



COMMUNITY PLAN 2021

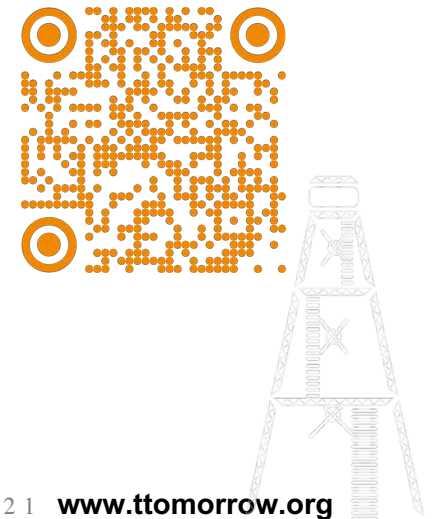
This is just the beginning. *Tarrangower Tomorrow* is in your hands

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More information

If you are interested in further information about any part of this Plan, then scan the QR code to visit the TTomorrow website
www.ttomorrow.org



INTRODUCING TARRANGOWER TOMORROW

Tarrangower Tomorrow is a new community plan for Maldon and the surrounding area. It follows from the last community plan in 2015 that achieved so much, by and for the community. The Maldon Streetscape Project, currently underway, was developed from some of the aims in the previous plan.

Tarrangower Tomorrow is a forward-thinking plan for the Tarrangower community – it sets out the aspirations and priorities of our community. It is the community's voice, stating what is important to them now and for their future.

The community planning process was led by community members, and the priorities were determined by the community itself.

So many individuals and organisations have given freely of their time and experience to assist in making this Plan a far-reaching and accurate portrayal of what the Tarrangower community would like to see.

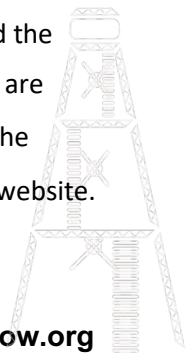
In addition to the informal contributions, 465 completed survey forms were received. This represents more than 20% of the Tarrangower

community, and is a very good response rate, showing a high level of community involvement.

The survey results indicate all five topic areas are of similar importance to the community, with *Environment and Sustainability* rating slightly more important than the others.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the pathway to developing this Plan, as it has in so many other aspects of our lives. Inevitably, its intervention will be reflected in community responses to the issues we face.

Given the timing of the survey, we also asked for feedback about how the COVID pandemic was impacting Tarrangower households, and how they think the community should respond in the immediate and the future. Interestingly, many of the themes from their responses are reflected in the priorities identified in the Plan. A summary of the COVID responses can be found on the Tarrangower Tomorrow website.



TARRANGOWER TO DATE

The Jaara people of the Dja Dja Wurrung language group have cared for land in Central Victoria for many thousands of years. Mount Tarrangower is the centre of Jaara country, which is bounded by the Loddon, Campaspe and Avoca rivers and their tributary creeks. There were 24 Jaara clans, and each had their distinctive territory.

The Liarga Balug clan of the Jaara tribe lived in the Maldon and Mount Tarrangower district. These first nation people camped along the banks of the rivers and creeks, maintaining wells and sacred places. Lasting evidence of their lifestyle is evident in scar trees and middens, which can be found throughout the landscape.

In the late 1830's Europeans came to establish

sheep stations in the Tarrangower district and the visual landscape was changed dramatically. This was particularly evident after gold deposits were discovered around Mt. Tarrangower in the 1850s and the gold rush brought many prospectors. Over time, several thriving communities were established around its slopes.

In the heart of Tarrangower is the town of Maldon, which celebrates its gold mining history as 'Australia's First Notable Town' due to its remarkably well-preserved heritage streetscape. There are also historic reserves in the district where relics of the gold mining history can be found.

The area of Tarrangower is now a thriving community with agriculture and tourism being

the main industries. The population tends to be older but there are many families who call Tarrangower home. There are many excellent services, including a primary school, a hospital, three fire brigades, a library, a thriving Neighbourhood Centre, police station, swimming pool and a newspaper which has covered local issues for over 160 years.

The Tarrangower community enjoys a healthy and fun lifestyle with many festivals and events throughout the year, several sporting facilities and a multitude of clubs and activities.

Surrounded by natural beauty with granite ranges, the Loddon River and Cairn Curran Reservoir, Tarrangower is a wonderful place to live.

