

Buchan and District Community Plan

2017—2021

Version 2



(photo courtesy of Scott Kingman)

The Buchan Community Plan acknowledges the Gunaikurnai People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.



Community Facilities

Neighbourhood House
East Gippsland Shire Outreach
Community Garden
Buchan and Gelantipy Bush Nursing
Buchan Primary School
Buchan Early Childhood Development Centre
Buchan Police Station
W Tree Food Co op
CFA
SES
Buchan Butter Factory
Buchan South Avenue of Honour
Buchan Hall
Gelantipy Hall
Buchan Recreation Pavilion and sports grounds
Wulgulmerang Recreation Pavilion
Buchan Valley Golf Club
Buchan Rifle Range
Buchan Rodeo
Canni Creek Race Track
Buchan Cemetery

Churches

Anglican
United
Catholic
Siba Retreat Centre

Businesses

General Store and Post office
Roadhouse
Karoonda Park
Hotel
Café
Garage
Towing
Excavations
Plumbing
Livestock Transport
Dysons bus line
Building
Courier
Sibelco
Snowy River Rafting
Stonehenge Museum
WWOOF
Handyman
Garlic
Firewood
Environment Protection

Accommodation

Motel
Hostel
Bed and Breakfasts
Log Cabins
Farm stay Accommodation
Camping



Our Values

We value our natural environment, our sense of community, our safety, our health and wellbeing and our lifestyle and community assets.

Buchan and District – Community Profile

Major Features

Buchan and District is a rural area, consisting largely of farming land and native vegetation. It includes the localities of Black Mountain, Buchan, Buchan South, Buchan East, Butchers Ridge, Canni Creek, Gelantipy, Gillingall, Glenmore, Murrindal, Suggan Buggan, Timbarra, W-Tree, and Wulgulmerang. Buchan is the main town and is located on the Buchan River, approximately 75 kilometres from Bairnsdale and 350 kilometres from Melbourne.

Major features of Buchan are the Buchan Caves, Buchan Caves Reserve, limestone rich valleys, picturesque hills, numerous waterfalls, gorges and historic bridges. Buchan is the home to the Snowy and Buchan Rivers and where they meet. There are numerous accommodation places in and around Buchan along with some galleries, eateries, the Howitt Bicycle Trail, Buchan Golf Course, tourist drives, self guided historical walking tours and local town businesses. The surrounding valleys and hills provide many opportunities for fishing, bushwalking, bird watching, trail riding, kayaking, white water rafting, four wheel driving and horse riding.

Whilst Buchan is best known for its famous spectacular underground caves its history as one of the oldest townships in Victoria goes back much further than the discovery of the caves. It also has fossils that depict the mega fauna that existed in the region some 20,000 years ago. Some fossils are in view on the new Buchan Hotel stone walls.

The township celebrated its 175th anniversary in March 2014.



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| Our population (2011 census) Buchan and District | |
| People | 385 |
| Male | 201 |
| Female | 184 |
| Median age | 49 |

History

European settlement first entered the area in October 1838 and Buchan station was established in January 1839s. Free selection occurred after 1868, and a township was proclaimed in 1873 taking its name from the station. It is thought that the name Buchan was taken from an Aboriginal word Bukkan-mungie to which various meanings have been ascribed, one interpretation of its meaning is place of grass bag and another is a 'place of rocks with holes in them'.

Farming included cattle, sheep and crops. Wheat, oats, barley, maize, hops, arrowroot and beans were grown on the river flats at various times. Dairying operations, initially for local consumption, commenced prior to the turn of the century. This expanded into several cheese factories and a butter factory which operated for many years. Sheep and cattle grazing increased as settlement spread and cattle sales began in Buchan in 1901. The township grew as closer settlement of the farming land meant more demand for services.

A number of mines were opened as early as 1869 including silver, gold and lead. Some of the bigger mines were profitable but most were short-lived. Some commercial quarries operated in the early 1900s and marble from the quarries was used to build the Shrine and State Library in Melbourne and buildings in London and throughout the state. From the 1950's a quarry also produced crushed lime for agriculture, paper manufacture and other uses.

