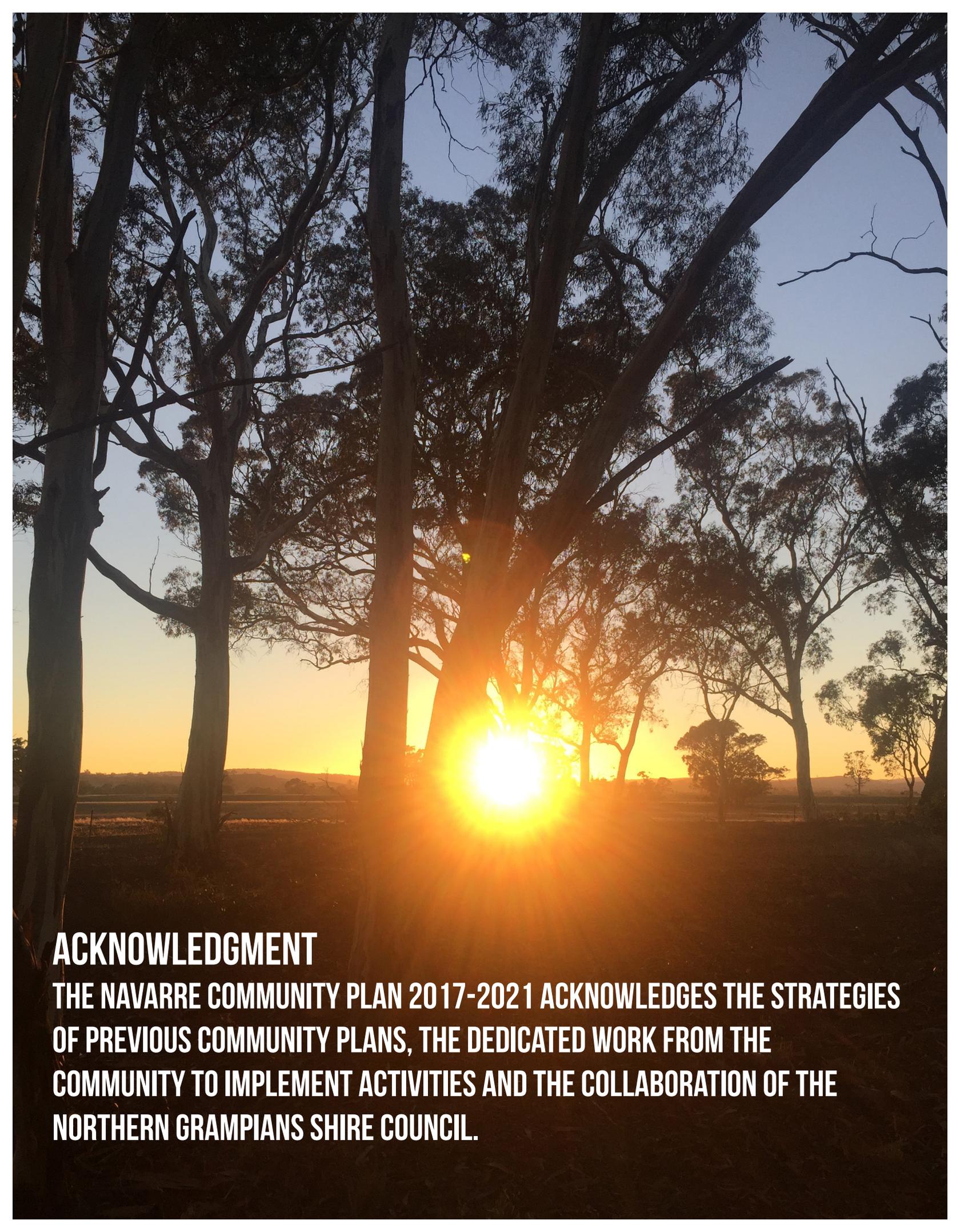


NAVARRE COMMUNITY PLAN

2017-21





ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE NAVARRE COMMUNITY PLAN 2017-2021 ACKNOWLEDGES THE STRATEGIES OF PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PLANS, THE DEDICATED WORK FROM THE COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND THE COLLABORATION OF THE NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL.