TARRANGOWER COMMUNITY PLANNING PATH

Following the huge community effort and success of the 2015 Community Plan, the community decided that a new plan should be developed to align with its evolving aspirations.

In mid 2019 funds were generously granted by the Maldon & District Community Bank and Mount Alexander Shire Council, which enabled the local community to begin the planning process. Community plans are most successful when local communities directly develop them by creating their own action plan and being proactive in their own future.

The Community consultation activities that took place in the latter part of 2019 included:

- Email and Facebook Submissions
- Listening Post/Drop in Sessions
- Feedback Boxes
- Consultation Sessions/Forums

| What | Who | When |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Establish Steering Committee | Public invitation to community | Mid 2019 |
| Consultation | Ideas from the Community | Completed late 2019 |
| Survey | Establish Community priorities | Completed late 2020 |
| Develop actions and research what's happening now | The Community, Council, State Government & others | First half of 2021 |
| Finalise the plan | Planning group, reviewed by Community members | Mid 2021 |
| Implementation of the plan | The Community, Council, State Government & others | 2021 to 2025 |

CREATING OUR TOMORROW

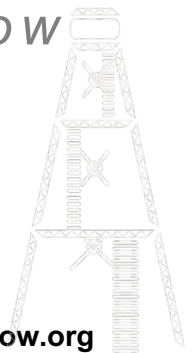
The Plan sets out the many activities that the Tarrangower community wants to see undertaken. As a starting point, the priorities are themed into five topics with suggested ways to achieve each goal, what's already happening and who could be involved..

This plan is a *call to action* because it is up to us – the people of Tarrangower – to achieve the priorities outlined in the plan.

This plan is a *tool* to show local and state government and funders what is important to Tarrangower. This plan is a *guide* to help us make positive change for Tarrangower.

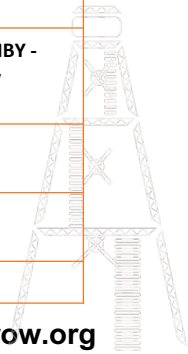
Some of these activities will be taken up by individuals, some by one or more of the many active organisations in the area, and others through advocacy to local and state government. However we achieve these things, they represent what the community wants – it is the community's voice stating what is important now and into the future.

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Tarrangower Tomorrow
is in your hands



OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|---|---|--|
| Better weed management in public areas, roadsides and empty blocks | Lobby for change. | MULGA lobbying for increased weed control. Establishment of FMHR |
| Improve communication with Parks Victoria and other government bodies regarding local land management | Regular meetings | PV and local groups, FMHR and MULGA strengthening partnerships. |
| Explore all options to minimise household waste, and investigate options for local recycling practices | Link in with Mount Alexander Sustainability Group and Council initiatives. Promotion of good recycling practices | Work with Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group. Maldon is plastic bag free. Public recycling bins (Streetscape project) |
| Improve water security: Work with catchment and water authorities to minimise water usage and use waste water | Monitor community engagement opportunities | Coliban Water Strategy 2030. Coliban Water is developing their Urban Water Strategy 2022. NCCMA leading the renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) for 2021-27 |
| Strengthen community support for local Landcare initiatives | Promotion and communication of our local Landcare groups | Regular public working bees with MULGA and TCCG. Connecting Country working with local Landcare groups. Town-wide distribution of "Indigenous plants for the garden" brochure by MULGA in 2021 |
| Greening Maldon CBD to provide shade and cool areas | Communicate with Council and Streetscape group | Streetscape development underway. |
| Engage the community in adoption of a holistic approach to sustainability | Community action and education | Mount Alexander Sustainability Group is working in this area. MNC dedicated to high standards of sustainability. MCAN established in 2019. |
| Make Maldon a more 'sustainable' town and promote it as such in tourist brochures | Community action and education | "Climate Ready Maldon" initiative by MNC. "Cittaslow" Movement. Maldon Inc and MASC currently raise the profile of Maldon |
| Restore and develop the Long Gully area (just south of the Maldon township) with cycling/walking trails and signage | Discussions with Parks Victoria | Consultation between PV, FMHR and MULGA. FMHR working with PV to restore and promote walking trails |
| Establish a 'food waste centre' in Maldon. Initially for cafe and hotel food waste management | Liaise with local food services | Lots of goodwill in the community to be leveraged. Hub Foundation in Castlemaine - YIMBY - trial neighbourhood solution to reducing organics in landfill using a model of community composters. Maldon PS industrial worm farm |
| Change building regulations to encourage 'green' housing | Advocacy to State planners | 6 Star building regulations currently in place |
| Set a Tarrangower emission reduction target | Talk with the many other Climate Change Strategy Groups | Victoria's Climate Change Strategy. MASC 'Towards Zero Emissions' MCAN |
| Install a drinking fountain in Maldon CBD | Advocate to Council | |



OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|---|--|--|
| Promote 'buy local' so that essential retail services are not lost | Investigate co-operative ownership to retain some businesses. Map/directory of what is available locally | Maldon Inc collaborating with MASC eg. support 'buy local' campaigns. New Maldon Inc. website. TT showcase local businesses Other initiatives includes: Made in Maldon and Baringhup Facebook page, Maldon Market, Maldon PS Shopping Spree |
| Strengthen links between farmers and town residents to increase community cohesion and support during hard times | Showcase local produce eg. Foodie pop ups. Maldon Inc includes farming businesses | Link to Bendigo: Australia's first UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. Maldon Market (Farmers and Makers). Maldon & Baringhup Agricultural Show |
| Retain planning provisions that prevent the sub-division of farms | Need to better understand this issue. | State, Regional and LGA level planning policies exist to protect farmland |
| Bendigo Regional Tourism Council's Tourism Officer and Maldon Inc to work together to improve visitation across the four seasons* | Lobby MASC for better promotion of Tarrangower district. Regular consultation. | Maldon Inc. meeting with MASC and BRT. Promote local tourist assets eg. Porcupine Village, Vintage Machinery Museum, Victorian Goldfields Railway |
| Increase the reach and service of the Visitor Centre in Maldon e.g. '10 things to do in Maldon'* | Events calendar linked to all tourism sites. Clarify role and purpose of VIC. Improve collaboration between VIC and Tarrangower Community | MASC Tourism website Maldon Inc and Experience Maldon promoting Maldon & district. Event organisers continue keeping VIC informed |
| Attract digital businesses to Maldon to reduce commuting and encourage local employment | Maldon Inc to discuss with MASC & Victorian Government. Document business support services that are available | MASC working on a '100 Gig' project - super-fast 100 gigabit broadband network. |
| Conduct exit interviews with closing businesses | Surveys of existing businesses likely to provide more useful information | Maldon Inc. member survey. MASC support local economic development |
| Encourage collaboration between event organisers, and consider an Events Officer in Maldon* | Events calendar linked to all tourism sites. Coordination with local hospitality businesses. Establish local Events Network. Improve access to shared resources | Some event organisers collaborate with one another and with MASC Events team Shared community resources are available eg. chairs, tables. |
| A mentoring scheme for businesses | Pair new businesses with established ones | Mentoring and support activities are provided from time-to-time by Victorian. Government, MASC, Maldon Inc, Business Mount Alexander and Maldon & District Community Bank. |

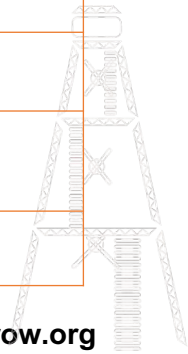


OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|--|---|---|
| Build an electric vehicle charging station | Obtain funding advocate to MASC | Infrastructure for a charging station has been put in place as part of the power undergrounding project. |
| Consider a 'Welcome Pack' for potential new businesses | Maldon Inc to discuss with MASC Need to identify new business operators. | MDCB has Business Action Program & provides info |
| Explore options for free WiFi in Maldon town centre | Determine need for WiFi for residents, young people & visitors | MASC working on a '100 Gig' project - super-fast 100 gigabit broadband network. |
| Promote 'buy local' so that essential retail services are not lost | Investigate co-operative ownership to retain some businesses. Map/directory of what is available locally | Maldon Inc collaborating with MASC eg. support 'buy local' campaigns. New Maldon Inc. website. TT showcase local businesses Other initiatives include: Made in Maldon and Baringhup Facebook page, Maldon Market, Maldon PS Shopping Spree |

