

This plan has been prepared by the Dadswells Bridge 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 Plan

This Community Plan has been developed as part of the Dadswells Bridge Community Building Initiative. The plan has been developed by the Community Building Initiative Group which has provided leadership and guidance to the project and supported its activities in Dadswells Bridge.

The plan was developed following a number of community activities including asset mapping and a community opportunity workshop that was attended by 40 people in February 2007.

The plan will be used by the Dadswells Bridge Progress Association and other community groups to provide a basis for action and to give an indication of community priorities for the area.



View of Roses Gab

Photo: Shirley Ashfield

Vision for the Community

The community values the people, tranquility and atmosphere of Dadswells Bridge and the services and infrastructure that exist. We wish to enhance our sense of community, the natural environment and the prosperity of Dadswells Bridge.

Together we will meet the challenges that face our community and will always celebrate what we have and embrace initiatives which will help us reach our vision. This plan outlines the activities that the community has prioritised through the Community Building Initiative and will focus on over the coming years to assist in reaching this vision.

The people, the location and surrounding natural environment and the sense of community are the key strengths of Dadswells Bridge.

Community Description

Dadswells Bridge is located in Western Victoria on the northern edge of the Grampians National Park. It is located on the Western Highway midway between the two larger centres of Horsham and Stawell.

Dadswells Bridge is a small active community centred around the settlement on the Western Highway near Mt William Creek but also extending into the rural areas to the north and to the south to Roses Gap. The population is approximately 250 in the broader catchment of Dadswells Bridge.

In Dadswells Bridge there are a number of businesses including the Giant Koala and Cafe, Dadswells Bridge Motel Hotel, Graze Café/Deli and Namaskaar Indian Restaurant, the Dadswells Bridge Post Office (located in the Motel),

Grampians Edge Caravan Park, Deutschers Turkey Farm and Sales, Brad Engineering and the Roses Gap Recreation Centre. In the area around Dadswells Bridge there are a number of accommodation facilities including Old Dadswell Town and Orchid Lane Bed and Breakfast. The Dadswells Bridge Public Hall, founded in 1905, and public tennis courts are also located in the central area.

The area surrounding Dadswells Bridge is farming land with grazing, stud cattle, sheep and some cropping being the dominant land uses. Smaller enterprises such as olive farms and cut flower businesses occur in the area to the west.

The Mt William Creek winds its way through Dadswells Bridge providing not only a valuable water source for the town, but also an environmental and recreational feature. Mt William Creek starts in the Mt William Range of the Grampians and enters the Wimmera River after flowing



Mt William Creek

Photo: Shirley Ashfield



Dadswells Bridge Motel Hotel

through Dadswells Bridge. The reach of the Creek from Lake Lonsdale to the Western Highway varies in condition and is identified as a high priority waterway in the Wimmera Waterway Health Strategy (Wimmera CMA, 2006).

The Grampians National Park is located adjacent to Dadswells Bridge, with its northern edges coming into the settlement. The ranges in the background are a visual backdrop to the area. Significant features of the Grampians National Park which are close to Dadswells Bridge include Mt Difficult, Briggs Bluff, Beehive Falls, Roses Gap, Golton Gorge and Heatherlie Quarry. There are a number of spectacular walks in these areas.

Active community groups in Dadswells Bridge include:

- Dadswells Bridge Ladies Auxiliary
- Northern Grampians Landcare Group
- Dadswells Bridge Progress Association

- Dadswells Bridge CFA
- Dadswells Bridge Hall Committee
- Dadswells Bridge Tennis Club
- Snooker Team (over winter)

Dadswells Bridge Ladies Auxiliary

Dadswells Bridge Ladies Auxiliary aims to support the community of Dadswells Bridge. It is a group for the women of the community to meet one another. Activities include regular meetings, catering for district functions and organising social get-togethers for district ladies. The group helps to organise the Christmas and Australia Day Celebrations. The group also supports philanthropic activities through donations to groups such as the Red Cross, the CFA and the Cancer Council.