Wattle bark stripping was an important industry and small spot mills worked in the surrounding bush. Following World War 2, two large sawmills and several smaller mills operated in Buchan providing employment. The last mill ceased operation this year.

There were small groups of Aborigines in the area but their numbers declined following European settlement. At Cloggs Cave near Buchan, evidence has been found of Aboriginal occupation in prehistoric times.

The first recorded exploration of the caves at Buchan was made by Stewart Ryrie in 1840 however, the indigenous people of the area were the first to know of their existence. By the 1880s several caves had become tourist attractions to the area. Of the present show caves, the Fairy Cave was discovered in 1907 by local and government appointed caretaker Frank Moon and opened for public inspection in 1908. The Royal Cave was opened in 1912 and by 1917 six caves were open to the public. In the 1920s camping facilities were developed in the Caves Reserve to accommodate the number of tourists who visited the area. They stayed in the local guesthouse, hotels or at the new campsite. The caves were closed during the war but reopened in 1946.

Residents in the district have experienced a number of environmental hardships over the last decade, including drought, floods and major fires. The fires in particular have impacted heavily on the farming, timber and tourism industries.

The first hotels in Buchan were the Buchan Inn later Caves Hotel and Cricket Club Hotel both established at the same time in 1884. which later became Riverview House and the original Buchan Caves Hotel was opened in 1884. The Buchan Caves Hotel burnt down early in the morning on Wednesday 9th April 2014 devastating the small township. In May 2015 a well-attended community meeting was held and the notion of Crowd Funding was presented. A successful 60 day campaign was launched June 15th 2015 and closed on August 15th 2015 raising \$600,000 to aid in the rebuild of the pub. The new Buchan Caves Hotel was opened in December 2016.

People

The Buchan Business and Tourism Association is involved in the development of tourism, retail, commercial and industrial aspects of business in the district. There is a Buchan Township website, buchan.vic.au and a W-Tree Community website wtree.vic.au.

There is an Early Childhood Development Centre (Kindergarten) and primary school located in the Buchan Township. A local school bus service runs from W-Tree and Buchan South and a bus transports secondary students to Bairnsdale. Buchan Bus and Freight operates from W Tree to Bairnsdale via Lakes Entrance on Wednesdays and Fridays. There is a police station, CFA, SES and three churches also located in the Buchan Township.

The Buchan Neighbourhood House offers East Gippsland Shire Outreach Services, Adult Education Courses, community activities and events, public internet access and provides a hub for community development. Our independent community newspaper, the Buchan Phoenix, is published to keep everyone up to date with community events and provide a local opportunity to have a say.

Parks Victoria has a strong presence in the area and together with the Gunaikurnai Land and Water Board of the Buchan Caves Reserve, Snowy River National Park and the Errinundra National Park are the custodians of our natural features.

There are a number of sporting clubs in the area including a football, cricket, netball, tennis, golf, rodeo and pony club.

There are Bush Nursing Centres in both Buchan and Gelantipy offering local access to healthcare both within the clinics and in the community. There is a dual response via ambulance pagers to enhance emergency response capabilities and reduce wait time in an emergency.

There is a Tibetan Buddhist Centre in W-Tree.

What has changed & effected the Community since the last plan?

Pub burning down and being rebuilt and the crowd funding campaign

Renovations at Callemondah Café and BnB Accommodation and Renovation of the Buchan Motel

Floods

Fires

Storms

Reduction in volunteering

New CFA and SES facilities

Closing of the SES service

Our community groups and services all experience dwindling volunteer participation and a community that feels that it is too busy to assist with community development.

There is a critical mass of people who can assist with community development. We can join together to achieve fewer tasks and support each other to achieve tasks as a community.