OUR COMMUNITY

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|--|--|---|
| Improve access to medical services and provide a choice of GPs. | | Maldon Hospital has established a Working Party investigating how to increase service delivery of GP hours for the township of Maldon. |
| Help community groups work together to support and recruit members/volunteers and coordinate their efforts | Improve access to training and share resources. Foster communication between groups | Welcome Kits to include volunteering opportunities. MNC offers auspicing arrangements. Justice Connect and Our Community provide resources and training. Connect Mount Alexander – on-line community directory |
| Consider the employment and housing needs of young families in Tarrangower to make our population more diverse | Influence Council planning | Land re-zoning for private housing development |
| Reduce levels of social isolation | Provide social opportunities and connect people | 'Pop-up' outdoor space on Bank Corner. MNC and local community group activities and events |
| Better understand the impact of weekenders - on housing availability, community cohesion and the economy. | Further research required | Census data provides residence information |
| Sporting clubs to explore opportunities for shared facilities, services and governance. | Community forum to link local groups | Council leading conversation about shared Netball and Tennis facilities |

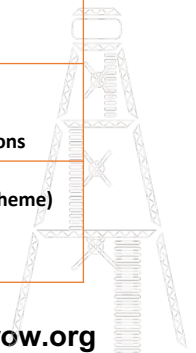


OUR COMMUNITY

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|---|---|---|
| Encourage cycling for transport; develop safe bicycle lanes within Maldon, cycle paths between Maldon and Newstead and bicycle parking. | Work with local Council to improve cycling infrastructure | NWW working on signing for cycling between Maldon and Newstead. Mount Alexander Cycling – peak body to work with Council MASC working on a new Cycling and Walking Strategy |
| Improve physical access to Maldon swimming pool. | Advocate for improvements and seek funding | Maldon Focus Swimming Pool Committee is lobbying MASC to provide funding to install steps into the pool |
| Develop off-road recreational cycling opportunities. | Advocate for better mapping & signage | Harcourt Mountain Bike trails- La Larr Ba Gauwa Park Rocky Riders advocating for mountain biking |
| Investigate community use of the school's outdoor fitness equipment. | Liaise with Maldon PS | Opportunity for further work to be done |

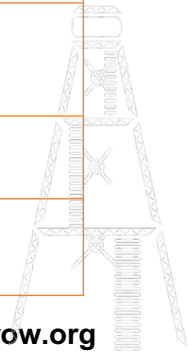
OUR HERITAGE, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|--|---|---|
| Protect environmental, landscape and Indigenous heritage throughout Tarrangower | Support existing groups and individuals Work with State-wide bodies such as Heritage Council, Jaarra | Parks Victoria protects bushland & mining sites (except Carmans Tunnel) Coliban Water and NCCMA protect Cairn Curran and Loddon River MASC involving Heritage Advisory Groups in Maldon Streetscape project and Maldon Shopfront Restoration project MASC and PV working with local groups: Maldon Focus, FMHR and MULGA |
| Survey the number and frequency of large trucks travelling through Maldon | Creation of lobby group Link with proposed speed limit study | Survey of heavy vehicles has been completed New, lower speed limits in Lowther Street (and other parts of shire) create safer conditions |
| Enhance the appearance and historical aspects of the main entry points to Maldon | Work with Council & Visit Victoria to determine any upgrade required | Alignment with Significant Landscape Overlay (part of the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme) 'Scenic Landscape Area (Approaches to Maldon)' Schedule 3 objectives |



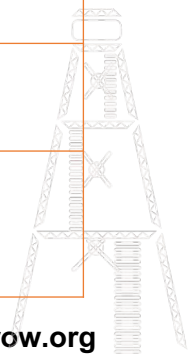
OUR HERITAGE, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|---|---|--|
| Improve maintenance of walking tracks | Lodge service request on Council website. A partnership approach between Council, other landowners and Government agencies, e.g., DWELP, Parks Victoria. | PV generally maintains walking tracks on Crown Land, while MASC is responsible for footpaths. MASC has a Public Open Space Strategy and Walking and Cycling Strategy |
| Encourage availability of low cost, rental housing; housing for people across their life stages | Monitor Planning Policy Advocacy | My Home Network (Castlemaine Community House) Tarrangower Village provides 'independent living in retirement' MASC Housing and Settlement Planning Assessment to inform future planning projects. |
| Develop signage for visitors - showcasing heritage, way-finding, and scenic walks | Work with MASC to develop a wayfinding strategy. Seek funding from VIC government e.g. Regional Infrastructure Fund | Maldon Focus worked with Council to install heritage signage in three locations. |
| Undertake a pedestrian survey and make improvements to footpaths and crossings | Budget bid to local Council for problem areas Better understand the needs of pedestrians, including the aged and disabled | The Maldon Streetscape project will make improvements to footpaths and crossings in the town centre of Maldon. MASC is responsible for footpaths. |
| Upgrade sporting fields, courts and facilities | | Planned upgrades to the BWRR include, better fencing and improved amenities, oval and netball shelter upgrade and female friendly facilities. Maldon Tennis Club advocating to Council for tennis court re-surfacing and improvements. Croquet Club working towards Dementia friendly facilities, supported by TDA |
| Review parking needs in Maldon CBD | Survey residents, business owners/traders and visitors. Link with proposed traffic and pedestrian studies. | VicRoads to consider parking requirements as part of the Maldon Streetscape Project |
| Review speed limits in Maldon - particularly in Lowther Street and High Street | Link to heavy vehicle study Town Centre speed limit signage at township end of High St could be improved | Speed limits on Lowther St have been reduced. |
| Undertake improvements to the playground | Work with MASC | MASC Strategy Investing in Play 2014-2024 |
| Consider development of a dog park | Advocate for facilities | MASC exploring off-leash dog areas in the Shire |