The group has recently been working on the new supper room at the Hall and other Hall improvements.

Northern Grampians Landcare Group

Shelter belts planted in 1990, which have now grown out to substantial tree plantations are the earliest record of Landcare activity in Dadswells Bridge. Records show that Northern Grampians Landcare Group became more active in 1995 under Project Platypus – a consortium of Landcare groups improving land and water quality of the upper Wimmera River catchment in Western Victoria. Our Landcare group, along with government and organisations actively strives to:

- repair and viably manage our precious natural resources;
- combat soil salinity and erosion through sound land management practices and sustainable productivity;

- plant native trees, shrubs and grasses to improve soils, water and air quality;
- provide protection for native species, including threatened and endangered flora and fauna; and
- promote biodiversity on farms to identify productive, practical solutions for managing native vegetation and farm profits

Significant ongoing projects with Project Platypus and the Northern Grampians Landcare Group include the Mount Drummond Site and the Dave's Avenue Wildlife Corridor.

Dadswells Bridge Progress Association

Dadswells Bridge Progress Association was established at a public meeting on October 8, 1973. Mr W Facey was elected as chair and Mrs D Davie as Secretary. The aim of the Association was to 'foster the progress' of Dadswells Bridge. The early years of the Association saw it concentrating on improving district roads, assisting with an air pageant, managing the weir, obtaining a rubbish tip, providing funds to other local committees and having speed limits on the highway at Dadswells Bridge.

The Association was in recess from 1999 until a public meeting on July 17, 2003 decided to reconstitute the Association. Bill Bloodworth was elected Chair and Colin Bourke, Secretary. The Association was incorporated and established its vision to encourage and promote the development of Dadswells Bridge. The Association has been involved with getting street lighting, a town water supply and is working to strengthen the community, and to beautify and improve the ambience of Dadswells Bridge.

Dadswells Bridge Fire Brigade

The Dadswells Bridge Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1934 in response to a fierce fire driven by strong winds which burned from Roses Gap to Fyans Creek and Halls Gap.

In 1945 the Bush Fire Brigades were reorganised to become part of the Country Fire Authority, and the name then changed to Dadswells Bridge Rural Fire Brigade. The Brigade has come a long way since the days of fighting fires with beaters, rakes and shovels, knapsacks and hand operated pumps. Today's Brigade boasts a modern 4-wheel drive tanker with high capacity diesel pump, fog and foam sprays. This tanker is supported by a community owned tanker and quick fill pump. All community members are encouraged to join and take their part in the crucial role the Fire Brigade plays in this area, and in the broader community. Membership involves regular training to ensure qualification and fire fighting skills are maintained.



Dadswells Bridge Public Hall

Photo: Leanne Jackman



Dadswells Bridge Brigade

Photo: Shirley Ashfield

Dadswells Bridge Hall Committee

The Dadswells Bridge Hall was erected in 1905 and up until the 1960's it was also used as a church and a school. The Hall Committee looks after the interests and upkeep of the Hall (which is one of the oldest in the area). The President and Committee endeavor to organise and hold regular functions to foster community interaction and spirit. Activities that are held include progressive dinners, dances, movie nights, bowls and games.

Dadswells Bridge Tennis Club

The first tennis courts were established in 1926 adjacent to the Mt William Creek by the residents of Dadswells Bridge and surrounding area. After the Second World War the tennis courts were sealed and two new courts and sheds were constructed. Local dances were commonly held in the Hall to raise funds for the Tennis Club. The Tennis Club has provided the community of Dadswells Bridge not only a place for exercise and competition, but also a social place for the community to gather.



Dadswells Bridge Tennis Courts

Contact details for these groups are listed in the appendix to this plan.

