



# Laharum Wartook

## Community Action Plan



September 2007

This plan has been prepared by the Wartook Laharum Community Building Initiative Steering Committee with the assistance of Horsham Rural City Council. The Community Building Initiative is funded through the Department of Planning and Community Development.



## Purpose of the Community Plan

This Community Plan has been developed by the Laharum Wartook Steering Committee in collaboration with various subcommittees as part of the Laharum Wartook Community Building Initiative. It indicates community priorities for the area and provides a basis for action.

The plan was developed following a number of community activities including asset mapping and a community workshop held in Laharum that was attended by over 50 people in November 2006.

The Community Building Initiative (CBI) is funded through the Department for Victorian Communities and managed by Horsham Rural City Council.

## Community Description

Laharum Wartook is situated on the north-western edge of the Grampians and includes the Laharum, Wartook and Brimpaen areas. The population is approximately 350 people.

The area is made up of a mix of people of different backgrounds, professions and time that they have lived here. The community includes fifth generation farming families; people who grew up here, moved away and returned; retirees; and people attracted to the area because of the Grampians and other environmental features that provide the opportunity to live a sustainable lifestyle. This diversity in the community is an asset identified through the Community Building Initiative.

There are 20 active community groups covering a range of sporting, environmental, community, educational, promotional and service functions. Through efforts of members of these

groups the character and many of the services, activities and connections in the community continue to exist. Appendix I contains a list of community groups.

The community is strengthened by weekly sports events, the twice yearly community market, art and craft workshops at the Wartook Pottery, yoga in the Laharum Hall, community carols and the Laharum School concert, the over-sixties luncheon, festivals and lots more. The locally produced North West Grampians Newsletter provides a vital line of communication and is many pages long – a testament to the extent of community activity in the area.

In the area there are a number of businesses including food production, craft, retail, food catering, artists studio, fuel supplies and groceries. The area around Wartook hosts a number of accommodation facilities including bed and



*Market at the Wartook Pottery*

breakfasts, cabins, camping grounds and backpacker accommodation (see Appendix 2). Tourist businesses and home based businesses can be found throughout the area. Many artists are also based in the area. Wartook contains smaller lot sizes than those in Laharum and Brimpaen and is a more natural environment compared to the surrounding agricultural areas.

The Laharum Hall (founded in 1952), Laharum School (established in 1887), Laharum Preschool, tennis courts and the Cameron Oval are community facilities located in Laharum. To the west the Brimpaen Hall, former school site and tennis courts signify the Brimpaen community.



*Laharum Hall*

Broad acre cropping and grazing are the dominant land uses in the area. Enterprises such as olive plantations and cut native flower businesses are also significant contributors to the area's production.

The Grampians National Park is a major feature of the area providing a stunning visual backdrop. For many residents the Grampians and its surrounding bush are the major attraction to

the area and lead to a strong environmental and conservation ethic within the community. Thanks to the efforts of surrounding landowners there is a distinct area that contains remnant vegetation and habitat that whilst not National Park has an important role in buffering and protecting the park. In the area around the northern Grampians there are approximately 35 conservation covenants. This is the greatest concentration of conservation covenants anywhere in Victoria.

The Grampians National Park also plays an important economic role attracting tourists to the area. MacKenzie Falls, Lake Wartook, Zumsteins, the Asses Ears, the Mt Difficult Range, Mt Stapylton and Mt Zero are some of the nearby major features. Lake Wartook is also a major water supply reservoir for the larger Wimmera Mallee Stock and Domestic Supply System and Horsham's water supply channel runs through the area.

The MacKenzie River flows from Lake Wartook through this area and is in good condition. Platypus can be found in the upper reaches of the MacKenzie River. Other watercourses include Burnt Creek, Troopers Creek, Potters Creek and Boggy



*View of the Asses Ears*

*Photo: Mary Russell*

Creek. Distribution Heads is an important feature allowing water from the Moora Moora and Wartook Reservoirs to be sent via channels or creeks to the local area, Natimuk and further afield.

