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Table of acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WSC</td>
<td>Wellington Shire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRG</td>
<td>Community Representative Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFA</td>
<td>Country Fire Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>VICSES</td>
<td>Victoria State Emergency Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>VICPOL</td>
<td>Victoria Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPI</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industries, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSE</td>
<td>Department of Sustainability &amp; Environment</td>
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<td>CMA</td>
<td>Catchment Management Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRW</td>
<td>Southern Rural Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOM</td>
<td>Bureau of Meteorology</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Special thanks to Rachel Dawkins for providing many of the photographs included in this document and to Marion Killeen and Rachel for editing this document.
Welcome to the
**Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek**
2007 – 2012
**Community Plan**

**Environmental and Cultural Values:**

The foothills of the Great Dividing Range rise from the alluvial floodplains of the Avon River and its tributaries to overlook the small rural communities of Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek.

The forests of the Avon Wilderness Park, Mount Hedrick Scenic Reserve and State forest cloak the foothills, providing a stunning scenic backdrop to these communities.

The fertile alluvial flats in and around the townships, support thriving agricultural and horticultural enterprises, smaller hobby farms and productive gardens.

Majestic eucalypts dot the landscape, reminders of our pioneer past and of a more ancient people and culture.

The traditional owners of the land in this area are the Gunai/kurnai people. There are many significant indigenous cultural heritage sites and objects to be found here, including canoe trees, grinding stones, artefacts and ancient pathways. All reminders of a history stretching back far beyond European settlement.

Residents here are resilient in the face of drought, bushfires and floods – facts of life in these rural communities where nature can occasionally wreak havoc, but mostly provides beauty, tranquillity and security.
About our Community:

**Our Vision**

“We will work together to provide a safe and welcoming community for our residents and visitors and to preserve and promote our local environment and heritage.”

**Our Values**

- To provide a safe and friendly family-oriented community.
- To service our communities through active local committees, clubs and groups who encourage and welcome participation.
- To preserve and promote our local heritage and natural environment for present and future generations.
- To encourage and nurture the aspirations of young people by providing relevant facilities and activities locally.
- To support and sustain our local services, schools, sporting and community facilities.
- To foster community spirit and a sense of belonging by strengthening networks and supporting each other.
Plan Summary

Introduction:
This Community Planning document has been undertaken by the Boisdale & District Progress Association, acting as the Community Representative Group (CRG) for Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek.
In November 2006 members of the Boisdale & District Progress Association voted unanimously to become part of a Wellington Shire Council (WSC) Strengthening Communities initiative and act as a Community Representative Group (CRG) for Boisdale, Bushy Park & Valencia Creek.
The CRG consists of representatives from local groups, organisations and individuals who are involved in the local community, with the aim of identifying the issues within the community, encouraging local groups and community members to undertake projects and to produce a Community Plan which will provide a vision for the future of our communities. The CRG process has an underpinning principal of broad community participation.
A Community Facilitator from WSC has been working with the Progress Association (CRG), providing liaison between the community and Council and initiating interaction with outside agencies.

The Boisdale & District Progress Association was incorporated in 1993 and its objectives are:
- To provide the Boisdale & District Community with a unified voice on relevant issues
- To promote community awareness of current social issues
- To provide aid to local groups and individuals where needed and considered appropriate
- To raise funds for the purpose of furthering the above objectives

The Boisdale & District Progress Association acts as the auspice body for the Boisdale Garden Club and the Boisdale Stables Committee and is the trustee of the Boisdale Stables building.
Membership includes representatives from the Boisdale and Valencia Creek Hall Committees, Boisdale Recreation Reserve, Boisdale Stables Committee, Boisdale Garden Club, Boisdale Football/Netball Association, Upper Avon Landcare, Neighbourhood Watch, CFA brigades, local newsletter, local farmers, traders and especially welcomes youth representation.

This Community Plan is a result of surveys, consultative meetings and group discussions. The surveys were conducted throughout our local communities and included input from the youth, senior citizens and many local organisations. A community bonfire and social functions also enabled us to determine issues relevant to our local communities. A single issue survey was then conducted on the state of local toilet facilities and these results have now been incorporated into the issues for our communities. A Boisdale Youth Action Group has been initiated through the WSC Youth Team. They have also been surveyed and these results are available in the content of this document.

The actions resulting from the priority issues have been achieved by the whole community. As stated, the responsibility of the CRG is to identify and encourage action on these issues. Of the 35 highest priority issues, 15 of these are currently being investigated or have been actioned.

This Community Plan is a flexible document and will be reviewed annually by the Progress Association. The whole document will be re-visited in 2012, when further surveys of the community will be conducted. As important issues arise, further appendices can be added to include new priorities and actions.
This document will also be included in a welcome package for new residents to our communities. The Progress Association meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month (2nd monthly during winter) at the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Clubrooms at 7.30pm. New members most welcome.

Current membership of the Boisdale & District Progress Association - 2008:
Kevin Killeen - Chairman, Rachel Dawkins - Vice Chairman, Helen Montague - Sec/Treasurer,
Committee members: Des & Trish Sinnott, Marion Killeen, Colleen Battersby, Jim & Elsie Allen, Katherine & Foster Crooke, Robyn Ashley, Daryl Bedggood, Christine Howson, Gary Rose, John Lees, Heni & Jasmine Lina, Alan & Marcia Clayton.
The Boisdale Pastoral Run was taken up for Lachlan Macalister, by Angus McMillan in 1842 and transferred to the Foster family in 1850. This run consisted of approximately 57,600 acres and was used as grazing land. Boisdale is thought to be named after a Scottish location.