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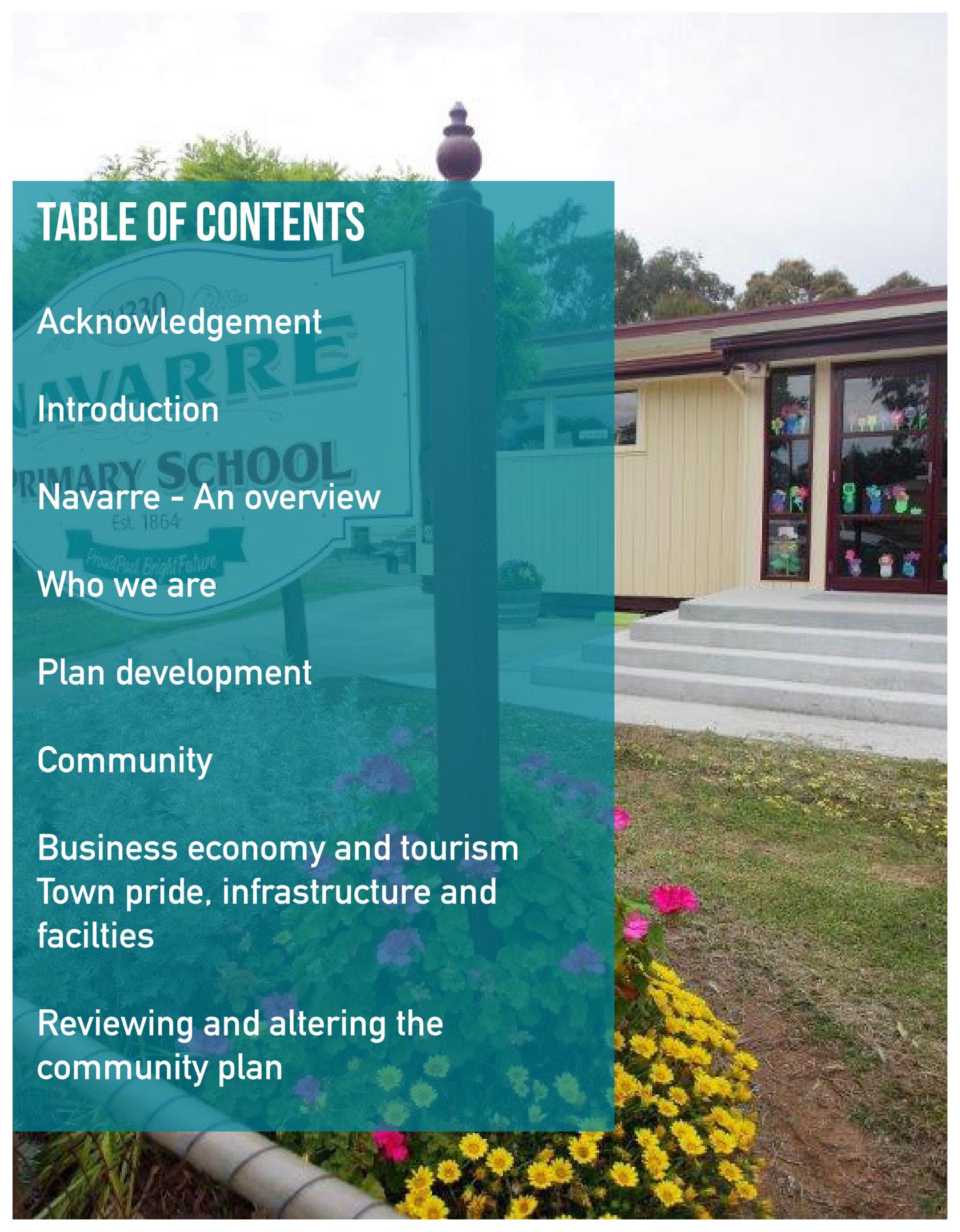
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INTRODUCTION

Communities throughout the Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) have been supported by Council to develop a Community Plan. Community Planning brings local people together to decide how they want their community to evolve. Each Community Plan is a unique living document that acts as a community resource used to drive action and advocate for community's needs. The Plan also acts as a lever to attract and secure financial support and partnerships with all tiers of government, non-government, private business and a range of community organisations. A Community Plan belongs to the community it serves. The plan can be updated, changed and adjusted as the community sees fit. The Community Plan is also the responsibility of the community to which it belongs. Identified

priorities and activities will only be realised when community members initiate action. In February 2017, NGSC engaged external consultant, Bronwyn Bant, to facilitate a community meeting with Navarre residents independently of NGSC to begin the creation of a new Community Plan. This is the third? Community Plan for Navarre, with the last plan developed in 2010. Some notable achievements have been made since the implementation of the previous plan (insert notable achievements), which have contributed towards achieving the Navarre vision. A second meeting, facilitated by Bronwyn Bant in March 2017 gave community planning participants the opportunity to review the draft Community Plan, and amend content.

NAVARRE

Navarre is centrally located in the NGSC region, midway between the two main NGSC townships of Stawell and St Arnaud. Navarre was established on the banks of Wattle Creek, the northern most tributary of the Wimmera River. During the gold rush years in the early 1800s Navarre was on the old Cobb & Co. route and part of the gold escort run from Adelaide to Castlemaine.