Water supply in the area is mainly via the Wimmera Mallee Stock and Domestic Supply System which presently provides water to farms via open channels, including the Mt Zero channel. Burnt Creek and the MacKenzie River are also part of the channel system and are used to move water from Lake Wartook to other parts of the system. This system is being piped as part of the last stage of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. As with other parts of the Wimmera severe water restrictions caused by drought have led to water being carted to properties. The area immediately around Wartook is outside the GWMWater Water Supply area and does not currently have a water supply with properties relying on individual dams and water tanks for their water.

The 2006 bushfire and ongoing drought have impacted on the community in various ways. Members are more aware of environmental issues. They also realise their mutual dependence. Rainfall and water supply are crucial for the welfare of the environment and the viability of the community.



*Regrowth in the Grampians*

## Assets

Assets can be considered to be the strengths of the area – these assets provide a good base for community action. The following list of the assets and strengths of the area comes directly from the Community Workshop and is basically unedited.

### *People Assets*

- 20 community & sporting groups
- Variety of individual skills
- Strong sense of community / supportive community
- Community variety
- Community works well together & pulls together when needed — e.g. during the bushfires
- People that care
- Love of the natural environment attracts people to the area
- Mix of people – farmers, workers retirees, tree changers
- North West Grampians newsletter
- History of the area
- Spread of ages in the community



*Community  
Workshop  
November 2006*

- Growing population (slightly)
- Diversity of skills/experiences and interests
- Young families moving into the area
- People are moving into the area – e.g. retirees, lifestyle, investment properties (farming area), “northern croppers” – moving down and purchasing/leasing due to normally higher rainfall

### *Environmental and Natural Assets*

- Grampians National Park and associated natural values
- Lake Wartook
- MacKenzie Falls
- Generally reliable rainfall and a higher rainfall compared to other areas
- Surface and groundwater resources
- Wildlife, flora and fauna
- Mountains and views
- Clean air
- Stunning views and scenery
- Not congested development



*Wildflowers  
Grampians  
National Park*

- Peace and quiet
- Clean air
- Diversity of environment
- Visual amenity of the area
- Good water supplies (normally)
- Dense environment covenant coverage
- Climate

#### *Physical Assets*

- Laharum School and Preschool – a small school in a rural environment
- School Bus
- CFA - CFA tankers: 2 at Laharum and 3 at Brimpaen
- Sporting clubs and facilities
- Cameron Oval
- Tennis Courts
- Grain receival point at Laharum
- Grampians Airfield (tourist and emergency access)
- Halls - Laharum and Brimpaen
- Small shop/fuel
- 3 phase power to part of the area
- Proximity to Horsham & facilities and services – e.g. saleyards
- Variety of services in the area – e.g. garbage, recycling, landcare, CFA, library bus, home help, some broadband and mobile coverage
- Fuel
- Wartook Pottery and Artists Studio
- Close enough to Melbourne
- Access to Horsham/Stawell and services



Laharum Grain Depot

#### *Economic Assets*

- Tourism – 18 accommodation businesses & other tourism businesses e.g. horseriding, rockclimbing
- Range of farming enterprises – crops, sheep (wool, prime lamb, shedded sheep, stud sheep), cattle, deer.
- Cut flowers
- Arts – Wartook Pottery and Artists Studio
- Olives – 3 olive farms/businesses
- Plant nursery
- Native Fish farm
- Home based businesses
- Diverse economic base
- Daytrippers