Dadswells Bridge History-A Brief Overview

Prior to European settlement of the district now known as Dadswells Bridge, the area was the traditional land of the Jardwadjali peoples for thousands of years. Two clans were identified by George Augustus Robinson in his journal. He met the first, the Larnaget, at Ledcourt in 1841and later in 1843, he met the Bernet.

Larnaget means swamp and their lands were to the south of the present Dadswells Bridge while the Bernet, which means a place on the Wimmera River, were located further north near the now Mt William Creek (Barabeal) and Wimmera River junction.

The land was rich with animal and plant life able to supply their nutritional needs. The nearby Grampians played a significant role in their spiritual life.

Contemporary history begins in 1840 with one Robert Briggs squatting on an area of 200,000 acres which is now Ledcourt Station. By the 1870's the homestead was built and stands today to the southeast of Dadswells Bridge.

During 1865 the Land Act came into force and people could select land. One of these selectors was Thomas Dadswell, who selected land in the area known as Ledcourt Crossing. Dadswell had various business interests in the area including a hotel and sawmill.

The road from Stawell to Horsham was surveyed in 1865 and it became necessary for a bridge to cross the Mt William Creek. It is understood that T Dadswell drew up the plans

and supplied the timber and iron for the bridge. Gradually the area took the name of Dadswells Bridge.

By 1870, Dadswells Bridge was a busy little place with a hotel, Post Office, sawmills and store. Bullock teams and Cobb & Co coaches plied their trade.

In 1879 the railway line to Horsham was built, and as it went via Murtoa, it missed Dadswells Bridge by a wide margin. The population of the little township declined and the Post Office was shut in 1880.

Still, by the turn of the century, the place sustained a significant enough population to need a school. Schooling had been conducted in the hotel but in 1905 the historic Dadswells Bridge Hall was built and school continued there on and off until a school was built south of the highway in the 1960's. Dadswells Bridge State School shut its doors in 1984. The Hall remains and had its centenary celebrations in 2005. It remains a significant and well loved Dadswells Bridge institution.

Dadswells Bridge sent 27 young men to the First World War. Seven of these men were not to return.

In the 1920's a telephone service was installed. It had only two subscribers until 1947. The service remained a manual one until June 1980.

Sixteen men left the district over the duration of World War Two, and the population was thrilled to have them return safely.

In the post war period the little district gathered momentum, with the increase of road traffic, the Korean War induced

wool boom, the baby boom, the opening of soldier settlement blocks, the coming of electricity in 1967 and the opening of the State School.

The period from the late sixties to early eighties saw a lot of development in the area. The motel and roadhouse were built, a weir constructed, the Caravan Park opened (with attached airstrip), Roses Gap became a tourist attraction and an industrial works was developed. Much of this development can be credited to one Jim Johnson, an entrepreneur who saw commercial possibilities in the area and who with various partners set about changing the township.

As we reach the present day we have a community where a good percentage of the residents commute to either Stawell or Horsham to work. There is a strong and diverse agricultural industry, a tourism industry, and many small business enterprises.

Environment

Mt William Creek (permanent water)
Grampians National Park & State
Parks
Range of flora and fauna
Roses Gap
Beautiful natural landscape
Climate
Platypus
Tracks through the parks
Birdwatching & wildflowers



Businesses

Giant Koala
Dadswells Bridge Motel Hotel
Post Office
Turkey Farm
Restaurants, Graze Deli & 2 Bars
Accommodation – Motel, Caravan Park,
Old Dadswell Town, Orchid Lane.
Engineering Business
2 Landscaping Businesses
Roses Gap Recreation Centre
Farming
Flower Farms
Numerous tertiary businesses



Dadswells Bridge Assets



Infrastructure

Good place to stop 2nd busiest highway in Australia Large centres of Horsham and Stawell 20 minutes away with a range of services including medical facilities, shopping, education, cultural and business services.

