpool	Sport	Managed turf	PPRZ
Cemetery	Port Welshpool	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	TZ
Port Welshpool Lawn Bowls Club	Port Welshpool	Sport	Managed Turf	
Port Welshpool Port and Pier	Port Welshpool	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	
Forest Reserve	Port Welshpool	Conservation of biological heritage	Bushland/ forest	
Barrys Beach Ports & Harbour Reserve	Port Welshpool	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Welshpool and District Development Plan (2002)

The Welshpool and District Community Plan has been developed to document the aspirations and values of the local community. While the whole community expressed the need for walking tracks and trails that connect the three communities, young people went further to suggest these would provide safer access to outdoor recreation.

Some of the key open space issues facing the community were identified as:

- Isolation and remoteness from basic facilities
- Lack of youth and sporting facilities
- Need for more tourism facilities – accommodation, board walks, quality boating facilities, scenic viewing areas, promotion
- Lack of access to safe cycle and walking tracks

■ Welshpool to Port Welshpool shared path feasibility study 2007

The plan recommends a granitic sand trail be developed from Welshpool Park to Port Welshpool. It identifies the preferred option as a path to the Recreation Reserve and stadium along Mates Rd and its continuation and from the reserve along the tramway reserve with an option along Welshpool Rd to the Port.

Opportunities

The future growth potential of Port Welshpool may be relatively high given the availability of sewage infrastructure and the possible development of Barry Point Deep Sea Port.

The rail reserve provides a fabulous opportunity to provide off-road walking and cycling/ equestrian use and connect this community with other small communities nearby.

The tramway reserve goes close to the golf course and recreation reserve which is not evident from the highway or town centre, and this provided a potential connection to the port.

There may need to be some consolidation of hard courts as they are provided in association with the hall, at the recreation reserve and in a forested reserve at Port Welshpool. The condition of those at the port and at the hall is poor. It may be more viable to retain those at the Recreation Reserve and one free access court at the Port possibly in association with the bowls club, if suitable wind protection could be created.

Key demand issues

Community forum

Key issues related to Welshpool were:

- The Shire Raffle was good to support sports clubs
- Have power lines which boats can go under (- or wish to put underground)
- Schools influence the degree of sport participation / access to different sports, ideally want to work with schools to promote / try sports (previously had a 'sports expo')
- Wish to see rail trail / walking trails happen. Many locals out walking.
- Need for a boat ramp and dredging for safe boat launching in Corner Inlet.

Household survey findings

- A fishing platform or pier, and boating facilities were listed as priority facilities if funding became available.
- The development/ maintenance of outdoor sporting fields, indoor sporting facilities and boating facilities/ pier were the main things that respondents indicated would meet their recreation needs.
- Comments include:
 - Council should take into consideration the rising sea levels (climate change) and the viability of resources of coastal townships, due to the threat of flooding when encouraging/funding new and existing infrastructure.

4. Address the condition and maintenance of infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve including a broken goal post etc,
5. Investigate the condition and distribution of boat ramps and jetties in conjunctions with Parks Victoria and DSC.

ACTIONS:

should resources become available

1. Support the continued development of the Port Welshpool Foreshore Reserve.
 - 1.1 Seek funds to upgrade this park and add elements to the skate park.
 - 1.2 Upgrade the furniture on the foreshore and make it accessible, as funds become available.
 - 1.3 Undertake significant tree planting along the foreshore and main streets.
 - 1.4 Advocate to the Port Authority to upgrade and open the long pier at the Port.
2. Consider consolidating tennis and hard court facilities in Welshpool and Port Welshpool (upgrading one as a priority)
3. Continue to develop the rail trail and railway reserve, as well as a network of off-road trails to connect with the Welshpool Recreation Reserve and Welshpool township and the Port as well as create a circuit around the township for exercise.

6.3 TOORA

Overview of supply

Toora has a population of approximately 500 people. This is the largest small town in the region, however it is only 15 minutes to Forster and therefore development of facilities in Toora need to consider those in Foster.

It was a strong town when the milk factory was open but it is unlikely there will be further residential development here, as there are now few job opportunities.

Toora has a good range of recreation facilities for a town of its size. It has the railway reserve with town park, a skate park and trail; sports facilities including an oval, lawn bowls club, netball and tennis courts, a small park in the main shopping street, a heritage orchard, primary school, swimming pool and hall.

The key open space assets are not zoned for public park and recreation they are in the township zone: Pear orchard, pool, tennis site bowling club, Sagasser Park, Stanley St Park.

The range of recreation facilities and their classifications are shown in the following table.

Table 6.3 Recreation facilities in Toora

NAME	LOCALITY	PRIMARY FUNCTION	LANDSCAPE SETTING TYPE	ZONE
Sagasser Park	Toora	Social family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Swimming Pool	Toora	Water based recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Primary School	Toora	Education	Sports facility	TZ
Victoria Street Reserve	Toora	No identified function	Open grassy area	PPRZ/ TZ
Rail Trail Reserve	Toora	Off road trail	Open parkland	TZ

Heritage Pear Orchard	Toora	Conservation of heritage	Vegetable garden/ farm/ environmental park	TZ
Bowling Club	Toora	Showground/ sport	Managed turf	TZ
Stanley St Park	Toora	Social family recreation	Open parkland	TZ
Walking Track	Toora	Off road trail	Open parkland	PPRZ
Recreation Reserve	Toora	Showground/ sport	Managed turf	TZ
Tennis Courts	Toora	Showground/ sport	Specialised sports surface	IN1Z
Lions Club Hall	Toora	Civic forecourt gathering	Plaza/ courtyard/ paved area	TZ
Bird observation area	Toora	Environmental appreciation	Wetland	PU
Cemetery	Toora	Cemetery/ memorial/ remembrance	Ornamental, zoological or botanical garden	
Franklin Falls Scenic Reserve	Toora	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	
Franklin River Reserve	Toora	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	
Lawson Beach Reserve	Toora	Water based recreation	Coastal/ lake/ foreshore	

Issues and actions from previous plans

■ Toora Railway Park Management Plan 2006

It has been proposed that Council be appointed the committee of management of the Toora Railway Park, currently under DSE Control.

Issues that currently are identified at the reserve are:

- Need for better drainage
- The health of Muddy Creek
- Future needs of the community
- Linkages to other recreation, open space infrastructure
- Maintenance and cost
- Development options

Key demand issues

Toora Recreation Reserve Committee identified:

- New users of the Recreation Reserve include: Walking dogs, Caravan and campers, possible use also for soccer.
- Increased numbers of people in the town needed and need to improve facilities
- Getting population back: a priority for Council.

Community forum

Issues raised in relation to Toora and the surrounding district included the following:

- There is a hole in generations (leave to find work), this impacts on sport and new people, (many fixed income) not ready to contribute personally to committees etc.
- Bowls Club: has 40 year old facilities, working out a business plan for synthetic green (stage 4 water restrictions)
- The Pool extended its season significantly with the part cover and heating, but now struggling for committee interest, need to look to next 20 years.
- Tennis: no competition (Foster has night competition now), good courts with lights but need work, maybe need to work with Foster before they provide new courts
- Good skate park and walking tracks
- Want to get rail trail to Foster happening
- Rec Reserve: need help to coordinate clubs into the future
- Want to dredge the boat ramp (stopped by government departments- now a Marine Park and need to conserve "sea grass")
- Only 2 (good) access points for fishing in Corner Inlet
- Bennison Rec Reserve, used for equestrian sports, is wet and unsafe for use, needs drainage works. Pony club uses other areas because of drainage issues and because parking is difficult. Possibly an unsuitable site? There are some works that could happen to improve the site though Crown Land.

Household survey findings

- Bike riding, sailing/ boating and going to the theatre were the activities that people in Toora indicated that they would like to do but currently do not do.
- Walking/ bicycle paths, swimming pools, boating facilities and lake or riverside parks were the facilities seen as priority if funding were to become available.
- Walking/ cycling paths, grants and funding opportunities and boating facilities/ pier were the single things that respondents indicated would meet their recreation needs.

Opportunities

Future use or development of the former factory site for education, or industry may influence the viability of the recreational assets.

- There may be an opportunity to between integrate the school, pool and tennis courts site.
- The heritage orchard could have a higher profile with a better entry design.
- There is an opportunity to extend the walking track and rail trail in a circuit around the town to provide an exercise circuit for residents and visitors linking up key historic sites and recreation facilities, and encourage safe equestrian activity.
- Some minor upgrade works the grass surrounds of the skate park would be desirable to keep soil of the skating surface.
- Implement the management plan for the rail reserve.
- Continue to support the bowling club to enhance its viability.
- Work with other land agencies to create one safe functional boat launching facility in Corner Inlet, that minimises impact on marine habitat.

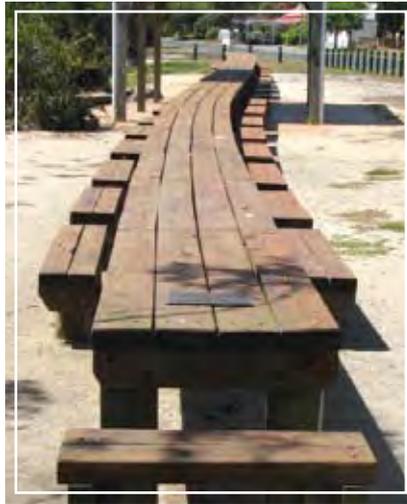
ACTIONS:

should resources become available

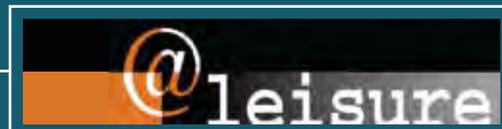
1. Provide a unsealed off-road trail circuit to connect the Recreation Reserve, swimming pool, school, tennis courts along the highway down Mill St to the Heritage Orchard and connecting the railway and town park to Camp Rd where there is an existing path.
2. Consider better integration of the tennis courts, pool and school site.
3. Redesign entry to heritage pear orchard.
4. Assess infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve and prepare a master plan for its future development
5. Reserve the key open space assets as public park and recreation zone: Pear orchard, pool, tennis site, bowling club, Sagasser Park, Stanley St Park.
6. Continue to develop the rail trail reserve, skate park, and Sagasser Park as the key social / family park in Toora
7. In conjunction with Crown Lands review future use of Bennison Recreation Reserve, and cost / benefits of continuing to use this site compared to another
8. Work with other land agencies to create one safe functional boat launching facility in Corner Inlet that minimises impact on marine habitat.
9. Determine the best strategy to address tennis court use in Toora
10. Assist the bowls club to stay viable and improve its facilities

Recreation Plan:

VOLUME 3 Consultation Findings



South Gippsland Shire



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Four volumes make up the South Gippsland Recreation Plan:

Volume 1. STRATEGY & ACTIONS

Volume 2. LOCALITY ANALYSIS

Volume 3. CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Volume 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This document is Volume 3. CONSULTATION FINDINGS.

It provides an overview of information collected during consultation with residents and community groups about recreation and open space in South Gippsland.

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- residents who completed a survey or came to a community forum and
- clubs and community groups and schools who were interviewed and made submissions.

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1. Introduction

This document has been compiled as part of the South Gippsland Shire Recreation Plan. It provides a summary of the consultation phases undertaken as part of the study.

Overview

A range of local and Shire-wide stakeholders and community members/ groups were contacted as part of the study. The following is a breakdown of consultation undertaken.

- Householder survey
- Call for submissions
- Interviews with:
 - schools
 - sport and recreation clubs and groups
 - community groups and committees of Management
- Community meetings in Foster, Mirboo North, Leongatha and Korumburra

Household survey

In May 2007, a community recreation survey was distributed to 3,000 households across the South Gippsland Shire via post. The surveys were distributed to households in all townships throughout the Shire based on a stratified sample. A total of 463 surveys were returned, accounting for 717 responses. These were collated and analysed.

Submissions

Council advertised for community organisations and residents to make submissions concerning open space and recreation issues. Eleven submissions were received. A summary of these is provided later in this report.

Interviews with schools

In April 2007, 14 primary and secondary schools across the South Gippsland Shire were contacted via telephone and interviewed about their participation in sport and recreation activities, and asked about potential future demand at their school, in their local area and across the Shire.

Interviews with sport and recreation clubs and groups

In April 2007, 70 sport and recreation groups across the Shire were contacted via telephone. Of these, 24 groups participated in telephone interviews regarding their participation in sport and recreation activities, use of facilities and the potential future demands on their sport and facilities. Clubs contacted covered a range of different sports, including Australian Rules football, netball, tennis, hockey, karate, gymnastics, athletics, squash, swimming, golf, pony clubs and gun clubs.

Interviews with community groups and Committees of Management

In May 2007, 29 community groups and Committees of Management were contacted via telephone. 17 groups responded and were interviewed regarding their club/ group, activities undertaken, the use of local facilities and their role in sport and recreation across the Shire.

Community forums

Council advertised the opportunity for community organisations and residents to attend community meetings to discuss recreation issues. These were held in Foster, Mirboo North, Leongatha and Korumburra. Notes from these forums are provided later in this document.

2. Household survey findings

A householder survey was conducted in May 2007 to guide Council's decision making about the ongoing provision and development of recreational activities and facilities within the South Gippsland Shire. Respondents were asked to consider what they do for 'recreation', taken to mean activity that is done away from the home for enjoyment in free time. This may include play, hobbies, volunteer work, club or physical activities or sport.

Approximately 3,000 surveys were randomly distributed to households within the municipality. A total of 463 surveys were returned, accounting for 717 responses. Below is an overview of the results.

2.1 What activities you do and where?

Walking was the activity that most people did regularly for recreation, and that both males and females indicated they participated in most. The participation rate of 34.7% is slightly lower than the Victorian ERASS participation rate of 37%. However, participation in walking by male respondents (28.5%) is higher than ERASS (25.6%) with female respondent participation (40.3%) lower than ERASS (48.2%).

Other activities with high numbers of participants include swimming (the second most participated in activity by males and females) and bike riding/ cycling (the third most participated in activity by males and females). Both these activities had higher participation rates than the Victorian ERASS rates for 2005.

Fishing, lawn bowls and horse riding/ pony club activities had significantly higher participation rates for respondents than the Victorian ERASS rate for 2005. Running and bushwalking had significantly lower rates than ERASS.

Respondents were asked to list the main recreational activities they regularly participate in or away from home. Each respondent could list up to three activities. Below are the recreational activities that recorded the most responses for men and women.

Table 1.1: Number and percentage of respondents participating in selected activities¹

Sport	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage	Total	Percentage	ERASS ² 2005
Walking	153	40.3%	96	28.5%	249	34.7%	37.0%
Swimming	82	21.6%	36	10.7%	118	16.5%	13.9%
Bike riding/ cycling	40	10.5%	62	18.4%	102	14.2%	11.5%
Golf	26	6.8%	52	15.4%	78	10.9%	7.6%
Fishing	12	3.2%	64	19.0%	76	10.6%	1.7%
Australian football	9	2.4%	38	11.3%	47	6.6%	6.7%
Lawn bowls	20	5.3%	27	8.0%	47	6.6%	2.3%
Tennis	27	7.1%	19	5.6%	46	6.4%	8.2%
Gymnasium	26	6.8%	11	3.3%	37	5.2%	-
Cinema	24	6.3%	9	2.7%	33	4.6%	-
Netball	31	8.2%	1	0.3%	32	4.5%	4.4%
Services club	16	4.2%	14	4.2%	30	4.2%	-
Horse riding/ pony club	22	5.8%	7	2.1%	29	4.0%	1.1%
Beach	17	4.5%	11	3.3%	28	3.9%	-
Volunteer work	13	3.4%	12	3.6%	25	3.5%	-
Basketball	10	2.6%	13	3.9%	23	3.2%	5.1%
Cricket	2	0.5%	19	5.6%	21	2.9%	4.0%
Craftwork	16	4.2%	3	0.9%	19	2.6%	-
Other sports/ exercise	10	2.6%	8	2.4%	18	2.5%	-
Camping	7	1.8%	10	3.0%	17	2.4%	-
Visiting the park	12	3.2%	5	1.5%	17	2.4%	-
Travel	6	1.6%	8	2.4%	14	2.0%	-
Library	8	2.1%	5	1.5%	13	1.8%	-
Running	2	0.5%	10	3.0%	12	1.7%	8.8%
Water aerobics	12	3.2%	0	0.0%	12	1.7%	-
Indoor bowls	6	1.6%	6	1.8%	12	1.7%	-
Motorbike riding	3	0.8%	9	2.7%	12	1.7%	0.7%
Theatre/ ballet	6	1.6%	5	1.5%	11	1.5%	-
Socialising	6	1.6%	5	1.5%	11	1.5%	-
Dance	7	1.8%	4	1.2%	11	1.5%	-
Bushwalking	3	0.8%	7	2.1%	10	1.4%	5.3%
Reading book/ book club	10	2.6%	0	0.0%	10	1.4%	-
Painting	7	1.8%	3	0.9%	10	1.4%	-
No response	5	1.3%	22	6.5%	27	3.8%	-
Total	380	100.0%	337	100.0%	717	100.0%	-

Gender - Females

The list of the 20 activities most regularly participated in by females contains a number of differences to the overall most regularly participated in activities shown above.

- Walking, swimming, netball, horse riding, craft work, and water aerobics are activities that are more regularly participated in for females than the general population.
- Fishing, cricket and AFL are activities that are less regularly participated in by women.

Age

The breakdown of activities into age groups show:

- Walking is the most participated in activity for all age groups of females aged 35 years and older (with the exception of females aged 80 years and older). For females aged less than 35 years the most participated in activity is swimming.
- Younger women (below 30 years) are more likely to play sports such as netball, swimming and basketball when compared with the average.

¹ The activities listed are those with the largest number of total participants.

² Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey

- Women aged 30 to 60 years are more likely to participate in tennis and undertake activities such as going to the beach, cinema or visiting the park.
- Lawn bowls; golf and craftwork are activities more likely to be undertaken by older women (aged 60 years and older).

Table 1.2a: Number of respondents in each age group participating in selected activities

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80+
Walking	0	2	3	1	6	12	12	20	20	30	17	11	8	6	2
Swimming	4	1	3	2	10	8	7	10	11	7	7	8	1	2	0
Bike riding/ cycling	0	0	0	1	3	7	2	9	6	6	3	1	1	1	0
Netball	0	7	1	1	2	9	0	5	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Golf	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	5	3	4	2	3	2
Gymnasium	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	8	1	3	2	5	0	1
Cinema	1	3	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	5	0	1	3	1	0
Tennis	0	1	0	1	3	3	3	5	4	5	0	2	0	0	0
Horse riding/ pony club	1	2	0	1	1	2	4	3	4	3	0	1	0	0	0
Lawn Bowls	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	6	5	2
Beach	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Craft work	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2	2
Service club	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	3	5
Volunteer work	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	2	0	1	2	1
Fishing	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Water aerobics	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	2	0	1	0	2
Visiting the park	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Other sport/ exercise	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	1	0
Reading/ book club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	2	0	0
Basketball	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1.2b: Percentage of respondents in each age group participating in selected activities

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80+
Walking	0%	18%	75%	20%	27%	44%	46%	53%	47%	58%	46%	41%	27%	24%	7%
Swimming	80%	9%	75%	40%	45%	30%	27%	26%	26%	13%	19%	30%	3%	8%	0%
Bike riding/ cycling	0%	0%	0%	20%	14%	26%	8%	24%	14%	12%	8%	4%	3%	4%	0%
Netball	0%	64%	25%	20%	9%	33%	0%	13%	7%	4%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Golf	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	4%	4%	3%	7%	10%	8%	15%	7%	12%	7%
Gymnasium	0%	0%	50%	0%	5%	4%	4%	0%	19%	2%	8%	7%	17%	0%	4%
Cinema	20%	27%	0%	0%	9%	7%	8%	5%	5%	10%	0%	4%	10%	4%	0%
Tennis	0%	9%	0%	20%	14%	11%	12%	13%	9%	10%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Horse riding/ pony club	20%	18%	0%	20%	5%	7%	15%	8%	9%	6%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Lawn Bowls	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	3%	4%	20%	20%	7%
Beach	0%	0%	0%	20%	14%	11%	12%	8%	2%	0%	0%	4%	3%	4%	0%
Craft work	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	4%	8%	7%	10%	8%	7%
Service club	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	5%	2%	0%	4%	7%	12%	19%
Volunteer work	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	8%	2%	4%	5%	0%	3%	8%	4%
Fishing	0%	18%	0%	20%	0%	4%	4%	8%	0%	0%	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Water aerobics	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	5%	6%	5%	0%	3%	0%	7%
Visiting the park	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	11%	4%	3%	0%	2%	3%	4%	0%	4%	0%
Other sport/ exercise	20%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	8%	0%	2%	5%	0%	3%	4%	0%
Reading/ book club	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	4%	0%	11%	7%	0%	0%
Basketball	40%	0%	0%	20%	5%	7%	4%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Gender - Males

Although walking is the most participated in activity by males, the percentage of males who walk regularly for recreation is significantly lower than for females. The list of the top activities that are most regularly participated in by males contains a number of differences to the overall top 20 activities.

- Bike riding/cycling, golf, fishing, Australian football, running, motor bike riding, lawn bowls and golf were more regularly participated in by male respondents than female respondents
- Activities that had lower participation rates by males compared with females included walking, swimming, cinema, netball, horse riding and craftwork.

Age

The breakdown of activities per age group shows a tendency for the older age categories (60+) to participate in more passive leisure activities as opposed to structured sporting activities.

- Respondents aged less than 30 years were more likely to participate in traditional sporting activities such as football, cricket and basketball
- Activities that respondents aged 30 to 59 years were more likely to participate in included running, tennis, fishing, bike riding, swimming, surfing and cinema
- Older respondents (60 years and older) were more likely to undertake lawn bowls and golf while visiting the service clubs (such as RSL, Lions, Rotary and Probus) and travelling.

The table below highlights the top activities that males participate in and the age breakdown of these activities.

Table 1.3a: Number of males participating in each activity: by age group³

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80+
Walking	0	1	0	0	1	7	7	12	4	13	22	13	4	9	4
Fishing	0	0	1	1	2	8	8	8	10	4	9	10	1	5	1
Bike riding/ cycling	0	4	0	0	5	8	8	7	7	11	9	2	1	3	0
Golf	2	0	1	0	1	3	3	2	2	9	6	10	2	4	5
Swimming	3	1	0	0	4	5	5	7	3	2	2	1	1	3	1
Football	4	4	0	0	4	2	2	4	3	4	4	3	1	0	0
Lawn bowls	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	6	2	4	3
Cricket	3	1	1	0	4	2	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tennis	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	3	0	2	2	0	0	0
Service Club	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	3	1	2	4
Basketball	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Gymnasium	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	1
Other sport/ exercise	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Volunteer work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	1	0	1	0
Beach	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	0
Cinema	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	0
Running	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Camping	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Motorbike riding	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	0
Horse riding/ pony club	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0
Surfing	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

³ Listed are the activities that have the largest number of participants.

Table 1.3b: Percentage of males participating in each activity: By age group

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80+
Walking	0%	11%	0%	0%	7%	47%	27%	41%	12%	31%	49%	34%	27%	31%	18%
Fishing	0%	0%	33%	100%	13%	53%	31%	28%	30%	10%	20%	26%	7%	17%	5%
Bike riding/ cycling	0%	44%	0%	0%	33%	53%	31%	24%	21%	26%	20%	5%	7%	10%	0%
Golf	18%	0%	33%	0%	7%	20%	12%	7%	6%	21%	13%	26%	13%	14%	23%
Swimming	27%	11%	0%	0%	27%	33%	19%	24%	9%	5%	4%	3%	7%	10%	5%
Football	36%	44%	0%	0%	27%	13%	8%	14%	9%	10%	9%	8%	7%	0%	0%
Lawn bowls	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	5%	11%	16%	13%	14%	14%
Cricket	27%	11%	33%	0%	27%	13%	8%	14%	3%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Tennis	9%	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	8%	14%	9%	0%	4%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Service Club	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	4%	0%	9%	0%	0%	8%	7%	7%	18%
Basketball	27%	22%	33%	0%	13%	7%	4%	0%	0%	5%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Gymnasium	0%	11%	33%	0%	0%	7%	4%	3%	0%	2%	7%	0%	0%	7%	5%
Other sport/ exercise	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	12%	7%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%
Volunteer work	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	10%	7%	3%	0%	3%	0%
Beach	18%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	3%	6%	2%	0%	3%	0%	7%	0%
Cinema	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	4%	3%	6%	2%	0%	5%	7%	0%	0%
Running	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	8%	10%	0%	2%	2%	0%	7%	0%	0%
Camping	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	7%	4%	3%	6%	2%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Motorbike riding	0%	22%	0%	100%	7%	7%	4%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Travel	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	4%	3%	7%	3%	0%
Horse riding/ pony club	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	4%	0%	0%	2%	4%	3%	7%	0%	0%
Surfing	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	13%	8%	3%	3%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Location

Walking is the activity that more people participated in across almost all townships. Of the townships where walking was not the most participated in activity, the main activity were as listed below.

- Buffalo – Indoor bowls
- Meeniyan – Bike riding
- Nyora – Swimming
- Poowong – Football, tennis & horse riding
- Welshpool – Swimming
- Yanakie - Fishing

Table 1.4 (over page) highlights the number of people in each township that participate in the listed activities.

Note: The following table highlights the townships that have been analysed and the localities included within each township where responses were received.

Township	Localities
Buffalo	Buffalo
Dumbalk	Dumbalk, Dollar
Fish Creek	Fish Creek
Foster	Foster
Korumburra	Korumburra, Bena, Woorarra, Jumbunna, Kardella South, Arawata
Kongwak	Kongwak, Inverloch
Koonwarra	Koonwarra
Leongatha	Leongatha, Ruby
Loch	Loch, Jeetho
Mirboo North	Mirboo North, Marden, Allambee South, Hallston, Berrys Creek
Meeniyan	Meeniyan, Stony Creek
Nyora	Nyora
Port Welshpool	Port Welshpool
Tarwin Lower	Tarwin Lower, Venues Bay
Toora	Toora, Port Franklin, Bennison
Waratah Bay	Waratah Bay, Sandy Point, Walkerville
Welshpool	Welshpool, Agnes
Yanakie	Yanakie

Table 1.4: Number of people participating in activities by locality

Sport	Buffalo		Dumbalk		Fish Creek		Foster		K'burra		Kongwak		K'warra		L'gatha		Loch		Mirboo North		Meeniyan		Nyora		Port Welshpl		Poowong		Tarwin Lower		Toora		Waratah Bay		Welshpool		Yanakie			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Walking	0	0	3	1	1	0	13	12	22	12	3	2	4	4	51	31	1	2	15	8	4	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	4	5	8	2	0	0	2	2		
Swimming	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	4	8	5	0	0	2	2	29	7	0	0	5	4	1	2	4	3	1	0	1	0	6	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1		
Bike riding	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	12	2	1	2	3	10	18	0	1	1	3	3	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	0		
Golf	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	5	5	1	1	0	0	5	16	0	2	5	4	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	0	1			
Fishing	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	8	1	6	0	1	0	1	2	11	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	4	2	5	1	5	0	1	0	6		
Football	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	1	9	0	0	1	4	1	2	2	4	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1		
Lawn Bowls	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	7	1	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2		
Tennis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	11	4	0	0	4	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0		
Gym	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	10	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	0		
Cinema	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	9	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Netball	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Services Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	5	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Horse riding/ pony club	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	
Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0		
Volunteer work	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Basketball	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Cricket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Craftwork	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Other sport/ exercise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Camping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		
Visiting the park	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	
Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Running	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Water Aerobics	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Indoor bowls	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Motorbike riding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theatre/ ballet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Socialising	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Use of facilities

Beaches, the cinema and bicycle paths are the facilities within the South Gippsland Shire that are most commonly used by both men and women.