Wartook Artists Studio

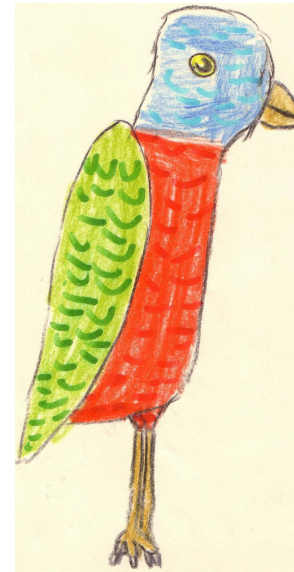
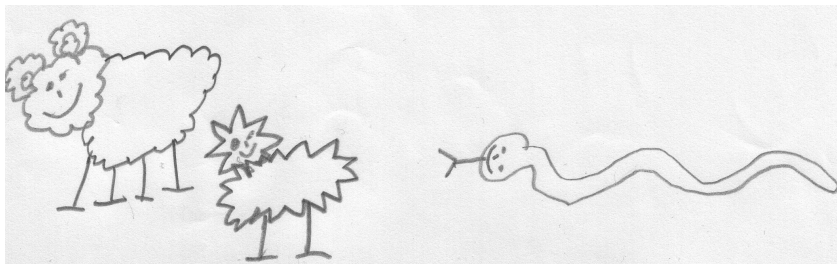
### *Some kids views on living in the area...*

- Living on a farm is good
- There are lots of fun things for kids to do – e.g. riding ponies, bikes, scooters, cars, fishing, climbing trees, finding lizards
- The natural environment, waterways, views, colours, animals, birds and sounds is highly valued by the children of the area
- A healthy environment
- Not much traffic and pollution
- Being close to school and not having to go far to school
- Friends and neighbours you can ride your bike to visit
- Good sense of community
- Peace and quiet

(from the Laharum Primary School, 2006)

### **Values**

- Love of the natural environment is what keeps people/brings people here
- Small local school in a rural environment
- Sporting Clubs
- Respect for others and others property
- Having good services and facilities
- People that care
- Mix of people – diversity is important, workers, retirees, farmers,
- Healthy community
- Supportive community
- Proximity to services
- Community works well together



*Pictures from children at Laharum Primary School, October, 2006*



### **A Brief Local History**

*The Laharum-Wartook area has at least three Aboriginal art sites and is an important part of Victoria's aboriginal heritage. Adjacent mountains, lakes and watercourses across the grassy woodland provided good living. Explorer Thomas Mitchell passed through in 1836 and was followed by squatters with cattle and later sheep. The Carter family at Rosebrook Station employed many workers and managed all the area until selectors arrived in late 1870s. Sawmills also operated.*

*By the 1880s there were over 60 families in the area, Wartook Reservoir was built and schools started. Rabbits, timber and wattle bark were also important products.*

*Selectors continued to arrive, and farms consolidated during times of drought and depression.*

*Football competition began in early 1900s, followed later by cricket and then tennis. Roads were formed and weekly mail began. Rabbits and honey supplemented grazing, hay and timber. Reservoirs and channels provided more employment, and limited closer settlement occurred. Tractors and machinery improved pastures and cropping began.*

*Eight new families arrived as WWII Soldier Settlers, and land was cleared for olives. Laharum Hall was built and 240 volt power supplied. Tourism gradually became more important, especially at Zumsteins and Cranages. Thryptomene cultivation started a new industry.*

*Despite threats of bushfires and the continued drought, our population continues to grow, along with tourism, home businesses and farming enterprises.*

### **Vision for the community**

The following points were identified at the community workshop held in November 2006:

- Children and families/youth
- Retaining rural values
- Retaining natural environment
- Sustainable economic diversity
- A tolerant and diverse community
- Broad infrastructure development to support future needs
- Support healthy community/recreation
- Retain identity
- Foster community involvement

## Current initiatives and activities

Throughout the Laharum Wartook community there are a range activities and initiatives that are happening on a regular basis. With over 20 community groups there are many actions and volunteer hours that go towards making the community the place that it is – whether it be attending working bees, sitting on committees, writing submissions, undertaking maintenance at various facilities, being part of a group, organising events and activities or more. The Community Plan recognises the importance of these existing efforts.