Our Future

Buchan's greatest resources are our pristine natural environment and our ever dwindling circle of volunteers who support a cohesiveness and vibrant community. There is the addition of newcomers to the area who bring new ideas and enthusiasm to expand the scope of what can be achieved by so few. This mix of people combine to give this district a unique character.



Sibelco Lime mining Buchan

Focus Group Consultations

Members of the Community Plan Steering Group are representatives on the following committees or are representatives of the following groups and have contributed to the feedback

Buchan Arts Council includes Buchan Flower Show
Buchan South Avenue of Honour
Buchan Heritage Group
Buchan Neighbourhood House
Buchan Hall and Recreation Committee
Buchan Early Years Reference Group
BBTA
Buchan Bush Nursing Association

We had the following groups attend the focus group meetings

| | |
|--|--|
| W Tree Gelantipy Wulgulmerang | Gelantipy CFA Gelantipy Hall |
| Sporting Groups | Wulgulmerang Recreation Reserve and Knockout Buchan Golf Club |
| Special interest Groups | Friends of Buchan Cemetery Buchan Heritage Group Buchan Cemetery Trust Buchan Bush Nursing |
| Business, parks and BBTA | Callemondah Buchan Lodge Buchan Motel WWOOF |
| Apologies to the meetings from | Gelantipy Bush Nursing Canni Creek Races Buchan Rodeo Living Library Karoonda Park/Gelantipy Progress Association Buchan General Store Buchan Roadhouse J & R Houghton Building and Stonehenge Caravan Park Ontos Farm |
| We had verbal feedback from | Catholic Church Uniting Church Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Buchan Primary School |
| Face to Face consultation with others stakeholders | Roadhouse General Store Pub |

Community Consultation

Held on Saturday 17th September at 2pm to 5 pm at the Buchan Recreation Pavilion

This opportunity was provided but was poorly attended however a great deal of informal feedback was given to members of the steering group and included in the Community Plan.

Promotion

The development of the community plan was promoted in the Community Newsletter as follows:

Feb. Article was about the Community Meeting Monday 14th March 2016 at the Neighbourhood House at 6pm.

Throughout 2016 we will be preparing the documentation and holding consultations to update the Buchan and District Community Plan. We value your input and would love to see as many of our community members there to share their ideas. Details about our plan can be found on the community website buchan.vic.au under community information.

May What the community has achieved so far from the last plan
June Information about the focus groups and dates for the meetings

July Focus Group meetings held throughout July at the time of printing and some great feedback and suggestions. Starting to see some trends in items and interests for our next plan.

Community Website
NH Facebook Page

Emails and snail mail including drop offs to all identified groups in the region to attend Focus Groups.

60 leaflets to residents in W Tree Gelantipy and Wulgulmerang for focus group meetings



Buchan Easter Sunday Rodeo



Buchan Junior Football

What are the Action Plans

The original action plans were developed when we created the 2011 to 2016 Community Plan. They provide a resource and reference to all the ideas that are submitted providing strategies and actions and include the following headings...

- ⇒ **Who will lead this project/who else**
- ⇒ **Project**
- ⇒ **Action**
- ⇒ **First Point of Contact**
- ⇒ **Agencies involved**
- ⇒ **Project costs/funding opportunities**
- ⇒ **Sustainability— how will this project be maintained/cost involved**
- ⇒ **Time in developing**
- ⇒ **Community Benefit—who benefits and how**
- ⇒ **Outcomes**
- ⇒ **Priority—Likelihood of achieveing within 5 years scale 1 2 3 4 5 low to high**

They provide details of a nominated project, who are the people, agencies and community groups involved, how they could be funded and most importantly provide the opportunity to set the priorities. The Action Plans are divided into 4 categories and align with the East Gippsland Shire Plan.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Place | (Sustainability) |
| People | (Liveability) |
| Economy | (Productivity) |
| Stewardship | (Governance) |

These are available in hard copy at the Buchan Neighbourhood House or online at <http://buchan.vic.au/community-information/community-plan-2017-to-2021/>

These Action Plans are comprehensive and include proposed projects from our individual community groups, sporting clubs and agencies in the region. It needs to be recognised that there are projects that involve all the community that don't come under one specific group or organisation, and that each of our active and comprehensive groups, clubs, agencies are all working towards improvements within their organisations as well as continuing to conduct events, programs and services on a day to day basis.



