

Kingower Community Plan

2021 – 2031

Version 1.0



Kingower Development and Tourism Committee

'We would like to begin by **acknowledging** the Dja Dja Wurrung people, of the Kulin Nation. Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live today, we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Kingower Community History

Kingower was well known by the Dja Dja Wurrung or Jaara People who are Traditional Custodians of the area. The area was apparently named after its Yams an underground tuberous bush tucker.

Kingower Township has its colonial origins in the gold rush of the 1850s. The township was fairly mobile in the 1850s and 60s with the centre of activity being where the Rotunda stands today but also further north towards Glenalbyn Grange and south towards Rheola.

Many people from around the globe journeyed here to make their fortune and there were groups of differing nationalities gathered in various places during these years.

Reverend William Hall arranged the building of many churches in the area including the magnificent St Marys at Kingower. This building is now privately owned. The Community leases this facility with several events held here each year.

There are 3 official Cemetery locations in Kingower with the current Cemetery having been used since the 1860s.

Some miners stayed here when the gold ran out, taking up bush trades like wood cutting and Eucalyptus Distilling. A handful of vineyards were also tended.

In the early 1970s grape vines were again planted this time on a commercial scale. The rich Cambrian Red Clay soils here protected by the surrounding forest ridges have produced excellent quality wines ever since. Vineyards have led to employment and enjoyment for many locals and travellers.

The modern goldrush saw many prospectors return to Kingower in the 1980s. The largest nugget in the world ever found with a metal detector, "The Hand of Faith" was unearthed in 1980. A steady stream of prospectors can be found still visiting the area to camp out and try their luck.

The community of Kingower have a love of supporting one another and socializing with good food and good wine. The community is home to many excellent musicians, storytellers, characters and skilled cooks with a love of good food and wine. Some members have family associations that go back many generations.

Some parts of the town are virtually a living museum. Several Historic buildings remain in excellent condition and numerous old sites, ruins and relics remain. The surrounding forests contain many Aboriginal Cultural Sites. The adjacent Kooyoora State Park is jointly managed by Parks with the people of the Dja Dja Wurrung.

The highly successful Kingower Junior and Senior Cricket Clubs operate at the towns gorgeous bush cricket ground with many people travelling long distances to participate in these vibrant teams.

The town is entirely surrounded by Box Ironbark Forest with a huge array of plants, birds and animals. Many in the community have a deep environmental respect and understanding of these ecosystems.



Bridge Hotel 2013



St Marys 2000



Kingower Main St viewed from the East 1920's

Community Planning Background

The first written Community Plan was compiled in 2007.

This plan allowed the achievement of the following key objectives:

- Restoration of wooden railings on some historic bridges and culverts.
- Further development of the Kingower Cricket Ground including seating.
- Speed Limit reduction to 90 km/hr in the township.
- Information board on the village green.

The following objectives were not completed:

- Sealing of roads to prevent dust drift onto vineyards
- Weed eradication
- Bus Transport
- Replacement fencing at Cemetery #2
- Give way and Cemetery signs
- Ownership of St Marys handed to the community

The second Community Plan was compiled in 2009.

The plan allowed the achievement of the following key objectives:

- Management of St Marys by the community
- Further development of the cricket ground including connection to water supply.
- Village Green fencing and infrastructure completed and maintained

The following objectives were not completed:

- Restoration of railings on the Brenanah Road Bridge
- Replacement of fencing at Cemetery #2
- Improved signage on historic sites
- Sealing of roads to reduce dust drift onto vineyards

This Plan

Current Objectives

Our short term Community Planning Priorities are:

1. Sealing of the first 120 metres of Brenanah Road to reduce dust drift onto vineyards
2. Heating and cooling installed for community events at St Marys
3. Railings fitted to the Brenanah Road Historic Bridge
4. Replacement of the fencing at Cemetery #2
5. Fencing of the Cricket Ground
6. Improved signage on Historic Sites

Longer Term Objectives

Our long term Objectives are:

1. Historical sensitivity incorporated into planning of maintenance and infrastructure programs.
2. Relocate water tank for firefighting to the recreation Reserve to allow Helicopter access
3. Further reduction of the speed limit perhaps after dark to reduce Kangaroo accidents within the township.
4. Expansion of the town speed limit 300 meters in both directions to cope with large trucks.
5. "No exhaust braking" signs to be erected on the outskirts of township.
6. Archaeological and survey work to locate and then fence Cemetery #1.
7. Improved mobile phone and internet coverage to be sought for the township.
8. Support for those living alone.
9. Review of historic locations incorrectly geo located on Local Government heritage databases.
10. Issues with plague numbers of Corellas and Cockatoos to be raised with the State Government.