The least used facilities for females were mountain bike facilities, skate parks and pony club/ equestrian facilities. For males, pony club/ equestrian facilities, mountain bike facilities and netball courts.

The tables below outline the facilities that are used most often by females and males (table 1.5 and 1.6) and the number of survey respondents that are using the facilities both regularly and/or occasionally (table 1.7).

Table 1.5: Percentage of females using South Gippsland facilities

Facilities	Never	Occasionally	Regularly	No response	Average
Beach	9%	44%	33%	14%	2.28
Cinema	9%	51%	31%	10%	2.24
Bicycle paths/ walking tracks	17%	35%	36%	13%	2.22
Libraries	19%	34%	36%	12%	2.19
Local neighbourhood parks	15%	46%	25%	14%	2.11
Swimming pool	28%	32%	26%	15%	1.98
Regional parks/ gardens	18%	53%	12%	16%	1.93
Art craft centres/ galleries/ museums	22%	45%	16%	17%	1.93
Neighbourhood houses/ community centres/ halls/ senior citizens centres	28%	37%	19%	16%	1.90
Theatres/ music/ dance venues	28%	42%	14%	15%	1.83
Lakes or riverside parks	28%	42%	10%	20%	1.78
Social/ service clubs	37%	31%	16%	16%	1.74
Playgrounds	38%	27%	16%	19%	1.72
Outdoor sporting fields	47%	20%	12%	20%	1.56
Fitness centres/ gymnasiums	52%	15%	13%	19%	1.51
Dog off leash area	56%	11%	14%	20%	1.48
Fishing platform/ pier	51%	22%	7%	21%	1.45
Indoor ball court/ sports facility	58%	11%	11%	20%	1.41
Golf courses	58%	14%	9%	19%	1.39
Tennis courts	58%	13%	9%	20%	1.39
Boat launching facilities	61%	11%	7%	21%	1.31
Netball courts	66%	5%	9%	20%	1.29
Surf lifesaving facilities	63%	12%	4%	21%	1.25
Lawn bowling clubs	68%	7%	6%	19%	1.25
Racecourse/ raceway	66%	10%	2%	21%	1.19
Pony club/ equestrian facilities	71%	4%	3%	21%	1.14
Skate parks	70%	6%	2%	22%	1.14
Mountain bike/ BMX facilities	73%	4%	1%	22%	1.08

Table 1.6: Percentage of males using of South Gippsland facilities

Facilities	Never	Occasionally	Regularly	No response	Average
Beach	11%	46%	31%	13%	2.23
Cinema	15%	51%	25%	8%	2.11
Bicycle paths/ walking tracks	23%	34%	32%	11%	2.10
Local neighbourhood parks	18%	47%	22%	13%	2.04
Regional parks/ gardens	21%	52%	13%	14%	1.91
Libraries	37%	31%	21%	12%	1.83
Lakes or riverside parks	27%	45%	10%	17%	1.80
Swimming pool	34%	35%	17%	14%	1.80
Fishing platform/ pier	40%	30%	17%	12%	1.74
Social/ service clubs	39%	32%	16%	13%	1.74
Theatres/ music/ dance venues	35%	40%	12%	13%	1.74
Outdoor sporting fields	43%	21%	20%	15%	1.72
Neighbourhood houses/ community centres/ halls/ senior citizens centres	44%	29%	15%	12%	1.67
Art craft centres/ galleries/ museums	38%	38%	10%	14%	1.66
Golf courses	46%	25%	16%	13%	1.66
Playgrounds	46%	26%	11%	17%	1.58
Boat launching facilities	54%	17%	15%	14%	1.54
Indoor ball court/ sports facility	60%	12%	13%	16%	1.44
Dog off leash area	62%	11%	11%	16%	1.39
Tennis courts	60%	16%	7%	16%	1.36
Lawn bowling clubs	69%	8%	9%	14%	1.30
Fitness centres/ gymnasiums	67%	10%	7%	16%	1.29
Racecourse/ raceway	65%	15%	3%	17%	1.26
Surf lifesaving facilities	68%	12%	3%	17%	1.22
Skate parks	71%	9%	4%	16%	1.19
Netball courts	76%	4%	4%	16%	1.15
Mountain bike/ BMX facilities	75%	7%	2%	16%	1.14
Pony club/ equestrian facilities	79%	2%	2%	17%	1.07

Table 1.7: Total number of people using the South Gippsland Shire facilities

Facilities	Female	Male	Total
Cinema	306	257	563
Beach	291	256	547
Local neighbourhood parks	268	229	497
Bicycle paths/ walking tracks	266	222	488
Regional parks/ gardens	246	217	463
Libraries	262	173	435
Swimming pool	217	173	390
Art craft centres/ galleries/ museums	231	158	389
Theatres/ music/ dance venues	214	175	389
Lakes or riverside parks	198	186	384
Neighbourhood houses/ community centres/ halls/ senior citizens centres	213	147	360
Social/ service clubs	176	161	337
Playgrounds	161	124	285
Fishing platform/ pier	108	159	267
Outdoor sporting fields	123	138	261
Golf courses	86	138	224
Boat launching facilities	67	106	173
Dog off leash area	92	73	165
Fitness centres/ gymnasiums	107	57	164
Indoor ball court/ sports facility	81	82	163
Tennis courts	83	78	161
Surf lifesaving facilities	59	50	109
Lawn bowling clubs	51	57	108
Racecourse/ raceway	46	60	106
Netball courts	54	28	82
Skate parks	31	41	72
Mountain bike/ BMX facilities	18	31	49
Pony club/ equestrian facilities	29	13	42

Other facilities that respondents indicated they use within the South Gippsland Shire include the following.

- Rail trail (9)
- Coal Creek (4)
- Footpaths (3)
- Show grounds (3)
- Church (2)
- Squash courts (2)
- Bush land (1)
- Community garden and market (1)
- Gymnastics facility (1)
- Performing arts theatre (1)
- Public computer facilities (1)
- Ten pin bowling (1)
- Youth centre (1)
- Motor bike trails (1)

Priority facilities if funding becomes available

Respondents were asked to indicate what facilities should be a priority if funding became available. There were 537 responses to this question of which almost 20% indicated that bicycle paths/ walking trails were the greatest priority.

Other facilities that were seen as priority included:

- Swimming pools (6.7%)
- Fitness centre/ gymnasium (6.1%)
- Theatres (5.0%)
- Boating launching facilities (4.3%)
- Libraries (3.9%)

The townships that respondents indicated priority funding should be allocated were the larger towns of Leongatha, Korumburra and Foster. This is not surprising given that approximately 77% of respondents indicated that the township where funding be allocated was the locality in which they lived and 55% of respondents reside in these three localities.

The following facilities were highlighted as being of greater priority for the townships listed.

Table 1.8: Facilities of greatest priority for each township if funds available

Townships	Priority facilities
Dumbalk	Bicycle paths/ walking trails
Fish Creek	Lawn bowling facilities
Foster	Swimming pools, bicycle paths/ walking trails, fitness centre/ gymnasium, cinema
Korumburra	Bicycle paths/ walking trails
Kongwak	Boating facilities, fishing platform/ pier, lakes or riverside parks
Koonwarra	Bicycle paths/ walking trails
Leongatha	Bicycle paths/ walking trails, art craft centres, athletics track, libraries
Loch	Lawn bowling facilities
Mirboo North	Fitness centre/ gymnasium, swimming pool, bicycle paths/ walking trails, upgrading of facilities
Meeniyan	Bicycle paths/ walking trails, swimming pool
Nyora	Bicycle paths/ walking trails
Port Welshpool	Fishing platform/ pier
Poowong	Bicycle paths/ walking trails, fitness centre/ gymnasium
Tarwin Lower	Bicycle paths/ walking trails, tennis courts
Toora	Bicycle paths/ walking trails, swimming pools
Waratah Bay	Boat launching facilities
Welshpool	Fishing platform/ pier
Yanakie	Boat launching facilities

The table (over page) highlights the facilities that are seen to be a priority if funding were to become available and the townships where these facilities are needed.

Table 1.9: Number of respondents by priority facilities and their location

Facility	Total	Dumbalk	Fish Creek	Foster	Korumburra	Kongwak	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Loch	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Port Welshpool	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Welshpool	Yanakie
Bicycle paths/ walking trails	103	2	0	5	29	0	10	17	2	5	4	3	0	2	4	6	4	0	1
Swimming pool	36	0	0	8	4	0	0	5	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Fitness centre/ gymnasium	33	0	0	5	6	0	0	8	0	9	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2
Theatres	27	0	0	2	3	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Boating facilities	23	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	7	1	3
Libraries	21	1	0	4	1	0	0	9	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Community centres/ neighbourhood houses	19	0	2	0	2	0	0	5	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Indoor ball court/ sports facilities	16	0	0	4	3	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Regional parks/ gardens	16	0	0	1	6	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Art craft centres	16	0	0	0	2	0	0	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennis courts	15	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0
Lawn bowling clubs	14	0	3	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fishing platform/ pier	13	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	3	0
Local neighbourhood parks	13	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lakes or riverside parks	11	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Cinemas	10	0	0	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Playgrounds	10	0	0	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Golf courses	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Athletics track	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor sports fields	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Footpaths	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Social/ services club	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Upgrading of current facilities	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.2 Latent demand: activities liked but not undertaken

Respondents were asked to indicate what activities they would most like to do away from home, but currently do not do. There were 243 (134 female and 109 male) respondents who indicated that there were no activities that they would like to do away from home that they currently do not do (a further 153 respondents did not respond to this question).

Gender

Going to the gym was the activity that more respondents (both male and female) would like to do but currently do not do. For males, fishing, bike riding and walking were the main activities that respondents would like to do but currently do not do. Females would also like to walk, swim, bike ride and play ten pin bowling.

Going to the gym was also the activity that more people in the larger townships would like to do that they currently do not do. In addition to going to the gym the following activities would like to be undertaken in the following locations.

Table 2.1: Activities respondents from main townships would like to do but currently do no do

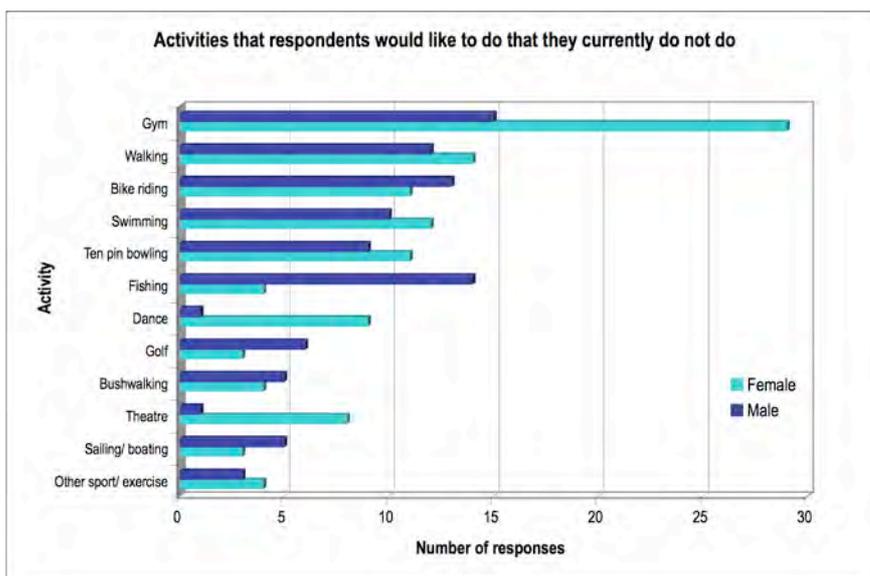
Locality	Activity respondents would like to do that they currently do not do
Leongatha	Ten pin bowling, bike riding and theatre
Korumburra	Walking, bushwalking and bike riding
Foster	Walking, swimming and ten pin bowling
Mirboo North	Walking and swimming
Tarwin Lower	Ten pin bowling, swimming and sailing/ boating

Age

The activities that young people (aged under 30 years) would like to do that they currently do not do include swimming, ten pin bowling and bike riding. Adults (aged 30 years to 59 years) would like to go to the gym, dance, go sailing, bushwalking or bike riding. Whilst older adults were more likely to want to go to the gym, walking, fishing, attend the theatre or play golf.

The top 12 activities that respondents would most like to do away from home but currently don't, are displayed below.

Figure 2.1: Activities that respondents would like to do but currently don't⁴



⁴ Only the 12 activities with the largest number of responses are shown

Table 2.2a: Number of respondents by activity liked (but not undertaken) by location⁵

Activity	Total	Dumbalk	Fish Creek	Foster	Korumburra	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Loch	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Yanakie
Gym	44	0	0	4	6	0	13	1	9	0	2	2	3	0	0	2
Walking	26	0	0	4	5	0	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
Bike riding	24	0	0	0	5	3	6	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Swimming	22	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	4	2	2	0	2	0	1	2
Ten pin bowling	20	2	0	2	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Fishing	18	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	1
Dance	10	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0
Golf	9	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bushwalking	9	0	0	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Theatre	9	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sailing/ boating	8	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Other sport/ exercise	7	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
None	243	3	0	19	46	8	66	4	20	8	7	3	10	12	7	6

Table 2.2b: Percentage of respondents by activity liked (but not undertaken) by location

Activity	Total	Dumbalk	Fish Creek	Foster	Korumburra	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Loch	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Yanakie
Gym	6.1%	0%	0%	9%	7%	0%	9%	13%	17%	0%	11%	13%	13%	0%	0%	14%
Walking	3.6%	0%	0%	9%	5%	0%	3%	0%	7%	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Bike riding	3.3%	0%	0%	0%	5%	19%	4%	25%	6%	0%	11%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Swimming	3.1%	0%	100%	5%	0%	0%	2%	0%	7%	15%	11%	0%	8%	0%	4%	14%
Ten pin bowling	2.8%	25%	0%	5%	1%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Fishing	2.5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	13%	4%	0%	6%	13%	0%	0%	8%	7%
Dance	1.4%	0%	0%	2%	1%	6%	1%	0%	2%	8%	0%	13%	0%	0%	4%	0%
Golf	1.3%	0%	0%	2%	3%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	4%	7%
Bushwalking	1.3%	0%	0%	2%	5%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Theatre	1.3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Sailing/ boating	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	4%	4%	0%
Other sport/ exercise	1.0%	13%	0%	2%	1%	6%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%
None	33.9%	38%	0%	43%	51%	50%	43%	50%	37%	62%	39%	19%	42%	46%	28%	43%

⁵ Townships that have no responses have been removed from this list

Table 2.3a: Number of respondents by activity liked (but not undertaken) by age group

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80 +
Gym	0	1	1	1	8	8	6	3	5	4	2	4	1	0	0
Walking	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	4	4	2	1	1	3
Bike riding	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	3	3	4	5	1	1	1	0
Swimming	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	3	3	1	0	1	1	1
Ten pin bowling	2	2	0	1	1	1	4	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Fishing	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	1	0
Dance	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Golf	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	0
Bushwalking	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Theatre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	2	1
Sailing/boating	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other sport/exercise	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1
None	6	3	2	2	11	9	12	23	24	27	27	25	16	27	20
TOTAL	15	18	7	6	34	38	40	57	60	72	61	46	30	38	27

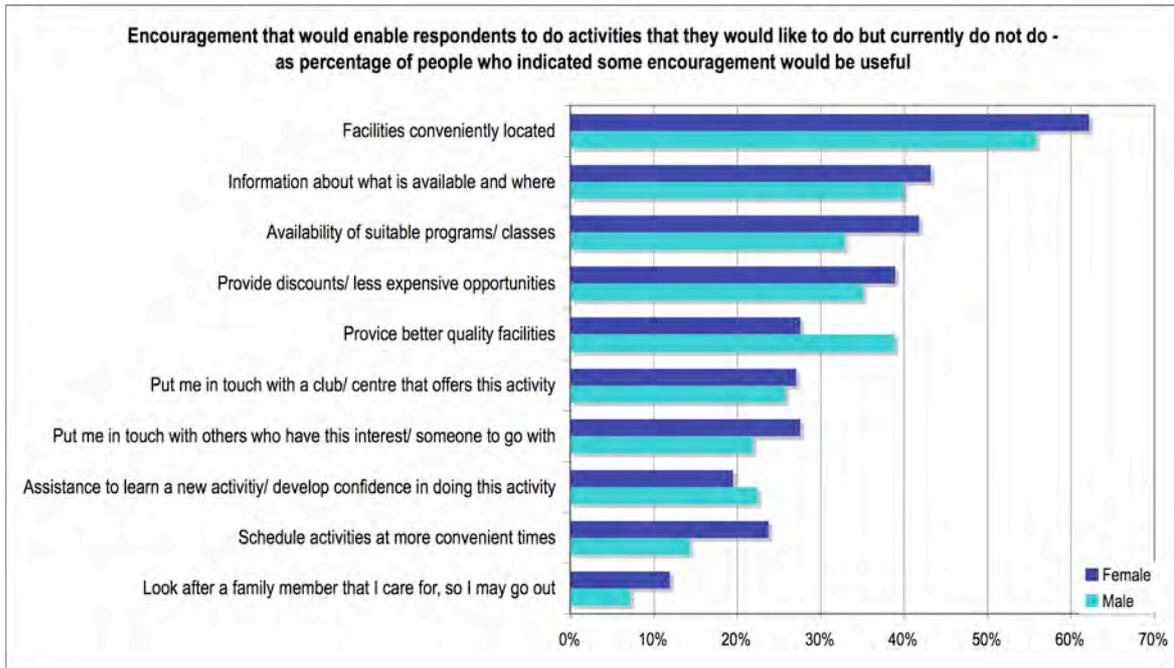
Table 2.3b: Percentage of respondents by activities liked (but not undertaken) by age group

Activity	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80 +
Gym	0%	6%	14%	17%	24%	21%	15%	5%	8%	6%	3%	9%	3%	0%	0%
Walking	0%	6%	0%	0%	3%	5%	5%	2%	5%	6%	7%	4%	3%	3%	11%
Bike riding	0%	6%	14%	0%	0%	3%	8%	5%	5%	6%	8%	2%	3%	3%	0%
Swimming	27%	6%	14%	0%	0%	5%	3%	4%	5%	4%	2%	0%	3%	3%	4%
Ten pin bowling	13%	11%	0%	17%	3%	3%	10%	4%	2%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Fishing	0%	0%	0%	17%	0%	3%	3%	4%	3%	0%	2%	4%	7%	3%	0%
Dance	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	5%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%
Golf	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	3%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Bushwalking	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Theatre	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	1%	0%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Sailing/boating	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	5%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other sport/exercise	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%	4%
None	40%	17%	29%	33%	32%	24%	30%	40%	40%	38%	44%	54%	53%	71%	74%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

2.3 Encouraging residents to do activities liked but not undertaken

Respondents were asked to identify what types of encouragement would enable them to do the activities that they would like to do but do not currently do. The figure below shows the types of encouragement that would enable the respondent to do these activities as a percentage of the total number of people who indicated that some type of encouragement would enable them to do an activity. Respondents were able to indicate more than one response.

Figure 2.2: Encouragement needed to enable respondents to do activities



Activity specific encouragement

For each activity that respondents would like to do, that they currently do not do, and the types of encouragement that would enable them to do these activities, are listed in the table below.

For males and females that wanted to go to the gym or to swim, the encouragement that would enable them to do so included having facilities conveniently located, suitable program/ classes and providing discount/ less expensive opportunities.

Respondents that would like to walk or bike ride for recreation would like facilities conveniently located and of better quality, along with information about what is available and where.

Table 2.4: Types of encouragement to undertake activities liked but not undertaken: female top ten activities

Activity			Availability of suitable programs/ classes	Information about what is available and where	Assistance to learn a new activity/ develop confidence in doing this	Put me in touch with others with this interest/ someone to go with	Put me in touch with a club/ centre that offers this activity	Look after a family member that I care for, so I may go out	Facilities conveniently located	Provide better quality facilities	Provide discounts/ less expensive opportunities	Schedule activities at more convenient times	Other
	Total	Total %											
Nothing	134	35.2%	11	15	7	5	7	2	13	6	12	6	0
Gym	29	7.6%	18	12	7	8	9	7	17	10	18	13	3
Walking	14	3.7%	1	6	2	4	3	1	4	4	4	2	0
Swimming	12	3.1%	6	3	2	2	0	2	9	4	4	2	2
Bike riding	11	2.9%	5	4	1	4	2	0	7	4	0	0	2
Ten pin bowling	11	2.9%	3	1	0	1	3	0	10	1	2	1	0
Dance	9	2.4%	8	1	0	3	5	1	5	1	2	1	0
Theatre	8	2.1%	3	5	1	3	1	1	6	2	3	2	0
Other sport/ exercise	4	1.0%	3	3	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	0
Bushwalking	4	1.0%	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	1	2
Yoga	4	1.0%	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	0

Table 2.5: Types of encouragement to undertake activities liked but not undertaken: male top ten activities

Activity			Availability of suitable programs/ classes	Information about what is available and where	Assistance to learn a new activity/ develop confidence in doing this	Put me in touch with others with this interest/ someone to go with	Put me in touch with a club/ centre that offers this activity	Look after a family member that I care for, so I may go out	Facilities conveniently located	Provide better quality facilities	Provide discounts/ less expensive opportunities	Schedule activities at more convenient times	Other
	Total	Total %											
None	109	32.4%	6	15	8	5	6	1	11	10	7	2	2
Gym	15	4.5%	9	4	3	3	4	2	10	6	8	5	0
Fishing	14	4.2%	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	6	3	0	2
Bike riding/ cycling	13	3.9%	1	3	1	3	3	0	4	3	2	1	2
Walking	12	3.6%	1	3	0	1	1	1	5	6	1	0	1
Swimming	10	3.0%	5	3	2	1	1	1	6	5	5	1	1
Ten pin bowling	9	2.7%	1	0	0	1	4	0	8	1	0	1	0
Golf	6	1.8%	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	1
Bushwalking	5	1.5%	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	4
Sailing/ boating	5	1.5%	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	1	0

2.4 Meeting recreation and open space needs

Respondents were asked what single thing the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs. The main responses from both male and females included walking and cycling paths, maintaining and developing parks and gardens, and reducing costs through assistance with grants and funding. The following table lists the main issues that respondents highlighted.

Table 2.6: Single things the Shire could do to meet respondent's recreation needs

Issue	Female	Male	Total
Walking/ cycling paths	50	40	90
Maintenance/ development of parks and gardens	24	23	47
Grants/ funding/ reduced cost opportunities	22	22	44
Outdoor sporting field development/ maintenance	9	16	25
Satisfied/ nothing	13	11	24
Footpaths	13	8	21
Boating facilities/ pier	4	14	18
Indoor sporting facilities	6	11	17
Swimming pools	10	6	16
Facilities in parks - toilets, BBQ etc	14	2	16

Age & gender

The provision and development of outdoor sporting fields, and grants, funding and reduced cost opportunities were the things that young males and females (aged 10 to 34 years) indicated would be needed to meet their recreation and open space needs.

Providing and maintain walking paths and trails, assist with grants, funding and having reduced cost opportunities were the things that respondents aged 35 years to 59 years indicated that the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their recreation needs. In addition to these, the provision of indoor sporting facilities for males and for females the development and maintenance of parks and gardens were also mentioned.

Respondents aged over 60 years also indicated that improved walking paths and trails would help meet their recreation and open space needs along with the development and maintenance of parks and gardens. However, a large proportion of the respondents in this age group were satisfied and implied that there was nothing the Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs.

Locality

People in the larger townships of Leongatha, Korumburra and Mirboo North suggested similar things that the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs. These things included:

- Walking paths and trails
- Maintaining and developing parks and gardens
- Assisting with grants and funding
- Footpaths

Respondents from Toora, Waratah Bay and Yanakie indicated that boating facilities or a pier would help meet their recreation and open space needs.

The following table shows the larger towns and the main things that people said would be the one thing that the South Gippsland Shire could do to meet their open space and recreation needs.

Table 2.7: Activity to meet open space and recreation needs, number of respondents by locality.

Activity	Foster	Korumburra	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Welshpool	Yanakie
Walking/ cycling paths	4	22	4	26	7	6	3	3	4	6	1	0	0
Maintenance/ development of parks and gardens	4	12	2	15	6	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	1
Grants/ funding	3	9	0	15	1	2	2	0	2	4	3	0	1
Outdoor sporting field development/ upkeep	1	5	0	5	4	0	0	2	3	1	2	2	0
Boating facilities/ pier	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	3
Satisfied/ nothing	5	2	2	6	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Indoor sporting facilities	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0
Footpaths	1	6	0	7	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Swimming pools	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Playgrounds	0	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing arts centre	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities in parks - toilets, BBQ etc	0	2	0	6	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0

2.5 Funding allocation and assistance

Respondents were asked how funds should be allocated to reserves given that the funds are not available to meet all infrastructure demands on reserves. Three options were given with each respondent indicating if they agree, disagree or don't know.

The following table highlights the female and male attitude towards the funding allocation alternatives.

- Male and female attitudes towards funding allocation were similar
- More people agreed to the allocations of funding on the basis of priorities identified by the town than other alternatives
- The least favoured alternative to funding allocation to reserves was to match funding on a per capita basis for each town

Table 2.8: Percentage of respondent's attitudes towards funding allocation

Funding allocation	Disagree		Don't know		Agree		No response	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
On the basis of priorities identified by the town	6%	7%	11%	11%	76%	75%	5%	6%
Equal access to funding for all committees	11%	12%	17%	16%	65%	67%	5%	6%
Matching funding on a per capita basis for each town	26%	26%	18%	18%	46%	47%	7%	8%

Other comments and alternative suggestions as to how funds should be allocated to reserves include:

- Provide funding to sports with a smaller profile to increase participation numbers
- User pays system
- Smaller communities are financially disadvantaged
- Make funding proportional to participants but don't increase funding
- Shared around all groups
- Ensure the community has a say not just a local minority
- Provide funds to upgrade infrastructure based on age and quality

Funding assistance methods

Increasing the amount of funding available in the Community Grant Scheme was the most agreed alternative method of assisting committees of management fund infrastructure upgrades, with 68% of females and 69% of males agreeing to this alternative. It was also the least disagreed alternative.

More people disagreed with the alternative to introduce a recreation/ sports levy for ratepayers, with more people also disagreeing with the alternative to redevelop fewer number of facilities to a higher level (focusing on district rather than local level).

The following table highlights respondent's attitudes towards the various alternatives to assisting committees of management in funding infrastructure upgrades.