In the late 1890’s small holdings were leased for dairy farming which was becoming profitable. Each farmer was supplied with a house, sheds, dairy herd and tools. By 1901 there were thirty one farms and eventually thirty five. Advances in technology in the dairy industry assisted their success. This private settlement scheme brought an influx of population, establishing many families who are still represented in the area today.

The township of Boisdale was modelled on the lines of an English village when established by Askin Morrison Foster and his brother in the early 1900’s. A Cheese and Butter factory was built in the township (next to the original General Store) and houses, shops, bakery, stables and a blacksmith’s shop were constructed in the main street for the factory workers, their families and local farmers.

The community hall was built in 1904 as a meeting place, library and initially used for church services. A school at Boisdale first opened in 1890, but a new school was built in the main street in 1910 and many years later relocated to the new Boisdale Consolidated School, where it is still in use today. The railway line ran behind the township with 2-3 trains per day travelling from Maffra to Briagolong, the station was situated on the site of the current Recreation Reserve.

Closer Settlement from 1910 saw small farms purchased and another influx of families to the area. One of the conditions of settlement was a commitment to grow sugar beet to supply the beet sugar factory at Maffra. After poor crops and a scarcity of labour during the First World War, the compulsory beet growing clause was removed. The need for a permanent water supply had become apparent and Glenmaggie Weir was constructed on the Macalister River, providing the first irrigation water in 1925.

Following Askin Foster’s death and the depression of the 1930s, assets were sold, including the Cheese and Butter factory, which was later demolished. In 1911, the population of Boisdale was 274 and in 1933, 479.

It is interesting to note that Foster Brothers had placed a caveat on the township in regards to alcohol, which is why the township never had a hotel, this ceased in 2001, when the General Store obtained a liquor licence.

The old Stables building in the main street has recently been donated to the Boisdale Community and will be used as a museum and community resource centre. Brass plaques will identify houses and sites of historical interest in the township.

The bustling township of the early 1900’s is very different from the Boisdale we see today. But the local residents retain the same spirit and appreciation for their community as those early pioneers.
Bushy Park

“PORT PHILLIP GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.- Wednesday August 23rd, 1848
CLAIMS TO LEASES OF CROWN LAND
NAME OF RUN — BUSHY PARK
ESTIMATED AREA — 16,000 ACRES
ESTIMATED GROWING CAPABILITIES — 800 HEAD OF CATTLE OR 5000 SHEEP”

Settlement began in this area with Angus McMillan taking up the Bushy Park lease in October 1840. The land extended five miles from the junction of Little or Plain creek, with the Avon or Dunlop River. (This was the North West boundary of the Strathfieldsaye run.) The Western boundary of Bushy Park was the Avon River, the Eastern boundary Stringybark Creek, which was in turn the Western Boundary of Sandy Creek run and the Northern boundary was the Mount Angus Range.

McMillan’s original settlement was like a small village, with overseers and shepherd’s huts and aboriginal camps surrounding the homestead with its garden and fine orchard. But, although he had the pick of the country he failed to make a financial success of it. After serious losses with cattle as a result of bush fires, the run passed to the mortgagees Kaye and Butchart, in 1861. In September, 1863, the lease showed in favour of James Butchart, and in December, 1872, it was cancelled.

Charley Henderson was the first freeholder at Bushy Park, and Murdoch Macintosh, the next owner. According to Harry Peck (Memoirs of a Stockman) Macintosh spent money freely on improvements and erected the biggest and heaviest post and rail fence in Gippsland on Bushy Park. Some of it remains today. Ownership passed to R. Gilder, of Stratford, who sold to John Lee in 1914. The Lee family lived there until the 1980’s.

A new house was built in front of the old one, parts of which have been taken to Moe, and Metung, for inclusion in museums.

There are many historic events connected with Bushy Park,: Alfred Howitt called there in McMillan’s time to get horses and supplies for his trip north to the goldfields. The great botanist Baron von Mueller called in between his forays into the mountains, and planted a tree at Bushy Park. The first mob of sheep ever brought to Gippsland, in 1841 was driven by John Morison for McMillan. Morison later settled on property now owned by the Donahoe family.

Families of the early settlers still own many of the surrounding properties
A railway siding was established to cater for timber and sugar beet transport and a well constructed iron bridge built over the Avon River. This has now been demolished.
A cairn was erected at Bushy Park in memory of Angus McMillan. (At a cost of £51).

Many current residents are descendants of those early settlers and share a common bond in their appreciation of their history and of their community.

Acknowledgement: Historical pieces for these histories has been obtained from local publications including, “Bald Hills to Bundalaguah-first one hundred years”, Maffra and District Historical Society 1975
The area known as Valencia Creek takes its name from the stream which flows into the eastern edge of the Avon River just above the low level bridge near the Valencia Soldiers’ Memorial Hall.

The area’s history begins almost simultaneously with the history of Gippsland. By 1840 Angus McMillan was building his homestead at Bushy Park, having begun his explorations from the Monaro only two years earlier. His holding ran up the Avon and included some of the Valencia Creek area, which embraces what is still known as “Little Plain”, named Scotchman’s Plain in the earliest records, this is a fertile little valley which opens out north of Maffra, between the foothills and the base of the Great Dividing Range.