OUR ARTS & CULTURE

| What we want | How we get there | What's happening now? Who could help? |
|--|---|--|
| Work with Dja Dja Wurrung people to honour and celebrate their culture, history and language | Work across the Shire with indigenous groups. Engage with MASC. Better promote learning opportunities | Welcome to Country cultural project at Castlemaine Market Building by Cultural Devt Officer at MASC (\$400K budget) – other projects to be based on this. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation - Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034. Learning opportunities provided by MNC, (Nalderun Aboriginal Services) Mirawara Outdoor Experiences |
| Provide opportunities for artists in the community to showcase and sell their work | Better promote artistic/ cultural activities and open studios. Develop a range of performances opportunities. Identify performance space for theatre, dance, music etc. Explore community use of under-utilised space for arts-related activities' | Music events run by Steampacket, at pubs & wine bar, Folk Festival. MANet Portrait Prize and other exhibitions at local galleries. Art show at Maldon & Baringhup Agricultural Show. Maldon Market. Events such as play-readings, book launches and other activities at local galleries and stores. Castlemaine State festival |
| Coordinate cultural and creative events for the community, and encourage visitation | Better promote artistic/ cultural activities. Managing community-owned seating & other equipment Consider an Events Officer in Maldon | Calendar of Events run by MASC. Events promoted through Council's tourism website, Maldon Inc, Experience Maldon and TT. Tarrangower has several caches of equipment for community events eg. Maldon Community Shed, Folk Festival, Steampacket |
| Grow Tarrangower's profile as a centre of arts excellence by supporting organisers of arts and cultural events | Create Arts Committee. Better promote artistic/ cultural activities | Arts About articles in TT. Get Lost.org.au (MASC tourism) . MANet |
| Encourage participation in the arts across all ages through 'come and try' days | Approach local practitioners | MNC courses. Woodworking at Men's Shed. Art show for all ages at Maldon & Baringhup Agricultural Show |



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung people, the traditional owners of the land we call home. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all indigenous peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land and our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.

Special thanks to:

Everyone who attended our community planning listening posts & forums, provided feedback, or completed a survey. The community members who participated in the Tarrangower Tomorrow Planning Group: Amy Atkinson, Clif Edwards, Jenny Merkus, Pam Millwood, Noel Muller, Barry Robinson, Rowena Silk, Peter Strang, Anne Turner, Tess Walton, Shan Welham.

Grateful thanks to the following who provided services and funding:



Abbreviations

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|--------------|--|
| BWRR | Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve |
| BRT | Bendigo Regional Tourism |
| DELWP | Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning |
| DET | Department of Education and Training |
| FMHR | Friends of Maldon Historic Reserve |
| FRRR | Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| MANet | Maldon Artist Network |
| MASC | Mount Alexander Shire Council |
| MCAN | Maldon Climate Action Network |
| MDCB | Maldon and District Community Bank |
| MFNC | Maldon Football Netball Club |
| MFSP | Maldon Focus Swimming Pool Committee |
| MNC | Maldon Neighbourhood Centre |
| MPS | Maldon Primary School |
| MULGA | Maldon Urban Landcare Group |
| NCCMA | North Central Catchment Management Authority |
| NWW | Newstead Walk & Wheels |
| PV | Parks Victoria |
| TCCG | Tarrangower Cactus Control Group |
| TDA | Tarrangower Dementia Alliance |
| TT | Tarrangower Times |
| VIC | Visitor Information Centre |