Other alternatives that were given include:

- Obtain funding from State/ Federal Government
- Provide labour to assist with activities eg. parks and garden staff
- Use facilities for multiple activities
- Users pay system
- 'Work for the Dole' scheme to help in Community Shire programs

Table 2.9: The percentage of respondent's attitudes towards various methods of funding assistance

Method for funding	Disagree		Don't know		Agree		No response	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Introduce a recreation / sport levy for ratepayers	74%	73%	12%	10%	10%	14%	4%	3%
Increase development contributions from residential land developers	26%	24%	24%	20%	47%	53%	3%	2%
Establish a program to seek and co-ordinate volunteer assistance	15%	16%	27%	30%	56%	52%	2%	2%
Employ a person to seek grants and sponsorship	20%	25%	27%	22%	49%	51%	3%	2%
Redevelop fewer number of facilities to a higher level. I.e. focus on district rather than local level	48%	49%	20%	22%	28%	27%	4%	2%
Increase amount of funds available in Community Grant Scheme	8%	9%	21%	21%	68%	69%	3%	1%
Retain current funding allocation	27%	32%	53%	44%	15%	19%	4%	4%

2.6 Performance of recreation facilities and services

The following tables indicate how important the respondents see the recreation related facilities and services in the South Gippsland Shire followed by how well these services are performed or provided for by the South Gippsland Shire Council. A gap analysis is also shown in Table 2.10c.

The gap analysis indicates the difference between the importance and provision of recreational related facilities and services in the Indigo Shire. The three most important recreational related facilities and services were:

- Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- Maintenance and upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves
- Support for community and sporting clubs

The three services that were perceived as having the poorest provision by the South Gippsland Shire Council were:

- Provision of information about recreation and sports opportunities
- Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- Coordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with disabilities and young people

The largest gap between the importance of facilities and the perception of service provided was seen in the following three items:

- Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas
- Co-ordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with disabilities and young people
- Maintenance and upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves

Table 2.10a: Importance of the recreational facilities and services, total

Services and Facilities	Not at all important	Not very important	Important	Very important	Average
Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas	4%	8%	35%	42%	1.28
Maintenance & upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves	3%	6%	38%	42%	1.24
Support for community & sporting clubs	7%	20%	39%	22%	1.17
Co-ordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with a disability & young people	6%	8%	36%	40%	1.14
Development of walking/ cycling/ equestrian trails	4%	12%	40%	32%	1.08
Provision of indoor halls/ sports facilities	2%	9%	29%	50%	0.95
Swimming pools	3%	10%	34%	41%	0.94
Information about recreation & sports opportunities	4%	13%	38%	33%	0.55

Table 2.10b: Provision of services by SGS

Services and Facilities	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Average
Swimming pools	7%	20%	32%	24%	0.56
Support for community & sporting clubs	5%	24%	34%	19%	0.46
Maintenance & upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves	8%	23%	33%	19%	0.38
Provision of indoor halls/ sports facilities	5%	28%	35%	17%	0.36
Development of walking/ cycling/ equestrian trails	11%	24%	31%	20%	0.28
Co-ordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with a disability & young people	9%	25%	22%	18%	0.20
Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas	19%	26%	21%	20%	-0.03
Information about recreation & sports opportunities	9%	35%	27%	11%	-0.05

Table 2.10c: Gap difference between the importance and perceived provision of services in the South Gippsland Shire

Services and Facilities	Importance	Performance	Gap
Re-vegetation and weed control in natural areas	1.28	-0.03	1.32
Co-ordination of programs/ classes for older adults, people with a disability & young people	1.14	0.20	0.93
Maintenance & upgrade of outdoor sporting reserves	1.24	0.38	0.86
Development of walking/ cycling/ equestrian trails	1.08	0.28	0.80
Support for community & sporting clubs	1.17	0.46	0.71
Information about recreation & sports opportunities	0.55	-0.05	0.60
Provision of indoor halls/ sports facilities	0.95	0.36	0.59
Swimming pools	0.94	0.56	0.38

Other comments that were made about the provision of services and facilities in the South Gippsland Shire include:

- Weed control is very important
- Footpaths are needed for prams and young children
- The walking track between Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower
- Facilities and services are well provided for in Leongatha but not in small towns

Local Government Consumer Satisfaction Survey

In support of the findings from the household survey, where almost all facilities and services recorded a performance level of good or very good, were the results from the Local Government Community satisfaction survey for 2006/07. Recreation facilities were ranked higher for the South Gippsland Shire when compared to other councils. In addition, within the Council specific performance areas, recreation facilities (along with health and human services) were the highest ranked service area in the South Gippsland Shire.

In comparison to the findings of the household survey the satisfaction of residents with footpaths (and local roads) were seen as very poor and one of the lowest ranked performance areas.

More/better sporting complexes (including pools) and better maintenance of sporting facilities were the main reasons given why Council needs to improve on recreation facilities. In comparison to the household survey where sporting facilities provision appeared to be meeting the respondents needs the community satisfaction survey indicated that sporting complexes were the main areas of improvement needed in regards to recreation facilities.

The provision of facilities and services in smaller towns has been raised in both surveys as an area of improvement for the South Gippsland Shire Council.

The table below shows the main reasons why Council needs to improve on recreation facilities from the local government community satisfaction survey.

Table 2.11: Reasons why council needs to improve on recreation facilities

Response	% of respondents
More/better sporting complexes (including pools)	25
Better maintenance of sporting facilities (including pools)	23
More/ better sporting complexes and/ or facilities in smaller towns	15
More support/ funding needed for recreational/ sporting facilities	13
More/ better arts/ cultural facilities/ events in smaller towns	12
More facilities/ activities for young people/ teenagers	12
Council favours certain areas over others in regards to recreational facilities	12

2.7 General information about respondents

The survey population has shown a heavy bias towards people aged 45 years and older in females and 40 years and older in males. The 10-year to 30-year age group in both females and males have been under represented compared to the Shire's population.

Given the bias towards an older population there is a skew towards slightly less physical sport activity and more leisure based pursuits such as golf, fishing and walking.

The distribution of respondents from townships across the shire is primarily representative of the actual population of the South Gippsland Shire. There is however a slight under- representation of respondents from Koonwarra and Poowong and slight over- representation from Korumburra and Nyora.

Table 2.12: Number and percentage in survey sample by each age group, compared with Shire population

Age group	Female			Male		
	Number	Survey	Shire	Number	Survey	Shire
10 - 14	5	1.3%	8.6%	11	3.3%	5.8%
15 - 19	11	2.9%	7.3%	9	2.7%	7.5%
20 - 24	4	1.1%	4.4%	3	0.9%	8.4%
25 - 29	5	1.3%	4.9%	1	0.3%	7.0%
30 - 34	22	5.8%	5.7%	15	4.5%	3.5%
35 - 39	27	7.1%	6.8%	15	4.5%	4.8%
40 - 44	26	6.9%	7.3%	26	7.8%	5.9%
45 - 49	38	10.0%	7.7%	29	8.7%	7.0%
50 - 54	43	11.3%	7.5%	33	9.9%	7.9%
55 - 59	52	13.7%	6.1%	42	12.6%	7.7%
60 - 64	37	9.8%	5.3%	45	13.5%	7.2%
65 - 69	27	7.1%	4.4%	38	11.4%	5.7%
70 - 74	30	7.9%	4.1%	15	4.5%	4.9%
75 - 79	25	6.6%	2.8%	29	8.7%	4.3%
80 +	27	7.1%	1.7%	22	6.6%	3.9%
Total	379	100%		333	100%	

Figure 2.3: Survey sample compared to Shire population - Female

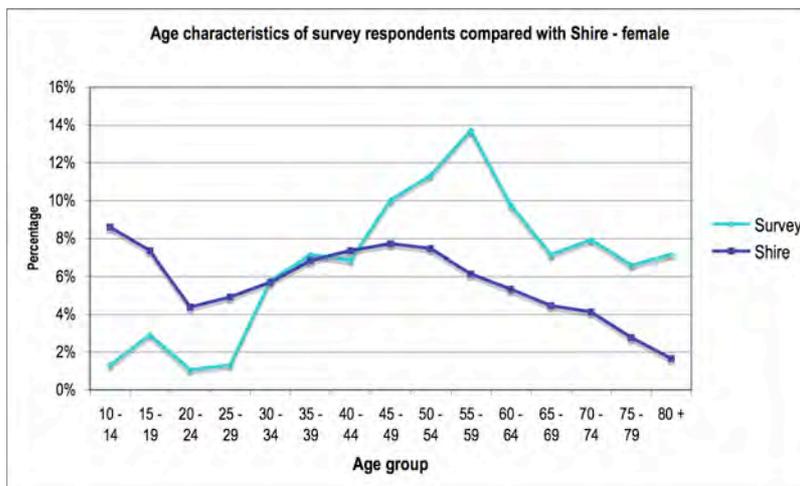


Figure 2.4: Survey sample compared to Shire population - Male

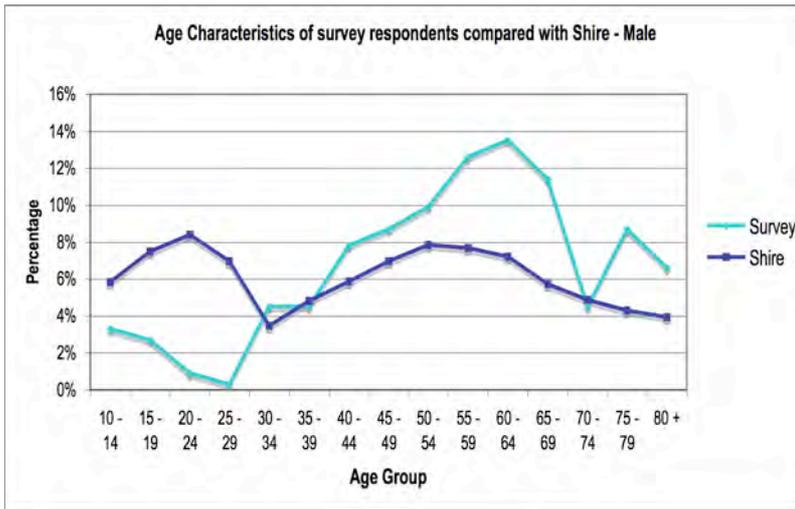


Table 2.13: Number and percentage of survey sample in each township, by gender

Locality	Female		Male		Total		Shire (% total residents)
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Leongatha	112	31%	89	28%	201	29%	29%
Korumburra	63	17%	54	17%	117	17%	22%
Mirboo North	39	11%	34	11%	73	11%	10%
Foster	28	8%	29	9%	57	8%	7%
Waratah Bay	20	6%	16	5%	36	5%	5%
Toora	16	4%	14	4%	30	4%	5%
Tarwin Lower	17	5%	12	4%	29	4%	4%
Koonwarra	9	2%	10	3%	19	3%	1%
Nyora	9	2%	10	3%	19	3%	4%
Meenyan	8	2%	10	3%	18	3%	3%
Poowong	10	3%	8	3%	18	3%	2%
Yanakie	8	2%	9	3%	17	2%	2%
Loch	5	1%	5	2%	10	1%	1%
Dumbalk	4	1%	5	2%	9	1%	1%
Kongwak	5	1%	4	1%	9	1%	1%
Welshpool	5	1%	4	1%	9	1%	1%
Port Welshpool	2	1%	3	1%	5	1%	1%
Buffalo	2	1%	2	1%	4	1%	1%
Fish Creek	1	0%	1	0%	2	0%	1%
Total	363	100%	319	100%	682	100%	100%

Table 2.14a: Number of survey sample from each township, by age group

Age Group	Total	Buffalo	Dumbalk	Fish Creek	Foster	Korumburra	Kongwak	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Loch	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Port Welshpool	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Welshpool	Yanakie
10 - 14	15	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
15 - 19	19	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
20 - 24	8	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 - 29	6	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 - 34	36	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	16	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	1	1
35 - 39	41	0	1	0	4	7	0	0	9	1	6	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	1
40 - 44	50	0	0	0	3	8	0	4	13	3	4	1	3	0	1	1	4	2	2	1
45 - 49	65	0	3	0	4	13	0	1	14	0	8	2	6	2	1	5	3	3	0	0
50 - 54	74	0	1	1	3	10	1	5	29	0	5	2	3	0	4	1	6	2	0	1
55 - 59	90	0	0	1	4	12	5	1	37	0	9	4	1	0	2	3	3	3	1	4
60 - 64	77	1	3	0	8	15	2	6	21	0	7	0	2	0	1	3	2	2	2	2
65 - 69	64	1	0	0	6	11	0	0	15	0	12	1	0	0	2	3	3	8	1	1
70 - 74	44	2	0	0	6	9	0	0	10	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	1	2
75 - 79	49	0	0	0	7	8	1	2	14	1	4	2	0	0	1	3	1	4	0	1
80 +	40	0	1	0	6	5	0	0	8	2	6	1	0	0	1	3	3	2	1	1

Table 2.14b: Percentage of survey sample from each township, by age group

Age Group	Total	Buffalo	Dumbalk	Fish Creek	Foster	Korumburra	Kongwak	Koonwarra	Leongatha	Loch	Mirboo North	Meeniyan	Nyora	Port Welshpool	Poowong	Tarwin Lower	Toora	Waratah Bay	Welshpool	Yanakie
10 - 14	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%	11%	5%	0%	0%	10%	3%	0%	0%	6%
15 - 19	3%	0%	0%	0%	4%	5%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	5%	0%	6%	3%	3%	0%	0%	6%
20 - 24	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
25 - 29	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
30 - 34	5%	0%	0%	0%	4%	6%	0%	0%	8%	0%	3%	0%	0%	20%	11%	3%	0%	8%	11%	6%
35 - 39	6%	0%	11%	0%	7%	6%	0%	0%	4%	10%	8%	11%	11%	20%	11%	3%	7%	6%	0%	6%
40 - 44	7%	0%	0%	0%	5%	7%	0%	21%	6%	30%	5%	6%	16%	0%	6%	3%	13%	6%	22%	6%
45 - 49	9%	0%	33%	0%	7%	11%	0%	5%	7%	0%	11%	11%	32%	40%	6%	17%	10%	8%	0%	0%
50 - 54	10%	0%	11%	50%	5%	9%	11%	26%	14%	0%	7%	11%	16%	0%	22%	3%	20%	6%	0%	6%
55 - 59	13%	0%	0%	50%	7%	10%	56%	5%	18%	0%	12%	22%	5%	0%	11%	10%	10%	8%	11%	24%
60 - 64	11%	25%	33%	0%	14%	13%	22%	32%	10%	0%	10%	0%	11%	0%	6%	10%	7%	6%	22%	12%
65 - 69	9%	25%	0%	0%	11%	9%	0%	0%	7%	0%	16%	6%	0%	0%	11%	10%	10%	22%	11%	6%
70 - 74	6%	50%	0%	0%	11%	8%	0%	0%	5%	30%	5%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	3%	14%	11%	12%
75 - 79	7%	0%	0%	0%	12%	7%	11%	11%	7%	10%	5%	11%	0%	0%	6%	10%	3%	11%	0%	6%
80 +	6%	0%	11%	0%	11%	4%	0%	0%	4%	20%	8%	6%	0%	0%	6%	10%	10%	6%	11%	6%
No response	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2.8 Additional comments made

The following is a summary of additional comments made by survey respondents.

Issue	Comments
Arts Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please create an arts/cultural hub in South Gippsland (just like the Mornington arts centre). Also promote the arts in the region with exhibitors/competitors and artist in residence opportunities at schools.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics centre in Leongatha is needed. My children took advantage of Little Athletics when it first started. Upgrade facilities for athletics would be appreciated.
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change will not go away, Shire needs to be prepared. Council should take into consideration the rising sea levels (climate change) and the viability of resources of coastal townships, due to the threat of flooding when encouraging / funding new and existing infrastructure.
Club/ committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leongatha has many sporting facilities but clubs and committees need help to get grants to maintain the facilities the town has. I think the shire is doing a good job but clubs and committees need more help.
Coal Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelop Coal creek - arts and craft/ community hub, farmer market, walking tracks, school camp facilities. Coal Creek is a waste of our money. Please stop spending ratepayers' money on things like Coal Creek. We are really not without anything in the shire, getting people to use them is another thing. If the closure of Coal Creek historic park ever happens, a bit of the savings would be wisely used if spent on sport/recreation facilities. Keep Coal Creek open. Do not remove buildings from Coal Creek. Coal Creek historical park will be given the help so continue with Volunteer workers. These people take personal interest in their work and need encouragement. Coal creek is vital to our town and needs state funds not shire We would like to see Coal Creek left as it is, and much better maintained. There is a large pool of willing volunteers, poorly utilised. Save Coal Creek.
Community hall/ centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I play carpet bowls Mon and Wed at Daiken Hall. Bigger and better facilities at Leongatha Community House. I would like the memorial hall to remain as it was intended and has been used for the past 50 years.
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend less money on surveys and committees and put it to action. Don't let community groups with minimal membership rule big issues. The Shire should endeavour to decide on permits for applications, especially in recreation areas. This would encourage private enterprise to establish much needed developments. Councils delay in processing applications deter investors.
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great initiative but are our councillors going to once again put the report on hold? Or for once, be proactive and make some positive decisions that will assist all members or our community and without wasting time? What is the use of a public survey like this as South Gippsland Shire will not take any notice and go it's own way and does as it wishes and blunders into financial trouble as in the past. Who pays your wages, ratepayers.

Issue	Comments
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for dog off leash areas, where are the "dog off leash areas"? This by-law is never policed. Dogs are prolific on all local beaches, rarely on leashes. This law is hardly ever adhered to, let alone the pick up after your dog law. Dogs off leashes are intimidating, especially to children.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part funding could/ should be levied on users of facilities. The Shire has limited financial resources there must be more funds made available from Commonwealth and State Governments - particularly regular contributions for maintenance and continual development of existing facilities. It is unreasonable for Council to provide sporting and recreation facilities to all small towns. The Shire is such a large area with many small towns that it is impossible to afford facilities in all these towns especially with public liability. We are sure money could be used for other than recreation and activities.
Gym/ fitness & senior citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would like to see gymnasium/ strength development programs for over 50's who are working as we are. I love living in Leongatha, it's a great community. I am part of the group planning the "Big Fat New years Eve" event this year and I hope the South Gippsland Council will support this effort to give back to this wonderful community and quality New Years Eve celebratory event. Venues for older adult specific fitness/ aqua programs are needed. Demand for aqua exercise for older adults is increasing but little opportunity to increase exercise (again) opportunities due to demands of the rest of the population on pool.
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As head coach of the Leongatha Gymnastics club, I feel it would be fantastic if the Shire took more notice on our clubs needs or even having the support for funding for equipment, coaches, judges, education, facility requirements etc.
Hoons in Venus Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's about time you addressed the hoon factor in Venus Bay.
Horse area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poowong community facilities are well above average and are heavily supported financially by the local community. The Poowong/ Nyora area is a high-density horse area, but apart from the Loch/ Nyora pony club, Council ignores this prominent family recreational sport which attracts many residents to the area. There are many great bridle paths that would be developed for horses, cyclists and walkers.
Leongatha as a regional centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to accept Leongatha as a regional centre. Provide better facilities in Leongatha rather than replacing mediocre facilities throughout the shire.
Local sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to those who run the sport at ground level. The shire should assist in local sport to have major events staged in the shire and to assist the local body to obtain them.
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would it be possible for the mobile library to stop at North Walkerville, as it drives through every Monday, half hour off Tarwin Lower to give North Walkerville 1 hour? The driver passes this way every Monday and doesn't stop. All the libraries need a better supply of books and magazines and would probably need better Internet access for customers also.
More for Korumburra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think you should think about doing things in Korumburra more because it is growing. Tidy walkway/ arcade in main street. Do something at side of entrance to main street where felt not good impression on entering town. I think part of the recreation centre at Korumburra should be made into a gymnasium. It would provide an extra service for the Community and already has the showers and toilets needed for such a facility.
Motor sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a keen motor sport spectator and participant I have found over a number of years very little support, approval and encouragement for these types of activities. Resulting in travel to other Shires to participate e.g. Baw Baw, Morewell and Wellington etc.

Issue	Comments
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It seems to us as older rate payers that it is a shame that so many students in the Shire embrace the music programs at school and other than the brass band there is nowhere for them to maintain these skills afterward - perhaps we could have a shire music program for young adults and any others! We would like to see the Shire involved in sponsoring or holding annual country music festival/ rodeo.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities should not impinge on others. For example the noise from riding trail bikes can annoy neighbours. Facilities need to be provided for this type of activity and noisy recreational activities should be subject to Shire by law.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more recreation is needed. We don't use any facilities.
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you state, "open space and facilities" for this I would like to see an improved emphasis on play facilities and ancillary services. A regional Sorrento Park or Ballam Park should be considered. Something to attract families to stay and play together. It's not all about football facilities and swimming pools! I would like to see more funding for the local foreshore committee for improvements to our parks i.e. Electric BBQ, rotunda, and more tables.
Paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is Council aware that citizens have the basic right to walk without being harassed by motorists? Parr Street is a well used street by prams, children and many other pedestrians. A footpath is required for safety reasons. The street is busy and cars don't slow down. Footpaths extended in McDonald Street and Parr Street. Create more on-road cycle paths around Leongatha and improve facilities at recreation reserve.
Public open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to make sure that provision is made for public open space when planning new subdivisions in near towns. Such spaces will assume more and more importance as time goes by - passive recreation, seating, gardens (using indigenous species), and pathways.
Rail trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Southern Rail trail is an excellent well used open space area, run by volunteers with various funding. We would love to see the rail trail continue on from Foster towards Toora. Even as far as Bennison would be a great start. The maintenance on the Fish Creek to Foster rail trail is inadequate. There have been many fallen trees that have been there for 4 months at least now. It can become dangerous at times. Especially as the blue stone is resurfacing causing horses to become lame or sustain other serious injuries. Close down railway line and make the walking/ bike riding track all the way from Melbourne. Due to the break up of farm in the area and increase of traffic as each lot is sold it is dangerous to ride horse/ bike or walk along the roads. The rail trail through to Yarram would be a great thing to have and help keep people, dogs, horses and bikes off the road. Completion of Southern Rail trail from Koonwarra to Meeniyan a priority.
Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who use shire facilities for sport and recreation are really a minority of ratepayers and receive a disproportionate amount of rate benefit. The majority of ratepayers would barely use facilities. Unfortunately the "sportier" area are a vocal lot - no brains but plenty of noise. Rates are too high! Unhappy about the use of ratepayer's money being used to make plans.

Issue	Comments
Revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shocking mess resulting from removal of pine trees in Prom Rd (near Foley Rd), an eye saw and a disgrace. No revegetation what so ever. • Revegetation in any open area extremely important.
Road Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road quality is very poor in Allambee South. Wouldn't it be better in the long run for safety and financially to asphalt dirt roads, instead of grading them all the time. Also very hard to push a pram with no safe walking area. • This area has got excellent facilities. I notice a lot of money spent now and yet there are roads need fixing, things like shoulders etc. • Our road is getting a lot more traffic, for the walking track better road service. • Rural Roads need to be improved for safer driving, cycling, horse riding, and walking - all free activities and a healthy way to enjoy the countryside. • All sports facilities should have sealed roads and curb and channelling. • Road maintenance needs to be applied regularly to encourage motorcycle riders and club members to use South Gippsland as a motorcycle-touring destination. Road maintenance is often conducted without motorcyclists in mind.
Rubbish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the Shire even considers spending limited funds on sport/leisure facilities priority should be given to tidying up and cleaning up the town. How can one expect to attract tourists/visitors to the town when it portrays a very untidy and uninviting town. I suggest that all councillors walk and take a good look at our town; you may well be shocked at what you see! – Tidy town/ tip town??
Senior citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aging population of South Gippsland and on a fixed income are not able to afford the luxuries of sporting facilities, the arts and clubs as they are being squeezed dry by unjustifiable rate increases along with petrol and gas increases merely surviving. • I would like to see gymnasium/ strength development programs for over 50's who are working as we are. I love living in Leongatha, it's a great community. I am part of the group planning the "Big Fat New years Eve" event this year and I hope the South Gippsland Council will support this effort to give back to this wonderful community and quality NYE celebratory event. • There is a need for elderly residents to be accompanied by companion dog in the facilities of their choice. • Venues for older adult specific fitness/ aqua programs are needed. Demand for aqua exercise for older adults is increasing but little opportunity to increase exercise (again) opportunities due to demands of the rest of the population on pool.
The shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shire should take more notice of what residents think or say. If consultancy is not taken seriously then what is the point. • Just look after our old thing and make our town look good. You can give Foster the information office, just make it back to park then you can see Coal Creek from the road. • Council needs to establish the individual needs of each town and recognise the difficulties within these structures to provide funding and to maintain historical features, which each town hold much compassion to holding any historical events within that community. • The shire employs unqualified staff who will destroy our community • Leongatha has many sporting facilities but clubs and committees need help to get grants to maintain the facilities the town has. I think the shire is doing a good job but clubs and committees need more help. • Personally believe the shire doesn't do too bad a job but of course we all want improvements. • There needs to be a long term plan over the whole shire that is not subject to the whim of new Councils and CEO's. There have been many committees and policies put into place only to be changed either as a priority or discontinued by the next shire Council.

Issue	Comments
The Shire (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you stopped spending money on restoring old buildings there would be more funds for today's and the futures' lifestyle. Work on changing the "attitude of locals towards outsiders/newcomers". Work on changing the animosity between towns - e.g. Poowong hates Korumburra - hates Leongatha etc. and people might feel encouraged to give 'participation' a go. I trust employing @leisure didn't cost a fortune; maybe we would have more money allocated to community recreation with out huge administration costs. The survey could have been more family orientated-male/female a bit weird.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance at local swimming pool vital - it is a wonderful community hub and a tourist attraction. Our swimming pool is much too small for our town; we can't even have swimming sports at it. The BMX track (near the industrial area) is shocking. It would benefit the community if the rail trail was completed between Koonwarra and Meeniyan and with public toilets along the whole trail. My family enjoys swimming at SG Splash, but we were very disappointed when the outside pool was closed, who wants to swim indoors in summer? We had to go to Korumburra. Splash - offers swimming lessons which are too expensive and the payment options are very limited and rigid and inflexible (thus many go to Korumburra Swim Club). - Needs to be more organised in arranging it's court sports and more proactive. Players are often chasing the staff for information about season starting dates etc. Meeniyan hall could be used for a cinema or dancing theatre etc. Hot pool in Foster please. Leongatha pool is too cold.
Synthetic Hockey Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A synthetic hockey and soccer turf would give me the opportunity to coach and train junior hockey players in this region, who could then potentially go and play in the Latrobe Valley (council) or perhaps Gippsland Hockey Association if there was to be a turf erected there within the next couple of years. Hopefully a feasibility study currently in progress will indicate the need for a synthetic turf to be built in Gippsland. A contribution to helping fund the build of a synthetic hockey field in the local area. The development of a RC Buggie track would help local hobby shop
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better website with better contact details for sporting clubs etc
Too much focus on Leongatha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything centres on Leongatha, why? Why send this to Korumburra residents? When you will only be spending money in Leongatha. Too much money is already spent in Leongatha and the wider community is often denied access by local user groups. I think there is too much focus on Leongatha there are other towns in South Gippsland, parks in Leongatha better maintained than Korumburra, share money between all towns. More developments in towns other than Leongatha. We are opposed to expensive sport and recreation facilities being built in Leongatha to "serve the whole Shire". In practice they serve mostly Leongatha residents and workers. There needs to be adequate funding for all towns and districts in the area. I would be unhappy if my rates were used to prop up facilities in larger towns that are losing money. Advise shire administration and councillors that they have the responsibilities outside the geographical area of Leongatha and need to liaise more closely with the wider community. We feel that all towns in the shire should be on equal funding on a per capita basis.
Too much sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Way too much emphasis on sport and recreation throughout shire.

