



# Background

In February 2011 the Upper Delatite community members got together for a casual BBQ. While we munched on snags we pondered "What do we love about our community?" and "What would make it an even better place?"

The ideas raised at this gathering were put into a survey which was then posted to all ratepayers. Mansfield Shire Council crunched the numbers and in May 2011 we all got back together to discuss the survey results and the project ideas in somewhat more detail. By the end of the meeting we had whittled our project list down to the top 10 priorities.

The first Upper Delatite Community Plan was drafted based on this information. The draft Plan was then circulated throughout the community before being finalised... This document is the end result!

## What next?

From here on in, it's all about making our plan come to life. A number of community-based project groups have formed to get the projects started. We'll be working with Mansfield Shire Council and other agencies to refine the project details and get things happening. In other words, it's up to us to start the ball rolling.

If you have any other feedback or project ideas please let us know... This document is a living thing which we aim to update regularly - so don't be shy if you have any ideas.

## We need you!

No matter what your interests, passions and skills we're bound to have a way for you to get involved! So pick a project that interests you and please get in touch. Call Mansfield Shire Council's community development team on 5775 8555 or visit the Upper Delatite page in the 'About Mansfield' section of Mansfield Shire Council's website—  
[www.mansfield.vic.gov.au](http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au).

# Upper Delatite

2011 - 2017



# Advocacy

The following issues are of great importance to people and families in Upper Delatite. However, our capacity to directly address the items on our own is limited. As such we are seeking support and action from relevant agencies.

## Road safety and signage

Our area is a popular part of the shire and hosts a high number of vehicles - particularly in the winter months. The creation of turning lanes in high risk areas and improvements to safety signage (e.g. poor visibility and icy conditions) will boost safety and security for residents and families in our community.

## Road maintenance and drainage

Regular maintenance to local roads and improved drainage along residential streets will increase the liveability of our communities.

## Strategic Planning

The health of our environment and retention of our area's stunning natural amenity are vitally important to us. As such we are very keen to be involved in future strategic planning processes for our area.

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

**Happy Valley**  
**Sawmill Settlement**  
**Alpine Ridge**  
**Changue Road**

# Snapshot 2011

The view from our verandahs is priceless! Encircled by hills and bush, traversed by mountain streams, home to native birds and animals - ours is the sort of place people visit and want to stay in.

## Our people

We're young, old and everything in between. Some of us live here year-round, others during holidays. But all of us make the most of our surroundings - skiing, hiking, fishing, mountain-biking, horse-riding and more! We're a social bunch, but also appreciate the area's tranquility and time for reflection.

## Our environment

The hills, trees, streams and animals are the common thread that define our community. State Forest and National Park are the gateways to our recreational pursuits and the canvas on which our stunning views are painted.

## Our built assets

Water treatment plant, Princes Hill School Camp and Mirimbah Park and miles of tracks and trails.

## Local happenings and groups

Get involved in the Sawmill Settlement Waterworks & Community Association, Merrijig CFA, or Delatite Landcare. Or come along to a local event like the Australia Day BBQ, Gluwein Night, or Picnic in the Park.

## Local businesses

The Mirimbah Store, The Mill Inn, Pinnacle Valley Resort, and many accommodation providers. Mt Buller and Mt Stirling resorts are also at our doorstep and our area is home to various tradespeople and professional service providers.

## Local news

Keep an eye on the noticeboard in Sawmill and the twice yearly Sawmill Settlement Waterworks and Community Association newsletter.

# Future focus

The projects listed below are a summary of our community's priorities for the next 5 years.

## Upper Delatite Shared Trail

**Goal:** To establish a safe, passive recreational track, in order to link the communities of Alpine Ridge, Changue Road and Sawmill Settlement to Mirimbah Park and to adjoin the existing walking trail from Mirimbah up-river a further 15km

**Why:** Currently there are no safe pedestrian or bike linkages between our settlements. Pathways will create opportunities for safe recreation and strengthen our community by connecting residential areas. Bike paths linking Carters Road and Mirimbah Park will increase our area's tourism offerings and provide further recreational opportunities for residents.

## Sealed road shoulders

**Goal:** Lobby for the construction of sealed road shoulders between Merrijig and Mirimbah.

**Why:** The area is a popular cycling destination, but the absence of road shoulders creates a dangerous cocktail of cyclists and vehicles on winding roads. Due to this, the only *safe* transport option is by car. Sealed road shoulders will increase safety, visitor appeal and provide more carbon-neutral transport options.

## Internet access

**Goal:** Improve internet access by promoting opportunities for government assistance to secure satellite internet.

**Why:** Many locals desire better internet, but some are unaware of government assistance.

## Fire safety

**Goal:** Improve safety levels in our area via education, upkeep of the Sawmill Settlement fire access road, extension of the annual fire permit to cover all properties between Happy Valley and Sawmill and declaration of a Neighbourhood Safer Place of Last Resort.

**Why:** We live in a high fire risk area. Cooperative efforts to adequately maintain properties and access roads are key to managing this risk.

## Playground & community open space

**Goal:** Construct a public playground and community BBQ area that is accessible to residents year-round.

**Why:** Although Mirimbah Park includes a playground, the Park is not freely accessible to locals in winter and cannot be accessed on foot. Construction of a community open space area on Crown Land along Changue Rd would address both points and provide a focal point for community gatherings and events.

## Road safety & signage

**Goal:** Advocate for improvements to road safety and signage.

**Why:** Heavy traffic, poor visibility and icy conditions in winter pose serious safety risks for residents and visitors. The addition of turning lanes, some alterations to speed limit zones and additional road safety signage would greatly improve the situation.