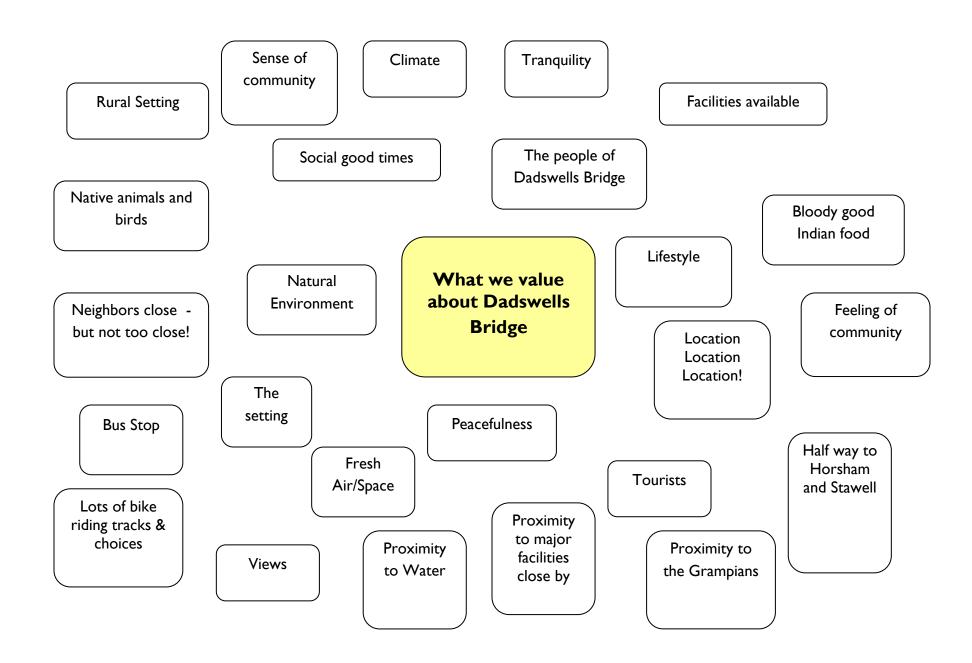
Hall
Tennis Courts
V Line Bus Service
Fire Shed and truck

Airstrips Gliding



Social

Active community, great people Strong community spirit Supportive friends Diversity Groups – Hall Committee, Progress Association, Landcare, Ladies Committee Auxiliary, Fire Brigade, Tennis Club, Snooker and Lawn Bowls Teams



Current Initiatives and Activities

A major project for the community currently underway includes the installation of a reticulated water supply from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. This major project for the town has been funded through a successful grant in 2006 from the Commonwealth Government's Community Water Grants and a Special Charges Scheme from Horsham Rural City Council. When installed the reticulation will supply the town businesses and also residents in Dadswells Bridge.

A second stage of this project is needed to provide water treatment especially for commercial operations. Additional funding is required for this and will be sought. The Community Plan supports this initiative and the Dadswells Bridge Progress Association will continue to pursue this project.

There have been a number of recent improvements in Dadswells Bridge including:

- Street lighting outside Giant Koala and the Motel. A second stage of this lighting program, which involves lighting outside of the Dadswells Bridge Hall, is supported.
- Installation of the V Line Bus Stop outside the Giant Koala and Motel.
- The addition and renovation of a new meeting room located in the Hall.

These improvements have all had a positive impact in the community.

Community Priorities

At the community workshop, a series of community priorities were identified following on from a series of discussions and voting. They include:

- Fix the dangerous intersection at Jackmanns and Stapeldons Road
- Clean-up and restore Mt William Creek
- Develop a cycling/walking and horse riding track using the Wimmera River, Mt William Creek and the Roses Gap area
- Development of an artists retreat
- Develop a footbridge over Mt William Creek
- Develop a Recreation Reserve area swimming pool, play equipment, public toilets
- Recycling system and garbage collection
- Website with web links to the Grampians site business register
- Major town entrance sign/feature similar to Stawell
- Feral animal control program goats, cats, deer
- A community newsletter
- A walking group
- Promote Dadswells Bridge as gateway to Wimmera
- Provide residents with low maintenance plants at no cost
- Organise a community bike ride as an annual event

Following further voting at the community workshop, project teams have been formed to work on a number of the top priorities. These priorities form the basis of the plan as well as some current initiatives in town.