There have been a number of recent improvements that have all had a positive impact in the community including:

- Upgrades to the Hall Kitchen
- Installation of the irrigation system at Cameron Oval
- Promised improvement of the recycling station next to the Laharum Hall
- Funding for education and health facilities at the Laharum Hall

A current initiative underway is a project to move the tennis courts from their current location adjacent to the Laharum Hall to the Cameron Oval. **The Community Plan supports this initiative** and the sporting groups through Laharum Sports Inc will continue to pursue this project.

The Grampians Little Desert Biolink has recently started. This project improves vegetation links between the Grampians and the Little Desert using natural features such as watercourses, private properties and some roadsides.

Another initiative underway is the establishment of a series of contemporary arts workshops in the Grampians. These workshops will be held in Wartook, Dadswells Bridge and Halls

Gap in February 2008 and will culminate in an exhibition in September 2008 of work developed at the workshops.

This project is to present 15 of Australia's top tutors in creative contemporary arts to offer two and four day workshops in and around the Grampians National Park, and then to support an exhibition of this work in the region and Melbourne. Over 120 participants are expected stay on average three nights.

These workshops will attract artists from across Australia who are interested in the development of their skills under the guidance of talented tutors. All tutors selected will have a focus on arts inspired by the natural environment. The benefit for the region is that not only will it bring tourists into the region but it will take images of the region out across Victoria and Australia when work developed in the workshops is exhibited outside the region.



Cameron Oval



## Community Priorities and Actions

Initiative	What we hope to achieve	What is going to happen	Who is responsible? Project partners	By when	Resources required
Cameron Oval Development and Development Plan	A high standard of facilities at the Cameron Oval that is comparable with other grounds in the region.	Funding application to move tennis courts from Laharum Hall to the Cameron Oval and re-site with new netball court.	Laharum Sports Inc	Redevelopment to have occurred to enable the summer 2007/08 tennis season to be played at the new facility.	Funding received from Sports and Recreation Victoria, Regional Partnerships program and the Horsham Rural City Council
		Develop an overall plan for Cameron Oval. This plan would look at facility location, change room location & design, toilets, landscaping, fencing, roads, lighting & play area.	Laharum Sports Inc	By mid 2008	
		Seek funding for initiatives listed in the plan.	Laharum Sports Inc	Ongoing	Funding required
Developing a local skills database and create a local business support centre	To develop a central resource facility for sharing skills and information and for creating and supporting business and community opportunities.	Develop and conduct a skills audit of the Laharum Wartook community.	CBI Project Team	June 2007	No specific funding required
		Publish and distribute results of the skills audit in a community "yellow pages".	CBI Project Team	Dec 2007	Quick Action funding dedicated to printing of community directory.
		Investigate business needs of the community and see what opportunity there is for this to be met locally including looking at the feasibility of establishing a community enterprise.	CBI Project Team	End 2008	Funding required for a feasibility study in the first instance. Potential sources include Community Enterprise Grants through Department of Planning & Community

