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Draft Kangaroo Flat Community Plan 2024-2034

A vibrant community for everyone



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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples, the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing, and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

Acknowledgement of First Nations People

The City recognises that there are people from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living in Greater Bendigo. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to all First Nations Peoples who live and reside in Greater Bendigo on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country, and we thank them for their contribution to our community.



Welcome

A Kangaroo Flat Working Group was formed in 2018 to provide a process where community members could contribute to the development of a Kangaroo Flat Community Plan (Plan). This work has been facilitated by the Kangaroo Flat Community House, and supported by the City of Greater Bendigo (the City).

The Plan identifies key priorities of the Kangaroo Flat community, that align with outcomes, goals and objectives within Mir wimbul (Council Plan 2021-2025). Accordingly the values mentioned in Mir Wimbul are also reflected in this plan.

The previous Plan was produced in 2009. Work on the new Plan has been set back several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Themes, goals and projects

During December 2019, over 20 managers and staff from key stakeholder organisations met to hold a community 'Think Tank' to explore learnings from:

- The existing community plan
- Achievements over the past 10 years
- 2019 Kangaroo Flat Street Survey
- Statistics including the *Active Living Census 2019*
- The experiences of living and/or working in Kangaroo Flat

All identified actions were molded into the following themes:

- 1 **Active community** - *Out and about*
- 2 **Business community** - *A thriving business sector*
- 3 **Connected community** - *Community events and spaces*
- 4 **Healthy community** - *Access to health and wellbeing services*
- 5 **Learning community** - *Education, employment and training*
- 6 **Environmentally sustainable community** - *A place where people want to live and work, now and in the future*

Vision

Through the community engagement for the development of this Plan, Kangaroo Flat was recognised as being 'a vibrant community for everyone'.



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1

Active community



Out and about

An active community is one that is designed to be well connected, and where it is easy to use active transportation, such as walking and cycling, and public transport to get to around. Kangaroo Flat is the gateway to Bendigo from Melbourne, which results in a very busy highway dividing the town and impeding local connections. The community street survey that was undertaken to support this plan, found that ‘getting around’ was often a topic raised.

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2: Healthy, livable spaces and places
- Outcome 3: Strong, inclusive, and sustainable economy

Potential partnerships

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Local transport organisations
- VicRoads
- V/Line

Goal: Improving access and connection

- Divert heavy traffic away from main streets
- Improve lighting for public paths, spaces and parks
- Create more off-road, shared user paths to be better connected, i.e. Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre
- Pedestrian crossing over High Street
- Build new toilets and keep all toilets accessible and clean
- Redevelop Bendigo Creek Trail
- Develop better public transport options:
 - More logical routes, i.e. between Kangaroo Flat Train Station and Lansell Square, linked to Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre
 - More trains from Epsom to Kangaroo Flat
 - Improve transport costs, i.e. two hour or all-day tickets
 - Increase parking at Kangaroo Flat Train Station
 - Provide seats, bins and shelters at bus stops

2 Business community

A thriving business sector

Kangaroo Flat has a thriving business sector, both in manufacturing and retail. When business, community groups and the community work in partnership, everyone is advantaged. Businesses grow by embracing their social responsibility, and community groups gain through improved access to services, goods, knowledge and people skills. Encouraging business and community organisations to work together fosters a healthy and viable society.

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2: Healthy, livable spaces and places
- Outcome 3: Strong, inclusive, and sustainable economy

Potential partnerships

- All local businesses, including industrial, retail and service provisions
- All education providers
- All service organisations, i.e. Rotary

Goal: A connected, busy, engaged community

- Organisations and businesses encouraged to engage people of all ages
- Develop guides to what is available, such as an information hub or directory
- Wider distribution of Flat Matters beyond Kangaroo Flat
- Better connections between the shopping strip, industrial area, and Lansell Square
- Hold a 'Shop Kangaroo Flat' campaign
- Establish a Kangaroo Flat Traders Association/Business Council
- Hold a 'community retail needs' survey
- Create a tech hub and small business startup space with co-working spaces



3 Connected community

Community events and spaces

Community connections can give everyone a sense of belonging and help people to develop social and other skills. Being part of a connected community can have a positive effect on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Kangaroo Flat is made up of people from many different cultures and social standings, making it critical that every effort is made to encourage a harmonious community.

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2: Healthy, livable spaces and places
- Outcome 6: A vibrant, creative community



Potential partnerships

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Volunteer organisations
- Sporting clubs
- Schools
- Service providers
- Local businesses
- Parks, DELWP and other government departments
- Statutory and non-statutory organisations
- Local transport organisations



Goal: Creating a connected community with a sense of pride

- Celebrate and help create a more inclusive and diverse community through education of services in the Kangaroo Flat community. Multicultural event with foods, dance, clothing and food truck culture
- Develop a larger community house and community hub-library. A co-location of services and facilities, accessible to a central space
- Improve on existing spaces by adding/upgrading facilities to become more inclusive, i.e. Crusoe Reservoir, toilets, creating a beach and encouraging water activities
- Host an annual community event/fair in Kangaroo Flat that is run by the community to attract others, as an opportunity to showcase local business. Possibly a Flat Matters Festival
- Host community conservation/focus events with groups to hear the voices and needs of the community
- Create new art murals in public spaces
- Redevelop the JB Osborne Theatre into an inclusive, creative performing arts space to support community needs and growth into the future



4 Healthy community

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Access to health and wellbeing services

A healthy community is one in which all residents have access to safe and healthy homes, adequate physical activity, nutrition, and quality health care. In Kangaroo Flat we believe a healthy community continually works to assure that the prerequisites for health are provided to all members of the community and what is available is always clearly promoted.