Actions

The actions listed in this section are the results of the community workshop held as part of the Community Building Initiative. The following projects received the highest number of votes at the community workshop, and subsequently Project Teams were formed. As the opportunity arises, the Dadswells Bridge Progress Association will pursue other initiatives raised at the community workshop. A list of all projects proposed at the workshop follows in the Appendices.

Dadswells Bridge Progress Association and other community groups in addition to the project teams that have formed to address the CBI priorities will seek partnership and support from a range of agencies including Horsham Rural City Council, the State Government, the Federal Government, agencies such as Parks Vic and the Catchment Management Authority, Universities and the corporate sector. The funding sources listed in the table below are not exhaustive. As project teams progress in their work they will also seek other funding opportunities.

Clean up and Restore Mt William Creek Project Team Contact: Darryl Deutscher			
What is going to happen	Who needs to be involved	By when	Resources required
Develop an overall plan for Mt William Creek that addresses weed control, pest control, erosion control, revegetation and restocking. Seek funding to implement initiatives. The plan will focus on the area from the weir upstream to Clarks.	Mt William Creek Project Team Local community in conjunction with Northern Grampians Landcare Group, Project Platypus, Wimmera CMA, DSE and Parks Victoria	July 2008	Funding will be required. Potential sources include: Wimmera CMA Envirofund Natural Heritage Trust National Landcare Program HRCC Dept of Planning & Community Development
Clean up the Mt William Creek at Dadswells Bridge	Mt William Creek Project Team HRCC Wimmera CMA	In next 12 months	Minimal funding will be required.
Monitor water quality in Mt William Creek	Waterwatch	Ongoing, every 6 months	-

•		-	Project Team Contact: Peter Jackman			
What is going to happen	Who needs to be involved	By when	Resources required			
Develop a walking trail within the township of	Project Team	End	Partial funding has been			
Dadswells Bridge that includes signage of various	DBPA	2007	secured through Small Towns			
natural and heritage features.	HRCC		Development Fund and			
•	Parks Vic		through HRCC			
As a first stage of this construct a footbridge over Mt	VicRoads					
William Creek to enable safe pedestrian access from	Wimmera CMA					
the Caravan Park area to the central area.	DSE					
Investigate a series of walking trails to and circuits from Dadswells Bridge in the Northern Grampians area, including through to Roses Gap.	Project Team DBPA HRCC Parks Vic	2009	Additional funding will be required. Potential sources include: • Small Towns Development Fund • Provincial Pathways Program • Parks Vic • GGTACC			
Develop maps, signage and information brochures to complement walks and rides.	Project Team DBPA HRCC Parks Vic	2009	Funding will be required			

Develop a recreation area in Da	adswells Bridge for the co	mmunity	and visitors
What is going to happen	Who needs to be involved	By when	Resources required
Identify potential site for a recreation area.	Project Team	End 2007	No funding required
Develop overall plan for recreation area and seek funding for initiatives listed in it.	Project Team	2009	Funding will be required
Artists in r	residence/arts community	,	•
Project Te	eam Contact: Colin Bourke		
What is going to happen	Who needs to be involved	By when	Resources required
Develop an artists in residence program at Dadswells Bridge.	Project Team HRCC Arts Victoria		Funding will be required
Design and seek funding for a gateway feature for Dadswells Bridge	Project Team University of Ballarat Barenji Gadjin Land Council	End 2007	Funding will be required. Potential sources include: Regional Arts Victoria Australia Council GGTACC
Improve dangerous intersections in Dadswells			oledons Rd and Krauses Rd
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	am Contact: Bill Bloodworth		
What is going to happen	Who needs to be involved	By when	Resources required
DBPA to write to Vic Roads regarding these roads.	DBPA Vic Roads HRCC	End 2007	-

Review

This plan will guide actions for a period of time. It will be a living document and as actions are achieved, the plan will be reviewed to keep it live and relevant. New initiatives will be added to the plan during the review process and as the actions of this plan are successfully achieved. The plan will be reviewed by the Community Initiatives Group once a year. This group is under the auspice of the Dadswells Bridge Progress Association.



