

Strathbogie Shire Council

Pitch My Project

This booklet provides detail on the projects deemed eligible to progress for community input.

Please do not remove this booklet.

It can also be found at
www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

Introduction

Strathbogie Shire Council's annual Pitch my Project initiative is now in third year, and through this we're proud to have funded more than 20 community projects across the shire.

We want our community to be involved in every step of the development of our 2023/24 Budget. This means we're making sure we fund the projects and initiatives that matter to our residents.

Council has \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the 2023/24 annual budget. Pitched ideas must demonstrate how they align to one of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan and each area will receive \$50,000.

Criteria and eligibility

Eligibility was determined by the below criteria as stated in the guidelines:

A. Was the idea received by the due date?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported

B. Is the idea better suited for a grant program currently managed by Council?

- i. Yes – the idea will not be supported, please consider submitting your idea as a grant application to one of Council's grant programs.
- ii. No – proceed to the next question

C. Can the idea be Council-led and delivered with no direct allocation of funds given to community groups, clubs, organisations or commercial business?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question.
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported

D. Is the idea a once-off community program, project or initiative that can be realised by Council between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported

E. Will the idea cost \$50,000 or under to implement?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported

F. How does the idea score against the following criteria?

Those deemed eligible by a four-member officer review panel were then assessed by Councillors, in line with the final assessment criteria, this being:

1. To what extent does the idea demonstrate a strong benefit to the community? (up to a score of 10)
2. To what extent does the idea align to a strategy of Council Plan 2021 -2025. (up to a score of 10)

All projects that scored 11 or above have progressed to the next stage.

Strategic Focus Area: Engage. Create Unite.

There are two eligible projects in this area.

Strathbogie Memorial Hall stage upgrade

Cost: \$50,000

Problem and opportunity: With the works about to begin on a replacement roof in March, the hall committee are keen to get the hall back to its former glory to better service the community. We feel the stage area has become somewhat tired over the last decade and needs an upgrade.

The stage curtains need cleaning and some minor repairs. Install a rigging system towards the front of the stage for hanging items. The stage piano could be tuned so it can be used again.

How does it affect or impact the community? Upgrading the stage would make it easier to use and hire. We are hoping that by advertising all the upgrades that the facility will get used more often for events in Strathbogie. Improved facilities will give us a greater opportunity to engage and serve our community.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? The stage curtains were made by Shirley Dash, a resident of Strathbogie, back when the Hall opened. We would love to preserve them, making sure that they can be used for many more years. Given the height involved we wish for this to be done by a professional curtain cleaner.

Stage rigging can be used for multiple purposes making it easier for setting up for bands, exhibitions, or movie nights. Given that heavy items will be hanging above performers heads this would need to be engineer approved. We would also request for ceiling power points be installed nearby with a dedicated circuit.

The piano was donated to the Hall many years ago. It has not been used for a while, is now out of tune and taking up stage space.

Further information: It would be great to have this upgrade installed before the Melbourne Cup weekend 2023 when the hall is booked for a bush dance.

Violet Town Complex Hall upgrades

Cost: \$50,000

Problem and opportunity: The Violet Town Arts Music and Performance group (VAMP) organises live events for the wider community. These events include live music, open mic nights, poetry slams, storytelling nights, and exhibitions. On average, VAMP has been organising three to four of such events every month. These are hosted in community venues such as the local Bowls Club, BackArts, or the Shadforth Reserve Clubrooms. However, the limited size of these spaces has meant that we all too frequently sell out and have had to turn people away at the door.

An opportunity now exists to transform the large hall within the Violet Town Community Complex into a vibrant arts and performance hub. This would allow VAMP to increase our audience capacity and continue building the reputation and reach of our program within the wider Strathbogie community. Assistance in improving the hall would have a long-term positive impact on the community, by creating a comfortable and technically capable space

that will be regularly attended by audiences and artists from the region. Currently, the hall's technical capacity and acoustics are the biggest barrier to creating a multi-purpose arts and performance venue.

