

Advocacy

The following issues are of major importance to the people of Woods Point and Matlock. However, our capacity to directly address the items on our own is limited. We are committed to working together, and with Council, to advocate for:

Road maintenance and improvements

Many of our roads are 'unmade', including the main access roads to and from our community. We would like to investigate the long term viability of upgrading the roads as well as more regular road grading and road maintenance.

Maintaining our current services

For an isolated and remote town, Woods Point has some fantastic and essential services including the mail run, community bus, visiting nurse and library. We never want to lose these services.

Telecommunications

Reliable mobile phone, broadband and digital television coverage are a high priority for the Woods Point community. Ongoing support from Local, State and Federal Governments will be essential in efforts to realise this goal.

Fire safety

We live in a high fire risk area and want to ensure that fire restriction and safety information is readily available to residents and town visitors. It is essential that the Adit meets the required standards to remain available and ready for use as a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place and that our Woods Point and Surrounding District Community Safety Plan is current.

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



Background

In April 2014, on a lovely autumn day, Woods Point and Matlock community members got together with Council representatives for a community planning workshop, followed by a casual BBQ.

At this workshop, community members discussed what they loved about Woods Point, the characteristics that make Woods Point a resilient community and what would make Woods Point more resilient and a great place to live and visit.

Over 30 ideas were raised and all these ideas were sent out to the community via a survey for prioritisation.

The Woods Point and Matlock Community Plan was then drafted and sent to everyone in the community for feedback. The plan was refined, finalised, launched by the community and tabled with Council.

What next? This plan belongs to the community. It is up to us, the community, to get the ball rolling! Project working groups will be formed, to work with Council and other agencies to bring the projects to life.

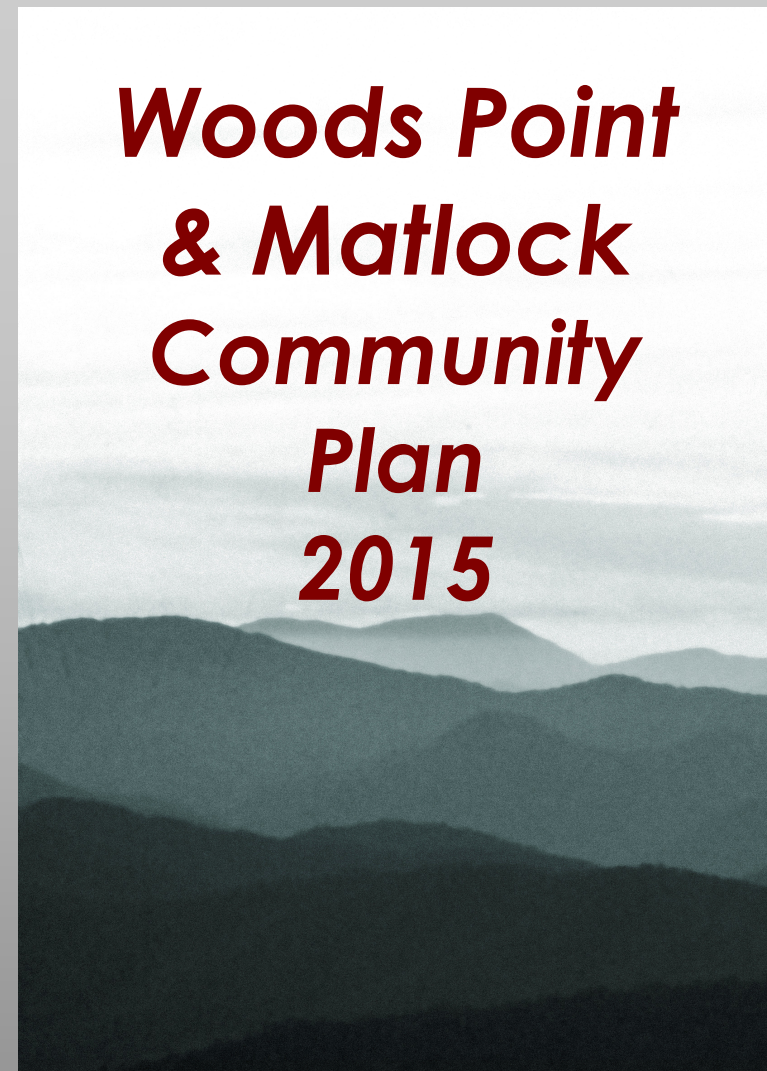
Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Everyone has something they can offer to help the plan come to life. If you would like to be involved in one of the projects listed on this plan contact;

