

Community Assembly Process Report

Prepared by i.e. community for Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Open Space Strategy

16 August 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the peoples of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which this Community Assembly was carried out.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and recognise the Kulin and all First Nations peoples' ongoing resilience and connection to land.

Privacy

i.e. community and any person(s) acting on our behalf collects, manages and holds personal information in accordance with the Victorian Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles 2014.

Personal information collected from individuals, such as e-mail addresses, contact details, demographic data and feedback enable us to facilitate participation in, and report on, engagement activities. We follow a strict procedure for the collection, use, disclosure, storage and destruction of personal information. Any information we collect is stored securely and only disclosed to our client or the program team. Written notes from consultation activities are recorded digitally and disposed of securely.

We make every effort to ensure we capture participant feedback accurately, however, we cannot guarantee that every contribution is represented in this report. We are confident this report captures the breadth of views we heard through the engagement period.

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Introduction

This report outlines the process implemented by i.e. community to deliver the Open Space Community Assembly on behalf of Macedon Ranges Shire Council (Council). The deliberative engagement process was part of a broader engagement process delivered by Council and Xyst Australia.

The Community Assembly was the second deliberative engagement process undertaken by Council, building on the success of the first Community Assembly in 2021, which was implemented to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). While not required for Open Space planning, Council's commitment to deliberative engagement reflects the intention of the Act, with a desire to increase community input into Council decisions.

Our approach

Our objective

Co-design a deliberative process that builds on the work done by the first Community Assembly, delivers a compelling vision for open space, provides answers to some challenging questions, and further builds the capacity of Council and the community to work together to create a shared future for Macedon Ranges.

Designing the process

The deliberative engagement process was co-designed with Council with many touch points from inception to conclusion. This included the developing the remit, recruitment of the Assembly, and design of the deliberative sessions.

The aim of co-design process was to:

- align expectations on what would be delivered
- develop the scope and a remit that would be meaningful to Council and the community
- establish the approach to recruitment and Assembly structure
- build support for the process and the capability of Council to undertake deliberative engagement.

Council's Community Engagement Policy sets out principles that informed our approach to the deliberative process, as shown below.

- Representative - We will engage a representative sample of the Macedon Ranges Shire community.
- Deliberative - We will provide adequate time and opportunities for dialogue and deliberation.
- Influence - We will give full, fair and thorough consideration to the outputs of the deliberative process.

Developing the remit

The remit is the task that is set for the deliberative process, most often in the form of a question. The remit was developed based on the following criteria:

1

The issues or question is significant enough to warrant the investment and commitment from the community.

2

Council is genuinely open to being influenced and committed to taking onboard the outcomes.

3

They are 'tricky' enough to be worthy of deliberation, involving the consideration of different options or tradeoffs.

4

The community will be interested in the questions and it is not primarily a matter for experts.

The remit

Open space is central to achieving the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision.

The development of the Open Space Strategy provides us with the opportunity to work with the community to take stock of our existing open space, identify gaps and set clear priorities for the next 10 years. The overarching question the Community Assembly will consider is:

Given we have limited resources, how should we prioritise our investment in open space across the shire to ensure it aligns with the values and aspirations of our diverse and growing communities?

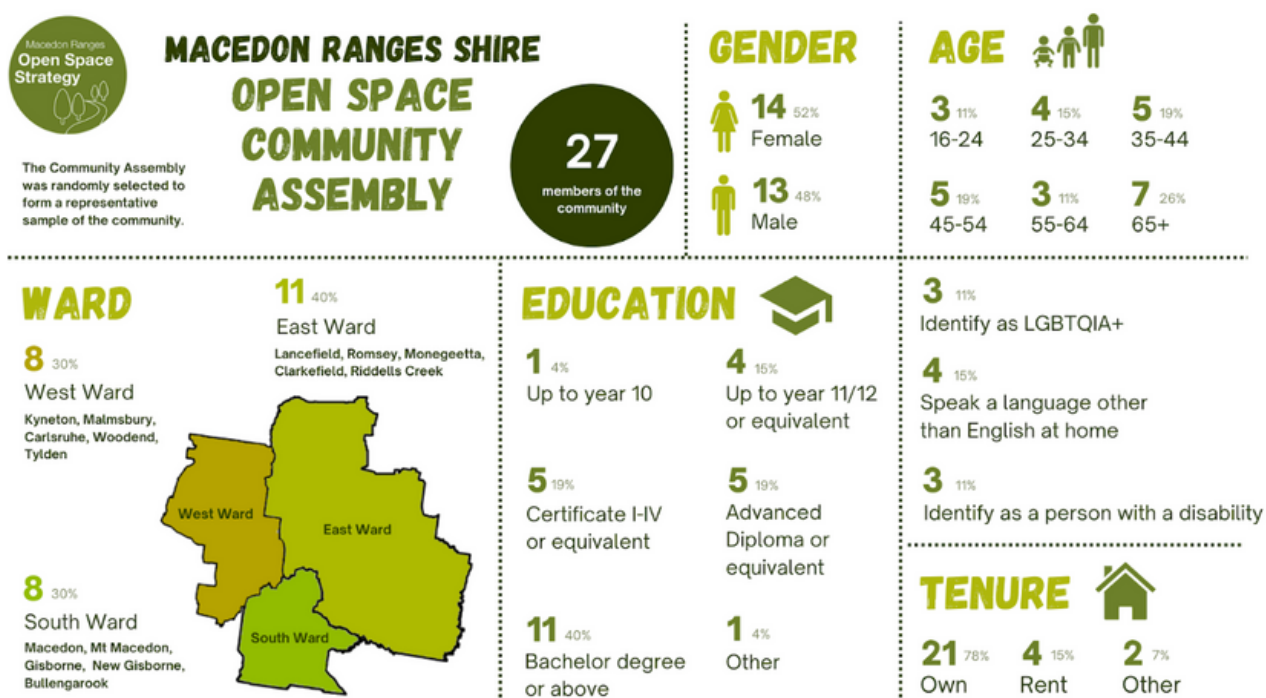
Recruitment

The Assembly consisted of 27 members that were randomly selected and stratified to form a representative sample of the Macedon Ranges Shire community. Recruitment of the Open Space Community Assembly, including collection of applications and random selection of community members was undertaken by i.e community, independently of Council. Council’s role in the process included promotion of the Assembly and distribution of the invitation.

An invitation was sent to 3,000 random households across the Macedon Ranges Shire municipality, divided proportionally across the three wards. The invitation was also shared on Council’s website and through other communication channels.

Towards the end of the registration period, an assessment was made by the project team that we had insufficient registrations to ensure a robust stratified random sample process. A decision was made to extend the registration period for 10 days, accompanied by increased effort by Council’s communications and planning team to encourage more registrations, particularly by younger people.

An overview of the selected Assembly is provided below.



Overview of the sessions

The Community Assembly met in-person three times for an evening briefing and two full-day sessions, each held at Jubilee Hall in Macedon. These sessions are summarised below.

Briefing: Introduce and understand

Thursday 5 May 6:30pm - 8:30pm

The first session was an evening briefing session where the Assembly met each other, the facilitators and the project team. They gained an understanding of the Open Space planning process, the policy context and importantly, the Assembly process. This briefing set the foundation of the Assembly, understanding how we work together and setting the expectations for the deliberative process.

Meeting #1: Learn and explore

Saturday 14 May 9am- 4pm

A full day session to gain an understanding of the background and key information for the project, including presentations from key stakeholders and subject matter experts. The Assembly considered information from the first phase of community engagement and current open space data, and were introduced to the language of open space planning.

Meeting #2: Deliberate and decide

Saturday 28 May 9am - 4pm

A full day session to go deeper into the information, and deliberate on the future priorities for open space across the shire to ensure it aligns with the community's values and aspirations. The Assembly developed their recommendations, and presented them to Council.

Setting community priorities

The Assembly was introduced to a range of issues, framed as priority areas, that had been identified by Xyst through background research, benchmarking, data from community engagement and peer-Council review.

It was explained that while all issues would be addressed through the Strategy, Council was asking the Assembly to identify the priority areas on behalf of the Macedon Ranges Shire community.

The priority areas that were explored by the Assembly were:

1. The inequity of access to open space (spaces are not in the right places to meet people's needs)
2. The type of open space (not the right type to meet people's needs)
3. The quality of open space amenities (built features are not in good condition)
4. The standard of maintenance of open spaces (upkeep not adequate)
5. Increased use of open spaces (too many people using the same spaces)
6. Physical accessibility of open spaces (not enough all-abilities amenities)
7. Provision of pathways for walking and rolling (not enough or disconnected trails)
8. Response to climate change (not enough proactive action to mitigate impacts like changing weather patterns)
9. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity (not enough conservation and environmental management action)
10. Traditional Owner reconciliation (not enough action on traditional owner priority projects)
11. Traditional owner recognition (not enough acknowledgement via education, storytelling, traditional owner design, naming and more)

Shire-wide priorities for the Strategy

With an understanding of the priority areas, the Assembly then worked together to set the community priorities for open space in the shire. Through a process of deliberation, the Community Assembly recommended the following as priorities for the Strategy:

1

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

2

The standard of maintenance of open spaces

3

The type of open space to meet people's needs

4

Provision of pathways for walking and rolling

5

Physical accessibility of open spaces

Shire-wide decision making framework

The next task for the Assembly was to provide input into the decision making framework that would be used to guide investment in the Open Space Strategy.

Draft decision making framework

To begin the Assembly worked through each element of the draft decision making framework with Xyst and Council representatives. Starting with four key factors, shown below, that had been considered in developing the township scenarios that would be deliberated on later in the process.

Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Does the proposed open space development align with Council's Planning Scheme?</i>• <i>Does it align with strategic plans for the township or community? Are there any land use implications and if so, what are they?</i>
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>How does open space deliver on Council's quality standards?</i>• <i>How does open space meet accessibility and other requirements?</i>• <i>How does open space deliver on Council's desired standards of service?</i>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Who is responsible for land / open space in the township?</i>• <i>What open space / asset agreements are in place or required?</i>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>How is open space development / investment going to be funded?</i>• <i>What are the ongoing financial implications for the development of open space and who is responsible?</i>

Next the Assembly was taken through the remaining elements of the draft framework and briefed on their task to develop the community criteria in the decision making framework. That is, what are the key factors (framed as questions) Council should consider from a community perspective?