How does it affect or impact the community? Currently, the large hall at the Community Complex is rarely used. The absence of a common community-oriented art and performance space has had the following impacts on our community:

- The lack of a consistent space has meant community members have missed our events.
- The lack of an appropriately accessible venue has prevented older audiences from attending our events.
- The minimal technical capacity of our current spaces has meant that we have had to turn down some artists who require more complex production elements (such as lighting).
- Larger scale events and offerings do not have a practical home.
- VAMP has had to turn audiences away due to events selling out and venues not having sufficient capacity.
- The hall, in its current state, cannot feasibly be presented to artists as a suitable venue. Therefore, events are scaled down or missed entirely.

The absence of a flexible art and performance space also has a negative impact on the significant number of artists within our community. VAMP programs such as our weekly writing, singing, and music groups have had to fit into spaces that are often too small to suit the growing number of people who wish to attend, and options for exhibiting their works to the community are similarly scaled.

We are not aware of a specific live performance venue within the shire. Having such a large space, infrequently used, poses a question for the types of usage that it could facilitate – and as a development space, with increased capacity to be multi-purpose, could enliven the evanescent arts scene and reputation the town is attracting.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? We would like to improve the amenity of the large hall and increase its appeal as a performance and development space for community events and artists. Key modifications include improving the electrical capacity (and safety), venue lighting, acoustic buffering, the ability to create 'zones' in the hall (e.g. with push-up stands and drapes) to better cater for the requirements of artists and audiences.

A more flexible and well-equipped hall would increase its appeal as a performance and development space for community events and artists. It would also create a consistent space the wider community could attend and allow VAMP to offer new and varied live events (such as theatre or stand-up comedy).

Notwithstanding the benefits to the community, opportunity for self-sufficiency and a scalable model for future upgrades exist! A Hall of suitable specification would also become a space for theatre practitioners and dance ensembles to rehearse and perform in. The hall could also be leased to artists seeking intensive rehearsal periods to develop or create new work, meaning the town itself could become a hot-spot for artists from around Victoria.

From a boarder funding perspective, grand bodies such as Regional Arts Victoria is particularly interested in funding the development of works that reach or interact directly with the community, rather than commercial tours. There is limited fir for purposes space in the

surrounding area, and the hall at Violet Town could fill that significant gap in venue availability.

We would like to see the hall become an Incubator venue, where groups come and stay in the town, develop works and present those works to the town as part of the process. This would increase the offerings available to the shire audiences, and boost local accommodation, hospitality, and tourism providers.

This type of resource, an artist in residence/development/incubator model is established in funding, and eagerly sought after by artists. Violet town has a reputation for attracting musicians and performing artists to present to the community, and we could have them stay a little longer and increase the economic and intangible artists exchanges that take place.

Further information: VTAG and local businesses have expressed interest and support in developing the hall as a performance and art venue. All users of the hall would benefit from modifications to improve its amenity and functionality. The modifications are simple, modular, low-entry and could form the start of major refurbishment of the hall as the performing arts venue in the Shire.

Strategic Focus Area: Live. Access Connect

There is one eligible project in this area.

Longwood Nature PlaySpace

Cost: \$50,000

Note: This project may need to be a staged approach. The first step will be a detailed design, that is consistent with SSC's Playground Strategy to be adopted in October 2023. Further works will be dependent of funding.

Problem and opportunity: The Longwood Pub Paddock is the central hub in Longwood. It is directly opposite the White Hart Hotel, and local café shop, as well as only a short walk for students from the Longwood Primary School. Currently the space is not being utilised to its potential with only a rundown bike track in the space that does not get used often, due to its rough terrain The Masterplan has shown a strong desire by the community to redevelop the site into a community hub for children and adults to come together and socialise in an open safe space

How does it affect or impact the community? Longwood is limited in community areas that allow locals and visitors to come together to socialise and exercise to improve their physical and mental health. The current state of the Pub Paddock in Longwood is a bare paddock with a rundown bike track that is not utilised by locals due to its dangers and harsh dirt.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? The Longwood Action Group are requesting \$50,000 for the creation of a Native Playground at the Pub Paddock, Longwood After Completion of the Longwood Master Plan in 2022, it was clear from the Longwood Community that they would love to see a Native Playground at the Pub Paddock. Initial feedback from the community saw this development as their number one project priority.