Today, Navarre is a small rural town surrounded by some of the Councils most valuable agricultural land. The township is linear in shape, following the Stawell-Avoca Road. Navarre boasts a community co-op which operates as a post-office, service station, general store and licensed bottle shop. Navarre also has a Primary School, Public Hall, Recreation Reserve including a grand stand and the Navarre Museum which opened in 2014. Navarre has a strong and thriving sporting community with football, netball, cricket and horse riding all well represented in the district.

Community members from young to old are involved in sport-affiliated activities, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of participants.

There are also a number of active community groups such as the Navarre Historical Society, Hall Committee, and religious ladies group.





WHO WE ARE

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 census data, the Navarre district has a population of 241 people, with an almost even spread of men and women. Christianity was the only religion represented, with 189 participants affiliated with the Christian religion. Thirty-one people identified as being non-religious. The median age was 45, and the median total weekly income was \$1,297. The 2011 ABS census data indicated that volunteerism was greatest in the 45-74 years of age bracket. At the time of the census, 76 people stated they worked full-time, 31 people worked part time, 6

people were unemployed and 69 people indicated they were not in the workforce. 74 people in the Navarre district had attained qualifications from certificate to post graduate degree level. 183 people had lived at the same address for more than five years. It was noted at the Community Planning meeting that since the 2011 ABS census, participants believed the population had aged, resulting in an increase in the average age of volunteers. This was compounded by a low birth rate in the community.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Community Planning participants completed a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities & Threats Analysis (SWOT), identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing Navarre, documented in the diagram below.

STRENGTHS

- Community spirit
- Willing hands
- Football club (cricket, netball, horse riding)
- Primary school
- Rural environment
- Post Office/shop
- Hall
- Community pride
- Good place to live and work
- Accessibility to nearby towns (St Arnaud, Stawell, Avoca)
- Safe place to raise children and have a childhood
- Family Day Care
- Before & after school care.

WEAKNESSES

- Telstra phone reception
- Lack of housing
- No public toilets
- Grants hard to come by
- Lack of young families
- Internet connection is an issue for some
- Minimal employment opportunities
- Young people moving away from the district
- Hard to get people to attend meetings
- Challenging to get young people involved
- Same people always volunteering
- Aging population
- New residents often retirees.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Coordinated promotional strategy
- Promotion of facilities
- Community directory
- Succession planning (mentoring)
- Tourism
- Welcoming newcomers
- Outside events generate income
- Training events for farmers

THREATS

- Aging population
- Very few young families – low birth rate
- Internet (away from main street)
- Social isolation (if you're not interested in sport)
- Doing nothing.

After completion of the SWOT Analysis, participants were encouraged to use their identified strengths to overcome threats, and make the most of identified opportunities. Participants were also encouraged to be creative and resourceful, but also realistic to ensure identified strategies were achievable. In the tables below, Community Planning participants have used the SWOT analysis to identify a number of community needs and issues, and have articulated strategies to address these. The strategies have been divided into the interlinked themes of:

- Community
- Business, Economy and Tourism
- Town Pride, Infrastructure and Facilities.

The issue given the highest priority by community planning participants was the need for public toilets. Given the substantial costs associated with this type of infrastructure, the community will need to apply considerable effort to raise the required funds.

The Community Plan relies on the Navarre community to act as leaders, ensuring that strategies identified within the plan are acted upon. Strategies within the plan can only be achieved through partnership, support and investment by Local, State and Federal Governments, and private business.

COMMUNITY

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
Increase the number of community events (Table tennis, cards, board games, 8-Ball, trivia night were events suggested during the Community Planning meeting)	Reduce social isolation Increase the number of community members volunteering and reduce volunteer burden	Hall Committee Form a start-up committee	Self-funding	Regular events
Development of a Navarre Promotional Strategy to be distributed to locals and newcomers	Lack of awareness of the assets, services & events offered in Navarre Assist to encourage new families to the area	Navarre Primary School Navarre Community	Printing costs if hard copies are produced	Medium term – 6 months
Development of Community Directory	Lack of awareness of the assets, services & events offered in Navarre	Navarre Primary School Navarre Community	Printing costs if hard copies are produced	Medium term

COMMUNITY *continued*

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
Increase the size of the community notice board at the entrance to the Navarre General Store/explore moving the Landcare notice board to a more prominent location	Increase the amount of room available to promote and advertise local news & events Lack of awareness of the assets, services & events offered in Navarre	Navarre General Store	Low cost	Medium term
Advocate for the continuation of healthcare services available within Navarre	Equitable access to services & reduce social isolation	Navarre Community Stawell Regional Health	Not applicable	Short term
Advocate for the continuation and promotion of the Stawell Regional Health, Allied Health Community Bus	Equitable access to services & reduce social isolation	Navarre Community Stawell Regional Health	Not applicable	Short term