Types of open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What type of open space is required?</i> • <i>Is something similar already provided and accessible?</i> • <i>Is there scope for new open space (greenfield) or are upgrades to existing open space required?</i>
Use of open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the primary function / use of open space?</i> • <i>Who / what are the other uses / users of open space?</i> • <i>Does the proposed investment or development change this primary function, and if so how?</i>
Need and demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the population and demographic profiles of the township / catchment?</i> • <i>What growth is projected (residential / tourism /industry etc)?</i> • <i>How does open space respond and address trends in sport, recreation and open space use and function?</i> • <i>What evidence is there for the proposed use or growth in use in open space?</i>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What type of open space already exists in the township / area?</i> • <i>How will the development of open space add value or impact on existing open space and open space experiences?</i> • <i>How does open space provide for accessibility, safety and functionality for the community?</i>
Cultural and environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How does the development of open space consider and respond to cultural and environmental factors?</i> • <i>How could the open space in the area improve cultural or environmental outcomes?</i>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How does / can open space add value to the local economy?</i> • <i>How does it support and add value to the visitor economy?</i>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How does open space deliver on the shire-wide priorities (developed last session)?</i> • <i>What are other key factors should Council consider when making decisions about open space?</i>

Recommended community criteria

The Community Assembly recommends that the key factors Council should consider from a community perspective when making decisions for investment in open space are:

Recommended community criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>How does open space deliver on the shire-wide priorities?</i>• <i>How will MRSC support and sustain local community groups or committees of management to help design and maintain the open space, and implement the Open Space Strategy?</i>• <i>How will MRSC support and sustain local community groups or committees of management to help design and maintain the open space, and implement the Open Space Strategy?</i>• <i>How will the development respond to local environmental character (pre and post settlement), town culture and identity?</i>
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Township scenarios

An introduction to township scenarios was provided by Katherine from Xyst:

These “scenarios” describe the look and feel of open space in the town. They describe the priorities, values, and functions of open space in a way that helps Council to make decisions about what good service looks like. The strategy must be clear about values and vision as this is the rationale for decision making and priority setting into the future. It’s a complex task to clearly identify values; too generic and high level, or conversely, too detailed and they are impossible to apply. This “scenarios” method attempts to describe this complexity in a simple manner. They describe the experience of open space services, in language which is easily understood and communicated.

The resultant “scenario” statements for each town will be published in the Open Space Strategy at the beginning of the section related to actions for each townsite. They provide a lead goal and direct line between the current state and the future to be delivered by undertaking the actions identified in the strategy. They describe the community’s expectations for the future.


The priorities and desired outcomes will guide the strategy recommendations relating to the proportion of types of open spaces available (where transitions may be required), the standard of service (related to use demands for example), and much more.

The task for the Community Assembly was to draw on the information provided (in the township posters) and their local knowledge, and use the decision making framework to guide recommendations on the future direction of open space in three sample townships.

Gisborne scenarios

The Assembly was presented with three possible scenarios for the future of open space in the township as shown below.

GISBORNE



The current natural environment and open space objectives (MRSC Planning scheme)

Objective 1
To protect and improve areas of remnant vegetation, fauna habitat, natural drainage corridors, Gisborne Racecourse Marshlands Reserve and the landscape and open space corridor along Jacksons Creek as essential elements of Gisborne and New Gisborne’s natural setting.

Objective 2
To create an attractive urban environment with a strong sense of place that contributes to Gisborne and New Gisborne’s natural setting through the provision of a range of open space areas.

Objective 3
To ensure open space areas meet the active and passive needs of the community, in conjunction with required drainage infrastructure, areas of flora and fauna, and linkages to key destinations.

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following scenarios.

SCENARIO 1

Sport and Play

This scenario is most like the current state. It provides almost equal parts sport and social recreation and proposes a focus on good quality spaces with the basics addressed.

Gisborne townsite is almost equal parts organised sport and social recreation. Multifunctional, good quality places provide opportunities for a wide variety of users. The Botanic Gardens and Jacksons Creek Reserve have a social recreation focus providing thriving social space.

Priorities:

- Get the basics right – drinking fountains, places to sit, bathrooms, safety, maintenance.
- Improve the quality of parks within their current footprint.
- Increase provision of social recreation space by improving access and amenity in all existing reserves. Add playgrounds, social gathering spaces, casual spaces for physical activity such as skateparks, half-courts, playgrounds, dog off leash areas, and event spaces.

Trade-offs:

- Expansion of space for organised sport beyond the area already fields would not be a priority. This could be moderate improvements to quality of existing spaces instead.
- Anything that reduces access to spaces for social or recreational use would be less of a priority
- The goal would be to support more multi-functional spaces and not support new public open space amenities which are designed for a single purpose.

SCENARIO 2

Sport and Physical Activity

This scenario puts more of a focus on sport and being a destination for people throughout the region.

Gisborne is a hub of multi-use sport and active recreation facilities which are designed and programmed to meet the needs of a broad range of users from across the region.

Priorities:

- Increase quantity and quality of sports and recreation facilities designed to cater for tournaments and intense use. Integration of competitive and recreational participation opportunities.
- Leverage and support the regional sports centre with auxiliary amenities such as training fields, practice nets, running tracks.
- Increasing access to open spaces for sport; parking, and linkages to major road, pedestrian, bicycle, and public transport networks.

Trade-offs:

- There would likely be less dispersed open spaces throughout town. Focus would be on centralisation and creating of precincts and hubs where possible.
- Walkable access to smaller open spaces distributed throughout the town would not be a strategic priority.
- Anything that reduces access to spaces for active recreational use would be deprioritised.

SCENARIO 3

Nature and Water

This scenario puts more of a focus on the conservation and connectivity of the creek lines.

Jacksons Creek is the lifeblood of Gisborne. Ecological connectivity including Bunji Creek and Howey Creek thrives. Abundant trees provide a lush environment. All open spaces in Gisborne respect and enhance the natural environment.

Priorities:

- Acquisition and enhancement of parkland along all creek lines and ecological corridors
- Enhancing ecological health at all open space sites
- Adding “natural” areas to all open spaces (pollinator meadows, tree planting, grasslands etc.)
- Water sensitive urban design projects which increase water quality to receiving creeks

Trade-offs:

- Anything that jeopardises the protection of ecologically, environmentally or culturally significant open spaces would not be supported. This may mean that any new recreation or sport amenities would have to be located on spaces which have no potential environmental value.
- A large, central sport and recreation hub wouldn’t be a priority. The focus would be on connectivity and dispersed open spaces which respect and enhance the natural environment.
- New investment in sports and recreation facilities and their associated amenities would be deprioritised over environmental projects.

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	→
Nature	→
Recreation	↑
Basic Amenities	↑
Quality of open space	↑
Quantity of open space	→

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	↑
Nature	→
Recreation	→
Basic Amenities	→
Quality of open space	↑
Quantity of open space	→

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	→
Nature	↑
Recreation	→
Basic Amenities	→
Quality of open space	→
Quantity of open space	↑

Recommended Scenario: Nature and water

This scenario puts more of a focus on the conservation and connectivity of the creek lines. Jacksons Creek is the lifeblood of Gisborne. Ecological connectivity including Bunji Creek and Howey Creek thrives. Abundant trees provide a lush environment. All open spaces in Gisborne respect and enhance the natural environment.

Why did the Assembly recommend this particular scenario?


The Assembly provided the following reasons for their selection.

- There is already a large sporting complex, other built facilities are under-utilised in the shire
- Waterways are under threat, need protection and land acquisition
- Flooding is already an issue
- Provides local walkable linear reserves which will support locals to access all areas
- Puts more of a focus on the conservation and connectivity of open space
- There's already a \$40 million sporting facility being built in Gisborne. You can't continue to put things in the centre of Gisborne - there's no room. The town has grown and spread yet the new estates have such tiny open spaces that have zero connectivity to each other and limited access.

Romsey scenarios

The Assembly was presented with three possible scenarios for the future of open space in the township as shown below.

ROMSEY



Macedon Ranges
Open Space Strategy

The current relevant natural environment and open space objectives (MRSC Planning scheme)

Objective 1
To provide a positive open space environment for the town that appropriately protects the environmental functions of waterways.

Objective 1.1
Enhance waterway character and quality through the adoption of water sensitive urban design.

Objective 1.2
Ensure any development adjacent to Five Mile Creek presents a positive interface to the waterway and provides for the development of public open space along the creek, with shared cycling and walking trails.

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following scenarios.

SCENARIO 1

Play and Activity

This scenario is most like the current state. It capitalises on the fact that Romsey has an existing skate park, an oval and school fields in the centre of town, and a golf course.

Romsey is a place for all ages to play, move and socialise. Multifunctional, central, good quality places provide opportunities for a wide variety of users. Romsey Recreation Reserve, Lions Reserve, and the Romsey Golf Club have a sport and social recreation focus, providing central open spaces for organised sport and active recreation.

Priorities:

- Increasing opportunities for casual play throughout town which appeal to Romsey's growing youth population. This could include courts, climbing, parkour, outdoor games, skate features, roller-skating, bike paths and more.
- Additional amenities for social park use such as picnic areas, shade, and bathrooms.
- Looped walking trails with outdoor fitness equipment which appeal to people of all ages.

Trade-offs:

- Romsey's existing organised sport space (the school oval, recreation centre and Romsey Recreation Reserve Oval) create a sports precinct. This scenario would support this use with associated amenities but would not necessarily provide any expanded sport opportunities by way of additional space.
- The ecotherapy park and creek area would continue to offer a quiet, nature experience. However, this wouldn't be expanded further into town.

SCENARIO 2

Green Connectivity

This scenario is inspired by the existing "greenways" feel of Romsey's main street.

Green ribbons run throughout Romsey. It's easy to walk or roll throughout town via one of many green spaces which connect all key open spaces.

Priorities:

- Creating and enhancing an open space corridor along Five Mile Creek as described in the Romsey Five Mile Creek Masterplan.
- Creating a connected off-road trail network throughout town. The trail could take different forms like shared paths, natural trails, looped paths within parks, tracks around the oval, off-leash dog trails, art walks, ecotherapy trails, outdoor exercise equipment along trails and more.
- Landscape and tree protection to retain rural character and create wide linear open spaces.