The benefits of a native playground at the pub paddock in Longwood, include:

- encourage friendship formation for children and parents within Longwood and the district
- safe location for children to hang out with friends
- assist with adults making new friends in the district with other parents
- encourage new families to move to Longwood as there are more things for their children to do
- continue to improve the numbers of students enrolled at Longwood Primary School Students can go to the playground safely after school and play there until they need to go home
- encourage families and individuals to visit the White Hart Hotel, and local shops in Longwood that will increase revenue in the area
- improve physical and mental health of children and adults by being more active outside, reducing screen time

Further information: A registered Landscape Architect has agreed to come on board and create Longwood's Native Playground. This architect has completed several playgrounds throughout regional Victoria including; Wangaratta and Cohuna and is confident with the project budget and completing a native playground for \$50,000. He has completed many projects before in that budget for day care centres and other community native playgrounds.

Strategic Focus Area: Inclusive. Productive. Balanced.

There is one eligible project in this area.

Euroa branding project

Cost: \$50,000

Problem and opportunity: Revitalising local commerce and our community with an inspired and consistent brand (& communications platform) to engage, unite and drive tourism and investment in Euroa township and everywhere in between.

How does it affect or impact the community? Drawing people to our region - creating a consistent image for Euroa

What is your idea and what difference would it make?

- Qualitative research of key business, council and community groups.
- Research findings which clearly define distinctive and differentiated messaging and imagery for future communication and social media activity.
- Brand Guidelines for Euroa that can be used by all key stakeholders to co-brand all commercial and tourism activity in and around Euroa.
- Advertising and Marketing collateral for use by local businesses at their leisure to assist in promoting their business, promoting the region and driving visitors to the area.

Further information: A key output of this project will be updated town signage and wayfinding signage in and around Euroa. Welcome signage and town branding will be revitalized through our research and rebranding exercise. Engaging with key community groups and providing the wider community to have their say on the proposal before implemented.

Way finding updates and additions is a key element of this project and a very necessary project to undertake for business growth and visitor knowledge.

Strategic Focus Area: Strong. Healthy. Safe.

There are six eligible projects in this area.

Outdoor Gym Equipment – Honeysuckle Creek Walking Track

Cost: \$50,000

Problem and opportunity: The lack of free access to gym facilities, as in gym exercise equipment for all Violet Town community members, as an option to assist in maintaining a fit and healthy body and overall wellbeing.

To fulfill a proposed action in the 2019-2023 Community Action Plan (CAP page 5). Bring together fun and fitness that is accessible to all and to inspire community health, resilience and vitality.

How does it affect or impact the community? Provide the opportunity for improvement in the mental health and wellbeing of the Violet Town Community. Promoting physical activities to build resilience of the residents and visitors who visit and use the Sports and Recreation Area at Violet Town.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? To install outdoor gym exercise equipment in 'clusters' at two (2) locations in close vicinity of the existing Honeysuckle Creek Walking Track. This track is used by many for walking, jogging, cycling and dog walking.

The equipment is designed to be used by people of all fitness levels and abilities. It is free to use at any time as there is no membership or key to the outdoors.

This equipment would enhance the Sports and Recreation area by the versatile nature of adding this feature to the reserve.

Further information: The 'clusters' would consist of configurations of outdoor fitness equipment:

- Example; Leg Press, Air Walker, Torso Press, Fitness Wheels etc.
- Equipment that develops Cardio, Strength, Flexibility and Mobility.
- The equipment displays the suggested, safe way for use to maximise the benefits.

This idea is supported by; Violet Town Community Action Plan 2019-2023 (VTAG Initiative); Violet Town Football/Netball Club; Violet Town Tennis Club; Friends of VT Pool; Violet Town Bowling Club; and HREP.

