

Navarre Community



PLANNING
STRATEGY

2021-25



ABOUT THE PLAN

The Navarre Community Planning Strategy provides ideas for activities, and actions to guide direction for community led initiatives, alignment to council's strategic plans, and to guide decision making for infrastructure, community programs and service delivery over the next four years.

"The Navarre Community Planning Strategy is not just a document for document's sake. As one community member expressed 'Ideas need to be acted upon.'"

The definition of a plan is a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something. The Plan is a place-based action plan that articulates the desired local priority projects to support Navarre to thrive.

As members of the community articulated at a community meeting the purpose of the Plan is to:

- Move the township and community forward into a stronger and vital component of the shire.
- Develop a focused direction from the community for the community.
- Keep the town going ahead and attract people to the town.

Navarre residents display a profound sense of community spirit, shown by how the community works together to get things done and the caring nature towards each other especially in times of adversity. The generational influence in passing down acceptable behavior and traditions remains strong and has directed how the town functions and operates today.

Although there is concern in Navarre that the population is ageing, and employment opportunities, housing and transport options are limited, Navarre has many opportunities such as tourism, expansion of the shop, possibilities of local and regional events, growth of the primary school with before and after school care and a first-class sporting facility.

Previous plan – 2017-21

Achievements resulting from the 2017-21 Plan:

- Toilet block in the center of town
- Installation of a playground at the recreation reserve
- Pie warmers and an urn for the Navarre Memorial Hall
- Installation of carpet and new flooring in the wet areas at the recreation reserve
- Landsborough and District News being a staple for local information.



Actions outstanding from the 2017-21 plan include:

- Holding regular community events to reduce isolation
- Community communication (notice board, information for new residents)
- RV friendly town
- Signage
- Hall upgrades
- Historical walks.

Development of the 2021-25

The 2021-25 plan has been influenced by outcomes of the Navarre Community Plan 2017-21, information collected at a community meeting with 16 residents attending, a meeting with parents at the Navarre Primary School, in-depth conversations with representatives from the various committees and informal conversations with community members.

The development and implementation of the Plan is a two staged process.



The first stage which has resulted in the development of this document provides community aspirations and options for implementation. The second stage facilitated by council involves setting priorities and the development of an annual action plan for each of the years the Plan is in operation.

Once priorities are identified community members will be asked to identify which projects they wish to lead. A project plan for the community member to utilise will be developed and council's role determined. Council's role will vary depending on need, desired outcome, and relationship to council's strategic work.

Underpinning the development of the Plan is the sentiment that locally developed solutions are essential for successful projects.

Throughout the consultation period it was suggested regular communication between council and community members is integral to implementation of the Plan.

Implementation of the 2021-25 plan

Council and community share ownership and responsibility of the Plan, providing context for focused effort and investment in time, money, and resources. To assist the current ideas and aspirations to result in successful outcomes for the community a dedicated group of community members to support the

priority setting process, project allocation and oversee the Plan's progress is desirable, and will be encouraged and supported by council

Themes of the 2021-25 Plan

The suggested strategies in the 2021-25 plan are designed to:

- Assist the community to stay connected
- Continue to grow the towns vibrancy

The key areas for further development include:

- Community strengthening
- Economy, Business and Tourism
- Infrastructure and Facilities

All themes are integral to strengthening what already exists in Navarre while also allowing for adaptation to an ever-changing environment. The following information under each of the themes describes the components within them to be strengthened or enabled to adapt in some way. Suggested community and council roles are considered with the intention for these to be broadened as ideas and projects are initiated and implemented.

See Appendix 1 for the Action Plan summary tables.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

Navarre residents have a rich history of helping each other and getting things done. The Christian Ladies' group is testament of this, with the group engaging in organising afternoon teas to helping grieving families.

The Navarre Primary School, close to closing two years ago, has opened its door to the broader community by holding community dinners and activities for the whole of community.

In recent years there have been new residents to the town providing a younger demographic and differing needs. To continue the rich history of community spirit residents believe having local events, a variety of activity options for children, support for new residents and effective communication within the town will enable Navarre to maintain and grow its appeal.