The Community together at St Marys Kingower Christmas 2016

Demographic summary

The following data is taken from the 2016 Census figures

32 people live in Kingower in 27 Dwellings.

The Kingower Community has no families with young children.

The Median age of residents is 57 years.

37% of residents are female.

63% of residents are male.

An estimated 2 female residents and 2 males are the only people in full time employment.

3 males and 3 females are self-employed.

22 people are not employed.

Volunteer participation in community groups is high with 9 people or around 1/3rd performing significant amounts of volunteer work in various community or sporting organisations or on a spontaneous basis.

The health profile of the community could be described as aging.

Developing our plan

The Kingower Township Planning Committee is made up of a representative slice of the community. As the members make up around 25% of the Kingower community, representation is immersed and the committee is well aware of trends, issues and preferred outcomes.

The first draft of this plan was presented to the committee at a meeting on the 8th of February 2021 and also circulated by email to members of the wider community for comment.

The final draft of the plan was presented at the 8th of March 2021 Meeting of the committee for review.

The final plan was subsequently approved by the committee at the 7th June 2021 meeting.

The desired outcomes targeted by this plan were a combination of previous plan objectives not yet met and new outcomes desired.

The Vision directing this plan

Our vision:

*To maintain the uniqueness of our quiet and peaceful, valley town.
To restore and maintain its historic features.
To improve amenity for the community and for visitors to our region.*

Purpose of this Plan:

This Community plan will provide a coordinated and strategic approach and maximise the opportunities to achieve our vision.



Rotunda and BBQ on the Village Green Kingover.

Our Goals

- **Connectivity: Internet and individuals' capacity** – We aim to obtain better mobile phone and internet coverage and improve the capacity of our residents and visitors to better utilize technology.
- **Community health and wellbeing** – The community intends to utilize its several trained first aiders and medically trained people and also teach citizens how to use the town defibrillator.
- **Sport and recreation** – Greater involvement in physical activity has enormous benefits for the community. The Recreation Reserve is home to a thriving Cricket Club developing good sports and great citizens. The community will work to support and develop this club.
- **Heritage, arts and culture** – Regular community events offer great support to members of our community. Our community often celebrates its heritage and culture through storytelling and performance of music and poetry from the colonial era. We will work to preserve and enhance our visible heritage in line with overarching strategic documents like historic planning overlays and the *Burra Charter*.

Indigenous culture will become a focus in nearby Kooyoora State Park during the life of this plan. We have recently made our community aware of plans for this development and will continue to seek avenues for input into these developments.

- **Improving community safety** – Isolation and extreme bushfire hazard risks are treated by community connections and bushfire communication planning reviewed every year prior to the bushfire season.
- **Built environment and town beautification** – We will work to ensure infrastructure works consider both historical sensitivity and aesthetics.
- **Natural environment** – We are starting to feel the effects of plague numbers of Corellas and cockatoos. Damage to high value crops and infrastructure is occurring as numbers rise in our area.
- **Tourism and marketing** – Targeting wine wise or curious visitors to our community Vineyards is a desired outcome rather than a broad-brush approach.



Kingower 1869

Priorities and actions

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
Goal 1. Built environment and town beautification – We will work to ensure infrastructure works consider both historical sensitivity and aesthetics.	Sealing of Brenanah Road for the first 120 metres between the rated properties to reduce dust drift onto vineyards		Municipality	short 1-2 years	High	Planned Some preliminary discussions held
	Heating and cooling installed for community events at St Marys		Municipality	short 1-2 years	High	Planned Some preliminary grants applied for
	Historical sensitivity incorporated into planning of maintenance and infrastructure programs		Municipality	Short term 1-2 years and Ongoing	Med	Planned Some preliminary discussions held