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>What we hope to achieve</b>	<b>What is going to happen</b>	<b>Who is responsible? Project partners</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Resources required</b>
					Development, Regional Development Victoria Grants
Communications Infrastructure	A high standard of communications facilities that meets the needs of residents, businesses, emergency services and visitors; and that makes the area an attractive place for businesses to establish.	Research current broadband provision and satisfaction and develop case for improved broadband capacity.	CBI Project Team Telecommunications providers HRCC Wimmera Dev Assoc	Underway	Funding required for infrastructure improvements
		Research mobile phone reception and develop case for improved mobile phone reception.	CBI Project Team Telecommunications providers HRCC Wimmera Dev Assoc	Underway	Funding required for infrastructure improvements
		Research radio reception.	CBI Project Team Emergency Service agencies include CFA, SES	Underway	
		Liaise with Australia Post to ensure effective pick up of mail from the area.	CBI Project Team Australia Post	Underway	
Laharum Hall Community Links Centre	<p>The project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve social networks and links to health and other service providers</li> <li>• increase parent self-confidence and ability</li> <li>• promote improved outcomes for children through child and parenting</li> </ul>	Undertake works to the Laharum Hall to make it suitable to accommodate the Laharum Preschool in the short term.	Laharum Preschool and Laharum Hall Committee	End 2007	FACSLIA Strengthening Drought Affected Community Grants
		Refurbish the Laharum Hall to make it more 'family friendly' & suitable for visiting health & service providers, occasional day care,	CBI Project team, the Laharum Hall Committee and HRCC	Underway	Funding received through FACSLIA Strengthening Drought Affected Community Grants. Additional funding will be required.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>What we hope to achieve</b>	<b>What is going to happen</b>	<b>Who is responsible? Project partners</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Resources required</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>activities</li> <li>• strengthen lifelong learning</li> <li>• help the community work together to raise morale and initiative under difficult conditions for the improved sustainable future of our community</li> </ul>	<p>playgroup and pre-school activities, and older adults groups. Involves research &amp; design.</p> <p>Employ a part time community worker to develop community programs and attract visiting health and other professionals to Laharum.</p>			
			CBI Project Team HRCC Health organisations eg Wimmera Uniting Care, Wimmera Base Hospital	September 2007	Funding received through FACSIA Strengthening Drought Affected Community Grants.
Community and Public Transport	Improved transport options for residents of Wartook and Laharum	Investigate use of the School Bus, shared vehicles and a driver's roster.	CBI Project Team Wimmera Transport Connections Laharum School	December 2007	
Conservation Covenants and Land Use Planning	Obtain rate concessions for landholders involved in formal and permanent environmental protection and ensure Horsham Planning Scheme contains environmentally sensitive development guidelines for Wartook	Research different rate rebate and incentive schemes used by Councils in Victoria.	CBI Project Team Trust for Nature	March – September 2007	
		Present a case to HRCC to develop a Rate Rebates / Incentives Scheme.	CBI Project Team	December 2007	
		Input into HRCC Rural Review when it happens.	CBI Project Team		
Walking and Bike Trails	Improved cycling and walking trails in the Wartook area to provide a better tourist experience for visitors and more recreational opportunities for residents.	Investigate potential for link between Zumsteins and the Wartook Valley.	CBI Project Team working with agencies including Parks Vic and Friends of Zumsteins		Funding required.
		Investigate wider bike trails including along the MacKenzie River.	CBI Project Team		Funding required.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>What we hope to achieve</b>	<b>What is going to happen</b>	<b>Who is responsible? Project partners</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Resources required</b>
Water Supply	A secure water supply for the Wartook and Laharum areas	Seek support to develop a feasibility study into community use of the Laharum Bore.	CBI Project Team Wimmera Development Association GWMWater	Underway	Resources required for feasibility study.
		Seek funding to enable the community in the Wartook area that is not in an area supplied by water to be connected to a reticulated water supply.	CBI Project Team GWMWater		Funding will be required.
		Lobby for tank rebates to apply to residents of Wartook who are outside of the supply area and are unable to access water tank and savings rebates.	CBI Project Team GWM Water Department for Sustainability and Environment	Underway	No specific funding needed
		Lobby for piping of the channels.	CBI Project Team	Underway	No specific funding needed
Ongoing community planning and strengthening	To ensure that connections and activity that has been created by the Community Building Initiative continues within the Laharum Wartook community	Form a community action group that can carry on the work of the CBI.	CBI Steering Committee	July 2008	No specific funding needed
		Encourage HRCC to continue supporting community planning and building initiatives.	CBI Steering Committee		No specific funding needed

## **Importance of Community Building**

The Steering Committee recognises the importance of maintaining and fostering the process of community building. The vitality and adaptability of the community is determined by resident's support and participation in community dialogue and activities. The CBI has been an important initiative in reinforcing our sense of community and shared aspirations. This sense of identity and interdependence is essential to community sustainability.