Valencia Creek is said to have been named by “Jimmy the Spaniard”, a stockman working on the Boisdale Run during early settlement. Legend has it that Jimmy rode his grass-fed stock horse from the Bushy Park homestead to Port Albert, a distance of 140 miles there and back in 24 hours to deliver a message.

Settlement of the area begun around the 1870’s. The first school opened on Rices’ Hill in 1875 and was known as Wa-de-lock School. A new school was built on the eastern side of the Avon River and pupils attended from 1923 until the new Boisdale Consolidated School commenced in 1951.

Sheep and cattle grazing were the primary industries in the area, with dairying becoming viable in the early 1900s. Valuable orchards and hop growing were also popular during those early years. Valencia boasted a Creamery on the eastern side of the river, with cheese production being profitable.

A Post Office operated from 1900 until it finally closed in 1974. A manual telephone exchange was installed in 1924 and an automatic service in 1965. Mrs Jessie Berry was the final Post Mistress at Valencia. The building remains beside the hall today.

The Presbyterian Church, later to become the Uniting Church, was established around 1897 and still holds services today.

The Valencia Creek Saw Mill first began in 1936. Originally owned by the late Bill Rose, it has been in the Killeen family since 1941.

The Valencia Creek CFA has been operational since 1925 and has been involved in many fire events since it was first established. The 2006-07 fire season saw Valencia utilised as a staging area for many brigades.

The Valencia Soldiers’ Memorial Hall was erected in 1926-27 and remains noted for its collection of photographs of pioneers of the district. Many of these families remain in the area today: names such as McInnes, Cameron, McCarthy, Rose, Killeen, Sim, McDonald and Missen, many of these families are still active within the community.

Valencia Creek remains a vibrant, close knit community, upholding many of the values passed down through earlier generations.
About our Community: Our Agriculture and Industry

The Community Plan recognises local industries, businesses and farming enterprises as major contributors to our local economy and as employment opportunities to local communities.

From the pioneering days of McMillan and Macalister this area was acknowledged as valuable grazing land for cattle, sheep and horses. With the influx of settlers more intensive farming practises were undertaken including cropping, orchards and hop growing.

Following the leasing of small farms for dairying and then the implementation of the Closer Settlement scheme of the early 1900’s, which encouraged people to relocate to and open up rural areas, dairying and sugar beet production became profitable. But the early settlers were faced with unpredictable seasons, with rivers that dried up one year and flooded the next.

The first steps towards providing water for irrigation were taken in 1912 when the Water Commission became responsible for "closer settlement". The Commission was asked by the Department of Agriculture to investigate the provision of temporary works to supply water to the sugar beet areas of Boisdale. The First World War intervened and it was not until 1920 that a dam was begun on the Macalister River near the junction of Bradleys Creek, to be known as the Glenmaggie Dam. The Macalister was selected because it has a much larger average annual flow than the Avon River.

In 1919, Maffra landholders supported a proposal to supply water to irrigate an area of 9,000 hectares on the Avon flats, including Boisdale and the Newry and Maffra flats on the northern side of the Macalister River, this proposal was supported by the Boisdale Settlers’ Association, later to become the Boisdale & District Irrigation League. This resulted in first priority being given to the construction in 1924 of the Main Northern Channel to supply the Boisdale and Newry River flats. A feature of that channel was its location in hill country on the northern fringe of the district. Very careful attention had to be given to the earthworks and the many water courses that had to be crossed with siphons (water carrying tunnels). By 1926, the Glenmaggie Dam was sufficiently advanced for water to be supplied to 3,600 hectares in Boisdale, Airly, Cobains and other estates near Sale. The Glenmaggie Dam was completed in 1929.

With the decline and closure of the sugar beet industry in Maffra, improved technology in the dairy industry and a controlled allocation of irrigation water, dairying in the area became a profitable enterprise. Following the Second World War until the mid 1950’s many young families enjoyed a boom time. Several good seasons, the opening of the new Boisdale Consolidated School, with all outlying children able to travel by bus and many local, work opportunities was an added incentive for families to relocate to this area.

From the mid 1950’s onward rationalization in the dairy industry and international economic factors began affecting the local industry. From the 1970’s the income of a dairy farmer became much closer to that of a wage earner, many small farms sold out to larger holdings and the 100 – 200 herds became 300 – 500 to remain viable. Piping of the irrigation system in 1988 saw a more efficient scheme and secured water allocation for farms.
The 1970’s also saw land being purchased for vegetable farming. The Taylor family saw the fertile, alluvial flats of Boisdale as an ideal area for contract vegetable growing. Further land has been acquired in subsequent years and large enterprises such as Mulgowie Family Company, a Queensland based company and Farm Express Salads Pty Ltd, from Bacchus Marsh have purchased large tracts of land for highly mechanised contract growing of vegetables. Produce now being grown locally include beans, sweetcorn, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chinese cabbage and lettuce. These companies also employ much of their labour locally. Other specialty farms and industries include deer farming, a local winery, berry growing, hay and chaff businesses.

Many of the early settler families remain today, their farms and improved technology differ from those of their forefathers. Names such as Harvey, Noble, Donahoe, Allen, McCarthy, Crooke, McInnes, Landy, Cameron, Killeen, Phelan, Lee, White, Bedggood and Sim, remain on farm gates farms or in beef and sheep production.