BUSINESS, ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Establish a free camping area for caravans (RV Friendly Town Endorsement) Caravan site selection requires consideration	Increase visitation numbers & inject money into the local economy	NGSC State Government Recreation Reserve Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia	Funding for dump point	Short term
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BUSINESS, ECONOMY AND TOURISM *continued*

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
<p>Establish a free camping area for caravans (RV Friendly Town Endorsement)</p> <p>Caravan site selection requires consideration</p>	<p>Increase visitation numbers & inject money into the local economy</p>	<p>NGSC</p> <p>State Government</p> <p>Recreation Reserve</p> <p>Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia</p>	<p>Funding for dump point</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Develop walking tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navarre Hill • Town Walk • Old cemetery near hall 	<p>Provide additional recreation activities for tourists</p> <p>Increase visitation numbers</p> <p>Provide walking paths for locals to promote health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Navarre Community</p> <p>NGSC</p> <p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)</p>	<p>Funding required for:</p> <p>Track building materials</p> <p>Development of walking track map</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>River Crossing Landmate to help build track crew</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>Increase area available for parking bays at the Navarre shop for trucks and caravans</p>	<p>Inject money into the local economy</p> <p>Increase the number of people stopping in Navarre</p> <p>Create local job opportunities</p> <p>Encourage new families to move to Navarre</p>	<p>Co-Op Committee members</p> <p>Landholder</p>	<p>Sealing of parking bay</p> <p>Lease agreement</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Provide residence with Navarre shop</p>	<p>Encourage new family to Navarre</p> <p>Support Navarre Primary School</p>	<p>Navarre Shop Co-Op committee members & shareholders</p>	<p>Approx. \$200,000</p>	<p>Next 12 months – 2 years</p>

TOWN PRIDE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
Explore the potential of public toilets being built in the Navarre main stree	Encourage travellers to stop & make use of other Navarre community assets & encourage visitation expenditure Growing need for public toilets; community services transport travels through Navarre regularly as do transport drivers & tourists	Navarre Community NGSC	Approx. \$200,000 Funding Sources: Local fundraising Philanthropic grants In-kind support from Navarre community	Short term
Road Maintenance	Keep roads safe for traffic Ensure roads are safe for trucks and caravans	Navarre Community Vic Roads/ NGSC?	Not applicable	Short term
Advocate for signage to Recreation Reserve at the cemetery corner	Safe driving	Recreation Reserve Committee Navarre Community Vic Roads/NGSC	Not applicable	Short term
Advocate for sign repairs to damaged Vic Roads signage	Safe driving	Vic Roads Navarre Community	Not applicable	Short term
Repair and maintenance of tennis courts	Promote health and wellbeing	Navarre Sports Association Navarre Community	In-kind support from local volunteers	Short term

TOWN PRIDE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES *continued*

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
Ongoing maintenance and upgrades of public spaces	<p>Navarre Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen upgrade • Toilet upgrade • Spilt system heating and air conditioning <p>Navarre Recreation Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New carpet in sports club room • New flooring in wet areas • Toilet grab rails to ensure facilities are inclusive and accessible to all abilities • Repair hot water service in women's change rooms • Upgrade football & netball change rooms • Provision of storage for chairs • Netball practice ring/half court • Widening of ramp and rails on ramp 	<p>Navarre Hall Committee</p> <p>Recreation Reserve Committee</p> <p>Ladies football and netball auxiliary</p>	<p>Approx. \$100,000</p> <p>Ladies football and netball auxiliary to discuss funding of railing for ramp at their next meeting</p>	Medium term
	Electronic scoreboard			

TOWN PRIDE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES *continued*

Activity/ Strategy	Need/issue addressed	Key stakeholders	Funding required	Timeframe
Design & install playground at Recreation Reserve	Encourage participation from young families	Navarre Sports Association Netball & Football Club Auxiliary NGSC Sport & Recreation	Private donations NGSC Sport & Rec Navarre Sports Association	2018
Historic Signage Project	Increase tourism	Navarre Community Navarre Museum	NGSC Arts and Culture Grant	Medium term

REVIEWING & ALTERING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Participants at the five-year Community Planning meeting agreed to review and update the plan after two and a half years.

The residents of the Navarre community own the Community Plan. Alteration to the plan requires public process to change any part already adopted at previous public meetings.

This public process ensures that all community groups have an opportunity to assess changes at any time and to authorise any alterations to strategies as a result of changes to community interests or circumstances.

It is also the responsibility of the community to initiate the strategies they have identified within the plan, and seek support where required.