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2: Healthy, livable spaces and places
- Outcome 6: A vibrant, creative community

Potential partnerships

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Sporting clubs
- Schools
- Parks, DELWP and other government departments
- Statutory and non-statutory organisations
- Volunteer organisations
- Service providers
- Local businesses

Goal: Create the conditions for a healthy and connected community

- Health services are better at connecting and leveraging community gathering points
- More community noticeboards
- Increase fitness/outdoor stations, getting more people active, including all-abilities
- Supply water refill stations
- Provide education/learning centres - information and promotion of outdoor activities
- Increased promotions about health services and facilities available through social media, i.e. gym, yoga etc. at Gurri Wunyarra Wellbeing Centre
- More GPs and mental health supports in schools
- Develop a sports precinct masterplan





5 Learning community

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Education, employment and training

Lifelong learning is crucial for mental wellbeing and self-esteem. In Kangaroo Flat we wish to build on what we have, as we know continued education can lead to a reduction in unemployment and will help people gain practical skills. We also know that exploring new passions helps people connect with like-minded individuals and builds community cohesion.

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 3: Strong, inclusive, and sustainable economy

Potential partnerships

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Job agencies
- Education – Kinder, primary, secondary, specialist schools, tertiary, U3A
- Kangaroo Flat Library
- Education department



Goal: A fully accessible learning community, including employment and training

- Create opportunities for intergenerational learning
- Employ locally
- Provide more jobs, traineeships and work experience, and keep people local, reinvesting in community

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Environmentally sustainable community

A place where people want to live and work, now and in the future

An environmentally sustainable community focuses on developing ways to live that don't harm the environment or cause the lowest possible impact on it. Living sustainably means that people manage their needs in a way that will allow future generations to do the same.

Potential partnerships

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Parks Victoria
- DELWP
- EPA
- CMA
- Community Groups: Kangaroo Flat Community Centre, Kangaroo Flat Library, Landcare groups and local friends' groups
- Schools and education departments
- Bendigo Sustainability Group
- Bunnings - DIY workshops

**Goal 1: Increase and improve green spaces**

- More trees, positioned correctly and of the appropriate species
- More love and attention to the Kangaroo Flat Botanic Gardens
- Reimagining Bendigo Creek - continuous maintenance

Goal 2: Improve sustainability

- Attract recycling businesses, i.e. recycling tyres into park benches
- Encourage green star rated building standards and include sustainable practices, i.e. solar panels, batteries and water tanks
- More education on sustainability
- Promote alternative transport methods, i.e. walking and cycling
- Increase social marketing on sustainability and promote environmental events such as Earth Hour and National Tree Day
- Provide water education and sustainability, recycled water stations/desalination

Goal 3: Improve food reliability

- Provide a growing food/farmers market to share homegrown products
- Hold garden programs at schools and the Kangaroo Flat Community House
- Plan for, and develop, nature strip gardens
- Provide community gardens for local families
- Start a food swap program through the Kangaroo Flat Community House

Alignment to Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places
- Outcome 5: A climate resilient and healthy landscape

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Implementing the plan

The Kangaroo Flat Community Plan has been developed by our local community, and now we need to work together to implement and build on the Plan to keep it relevant. To achieve the Plan's intended outcomes, a strong Community Plan Steering Committee (CPS Committee) needs to be established.

The CPS Committee would build on the existing strengths and skills of members of our local community, and ideally be made up of community members that can relate to the Plan's themes. For example, representatives from the Kangaroo Flat business, community service, health and environmental sectors, as well as a representative from the City.

The CPS Committee would meet on a regular basis and work through the Plan's goals, undertaking research, planning, design and potentially fundraising to progress these actions further. A City officer will support and connect the committee with the broader work of the City.



A united approach will assist in the development of communally beneficial relationships that results in improved outcomes for everyone. It is essential that the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan is regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure that the priorities and actions are relevant and up-to-date.





Timeline for developing the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan



Process to date

- August 2018, Council roundtable
- September 2018, working group formed
- July/August 2019, public survey conducted
- December 2019, 'Think Tank' held with 21 attendees
- February 2020, part time community development worker appointed to assist with the Plans development (appointment has now expired)
- March 2020, COVID-19, leading to the closure of the Kangaroo Flat Community House, and disbandment of the working group
- November 2022, Kangaroo Flat Community House and the City review and develop an Action Framework to guide the ongoing development of the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan
- March/April 2023, Kangaroo Flat Community House prepares a draft Plan for community discussion

Proposed next steps

- May 2023, a Community Plan survey is prepared and distributed along with the draft Plan to stakeholders and the broader Kangaroo Flat community for feedback
- May 2023, survey is active
- June 2023, the draft Plan is updated to reflect learnings from the survey. The Plan is submitted to the City for ratification
- November/December 2023, launch of the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan
- February 2024, call out to seek members of a Community Plan Steering Committee
- March 2024, Community Plan Steering Committee formed, and work progresses in the implementation of the Plan

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For more information contact:

☎ 1300 002 642

🌐 www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

✉ requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au