Businesses supporting these industries assist in our economy and provide employment opportunities for youth and local residents. Some of these are the Boisdale Garage, Maffra Knackery Services at Valencia Creek, Local Pump Repair Services, Murray Goulburn Co-operative and other milk production companies, local stock agents, local live stock transport businesses, local Veterinary Centres, Maffra agricultural stores, Maffra HI Centre and DPI at Maffra. Also local farming and environmental organisations such as Landcare, provide support our new and younger farmers and further opportunities to improve and care for our valuable resource.

The face of our district continues to evolve, to remain sustainable for future generations we need to address the issues identified under environmental issues within this plan. Water conservation for both farm and domestic usage, continued drawing on our water table, irrigation methods, prolonged intensive farming, state of our local rivers and water ways and weed infestation.

Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek are highly productive areas with beautiful scenery, great assets and family orientated communities, we welcome business and tourism opportunities to our district.

Acknowledgement: Information taken from the Macalister Irrigation District Information website and local farmers
A statistical snapshot of
Boisdale/Valencia Creek/Bushy Park (BVB)

Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>BVB Total</th>
<th>Wellington Total</th>
<th>Victoria Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>40,080</td>
<td>4,932,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>39,759</td>
<td>4,660,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek (BVB) have grown by 4.8% since 2001 to 2006 which is faster than the average for Wellington Shire but slower than Victoria.

Age distribution

2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th>Wellington</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>2,291</td>
<td>305,941</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>5,728</td>
<td>644,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>4,923</td>
<td>673,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-54</td>
<td>15,751</td>
<td>2,098,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>5,156</td>
<td>534,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>6,231</td>
<td>674,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th>Wellington</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>2,556</td>
<td>300,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>6,318</td>
<td>645,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>5,004</td>
<td>633,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-54</td>
<td>16,534</td>
<td>2,036,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>4,002</td>
<td>434,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>5,623</td>
<td>609,594</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BVB has continued to age – the percentage of over 65’s is increasing and the percentage of under 15’s is decreasing. This is consistent with long term patterns for both BVB and rural Australia.

Family Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>BVB</th>
<th>Wellington</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couple families with children</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>41.90%</td>
<td>46.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple families without children</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>42.40%</td>
<td>35.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent families</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
<td>15.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BVB has less single parent families than either Wellington or Victoria.

Culture / Diversity

87.5% of people living in BVB were born in Australia compared with 84% of those living in Wellington Shire and 70% of those in Victoria.

Employment

Unemployment in BVB was slightly lower (2.7%) than in Wellington (5.9%) and Victoria (5.4%).
Home ownership

In 2006 84% of homes in BVB were either owned or being bought, which is higher than 72% for Wellington and 69% for the whole of Victoria.

Number of Residences

The number of houses in the locality is 166 with 137 occupied.

Annual Rain Fall

The Macalister area is in a rain shadow, as a result the average annual rainfall at Maffra is only 600mm (approx.) or 23½ inches
### Boisdale, Bushy Park & Valencia Creek Survey

**The Positive Responses: (Direct quotes from survey responses)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quotes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe community (38)</td>
<td>“Safe and friendly area to bring up children, residents look out for one another, “being part of a caring ‘family’ community”, Neighbourhood Watch, being able to leave bikes at bus shelters (unlocked), knowing your neighbours, feeling safe as a result”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our environment (34)</td>
<td>“Clean, fresh air, peace and quiet, beautiful place to live, lovely countryside, unspoilt environment, close to bush and mountains, close to main town’s facilities, the life style, lawns look great, bulbs will make town look more beautiful, beautiful views, access to bush and rivers, serenity, agriculture of the area, “the space”, not being “closed in by neighbours”, clean, rural environment, great soil, will grow anything, local rivers in summer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The People (33)</td>
<td>“Friendly people, welcoming to all, no rush and bother, willingness to help each other, prepared to have a go, people care about their homes, good neighbours, friendly and helpful, supportive, the honesty and compassion of local people, “my privacy respected”, great garden club”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community spirit (29)</td>
<td>“Local organizations actively encourage and welcome local residents to be involved. “Not living in each other’s pockets”, caring community, former residents pride in community. “A wonderful place to live”, “Laid-back life style”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families (24)</td>
<td>“Great place to bring up children, caring ‘family’ community”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities (11)</td>
<td>“Good local schools, convenient bus routes, great local school, a tribute to the region, our shop cum post office, personal, friendly and efficient, good sporting facilities, close proximity to community services, well stocked general store, garage, excellent primary school, neighbouring town has excellent facilities, football community events which we all can attend, close medical facilities, local store and Post Office”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>“Affordable community, sense of history”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Issues:</td>
<td>Transport / Road Issues</td>
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### Traffic Issues: What is the issue?
- Speed of traffic through Main Street
- Cars parking on wrong side of road.
- Increase of heavy vehicles and trucks on our rural roads; noise and vibration on town houses and windscreen damage from speeding trucks.
- Risk to school buses on narrow roads with speeding trucks.
- Noise from increased number of trail bike riders on roads and properties.