4 Wheel driving in the mist

Strategies and Actions

The following Strategies and Actions have been identified as the number one priorities for the 2017 to 2021 Buchan and District Community Plan.

Place

| Objective | Strategy and Actions | Time line | Who will be involved |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| Proactively manage our community and environmental impact | Investigate a central sewerage system for Buchan township Develop an action plan for this project | 2017 | Buchan Community Steering Committee |
| Develop a Community Firewood Collection Project | Investigate funding sources for a shared trailer and create a firewood collective for the W Tree Community | 2017 | W Tree Progress Assoc. Buchan Neighbourhood house |

Economy

| Objective | Strategy and Actions | Time line | Who will be involved |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| Continued improvements to tele-communications infrastructure in township and more remote areas including TV, Radio, Mobile Phone and internet | Continue to lobby federal government for improved services to W Tree and Gelantipy, Wulgulmerang and Timbarra Continue to request timelines for mobile blackspot improvement at Buchan South and Butchers Ridge Establish relationships with Federal member and Minister of Communications for improved services Provide information for community via the Community Newsletter | Ongoing 2017 Ongoing | Buchan Neighbourhood House Federal Government Telstra |



People

| Objective | Strategy and Actions | Time line | Who will be involved |
|---|--|-----------------|---|
| <p><u>Upgrades to Community buildings</u> Continue to upgrade and improve our community facilities to ensure maximum and continued use.</p> | | | |
| Recreation Pavilion | Install commercial standard Kitchen for community use particularly during emergencies as this is our Assembly area as part of the Community LIMP Plan. Identify grant opportunities for further improvements | 2018 | Rec and Hall Committee Seasonal User Groups DELWP |
| Buchan Mechanics Hall | Floor requires repairs Develop programs for community at the Hall and increase usage of this facility Pathways at Hall to access building and disabled toilet. Requires disabled access with the added difficulty of the hall having split levels New floor covering in the kitchen | 2018 2017 | EGSC GippSport Rec and Hall Committee DELWP EGSC |
| Butter Factory | Investigate funding opportunities to complete building works | 2017 ongoing | Heritage Group |
| Undertake safety upgrades to Recreation Pavilion as it's the Designated Assembly area for fires The oval is the Community Safer Place in times of fire emergency | Purchase and install fire protection panels on all windows Fill in the gaps of panelled wood that sits from ground level to the start of the floor so fire cannot get underneath the building | 2019 | Rec and Hall Committee |
| Investigate the possibility of a Designated RV Camping area along the Buchan River | Investigate the Installation of a dump point in the township Contact relevant agencies and gather information about the effects and benefits of RV camping for Buchan | 2017—2018 | BBTA EGSC CMCA |
| Investigate the possibility of acquiring the Uniting Church to use as a Family History Centre and for archival materials to be stored | Buchan Arts Council to manage this facility Research Family History Tourism opportunities | 2017 | Buchan Arts Council Buchan Neighbourhood House Uniting Church Buchan Heritage Group East Gippsland Family History Group |

| Objective | Strategy and Actions | Time line | Who will be involved |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| Increased access to Health Services | Build new Buchan Bush Nursing Association Facilities Explore opportunities of providing independent living arrangement for ever increasing ageing population living in the more remote and isolated parts of the district. | 2017 2018 | Buchan Bush Nursing Dept of Health and Human Services |
| Commemorate and promote 100 years of Bush Nursing in Buchan | Memorial seat to be placed in the Main Street Interpretive sign on the History of Bush Nursing | 2017 2017 | Buchan Bush Nursing |
| Improvements to the facilities at the Buchan Cemetery | Lay sealed pathways Paving around the new rotunda to finish off the area Cemetery map to be displayed in the rotunda and pioneer families information | 2017 2019 | Buchan Cemetery Trust Friends of Buchan Cemetery |
| Develop Buchan and District Youth Opportunities | Explore options for Youth Worker and youth programs coordinator position Investigate local youth programs that could be offered | 2017 | Buchan Neighbourhood House |