Issue	Comments
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe trail riding (bike/ horse, walking) so young joggers and riders don't have to be on the narrow roads between Toora and Foster. • We do not use organised sporting facilities due to age etc. Walking in parks and picnics are our lot in life! • South Gippsland Council has many open space areas and funds are limited. Council should maintain and upkeep existing area that attract people to the area. The new cycle/ walk track is excellent but existing bike paths along road on the estate (Canterbury Rd) needs upgrading. • I would like to see better walking tracks developed, particularly in Mirboo North.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be great to have line dancing and a bus to get people who don't drive to the centre.
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most are happy to and capable of driving some distances to meet recreational needs.
Travel difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working full time with kids makes it difficult to travel to access facilities.
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of recreation reserves with the large amount of different users is a huge problem, volunteers on these committees are getting tired and must volunteer their own time & resources as well to keep costs down at reserves because they are under funded for just maintaining what they have got. It's not easy finding volunteers for these jobs and given less money would see no one volunteering at all. • Please help volunteer groups to raise money for better sporting facilities. i.e. we need an indoor training facility at the Mirboo North Recreation Reserve for our netball and football club. There is a building sitting there empty, not being used and would be perfect for a gym. • With the ever increasing workload placed on volunteers, the shire's support to help with administration and finances is most important • Support for all community volunteer groups e.g. Landcare and hall committees as well as sporting clubs must be a priority. Their commitment to the locals and developing facilities is what makes SG Shire the great place to live that it is. Thank you • Fish Creek is in dire need of assistance with regards to scout hall and recreation activities for both young and old. It is only a small town and volunteers cannot be expected to raise funds for all repairs etc. all the time.
Weeds/ pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many other projects to spend out rates on, e.g. spraying weed along the roadside. It's a damn disgrace; take a drive along the Gippsland Highway or drive down any side street.
Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates to high for farmers. Too much pressure on dairy farmers to avail activities. Youth and elderly need more support. Many sporting clubs encourage too much alcohol abuse amongst our youth. Community minded/fair minded councillors required. • I think the big clubs (like footy) get too much recognition and the lesser know sports are forgotten. Also, there needs to be more business encouraged to town that meets the needs of young people like an indoor bowling/ games centre. Also better nightlife. • Leongatha is a great town. Needs more facilities for teenagers and social venues for adults. Need entertainment on weekends and up to date attitude towards retail trade in area. • By giving young people more sport options in the shire their families and them will stay in the future. More land needs to be made available for housing estates around Korumburra, Bena and Loch to attract more ratepayers.

3. Submissions received

STONY CREEK RECREATION RESERVE

Situation Analysis

- Resident user groups include the Racing Club, Football Club, Netball Club and Pony Club including equestrian cross-country course (currently being re-established).
- A "Go-kart" educational driver circuit is proposed for a small area with highway frontage at the Meeniyan end of the reserve – due to commence in Dec/Jan 07/08.
- Temporary grazing licences (twelve months maximum) are in place for much of the remaining area of the reserve.
- The Pony Club also has plans to develop a camp drafting arena and associated facilities in due course.
- Regular hire of the Reserve's facilities (including impressive shade sail and dining room) is availed of for social functions, occasional business seminars and overnight caravan tourist groups.
- Nine horse racing meetings plus official racing trials were conducted at the reserve this season.
- It is considered by the Committee of Management that there is ample area for the location and development of hockey fields (and for other sports and leisure activities) in large areas of the reserve, both immediately and post-grazing licences in twelve months time.

Issues

- Toilet facilities are grossly inadequate for present public and user group use, while the Racing Club is compelled to hire-in expensive yet outdated portable facilities for its larger horse racing meetings.
- Supply of water for livestock, racehorses and human consumption, including use for toilets and showers etc, is totally dependent upon supply from two dams and several, cracked and leaking rainwater collection tanks. The dams are presently restricted in terms of their catchment capabilities, while currently, they jointly hold less than 15% of their total capacity of approximately 45 mega litres.
- Continuance of below average rainfall will seriously affect all sport and leisure activities at the Reserve, going forward from later this year, with serious social and economic implications for the local community.
- The Racing and Football Clubs harmoniously share one pavilion that is Racing Club built and purpose specific in its design. This therefore poses a number of practical issues for the football club in that the jockeys rooms and bars are used as football change rooms and rubdown areas, with inadequate toilet and shower facilities, and external concrete steps and paving that are largely unsafe for football boots.
- Overlap of football and racing seasons causes obvious practical problems for both clubs because of the need to share facilities.

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT SOCCER CLUB

I am secretary of the Leongatha & District Soccer Club. Our club & a small South Gippsland competition has been operating for 3 years at Mary MacKillop College. It is our plan to continue operating there for the foreseeable future, but in your broader planning you could keep in mind that soccer is an increasingly popular sport and at some time in future a larger facility may be needed. Lighting for night training has not been available to us as the aussie rules football requires lighting for training over winter as we do. This year we have had an indoor training session at SPLASH. We are now in the process of trying to have lighting installed at Mary MacKillop. So is it worth investigating the feasibility of a venue with lighting which could be developed for year round use?

Wearing another hat, as a resident of Leongatha for just 5 years and having moved from Inverloch where there is a strong emphasis on the natural environment, I feel the almost complete absence of natural areas in and around Leongatha for passive recreation is greatly to the detriment of this town. If more inland towns had a sizeable area where people could escape to and enjoy the diversity and quiet of natural places, and if this

was promoted, then people would come here more, wouldn't need to escape to Inverloch, and the physical and mental health of our residents could be improved.

I understand that Richard Lester (ex councillor) has a visionary plan to create a walking track and wetlands along Coalition Creek (which has a Crown frontage) south of the Nerrena Road.

KONGWAK COMMUNITY GROUP

What sites should be protected as future open space?

Pioneer Park in Kongwak is a valuable piece of property that should be protected as it is one of the few remaining remnant bush areas left in the district. It is valuable for native vegetation and the collection of seeds.

What specific improvements we would like to see in our local park?

Scott Park in Kongwak is well maintained by the Shire and the Community Group, however we would like to see additional playground equipment installed in the park.

LEONGATHA RECREATION RESERVE AND LEONGATHA TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Hello I am a representative of Leongatha Recreation Reserve and Leongatha Table Tennis Club; I would like to highlight that fact that the Leongatha Recreation Reserve is at capacity. In the future the Table Tennis Club would like to extend it's facility but the Recreation Reserve Committee has stated that due to the Reserve being to capacity it would require additional land for any further extensions of use. I hope you look into this as part of the review.

KORUMBURRA MOTORCYCLE CLUB

In response to your recent letter informing us of the proposed Open Space plan, the Korumburra Motorcycle club would like to respond in reference to our Moto Cross track which is situated at Outtrim on the corner of Ryeburn rd and Leongatha-Outtrim road.

Every year the Korumburra Motorcycle club has a membership base of well over 100 members, and we are regularly holding successful race events at our track. We are providing a service for the community of supplying somewhere safe for local people to ride, while bringing extra money into the surrounding townships when we hold larger events that attract 300+ people. We would like to see our facility protected against small acreage planning permits being issued nearby our track. We feel that even though we are located in a reasonably secluded area we would hate in the future to be threatened with closure from nearby residents complaining about the noise, (as has happened with fellow motorcycle club Corner Inlet).

We feel that the Outtrim district has a lot of other sporting groups who would also agree; such as the gun club, cricket club and tennis club.

THE LOCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

What sites should be protected as future open space?

- Sunnyside Park
- Centennial Park
- Loch Memorial Reserve
- The Lions Market Site
- Cape Horn Lookout

What specific improvements would you like to see in your local park?

- Toilets-environmentally friendly, wheelchair access
- Skate Park

- Dog Poo Dispensers.
- Shade Sails over playground
- Cape Horn Lookout-assistance with annual weed spraying

What are the main park issues council needs to address?

- Safe pedestrian access between Sunnyside Park & the Reserve

What additional areas of Open space you would like to see

- Pedestrian & Bike Paths around Loch township
- Path down Loch Poowong Rd from Ferriers Rd
- A walk to Hilda falls from the Reserve
- Path along railway track between Loch & Nyora

WALKERVILLE RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOC AND FRIENDS OF WALKERVILLE

Some quick comments:

Foreshore areas are a key component of open space in the shire, although many are not managed by the Shire.

Management of natural values in open space along the coast is often limited, with weeds a major problem.

Due to limited resources, facilities are sometimes dated.

Landscape values along parts of the coast are of state significance and design standards (including recreation facilities) need to be high. The Shire could develop a design manual to guide all open space structures, signs, facilities, planting etc.

Coastal ratepayers pay substantial rates and are looking for a significant resource allocation by the shire to coastal management – both environmental management and provision for informal recreation, whether on shire or Crown land. Equitable provision of open space services and resource allocations are an important issue.

Many ratepayers do not support development for single interest user groups, eg fishers at Walkerville, ie boat ramps/carparks etc.

Sustainable management will become more important over time – Council should develop policies on use of recyclable materials (no new cypress pine or red gum etc), indigenous plantings, low water use, no or few bins etc. Climate change projections should also be considered in the plan.

Existing plans provide some useful information and presumably will be reviewed in the planning process, eg Walkerville Foreshore Res Mgt Plan, and Waratah Bay Foreshore Strategy Plan (both by Robin Crocker and Assoc.

Walkerville Residents and Ratepayers Assoc and Friends of Walkerville are both committed to good coastal and open space management. A presentation in the Walkerville North community hall during the project would be worthwhile – but needs to be on a weekend or in the holidays.

FOSTER RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Foster Recreation Reserve Committee of Management supported the Tennis Club in reserving the piece of land adjoining the scout hall in Pioneer Street Foster and including it within the reserve for the development of a tennis court and a club house. While this has been approved by the shire, we continue to suffer from the longstanding approval and completion of the procedure by the DSE, the committee would greatly appreciate continued Council support.

With some tennis club members reside in Waratah Bay, there was an initial proposal for two tennis courts to be developed on Subdivided land which was upheld due to the proposed space being too close to neighbouring residences. Earlier this year there was a request to fill a dam as it was considered a health hazard. It is proposed that the front section adjoining Gale Street be set aside for car parking and the rear be reserved for two tennis courts. An outcome for this proposal has not been provided from Council, with stakeholders having an interest in what will transpire.

LEONGATHA LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB

Request

- A regional athletic facility consisting of a synthetic athletic track and field complex

Why?

- The club has outgrown the shared facility it is currently using (the lower oval at the recreation reserve) and it does not meet the requirements of an athletic track.

Where

- The Leongatha Recreation reserve is a high priority location for a future athletic facility and additional land should be set aside for this purpose on the northern boundary.

Current Situation

- 185 members
- Existing oval less than 400m
- Funding for a Feasibility Study has been applied for and fund raising has commenced to raise money to construct a Synthetic Athletic Facility

FRIENDS OF VENUS BAY PENINSULA INC.

Recommendations

- They would like council to prepare a summary of the draft proposals for Venus Bay
- Then they can use that to arrange a well publicised Saturday morning public meeting at the Venus Bay Community Centre to brief rate payers and invite verbal and written responses to the draft report
- They want council to take into account a more detailed set of locally developed criteria for valuing existing open spaces in Venus Bay
- They want to retain and protect all existing public spaces by surveying, reclaiming and even rezoning
- They want Council to put in place a more equitable budget to assist with the revegetation and maintenance of Venus Bay open spaces
- Council needs to identify current maintenance costs
- Create a sound management structure for Venus Bay's open spaces via an overall plan developed in consultation with community representatives; and a system of local committees.
- Over time, Council should invest in more public open space in Venus Bay, perhaps setting a target of 5% of the subdivision by 2020

- Council should support their recommendation that the community be consulted as to the proposal that two of the public open spaces in Venus Bay, one each in the first and second estates, be set aside as off-leash domestic dog exercise areas.

VENUS BAY OPEN SPACES

Benefits of Venus Bay

- Appreciate the natural environment of Banksia trees and grasslands that still exist on the vacant blocks, which provide wild life corridors through the area.
- Listening to the birds and looking for wildlife.

Concerns

- That the existing vacant blocks will be built on
- Walkway at St. Ives is very overgrown
- It seems very short sighted of SGSC to even consider selling recreation land that they may have to buy back at a later date, seeing as though Melbourne Councils are allocating more money to developing nature walks and passive recreation areas, every year.

Recommendations

- If you were thinking of a future walking track to the inlet then the one at St. Ives is the place to start it. If you could clean up this track and make it more accessible, it is a great resource for the future.
- Perhaps it would be better to increase the visibility of these areas by naming them, creating walking tracks, street signs directing people to them and recreation maps listing the walks around Venus Bay and their various points of interest.

THE LIONS CLUB OF STRZELECKI INC.

The key issues identified by the Lions Club of Strzelecki Inc were:

- The issues of additional space adjoining the Poowong Recreation Reserve was a matter of a recent discussion at the committees most recent meeting as the reserve is currently experiencing issues with parking.

NYORA AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The Nyora District Development Association identified:

- Future open space sites to consider are:
 - The vacant railway land at the corner of Mitchell Street and Davis Street in Nyora. This land abuts the Village Green, which Council leases from the railway authorities; we believe it would provide a logical extension to the Village green. With pathways and linkages and thoughtfully planted trees it would provide a great space in the heart of the town.
 - The open drain between this land mentioned above needs to be addressed.

4. Interviews with Schools

Secondary School	Location	Student # & trend	Sporting facilities	Sports programs	Travel to play sport? Where to? How far?	Use of external facilities?	Relationship with clubs?	Plans to upgrade?	Changing demand in sport?	Is sport well catered for in community?	Key sporting issues?	Could council do anything?	Additional comments
Korumburra SC	Korumburra	500, stable	Ovals, gym, BB courts	PE classes, sport education for 7/8's, lunchtime sports for year 10 to run for 7-9's	Yes. Local, regional and to Melbourne	Sport ed uses rec centre, tennis courts, swimming pool lots, footy grounds, cricket, could use facilities more	Not really, Badminton may use gym	Gym being upgraded plus preforming arts centre	Unsure	BB, netball and footy well catered	Travelling and distance, finding coaching and staff to take kids out to sport, few days out of school	Not sure	
Leongatha SC	Leongatha	620, stable	54 acres, 2 football ground/cricket pitch, hockey field/soccer, 2x gym with gymnastics, indoor courts, BB courts x2, 4 tennis court	PE classes, interschool, swimming, aths, cross country, every thing from beach volley ball, badminton, equestrian team,	Yes. Melbourne, netball, interschool starts local then travel further	Most things catered for on grounds	Community uses gymnastics, basketball, ovals used by local cricket, football	3 years time rebuild of whole school, outdoor BB and tennis priority as run down	Some increase in soccer (both boys & girls). Town lives around sport already	Traditional major sports well catered for, lots of sports	Alcohol surrounding the sporting culture,	Local football clubs are trying, seminars etc, getting on board already. Council could be more proactive on prevention	Travel is a big issue, local kids done very well but large distance and cost involved.
Mary MacKillop Catholic College	Leongatha	410, stable	Multi purpose gym, big, oval, BB courts currently being resurfaced, cricket pitch	PE classes, school sport (swimming, athletics, cross country), inter school (GIS) cricket, softball, tennis, BB, football, soccer, netball	Yes	Use swimming pool among other things		Currently resurfacing basketball courts					
Mirboo Nth SC	Mirboo North	418, stable	Gym shared with PS, hockey oval, soccer oval, footy oval, outdoor BB, netball courts	PE programs, VSSA aths, swim CC, also at a needs basis, tennis, lawn bowls, equestrian, super 8's cricket, footy, soccer, recreation and leisure sports program	Yes	Leongatha for aths, Korumburra, Wonthaggi	Gym is shared with community, BB comp. Tai kwon do	Not in immediate future	Possibly toward soccer, girls cricket	Yes mostly	Alcoholism in junior footy, travel	Not really	
South Coast Christian College	Leongatha	180, stable	BB courts, oval, athletics facility	PE, interschool swimming & athletics, sports camp (Marybough), local interschool comp	To some sports yes	Warragul furthest, Morwell, Turrum Burra,	Not known	Will be, but projected in future not current	Swimming becoming more popular, fairly active school in general	Absolutely	Feeling of ostracised if you don't play sport		The town has everything you can think of, very well catered for

Primary School	Location	Student numbers	Sporting facilities	Sports programs	Travel to play sport? Where to? How far?	Use of external facilities?	Relationship with clubs?	Plans to upgrade?	Changing demand in sport?	Is sport well catered for in community?	Key sporting issues?	Could council assist?	Additional comments
Fish Creek & District PS	Fish Creek	103, stable	BB court, gym/multi purpose room, football ground on a slope	-	-	Terrill Park reserve for cricket, bowls, tennis, football, netball, aths etc	Netball club uses gym in bad weather, school uses all town facilities	No - gym built two years ago	General participation increased, tennis significant incr, with minor incr to cricket, football, bowls	No. Basic sports provide opportunity for kids with parents who can transport them & pay fees. No different sports opportunities.	Onerous task/difficulties in running clubs. More involvement if less red tape	Reduce requirements, increase recurrent funding and reduce need to chase funding. Professional admin person to support clubs	
Foster Primary School (FPS)	Foster	190, decreasing	Indoor sport area, grassed oval, junior & senior play areas, fitness track, central area for basketball & netball	-	-	Foster swimming pool, Foster football ground	Foster Football Club – use school facilities, and vice versa	Funding to shade play equipment, replacing play equipment removing treated pine equip.	Soccer, AFL, Rugby league after workshop with Melb Storm	Yes – high profile. Good assortment of facilities	Unaware	-	Active after school programs – funded by government – promotes health/fitness. Sports (basketball, tennis, mini games). Using tennis courts.
Kongwak Primary School (KPS)	Kongwak	46	Tennis, netball, oval	PE classes (90mins/ wk), interschool sport	Yes – local schools	No	No	No	-	Yes	Unaware	-	
Poowong Consolidated School (PCS)	Poowong	93, stable	Open grass areas, 2 basketball courts (marked for netball and tennis), play equipment, sandpit areas, indoor shed	PE classes, interschool sport, swimming	Yes – depends on level of comp. Higher comp, greater the travel, up to Melbourne	Poowong Pool, Netball Courts at recreation reserve, oval (occasionally)	Cricket club juniors at school oval (occasional), local football club used surface when the ground was being resurfaced, have used indoor shed	Grant (investing in schools grant), \$100,000 received, 50K on play equipment (50K on electronic whiteboards)	Increased in interest in soccer. Very much AFL, netball, basketball community (thanks to rec centre)	Some sports are catered for. Basketball, football, netball. There isn't the demand for other sports	Funding for expert coaches to come out and run programs would be appreciated.	More support from councils and state sport bodies	
St Laurence O'Toole PS	Leongatha	162, stable	Gym, small oval, BB, NB, VB courts, tennis	PE, Huff & puff in morning, sport, interschool and regional sports etc	Winter- local schools, or Mary Mac or secondary school	Mary Mac, Secondary College (Leongatha) and velodrome	Grade 6 uses bowling green, golf, croquet, swimming SPLASH, Korumburra pool, Mirboo Nth pool for trial for school sports	Just completed shed, tennis court.	Many sports very strong participation, no noticeable changes	Most sports are well cater for in Leongatha	Huge range, though travel to valley for hockey, soccer	Boost in sporting program with equipment and facilities,	
Tarwin Lower Primary School (TLPS)	Tarwin Lower	46, stable	Oval, cricket pitch, running track tennis court BB facilities	PE class, interschool	Yes – up to 50km away	Leongatha - Sth Gippsland splash	Sometimes use football clubs facilities and connection with bowling club	Not currently	Unsure	Yes	Getting people together, people don't want to travel so much	Funding for some of the clubs	Tennis club struggles with facilities, clubs need volunteers
Tarwin Valley Primary School (TVPS)	Meeniyan	122, slightly decreasing	Basketball/ netball court, oval	PE, weekly sport, Cluster sport between local schools, inter school athletics, swimming, cross country, lightning premiership, state schools netball championships	Yes – Leongatha (19km), Melbourne for netball	Yes - local stadium	Occasionally only – badminton, AFL, cricket, lawn bowls	We would like to but no	Slight increase in soccer last year (probably due to the World Cup) not evident this year. AFL clinic has lead to greater demand this term	Yes	Travel, bus costs added to get to any venue, can become very restrictive.	Council could offer funding toward travel for schools outside the main towns	
Toora Primary School (TPS)	Toora	65, decreasing	Oval, cricket pitch, netball & basketball courts, play equipment,	Taekwondo, Dance, Yoga, Bluearth, Bike-Ed, Swimming, Aths, Cross Country, interschool sports (netball, BB, football, soccer, t-ball) Tennis, i.e. Active After Schools Program, P.E., Sport, inter & intra school	To Forster (15mins), Leongatha (45mins) Melbourne (2.5hrs)	Swimming pool, Bowls club, hall	Toora football club, bowls club and swimming pool - share facilities	Covered area on netball court for wet weather use	Dance and yoga offered to those less competitive	All sport seem to be well catered for thanks to community hard work	Difficulty of local clubs to maintain facilities	Shire needs to continue to work with all local communities and not be overly influenced by the bigger towns in the area	
Welshpool & District Primary School (WDPS)	Welshpool	57, decreasing	Large football oval, basketball court, concrete square, multi purpose hall (currently being built), play equipment, sandpit (prep – grade 2)	PE classes (part time teacher), interschool sports and swimming	Yes – local sport at Forster, then Leongatha to Melbourne	South Gippsland Sec. College oval (for school sports), Toora pool (practice and programs)	No, no relationships	Multi Purpose Building (being built this year)	Nothing noticeable	Not as much as what it was – numbers are decreasing. No junior tennis	Travel and travel costs	Help with costs	

5. Interviews with sport and recreation clubs and groups

Club - Contact	Membership	Changing participation/ future change	Facilities	Managed by	Meeting clubs needs?	Anything needing upgrading?	Consolidate facilities?	Business plan? Program for capital improvement?	Current plans for capital/ maintenance?	Increase participation?	Issues?	Council help issues?	General trends in sport participation	Distribution of open space& recreation	Recreation/ open space types?
Bena Tennis Club	10 adults, 6 juniors, mostly female	Decline in juniors and expect it to continue to drop further	2 asphalt tennis courts, club rooms	Volunteer committee	Yes		No, wouldn't want to. The town has little else, consolidation would leave the small towns with nothing	No. No.	No		Drought, court surface issues, lack of volunteers	No	Possible decline?	Yes	Enough sports in major towns
Bennison Adult Riding Club	25 members - 16 yrs to 65, mostly female	Steady, don't want growth	Bennison Inlet Recreation Reserve, Corner inlet pony club	Committee manages reserve, meetings	Would like all weather surface but too \$\$ to purchase & maintain			No. Not from club point of view,	Pony Club currently doing kitchen up for camps etc	More capital investment req, rail trail from Forster to Fish Creek	Insurance, Public liability,		Not noticed anything	Could be more	Football club has too much say, dressage area
Fish creek/ Tarwin - Cricket Club	2 senior, 2 junior teams - all men as a women's league is available in region.	Declining but future number of teams won't change	Two home ground ovals one with turf	Committee looks after admin etc. Facilities on crown land Gipps Shire through sub committee of management	Yes, given budgetary limitations		Yes but don't think that it would happen	No. Meeting level discussions, last 5 yrs lots of upgrade	Not at moment	Increase town size	Losing kids after school age	Business opportunities in area to attract more people	-	Yes	Probably not, not enough people to cover everything
Imperials Cricket Club Leongatha	60 - 3 senior teams and 2 junior teams	Stable over last 5-8 yrs. Like to introduce an U12 team in future	Leongatha Secondary College oval. Clubrooms rented off school. Also Leongatha football grounds	Club looks after oval - mow, and upkeep of club rooms	Yes	Always maintenance nothing substantial	Not in this area	No. Adhoc/ repair as things come up	Nothing planned	Not sure - pushing kids into it but not really	Finding kids to play in junior ranks,	Difficult - funding for cricket clinics perhaps	Nothing really, numbers seem to be backing off a little	Generally fine, Leongatha could use another oval	Yes
Kongwak Tennis Club	No longer a tennis club, just courts on the reserve	Unsure	Facilities only BBQ, tennis courts x 4, kids playground	Kongwak community group	Yes though more use of facilities then courts	Currently looking at putting new wire fencing,		Not for the club	Looking at re-fencing courts	Aging population, so difficult	Town has other more pressing issues (e.g. farming issues).	Good working relationship with the council	Aging population and faming community		
Korumburra & Districts Pony Club	30 riding and families aged 3 to 22 yrs, mostly girls (includes RDA)	Stable and unlikely to change in future	Showground in Korumburra	Agricultural & Pastoral Society - Club maintains area around stables, answerable to Society				Just committee working bees	Redeveloping block of land to be permanent grounds	Beside sponsorship in shows etc	Facilities - lack of and battle to develop the land	Have had grants before but clubs struggling	Not sure	Yes	Seem to have everything required but some travel involved
Korumburra Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Club	50 competition members, (members to use the heated pool 1,300)	Stable membership, trying to increase squad members	Outdoor pool (50m) & indoor pool (15m),	Indoor pool managed by volunteer committee	Yes	Yes - outdoor pool solar covers are pulled off by hands and difficult	No	No. Put into the Shire what needs to be done	Nothing at the moment, would like to have car park sealed	Increase profile and awareness, summer events perhaps?	Compliance of insurance companies and other red tape	Some administration support for staff	Nothing noticed	Yes - though lots in Leongatha and smaller towns have to work harder to keep facilities	Nothing that has been wanted to be done
Korumburra Croquet Club	20 - aged over 50, mostly ladies.	Stable, trying to increase numbers in the future	Own club house, 3.5 yrs old, fund raised for, accessible grass greens	Totally managed by club - support by regional clubs and association and state body	Yes	State Government grant for rain tank	Not for croquet		Lawns needed to be kept in good condition	Community doing it's bit, basically up to club members	Participation numbers and awareness of the game.	Not really			