Local events

A range of events usually takes place in Navarre including Australia Day celebrations, a meal, and a function at home games during football/netball season, community dinners at the school and a variety of fundraising events by the Historical Society. Due to the pandemic affecting any community connection during 2020, the importance of local options and opportunities is integral to the fabric of Navarre over the next four years.

Community role: Understand community needs, identify groups to lead and hold events, trial events, promotion and seek fundraising opportunities beyond the Navarre Township.

Council role: Sharing of funding opportunities, capacity building through workshops and support opportunities for fundraising outside of Navarre.

Activities for children and young people

Living in a small town brings advantages such as a sense of community, peace and quiet and a sense of space, however it can also provide a barrier to access activities and services found in larger towns. Parents living locally spend many hours driving back and forth to either St Arnaud or Stawell to ensure their children have opportunities to engage in sport and recreational activities.

Having access to a variety of options for children and youth would assist parents to spend less time on the road, strengthen community connections for those attending and add to the appeal of living in Navarre for new families.

Community role: Identify preferred

options and opportunities, communicate needs to services in the shire.

Council role: Sharing of funding opportunities, advocacy through networks regarding Navarre's need for child/youth-focused activities, information on local services on council's website.

Visiting health and community services

A range of Allied, Community Health and Home Care services are offered regularly in Navarre. Retaining these services provides equality and access to essential health services for existing residents of all ages. Access to health services reduces the impact of rural isolation. Accessible health and community services will assist in attracting newcomers to the community. Options for access will expand with Stawell Regional Health offering tele-health appointments.

Community role: Communication with services regarding community needs, provision of information to a strategy to support health care needs and access.

Council role: Development of a strategy around residents needs and ability to access health services/specialists and advocacy to health services on community needs in an annual meeting with Stawell Regional Health, East Wimmera Health Service and Grampians Community Health.

Navarre Primary School

The Navarre Primary School is a thriving small rural school attracting families from within Navarre township and beyond, including St Arnaud. In 2018 the school was close to closing however with determination and community spirit the school has continued to operate while also establishing a before and after school facility to enhance the appeal and service the needs of the local families. Parents believe a kindergarten facility would be another practical and convenient service. The school has become a center for community connection holding community dinners and engaging with the entire community to connect and be involved with the school.

Community role: Provide a space for the general community to connect regularly, explore options of kinder services, strengthen before and after school care.

Council role: Support school to advocate to DEET on future priorities and needs, small school promotions, inform of and support grants.



Community communication

Navarre residents utilise the volunteer published monthly Landsborough and District News for local updates and information. The shop notice board similarly ensures events and important updates are shared. The Navarre Football and Netball club and Navarre & District Historical Society both utilise Facebook pages open to the broader community. Communication in a rural town is integral to community functioning and is important for new residents to connect.

An increase in the uptake of Landsborough and District News and the amount of room available for information to be displayed on local notice boards have been identified and important to continuing how residents stay connected and informed.

Community role: Continue to provide content and purchase the Landsborough and district news.

Council role: Explore best options for a notice board including electronic, installation of a notice board, share funding opportunities, consideration of information provided on NGSC website to assist with community members having up to date information.





Council communication

Relevant information and updates from Northern Grampians Shire Council will assist with ensuring residents are informed of the latest information and progress on town and service improvement. An enhanced focus on communication from the council is considered a necessity by community members to ensure a viable future for the town.

Community role: Identification of a suitable committee or group to liaise with the council, utilisation of council communication platforms, utilisation of regular communication channels with the council.

Council role: Regular communication with Community Development staff, review of the Plan annually, utilisation of Landsborough and District News for council updates and information, explore opportunities of radio promotion for council events, development of a local email list for the township and regular updates for NGSC Councilors.

Engaging new residents

Ensuring and enabling new residents to feel welcomed and well informed on local and shire wide opportunities and services is important to the existing Navarre community. The development of a method and means of providing the information is important.