Community Workshop February 2007



Appendices - Dadswells Bridge Contacts

Community Building Initiative Steering Committee Members

Bill Bloodworth (Chair)	5359 5340
Shirley Ashfield	0429 929 610
Colin Bourke	5359 5271
Darryl Deutscher	5359 5220
Peter Hay	5359 5245
Leanne Jackman	5359 5268
Peter Jackman	5359 5268
Ewan Letts	5359 5332
Councillor Michael Ryan	5382 9777

The Community Building Initiative (CBI) commenced in August 2006 and was facilitated through Horsham Rural City Council and

funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development. The aim of the project is to find out what the whole of the Dadswells Bridge community want to see happen in and around the area and importantly go on to make it happen. The CBI process has involved asset mapping by the community and identifying what the community values about Dadswells Bridge. A local Steering Committee was formed to guide the process in Dadswells Bridge.

A community workshop was held on 18 February 2007 at the Roses Gap Recreation Centre and was attended by 40 community members, despite the 40 degree heat. The workshop identified a vision for the community as well as discussing projects in the following areas – recreation, sports, arts and leisure; community wellbeing and infrastructure; environment; and business and enterprise. A process of voting and prioritisation led to the identification of the priority projects that are listed in this plan. The workshop was facilitated by Neil Noelker from Neil Noelker Consulting. The outcomes from the workshop are listed on the following pages.



Dadswells Bridge Steering Committee Members (Not in photo: Peter Hay)

Businesses

Brad Engineering Services	Michael Crook	5359 5350
Dadswells Bridge Hotel Motel and Namaskaar Indian Restaurant, Graze Café/Deli and Post Office	Noel, Laura and Chantal Maslamoney	5359 5251
Deutschers Turkey Farm and Sales	Darryl Deutscher	5359 5220
Giant Koala		5359 5230
Grampians Edge Caravan Park	David Henshaw	5359 5241
Old Dadswell Town	Jenny and Max Green	5359 5299
Orchid Lane Bed and Breakfast Cottages	Lorraine Melville and David Whitcher	5359 5209
Roses Gap Recreation Centre	Bob and Lynda Sutherland	5359 5264

Community Groups

Dadswells Bridge CFA	Captain - David Sharp	5359 5323
-	Secretary - Ashley Howard	5359 5254
Dadswells Bridge Hall Committee	Secretary - Joan van Diesen	5359 5233
Dadswells Bridge Ladies Auxiliary	Secretary - Marilyn Parker	5359 5294
Dadswells Bridge Progress Association	Secretary - David Henshaw	5359 5241
	President - Colin Bourke	5359 5271
Dadswells Bridge Tennis Club	Secretary - Joe Facey	5359 5227
Northern Grampians Landcare Group	President – Ewan Letts	5359 5332
	Secretary – Leanne Jackman	5359 5268
Snooker Team	Contact - Joe Facey	5359 5227

Community Workshop Outcomes Small Group Discussion Ideas 18 February 2007

Recreation, Sport, Arts and Leisure

- Develop a Bowls Club
- Walking group
- Living History documenting the history of the community
- A yacht club!
- Something for the younger ones ask the kids
- Motorbike track for kids
- Arts Retreat / facility for older people to use
- Dances / films at the Hall
- Card night poker, 500 etc
- Cycling Track / walking track from Dadswells Bridge to Roses Gap and Halls Gap
- Cycling Track from the Wimmera River to Dadswells Bridge
- 9 hole golf course
- Horse riding track/circuit
- Petangue competition
- Bush Dance
- Parks and gardens have a park in the town area
- Outdoor film night
- Community bike ride
- Canoeing in better years
- Fishing / games competitions