Club - Contact	Membership	Changing participation/ future change	Facilities	Managed by	Meeting clubs needs?	Anything needing upgrading?	Consolidate facilities?	Business plan? Program for capital improvement?	Current plans for capital/ maintenance?	Increase participation?	Issues?	Council help issues?	General trends in sport participation	Distribution of open space& recreation	Recreation/ open space types?
Leongatha Amateur Swimming Club	83 members, from U8's to seniors, majority 10 - 14 yrs,	Gradually increasing and likely to continue to increase with development of indoor pool	SPLASH indoor centre, used to use the outdoor pool	SPLASH - pay fee to use the pool, lane hire fee, have to have training later on in evening - only club in Gippsland paying lane fees	Difficulty with SPLASH is the ability to hold a crowd, can't fit all spectators	Just built		Unsure		Different variety of non-competitive water based activities, e.g. water aerobics - more time allocated to it,	Swimming clubs - lane hire fees, restricting members, Also SPLASH the only indoor heated pool open all year round, need something further east	Council set lane hire fees,	Increase in strength based physical activity and programs for older people - more needed still	Yes though walking paths/ areas needed - Leongatha fantastic, though more opportunity for incidental recreation esp. for smaller towns	Yes range of sports but lots are the more formal team sports and increase variety for those who don't do the competitive team sports.
Leongatha Gymnastics Club	54 registered gymnasts, 5yrs to 16 yrs, boys and girls	Depends on term, fewer members at end of year. Hopefully keep it going	Set up/pack up gym at Leongatha Secondary school.	Hire the venue from the school	Yes though a facility of their own would be better	Some equipment needing upgrading and replacing	No other real gymnastics clubs in area	Volunteer meeting basis	Needs basis - grants	Promotion - 'Come and try' days, displays at events, newspaper articles etc	Participation rates, sport profile and publicity, limited specialized coaching staff	Could help in support and funding	Soccer increasing, men's gymnastics becoming more popular	Yes	Yes
Leongatha Karate	15 - mix of juniors and seniors.	Stable and unsure of future change	Youth Club centre in Leongatha - floor area	Managed by Adrian	Yes	Maintenance		Volunteers - fees that come in pay for hire of venue	No	Advertising, word of mouth at moment	Travel for competition. Youth club lease runs out in June, may not remain available = no facilities	Council - unsure	Not sure	Yes, though if lease not renewed no facilities	Think so - could add a couple of venues for "other" sports
Leongatha Little Athletics	180, U6's to U15, boys and girls.	Increasing but can't increase more in the future without different facilities	Undersized oval in the velodrome - also used grassed areas outside	Leongatha rec reserve committee - discussions in place looking for new facility	350m circumference, Not really, also have to share facilities with junior football	Yes - long jump areas, currently just using dug up dirt	Also Wonthagi & Forster, if better facilities could possibly combine but would struggle keep all kids. Also share with schools	No. Meetings of volunteers, VLLA	Preliminary discussions to build new facilities	Council support if looking at new facilities, \$100k may be needed plus daily running of it	Facilities - full sized track and other infrastructure. Plus amenities	Will need to get new facilities going	Cricket made resurgence - juniors, lose kids at about 12 to other sports	Well distributed - basically catering for the size of population, bigger towns better facilities	Yes mostly - archery, bowls, cricket, and footballs except athletics track!
Meeniyah Bowling Club	40 men, 21 ladies, aged mostly between 60 and 80, men and women.	Increasing slowly, unsure in future	Synthetic green, 8 rinks, modern club house (on Meeniyah rec reserve)	All run by bowls club	Yep	Always things that could be improved	Not really	Priority list that they tick off then discussed in committee	Still paying off synthetic surface and kitchen	"Get on the Green" promotion - business bowls program 16 teams - some members coming out of that	It's going all right - keeping numbers up etc. Too many days on		Not sure really	Fairly well catered for	Plenty of things to do if they have the will
Meeniyah Golf Club	160 - 40 years and over. Men and women,	Stable, hoping to see increase in numbers especially young people. Social functions also catered for	Club house and bar w kitchen, 18 hole grass greens	Run by committee of management plus curator	Yes	Yes - bar does (health & safety issues)	Probably good idea but unlikely to happen, unsure who could amalgamate with	Business plan but no formal plan for capital investment need money first before can spent		Encouragement	Aging population, general population working harder so less time	Not really	Football clubs amalgamated - depends on administration	Yes - very well catered for	Yes
Poowong Squash Club	24 - from 16 yrs to 60 yrs, more men than women	Depends on business busy times, would like more players	In BB stadium, two squash court	Poowong Hall Committee	Yes	Not at the moment	Not really, would lose players but would be ok	No plan. Committee discussions	Not sure, hall committee would do it	Not really, nothing else really to do	Only small town, night comp		Not really -	Yes	Probably -

Club - Contact	Membership	Changing participation/ future change	Facilities	Managed by	Meeting clubs needs?	Anything needing upgrading?	Consolidate facilities?	Business plan? Program for capital improvement?	Current plans for capital/ maintenance?	Increase participation?	Issues?	Council help issues?	General trends in sport participation	Distribution of open space& recreation	Recreation/ open space types?
South Gippsland Pistol Club	15 members aged 18 to 70. 1 female rest male.	Stable, and similar in the future	Shooting sheds and moving targets, air pistol, club guns that members can use, safety equipment	Club committee	Yes more than adequate	Another range on go for a different shoot	Not really bc of distance (only two clubs in area really)	No. Constant - priority & improvement brought up at meetings	Volunteers - facility being built but	General knowledge	Licensing laws that can frighten off people	Nothing really	Not really - swimming	Yes	Yes - have to go out and do it
Stony Creek Football Club	250-300 members, 12 to 90 year olds, men & women.	Stable, juniors decreasing, expect possibility of further decrease	Ovals, netball courts, Stony Creek Recreation Club, Club rooms	Committee of recreation club and user bodies, all clubs share facilities - improvements could be made to management	No - still wanting stuff, social function area and kiosk near ground plus weights room	Yes - grandstand needed, spectator area needs upgrading	Can't really have two football clubs, already sharing with racing	Club is run as a business. Yes plans for capital investment	Yes - grandstand and kiosk near ground, plans done	Community working hard to get people involved	Money and expenses to keep club running	Grants - currently doing most on own	AFL decreasing, harder work to run the clubs	Yes	Not sure
Waratah Hockey Club	Disbanded - lack of numbers, used to be lots of clubs but all died out very suddenly														

Sporting associations

Association	Association	Facilities?	Trend in participation	Different users	Changes expected	Users to be accommodated	Major issues?	Council assistance?	Master/strategic plan?	Partnerships?	Good open space and recreation?	Range of open space / recreation	Council priority?	Anything else?
Korumburra BB Association		Shire leases facilities to Korumburra Recreation Centre management, clubs use as they please	Down a little in senior teams, higher slightly in juniors,	Netball, Volleyball, used 6 days	No plans	No room for more groups,	Purchase of car park and depot site across road to turn to car park, volunteers to do it	Lots help from council, needed to after Leongatha Recreation Centre put in	Work with country BB association who have strategic plan	Just joined into committee of management to run centre				Good thanks to volunteers Everyone leaving and going to Leongatha,
Leongatha and Districts Netball Association	6 clubs playing at venue, about 700 members, 3 comps per year,	8 courts and club pavilion, part of Leongatha Recreation Reserve, share car parking etc. No indoor facilities as part of association but are available at recreation centre	Numbers steady, Difficult to get U17 playing	8 year olds to seniors, All grades, mostly female but boys and men play in mixed comp	Not much change	Nothing for people with disabilities	Volunteer positions, people not willing to give club and position the time. Officiating and umpiring	Could be more aware of things that need doing like roads, fencing, mowing. Large scale maintenance	Just finished 5 year plan and done few major upgrades, no money to do more at moment	Clubs are committees, courts used by footy clubs and school	For the need yes there is			Little athletics needs a venue and a bit of land, Recreation reserve needs better management systems esp. for scheduling events
Alberton Football League	14 clubs, 6 grades of football plus netball 6 grades. Three Shires involved. 8 clubs in Sth Gippsland	All over the Shire	More teams but some numbers this year are a little bit of a decline, mainly due to weather and hardness of ground	Netball and Football	Continue to expand during course of year	?	Access to water, league has had to move venues, 3 grounds, bureaucracy (Meeniyan not currently acceptable to play on), volunteers and umpires also problem.	Could help with processing; help coordinate with clubs to seek funds. Help by reviewing all facilities not just council owned	Not for grounds committee		Yes	Most sports well catered for	Maintenance of grounds and upgrading of facilities, toilet blocks and change rooms,	Foster put in lift for disable access,
Poowong Amateur BB Association	One big organisation - about 160 players (Juniors, seniors, boys, girls)	One court for Poowong, also used in conjunction with Korumburra Association	Fluctuates, around 150		Continue fluctuating		Assistance and volunteers help, coaching, administration. BB Vic cost to train coaches, police check as well.	Funding to cover costs or program to subsidise costs. Instigating programs for all associations	No	Not really	Yes	If kids want to do a sport they have a large range of options - always enough open space to kick a football.	Help with maintaining football grounds and facilities, Also providing equipment. Looking after the outer grounds not just Leongatha	Committee of management runs the stadium, stadium in good repair. Facilities that run well are the ones that have a good community feeling.

6. Interviews with community groups and Committees of Management

Recreation Reserves - Committees of Management

Reserve	Committee?	Facilities?	Trend in participation	Key activities	Different users	Changes expected	Users to be accommodated	Major issues?	Council assistance?	Master/strategic plan?	Partnerships?	Good open space and recreation?	Range of open space / recreation	Council priority?	Additional comments
Dumbalk Recreation Reserve		20 acres, leased out, oval, old footy rooms	Increase in #'s walking	Walking on oval, dog walking, cricket on oval	All age groups	Walking track around oval, renovate footy rooms, get table tennis is?	No, people go to Leongatha	Lack of people so can't get grants to upgrade for people to use	Not really, lack of council funding	No plans, just maintaining, meet once per year	Possibly with progress association however same people,	Pretty good, most places have walking trails and ovals. More walking trails needed as roads become busier	Accessibility a problem, limited by getting around and lack of public transport	Bike paths	Not really
Toora Recreation Reserve		Football group, football, cricket and netball courts	Increased use of facilities	Football, netball, cricket, walking, jogging etc	Walking dogs	Hope to see increase, Increased numbers of people in country needed and need to improve facilities	Caravan and campers, possible also for soccer	Funding to keep reserve operating	They do as much as they can	No plan but in process of establishing one	Possibly but can't think of who	Yes, every town has own facilities	Yes, given the numbers in the towns	Getting population back	Not really
Koonwarra Recreation Reserve committee	9 volunteers	Toilets, oval for cricket, tennis court,	Stable maybe more teams,	Cricket, tennis, recreation stops, rail trail virtually finishes at reserve	All age groups, caravans, lots of walkers & bike users	Not really	Not really, ground not big enough	Drought is issue,	Grant from Shire to maintain	No plans - just meeting	Not really	Yes think so, memorial park, not that many people.		Not sure	Not really
Loch Memorial Reserve	Trustees on behalf of Loch community who own reserve, monthly meetings, AGM, fundraising etc	Cricket field, tennis courts (free for public), Gazebo, BBQ, children's play, toilets, memorial, club rooms with kitchen,	Definitely increased after state gov fund to put in gazebo's & BBQ's, picnic tables with wheelchair friendly so lots of groups. Camping increased	Lots of walkers, camping, tennis, cricket, football lately as softer grounds	Lots of users	About to put in grant for external painted etc, internal blinds, mower needed, third tennis court resurfaced.	Think so, offered for use in club newsletter, only two clubs in Loch	Cleaning of facilities by volunteers only, vandalism, maintenance of strip of land btm reserve (btw swing bridge and Loch Poowong Rd)	Shire been helping where they can, could help with cleaning, can't fault the Shire they very useful in grants	Meetings, volunteers needs basis	Not really	Yes every town has good park facilities	Good facilities close by, only thing missing is indoor cricket. Nowhere to do that at moment	Don't need to increase open space but help with maintenance of what got and assist voluntary groups	Skate facility going in Loch (in Sunnyside Park)

Progress Associations

Progress Association	Who are they	What they do	Current projects?	Trends in participation	Local issues	Sth Gipp open space issues	Sth Gipp recreation issues
Buffalo Progress Association	Only few members, getting grants to develop rail trail area	Improve environment in Buffalo, working with local rail trail, developing old railway line, where Buffalo station used to be	Looking at developing into building for local people, BBQ, weigh bridge, toilet on rail trail, tanks for water	There are not many young people in Buffalo, lots of people using the rail trail for bike riding.	Small number of people	Couldn't imagine there are many issues,	Leongatha pretty well set up for sporting facilities,
Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association	Rate payers organisation	Issues of built environment and development	Just spent 4 years fighting off developments of housing in area, trying to purchase land to return it to wetland status.	Not sure	Within existing sub division, lots of odd blocks that are owned by Shire, Shire looking into selling them off, Association looking at not selling off to development but left as open space, everything else part of coastal park and still protected	Not really sure beyond the area, combined with small local parks, we are well catered for	Unsure

7. Community forum notes

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- The brief
- What we've done to date
- Relationship with the open space plan
- Key issues raised
- Key questions of you
- Your turn: local issues
- Where to from here

The Brief

Aims:

- To establish a profile of programs and services, and prepare an inventory of recreation facilities by locality.
- To analyse recreation demand and activity projections for the next 10-20 years.
- To develop a Recreation Plan and determine priorities to:
 - increase participation in leisure and sport
 - maximise the value of recreation service and facilities
 - address key issues
 - provide a vision, and long term objectives for recreation facilities and services.
- To determine the nature of services and facilities feasible for Council to provide that will meet demand and Council's service objectives

Methods

- Literature and background information review
- Consultation
 - Submissions and interviews with stakeholders and staff
 - Workshops - community
 - Household survey
 - Interviews of community clubs and groups
- Site inspections
- Service / facility mapping and inventory
- Analysis of distribution and quality of existing facilities
- Preparation of locality analysis
- Key issues and detailed actions and strategies
- Key products from the Open Space Strategy

Household survey results

- 463 returns
- A third of people said there was nothing they want to do but can't
- Key activities that people would like to do but can't include: gym, walking, swimming, cycling, dancing, fishing and ten pin bowling
- Single thing that Council could do to meet open space and recreation needs: walking and cycling paths, maintenance of paths, grants and funding assistance, sports field development and upkeep, and footpaths

Suggestions and common themes:

- Concern about Coal Creek
- Need for walking and cycling paths/ expansion of rail trails
- Volunteers/committees need more assistance
- Suggestions regarding swimming
- Concern that Leongatha receives the 'lions share' of everything
- Support for developing sports
- Others include; climate change, libraries, sub division design, supporting young and elderly people, revegetation, gym/programs

Shire wide issues from the Open Space Plan

- Need for walking paths / trails
- Difficulty in maintaining sports facilities with volunteers
- Aging population and implications for sport
- Condition of tennis facilities
- Need for home base/ support for athletics and equestrian, soccer / hockey facilities
- Core services by town
- Identifying future developments required - to negotiate with developers

7.1 Community Forum – Foster 18th June 2007

Other shire-wide issues?

- Promotion of sport throughout the Shire
- Need sport to integrate people/community, a healthy start to life. All sorts of sport, eg. Boccè at Mt Best
- Not to be all Council funded, participants to contribute too
- Certainly need sport as part of the social framework
- Little work, many young people leaving, aging population, fixed income - need suitable sports
- Bowls: social and affordable
- Rural clubs run by few volunteers. Need help to look long term/ strategically. Reserve committees and pools too. Business plan, especially for funding
- Have sufficient population to sustain existing facilities, need to work to keep what is here. But have interest in many sports, hard to maintain whole suite
- How obtain available funding? What is on offer? See Council notice board (local paper), register at 'www.ourcommunity.com' (\$75 annually) for 'easy grants' newsletter. Vital for Council to keep advertising grants on offer
- Rail trail been a real win for everyone who has access to it!

Locality specific issues

The key questions

- What services and facilities do you have?
- What works well and doesn't work well?
- How can we increase participation in leisure and sports activities?
- What are the key issues you face?
- How can we make what you have more sustainable?
- What are the priority capital works projects

Dumbalk

Issues:

- Rec Reserve (tennis and cricket) new committee now, gained funding, interest as home to more clubs, MDU. Tennis court surfaces need work. Need to connect trails. Needs work if to accommodate winter sport. Need somewhere for bikes/jumps, and play
- Possibility to amalgamate another cricket club at the Rec Reserve (Meeniyon).
- Meeniyon: Lots of participant support to rebuild the club and make it family oriented etc. Clubs driving the Reserve, little from the Rec Committee, ideally want 50-50 contribution.
- Potentially have space for 2 grounds at Dumbalk. Issue is combining different clubs with different agendas at one site with shared facilities.
- Possibility to combine club representatives in the one recreation committee to look after multiple reserves and perhaps the hall?

Fish Creek

Issues:

- Plenty of local support to maintain facilities
- Decline in competitive clubs (tennis, cricket), still have social scene, travel further for competition
- Strong bowls club, but only one green
- Minimal Shire representation
- Interested in development of rail trail, and deviations off it
- Development of caravan/overnight tourism. Ideally a way-side-stop in conjunction with the rail trail for caravans to park overnight.

Foster

Issues:

- Bowls club: built second green, now one green and one synthetic surface. Attracting younger players
- Cricket club: aim to move all facilities to golf club site, but gets very wet and has lack of facilities. CMP requirement to book/allocate for hired use (safe use of ground), concern over purpose / backlash of this?
- Tennis club: 2 synthetic courts (more popular) and 2 other, plans to expand to 4 synthetic over time
- No parents to help support junior tennis - had some interest but not enough support. Similar for basketball. Middle generation gap.
- Skate ramp is a bit ordinary, bowl is for older kids and need a facility for younger kids before they can skate the bowl
- Showground Playground funding approved, will go ahead
- Kids have too many sport options, getting burned out young, sick of sport by 18. Need to hang onto Junior players, need incentive to stay here
- Is evidence of generational sport participation
- Schools provide a lack of sport alternatives, have lack of coaching / knowledge for a variety of different sports (tennis)

Port Welshpool

Issues:

- Raffles to support sports clubs
- Have power lines which boats must go under (wish to put underground)
- Schools influence the degree of sport participation / access to different sports, ideally want to work with schools to promote / try sports (previously had a 'sports expo')
- Wish to see rail trail / walking trails happen. Many locals out walking

Toora

Issues:

- Is a hole in generations (leave to find work). Many new people, many fixed income, not ready to contribute personally
- Bowls Club: has 40 year old facilities, working out a business plan for synthetic green (stage 4 water restrictions)
- Pools: struggling for committee interest, need to look to next 20 years
- Tennis: no competition, good courts but need work, maybe need to work with Foster to provide new courts (Foster has night comp now)
- Good skate park and walking tracks
- Want to get rail trail happening
- Rec Reserve: need help to coordinate clubs into the future
- Want to dredge boat ramp (stopped by greens / government departments- "sea grass")
- Only 2 (good) access points to fishing areas
- Bennisson Rec Reserve, used for equestrian sports, is wet and unsafe for use, needs drainage works. Pony club uses other areas because of drainage issues and because parking is difficult. Possibly an unsuitable site? There are some works that could happen to improve the site though. Crown Land.

7.2 Community Forum – Mirboo North 19th June 2007

Other Shire-wide issues?

- How the will Rec Plan fit in with the Health and Fitness plan for the Shire? Will the 2 plans be combined? Eg. identification of walking trails and accessibility
- Identifying alternatives to the 'gym' function, and accommodating activities at different facilities
- Potential to purchase the block of land beside the gym to accommodate additional facilities (especially for use during school hours)

Mirboo North

Issues:

- Creative Village: the advisory group to the Shire for Baromi Park, started in 1996. Has found walking / cycling / off-road trails are in high demand
- Facilities include:
 - Schools and Community Gymnasium (1x small basketball court, also used for tai kwon do),
 - "green room" used by the school for recreation,
 - multi-purpose hall at the Rec Reserve (holds a palates class),
 - scout hall (not shared with other activities),
 - A&P large shed (used for storage)- talk to retrofit for indoor use eg netball,
 - RSL hall (used for tai-chi),
 - community gardens.
- Lots of activities are available, issue is knowing *what* is available: community newspaper, notice board outside supermarket, disseminate info through the Mirboo Country Development group (website), community list at Library etc
- Because of working arrangements, it is often difficult to access information about what is available and meeting/mixing with other people
- Funding available through netball/football clubs (via SRV)
- Is the Mirboo North Shire hall used to capacity? It is expensive to hire/rent, and quite large (too large for some activities)
- Is governance training run by the Shire? Previously it was for S86 committees. A 'How To' manual may be useful (see agencies eg. DSE for this type of information). Also, the Community Strengthening Dept advocate grants via the Community Engagement Seminar
- Many Latrobe Valley people travel to the pool (3 depths, setting, BBQ provision, town hangout in Summer for teens and families). Mirboo Nth pool is a summer events pool, need to travel to other pools in the municipality for year round use. Has a unique setting (cold water, outdoors)
- The pool will require major funding in future
- Pool issues over next 5-10 years: aging, concern over structural failure, need to plan for future. Issue: fix to original 60's design, or upgrade for today/future? Need family change rooms, accessible facilities, café, first aid room, decide whether to cover it... People like the setting, don't know if people want change
- Many people travel the rail trail and Lyre Bird walk
- Beside the Library is a small garden, started from a grant, which is now getting larger than the community group can support and now want the Shire to manage the maintenance of it
- Concern over how many of the recommendations can actually be implemented
- Rec Reserve: main oval has 14ft drop, drainage problem requiring major \$, tennis courts (x4) require re-seal also used for netball, surrounding area requires upgrade/seal (eg around hall and playground), Cricket Club looking to develop turf wicket

- #1 Rec Reserve priority: reseal around hall (or maybe the upgrade of the oval)
- Golf Course: great asset, home to Vic Junior Golf
- Bowls Club: recently got a synthetic green, looking now towards internal clubhouse retrofitting, also require formal car parking
- Ideally want a trail from beyond the Bowls Club, past the School, past Baths Rd Res, through Baromi Park, onto a pedestrian underpass to the Rec Reserve
- Existing Gym, privately owned land with an undersized hall. Have ideas to purchase the block next door for recreation use, especially during school hours. It would be a community development in conjunction with the schools
- There is huge demand on the Gym between the 2 schools. Hall is over timetabled, and there are issues when it is raining during school PE classes
- May need to talk to the School Council re: future of the hall and demand for indoor space
- Building an auditorium, to be used for school classes, also (secondary) for community use
- Good Sports Programs have been making positive change
- Baromi Park- underage drinking, a culture issue, not a sport club issue. Also an issue of only a few activities for youth to do in a small town
- Structure Plan: public open space / Gippsland Water Treatment Plant conflicts? Probably referring to the Lyre Bird Walk?
- Structure Plan: Land available for sport and recreation was mentioned. This is not an issue of land shortage, but retaining what is currently there and avoiding incremental development in open space
- Supporting volunteers: an ongoing issue of time and money to off-set grant applications, can drain enthusiasm for involvement. Mirboo Country Development is the umbrella group intended to support community groups as a whole
- The Shire has a Grants Officer who works on sizable grant projects
- Have 500-600 volunteer groups in the municipality
- Groups need/want assistance filling in application forms, but too big a job for the one Grants Officer to do
- Councillors have \$10k discretionary fund for community groups- at times small assistance is a huge help (eg. pot hole grading)
- Question to ask when grants come to increase: should they increase in cash donations or through provision of some services/tasks by the Shire?
- Some tasks are not done well by volunteers/out of their league: eg. managing the implementation of the Baromi Park plan. Need mediation over who is responsible for what between the Shire and volunteers

7.3 Community Forum – Leongatha 27th June 2007

Leongatha

Issues:

- Recreation Reserve and Committee of Management doing a good job.
- Township is projected to undergo population growth - and ageing.
- Condition of roads and limited funds to improve them.
- Direction and advice towards funding opportunities.
- Rec Reserve is constrained by land availability.
- Seeking direction of possible future athletics track.
- Future location for the regular circus - previously provided at the Rec Reserve.
- Community facilities & meeting rooms to accommodate arts and craft activities.
- Mesley Hall to cater for performing arts.
- Limited facilities for 'dance' activities and performances.
- Difficulties with using school facilities and they need to be available when the community needs them.
- Where possible retain facilities and activities in one central area (ie. Recreation Reserve).
- Land adjacent the Rec Reserve may be available for an athletics track, may require a reorganisation of the golf course.
- An advantage of the golf course is that it is walkable from the town centre.
- Upgrading of the equestrian park and concern of the long-term tenure of the land.
- Seeking assistance for a course redesign, and desire to improve the area vegetation.
- Limitations of on site parking and are losing competition and events to alternative sites that can better cater for them.
- Constraints with pavilion and amenities that are provided - additional shade and showers required.
- Leongatha Tennis Club - have 8 porous courts and limited use during water restrictions.
- Hard courts are too hard for some older players, not their preferred surface.
- Plans to install water tanks to help with maintenance. Plans to undertake a feasibility study for a major surface replacement.
- Looking forward, are the existing courts enough to cater for future demand and population growth.
- Direction regarding the future and support for courts in rural areas.
- Leongatha and a court at Foster are the only porous courts in the Shire - this brings in players from the around the Shire.
- Perhaps a hierarchy around the shire to meet the diversity of demand - social, casual, visitors, competition
- Travel is a constraint for competition and training, particularly if activity is centralised in one location
- Potential for sharing of facilities and the implications for doing or not.
- Better promotion of school facilities that could offer community facilities
- Pony clubs / riding clubs appear to experience similar issues, particularly space constraints - could look at a possible regional scale facility or a diversity of facilities that could each provide for different disciplines.
- Local adult riding and pony clubs are increasing, locally.
- No option to participate in senior athletics, significant travel is required.
- Losing students and residents that move away from there area to train and participate in athletics, as well as those that regularly commute to athletics training
- Could be significant demand from surrounding townships to use a quality athletics track.

- The level and depth of competition at Leongatha in Little A's brings participants in from other regions and areas
- A preferred site for a new track would be the Rec Reserve, but alternative locations may be acceptable.
- Benefits for families and participation to have facilities and sports within the one precinct - share facilities, less travel
- Leongatha has a range of facilities and opportunities for visitors - it helps to draw them in and also retain them.
- Has the ability to offer a good depth of competition and a range of activities.
- Perhaps greater assistance required for less traditional and smaller sports / activities.
- Could prioritise on population numbers, levels of participation, maximising facilities, promote sharing.
- Players often play in a range of areas and may not reflect local population figures.
- Provide access to available Council skills, staff and experience (ie. Access to parks and gardens staff for improvements - redressing surfaces, sealing car parks, perhaps at a reduced rate for local clubs)
- Need for greater sharing of resources and equipment, particularly maintenance equipment - perhaps controlled and monitored by Council
- Opportunities for sharing - public toilets
- Question over demand for squash and suggestion that existing courts may be reaching the need for improvement
- Squash competition in place and links developed with schools / school programs.
- Possible future facilities - ten pin bowling could be provided in a multi-use capacity with gymnasium, squash etc.
- Growing demand for fitness classes and hydro pool to cater for the ageing population. High demand for aquarobics at Splash.
- The health and physical activity classes could be supported by Council, but may be the role of community groups and / or private sector to operate them - Council could provide access to quality venues though
- The flexible and multi-purpose use of halls can also make it difficult for clubs that don't have access to storage or dedicated space
- Look at future design and development for truly multi-purpose facilities.
- Some existing halls and facilities are often cold, noisy, lack storage space
- Accessing funding to upgrade these facilities is often difficult to obtain.

Priorities:

- Safety in facilities and conducting of activities

Tarwin Lower

Issues:

- Location of the tennis club and court resurfacing
- The more visible sport and recreation is the more vibrant activity is
- Casual participants in tennis is high during summer periods
- New netball courts recently developed
- Funding for facility improvements
- Activity in tennis has remained constant, need to retain numbers and the quality of facilities
- New facilities may help to attract a more diverse group of players
- No floodlights on tennis courts
- Contributions towards facility improvement are draining on club finances
- River access improvement has been positive
- Limitations through lack of mains water access

7.4 Community Forum – Korumburra June 28th 2007

Other Shire-wide issues?