Trade-offs:

- Enhancements to existing parks would focus on connectivity within and external to the space. Many amenities support this, such as seating, wayfinding, public art, exercise equipment etc. But not all amenities would be prioritised for improvement. This means that new amenities which encourage lingering in parks would be less of a priority.

SCENARIO 3

Water and Biodiversity

This scenario celebrates the creek lines and water flows throughout Romsey.

Water is celebrated throughout Romsey. Drainage reserves are given a new life as places to connect with nature. Excellent water management techniques result in less flooding and better water quality.

Priorities:

- Drainage reserves, which collect rainwater leaving private lands and streets, would be enhanced with new landscaping and structures to create useable open space for people.
- Water sensitive urban design methods would be used in parks, which has the benefit of managing stormwater well, reducing unwanted flooding, responding to a changing climate, and improving water quality.
- Nature play and opportunities for connection with the natural world.
- Creek line biodiversity enhancing environmental projects.
- Expanding cultural protection of Deep Creek and exploring opportunities for management by Traditional Owners.

Trade-offs:

- Managing open space with water at the centre comes with some technical challenges. This scenario would include a learning phase as new approaches are tested.
- While newly enhanced creek lines and linear reserves would make these places nicer to be, they may not come with as many amenities for comfort or accessibility as would be planned for a linear reserve intending to provide increased connectivity.

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	→
Nature	→
Recreation	↑
Basic Amenities	↑
Quality of open space	↑
Quantity of open space	→

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	→
Nature	→
Recreation	↑
Basic Amenities	↑
Quality of open space	→
Quantity of open space	↑

THIS SCENARIO MEANS:

Sport	→
Nature	↑
Recreation	→
Basic Amenities	→
Quality of open space	→
Quantity of open space	↑

Recommended Scenario: Water and biodiversity

This scenario celebrates the creek lines and water flows through Romsey. Water is celebrated throughout Romsey. Drainage reserves are given a new life as places to connect with nature. Excellent water management techniques result in less flooding and better water quality.

Why did the Assembly recommend this particular scenario?

The Assembly provided the following reasons for their selection.

- We know that there is a water (flooding) problem
- Meets community criteria for decision making
- Protects and enhances biodiversity, can enhance open spaces
- Supports local sporting and environmental groups
- Assists in protecting indigenous landscapes, recognises traditional owner priorities
- Fully supports potential for climate change
- Supports local environmental character: more trees and planting
- Potential for additional sporting fields.

Woodend scenario

The Assembly was presented with three possible scenarios for the future of open space in the township as shown below.


WOODEND

The current relevant natural environment and open space objectives (MRSC Planning scheme)

Objective 2
To preserve the visual and physical integrity of Woodend's key landscape features including Mount Macedon, Hanging Rock, Golf Course Hill, Avenue of Honour and Five Mile Creek.

Objective 3
To protect and enhance the rural character of the township entrances and gateways.

Objective 4
To provide a network of trails and paths that connect landscape features and open spaces.



Macedon Ranges
Open Space Strategy

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following scenarios.

SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3																																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Green Landscapes</p> <p>This scenario is most like the current state. It focusses on the protection of the existing landscape features which make Woodend special.</p> <p><i>Woodend; town of the trees. The open spaces in town preserve the visual and physical integrity of Woodend's key landscape features.</i></p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of visual and physical integrity of Mount Macedon, Hanging Rock, Golf Course Hill, Avenue of Honour, and Five Mile Creek. Reinforcement of the Five Mile Creek corridor as a key landscape element of the town's setting by protecting, enhancing, and expanding the open spaces along the creek as a biodiversity, recreation, and open space corridor. Creating an active interface to Five Mile Creek and providing public open space along the creek with shared cycling and walking trails. Providing a network of trails and paths that connect landscape features and open spaces. The use of drainage lines, creek corridors and areas of remnant vegetation as open space connections and linear parks, including within residential development and subdivisions. Tree planting everywhere possible, on all open space. Ideally creating avenues of trees inspired by the Avenue of Honour. <p>Trade-offs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A focus on passive social recreation uses and landscape values in open space means that more active uses are deprioritised. This means the sport, courts, fun spaces for teenagers, and spaces for events are not high on the list. This scenario could see more diffused provision of open spaces throughout town, which means that more residents would potentially have access to open space close to home. However, this potentially means that effort is not concentrated and therefore the quality of spaces may be, on average, lower. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Civic Vibrancy</p> <p>This scenario builds on the momentum of the new community centre, and the existing vibrant civic life.</p> <p><i>Woodend's vibrant civic spaces bring people together. Play, art and food are a wonderful reason to gather and enjoy the delights of Woodend.</i></p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating civic spaces which build on the momentum of the, soon to be renewed, Community Centre, the busy Farmers market and the much-loved children's park. This civic space which includes the visitor information centre, could be designed to host small events, family picnics, public art, and more. Ability for Racecourse reserve to host events such as live music and festivals. Increased quality of amenities and maintenance of parks in town to support greater use. <p>Trade-offs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional organised sport, like AFL, would not see increased investment, however because sport is a pillar of life in rural towns, game days could be even more popular. Five Mile Creek would be quite close to the hive of activity, and this scenario would not see increased priority for biodiversity type projects. While not expected to be significant, this would not protect the ecological value of the area to any greater extent than currently provided. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Adventure</p> <p>This scenario embraces the spirit of adventure envisioned by its proximity to Hanging Rock and Wombat State Forest.</p> <p><i>Woodend is the doorstep of adventure. Those with a sense of fun and exploration feel at home in Woodend's open spaces. With so much to explore, it's no wonder it's known for fun.</i></p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of ways to increase community use of all spaces. For example, the Woodend Golf Club could host informal tracks and trails, host off leash dogs, or more adventurous activities like archery or disc golf. A trail connection to/from Woodend Rail Station to existing MTB trails in the Macedon Regional Park and Wombat State Forest. Perhaps a pump track to inspire the mountain bike riders of the future. Embrace the Woodend to Mount Macedon Trail, perhaps by adding additional linear open space along Mount Macedon Road. Embracing the road of 'trail head town' of the Macedon Ranges Shared Trails Project Equestrian trails, off leash dog trails, and more ways to get outside and exploring the beautiful landscape. <p>Trade-offs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing on adventurous pursuits reduces the focus on projects such as biodiversity enhancement, however, nature-based tourism is the driver, so it would not be forgotten. While the new community centre will bring interest to the top end of high street, this may diffuse effort slightly due to land area requirements and connections to points of interest further afield. Traditional organised sport, like AFL, would not see increased investment, it would likely remain steady and cater for local sport use. 																																				
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">THIS SCENARIO MEANS:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Sport</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Nature</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Basic Amenities</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Quality of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Quantity of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> </table>	Sport	→	Nature	↑	Recreation	→	Basic Amenities	↑	Quality of open space	↑	Quantity of open space	→	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">THIS SCENARIO MEANS:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Sport</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Nature</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Basic Amenities</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Quality of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Quantity of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> </table>	Sport	→	Nature	→	Recreation	↑	Basic Amenities	↑	Quality of open space	↑	Quantity of open space	→	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">THIS SCENARIO MEANS:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Sport</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Nature</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> <tr><td>Basic Amenities</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Quality of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">→</td></tr> <tr><td>Quantity of open space</td><td style="text-align: center;">↑</td></tr> </table>	Sport	→	Nature	↑	Recreation	↑	Basic Amenities	→	Quality of open space	→	Quantity of open space	↑
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Recommended Scenario: Green Landscapes

This scenario is most like the current state. It focuses on the protection of the existing landscape features which make Woodend special.

Woodend; town of the trees. The open spaces in town preserve the visual and physical integrity of Woodend's key landscape features.

Why did the Assembly recommend this particular scenario?

The Assembly provided the following reasons for their selection.

- Fits community decision making framework most closely (fourth question)
- Suits diverse age groups and population growth
- Focuses on getting what we've got right (40% performance score currently)
- First scenario responds to climate change, local character and acknowledgement of local groups
- Fulfils objectives of protecting environment
- Sport is available in New Gisborne by train, car or bike by Black Forest Rd
- Need to include Indigenous voices, biodiversity (no need for more Avenue of Honour trees).
- Also must not exclude community connection as key axis in network of trails, 5 Mile Creek biodiversity open space corridor
- Sustainable local economy vs budget constraints.

Feedback

Members of the Community Assembly were asked to answer a short survey at the end of the final session to capture their experience of the process and key learnings. 21 members of the Assembly completed this survey, the findings of which are detailed below.

Assembly members enjoyed working with other community members.

All Assembly members agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed working with the other members, and connected with others throughout the sessions.

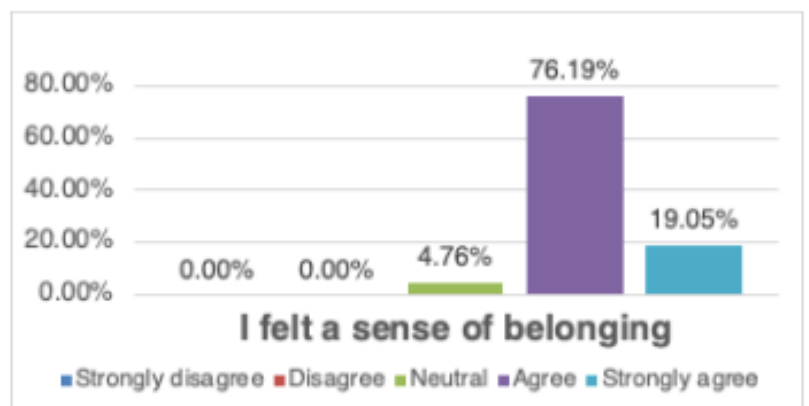
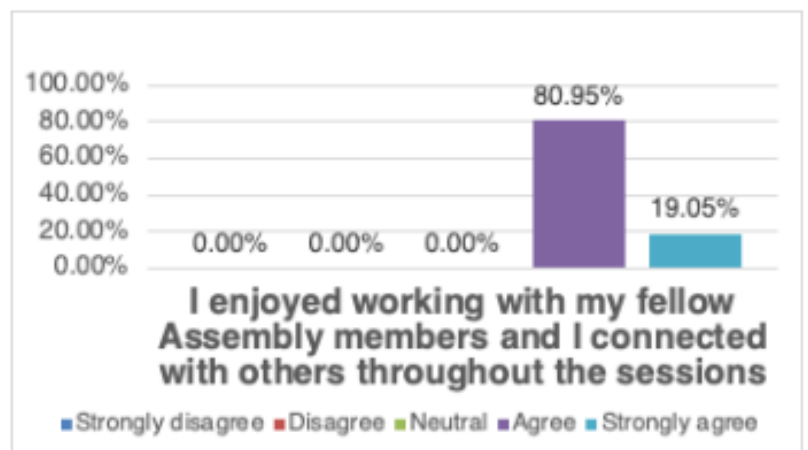
Asked to share the best thing about the process:

“The friendliness of the members” and “the diversity”

“Everyone got on well and behaved with respect for one another”

Almost all members agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of belonging.