Community role: Identified community group to lead, contribute to information and develop a distribution method.

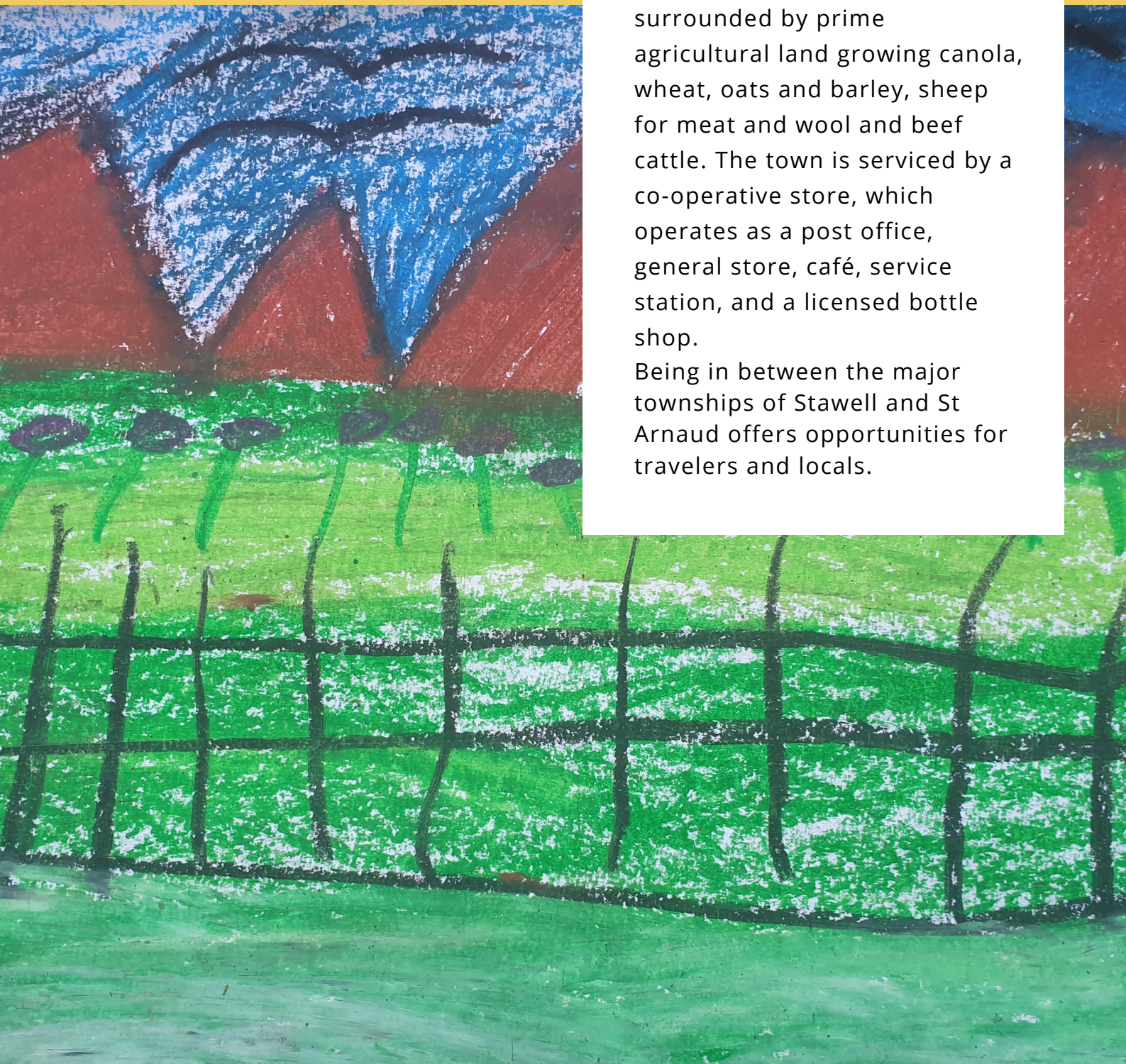
Council role: Guidance regarding information options and methods, locating funding opportunities and provision of relevant information through NGSC website.