- Better communication with peak sporting bodies, leagues and associations - help to set a wider strategic direction, particularly across the Gippsland region
-

Korumburra

Issues:

- The majority of funding for facilities in the town has come from the community. This may not be sustainable in the future.
- Recreation facilities are currently servicing needs, but may not in the future if the population grows.
- Cricket, basketball, volleyball, netball, badminton, football, bowls, tennis, croquet, pony club, indoor bowls, shooting, skate park, aerobics, swimming - motor bikes at Outrim
- Major project at the sporting precinct happening - grant has been approved
- Basketball has a very high participation - ages 5 to 35 age groups is 35%, highest in Victoria
- Football club concerns regarding the size of the 'top' recreation reserve and have moved activities to the Showgrounds - concern is that the ground is leased and costs. However it is the only facility that can cater for football club expansion.
- Wide distribution of existing sporting facilities, preference would be have them centrally located.
- There is a disparity in funding between reserves / locations / committee's
- Swimming pool is the only olympic sized swimming pool from Dandenong out - draws regional schools to host carnivals and tournaments
- It is a priority swimming pool for maintenance and improvement.
- Potential new location for tennis and lawn bowling club should population grow.
- Potential to create a "sporting body" to oversee and plan the future of sport in the township / district. Help to set the direction in a coordinated way, with a prioritised plan. Will help to increase communication amongst and between groups.
- Previous success achieved through the "Shire Raffle"
- Volleyball - stadium is inadequate to cater for volleyball. One of the top rural regional volleyball competition in Victoria - has a strong junior program.
- Under-sized courts, no run-off and height restrictions. Look at potential development / expansion.
- Traffic management and car parking issues associated with the showgrounds / sporting precinct - a decent access from the Highway would assist to provide an overall improvement. Potential to create an access from the sale yards (which have been sold - maybe for commercial development).
- Future planning for floodlighting of the lawn bowls club - can bowl year round on the synthetic green
- 16 bowls clubs in South Gippsland with the majority having synthetic greens
- Master Planning exercise for the showgrounds precinct - question the future of the "drill hall".
- Ensuring the correct equipment is available to cater for a range of participation markets
- Golf course
- Korumburra Public Park - the need to improve the walking trails / tracks, it is one of the only locations to cater for major walking tracks
- Promotion of existing facilities and activities - "what to do and where".

Loch

Issues:

- Loch Reserve - cricket, tennis, walking, camping, exercise, youth activities.
- The reserve is segregated from the town and requires better access from town centre - suggestion of an underpass to improve access, particularly for walkers and school students
- Township caters for lawn bowls, Lions Club market.
- Thinking about space between the town centre and rec reserve - seeking greater input from the community regarding improvements
- Reserve has a grant application in for clubroom refurbishment and to install fitness stations. Potential for tennis court resurfacing.
- Skate park have an upcoming auction to raise funds for skate park landscaping, in conjunction with Council and SRV.
- Attempts to make the bowls club more attractive for the younger population. Possible installation of a synthetic surface - potentially seeking Council and funding assistance
- Received Vic Health grant for new equipment. Received grant for water tanks and applications in for clubroom improvements.
- Difficult to attract new members from within a small township.
- All experience volunteer and committee representation difficulties

Poowong

Issues:

- On the Recreation Reserve we have football, cricket (jointly with Loch), tennis, netball
- Facilities are relatively modern, football rooms are multi-purpose
- Significant power access is now available throughout the Reserve so can host the Dairy Expo
- The ground is in 'good condition' - which is managed by a Committee of Management. Football club generally maintain the playing surface, and has had many upgrades.
- *Require additional land* at the Recreation Reserve, which is currently owned by a developer and will be expensive to acquire - looking for Shire assistance to take a land contribution through future sub-division
- Have a dairy expo at the Recreation Reserve that experiences some parking issues
- Have 2 services clubs, a sports stadium catering for squash and basketball, swimming pool (seasonal).
- Primary school is looking to develop a cycling track, through Education Dept funding. Looking at potential to connect to the Rec Reserve
- Stadium - squash and basketball generally, badminton is no longer played. Could be potential to add some new activities. Draw participants from the neighbouring district(s)
- Stadium users have dropped off over the past few years. Squash are back to 1 grade, no junior competition anymore.
- Basketball used to have 7-8 junior teams, back to mixed junior teams (maybe 5 or 6).
- The addition of land will help to create and retain a centralised sports precinct.
- The preference would be to retain and improve the existing swimming pool. It would be expected that an improvement would be justifiable throughout the community.
- In the short-term the heating of the pool may help to prolong the operating season.

7.5 Community Briefing – Leongatha May 28th 2007

Open Space Issues

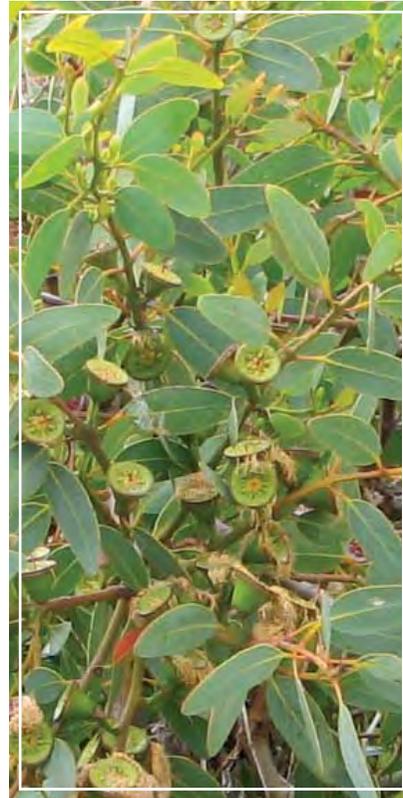
- Poowong Recreation Reserve: There is a need for extra land
- Expansion and development of Leongatha Recreation Reserve and it being land locked. Is there need another sports site?
- Utilise school sites- especially for sport – partnership agreements
- Connectivity and linkages for off road paths and trails
- Leongatha Equestrian Park need for security of tenure – Council future plans for the land?

Recreation Issues

- Funding support is required for management committees – how? Levy from rates?
- Support for seeking funds – assist with grants, grant writing, planning
- Committee of Managements structure and succession planning

Recreation Plan:

VOLUME 4 Implementation Plan



South Gippsland Shire



About this document

This document is one of four prepared for South Gippsland Shire Recreation Plan: Volume 4. Implementation Plan.

This document includes an implementation table for shire wide actions and for each locality in the Shire.

It provides a map showing the location of key priority works. Localities are in alphabetical order.

The numbers on the maps correspond to the number of the action in the implementation table.

The other documents prepared for the Recreation Plan are:

Volume 1. Issues and Strategy, and

Volume 2. Locality Analysis

Volume 3. Consultation Findings

Volume 4. Implementation Plan.

An inventory was also prepared for this project and submitted as a separate database.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document, Volume 4. Implementation Plan, outlines the goals, strategies, policy directions and actions that make up the Shire of Gippsland Recreation Plan.

Section 2 is a table containing concise implementation elements. It is based on information, analyses and discussions that can be found in the other three volumes that, together, underpin this Plan.

In Section 3, priority actions are identified for each locality in South Gippsland Shire.

Localities are in alphabetical order.

Priorities for each locality are indicated by:

- numbered actions laid out in an implementation table
- identified priorities, highlighted in each table with a dark blue background
- a map showing the location of key priority works.

The numbers on the maps correspond to the number of the action shaded in blue in the implementation table.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GOAL 1. LEADERSHIP IN RECREATION POLICY, AND PLANNING Enhance council's influence on the facility planning and provision process and the quality of leisure experiences		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
<p>Enhance Council's roles in recreation planning whilst continuing to involve community</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure recreation planning plays a key role in land use and community facility planning 2. Continue to involve the community in recreation and sports decisions through a recreation advisory committee, local town sports councils and committees of management 3. Reinforce that the emphasis in planning facilities should not be on the facility itself, but on the experience and benefits derived from it 4. Use community grants schemes to encourage good planning and marketing, and to collect demand information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase the skill and interest base on the recreation advisory committee to include other stakeholders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish an open space advisory committee
<p>Increase the marketing and information distribution role of Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop and utilize the recreation inventory for marketing and information about recreation opportunities 6. Continue to publish a recreation newsletter for all sports and recreation clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a web based directory of clubs and community groups and a range of simple cheap information products to encourage more people to use existing services and facilities, and find suitable opportunities to match their interests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work with Gippsport to assist clubs to develop and host email addresses for the efficient broadcast of information about sport and recreation



GOAL 2: PATHS AND OFF-ROAD TRAILS		
Renew and upgrade the network of off-road cycle and walking trails throughout the shire and where feasible around each locality and key reserves		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
Extend the rail trails	7. As a priority seek to renew and upgrade the Great Southern Rail Trail, and provide information about cycling routes including the rail trails and associated facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction of the bridge over the Tarwin River, Meenyan
Identify and secure off-road trails route for long term construction	8. Work with Parks Victoria and other land managers to secure routes for trails on government land, including disused public roads.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify and prioritise key trail networks and perimeter paths
Enhance strategic planning and design of trails	9. Implement guidelines that protect the environment through which trails pass, and address risk and accessibility issues (See Schedule 2.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update the South Gippsland Bike Plan to include the priority paths identified in this Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update Council's 10 year Capital Works Program to include the high priorities identified in this Plan.
Support the development of local trails by community groups	10. Continue to assist local groups establish the feasibility of trails in each locality and construct and manage those of a high priority 11. Support the creation of end of journey facilities and activity hubs along trails, as well as links from rail trails to community facilities and town centres	



GOAL 3: SPORTS DEVELOPMENT To encourage more people to continue to play a sport of their choice		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
<p>Focus on strategic planning of infrastructure on a municipal wide level in conjunction with peak bodies, local clubs and Sport and Recreation Victoria</p>	<p>12. Endorse a policy on which to base development and funding decisions. (See Schedule 5.)</p> <p>13. Establish a hierarchy of sports facilities to guide levels of provision and maintenance</p> <p>14. Work closely with VLBA and LBVA to support the bowling clubs in the Shire remain viable and address surface issues</p> <p>15. Consider options to include soccer on existing grounds in strategic locations</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review the condition and adequacy of equestrian facilities across the Shire and seek to provide a permanent base of equestrian sports in Korumburra, Leongatha and Nyora</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct a feasibility study for a regional athletics training facility</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work with Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria to role out a strategic upgrading of tennis courts across the Shire</p>
<p>Refine the number structure, funding and roles of Committees of Management in line with a hierarchy of localities and facilities as well as the new sports aims, and to address current issues</p>	<p>16. In major town centres consider opportunities to encourage indoor sport fitness and commercial leisure uses. Support the development of "sports councils" and joint management committees where there are several sporting reserves in towns (to encourage sports to work together strategically, seek funds for facility upgrades, share and maximise the use of facilities, and minimise resources needed to manage infrastructure)</p> <p>17. Work closely with the DSE to streamline issues associated with Committees of Management of sporting reserves and provide consistent levels of service and opportunities for committees and users</p> <p>18. Work closely with the water authorities to role out water collection, reclamation and recycling schemes on all major sports grounds</p> <p>19. Assist committees to address shade on sports reserves through the planting additional trees, and providing permanent roofed shade structures in strategic places</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue to support committees of management through Council's existing community grant program</p>



GOAL 3: SPORTS DEVELOPMENT cont... To encourage more people to continue to play a sport of their choice		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
<p>Assist sports reserves and clubs to address water and climate change issues in conjunction with relevant authorities</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a drought relief for community sport plan subject to external funding.</p>
<p>Increase participation in sport by marketing, upgrading facilities to accommodate a wider range of activities, and encourage clubs and providers to embrace a wider range of users</p>	<p>20. Connect and jointly promote existing facilities to enhance use. For example: connect facilities to rail trails, signposts, and encourage clubs providers, schools and committees to run joint development and outreach programs</p> <p>21. Continue to upgrade the accessibility of existing infrastructure to make more facilities inclusive for parents, older adults and people with a disability</p> <p>22. Assist sports to include people from a broader range of age groups and abilities (as players, officials and in administration)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare a web based directory of recreation clubs and facilities.</p>

GOAL 4. SWIMMING POOLS		
To provide a range of swimming opportunities to encourage increased participation		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
Retain and upgrade the stock of outdoor pools	23. Continue to provide outdoor pools in Toora, Foster, Mirboo North, Poowong and Korumburra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan for the redevelopment of infrastructure at the outdoor swimming pool sites, commencing with Mirboo North
Upgrade the quality of swimming experiences, support facilities, and increase accessibility to target a broader range of people	24. Where possible provide warm water and toddler pools and water play opportunities at outdoor pool sites 25. Continue to manage and develop Leongatha as a regional indoor aquatic centre, and in future upgrade the centre as per the Master Plan 26. Consider opportunities to make the pools more attractive to older adults through programming, transport, accessibility works and warm water 27. Ensure all pools are fitted with: current energy and water efficient systems, pool blankets, hoists for accessibility, and where possible ramp entries ¹ and have clean, modern and accessible toilet and change facilities with running hot water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct a feasibility study for the extension of facilities (e.g. gym, hydrotherapy pool and childcare) at SG Splash.
Enhance marketing and management of swimming opportunities	28. Continue to improve management, marketing and governance of outdoor pools, retaining local involvement 29. Document the standard of accounts and attendance information required of any contractor or committee. Ensure also that roles and responsibilities of Council, committees, contractors and volunteers are clearly spelt out in a head of agreement for each pool 30. Seek to simplify management and funding arrangements where DSE is the land owner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a program to improve signage from highways and town centres for each pool <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review management documentation for each swimming pool to better address roles and responsibilities

¹ (except 50m Korumburra -if this affects competition use),

GOAL 5. FUNDING AND RESOURCE PRIORITIES		
Introduce mechanisms to fund priority projects that are effective, equitable and assist with implementation of financial and recreation planning objectives		
STRATEGY	POLICY DIRECTIONS	SHORT TERM ACTIONS
Review the proportion of funds available to sporting reserves	31. Review funds for committees of management with a firmer policy base for the allocation of operational grants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refine policy base and qualifications underlining funding allocations for community groups, to assist with meeting Shire-wide objectives and priorities
Utilise a reserve and township hierarchy and weighting system to prioritise funding allocations	32. Continue to ensure capital projects are assessed for their: viability, impact on other facilities, and the sport, before Council support is given	
Provide assistance to communities to seek grants	33. Ensure that the scale of operational tasks are practical for a committee to undertake so that committees can concentrate on delivering community sporting opportunities 34. Continue to provide assistance to secure grants through a grants officer, and provide support to project manage capital works projects delivered through grants 35. Continue the community grants scheme for planning projects and local capital works 36. Continue to look for innovative fund raising schemes to assist community recreation groups	

3. PRIORITIES BY LOCALITY

Locality: Bena

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION 1. Enhance the existing reserve for social /family recreation within the township.		✓		

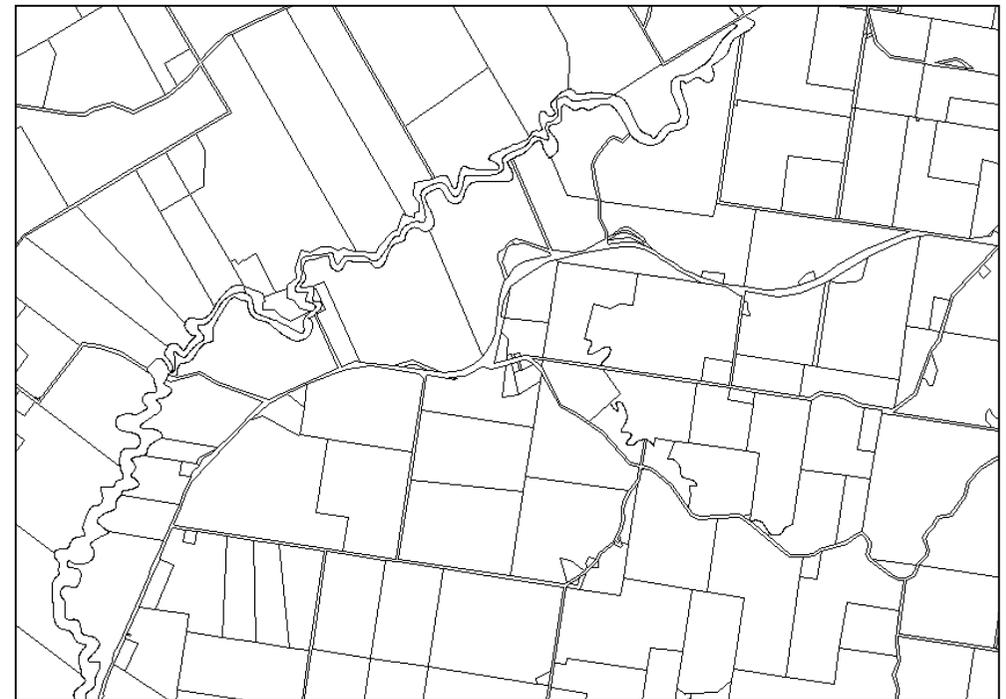


* Key development site

Locality: Berrys Creek

Classification: Hamlet

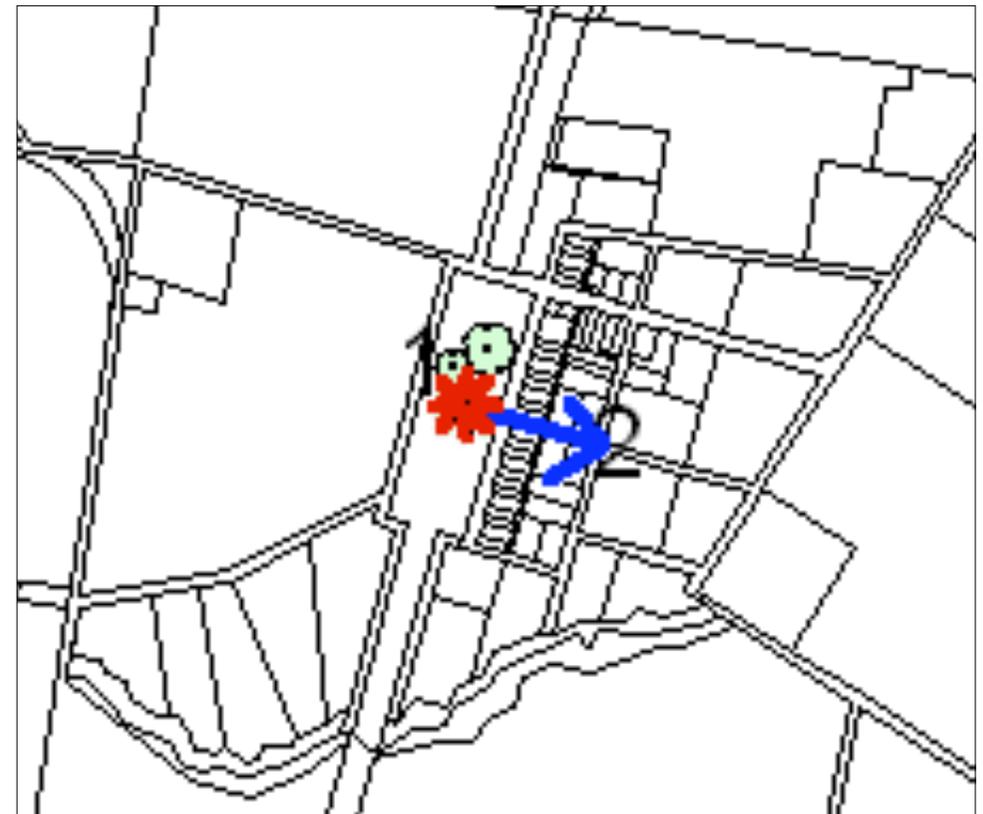
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Continue to implement the management plan for Mossvale Park. Investigate providing two access ways into the park.		✓		
2. Continue to support the advisory committee to assist with the management of the Mossvale Park.				



Locality: Buffalo

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE	✓			
1. Support the Progress Association in developing the rail trail hub, including preparing a landscape master plan for the space.				
2. Create a trail link from the rail trail to the Buffalo hall & tennis courts.		✓		
RECREATION				
3. Consider allowing the former recreation reserve to be used for equestrian uses, should there be demand.				



	Key development site
	Priority site for a planting plan and landscape works
	Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Dumbalk

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE		✓		
1. Assist the Recreation Reserve to construct a shared trail around the perimeter of the ground, and resurface one tennis court if viable.				
RECREATION		✓		
2. Designate an off-road trail circuit around town and connecting existing community facilities.				
3. Consider combining management committees for parks, trails and recreation facilities into one to increase co-ordination and efficiencies.				



	Potential off-road trail route
	Possible park perimeter track

Locality: Fish Creek

Classification: Small town

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Provide a better pedestrian connection to the Recreation Reserve from the centre of town.	✓			✓
2. Support the development of a walking trail from the rail trail to Mt Nicoll.	✓	✓		
RECREATION				
3. Investigate the long term viability of Buckley Park.				
4. Address minor risk management issues on the Recreation Reserve, upgrade paths adjacent to scout hall for accessibility.	✓	✓		
5. Assist the Bowls Club to raise funds for a second green.		✓	✓	



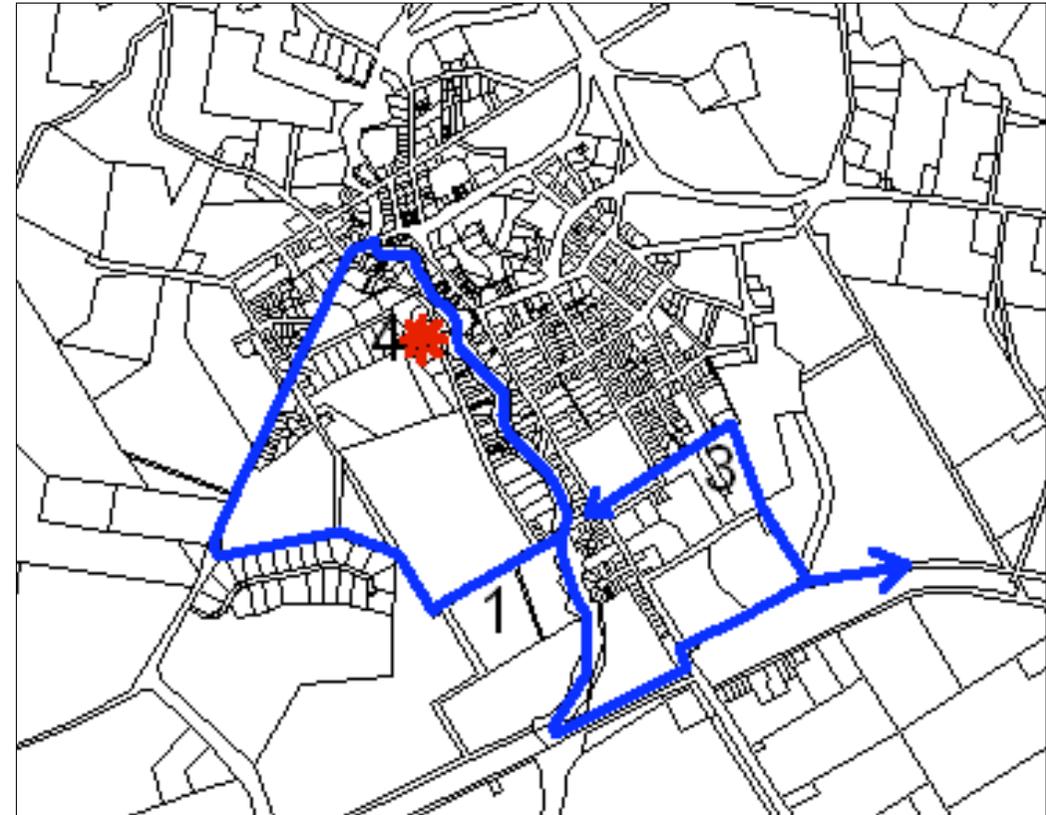
 Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Foster

Classification: Major town

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Establish connections from crown reserve 36 to the rail trail 40 and to the Stockyard Creek returning to the crown land in the north to create a circuit of trails for exercise, recreation and environmental appreciation.		✓		
2. Retain the Strzelecki and North Foster lookouts.				
3. Extend the rail trail.		✓		
RECREATION				
4. Allow for the expansion of tennis club in Pioneer Street as demand arises.		✓		
5. Provide incentives to consolidate cricket and football on the main showground sports reserve.	✓			
6. Provide a small street skating area at the skate park and review the condition, management and future development of the skate park, including the metal half pipe.		✓	✓	
7. Implement the Showground Master Plan		✓	✓	
8. Implement the findings of the Foster basketball facility feasibility study.				
9. Encourage sports clubs and the secondary school to work more closely.				