### Traffic Issues: Who are the stakeholders?
- Local residents, local children, local farmers, VicRoads, Wellington Shire Council, local businesses, eg. Murray Goulburn, Police, private bus companies

### Traffic Issues: What are our priorities?
- To reduce the risk of accident or injury
- To understand which authorities controls which roads
- To develop positive on-going relationships with authorities concerned
- To gain assurances that preventive measures will be carried out in the future
- To publicise information gained to the community

### Traffic Issues: What actions will we take?
- Maintain contact with key stakeholders eg. VicRoads and Police
- Consult with school bus company to investigate issues
- Report regularly to community when necessary

### Traffic Issues: What has been achieved so far?
- Communicated with Vic Roads and Wellington Shire Council
- Alterations and renewal of some speed signs around Boisdale township
- Speed odometer machine now in Main Street of Boisdale on a regular basis
- Discussions with local police, news items placed in community newspapers
- More frequent surveillance by local police

### Transport / Road Issues What is the issue?
- Lack of transport during weekends and holidays, particularly at night
- Lack of public transport for young people to access local towns, training and work opportunities
- Valencia Creek bridge hazard to cyclists,
- Inability of school buses to provide transport for youth and elderly, as well as students,
- Lack of signage and bus shelters at designated school bus stops on narrow, country roads.
- Corrugations and infrequent grading on gravel roads, frequent requests to seal road
- Poor maintenance on Back Valencia Creek Road, Back Boisdale and Nuntin Road. Road verge non existent in places, frequent truck usage.

### Transport / Road Issues: Who are the stakeholders?
- Local residents, local youth and the elderly, WSC, VicRoads, private bus operators

### Transport / Road Issues: What are our priorities?
- Identify the needs of the community
- Improve conditions for our community
- To develop relationships with stakeholders

### Transport / Road Issues: What actions will we take?
- Liaise with stakeholders
- Discuss transport issues with Transport Officer, WSC and Youth Action Group
- Identify latest information and relay to community

### Transport / Road Issues: What has been achieved so far?
- Valencia Creek Bridge has been replaced with a concrete bridge (WSC 2008). Emergency Alert System to be installed for floods.
- WSC transport survey conducted through local schools.
- Summer Bus Service commenced Dec-Jan 2007, twice weekly service during the Christmas holidays, local pick-up
points to Sale or Seaspray. Service continuing in the future.

- Initial discussions with WSC over several road issues. Roads identified will be submitted to Council Planning for comment.

**Condition of Recreation Reserve toilet facility**

**What is the issue?**

- Closure to public of Recreation Reserve toilet facility
- Ongoing maintenance issues due to age and use of equipment
- Vandalism – facility cleaned by community volunteers
- Water leakages resulting in large water accounts
- Better Rec. Reserve facilities / cleaning service for our community toilets

**Who are the stakeholders?**

- Local residents, Rec. Reserve users, local businesses, visitors, travellers, WSC, Gippsland Water.

**What are our priorities?**

- Ascertain community needs
- Liaise with stakeholders
- Inform community

**What actions will we take?**

- Survey the community to determine their needs
- Consult with WSC, Rec Reserve Committee / Boisdale Football-Netball Club
- Ascertain funding possibilities

**What has been achieved so far?**

- Community has been surveyed on toilet issue – 180 responses requesting upgrade of facilities
- Discussions with Rec Reserve Committee, Boisdaile – Briagolong Football / Netball Club and WSC.
- Grant application from Boisdaile & District Progress Assoc. (Community Representative Group) through Community Strengthening Support Fund for $10,000 has been successful, provisional on details and quotes being submitted
- Sub-committee formed of representatives from Rec Reserve, Boisdaile-Briagolong Football/Netball Club and Boisdaile & District Progress Assoc.
- Further funding of $10,000 through Flood Recovery Grant has been successful
- Quotes being obtained for works needed for upgrade

**Lack of Youth Services:**

**See pages 18-20 for Youth Issues**

**What is the issue?**

- Lack of transport
- More facilities for young people
- Restricting access to motor bike riders at the old tip site reduces activities for young people and their families.
- No meeting place for young people

**What has been achieved so far?**

- Actions: - Youth Group commenced in Boisdaile for Boisdaile & District teenagers
- Youth involved in local projects and representative on Progress Association Committee

**Lack of local Facilities:**

**What is the issue?**

- Place where young people can meet
- Lack of tennis poles, etc at new courts,
- Little for young people and the elderly residents
- Street lighting inadequate at Rec. Reserve entrance,
- Lack of general street lighting.
- Tan bark in playground needs replacing

**Who are the stakeholders?**

- Local residents, youth, Rec. Reserve users, local businesses and organisations, visitors, travellers, WSC

**What are our priorities?**

- Identify community needs
- Liaise with the Youth Action Group, stakeholders, WSC and outside agencies

**What actions will we take?**

- Discuss issues with Youth Action Group Rec. Reserve Committee and other organisations
- Discuss relevant issues with WSC
What has been achieved so far?

- WSC has replaced tan bark in playground area
- Youth Group involved in upgrade of Tennis/Netball Clubroom, can be used as a meeting place
- Youth group involved in the Stables project, space will be available for youth activities/projects
- Tennis Poles repaired at tennis courts
- Exercise classes and Tai Chi classes commenced at Boisdale Hall for all residents, proving very popular

Emergency Issues: Floods / Fire: Community Emergency Planning
See page 21

What is the issue?

- Community preparedness for local emergencies, ie. floods and fire
- Valencia Creek bridge hazard during floods
- Proposed new bridge at Valencia Creek – Safety alarm system to be installed
- Better planning for flood areas, furniture removal system could be arranged

Who are the stakeholders?

- Local residents, farmers, local businesses, SES, CFA, DSE, WSC, Police, SRW, DPI, VicRoads, DHS, CMA

What are our priorities?