Woods Point Progress Association: 5777 8261

Woods Point Community Association: 5777 8269

Mansfield Shire Council: 5775 8555.

Woods Point & Matlock Community Plan 2015



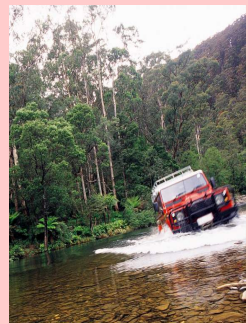
Woods Point Today



Nestled in the mountains far away from the rest of the world, Woods Point's foundations began in a general store built by Henry Wood in the mid 1800's. With the discovery of gold, the town quickly expanded to a thriving town with 36 hotels and numerous suburbs, such as Waverly, Piccadilly, Killarney, Richmond, and Morning Star Hill.

Over time, the population of Woods Point has fluctuated with the decline and revivals of the mining and timber industries. In 1939 much of the town had to be rebuilt following devastating bushfires. The population of Woods Point and Matlock now stands at about 35 permanent residents and plenty of holiday properties.

The town's rich history is highly valued by the Woods Point community. A key asset in the town is the community run museum along with the community hall, tennis courts and mini golf course.



We are an outdoor loving community and enjoy walking, fishing, hunting, motorbikes and 4x4 to name a few. We appreciate the surrounding scenery, along with the remoteness and isolation of the town and the peace and quietness it brings.

There is a strong sense of community and social cohesion with most community members involved in various roles within local volunteer community groups

What's in our future?

* These projects are listed in no particular order

Taking a walk through history

Our history is rich and we have so many significant historical landmarks and stories to tell. This project will collect historical stories, develop good quality directional and interpretive signage and utilise these in a history walk of Woods Point.

Project: Develop a uniform theme and apply to directional and interpretive signage with an associated history walk

A Master Plan

We love being outdoors and Woods Point has plenty of outdoor locations to enjoy! These include the picnic area at the Morning Star Creek Bridge and the Goulburn River intersection and the Hector & Nell Stewart Reserve. We want to improve these and other locations, including our streetscape in a strategic and coordinated manner. To do this we will develop a master plan that identifies the public land and the best location for community infrastructure and facilities such as a rotunda, BBQ area, picnic tables, walking tracks, public toilets and bins as well as structures of historical importance—for example the old police cell.

Project: Develop a master plan for public land in Woods Point

Keeping in touch

Although small, the Woods Point community is spread over a wide area and includes many part time residents, so keeping in touch with local news and information can be a challenge. There are many groups within our community including the Progress Association, Community Association, Safety Committee, RSL, CFA, Gun Club and Buffalo Lodge. We aim to keep each other up to date as a community that is well informed and able to access information is more resilient.

Project: Regular meetings of all the community groups, events and activities to engage the whole community (part-time and permanent residents) and a revamped Woods Point website.

Putting Woods Point on the map

We want to capitalise on and build on tourism opportunities presented by the vast number of outdoor activities available in Woods Point as well as the mining which connects the town to its local history. We would like to work alongside local businesses to gain feedback on potential opportunities, strengthen our links to Gippsland (by improving the Aberfeldy Road) as well as promote our town through a Woods Point website and brochure.

Project: Develop a strong relationship with the Tourism and Economic Development unit at Mansfield Shire Council and identify opportunities for the advertising and promotion of Woods Point.