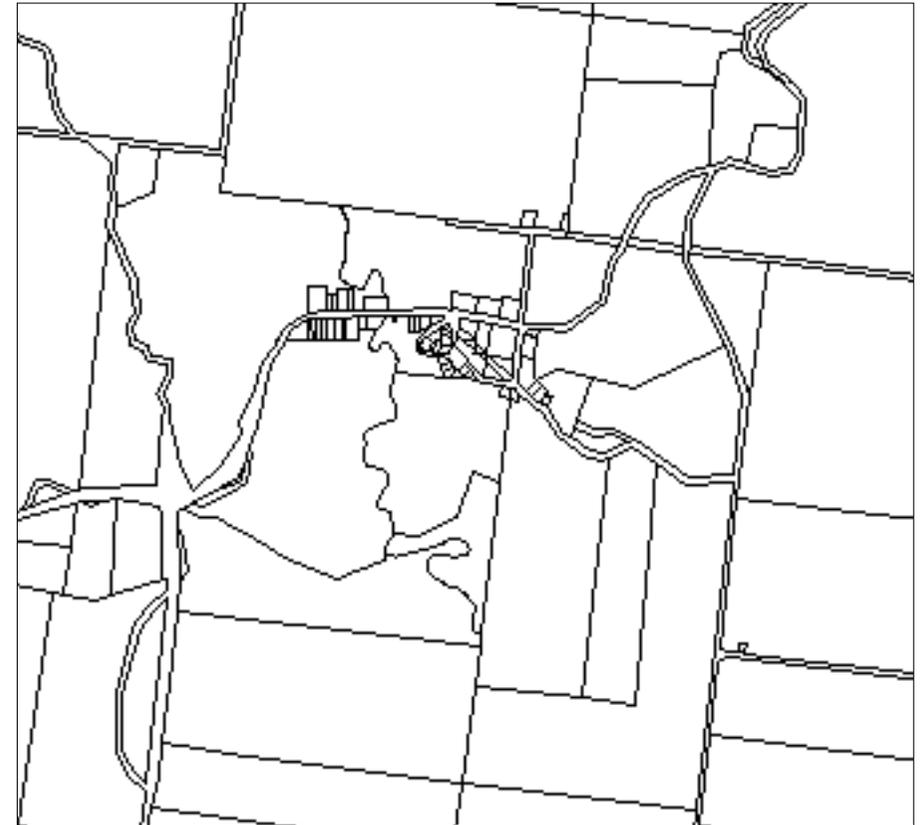


Key development site
 Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Kongwak

Classification: Hamlet

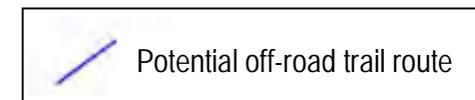
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Designate an off-road trail circuit north and south of the RN Scott Reserve.		✓		✓
2. Protect the Avenue of Honour along the Korumburra Wonthaggi Rd.	✓			



Locality: Koonwarra

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE 1. Designate circuits as a network of trails connecting the rail trail, Nirvana Park in the community environment centre, hall and open spaces in the Koonwarra.	✓			
RECREATION 2. Sign post the directions to the range of parks from the rail trail -as walking circuits.				✓



Locality: Korumburra

Classification: Major town

Key Sources of Capital Funds

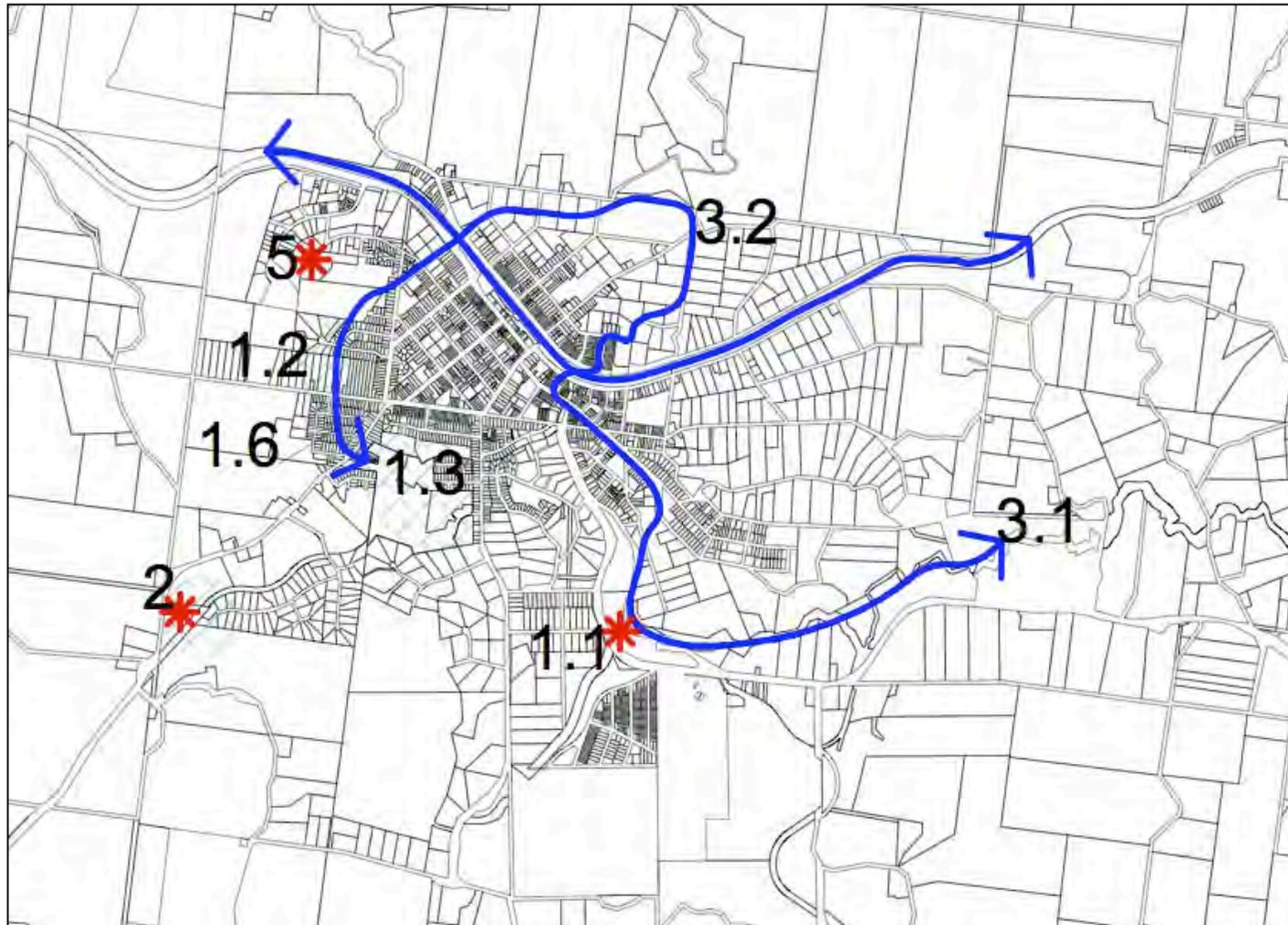
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				✓
1. Address residential areas currently underserved by open space for social / family recreation and off-road trails .				✓
1.1 Continue to redevelop Coal Creek as a social /family recreation area.			✓	
1.2 Plan to provide for prospective residential development north west of Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road with a social /family recreation space and off-road trail access to the Korumburra Sports precinct and CBD.				✓
1.3 Plan to create additional social/family recreation space and an off road trail In the southwest sector.				✓
1.4 Add an open space connection along the waterway (at Willow Court) to connect in the north-east with William Street and the recreation reserve / tennis courts and then south east to Whitelaw Road.				✓
2. If additional development occurs around the high school, plan to expand the second oval to full size and build a community pavilion to support community use, and develop trail access to the school especially from the south.				

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
3. Provide a network of off-road trails and local walking circuits across town.	✓			✓
3.1 Provide link from town to Coal Creek, and support and extend the Lions Club trail to Ritchies Reserve.				
3.2 Seek to create a walkable connection back into town from the Caravan Park and Korumburra Botanic Park.				
4. Upgrade street scapes (tree planting)		✓		
5. Find a suitable site for the development of a home base of the pony club in Korumburra.	✓			
RECREATION				
6. Consider the long-term redevelopment of the indoor centre in accordance with the Master Plan.		✓	✓	
7. Assist with the review of the future uses of the Recreation Reserve including hockey, soccer athletics or as a social family park with some other sport such as petanque, croquet etc.	✓			
8. Plan for the upgrade/ redevelopment of the Korumburra swimming pool as the facility ages.		✓	✓	
9. Establish a dog off-leash park in Korumburra.			✓	



Map: Korumburra



	Key development site
	Future development that may require acquisition
	Potential off-road trail route



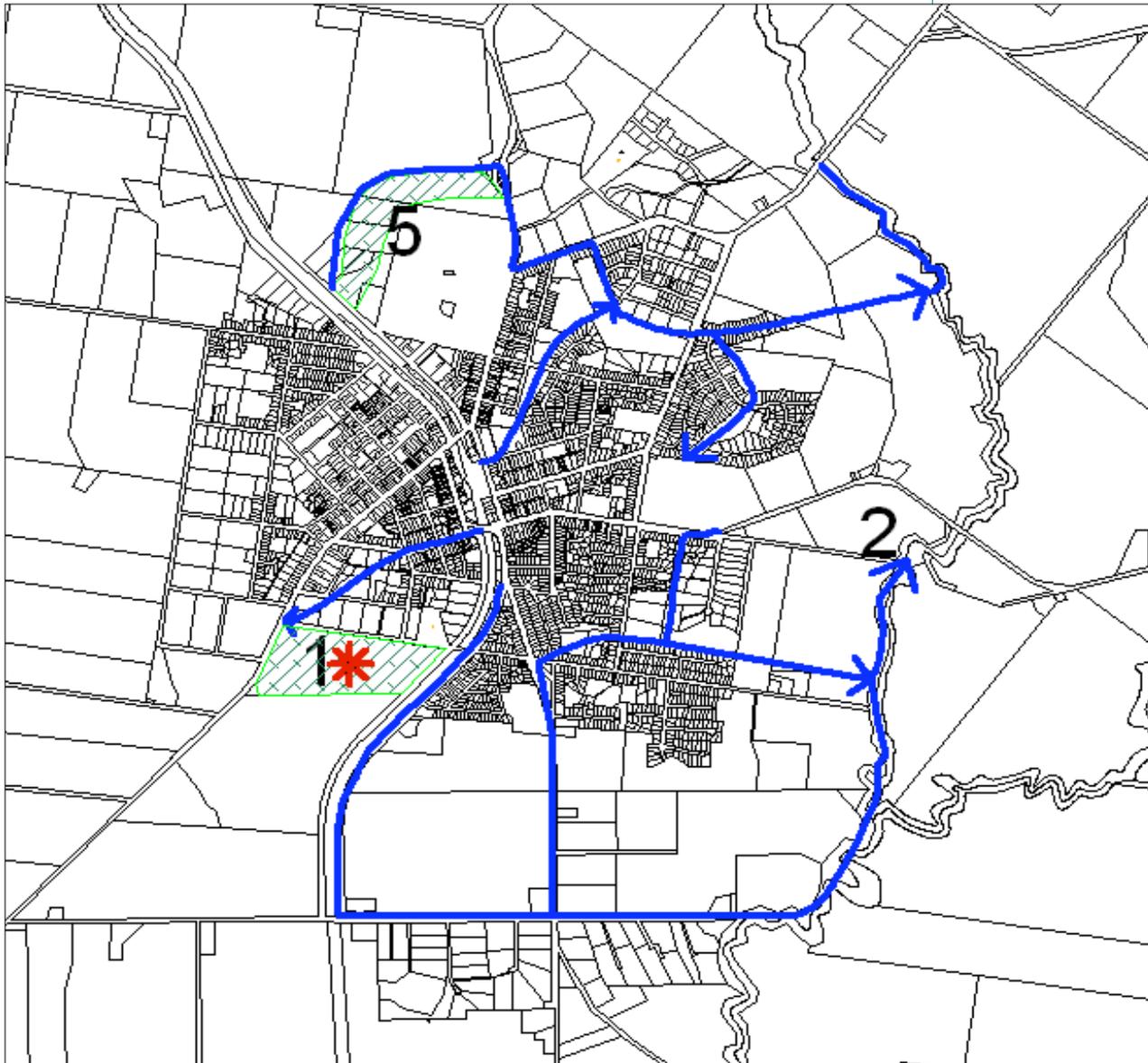
Locality: Leongatha

Classification: Major town

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				✓
1. Consider setting aside a new sports/ social family park in the south to serve prospective residential development.				
2. Develop a network of off-road trails across town using creek and rail corridor and drainage reserves; creating linkages between the key reserves, schools and residential areas. Ensure footpath links north west to town centre.		✓	✓	
3. Address lack of accessible paths in residential areas.			✓	✓
4. Seek to retain a good diversity of different types of spaces including bushlands, wetlands, horticultural spaces, and reserves for sport and social/ family recreation accessible from the town.				-
5. Work with DSE and the Recreation Reserve Committee to review the layout of facilities on the Recreation Reserve, and consider a minor expansion and upgrade to include the skate park, reorganisation of one golf course green (retain as nine holes) and facilitate other sports use.				✓

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
6. Investigate the site options for emerging / expanding sports provision to accommodate a dedicated athletics track, permanent home for equestrian sports and soccer and the need for expansion/resurfacing of tennis facilities				
7. Work closely with the schools to maximise the opportunities to develop and manage shared sporting, recreation and arts related infrastructure, and enhance sports participation				
8. Work with DSE and the Recreation Reserve Committee to:				
8.1 develop infrastructure to irrigate the Leongatha Recreation Reserve from the Leongatha sewerage treatment plant as a priority and			✓	✓
8.2 Investigate the feasibility of adding at SPLASH a gym, hydrotherapy pool and child care facility as per the Master Plan.			✓	✓
9. Establish a dog off-leash park in Leongatha				

Map: Leongatha

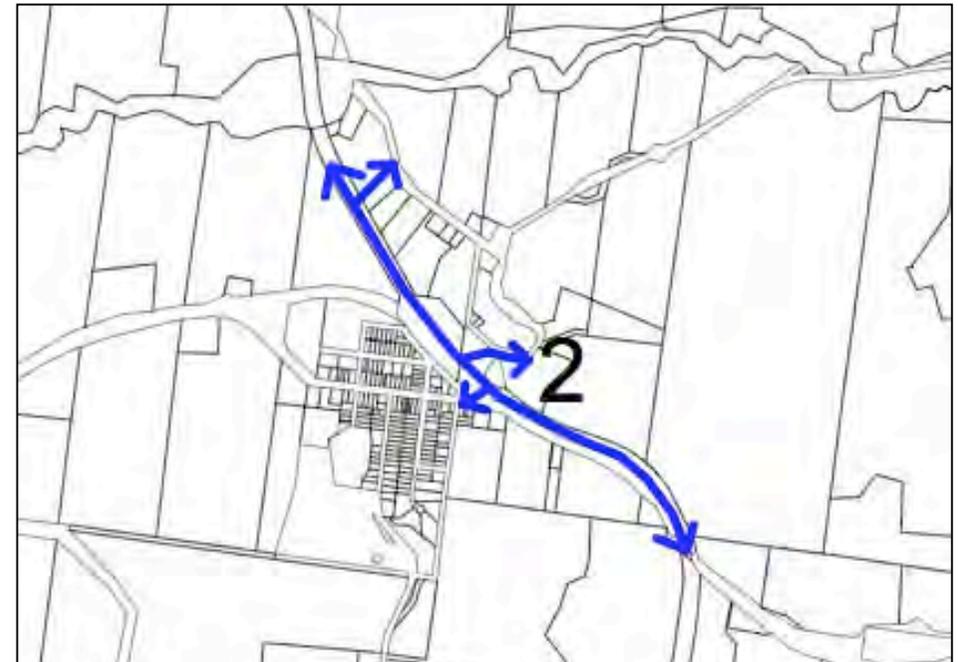


-  Key development site
-  Future development that may require acquisition
-  Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Loch

Classification: Small town

	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Focus future open space developments on trail networks and design enhancements of existing facilities.		✓		
2. Support the development of better pedestrian connections to the Recreation Reserve from the township and from the market site to the Recreation Reserve, from the Recreation Reserve to Hilda Falls, and the railway track between Loch and Nyora.		✓		✓
3. Protect bushland/treed area beside the school (site 121).				
4. Consider siting any additional open space or sports facilities required in the south; adjacent to the bowls club.				✓
RECREATION				
5. Support the lawn bowls club to remain viable.				
6. Support the development of a skate park and the preparation of a management plan.	✓	✓		
7. Support the upgrading of facilities at the Recreation Reserve and undertake additional planting for shade and amenity.	✓	✓		

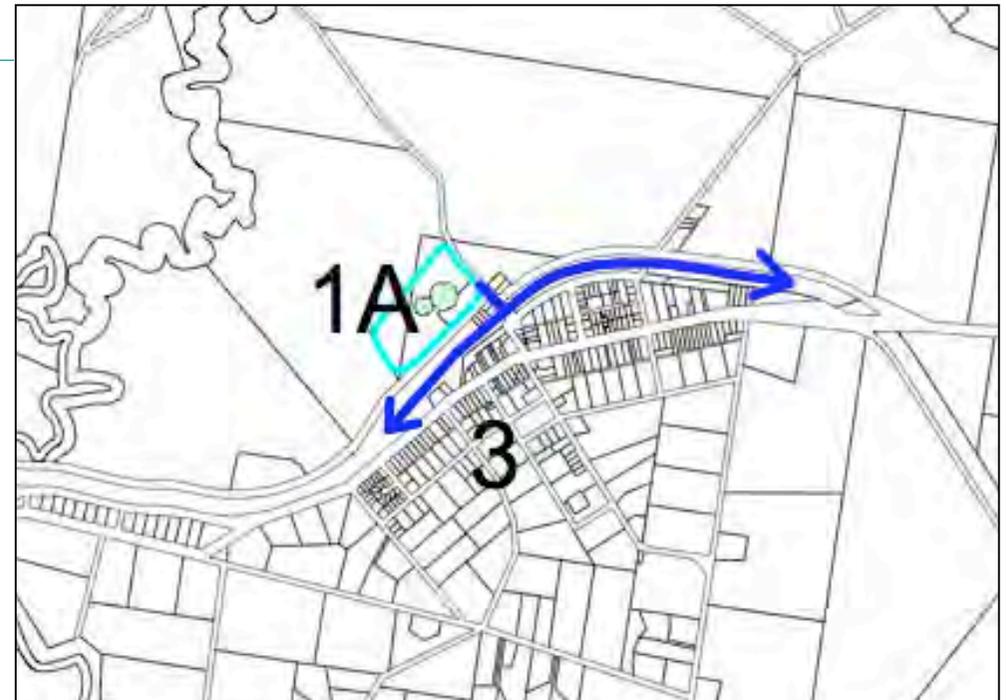


 Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Meeniyan

Classification: Small town

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Create a perimeter track around the Recreation Reserve and continue to enhance accessibility, landscape amenity, address risk management issues and link to rail trail.	✓	✓		
2. Investigate the feasibility of an off-road trail circuit around the town.	✓			✓
3. Consider the integration of the stadium car park open space and the school ground to serve long term open space needs should the town develop considerably in the southeast.		✓		✓
RECREATION				
4. Assist the Recreation Reserve Management Committee to work more closely together, and prepare a Master plan.			✓	



-  Priority site for a planting plan and landscape works
-  Future development that may require acquisition
-  Possible park perimeter track
-  Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Mirboo North

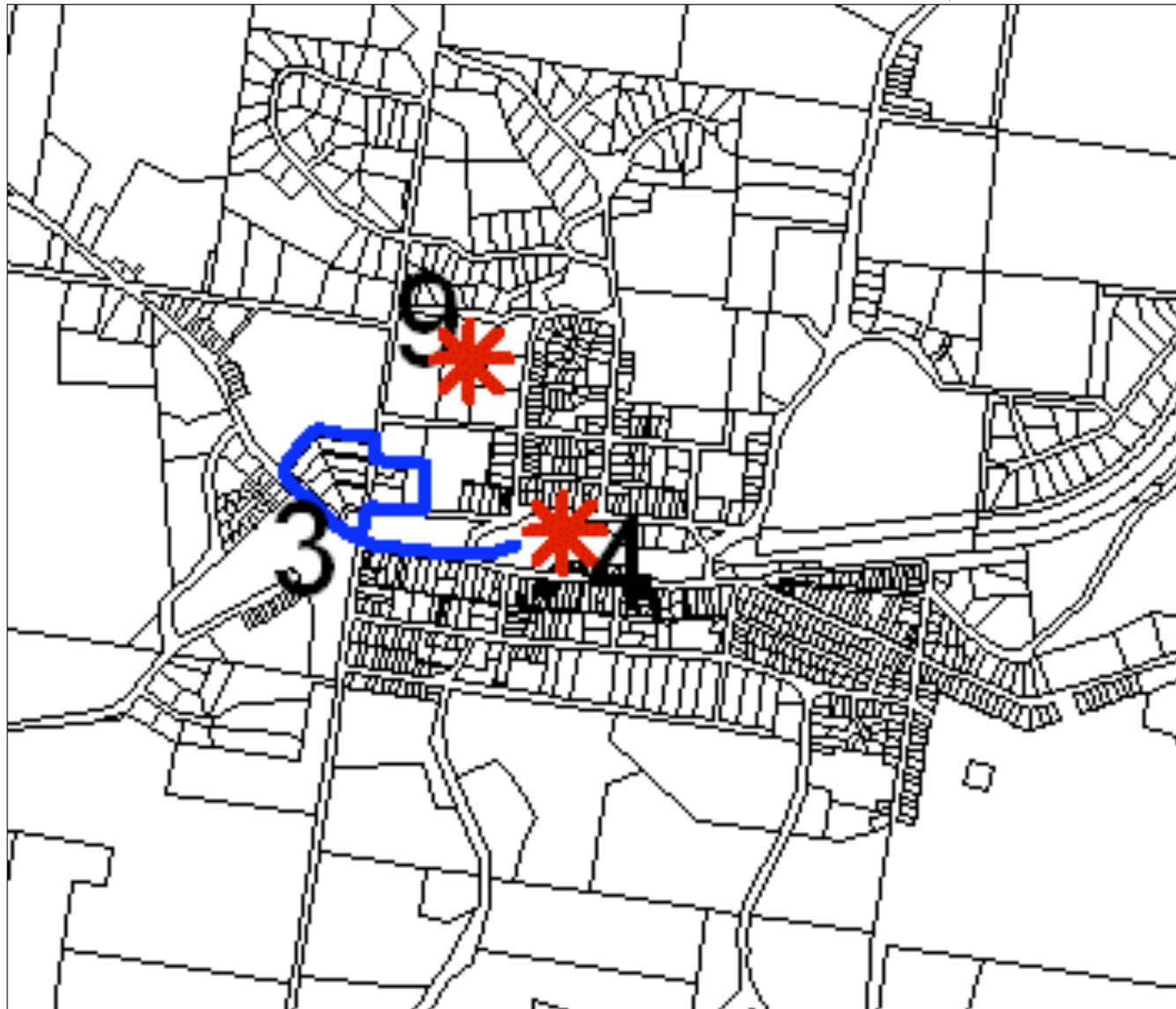
Classification: Major town

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE			✓	
1. Preserve the trees along roadways in Mirboo North and rail trail to protect the character of the area.				
2. Plan for the replacement/removal of the senescing pine and other large trees in parks and reserves.		✓		
3. Ensure that there is a pedestrian trail system through any new subdivision north of the bowling club and connecting to school and back to town.				✓
RECREATION				
4. Continue to upgrade Baromi Park as per the Master Plan.		✓		
5. Assist the Recreation Reserve Committee to:				
5.1. Investigate the possibility of utilizing the A&P Society Shed for an indoor sports training centre.				
5.2. Address the design and maintenance to the entrance.	✓			

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
5.3. Apply for funds to upgrade the tennis courts, and seal around the hall		✓		
6. Upgrade signage of existing parks and reserves			✓	
7. Support the community to develop and distribute additional information about recreation opportunities in Mirboo North	✓			
8. Investigate the options to develop a share two court stadium in conjunction with the schools		✓		
9. Investigate the condition of the existing outdoor pool shell and plan for the redevelopment of this facility		✓	✓	



Map: Mirboo North



	Key development site
	Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Nyora

Classification: Small Town

Key Sources of Capital Funds

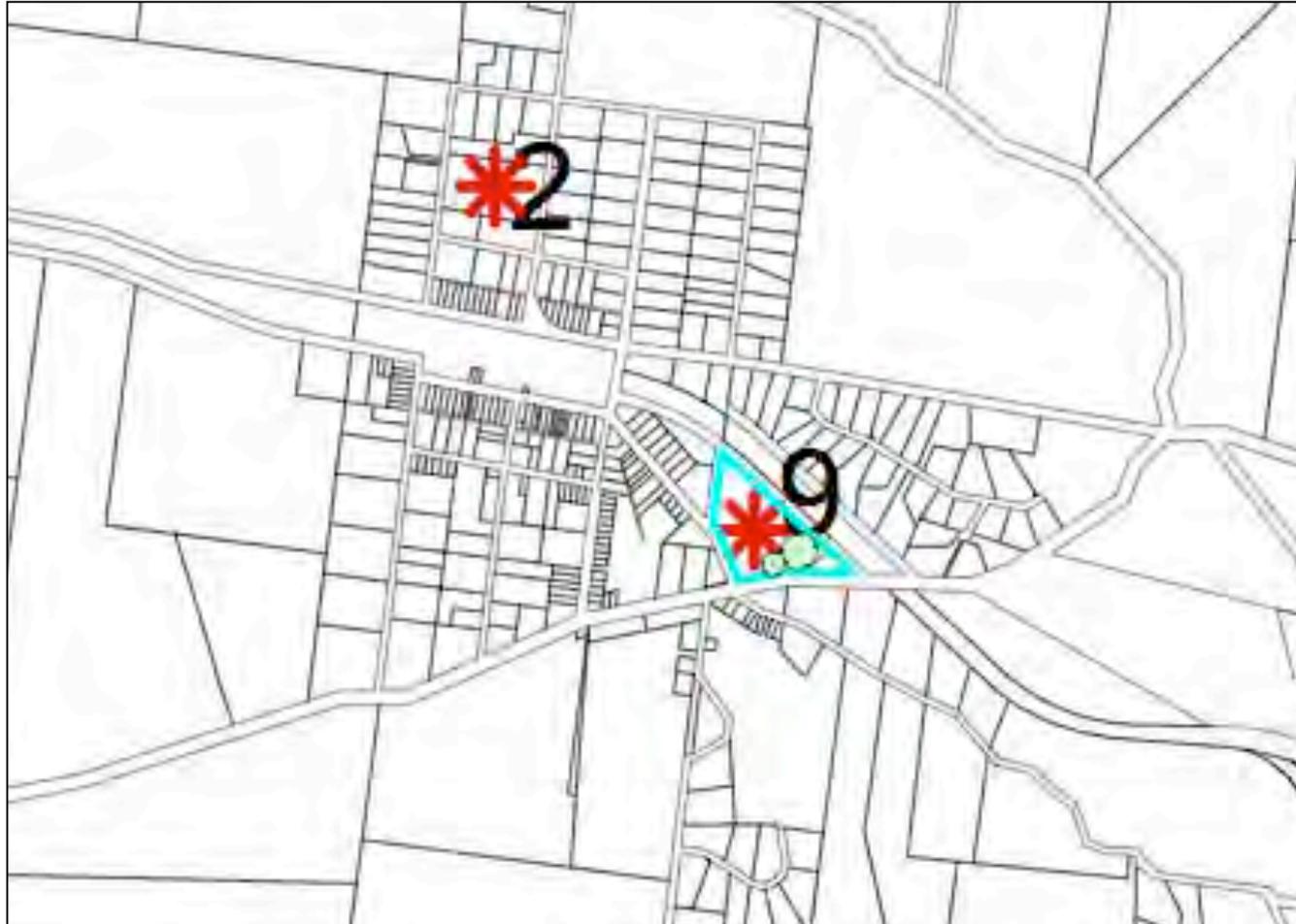
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Encourage the use of any open space contributions for the purposes of creating shared pathways through the township and to service any future population expansion to the west of the existing township, and providing funds to support development at the Recreation Reserve.		✓		
2. Develop a major park for equestrian uses and support with off-road trails.	✓			✓
3. Review the condition, management and future of the skate park within the Village Green.				
4. Identify a site for a future social/ family recreation area to serve additional residential growth, north of the Poowong/Lang Lang Rd.				✓
5. Protect the remaining bushland on the pony club site as the only bushland of any size in the township.				
6. Consider the development of an additional large social /family recreation space in the south of the township with an off-road trail connection back to the village green as part of any further residential development.				✓

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
7. Protect the parcel of significant flora and associated bushland to the northeast of the township, and provide a future open space abutting this site to serve future residential land use.			✓	
RECREATION				
8. Encourage the Recreation Reserve to work closely with the school on proposed developments at either site, and should there be demand for any further indoor recreation facility consider providing it in conjunction with the school.			✓	
9. Support the implementation of the Strategic Master Plan for the Recreation Reserve, including better design and upgrade car parking and existing netball, tennis club/ change rooms/ and address shade, amenity and minor risk manage issues.	✓	✓		