ECONOMY BUSINESS TOURISM

Navarre is a farming community, surrounded by prime agricultural land growing canola, wheat, oats and barley, sheep for meat and wool and beef cattle. The town is serviced by a co-operative store, which operates as a post office, general store, café, service station, and a licensed bottle shop.

Being in between the major townships of Stawell and St Arnaud offers opportunities for travelers and locals.



Navarre Shop

The Navarre community understands the importance and necessity of having a shop forming a co-op in 1994 enabling the shop to operate. To ensure it continues to service residents, commuters, and travelers it is time to re-strategise and explore opportunities to grow and service the current needs of customers.

Community role: Identify options to package a house into the lease, assist lease holder to prepare the business for sale.

Council role: Support identification of housing options, business support in the form of assistance with business plans, managing contracts and succession planning and helping with permits.

Free camping / RV friendly town

Opportunities have been identified to increase visitation numbers and inject money into the local economy. Due to the location of Navarre travelers already stop to utilise the convenience of the shop and some take advantage of the isolated nature of the recreational reserve and its facilities. Due to places such as St Arnaud and Rupanyup featuring silo art, Navarre has the potential of benefiting from the Silo Art tourist route. Simple solutions such as exploring opportunities for a dump station, installing appropriate signage and targeted promotion could assist in making Navarre a desired stop for a larger number of travelers.

Community role: Explore opportunities for locations and requirements for recognition to be a RV friendly town.

Council role: Guidance on successful models and requirements and informing

of funding opportunities.

Develop a historical walking trail

A formal historical walking track would provide an additional recreational activity for tourists while also promoting health and wellbeing to locals. Navarre is full of rich history dating from the mid-1800's as a place for miners to stop on their way to find gold to an important service town with a railway station.

Community role: Inform the design and development.

Council role: Guidance and information on layout and design, permits and sourcing and sharing of funding opportunities.

Increase number of events highlighting Navarre

With the recreation reserve, the Memorial Hall, Navarre Primary School, a museum, and a picturesque main street offering facilities Navarre could host events that not only highlight Navarre but highlight the region.

Community role: Development of ideas and leadership.

Council role: Guidance for ideas and opportunities, capacity building through support, locating funding opportunities.



Branding

Navarre and its surrounds produce high-quality grains, wool, and meat. With Navarre's history, location, and agricultural influence the town has the potential to successfully market itself not only to travelers but to future investors.