- To prepare and educate residents for future flood events
- To address the flood issues above
- To liaise with emergency agencies and outside organisations

What actions will we take?

- Instigate a Community Emergency Plan in conjunction with WSC, SES & CFA and provide an information session for residents
- Support & educate our local communities, particularly new and vulnerable residents
- Liaise with WSC and outside agencies

What has been achieved so far?

- Community Emergency Plan being developed with WSC. SES, CFA and community members have been involved
- Valencia Creek bridge has now been replaced with a concrete bridge - WSC 2008. Screening for drainage in place and flood indicator in place
- Wombat Bridge has now been replaced with a concrete bridge and flood indicator – WSC 2008
- Emergency Flood Warning system to be implemented at Valencia Creek bridge

Community Issues:

What is the issue?

- More social interaction, eg. markets with local produce
- Reduction of residents involved in local organisations / churches
- Safety issues-motorbikes in bush locally
- Lack of tourism opportunities locally
- Lack of representation in the Shire and support from councillors
- More community functions
- More support and welcoming of new residents
- Better use of our lovely halls
- Only meeting neighbours when there is a bushfire threat
- Develop web site for our community

Who are the stakeholders?

- Local residents, local businesses, local groups and organisations, local school, visitors, travellers, WSC

What are our priorities?

- Determine the needs of the community and visitors
- Offer opportunities for interaction of residents
- Liaise with local groups and organisations and outside agencies
- Improve communications between our three communities

What actions will we take?

- Welcome packages for new residents, including a copy of the community plan
- Wider distribution of the *Boisdale News* so Valencia Creek and Bushy Park are aware of local events
- Encourage more social events at our local halls and facilities
- Investigate Domain Community Name websites

**What has been achieved so far?**
- Boisdale & District Progress Association has become the Community Representative Group (CRG) for Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek, with representatives from local groups and organisations
- WSC Community Facilitator working closely with the Progress Association. Council meetings held in the area and Council staff involved in local projects
- *Boisdale News* open to local communities and distributed more widely
- More entertainments and events being held at local halls, improvement to these facilities assisting in further usage
- Tourism options being investigated. Grant for plaques for historic buildings in Boisdale obtained
- Stables building now has water and power connected. Being set up as an agricultural museum and community workshop
- Improvements to local toilet facilities underway

**Environmental Issues:**

*What is the issue?*
- Water conservation – continual drawing on water table with little regard for future generations
- Irrigation methods need to be reviewed
- Weed infestation on public roads
- Result of intensive farming on our environment
- Rubbish on roadsides
- Cleaning of roadsides of dangerous trees, limbs and undergrowth.
- Avon River very dirty.

*Who are the stakeholders?*
- Local residents, farmers, local businesses, WSC, SRW, DSE, DPI, Vic Roads, CMA, Landcare

**What are our priorities?**
- Assist the community with projects
- Liaise with agencies on behalf of the community

**What actions will we take?**
- Liaise with Landcare, CFA, CMA where necessary
- Encourage community to participate in “Clean-up Australia Days” or develop a Community Clean-up roadside project

**What has been achieved so far?**
- Discussed Clean-up roadside project through Boisdale & District Progress Association. To begin in 2009
- Discussed weed infestation with Landcare and WSC officers
- CFA attending permit burns on roadside areas
- Avon River becoming cleaner in twelve months following fire and flood event.

Sunrise over Valencia Creek

Sunset over Boisdale
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE ISSUES FROM SURVEY RESULTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traffic Issues: (20) (responses)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speed of traffic through Main Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase of heavy vehicles and trucks, noise and vibration on town houses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large trucks on our rural roads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray Goulburn trucks drive too fast</td>
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<td>Windscreen damage from speeding trucks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danger with speeding trucks and school buses on narrow roads.</td>
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<td>Noise from increased no. of trail bike riders on roads and properties</td>
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<td>Cars parking on wrong side of road.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transport / Road Issues : (20)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of transport during weekends and holidays, particularly at night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valencia Creek bridge hazard to cyclists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of public transport for young people to access local towns, training, work opportunities, Inability of school buses to provide transport for youth and elderly, as well as students,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of signage &amp; bus shelters at designated bus stops – difficult for motorists on narrow country roads. Wombat Rd, Valencia Creek, heavy traffic areas on gravel road, corrugations and infrequent grading, frequent requests to seal road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor maintenance on Back Valencia Creek Road.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Boisdale road needs maintenance, road verge non existent in places, frequent truck usage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuntin Road, narrow and dangerous with heavy vegetable farming transport and school bus usage,</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lack of Youth Services: (8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricting access to motor bike riders at the old tip site reduces activities for young people and their families, encourages them to leave this area and find other localities, which are not as safe and close to medical facilities.</td>
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<td><strong>Lack of Facilities:</strong></td>
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Tan bark in playground needs replacing
Develop web site for our community
Only meeting neighbours when there is a bush fire threat

Environmental Issues:
Water conservation – continual drawing on water table with little regard for future generations
Irrigation methods need to be reviewed
Weed infestation on public roadsides
Result of intensive farming on our environment
Rubbish on roadsides
Cleaning of roadsides of dangerous trees, limbs and under growth
Avon river very dirty

Other Issues:
No fuel outlet in town
Unsupervised dogs in Main Street/ barking dogs in town

Great Ideas for Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek: From survey results –

Would you like to be involved with any of these ideas?