Map: Nyora

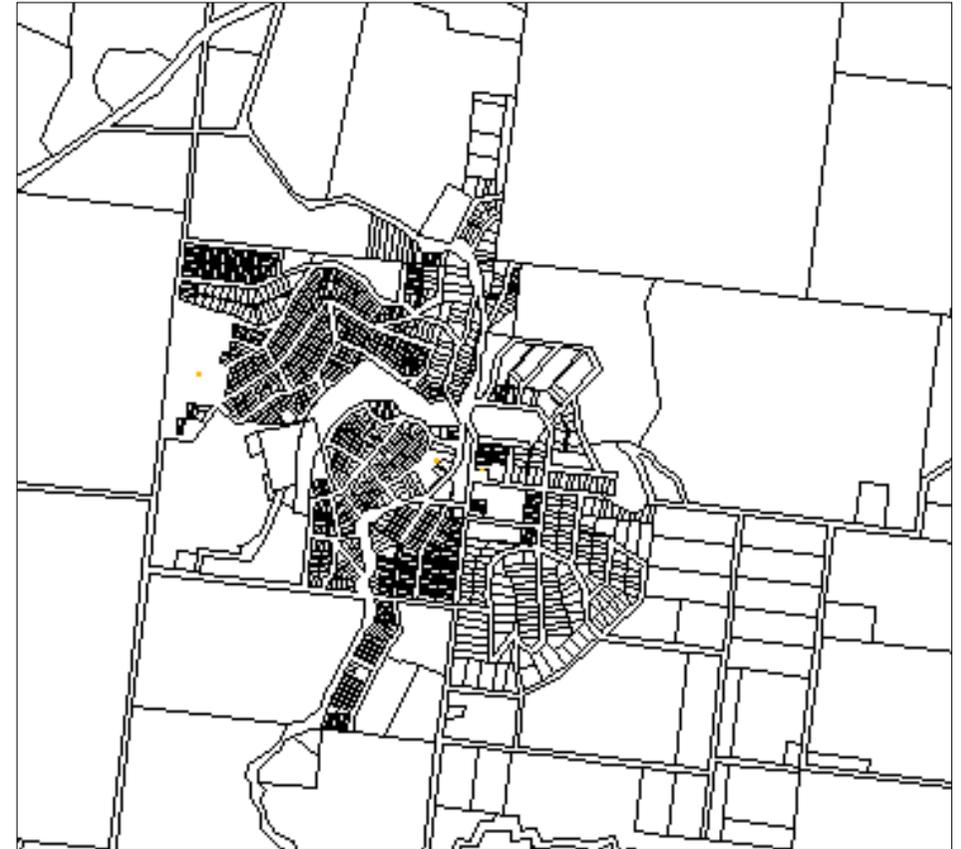


	Key development site
	Priority site for a planting plan and landscape works
	Possible park perimeter track

Locality: Outtrim

Classification: Hamlet

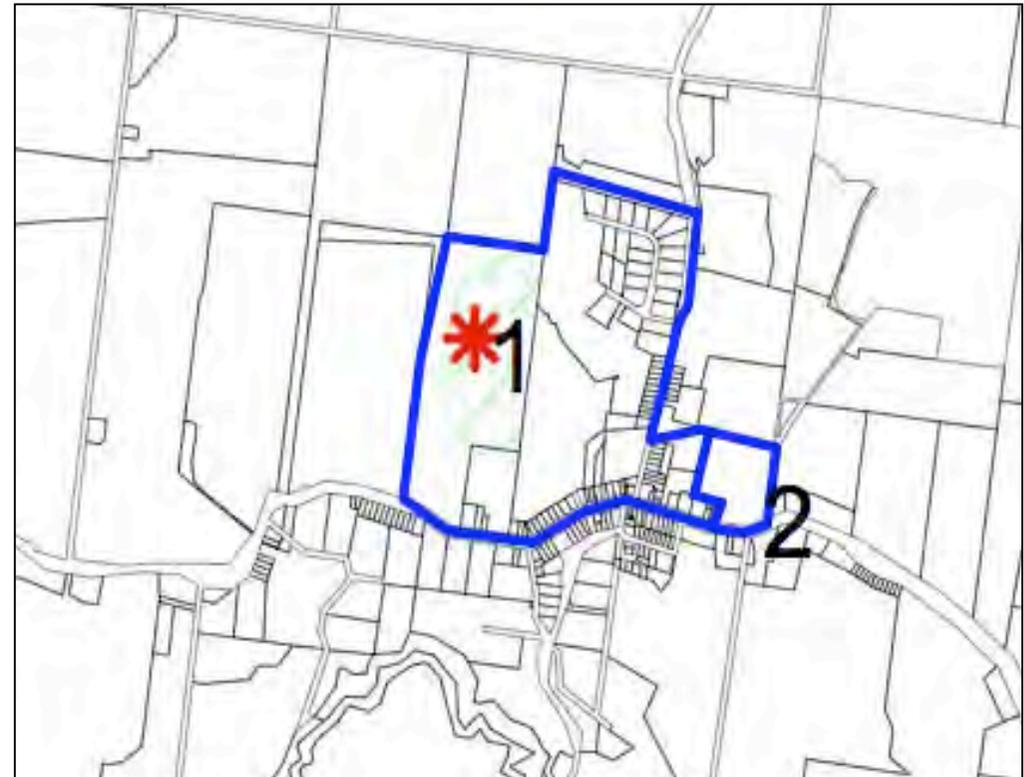
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
1. Consider the need for a buffer around the motorcycle track.				✓
2. Upgrade basic furniture and playground in Outtrim Reserve.	✓			



Locality: Poowong

Classification: Small town

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Investigate the acquisition of a portion of land on the western boundary of the Recreation Reserve as a development contribution to allow for additional car parking and provision of a permanent water supply for the Reserve.				
2. Identify routes for a network of trails ultimately connecting points of interest.				
RECREATION				
3. Plan for the future upgrade of the outdoor swimming pool.		✓	✓	
4. Support the community to increase utilisation of the stadium.				



	Key development site
	Future development that may require acquisition
	Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Port Franklin

Classification: Hamlet

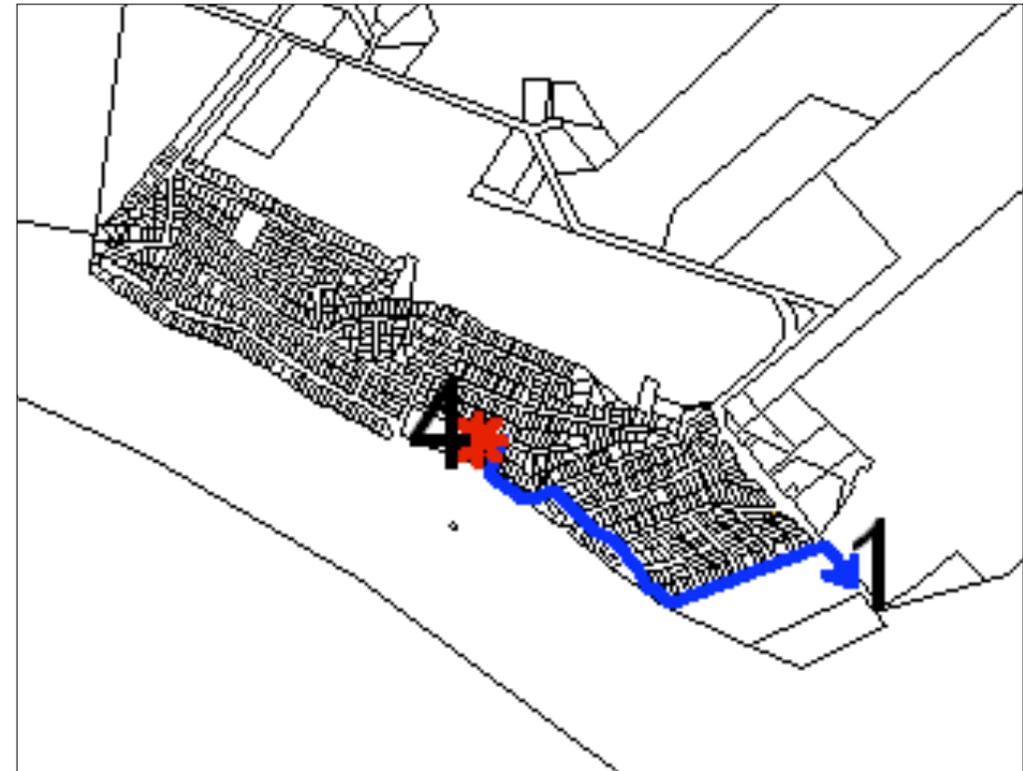
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
1. Plan for the replacement of the large senescing Monterey Pines at the old school site -that will need to be replaced in the short term.				
2. Continue to support the maintenance of the village green, old school site and the tennis courts as core facilities for this community.				
3. Assist with the establishment of off-road trail along the river to the rail trail and in a circuit around the town for exercise.				
4. Support a management plan for foreshore park, trail and boardwalk infrastructure.				
5. Address conditions of the tennis court surface.	✓			



Locality: Sandy Point

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE	✓			✓
1. Establish a trail network link with accessible access to the ocean beach and Shallow Inlet.				
2. Continue to upgrade visitor facilities to serve beach and water based recreation users, and make them accessible for people using wheelchairs and mobility aids.	✓		✓	
RECREATION				
3. Introduce new accessible furniture / infrastructure in all reserves.			✓	
4. Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the community centre in TP Taylor Reserve, and the impact of this on other community facilities.	✓	✓	✓	

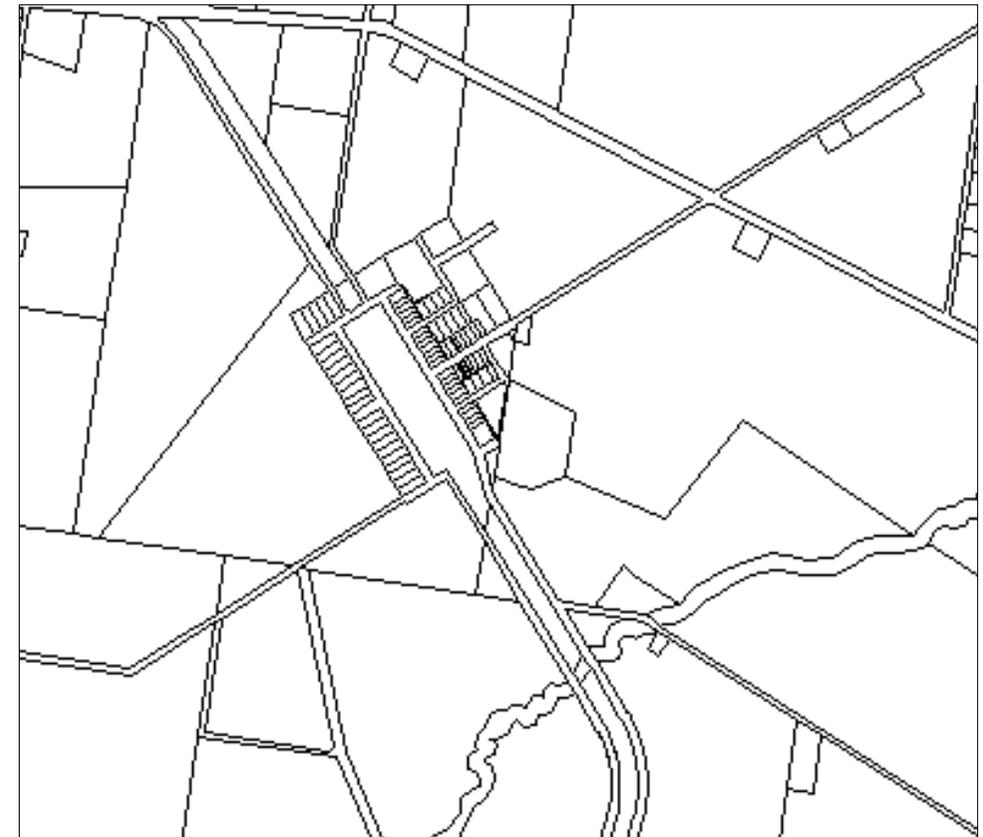


	Key development site
	Potential off-road trail route

Locality: Stony Creek

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
1. Assist the racecourse and Recreation Reserve users to prepare a master plan.		✓		
2. Sign the racecourse and Recreation Reserve, hall, playground and tennis court from the rail trail.	✓			
3. Upgrade the tennis courts.	✓			



Locality: Strzelecki

Classification: Hamlet

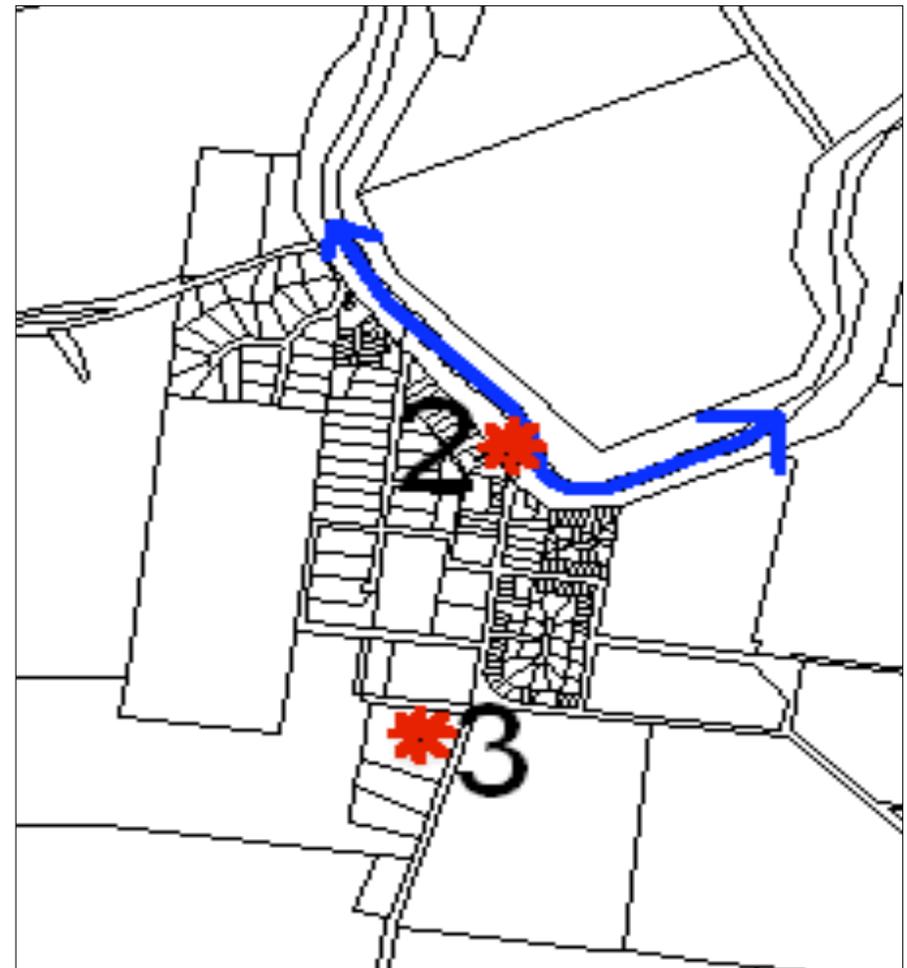
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION		✓		
1. Review the need to upgrade the tennis courts.				
2. Upgrade the picnic area table set at the lookout to a robust accessible table.	✓			



Locality: Tarwin Lower

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Extend the shared path from along the river down to the Recreation Reserve, linking other community facilities.				
RECREATION				
2. Continue to upgrade infrastructure at the tennis courts.		✓	✓	
3. Continue to upgrade infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve, and along the river foreshore including extending the pedestrian/cycle track through to Venus Bay.		✓	✓	



	Key development site
	Potential off-road trail route



Locality: Toora

Classification: Small town

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
1. Consider better integration of the tennis courts, pool and school site.				
2. Redesign entry to heritage pear orchard.				
3. Assess infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve and prepare a master plan for its future development.				
4. Continue to develop the rail trail reserve, skate park, and Sagasser Park as the key social family park in Toora.				
5. In conjunction with DSE review future use of Bennison Recreation Reserve, and cost / benefits of continuing to use this site.				
6. Work with other land agencies to maintain the existing Toora Boat Ramp.				
7. Assist the bowls club to stay viable.				



* Key development site



Locality: Venus Bay

Classification: Hamlet

Key Sources of Capital Funds

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

OPEN SPACE

1. Create a network of off-road trails through Estate 2, the Jetty and back to Estate 1.

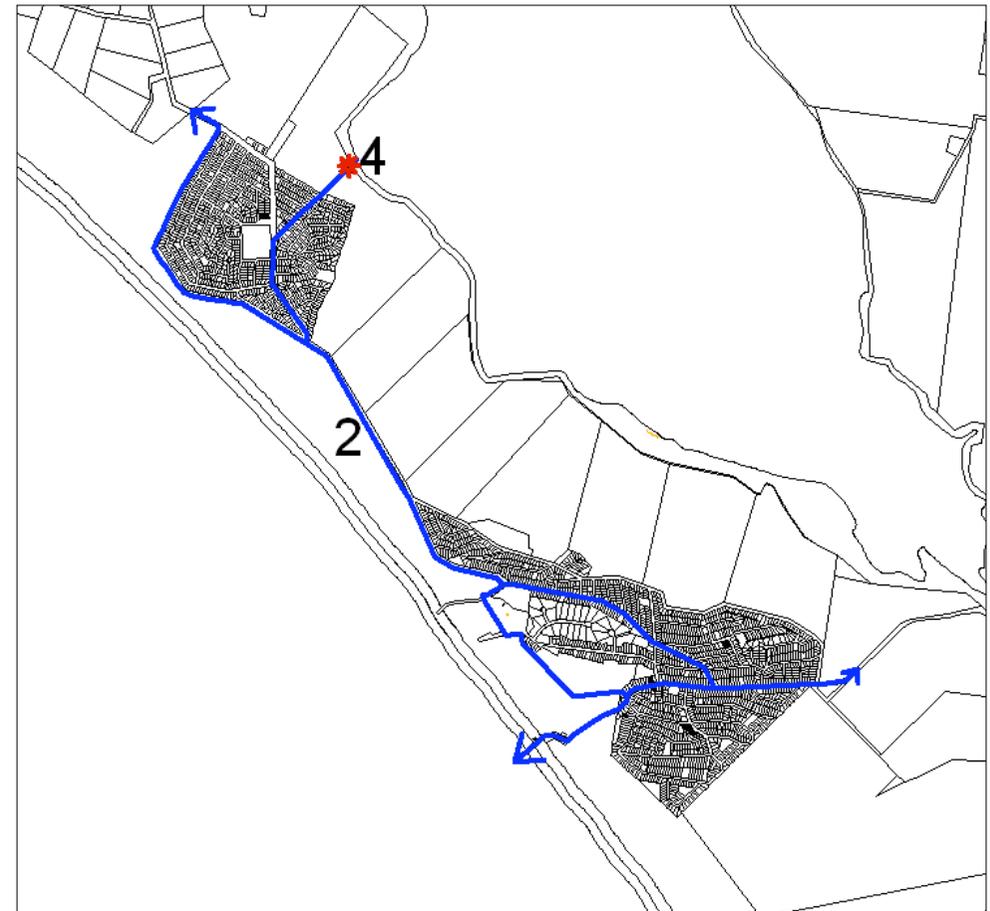
2. Extend the existing shared path from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay Lifesaving Club, and to second estate and boat ramp, and create a shared pathway to the surf club, and to the community centre from the Caravan Park.

3. Review the location of the skate park and prepare a management plan, addressing its condition and reduce possibilities of sand migrating onto the surface.

RECREATION

4. Upgrade the boat launching area as a social family park, providing a boardwalk, walking trail, upgrade picnic, jetty and toilet facilities, landscape elements, and consider providing social ball play

	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
1. Create a network of off-road trails through Estate 2, the Jetty and back to Estate 1.		✓		
2. Extend the existing shared path from Tarwin Lower to Venus Bay Lifesaving Club, and to second estate and boat ramp, and create a shared pathway to the surf club, and to the community centre from the Caravan Park.		✓	✓	
3. Review the location of the skate park and prepare a management plan, addressing its condition and reduce possibilities of sand migrating onto the surface.		✓		
4. Upgrade the boat launching area as a social family park, providing a boardwalk, walking trail, upgrade picnic, jetty and toilet facilities, landscape elements, and consider providing social ball play		✓	✓	✓



Key development site
 Potential off-road trail route



Locality: Walkerville

Classification: Hamlet

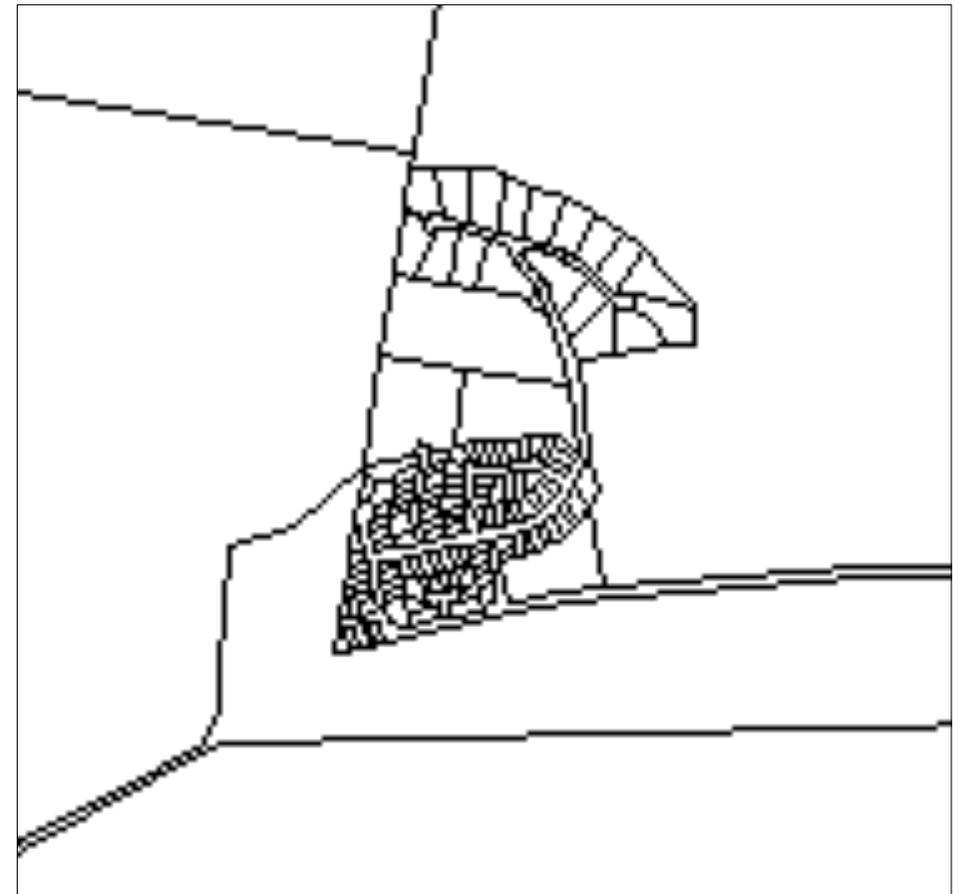
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Continue to implement the Foreshore Management Plan.		✓	✓	
2. Consider the feasibility of consolidating several vacant blocks between Seaview Dr and Grevillia St. and creating a central park in Promontory View estate, and create a link from this to Fish Creek -Walkerville Rd.		✓		✓
RECREATION				
3. Undertake a design exercise for the foreshore, upgrade basic community infrastructure and signage, and integrate the hall into the main foreshore reserve.				



Locality: Waratah Bay

Classification: Hamlet

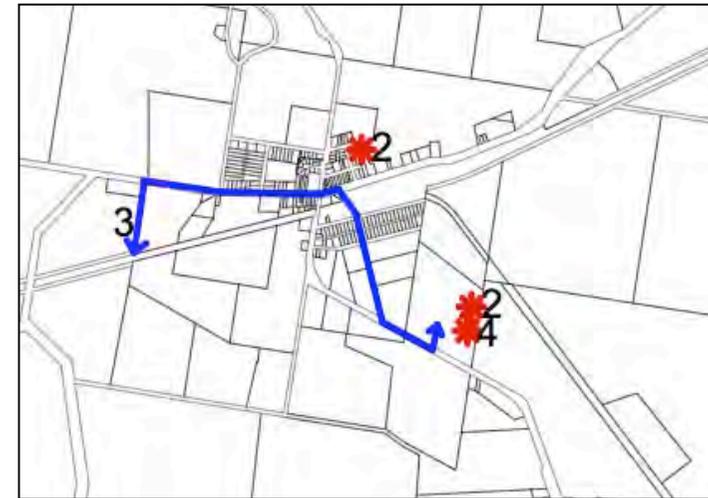
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE	✓			
1. Continue revegetation and weed control works on the foreshore.		✓		
2. If the area east of the current residential areas was ever subdivided consider acquiring additional land adjoining the existing neighbourhood park to allow for kick about space and additional planting and paths.				✓
3. Establish an off-road trail network connecting the beach with residential areas, and the caravan park reserve.				✓
RECREATION				
4. Consider provision of a multipurpose hard court / tennis netball basket ball court in association with the caravan park.		✓		



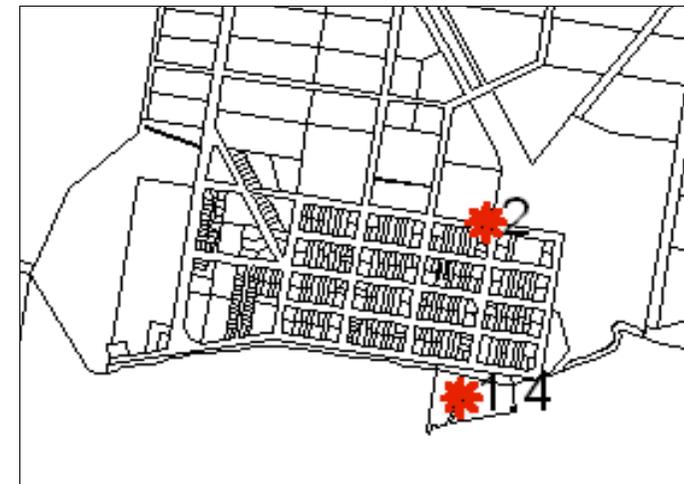
Locality: Welshpool/Port Welshpool

Classification: Small town

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
RECREATION				
1. Support the continued development of the Port Welshpool foreshore reserve.				
1.1 Seek funds to upgrade this park and add elements to the skate park.				
1.2 Upgrade the furniture on the foreshore and make it accessible, as funds become available.				
1.3 Undertake tree planting along the foreshore and main streets.				
1.4 Advocate to the Port authority to upgrade and open the long pier at the Port.				
2. Consider consolidating tennis and hard court facilities in Welshpool and Port Welshpool (upgrading one as a priority).				
3. Continue to develop the rail trail and railway reserve, as well as a network of off-road trails to connect with the Welshpool Recreation Reserve and Welshpool township.				
4. Address the condition and maintenance of infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve.				
5. Investigate the condition and distribution of boat ramps and jetties.				
6. Extend the rail trail link from Welshpool to Port Welshpool.				



Welshpool



Port Welshpool



Locality: Yanakie

Classification: Hamlet

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	Key Sources of Capital Funds			
	Community Grants	Seek Grants	Council Capital Works	Development Contributions
OPEN SPACE				
1. Investigate the opportunities to create a walking trail circuit to the foreshore.		✓		
RECREATION				
2. Continue to focus on upgrading the condition of infrastructure at Lance Moon Reserve.		✓		
3. Consider the need for a buffer around the motorcycle track.				
4. Encourage other sports and fitness uses in the hall.	✓			



	Key development site
	Priority site for a planting plan and landscape works
	Key site to enhance accessibility