“Everyone got on well and behaved with respect for one another”



Assembly members felt supported to fully participate in the sessions

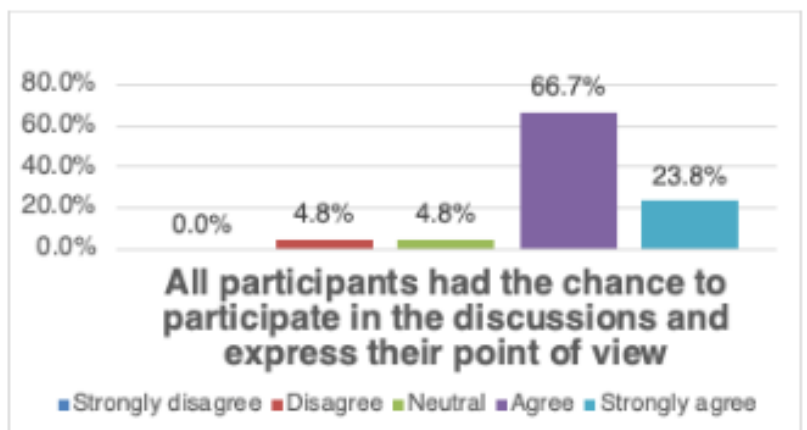
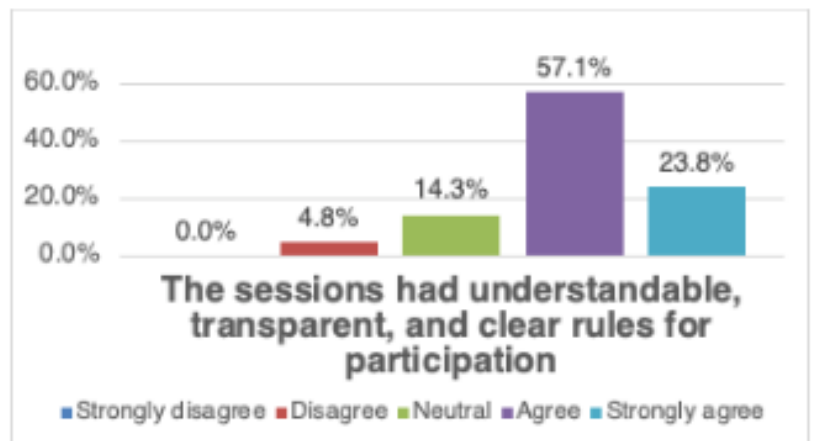
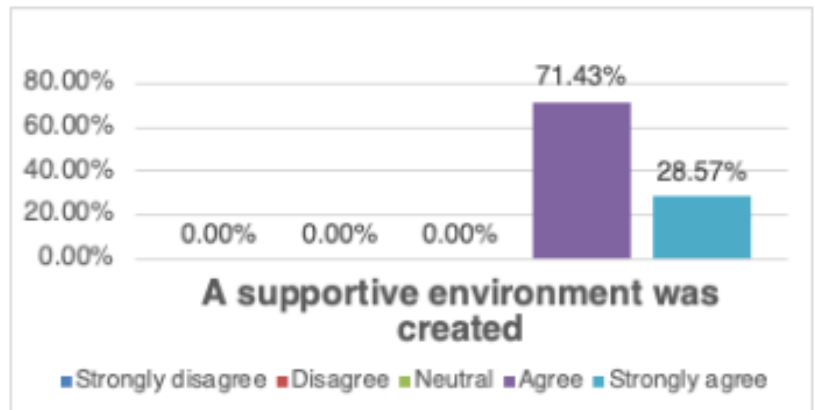
Assembly members felt satisfied with the level of participation facilitated during the sessions.

All agreed that a supportive environment was created, with over a quarter strongly agreeing.

“Level of connection with Council members, others in the community and hard work that the consulting group put into the process”

The majority of Assembly members agreed or strongly agreed that “all participants had the chance to participate in the discussions and express their point of view” as well as that “the sessions had understandable, transparent, and clear rules for participation”.

“The ability to ask questions or stick them on the wall was great”



The information presented was clear, relevant and helped build understanding

The majority of the Assembly responded with agree or strongly agree to the statements: “the information presented was clear” and “the information presented was relevant”.

This was supported in comments provided by the Assembly in the open ended questions, with one member sharing that the best part or most surprising part of the process was:

“The amount of information presented in a short period”

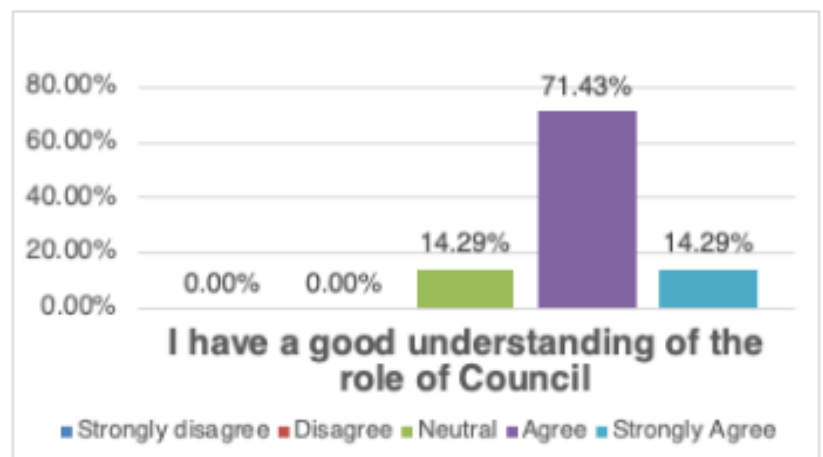
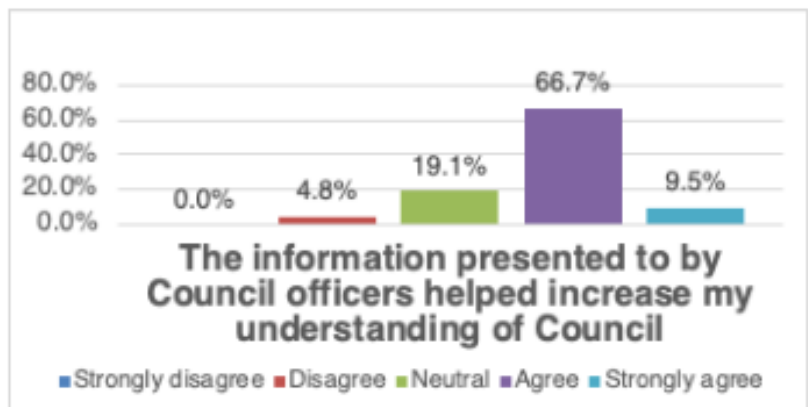
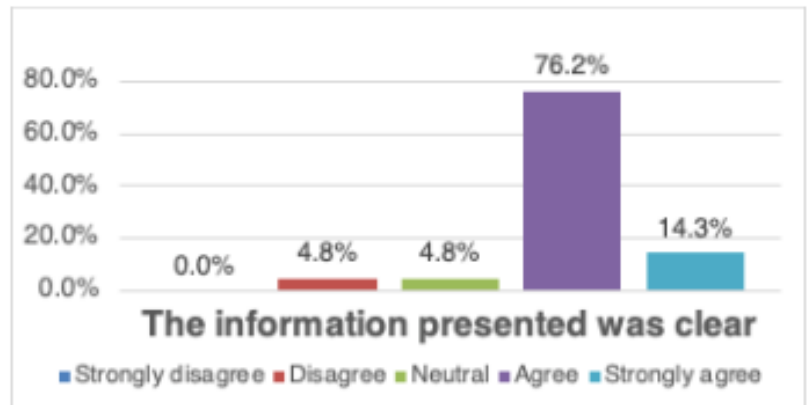
“The quality of the information was very high”

Most Assembly members agreed that the information presented by Council officers helped increase their understanding of Council.

“Understanding local issues and growth areas”

“I did learn a lot about my local areas”

Some members provided feedback for how the information could be improved, with one member sharing they felt that “some info. went into too much detail” and another felt the hardest part of the process was “absorbing everything”, while another stated they would like “more background information”.



Assembly members would have liked more time for discussion and consensus building

Building on the lessons learnt from the previous Assembly, a key focus of session design was ensuring the task was manageable in the timeframe. However, some Assembly members felt that they would have appreciated more time, taking their role and the task seriously, with one member stating the hardest part of the process was “feeling certain we were representing the whole community”.

