

Advocacy

There are some improvements that we would like to see that will require community support to advocate for changes to be made.

We commit to working together and with Council to advocate for:

- Improvements to non-existent wireless telecommunications which we see as one of the highest priorities for our area.
- Retain the physical character of the area, particularly in regards to weed control
- Roads and drains – advocate for improvements of road surfaces, drainage and management of dangerous, overhanging trees



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



Background

Howqua & Macs Cove began their community plan in April 2011.

Over 70 people met at two get-togethers to share their ideas and visualise their future.

The resulting ideas were sent out via a survey for the community to prioritise and a further gathering in August narrowed down the project selections to create a draft plan which was then sent out to everyone in the community for feedback. The plan was refined, finalised, launched by the community and tabled with Council.

This plan is a summary of our visions and ideas: a future plan created by, and belonging to, the people of today.

What next? Each of these projects will be overseen by Howqua & Macs Cove people who will work with Council and other agencies to bring our plan to life. Council will help where appropriate and the community plan will be reviewed every two to three years to make sure it still reflects our priorities.

Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Everyone has something they can offer to help the plan come to life. Call Mansfield Shire Council's community development team on 5775 8555.



Howqua & Macs Cove

Two communities
One future

Who are we?

Howqua and Macs Cove are two small, distinct communities situated in the Howqua River valley and separated by the river and Lake Eildon.

People

A short drive from Mansfield, we have a high proportion of holiday homes and our population is a mix of long term residents, newcomers, retirees and young families.

We are friendly and relaxed and we are passionate about our area particularly the natural scenery and serenity.

We love being active in the outdoors and particularly enjoy fishing!

Space

It's peaceful and quiet, scenic, natural and unspoiled and the chief reason we live here. Lake Eildon, the river and surrounding mountains form the landscape that we love. Wildlife abounds and it is a high priority of ours to protect our area from development or overuse.

The Howqua River Landcare group actively works to protect and enhance the environment in the Howqua Valley. The Landcare group can be contacted through info@up2us.org.au

Place

A number of businesses are located in the valley taking advantage of the natural attractions and creating employment and activity in the area.

Lake Eildon and the Howqua River are the focal points and attract thousands of visitors each year to relax and take part in recreational pursuits such as camping, fishing & watersports, 4WD touring, trail bike riding and hunting.

Our future

Although we are two separate communities we are also one in our desire to become more connected with each other, a community that feels a part of the Shire as a whole, communicates well with each other and Council and continues to energetically protect our beautiful, peaceful environment.

The following projects, we believe, will enhance and strengthen our communities:

On the beaten track

What: Create a network of walking tracks in and around Howqua and Macs Cove.

Why: Promotes physical activity in a safe setting off roads and connects the community in a peaceful, environmentally friendly way.

The big picture

What: Create maps of the Howqua & Macs Cove area for noticeboards.

Why: For the information of visitors and locals and to promote businesses. The creation of maps will bring the community together as we research and share local knowledge and history.

Village hub

What: Move bus stop, post boxes and notice board to the same site in Macs Cove.

Why: It is a high priority to move the bus stop from the main road into a safer location in the village. Combining the bus stop, post boxes and noticeboard all in the one location would create a great community hub.

These projects are listed in no particular order.

Sail away

What: Create an area to launch boats in Macs Cove.

Why: The most popular activity of Howqua & Macs Cove residents is fishing and many families spend time on the lake in summer so a local boat launch area would be well used. Once the launch itself is complete, future community plans can look at possible future development of a park area.

In the know

What: Noticeboard for Howqua.

Why: The residents of Howqua would like a noticeboard to enable them to communicate with each other, keep in touch with what's going on and display the map/s that are listed in this plan

A space to call our own

What: Create a playground/BBQ area in or near Howqua Inlet

Why: We'd like a space to call our own, somewhere to relax, have picnics and BBQ's and watch the children play.