## **Review**

Community building is an ongoing process, not a fixed point in time. The participation of community members in community dialogue and activities is crucial for a vital and flexible community. It creates communal goals, a community identity and an awareness of mutual dependence, key elements of a community that is alive and involved. The CBI has been an

important initiative in reinforcing our sense of community and shared aspirations. This sense of identity and interdependence is essential to community sustainability.

The process of community building must be kept alive and present in our awareness. The Steering Committee recognises this importance in two ways:

- Regular review of this Community Plan - to keep the community plan alive in and relevant to the community it should be reviewed every two years. In this way achieved goals can be recognised and new needs and priorities can be developed.
- Establishment of a group that represents the community - the Steering Committee recommends that a representative body be established to continue the work of the CBI that will be acknowledged by Horsham Rural City Council. In this way Council will accept its responsibility for the continuity of community participation in policy and administration.



## **Appendix I – Community Groups**

There are a number of active community groups in the area including:

- Brimpaen Craft Group
- Brimpaen Hall Committee
- Brimpaen Rural Fire Brigade
- Brimpaen Tennis Club
- Friends of Cydelia Reserve
- Friends of the Grampians Gariwerd
- Friends of Zumsteins
- Grampians Wartook Promotions Group
- Horsham South VFF
- Laharum Hall Committee
- Laharum Fire Brigade
- Laharum Landcare Group
- Laharum Preschool
- Laharum School Council
- Laharum School Parents Club
- Laharum Sports Inc comprising:
  - Laharum Football Club
  - Laharum Cricket Club
  - Laharum Netball Club
  - Laharum Tennis Club
- Neighbourhood Watch

## **Appendix 2- List of Businesses**

### **Accommodation**

Asses Ears Wilderness Lodge  
Bracken Lodge Cabin  
Carey Park  
Emu Holiday Park  
Glenisla Homestead B&B  
Gonwinnow Homestead  
Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort  
Kangaroos in the Top Paddock  
Meringa Springs  
Mt Zero Log Cabins  
Smith's Road Getaway  
The Grelco Run  
Troopers Camp  
Wartook Gardens B&B  
Wartook Rise Mud Brick Cabins

### **Other Businesses**

Big Spring Mount  
Dinkum Fare Consultancy  
Don's Design Drafting  
Don Sudholz Mechanics  
Fibreworks  
Grampians Horse Riding  
Grampians Fishing Experience  
Grampians Mountain Adventure Company  
Laharum Bulk Handling  
Laharum Grove  
Land Technology Pty Ltd  
Mackenzie Falls Kiosk  
Mt Zero Olives (Farm Gate sales & Millstone Café)  
Old Rosemont Quilts  
Roses Gap Recreation Centre  
Small Caps Bush Translations  
Toscana Olives  
Troopers Arms Tavern  
Valentines Woodwork  
Wartook Artists Studio  
Wartook Native Fish Culture  
Wartook Pottery Tearooms  
Wartook Valley Gifts  
Wartook Woodcraft  
Westvic Ag Services  
Winfield Plant Nursery

### **Appendix 3 - Community Building Initiative Steering Committee Members**

<b>Community Building Initiative Steering Committee Members</b>	
Michael Bond	5384 3284
Gil Hopkins	5383 8207
Steve Price	5383 9215
David Thompson	5383 6247
Paul van der Plank	5383 6366
Gill Venn	5383 6243
Alison White	5383 6263
Councillor Pam Clarke	5382 9777