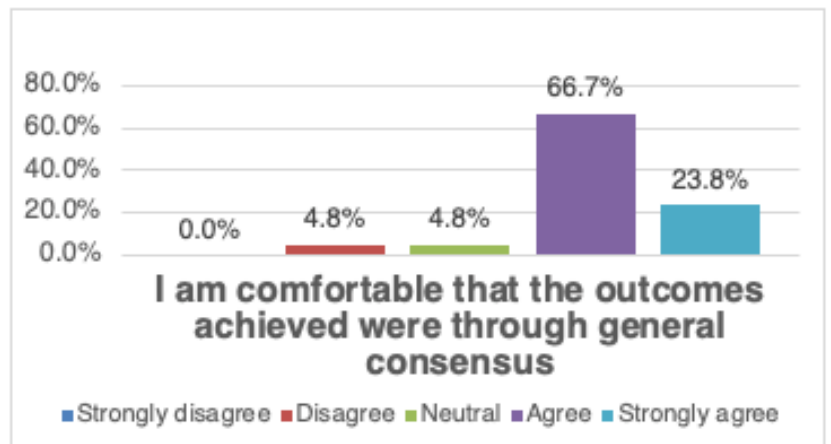
Some Assembly members shared they thought the hardest part of the process was “time pressures to make decisions around the frameworks” and “the deliverables expected in such a tight time frame. At times it felt like the important decisions were rushed rather than discussed to consensus”. Despite this, most Assembly members agreed that the outcomes were achieved through general consensus.

Some felt we hadn’t got the balance right between providing and presenting information and allowing time for discussion.

“Finding enough time for discussions after too much repeated presentation”

“Ratio of explanation of process to actual process”

Striking a balance between enough time while ensuring the sessions are manageable can be a challenge, with one Assembly member suggesting “shorter days” for next time, while another suggesting a “longer process perhaps”.



The Assembly has high expectations for the outcomes of the process

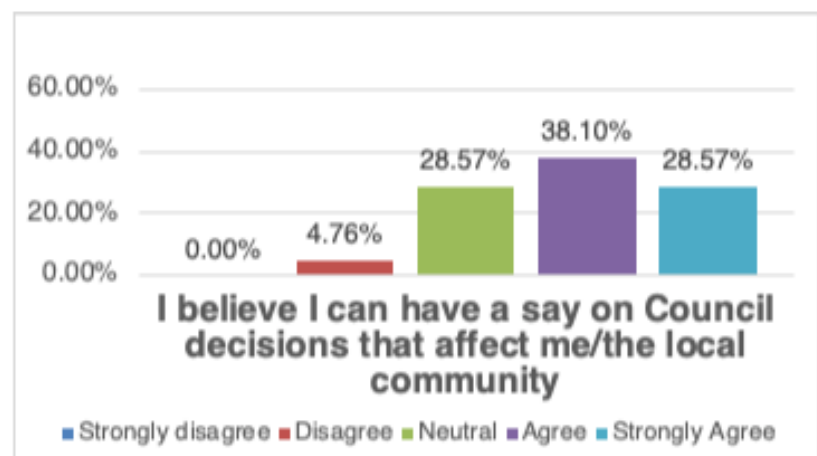
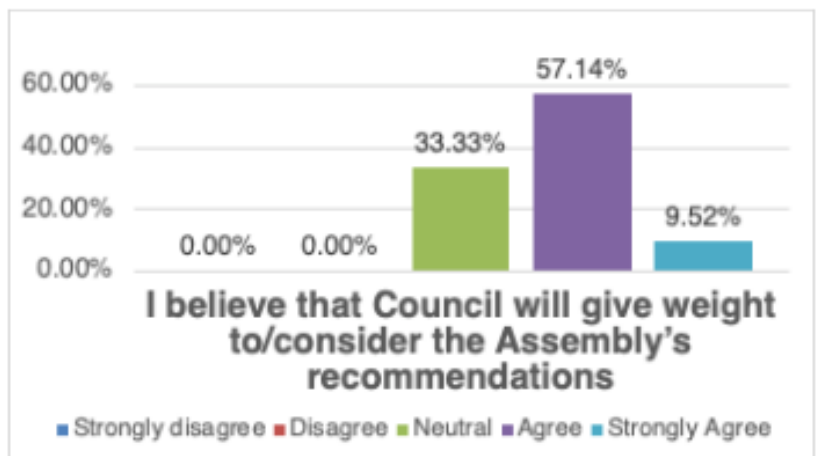
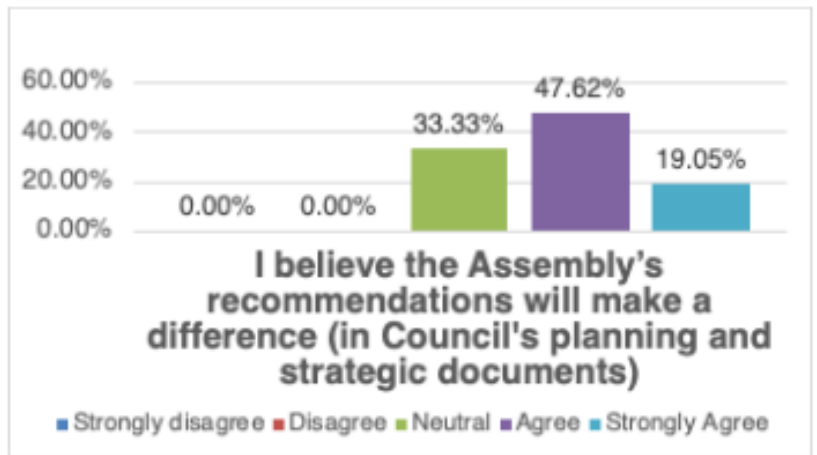
Most Assembly members believe that Council will give weight to or consider the Assembly’s recommendations, and that the Assembly’s recommendations will make a difference in Council’s planning and strategic documents, however a third remained neutral on both of these statements.

When asked if the Assembly believes they can have a say on Council decisions that affect me or the local community, two thirds agreed, with over one quarter strongly agreeing with this statement.

There was acknowledgment of Council’s commitment to the process through the time and effort invested, with one Assembly member sharing that the best or most surprising thing about the process was:

“The fact that council were interested in running it”

“That it took place at all”.



Appendix 1

Township posters used in the deliberative process, displayed around the room to inform participants on the demographic trends and community perceptions.

Order is as follows:

1. Woodend
2. Romsey
3. Gisborne
4. Lancefield
5. Kyneton
6. Macedon
7. Mt Macedon
8. Malmsbury
9. Riddells Creek

WOODEND



Woodend is located 69 km northwest of Melbourne on the Calder Freeway and sits within a valley surrounded by forest and bushland areas. The town has significant views of Mt Macedon, Golf Course Hill and Hanging Rock. Woodend has a distinctive rural village character with historic buildings and grand, tree-lined entrances and streetscapes.

Other elements that define Woodend's character are:

- Low scale built form with generous setbacks and a dominant garden setting.
- A compact town centre.
- Cultural landscapes – close vicinity to Hanging Rock.
- A mix of exotic plantings with native bushland areas.

Woodend had the fourth highest population and third highest employment in the Shire in 2016. Woodend is expected to play a minimal role in accommodating growth, retaining its current role as a District Town.

HOUSEHOLD

- Household sizes in Woodend are smaller than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne (2.5 people per dwelling compared to 2.7)
- Couple families with dependents are most common (35.0% in 2016) - forecast to decrease to 31.8% (2036)
- Lone person households are forecast to increase from 19.7% in 2016 to 24.8%.
- Couples without dependents are forecast to decrease from 34.5% in 2016 to 33.1% in 2036.

LANGUAGES

- 4.3% people speak a language other than English at home, most commonly German, Italian, and Dutch.

WORK

- Just under half (45%) of Woodend's working population work within the Macedon Ranges, followed by Melbourne and Hume municipalities
- Average income for younger working age populations in Woodend (\$50,000 per annum) is marginally higher than Macedon Ranges and is on par with Melbourne
- Average income is lower than the municipal Macedon Ranges area for both older age cohorts

AGE

- Woodend's largest age group is 45-64 years - proportionally larger than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne
- Age groups of 18-24 years and 25-34 years are proportionally smaller;
- The most significant growth has been in those 65+, but less than compared to Macedon Ranges Shire as a whole
- Relative to Macedon Ranges, Woodend has grown most strongly in the 18-24 year cohort;
- Woodend is growing in all age cohorts other than 35-44 years

13%

Population growth over the past 10 years

13%

Projected population change 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Performance assessments

Marsh Court Reserve, Tennyson St Reserve, South Tributary Walkway, Edna Walling Walkway, Ruby MacKensive Reserve, Christian Reserve, Woodend Children's Park

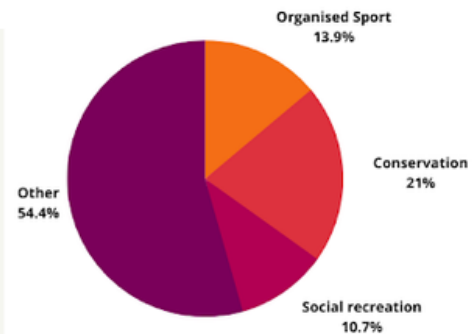
- Asset Provision 49%
- Accessibility 26%
- Safety/Comfort 43%
- Functionality 34%
- Sense of Place 49%

40%

Overall Park Performance Score
Shire Average - 50%

Current projects

- Woodend Community Centre redevelopment
- Woodend Golf Club renewal
- A new perimeter trail around the Woodend Racecourse Reserve has recently been completed
- Daylesford to Hanging Rock and Kyneton Shared Trail



Current Provision of Open Space

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors where undertaken at Woodend Children's Park

Woodend has slightly lower levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.

91%

Intercept Survey Overall Satisfaction
Shire Average - 93%

MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



ORGANISED SPORT



SOCIAL RECREATION



CONSERVATION



Woodend Results
Shirewide Results

Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

WOODEND



Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.

WHAT IS WOODEND KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

ROMSEY



Romsey is a small rural township surrounded by a belt of fertile agricultural land, located 65km north of Melbourne and 8km south of Lancefield. Romsey is the largest district town in the east of the municipality and is expected to grow to a population of 6000 by 2036.

The township's main road is lined with significant exotic trees as well as walking and cycling trails. The surrounding agricultural industry has fostered a character of rural living meets quiet country town.

Other elements that define Romsey's character include:

- Historic buildings.
- Wide streets.
- Significant vegetation.
- Five Mile Creek.
- Open space.
- Large residential lots.

Wurundjeri Woi priorities for the Romsey area include the protection of Deep Creek, local eruption points (volcanic cones) and other known cultural heritage sites.

HOUSEHOLD

- Household sizes are slightly larger than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne (2.8 people per dwelling compared to 2.7 for both).
- Couple families with dependents made up 39.3% of the household types in 2016.
- Lone person households are forecast to increase from 15.2% in 2016 to 19.6% in 2036.