Children's bicycle education centre for Euroa

Cost: \$50,000

Problem and opportunity: During 2015–2017, injuries contributed to 563 deaths of children aged 0–14—a rate of 4.1 per 100,000 children. Of children who died because of a road transport accident 5.9% pedal cyclists. Source: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-children/contents/health/injuries>

How does it affect or impact the community? A controlled bicycle education centre makes learning how to ride a bicycle fun for children of all ages. An enclosed open space

with mini-road network will give children a real-life experience as they learn how to ride a bicycle in a safe and controlled environment. It will encourage kids to build their confidence and skills to ride safely and become independent road users.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? A children's bicycle education area will provide a great opportunity for parents to teach children how to be good cyclists and pedestrians in a fun and safe environment.

Further information: The facility will be an important education asset and a fun and engaging learning area.

Euroa Bowls Club Shade Sail

Cost: \$15,000

Problem and opportunity: There is no useful protection from the sun along the eastern border of the main green of the Euroa Bowls Club. The current protection comprises old (believe donated from another club and age unknown) canvas shade shelters which are rotting. The canvas is mounted on buckled, rusty steel frames which are unable to be used particularly in windy weather. There is available, new shades, identical to those currently installed on the western and northern boundaries.

How does it affect or impact the community? The new style shades provide proper protection from the sun during social and pennant bowls matches for all players local and visiting.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? To install new shades, same as already fitted to other boundaries. The shades are purpose built to provide adequate protection from the sun during matches. Before installation the grass boundary beneath the new shade area is to be removed and concreted and at the same time part of the garden embankment damaged by the recent October 2022 floods is to be repaired

Nagambie Rec Reserve Playground Shade Sail

Cost: \$15,000

Problem and opportunity: The playground at the Recreation Reserve in Nagambie is fully exposed to the sun. The equipment is quite old, but we are hoping to upgrade and add some further pieces. We have been awarded the grant from the Shire to fence this facility, as it lies adjacent to the service road around the oval. Children need to be supervised at all times to get to the playground, but also while they are using the equipment. This fence will alleviate the concerns for parents of the children leaving the area and crossing the road unattended. The shade sail is necessary to ensure further safety for the users.

How does it affect or impact the community? The playground is used by the general community, the houses in the area, and from further afield. The users at the Recreation Reserve also have spectators watch the games, and the families with children access the playground during these times. The swimming pool visitors have access to it as well. Unfortunately, without any shade coverage, the facility is not fully utilized or desirable during hot weather. If we had a shade sail this area would be far more appealing and safer for general use.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? The benefits of shade sail coverage are well known and recognized. With the sail providing temperature control and

complete protection from the harmful UV rays and also from the rain. When used with other forms of sun protection, such as clothing, hats, sunglasses and sunscreen, shade becomes an even more powerful method of skin cancer prevention.

Further information: A lot of serious injuries come from touching red hot playground equipment surfaces that are exposed to the sun for too long. Shading your play area will reduce the incidence of children from getting burns. Constant exposure to the sun causes a lot of the powder coated structure on playgrounds to fade and crack. This not only makes the equipment look dated but can create problems for children who might get cuts touching the cracked surface. It is essential that we protect the users and the equipment. New additions are also planned, that will fit within the guidelines and area available.

Graytown Community Centre Shade Sail

Cost: \$15,000

Problem and opportunity: The Graytown Community Centre has three outdoor tables and chair sets. At present they are only used in cooler weather as they have no shade. With shade cloth over the tables they could be used more often by the community members.

How does it affect or impact the community? The community centre can only seat maximum of 24 people inside. The tables and chairs are close together not allowing everyone to walk around freely and socialise. This limits the number of people that can attend our events/functions.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? Putting up shade cloth over the outdoor tables would allow them to be used more often. We could have people seated inside and outside the community centre so more people able to attend our events/functions. Graytown is a small remote community and needs a bigger space to socialise with our residents.