Bike path from town to school for students and walkers
Walking track around Boisdale / Footpaths in town
 Beautification – Avenue of trees into Boisdale, welcoming banners into township
Walking trail along Avon River
More tourist attractions – postcards of Boisdale – great gardens, great heritage area
Upgrade and maintenance of playground
Flashing 60 km signs / something to slow cars down
Sealing of Wombat Road, Valencia Creek
Further improvements to Valencia Creek Hall and CFA shed
More community get-togethers, low cost events for families / open days at CFA, Hall, meet the local MP’s / Shire Councillors and Officers
Community bus
Youth get-togethers / activities / Venue for teenagers to meet
Opportunities and support for young mothers in community and new residents
Men’s Shed / workshops / teaching skills
Getting more people involved in local groups
“Retirement village”
Squash Court, Library,
More drive – in theatre events at Rec Reserve / Film nights at the hall / theme nights at the hall
Pub for Boisdale!
Farmer’s markets
Promotion of township, ie. Tidy Towns
Another commercial development – shop (2), ? co-operative, get some business back from Maffra
Newsletter to include Valencia Creek residents
Natural gas for Boisdale
Heritage protection for stables building / Stables building as a community project
Tennis Club revived
More uses of local churches – singing groups / Youth activities
Rec. Reserve used as a Caravan Park / Mobile Home stop over
Cottage industries eg, cottage plants, herbs, bulbs, 2nd hand furniture, coffee and tea shop
Develop web site for our community
**About our Community: Boisdale Youth Action Group**

Young people identified the following things that they would like to see happen. The Boisdale & District Progress Association and other community groups are working with the youth to achieve some of these objectives:

- Weekly Tennis Comp
- Outdoor Movies \³**March 2009**
- Cooking Classes
- Youth Area – ³**Stables & Tennis Clubrooms will be available to Youth**
- Table Tennis – ³**Now at stables**
- Badminton
- Fitness Classes - ³**Commenced 2008**
- Music Classes
- Stencil Art
- Foam Pit
- Town Dinner Party
- Community garden - ³**beginning**
- Better Basketball Hoop
- Trampoline
- Mosaic Wall - ³**being planned**
- BBQ
- Bus Service ³**Dec/Jan Summer Bus**
- Community Pet
- Pool Table
- Dancing Classes
- Yoga Classes – ³**Tai Chi and Exercises at the Hall**
- Circus Workshop
- Tennis Net Poles – ³**being repaired**
### Boisdale Youth Group Top 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Votes</th>
<th>BBQ Area</th>
<th>Bus service</th>
<th>Inside Stables</th>
<th>Netball Shed</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>8</td>
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**Top 4**

1. **Issue: Bus Service for the area**

**Actions:** Transport survey conducted through local school. Summer holiday bus service initiated on a trial basis for Dec-Jan 2007-2008. Service secured again for 2008-2009, three times per week return to Sale, connects with bus to Seaspray.

2. **Renovate Tennis/Basketball shed**

**Actions:** Grant applied for through FRRR Gardiner Foundation, $3500 obtained to renovate tennis/netball clubrooms. Youth team will be involved in the plans and the renovation process.

3. **Inside Stables area: (Youth Space)**

**Actions:** Youth currently involved in working bees at Stables. Youth representative on Stables committee. Table-tennis table donated to Stables.

4. **Barbecue area:**

**Actions:** Volunteer Grant applied for a bar-be-cue for the Stables, if successful can be utilised by local organisations and youth functions.
5. Mosiac Wall:
**Actions:** Consultation with Youth Liaison Team and WSC Gallery Dept.
Currently in planning stage
Possible mosaic mural in updated toilet facilities or mosaic pathway in community garden

6. Community Garden:
**Actions:** Small area of land offered to youth group – between original blacksmith shop and Stables building
Members of Progress Association and Stables Committee assisting young people with the project
Large vegetable crates to be filled with soil and used for planting

![Youth Group team](image1.jpg)

A bright spark!

**Community bar-becue and bonfire evening at Boisdale November 2007**
About our community: Emergency Planning

Following the fire and flood events of 2006 - 2007 and the previous flood of 1990 which devastated the Boisdale community, we have been researching methods of protecting and better preparing our residents for future emergency events. Our aim is to seek ways in which our residents can help themselves and others in emergencies, while recognizing the important role of local CFA units, DSE, SRW, Gippsland Water, Police, SES and other outside agencies. We will build emergency planning into our draft community plan, with input from the community, outside agencies and local groups and organizations.

Fires 2006-2007

Floods waters at Boisdale 2007

The Community Emergency Plan document for Boisdale, Bushy Park & Valencia Creek will be an appendix to this document

Valencia Creek in flood

14th December 2006 (Black Thursday)
The Boisdale & District Progress Association, the Community Representative Group for Boisdale, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek, meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Clubrooms at 7.30pm. Contact Kevin Killeen 51454287 or Helen Montague 51454207

Neighbourhood Watch updates will be included with these meetings, contact Kevin and Marion Killeen on 51454287 or the Briagolong Police Station on 51455213

“Boisdale News”, our local community newsletter, is published monthly and available from the General store / Post Office. Editor Des Sinnott can be contacted on 51454383. Contributions are most welcome.