LANGUAGES

- 4.4% speak a language other than English at home, most commonly Italian, German, Maltese, and Greek.

WORK

- Average income is \$40,000 per annum - lower than both Macedon Ranges Shire and Melbourne.
- Approx. 36% of Romsey's working population work within the Macedon Ranges, followed by Hume and Melbourne municipalities.

AGE

- Proportionally large young population (0-17 year olds); greater than both Macedon Ranges Shire and Melbourne
- Largest age group is the 45-64yrs
- Strong growth in age groups: 18-24 years, 45-64 years and over 65 years, with most significant growth in those aged 65+.
- Population forecasts most growth in 40 - 44yrs age group.

20%

Population change over the past 10 years

27.18%

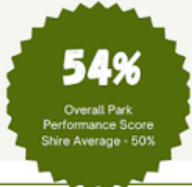
Projected population change 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Performance assessments

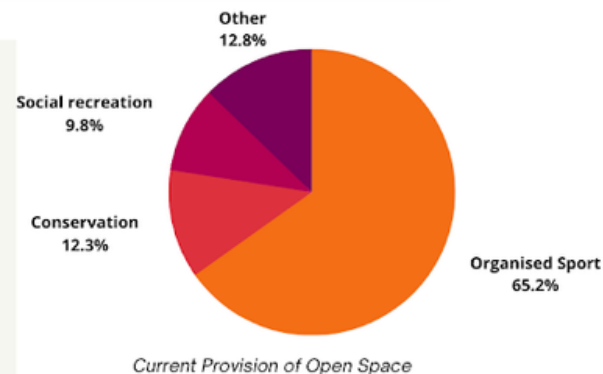
Romsey Recreation Reserve, Romsey Lions Reserve and Skate Park, Collier Close Reserve, Coleraine Drive Reserve, Metcalfe Drive Reserve, Bowkett Close Reserve.

- Asset Provision - 53%
- Accessibility - 43%
- Safety/Comfort - 63%
- Functionality - 57%
- Sense of Place - 53%



Current projects

- Romsey Ecotherapy Park works underway
- Thousands of plants about to be planted along Five Mile Creek
- Romsey Park facilities have been upgraded



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors were undertaken at Romsey Recreation Reserve, Romsey Skate Park.

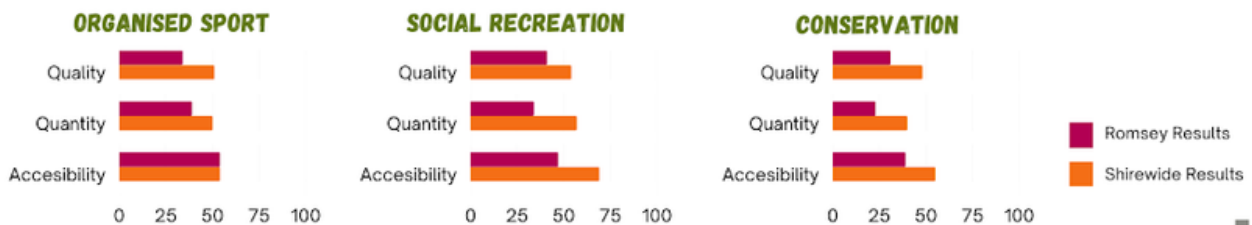
Romsey has similar levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.

MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

ROMSEY

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.



WHAT IS ROMSEY KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

GISBORNE

Macedon Ranges Open Space Strategy

Gisborne (including New Gisborne) is a large town with a range of facilities, infrastructure and services, with strong links to Melbourne. Gisborne has diverse residential precincts with views onto the prominent natural features of Magnet Hill and Mount Gisborne. Magnet Hill is a cultural site for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung.

Other elements that define Gisborne's (including New Gisborne) character include:

- A rural environment with high-quality landscapes.
- Natural environmental assets including Gisborne Racecourse Marshlands Reserve and Jacksons Creek.
- Heritage buildings and streetscapes.
- Exotic street tree plantings.
- Network of open space and organised sporting facilities.

The Victorian Government has earmarked Gisborne for growth, and it is expected the town will grow from a large district town to a regional centre by 2036.

HOUSEHOLD

- Couple families with dependents made up 46.3% of the household types in 2016. This is forecasted to decrease to 40.3% by 2036.
- Lone person is the household type forecast to have the largest increase of the next 20 years, to 17.9% in 2036.
- Household sizes are slightly larger than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne (2.8 people per dwelling compared to 2.7 for both).

LANGUAGES

- 4.9% speak language other than English at home in 2016, slightly higher than the rest of Macedon Ranges Shire. Most commonly Italian, German, Maltese, and Mandarin.

WORK

- Larger proportion of high income households (those earning \$2,500 per week or more) and a lower proportion of low income households (those earning less than \$650 per week), compared to the Macedon Ranges Shire in 2016
- Greatest population of any town in the municipality and supports the greatest number of jobs
- The closest and most accessible town in the Shire to Melbourne

AGE

- Largest age groups 0-4 (8.3%) and 5-9 (8.4%) greater than both Macedon Ranges Shire and Melbourne.
- A larger proportion of 30-34yrs, and smaller percentage of 60-64 and 65-69 compared to Macedon Ranges Shire.
- Population forecasts indicate most growth in younger age groups (0-14).

41%

Population growth over the past 10 years

57%

Projected population change 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Performance assessments

Barry Rd park, Mt Gisborne Reserve, Jackson Creek Way Reserve, UL Daly, Gardiner, Sankey, Gisborne Lions Park, Dixon Field, Gisborne Adventure Playground, Gisborne Botanic Gardens

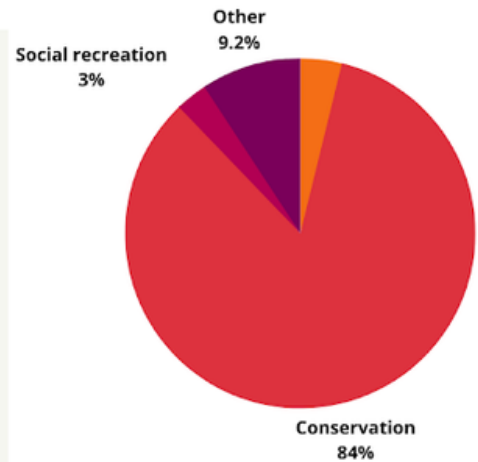
- Asset Provision 47%
- Accessibility 42%
- Safety/Comfort 60%
- Functionality 58%
- Sense of Place 56%

53%

Overall Park Performance Score
Shire Average - 50%

Current projects in open space include:

- Regional Sports Precinct across two sites in New Gisborne - Approximately 62 per cent of the shire's population resides within 15km of the site
- New Adventure Playground at Jacksons Creek reserve recently completed
- Landscaping and drainage improvements are planned and funded for Gisborne Botanic Garden
- The waterway reserve is being incrementally acquired as development occurs along Bunji Creek and Howey Creeks.



Current Provision of Open Space

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors were undertaken at Gisborne Botanic Gardens, Gisborne Adventure Playground and Gardiner Reserve.

Gisborne has slightly lower levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.

88%

Intercept Survey
Overall Satisfaction
Shire Average - 93%

MOST SATISFIED WITH:



Safety Cleanliness Grass Maintenance Pathways

LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



Signage Toilets Seats and tables



GISBORNE

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.



WHAT IS GISBORNE KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

LANCEFIELD



Located 70km north of Melbourne, the town of Lancefield has wide, tree-lined avenues and rural views in all directions. Its key landscape features include Melbourne Hill, Deep Creek and Mount William Range. The town's population comprises the agricultural community, rural 'lifestylers' and residents who commute to Melbourne and Sunbury. Tourism is a significant part of the town's economy and will remain so in the future.

Lancefield's character is defined by the following elements:

- Surrounding hills that give the town an attractive landscape and scenic setting.
- Wide treed avenues into and through the town.
- Strip-based historic town centre and streetscape.
- Small scale established residential development on a grid network.

HOUSEHOLD

- Household sizes in Lancefield are smaller than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne (2.5 people per dwelling compared to 2.7)
- This is due to a lower proportion of family with children households and a greater proportion of lone person households.
- Of the families in Lancefield, 42.4% were couple families with children, 37.9% were couple families without children and 18.5% were one parent families.

LANGUAGES

- 3.3% people spoke a language other than English at home; most commonly Italian.

WORK

- Average income in Lancefield is marginally higher than both Macedon Ranges and Melbourne for both 25-34 year and 35-44 year cohorts.
- 21.7% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 ("low income") - larger than Macedon Ranges
- 8.1% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 ("high income") - lower than the Macedon Ranges
- Around 45% of Lancefield's working population work within the Macedon Ranges, followed by Hume and Melbourne municipalities

AGE

- Lancefield's largest age cohort are those aged 45-64 years.
- Lancefield is growing most significantly in those aged 25- 34 years and over 65 years.
- There has been a large decrease in those aged 18-24 and smaller decreases in those from 35 to 64 years.

10%

Population change over the past 10 years

7%

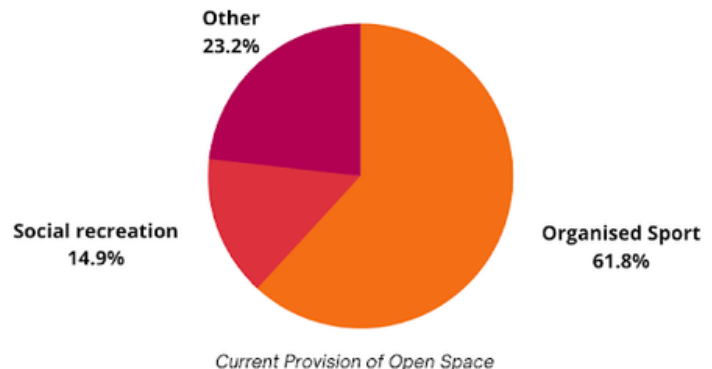
Projected population change 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Lancefield Recreation Reserve, Lancefield Park and Skatepark are the main open spaces in Lancefield. Lancefield Park is managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning with an active Committee of Management. Lancefield Community Garden at 28 High St run by the Neighbourhood House.