- Park/ BBQ area
- Community dances
- Card night
- Games night
- Develop the Hall area into a community park to provide:
 - o A pleasant community/family passive leisure area
 - A stop over spot for tourists (who will buy food from the local businesses)
 - A visual attraction to the "gateway to Horsham"
- Encourage the community and others to use the Hall facilities
- Walking tracks and signage from Hall (a map) to Grampians area
- Night club
- Better shed for the tennis club to keep the tennis club going
- Walking / bike trail
- Dadswells Bridge annual sports day
- Organised bike ride
- Recreation Reserve swimming pool, sports complex, play equipment, public toilets. Encourage others to use
- Rotunda which has a picture history of the area
- Broader participation from community in organising activities

Environment

- Feral animal program
- Weed and rubbish (flora) control
- Town water access to the pipeline
- Environmentally appropriate tree planting
- Environmental flows down the Mt William Creek
- Recycling of bottles/cans/plastics with garbage collection
- Creek restoration
- Recycling bottles/glass/paper etc
- Water supply for the township
- Regeneration projects
- Clear fallen trees from Mt William Creek to improve flow
- Cumbungi in the waterway clean out the waterway
- Provide low maintenance plants at no cost to residents
- Pump bore water into the creek (not dams) for ecological benefits
- Community Environmental Plan current state/future
- Signage and maps walks/rides, features of interest
- Control of pests and weeds etc
- Promotion of indigenous plants
- Creek regeneration and community activity
- Develop better arrangement with various authorities eg local and state
- Central recycling depot to be transported weekly to Horsham
- Regeneration of public land
- Beautifying of creek and township

- Individual households to be more self sufficient with water (more awareness of energy and water)
- Rabbit control / kangaroos
- Walking and bike trail

Community Wellbeing and Infrastructure

- A heritage board eg at the Big Koala or Hall
- Intersection at Jackmanns and Krauses Road
- Footbridge over the Mt William Creek
- Safer crossing on Western Highway bridge
- Entrance to Dadswells Bridge
- Major town entrance sign (similar to Stawell/Ampitheatre)
- Jackmans Rd/ Stapeldons Road intersection
- Rotunda development / walking track under the highway
- Community newsletter
- Internet café (computer use)
- Upgrade phone exchange (broadband)
- Bus shelter
- Develop Dadswells Bridge as a gateway to Horsham
- Turn into Jackmans Road coming from Stawell needs to have the Western Highway widened (turn off shoulder)
- Community House
- Walking group
- Garden Club
- Bowling Club
- Social Club one co-ordinating body
- Develop youth interests and activities
- Netball or soccer team

- Improved heating and cooling in the Hall
- Each community organisation to organise a community event
- Assessment of road safety
- Community census
- Annual "back to the bush" activity day eg novelty event

Business, Tourism and Economic Growth

- Maintain the diversity of businesses / services
- Regular events one a year art competition
- Walking and Bike Trail
- Annual Turkey event eg turkey, berry and curry, link with music and arts
- Artists in residence concept for our area / artists retreat
- Develop a web site (key word Grampians)
- Encourage other small businesses to establish in Dadswells Bridge once water supply is installed
- Eco-accommodation
- Link in with Grampians tourist groups
- Economic growth in businesses and tourism is not desired by some residents
- Water supply

- Gas
- Business register
- Land acquisition by Council for commercial and industrial business development
- Promote Dadswells Bridge as the gateway to the Wimmera
- Maps of walking trails
- Parking improved in front of commercial areas
- Promote leisure activities
- Promote annual back to the bush activity
- Each community group to develop an activity to bring others once a year
- Promote Dadswells Bridge as a tourist destination gateway to the Grampians
- Regular arts/creative events and features
- A market



Casting a vote at the Community Workshop