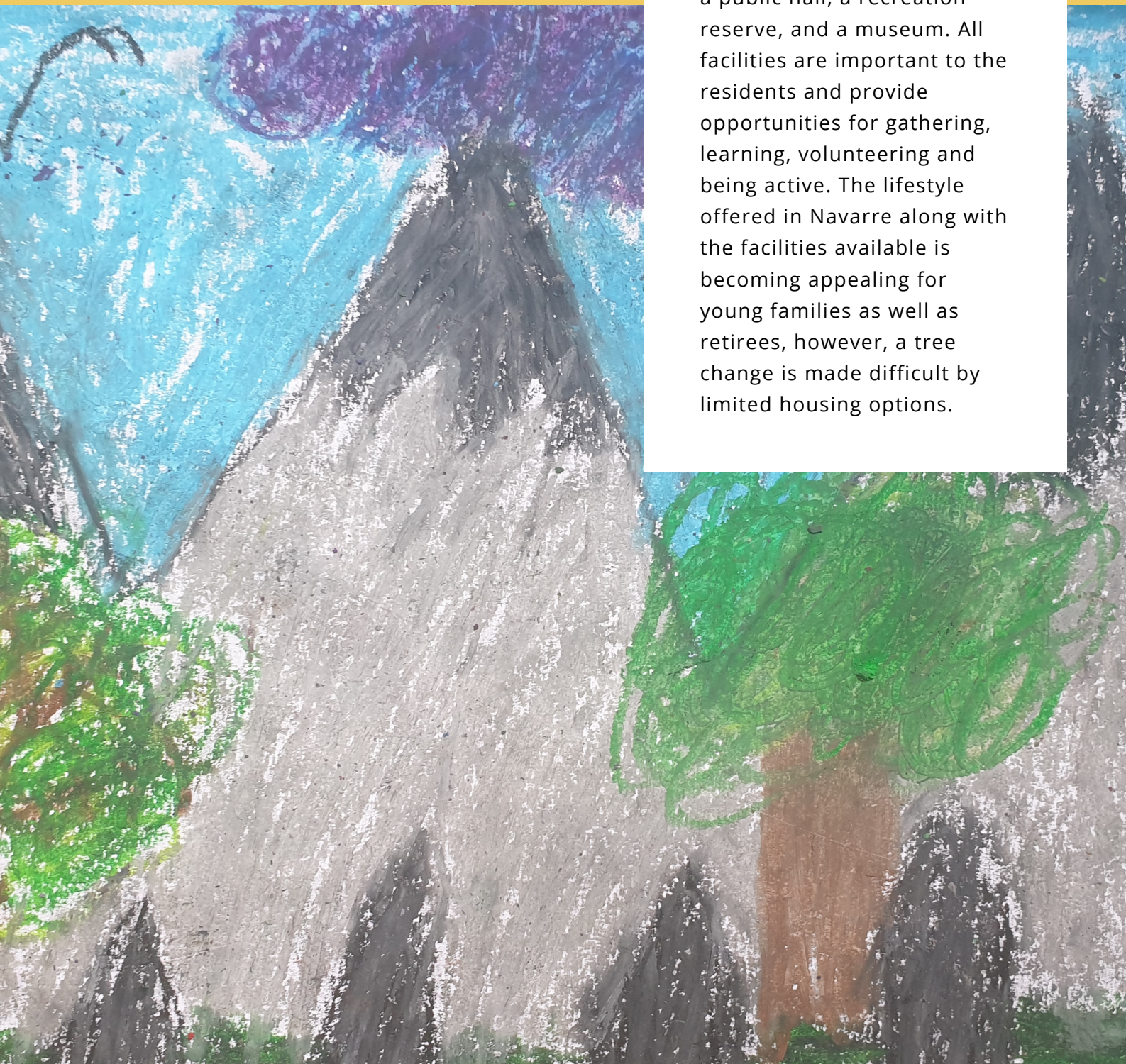
Community role: Inform, design, develop. Provide leadership.

Council role: Guidance and information on successful town branding, sharing of funding opportunities and capacity building.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Navarre has a primary school, a public hall, a recreation reserve, and a museum. All facilities are important to the residents and provide opportunities for gathering, learning, volunteering and being active. The lifestyle offered in Navarre along with the facilities available is becoming appealing for young families as well as retirees, however, a tree change is made difficult by limited housing options.



Housing

Residents are aware of the aging population in Navarre and have identified that for activities such as football and netball and services like the school to continue to operate Navarre needs to increase its population.

Community role: Inform and advise.

Council role: Advocacy to key local and state stakeholders.

Navarre Memorial Hall

The Navarre Memorial Hall was built in 1892 with some further additions in 1925 and the erection of the gates in 1948. The Department of Environment, Land use, Water and Planning (DELWP) as the land manager has delegated responsibility of the hall to the Navarre Hall Committee and continues to be an important location for the Navarre residents. The hall holds funerals, concerts, and weddings and with a kitchen upgrade and some general maintenance will continue to be a well-supported and utilised venue within the town.

Community role: Needs analysis, concept designs, costings/quotes.

Council role: Locate and share funding opportunities, guidance and support with needs analysis and funding strategy and support and guide communications with DELWP.



Recreation reserve

The recreation reserve is home of the Navarre Football Club which supports under 11, under 14's, under 17's, a reserve and a senior team and the Navarre Netball Association with a beginner program, under 11, under 13's, under 15's, under 17's, C, B and A grade and a cricket club with a B grade side.