Boisdale Hall Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Hall at 8pm. Social events and activities are regularly planned at the hall and are advertised through the Boisdale Post Office and in the Newsletter. Contact Jim and Elsie Allen 51454226

Valencia Soldiers’ Memorial Hall Committee – Contact Gary Rose on 51454428 or Susan Noble on 51454306 for hall bookings

Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee meetings are held prior to the Boisdale Hall meeting every 2nd month. Contact Greg Allen 51454379 or Daryl Bedggood 51454261

Card Evenings are held at the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Clubrooms every Monday night at 8.00pm. Contact Daryl Bedggood 51454261

Boisdale-Briagolong Football/Netball Club play at the Boisdale Football oval. Training is on Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Many social events occur at the Recreation Reserve Clubrooms during the football season. Netball training is held Thursday evenings during the football season for all age groups. Contact Darren Renooy or Tina Howson on 51454339 or Clubrooms on 51452270

Boisdale Tennis Courts are available for social tennis. Key for Club house available at General Store

Boisdale CFA Unit Contact Captain Phillip Sim 51454250
Valencia CFA Contact Captain Ian Callow 51454358

Boisdale & District Garden Club meet at private homes or at the Hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month @ 2pm. Contact Robyn Ashley 51454471

Boisdale Red Cross Unit meets 2-3rd monthly at the Hall or in member’s homes. Contact Helen Montague 51454207 or Kathy Crooke 51471876

Boisdale Stables Committee manage the community owned stable building in the Main Street. If you would like to see through the building or be involved in this project contact John Lees 51454110 or Helen Montague 51454207

Boisdale & District Youth Action Group – an initiative of the Wellington Shire Council Youth Team, youth involved in many local projects. Contact Jasmine Lima 51454288

Boisdale Exercise Group – classes, including Tai Chi, held at the Boisdale Hall on Mondays. Contact Robyn Ashley 51454471

Boisdale History Group – Has an Archive Unit at the Boisdale Hall, responsible for preserving and collating local history. Contact Helen Montague – 51454207
Upper Avon LandCare Group, for information on meetings or current projects contact Kevin and Marion Killeen 51454287 or Gary Rose 51454428
The Boisdale Consolidated School is a wonderful educational facility attracting students from Boisdale and surrounding districts. The school commenced in 1951 when seven small, local schools closed and students travelled by bus to this new complex. It is beautifully maintained, with its own undercover swimming pool and farmlet attached. Contact School Principal or the Office Manager - on 51454391

Church Services are held in St George’s Anglican Church, Boisdale (next to cross roads) on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 2pm.
Contact Arch. Russell Macqueen 51471056 or Helen Montague 51454207
Uniting Church Services are held at Boisdale and Valencia Creek at appointed times. Contact Rev.Sandra Houghton 51471325 or Mrs Pat Malcolm 51454364

Boisdale & District Hill Climb – operates at the hill climb site at the Boisdale Reserve.

Avon Flood Information Booklets are available at the General Store.

Boisdale Post Office & General Store - Alan & Marcia Clayton 51454223

Boisdale Garage - Laurie & Mary Smith 51454231
Appendix A.

What is a Community Plan?
A Community Plan is a document produced by a community which identifies and addresses the broadly held social, physical and economic priorities of that community. Its objective is to collect information from the broad community and arrange it in a way that governing bodies such as Councils and Community Service agencies can use.

Community Plans aim to:
- Give your community direction or focus
- Consider wider issues than normal
- Develop the capacity to work together
- Build community spirit and cohesion
- Develop communication links with local Government

The Community Planning Process aims to engage with those sections of the community that are generally hard to reach, such as youth, aged and those less mobile or unavailable during traditional community engagement times. Additionally it makes recommendations to help achieve the aspirations of the community.

Why do we need a Community Plan?
A Community Plan enables communities to plan for their future; it provides the basis for the community to work with Council and other government and non-government organisations for funds or support as well as increasing the capacity, ownership, trust and co-operation of the community.

Wellington Shire Council has committed to support Wellington communities in developing Community Plans through the Community Representative Group (CRG) process, which provides a Facilitator and administrative support to town based steering committees. Council has paved a way to integrate Community Plan priorities, which fall within Council responsibility, into Council’s Strategic Planning and Budgeting process.

Community Plans have a formal acceptance date that is prefaced by a Councillor review and comment period. Business Unit Managers are required to comment on the status of the priority, if it is an existing action within a Business Plan or if it is to be included into future Business Plans.

Priorities outside Council’s responsibility are referred to the Wellington Resource Network, a group of State Government representatives, linked to the Community Representative Group process.

Community Plans are a powerful tool for community use. The Community Plan information collation process, the research involved and the increased understanding about what is important to the community as a whole, has been proven to strengthen the social fabric of the community and attract partnerships to further priority items.

*Communities that work together and strive for broad community representation, will achieve far more than those who wait for it to happen.*
Appendix B.

Community Plans Review

Wellington Shire Council is supporting the production of Community Plans in up to 20 communities throughout the Shire during the Community Representative Group (CRG) project 2006-2009.

The Community Representative Group project aims to see groups established who capture the thoughts and visions of an entire community, and seek ways of accomplishing these priorities.

These Community Plans will be received by Council and a formal process undertaken to establish which of the community’s priorities will be able to be actively supported by Council. Other priorities within the Plans may be the responsibility of other stakeholders and Council may be able to connect the community with these stakeholders.

This Community Plan has been designed to be current until 2012. Review should be undertaken in 2009, prior to the end of the CRG project, thus allowing the plan to be modified to reflect current community values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Plan Review</th>
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<td>Date completed-</td>
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<td>Working Group Members</td>
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