## **Appendix 4**

### **Community Workshop Outcomes Small Group Discussion Ideas 26 November 2006**

#### **Recreation Sports and Leisure**

- Encourage youth children – facilities, clubs/people, processes
- Recreation facilities to support tourism and community- e.g. walking and riding trails, night tennis picnic area/fishing/swimming at Distribution heads
- Daily papers available locally (Wartook/Laharum) including weekends
- Improve facilities at Cameron Oval
- Improve sports facilities at school
- Linking recreation to local business
- Local experts linked to tourism eg bird, animal, plant tours using local people with knowledge
- More use of the Hall
- Gentle exercise for young and old
- Skate bowl
- Walking tracks – link to biolink, McKenzie River
- Bike tracks
- Swimming Pool
- Parks and Gardens – continue to develop Zumsteins as a tourist precinct
- Art and Hobby groups
- Multi purpose tennis and netball courts – lighting for night sport / landscaping around the sporting facilities to include shading, playground equipment safety fencing and picnic area
- Maintaining shooting recreation – vermin control, recreational shooters (duck, deer)
- To foster sporting facilities for the older community (monthly cards, bowls, dancing)
- Up to date sporting facilities (tennis, football, cricket)
- Walking tracks in National park in Wartook area – expansion, development and maintenance
- Network of bike tracks and routes around Laharum area (not motorbikes)
- Using hall for passive recreation activities – chess, cards etc, films, book club (include transportation)
- Overall plan to develop Cameron Oval into a sporting complex – move tennis courts to Cameron Oval and create a Bowling Club for the older community
- Develop a riding / walking trail along the McKenzie River
- Consider developing a golf course
- Support Green Lake being filled
- Heritage and cultural trail development
- Development of a walking / bike trail – along McKenzie River to Zumsteins
- Development of a community arts co-operative – to organize workshops/development interest in arts – sculpture, wood, painting, fabrics etc
- Expand current sporting facilities – include facilities for traveling public, playground equipment

- Bicycle / walking tracks – Zumsteins area in particular
- Develop designated areas for horseriding in conjunction with ParksVic
- New tennis courts, upgrade part of current area for school facilities – at same time upgrade watering and other facilities
- More activities for seniors utilizing the Hall
- Utilizing natural areas to create walks for example in Cydelia or other reserves that may be created.

### **Community Wellbeing**

- Create a stand alone preschool in close proximity to the existing school
- Regular well being, recreational activities
- Community Bus linking us with Horsham - shared with other communities - to allow shopping, swimming and social activities
- Lifespan learning at Laharum
- Utilise local skills in a learning centre
- Public transport to Horsham
- Cameron Oval Sporting Complex
- Good health care available in the area
- Use of school facilities eg computers for community learning eg U3A
- Expand communication from groups so more involved – eg walking groups/nature observation groups
- Develop men's shed / hobby shed / hobby precinct

- Community vegetable garden, community indigenous plant garden
- Carpooling, minibus or use of school bus once a week for those not able/willing to drive
- Planned support of ageing population
- Better mobile phone coverage
- Child care facilities locally
- Availability of activities for healthy lifestyles
- Better promotion of local activities of existing and new groups
- Survival of cottage industries in the area involving mini bus tours
- Bus service to and from Horsham
- Support school and preschool
- Access to HACC programs – eg mobile services (library, mobile gym)
- Community bus / access to transport
- Community arts projects
- Medical centre – 1 day per week – maybe at Hall
- District Nurse
- Property maintenance support for elderly/sick
- Social activities bowls / cards etc
- Access for disabilities
- Bus service/ combine with school bus for access to shopping etc
- Hub courses at Laharum/ Wartook – i.e. computer courses at school
- Hall Social Committee
- District Nurse

- Bus service to Horsham
- More room for childcare - more kids then room here
- Social activity clubs - cards, bowls, dancing, sports, crafts, exercises, bird watching
- Community skills/passion data base as part