Stewardship

| Objective | Strategy and Actions | Time line | Who will be involved |
|--|--|-----------|---|
| Buchan Footpaths and Mobility Plan | Liaise with EGSC on the current status of the plan and timelines for completing the shared pathway in the John Flynn Reserve | 2017 | Buchan Business and Tourism Association EGSC |
| Family Cycling track from the main street, through the John Flynn Reserve over the swing bridge to the bluff | Mowing contract started in Nov 2016 through BBTA. Consultation with the Shire on a proposed sealed pathway. | 2017 | BBTA EGSC |
| The River bank in the township needs to be cleaned up to provide better access for fishing, walking, picnics and swimming. | Create a friends of the Buchan river group to plan and have shared working bees. Create a Foreshore usage Plan for the Buchan river in the township | 2017 | Catchment Management Landcare EGSC Rec and Hall Committee |
| Improve access to the town from the Buchan caves Reserve to link the park to the town | Investigate the development of a walking track to the Caves Reserve from the Buchan Pub and past the Motel. Street lighting for the pathway to the parks | 2018 | BBTA EGSC Parks Victoria |
| Improve signage and visitor information in Buchan and District | Signage consultation completed in Nov 2016 by the EGSC with community input. Expected that new signage will be installed as per the recommendations however more signage was identified than is able to be completed in this project. Further discussion with EGSC regarding completing all signage requests | 2017 | Community Plan Steering Group BBTA EGSC |
| Solar lights on the Swing Bridge Lighting on the Main Street that is in character with the street scape Improve night time access in the township | Investigate the cost and install solar lighting at the swing bridge Install street lighting in the main street | 2018 | BBTA EGSC |
| Develop a Flood Mitigation Plan for the flood plains in the township due to the flooding of community buildings and shire facilities as well as private properties | Invite all interested parties and stakeholder to discuss the development of a Flood Mitigation plan and implementation of the plan | 2017 | Community Plan Steering Group Rec and Hall Committee NH Heritage Group Affected Residents Catchment Management EGSC Landcare |