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
<p>Goal 2.</p> <p>Connectivity: Internet and individuals' capacity – We aim to obtain better mobile phone and internet coverage and improve the capacity our residents to better utilize technology.</p>	<p>Allow local business in the town to trade in a COVID Safe manner by using Apps and QR Code technology.</p> <p>This would also encourage families to live in our town</p>	<p>Better Mobile Phone Internet coverage</p>	<p>Telstra</p>	<p>Medium: 1-5 years</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Idea</p> <p>Work on this task has not yet commenced</p>
<p>Goal 3.</p> <p>Community health and wellbeing – The community intends to utilize its several trained first aiders and medically trained people and also teach citizens how to use the town defibrillator</p>	<p>Defib awareness training</p>	<p>Plan and deliver training</p>	<p>Medical Staff Cricket Club</p>	<p>Short 1-2 Years</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Planned</p> <p>Conducted Annually</p>

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
<p>Goal 4. Sport and recreation – greater involvement in physical activity has enormous benefits for the community. The Recreation reserve is home to a thriving Cricket Club developing good sports and great citizens. The community will work to support and develop this club.</p>	<p>Fencing of the Cricket Ground</p>	<p>Design and apply for grants</p>	<p>Shire Cricket Victoria</p>	<p>Medium: 1-5 years</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Idea Preliminary Work on this task has commenced</p>

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
<p>Goal 5. Heritage, arts and culture – Regular community events offer great support to members of our community. Our community often celebrates its heritage and culture through storytelling and performance of music and poetry from the colonial era. We will work to preserve and enhance our visible heritage in line with overarching strategic documents like historic planning overlays and the <i>Burra Charter</i>. Indigenous culture will become a focus in nearby Kooyoora State Park during the life of this plan. We have recently made our community aware of plans for this development and will continue to seek avenues for input into these developments.</p>	Railings on the Brenanah Road Bridge	Design Fund Instal	Municipality	Short: 1-2 years	High	Concept Preliminary planning discussions held
	Archaeological and survey work to locate and then fence Cemetery #1	Find Identify Fence	Parks Dja Dja Wurrung Adjoining Neighbours	Medium: 1-5 years Long: 1-10 years	Low	Idea
	Review of historic locations incorrectly geo located on Local Government databases.	Locate Record Amend Databases	Municipality Heritage Victoria	Short: 1-2 years	Medium	Ready
	Replacement of the fencing at Cemetery #2	Plan Instal	DELWP Municipality	Short: 1-2 years	High	Concept
	Improved signage on Historic Sites	Locate Design & Instal	Historical society Municipality	Medium: 1-5 years	Medium	Concept

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
<p>Goal 6.</p> <p>Improving community safety – We are on a transport route used often by heavy trucks. It would be safer for people and wildlife if the speed limit were reduced and exhaust braking limited.</p> <p>Isolation and extreme bushfire hazard are treated by Bushfire communication planning reviewed every year prior to the bushfire season.</p> <p>Relocate water tank for firefighting to the recreation Reserve to allow Helicopter access</p>	Further reduction of the speed limit to reduce Kangaroo accidents within the township and install signage encouraging limiting exhaust braking	Review and signpost	Municipality	Short: 1-2 years	High	Ready
	Maintain currency in emergency preparedness.	Review Communications and fire preparedness plan annually	CFA FFM Municipality	Short: 1-2 years	High	Concept
	Work to locate emergency water at the Recreation Reserve for use as a firefighting airbase.	Plan Consult Move Plumb Fill	Recreation Reserve CFA FFM Parks EMV Municipality	Short 1-2 Years	High	Concept

goal	action	task	partners	timeframe	priority	status
Goal 7. Natural environment – We are starting to feel the effects of numbers of Corellas and cockatoos. Damage to crops and infrastructure is occurring in our area.	Control of the numbers of Corellas and Cockatoos	Management program	DETJTR Police Municipality	Short: 1-2 years	Medium	Idea
Goal 8. Tourism and marketing – Targeting wine wise visitors to our community Vineyards is a desired outcome rather than a broad-brush approach.	Target visitors.	Work with Municipal Tourism staff	Municipality Vineyards	Short 1-2 Years	Medium	Idea

How we intend to review our plan

- **Annually:** Desk top review presented at the AGM to KCPC.
 - Confirmation that priorities are still the valid and that no emerging issues exist.
 - Identify specific actions for the future short term.
 - Document and capture achievements of the past year.
 - Update plan to reflect any changes.
- **Mid- term review (4-5 years):** Desk top and community engagement process to confirm existing priorities and identify new and emerging issues.
 - Community consultation to test the priorities and content in the plan.
 - Review community demographics.
- **Full term:** Full review process undertaken
 - Consistent with council framework.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to the people of Kingover for their input into this plan.