

Who are we?

Nestled at the foot of the High Country in the Upper Delatite river catchment (declared water supply catchment), Merrijig encompasses the Merrijig township as well Sawmill Settlement, Happy Valley, Alpine Ridge, Changue Road, Booroolite, and Glenroy.

The area of Merrijig is well known for its farming and high country cattleman history. Today the people of Merrijig are young, old, business people, farmers, retirees, families and everything in between. Our economic infrastructure includes local resorts and accommodation, restaurants, wineries, farming and tourism operators (to name a few).

We are proud of our area's history and make the most of our surroundings. Our air is fresh, we are encircled by hills and bush, traversed by mountain streams and home to native wildlife. We are all keen to conserve and preserve the natural environment of our area.

We appreciate the open space, being close to the mountains and snow and all of the associated activities. Bike riding, fishing, skiing, horse riding and taking time out to enjoy the peace and quiet of the natural environment, the river and the fresh clean air are just some of the activities we love.

There are plenty of friendly people and a good community feel in Merrijig. Central to community life in Merrijig is the CFA Station, Merrijig Primary School, McCormack Park, Merrijig Public Hall and the resorts, restaurants, hotel, motel and dining facilities where we often catch-up with friends, family and neighbours.

Background

Over the years, the Merrijig community has developed a number of community plans. The most recent plan, developed in 2006, included renovating the Merrijig Public Hall.

As part of the Capable and Cohesive Communities Project, the community was given the opportunity to review the last plan and revisit their ideas and visions for the future of Merrijig.

In April 2012 Merrijig community members got together for a casual BBQ and discussed what they loved about Merrijig and their ideas for the future to make Merrijig an even better place.

Over 70 ideas were suggested and put into a survey which was posted to every ratepayer in Merrijig. Once everyone had a say, we all got back together to discuss what the priorities were, and what was feasible.

This plan was developed to outline our top 4 priority projects. ***The plan has been created by the community and belongs to the people of Merrijig today.***

What next? A working group with a leader will be formed for each of the projects and Council will help where appropriate.

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 or the Merrijig Public Hall Committee on 5777 5656

Merrijig



Community Plan Update 2012 - 2015

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



Advocacy

The following issues are of great importance to the people and families in Merrijig. However our capacity to directly address these issues on our own is limited. **Our community is keen to work together, with Council and other agencies to seek support and lobby for improvements in;**

Strategic Planning

The health of our environment and the retention of our area's natural amenity is vitally important to us. We are keen to advocate for and participate in strategic planning for our area, including a Catchment Management Plan and Township Development Plan to ensure effective management of the natural environment, neighborhood character and amenity.

Sealed Road Shoulders

Our area is a popular cycling destination, but the absence of road shoulders creates a dangerous cocktail of cyclists and vehicles. Sealed road shoulders will increase the safety of the area for cyclists and other road users.

Sealing Alpha Street

We would like to see many of our local roads sealed to improve safety and access and reduce dust. Sealing Alpha Street is a high priority to reduce dust, improve accessibility and 'bind' our community precinct. Sealing this road benefits the whole community.

Telecommunications

Reliable mobile phone, broadband and digital television coverage are a high priority for the Merrijig Community. Ongoing support from local, State and Federal Government will be essential in efforts to realise this goal.

Advocacy Continued

Underground phone and electricity

We live in a high fire risk area. To reduce the fire risk we would like the power and phone lines for all new developments and where possible existing developments. This should also be reflected in our Township Development Plan

Responsible Waste Management

We are proud of our area's natural beauty and it upsets us to see camping waste dumped. We are keen to work with the relevant agencies to educate and raise awareness about responsible waste management.

Our future

Our community has identified the following initiatives and goals to be completed in the next 5 years:

Township connectivity and community facilities

We would like to improve recreation opportunities and the livability of our community by developing and implementing a master plan to connect key community facilities in Merrijig;

- A walking path that links the river, Hall, hotel and other community facilities to be developed.
- Picnic and playground facilities on the river close the Merrijig township
- A high point look out area

These projects are listed in no particular order.

Community activities

The friendly people and the events and activities in the area are two of the reasons why we love Merrijig. We want to build on this and create further opportunities for people to get together and participate in community life.

We will do this by initiating more community activities and events. But first we will survey the community and find out what activities they would like to be involved in.

Keeping in the loop

We want to ensure that every community member in Merrijig is kept in the loop, and is aware of the many fantastic activities and events happening in Merrijig. We will do this by:

- updating and better utilising existing community databases, including a register of volunteers and their skills
- building a community notice board at the Hall
- building on the existing Merrijig website www.merrijig.com.au so that it can be used as an information sharing tool for our community

Community transport

Many essential items and services must be purchased in Mansfield. As such, regular and accessible transport between Merrijig and Mansfield is essential. Unfortunately there is no public transport so we need to think creatively. A transport model similar to TOAST (Tolmie Offers A Seat to Town) could be the solution for our community.