## **Environment**

- Maintaining natural environment, encourage mosaic cold burning, not a repeat of bushfires
- Improved recycling facilities – more pick ups. Solution that meets the demands of the community
- Subdivision size not to impact on the environment
- Develop local organic brand
- Restoration of the McKenzie River
- Lift priority of pipelining the channel system from Wartook – Natimuk
- Encourage biolink
- Close monitoring of utilization of bores, keep aquifer in our area
- Identification and protection of local scar trees
- Rate concessions for private environment protection - encouragement for people protecting the environment
- Proper environmental policing of the area /proper enforcement
- Maintaining natural habitat. Subdivision Size Limit to the subdivision size
- Control of buildings in fire dangerous area
- Pilot area for sustainable energy/alternative sustainable energy
- Environmental education trail along the McKenzie
- More weed control and education on roadways
- Encourage people to have conservation covenants (rate discount)
- Provide rubbish collection and recycling facilities on the edge of the park (for park visitors/with signage and promotion materials)
- Community and indigenous garden
- Green energy, incentives and community resource
- Retain more water, groundwater and source water in district – cap surface water export at 85% max and groundwater export at 0%
- Biolink
- Solar electricity to power grid
- Help people to recycle water at their own homes
- Water piped instead of Mt Zero channel
- Maintain and improve natural habitat of waterways
- Zumsteins area better maintained and enhanced
- More landholders involved in the land care group
- Drought and fire recovery by replanting
- Landscaping with native plants around the hall and sports facilities so that there is seasonal colorful flowering
- Biofuel project
- Do our end of the pipeline
- To provide more water to the community
- More support for landcare

- New and upgraded facilities should include renewable energy and sustainable use of water and passive solar design – and minimal environmental impact (visual)

### **Community Infrastructure**

- The School
- Pipeline
- Broadband/Mobile service – wireless communications
- Halls Gap – Horsham bus service
- Signage
- Sealed Bolte Highway – looped options for tourists
- Hall use for Christian services/activities, fire/drought/depression
- All buildings to be maintained and used more frequently
- Completely seal Roses Gap Road
- Communication infrastructure– upgrade to improve cover
- Signage – to help tourists negotiate district
- Upgrade link roads
- Access to Laharum Bore – want a report
- Better signage
- More reliable and better postal service
- Up to date communications facilities
- “Turn outs” on Mt Victory Road
- Park presence and information in our area – eg Zumsteins
- Attract younger families
- Maintain large subdivision size
- Need intersection Winfield/Wonwondah Road

- Improvement of communication facilities – mobile phone, radio (emergency), broadband access
- Improve signage – current signage is pathetic
- More frequent grading of dirt roads
- Safer access to Laharum Bulk Handling
- No reduction of current subdivision sizes
- Communications / phone internet
- Regional roads improvement – increase load capacity width, bitumen and signage
- Hall Toilets
- Encourage and support people into the area
- Provide planning for the area – big picture planning to the year 2030
- Develop a transport policy which creates V Line, school bus timetables for the general public. Endeavour to have our area included by existing transport companies.

### **Business, tourism and economic growth**

- Encourage cottage industries
- Regular farmers markets under a local brand
- Develop programs for tourists
- Promotion of Mt Staplyton camping grounds and develop its amenities
- Retain farming activities – support rural agricultural environment
- Food and newspapers on Sunday
- Develop strategic business plan for the area
- Emphasize connections and support between businesses

- Inventory of related businesses
- Utilisation of knowledge and skills to support current activities
- Arts precinct and community craft industries
- Markets with local products
- Wider involvement of community with visitors/tourists
- Calendar of events in area
- Festival
- Control of tourist development appropriate to the community
- Support small home businesses
- Farm stays
- Community tourist facilities
- Biodiesel plant
- Return the Laharum Bore to the district
- Information brochures specific to this area
- Promote co-ordinated holiday activities in the area for tourist – eg bush tucker, wildflowers, crafts
- Community body to promote the district
- Local business centre to pool equipment, resources and skills
- Administration and financial support to local businesses
- Internet café
- Database of skills link to resources and business development opportunities
- Develop specialized irrigated agriculture/horticulture with Laharum Bore
- Softer development rather than large development – should be more in tune with the environment
- Access at Laharum Brimpaen to WDA, VFF and Council
- Tourism – promoting and utilising what we have – environmental
- Greater diversity in farming and tourism
- Secure water supply including bore water
- Biodiesel plant
- More successful tourist promotion – including development of local, gateway to Grampians
- More support for lamb based industry