A playground was installed at the reserve in 2019 to add to the family-friendly nature of the club and in 2019 the club rooms received new carpet and flooring. The reserve and its associated buildings are well utilised and to support the increased interest in the club and embrace new opportunities. A community-written master plan will ensure the reserve's continued use and future opportunities.

Community role: Implementation of a master plan in conjunction with the council, advocate for the inclusion of tennis courts.

Council role: Council acceptance of the master plan, implementation of key components of the master plan in conjunction with the recreation reserve committee, locating funding opportunities.



Drainage/Channeling

In heavy rains, water is known to bank up in several locations within the town such as the park, school, shop, and the hall. With some planning and useful design, the excess water can be re-directed back into Wattle Creek.

Community role: Inform.

Council role: Understand the issue, develop plan, advocate to DEWLP, complete identified works, regular updates of complaints and process going forward.

Navarre Community Park

The center of the Navarre town is well utilised by locals and travelers. With seating and a playground and more recently a toilet, the park is an important location in the township. The addition of a shade sail over the playground will ensure that sun smart standards are met, and the playground can be utilised in a range of weather situations.

Community role: Source funding.

Council role: Advice, guidance, installation of a shade sail.



Road surfaces and maintenance

An emphasis on keeping roads and roadsides safe for general, tourist and heavy traffic is of high importance. Maintaining local road infrastructure is important to agriculture in supporting the movement of large machinery and local commuting. Continual communication with council and VicRoads will ensure that the community needs are met in a timely manner. The provision of road upgrades and strengthening the methods of communication between residents are the main priorities to ensure the roads are useable and safe.

Community role: Utilise Snap, Send Solve app and inform VicRoads.

Council role: Provide updates on the council's maintenance schedule, advocacy to VicRoads.

Township entrance signs wayfinding signage

Navarre currently has basic town entrance signs and does not have directional signs to the major facilities such as the school, shop, and recreation reserve within the town. Entrance signs unique to Navarre and directions to facilities will enhance the town's appeal and community pride.

Community role: Prioritise sign projects. Inform, develop, and provide input into design.




Council role: Guidance on requirements and options and funding opportunities.





APPENDIX 1.

Navarre Community Planning Strategy summary 2021-25






Key: Level of community interest  A priority  Important  Good to have

Community Strengthening








Opportunities/ needs	Suggested strategies	Community role	Council role
Local events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Identify key group to oversee an events schedule ★ Each committee/group starts an event ★ School events open to the community ★ Link with other smaller towns e.g., Mamoo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Understand community needs ▫ Identify groups to hold events ▫ Trial events ▫ Promotion ▫ Fundraise outside of Navarre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Funding opportunities ▫ Capacity building through workshops/support ▫ Support opportunities for fundraising outside of Navarre
Activities for children/young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Encourage after school activities in Navarre for children and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Identify preferred options and opportunities ▫ Communicate needs to services & providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Share funding opportunities to support programs/activities ▫ Provide information on local services provided via NGSC website ▫ Advocate for activities /events for youth children to be held in Navarre through professional working groups/network meetings
Visiting health and community services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reintroduction of healthcare services available within Navarre ★ Develop two-way communication between services and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Communication with services regarding community needs ▫ Provide information to a strategy to support health care needs and access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Development of a strategy around residents needs and ability to access health services/specialists. ▫ Advocacy to Health Services on communities needs in an annual meeting with Stawell Regional Health, East Wimmera Health Service and Grampians Community Health
Navarre Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Sustainable options for daycare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Provide a space for the general community to connect regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Support school to advocate to DEET on

