

Advocacy

Lake Eildon and the condition of its foreshores are of the highest priority for the Bonnie Doon

community. The State Government, Goulburn-Murray Water, Mansfield Shire Council and Murrindindi Shire Council are currently working on the Lake Eildon Recreational Boating Facilities Improvement Plan, which will audit the current facilities, identify the shortcomings, gaps and future opportunities. The project will ensure a coordinated approach by all agencies towards the provision of facilities and improve recreational boating safety and accessibility for all user groups of Lake Eildon.

The community ask that these organisations engage and partner with the local residents and businesses for this project and others in regard to the short and long term future of Lake Eildon and the foreshores in the Bonnie Doon district.

Management of public waste is also a key concern for the community, as is maintaining high lake levels.

Improving telecommunications and public transport options are also concerns as are improvements to the look, diversity and offer of local businesses.

The community recognises that these are not actions that they can get underway by themselves and they are keen to form partnerships to advocate and implement improvements.

This plan is available in alternate formats by phoning Mansfield Shire Council on 5775 8555.



Background

52 people attended the first get-together held in September 2013. They met old friends and new and shared their visions and ideas for the Bonnie Doon Community Plan.

The collected ideas were sent out via a survey for the community to prioritise. A further 2 gatherings reviewed the priority projects which were then summarised into a draft plan which was sent out to everyone in the community for feedback. The plan was refined, finalised, launched by the community and tabled with Council.

This plan belongs to the people of Bonnie Doon and recognises that the community itself is Bonnie Doon's greatest asset and must be cared for.

What next? Each of these projects will be actioned and overseen by groups of interested people who will work with Council and other agencies to bring them to life.

Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Everyone has something they can offer to help the plan come to life.

Either contact the Bonnie Doon Community Centre on 5778 7722 or call Mansfield Shire Council's community development team on 5775 8555.

Bonnie Doon Community Plan 2014—2018



Bonnie Doon Today

Bonnie Doon was originally settled in the 1860's but much of the original township was flooded by the construction of Lake Eildon in the 1950's. The township was relocated - some buildings were picked up and moved, whilst others were able to remain in their original site, such as the churches.

Today, Bonnie Doon is the second largest settlement in Mansfield Shire with a population of 571 (Census 2011). It is not so much a town but a series of villages with diverse identities spreading north and south from the Maroondah Highway which runs through the district.

Bonnie Doon is most well known these days as a holiday and weekend destination for water sports fans and alpine adventure enthusiasts - 68% of its residences are holiday homes.

Bonnie Doon boasts more infrastructure than any other township outside of Mansfield with a general store, Post Office, community centre, pub and restaurant, Recreation Reserve and Football Netball Club, rail trail, caravan parks, motel and numerous other tourism businesses and boat clubs.

When the Primary School closed in 1999, the Bonnie Doon Community Group campaigned tirelessly for three years to save the school building and establish it as a Community Centre, which opened in June 2004 and now provides many opportunities for local employment, education, health services and social networks.

Today, Bonnie Doon is a thriving hub of older and younger residents, businesses and visitors to the lake and Rail Trail.

What's in our future?

Connect. Share. Play.

Spawning from the idea of a skate park and youth hub, we plan to develop the outdoor spaces at the community centre into a place where the whole community, young and old, can come together to connect, share and play. Amongst the ideas for this space are: a skate park, quiet spots for yoga, community gardens and bush art displays. A small group has already started to plan for such a project, but getting more people involved will help create a place that will be the heart of Bonnie Doon.

Goal: Partner with Council to create a space for the community to connect, share and play.

Putting Bonnie Doon on the map

Tourism and its associated economic benefits are essential for the ongoing sustainability of our town. Community events create local colour and community cohesion and some have the added benefit of tourism and a boost to our economy. They are fun to attend and we want more!

Goal: Develop a strong relationship between community, businesses and the Tourism and Economic Development unit at Mansfield Shire Council to identify opportunities to support event coordinators and work together to deliver more exciting events into Bonnie Doon.

Township Spaces and Places

We are proud of the facilities our township offers. The lake foreshore, Recreation Reserve, Community Centre, CFA and Churches are the hub of our community and where local news and information is shared.

Goal: Continue to improve the surrounds of these facilities and provide public amenities such as picnic facilities, BBQ areas and a community notice board at key community locations within the Bonnie Doon township and lake foreshore.

A stroll down memory lane

We have a rich history to tell. A history walk as well as directional signage rates highly for Bonnie Doon. This also provides the opportunity to formalise and improve walking paths within the Bonnie Doon Township.

Goal: Develop a timeline walk, including directional signage that connects Bon Crescent to the community centre, rail trail and other key locations.

***These projects are listed in no particular order**