



Mitre Community Plan

October 2017



This plan has been prepared by the Mitre community with the assistance of Horsham Rural City Council.



Horsham Rural City
Council urban rural balance

The purpose of the plan

The Mitre Community Plan was developed by Horsham Rural City Council at the instigation of the Mitre community. The Plan identifies and prioritises a range of initiatives that the community believes would benefit their town.

Community planning workshop

A community planning workshop was held at the Mitre Public Hall on August 30, 2017. This workshop was attended by 30 community members ranging in age from teenagers to seniors. During this event community members identified Mitre's assets and made suggestions about projects, activities and events that they would like to see in Mitre.



About Mitre

The Mitre township is located on the junction of Natimuk-Frances Road, Mitre-Nurcoung Road and Tooan-Mitre Road. It is 20 kilometres west of Natimuk, 23 kilometres east of Goroke and 45 kilometres from Horsham.

Mitre gets its name from nearby Mitre Rock which is part of the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park and is a popular spot for hikers and rock climbers.

There are eight occupied houses in the Mitre township and 12 people. The 'Mitre district', however, comprises approximately 37 houses and 69 people (2016 Census data). The township is fringed in all directions by farmland and agriculture is the predominant industry. The region produces cereal, pulse and oilseed crops, beef, lamb and wool and poultry products.

Mitre has a rich history, being close to the site of the famed Jane Duff 'Lost in the Bush' story. The true story of the survival of Jane Duff and her two brothers who were lost in bushland close to Mitre for nine days was included in the Victorian school curriculum from 1930 to the 1960s.

While Mitre once boasted a school, church, tennis club and post office, today the town's main physical asset, as identified by community residents, is the Mitre Public Hall.



Vision for Mitre

The community planning workshop was seen not only as an opportunity to consider what residents would like for Mitre, but also as an occasion to gather.

From the discussion it was evident that maintaining and building on Mitre's identity and the connectedness residents felt to their community and one another was the predominant shared vision that attendees had for Mitre.



Community priorities

The following priorities were identified, and voted on, by residents at the community planning workshop. They appear in order of preference.

Initiative	Goals	Who	Comments
Improve town entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Mitre Signage at town entry/exit Beautify the town 	Bek Lear	<p>Set meeting with HRCC Community Facilitator to work out next steps</p> <p>May be opportunities for funding. Consult with HRCC grants officer.</p> <p>Work out exactly what the community wants and what is involved (liaise with multiple community members)</p>
Remove church and use the area to create Hall/Fire Brigade parking area and refuge area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a safe parking area for users of the Hall/Fire Brigade Remove an unused building Create refuge area for fire brigade Beautify the town Improve usability of Hall 	Graham Lear Jimmy Aitkin	<p>First step is to ascertain Uniting Church expectations in regards to the sale of the church building (GL)</p> <p>Explore options around ownership of the land</p>

Initiative	Goals	Who	Comments
Develop a safe school bus pick-up/drop-off point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a safe area for buses to pick-up and drop off passengers; ensure ease of turning, avoiding traffic on Natimuk-Frances Road 	Graham Lear Jimmy Aitkin	<p>Issue has been forwarded to HRCC tech services department. Will need to involve VicRoads and possibly VicTrack.</p> <p>Mitre community has been asked to mark on map the current areas/routes used by buses.</p> <p>It will be important to engage with all bus users to ascertain the best solution - develop questions for bus users/parents</p>
Tree planting – native plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautify the township • More shade 	Bek Lear	<p>Scope town for appropriate sites for trees and identify appropriate species (in consultation with the community and landowners ie VicRoads/Council)</p> <p>Source plant stock, tree guards etc.</p> <p>Organise planting working bee</p>
Create a community calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a themed event for the first Friday of every season • Encourage increased use of Hall • Increase the sense of community in Mitre • Increase community wellbeing 	Bernie Dunn Elly Potter	Summer season community dinner scheduled for November 10
Silo art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautify the town • Attract tourists 		
BBQ area, promotion/information about Mt Arapiles and Mitre Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopover point for travellers • Gathering place 		
Improve toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve toilet facilities in town for local and visitor use • Attractive place for travellers to stop 		Mitre toilets are not currently a priority for HRCC to upgrade

Initiative	Goals	Who	Comments
History trails / plaques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase local knowledge about history • Attract tourism 		Public Record Office Victoria offer a range of funding to support Victorian community groups preserve local history and heritage.
Bike trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation opportunities • Attract tourism 		Extend Nati-Arapiles bike trail
Hall upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air vents • Wine glasses • Tables • Toilets (improve toilets idea above) 		FRRR funding applied for.
Dances, cards nights and other entertainment at the Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of the Hall 		Fits with community event calendar idea
Tourism			
Café/tea room (seasonal)			
Tennis court			
Develop foreshore of St. Mary's Lake			
Silo movie night			
Dart/hookey board for Hall			
Mow			



Assets

The community identified Mitre's assets as follows:

- Mitre Fire Brigade
- Mitre Hall (well appointed, with good catering equipment)
- A small town with a community spirit – people who are able to rally at short notice
- People
- Serenity
- Mountain view
- Mitre Rock
- Jane Duff story
- Duffholm Cottage
- Silos and surrounds
- Bird life
- Salt Lakes
- Mitre Lake
- Location
- History
- Seamstress
- Local knowledge/history
- Cemetery
- Church building
- Skilled people
- Bus pick-up
- St. Mary's Lake
- Tennis court
- Reliable farming land
- MCG (Mitre Cricket Ground)
- Duck farms
- Race course
- Scrub / National Park
- Community events