Current projects in open space include:

- Lighting upgrades underway at Lancefield Park Oval

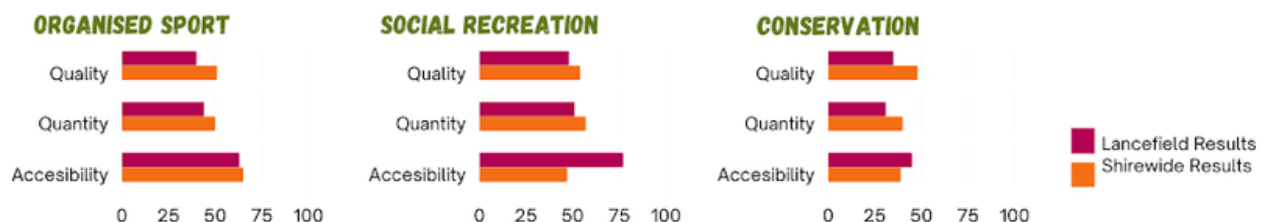


COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community Insights from Cool Changes Romsey and Lancefield (Local Climate Action Plan) 2021:

- "We need more opportunities for all locals to connect with nature"
- "People are increasingly moving to the region to farm or to enjoy weekends away from the city. These newcomers need support and guidance to understand the local landscape and community. In particular, they need guidance to understand the interplay between agricultural and natural environments."

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.



Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

LANCEFIELD



Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.

WHAT IS LANCEFIELD KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

KYNETON



Situated on the banks of the Campaspe River, Kyneton is a historic rural town 85kms northwest of Melbourne. The train and nearby Calder Freeway provide easy access to Bendigo and Melbourne. The Campaspe River provides attractive walking trails along its banks connecting key sites including the historic Botanic Gardens, the River Reserve 'art trail' and the Kyneton Racecourse precinct.

Kyneton's character is defined by the following elements:

- Compact, grid based town centre with significant retail and tourism functions.
- Heritage buildings, bluestone gutters, streetscapes and precincts including Piper Street and the Botanical Gardens.
- Mature exotic trees in street plantings and private gardens within older precincts.
- Attractive setting provided by the Campaspe River.
- Diversity of residential neighbourhood character precincts which reflect different eras of development.

By 2036, Kyneton is expected to grow from a 'District Town' to a 'Large District Town'.

HOUSEHOLD

- Couple families without dependents were most common in 2016 - 32.6% of the household types, forecast to increase slightly.
- Lone person households are forecast to have the largest increase, to 28.7% by 2036.
- Couple families with dependents are forecast to decrease from 29.0% of the total households in 2016 to 24.7% by 2036.

LANGUAGES

- 4.9% people in the Kyneton district speak a language other than English at home, most commonly Mandarin, Italian, German and Greek.

WORK

- Average income in Kyneton is much lower than the Macedon Ranges average;
- Approximately 63% of Kyneton's working population work within the Macedon Ranges, while the Melbourne municipality is the next most common place of work.

AGE

- The dominant age group for the Kyneton district in 2016 was 45-49, accounting for 7.4% of the total population.
- The largest increase between 2016 and 2026 is fore 75-79 age group, which is expected to increase by 178, accounting for 4.9% of the total persons by 2026.
- In 2026, the largest age group is forecast to be 60-64 years years

18%

Population growth over the past 10 years

15%

Projected population growth 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Performance assessments undertaken at Black Hill Reserve, Kyneton Community Park, Kyneton Showgrounds

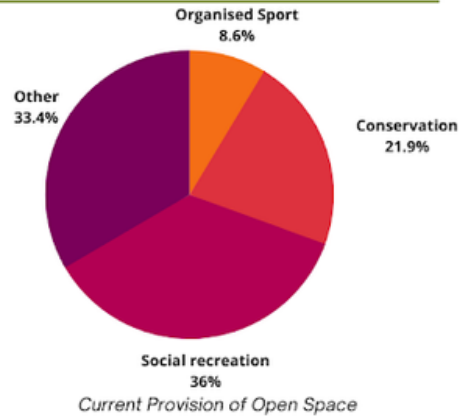
- Asset Provision 67%
- Accessibility 53%
- Safety/Comfort 67%
- Functionality 73%
- Sense of Place 73%

67%

Overall Park Performance Score
Shire Average - 50%

Current projects in open space include:

- Kyneton Showground top oval improvements including the cricket pitch and drainage
- Tracks and drainage at Black Hill Reserve where recently improved with new boardwalk sections added.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors where undertaken at Kyneton Community Park and Kyneton Showgrounds

Kyneton has slightly lower levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.

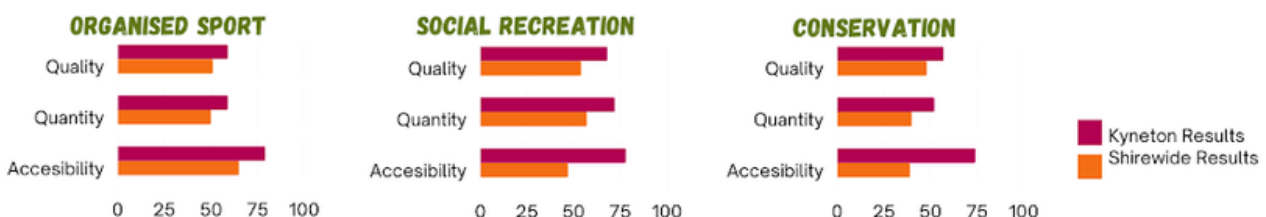
91%

Intercept Survey Overall Satisfaction
Shire Average 93%

MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

KYNETON



Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.

WHAT IS KYNETON KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

MACEDON



Macedon is a small quiet town situated at the base of Mount Macedon's southern slopes, approximately 60 km northwest of Melbourne. The town is serviced by V-line regional rail, which has made it a popular with a Melbourne based commuter workforce.

The significant natural bushland and exotic planted landscapes and significant views of Mount Macedon define the character of the town. The heritage listed 224 oak tree lined Avenue of Honour draws both local and broader tourism to the town during the autumn months.

Other elements that define Macedon's character include:

- Presence of heritage buildings, features and landmarks.
- A mix of exotic plantings with native bushland areas.
- Low-density residential bush settings.
- Modest commercial development in a gently sloping heavily treed terrain.

HOUSEHOLD

- 49.1% of households were couple families with children, 42.7% couple families without children and 8.2% one parent families.
- 80.0% were family households, 18.1% were single person households and 1.9% were group households.
- 20.3% of couple families with children had both partners employed full-time, 5.7% had both employed part-time and 22.7% had one employed full-time and the other part-time.

LANGUAGES

- 3.3% spoke a language other than English at home; commonly German, Italian, Polish or Greek.

WORK

- The most common occupations in Macedon included Professionals 31.0%, Managers 18.5%, Technicians and Trades Workers 13.5%.
- 10.9% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 ("low income") and 27.8% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 ("high income")

AGE

- In 2016, Macedon had higher proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than Macedon Ranges Shire.
- The median age of people in Macedon was 44 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 21.8% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 18.8% of the population.

10%

Population growth over the past 10 years

-%

Population change 2022-2036 negligible or not predicted

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

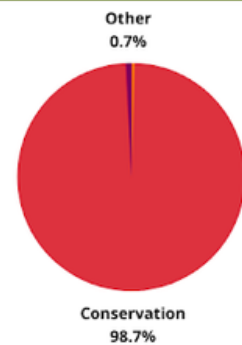
Performance assessments undertaken at Waterfalls Road Reserve, Tony Clarke Reserve, Ash Wednesday Reserve

- Asset Provision 60%
- Accessibility 33%
- Safety/Comfort 60%
- Functionality 67%
- Sense of Place 60%



Current projects in open space include:

- Recently completed a Masterplan for Ash Wednesday Park, staged implementation is in progress.
- Tony Clarke reserve upgrades completed recently include sports ground drainage, and cricket nets.



Current Provision of Open Space

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors were undertaken at Ash Wednesday Park.

Ash Wednesday Park had lower levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below



MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



MACEDON

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.



WHAT IS MACEDON KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

MT MACEDON



Mount Macedon is an elevated mountain village surrounded by parklands, waterfalls and mountain peaks and located approximately 65km northwest of Melbourne. Mount Macedon is one of the few internationally recognised garden townships in Australia and is defined by its landscape character and large lot subdivision pattern.

Other elements that define the character of Mount Macedon are:

- Significant concentration of private historic gardens.
- Macedon Regional Park provides an important landscape context.
- Low-density forested setting partly consisting of historic residential subdivisions.
- Presence of heritage buildings, features and landmarks.
- Cultural landscapes of historical importance.
- Mix of exotic plantings with native bushland areas.
- Significant views of surrounding areas.

Mount Macedon is of cultural significance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung with an axe-grinding site located at the base of the mountain.

HOUSEHOLD

- 83.0% of all households, were family households, 15.7% were single person households and 1.3% were group households.
- 44.0% of the families were couple families with children, 49.2% were couple families without children and 6.8% were one parent families.

LANGUAGES

- 4.1% spoke a language other than English at home; German, Italian, Polish and Greek

WORK

- 8.8% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 ("low income") - smaller than Macedon Ranges Shire
- 33.4% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 ("high income") - higher than Macedon Ranges Shire
- 19.1% of couple families with children had both partners employed full-time, 3.6% had both employed part-time and 21.6% had one employed full-time and the other part-time.
- The most common occupations in Mount Macedon included Professionals 32.3%, Managers 20.9%, Technicians and Trades Workers 10.7%

AGE

- The median age of people in Mount Macedon was 46 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 19.8% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 20.0% of the population.

10%

Population change in the past 10 years

-%

Population change 2022-2036 negligible or not predicted

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

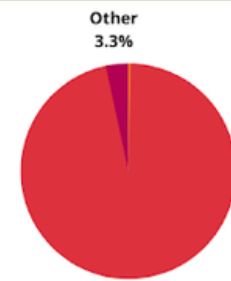
Performance assessments

Undertaken at Stanley Park Reserve.

- Asset Provision 60%
- Accessibility 40%
- Safety/Comfort 20%
- Functionality 20%
- Sense of Place 40%



Council recently explored options for the future management of Stanley Park Reserve. Council resolved to develop an Instrument of Delegation for a Community Asset Committee for Council endorsement by June 2022.