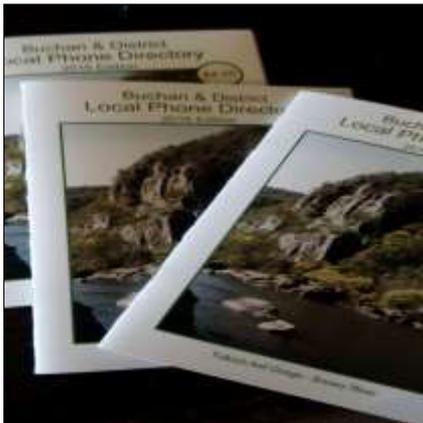
Community Documents



New Residents Welcome Pack



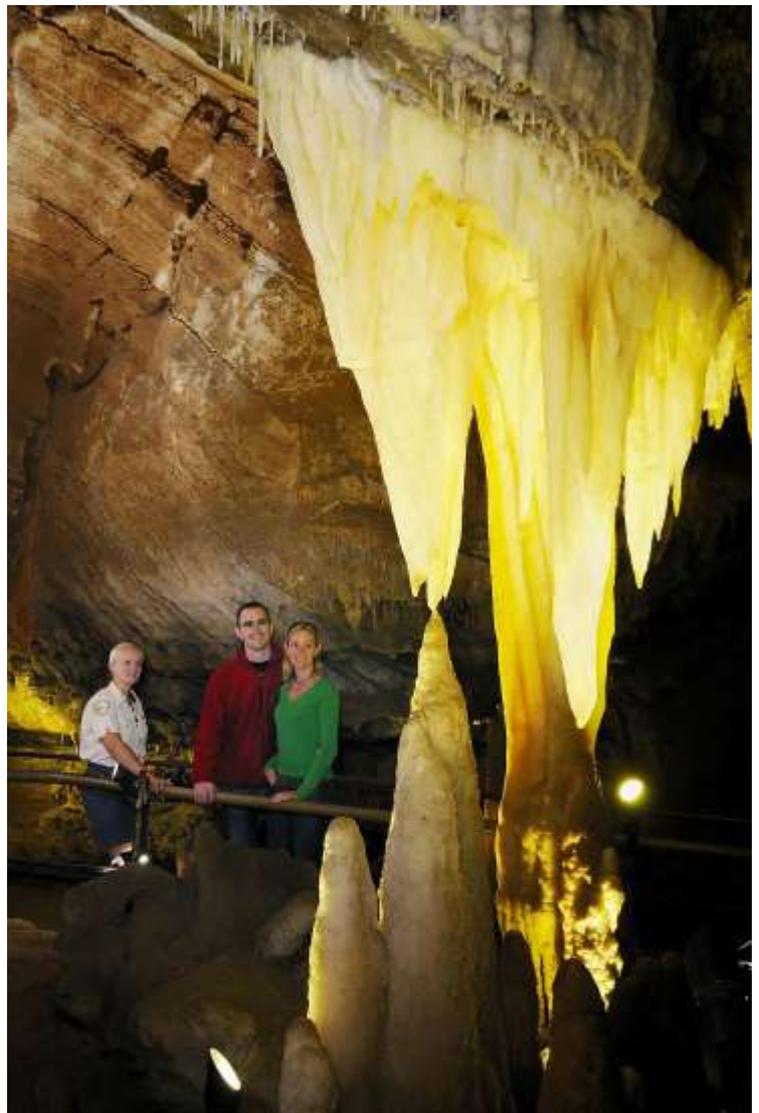
LIMP plan and booklet



Buchan and District Community Phone Book



Community Newsletter The Phoenix



Community Plan Steering Group Committee

Anne Brewer
Suzanne Davies
Gaye Sandy
Evelyn Schmidt
Rhonda Coates

Partners

The Buchan and District community values our partners in resourcing and supporting our projects.

East Gippsland Shire Councillors

East Gippsland Shire Staff

| | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| CEO | Gary Gaffney | Executive Services Communications and Corporate Strategy |
| Director Corporate | Maryanne Bennett | Finance Governance Information Services |
| Director Development | Paul Holton | Economic Development Statutory Services Recreation Facilities |
| Director Community & Strategic Development | Kate Nelson | Strategic Planning Community Programs Place Services |
| Director Operations | Chris Waites | Waste Works Capital Projects |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wayne Richards | Manager Community Programs |
| Stephen Kleinz | Senior Economic Development Officer |
| Lynda Arnold | Library Services |
| Amelie Boucher | Youth Services |
| Andrea Court | Arts and Events |
| Laura McDonald | Emergency Services |
| Mark Taylor | Parks |
| Jeanette Signor | Tourism |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Parks Victoria | Will McCutcheon | District Manager East Gippsland at Parks Victoria |
| | Tanya Taylor | Chief Ranger Commercial Operations East Gippsland District |
| | Leanne Hodge | Buchan Caves Reserve |

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Ken Judd

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

DELWP Senior Property Officer Tracey West

Business and Tourism East Gippsland

Vicroads

GippSport

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Executive Officer | Barry Switzer |
| Program Coordinator | Gene Parini Jaquie Nethercote Ryan Evans |

State Government of Victoria Representative

Tim Bull

Federal Government of Victoria Representative

Darren Chester

The Buchan and District Community Plan is a working document that will continue to change and provide information as a work in progress. It indicates a commitment to do further work in the areas outlined in the Action Plans depending on opportunity and resources. To identify the current document it will have the year and version on the front cover. The document will be reviewed regularly by the Steering Group Committee.