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Continue to assess the viability of a kindergarten ★ Connections with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explore options of kindergarten ◦ Strengthen before and after school care 	<p>future priorities and needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Small school promotions ◦ Inform and support grants
<p>Community communication</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Increase interest of Landsborough and District News ★ Increase the amount of room available for information to be displayed on local notice boards ★ Regular maintenance of the Navarre Shop notice board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Continue to provide content and purchase the Landsborough and district news. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explore options for a notice board including electronic or fixed ◦ Installation of a notice board ◦ Consideration of information provided on NGSC website for Navarre residents ◦ Share funding opportunities
<p>Council communication</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Utilise Landsborough and District News ◦ Utilise radio for council events ◦ Develop a local email list for Navarre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identification of a suitable committee or group to communicate with council ◦ Utilisation of regular communication platforms and channels with council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Utilisation of Landsborough and District News by media and communications workers for council updates and information ◦ Regular communication with Community Development workers, ◦ Review of community plan annually ◦ Development of a town email list ◦ Regular updates for NGSC Councilors
<p>Engaging new residents</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Develop new resident's information pack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identified community group to lead ◦ Contribute to information ◦ Develop a distribution method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Guidance regarding information options and methods ◦ Sharing funding opportunities ◦ Provision of relevant information through NGSC website

Economy, Business and Tourism

Opportunities/ needs	Suggested strategies	Community role	Council role
Navarre Shop 	Prepare and support the business to sell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify options to package a house into the lease Assist lease holder to prepare the business for sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact other Government Departments to investigate available housing options. Business support e.g., assistance with a business plan, managing contracts and succession planning helping with permits.
Free camping / RV friendly town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Assess option for dump station ★ Install appropriate signage ★ Advertise and promote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for locations and requirements needed for recognition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on successful models and requirements Informing of relevant funding opportunities.
Develop historical walking track including cemetery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Develop a plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the design and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance and information on layout and design Guidance and support with permits Sourcing of funding opportunities
Increase number of events highlighting Navarre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Develop ideas ★ Create an events schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide leadership Development of ideas and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for ideas and opportunities Capacity building through support Locating funding opportunities.
Branding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Explore opportunities for Navarre specific branding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform design and develop Provide leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance Sharing of funding opportunities Capacity building

Infrastructure and Facilities

Opportunities and needs	Suggested strategies	Community role	Council role
Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Include Navarre in Shire wide housing strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Inform & advise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Advocacy to key local and state stakeholders
Navarre Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Kitchen upgrade ★ Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Needs analysis ◦ Concept designs ◦ Costings / quotes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Support the Hall Committee with their dealings with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ◦ Locate and share funding opportunities
Road surfaces and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Provision of road upgrades ★ Strengthen methods of two-way communication on road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Inform council by using Snap Send Solve ◦ Inform VicRoads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Provide updates on maintenance schedule ◦ Advocacy to VicRoads on priority areas for residents
Recreational Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Council acceptance of Navarre Recreational Reserve Master Plan ★ Implementation of master plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Implementation of master plan in conjunction with NGSC ◦ Advocate for inclusion of tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Council acceptance ◦ Implementation of master plan in conjunction with Rec committee ◦ Funding opportunities ◦ Advocacy to State and Federal Governments for funding
Drainage (Channeling of water and creek) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Redirect water overflow in key areas such as the hall, toilet/park area, and shop to the creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Inform of problems occurring ◦ Provide feedback on works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Understand issue ◦ Develop plan ◦ Advocacy e.g., DEWLP ◦ Complete the works ◦ Regular updates of complaints and process
Park Navarre Community playground/ picnic area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Shade sail installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Source funding for shade sail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Funding advice ◦ Guidance ◦ Installation of a shade sail.
Township signage (Entrance signs/location signs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Develop specific projects and apply for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prioritise signage projects ◦ Inform, develop, and provide input into design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Guidance on requirements and options ◦ Funding opportunities

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT NAVARRE

Navarre Primary School students were asked to draw and explain what they liked about Navarre.



In Navarre I like the view.



I like the mountains in Navarre town. I also like the trees.



I like Navarre because it is only 30 minutes away.



What I like about Navarre is that I can go to the playground by myself. In this picture I am driving my car into Navarre.



I like the butterflies in Navarre and I like to follow them in Navarre.



I like the beautiful views of Navarre because it calms me down when I am stressed.



I like Navarre because I like the trees. I also like the mountains.



I like Jonathan's house because it has the playground right next to it.