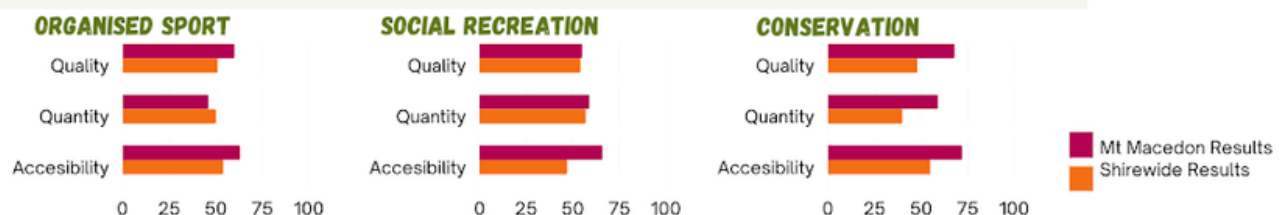
Conservation 96.3%
Current Provision of Open Space

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Key Messages from community engagement regarding management of Stanley Park:

- There are a range of views about the best use of the reserve. Some community members are focused on conservation whereas others want a space for picnics and physical recreation
- Some concerns about accountability, representation of views, and authority to implement decisions.

The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.



Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

MT MACEDON

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.



WHAT IS MT MACEDON KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

MALMSBURY



Malmsbury is a small town located in a valley of the Coliban River. It has a high concentration of artists and a developing artisan culture. The Botanic Gardens, many significant heritage buildings and expansive rural views are the key features of the town. The Dja Dja Wurrung are a significant stakeholder in conservation projects in Malmsbury.

Elements that define the character of Malmsbury include:

- Gold mining heritage including bluestone buildings and cultural landscapes.
- Von Mueller-designed Botanic Gardens of heritage significance.
- 'Small country town' atmosphere and limited services.
- A range of residential lifestyles including township, low density residential and rural living.
- Railway heritage significance.

HOUSEHOLD

- 72.4% of households were family households in 2016, 25.2% were single person households and 2.4% were group households.
- 37.3% of families were couple families with children in 2016, 45.2% were couple families without children and 15.8% were one parent families.

LANGUAGES

- 4.1% speak a language other than English at home; commonly Spanish, Samoan and Italian.

WORK

- The most common occupations in Malmsbury included Professionals 20.5%, Technicians and Trades Workers 15.1%, Labourers 15.1%, Managers 14.5%
- 21.5% of households in Malmsbury are classified as "low income" (less than \$650/week), and 6.3% as "high income" (more than \$3,000/week)

AGE

- The median age of people in Malmsbury is 45 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 14.3% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 19.5% of the population.

9%

Population growth over the past 10 years

-%

Population change 2022-2036 negligible or not predicted

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

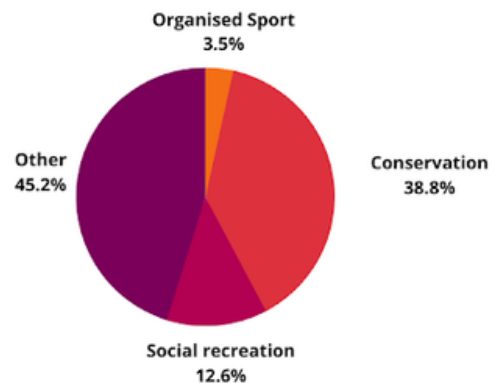
Performance assessments undertaken at Malmsbury Road Reserve, Malmsbury Common and Malmsbury Botanic Gardens

- Asset Provision 75%
- Accessibility 35%
- Safety/Comfort 65%
- Functionality 65%
- Sense of Place 65%



Current projects in open space include:

- Malmsbury Botanic Gardens masterplan endorsed 2021. Irrigation and signage improvements are underway.
- Malmsbury Common Landscape Masterplan completed, looped walking trails have been installed. Funding for a pedestrian bridge link has been secured.



Current Provision of Open Space

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors where undertaken at Malmsbury Botanic Gardens.

Malmsbury Botanic Gardens had high levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

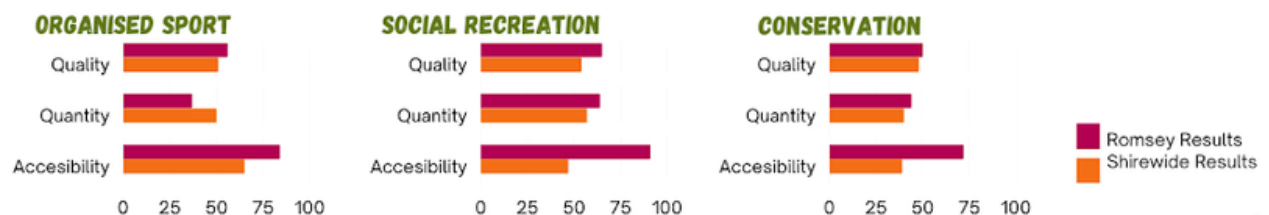
The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.



MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



Satisfaction with quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, by type (results of the online survey)

MALMSBURY

Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.



WHAT IS MALMSBURY KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?

RIDDELLS CREEK



Riddells Creek is located in the south-eastern foothills of Mount Macedon and is characterised by wide country streets, exotic tree avenues and parklands. The town is surrounded by undulating agricultural landscapes to the north-east, east and south. The creek that is the town's namesake runs along the southern boundary of the town. Riddells Creek has developed into a small commuter town through its proximity to Melbourne. By 2036, Riddells Creek is expected to grow from a 'Small Town' to a 'District Town'.

Riddells Creek's character is defined by the following elements:

- Surrounding rural landscapes, backdrop of the Macedon Ranges, and a deeply incised creek valley.
- Compact town centre with low-scale form historic buildings.
- Low-density residential and rural living areas surrounding the township.
- Older parts of the township with a grid layout, wide road reserves, swale drains and informal plantings of native and exotic street trees.

HOUSEHOLD

- Couple families with dependents made up 43.2% of the household types in 2016 - the most common. Forecast to decrease to 40.9% by 2036.
- Lone person households are forecast to have the largest increase, to 16.6% of all households by 2036.
- Couples without dependents are forecast to decrease slightly from 33.3% of the total households in 2016 to 32.6% by 2036.

LANGUAGES

- 3.5% people speak a language other than English at home; most commonly Italian, Maltese, Turkish, German and Greek.

WORK

- In 2016, 20.4% of couple families with children had both partners employed full-time, 29.3% had one employed full-time and the other part-time, 5.0% had both employed part-time.
- 12.9% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 ("low income") - lower than Macedon Ranges Shire
- 20.6% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 ("high income") - higher than Macedon Ranges Shire

AGE

- The dominant age group for the Riddells Creek district in 2016 was 45-49, accounting for 8.7% of the total population.
- The largest increase between 2016 and 2026 is forecast to be for the 35-39 age group, accounting for 6.2% of the total persons by 2026.
- In 2026, the largest age group is forecast to be 55 - 59 years.

6%

Population growth in the last 10 years

10%

Projected population growth 2022-2036

CURRENT OPEN SPACE

Performance assessments

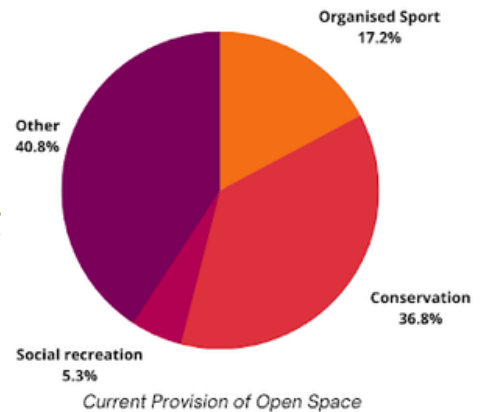
Undertaken at River Gum Drive Reserve, River Gum Road Reserve, Filmer Place Walkway, Riddells Creek Rec Reserve, Riddells Creek Lions Park

- Asset Provision 53%
- Accessibility 37%
- Safety/Comfort 50%
- Functionality 40%
- Sense of Place 50%



Current projects in open space include:

- Romsey Ecotherapy Park works underway
- Thousands of plants about to be planted along Five Mile Creek
- Romsey Park received facilities upgrade recently



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Intercept surveys of park visitors were undertaken at Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve and Lions Park.

Riddells Creek has lower levels of satisfaction compared to other areas of the Shire.

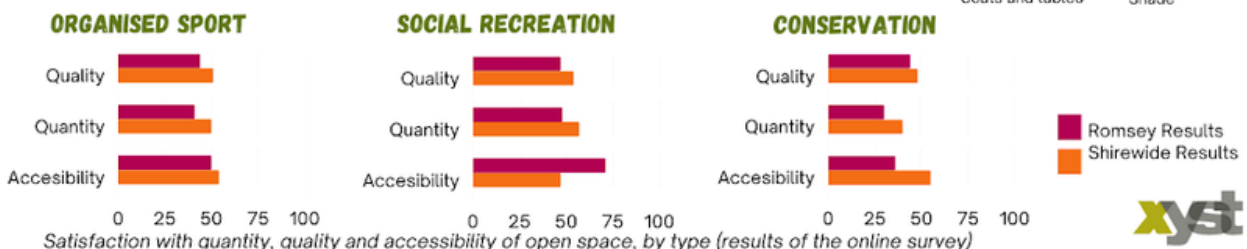
The online survey results showing % satisfaction for each type of open space is shown in the graphs below.



MOST SATISFIED WITH:



LEAST SATISFIED WITH:



RIDDELLS CREEK

Macedon Ranges
**Open Space
Strategy**



Using the information provided, as well as the lived experience and knowledge in the room, consider the following questions.

WHAT IS RIDDELLS CREEK KNOWN FOR? WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY USES OF OPEN SPACE? ARE THERE ANY OBVIOUS GAPS OR CONSTRAINTS (E.G. GEOGRAPHY)?

WHAT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED (E.G. POPULATION, MAJOR PROJECTS ETC)?

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEOUTS FROM THE COMMUNITY (FEEDBACK AND IN THE ROOM)?