Longwood Football Netball Club - shelters

Cost: \$50,000

Note: Funding will prioritise shelters and seating area – dependent on cost. This project may need to be a staged approach, with further external funding required.

Problem or opportunity: Longwood have spent lots of time and energy in the last several years to achieve our two netball courts to support the increase in interest in the junior community to play. Now we have to continue to support the upgrades of our court by providing a boundary fence, shelters and seating for our netball courts to ensure our girls have a place to store the bags, rest during breaks and allow the trainers to carry our duties in a sheltered environment. This has especially been a problem during hot and cold weather events where players and coaches currently have no adequate space. Currently we are also experiencing a risk where our courts are not fenced and back onto high traffic areas where the balls are constantly entering driveways and parking areas.

How does it affect or impact the community? Currently our club caters to a league of 14 teams who bring all there team members across 3 senior grades and up to 4 junior grades of netball onto our premises who are all rotating across two courts throughout the day. Currently our facilities do not allow that volume of people to be seated or shaded in a way that allows a safe and responsible environment for each team to play and rest without being over exposed to inclement weather. We would like to create a safe and welcoming space for both home and away teams to come together and enjoy the experience of our community by

being provided important facilities such as seating and shading. Currently we are not encouraging the health and wellbeing of all individuals who play and support our great sport with best practice facilities.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? Firstly if we setup appropriate shelters and seating for our home and away teams, then all players and coaches are provided equal facilities away from the weather in order to protect them from the risks of heat and storm events and maintain sun protection throughout the year. Secondly a boundary fence around the courts will ensure no adults or children are required to run after stray balls into the carpark and driveway areas putting themselves at risk.

Further information: As a club we have been listening to the needs of our community, and learning from the way other communities do things, to plan ideas and strive for best practice to keep our members and guests safe and enjoying what our community has to offer. We have partnered with our community in many projects to enhance our facilities and have big plans to continue to do so in the future to provide an inclusive environment for all.

Strategic Focus Area: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible

There is one eligible project in the area.

Euroa Memorial Oval Septic Tank Decommissioning

Cost: \$20,000

Problem and opportunity: Euroa Memorial Oval Committee of Management (EMOCOM) as a Committee of Management in conjunction with the Euroa Senior Football Netball Club, Euroa Cricket Club (Seniors & Juniors), Euroa Junior Football Netball Club, Euroa Youth Girls Football and Euroa Auskick we are seeking financial assistance to decommission the existing septic tank system at the female change rooms at the memorial oval netball courts and replace with a new sewer line to the reticulated sewer (Goulburn Valley Water Sewer main).

How does it affect or impact the community? At present the cost of annual maintenance is very high, EMOCOM have the existing septic tank pumped out annually by Henry the Third, and at times this may be required to be done again during a Netball/football season. Tree roots in the absorption trenches require regular attention to be cleaned out by a plumber.

There is also regular plumbing maintenance required when the system is under high usage, causing the septic system to fail. When this occurs, the female change rooms have to be closed due to the toilets backfilling, effluent overflowing outside of the facilities and running over the grassed area between the two netball courts.

The effluent odour becomes very overbearing and the area has to be fenced off for health and safety reasons, leaving the female participants and umpires without amenities. The change room for female participants at the netball courts of Euroa Memorial Oval must close regularly during the season due to the failure of the septic tank. Female participants, spectators and football umpires are then unable to use the toilets or shower amenities.

What is your idea and what difference would it make? EMOCOM have engaged in professional advice to scope the works required to oversee a major project like this. Underground Engineering Solutions (UES), who are a Goulburn Valley Water approved contractor have attended the Memorial Oval female changerooms to assess the site and provided advice on how to proceed. UES will bore the sewer from the corner of the female change rooms located between both netball courts to the reticulated sewer in Dunn Street.

Previously we have had recommendations of pumped tank systems feeding back to the memorial oval function rooms, however after seeking additional guidance from USE a gravity feed into the reticulated sewer can be achieved. This will cost significantly less than the pumped system and will not require regular maintenance.

Further information: Total cost of works have been quoted at approximately \$35,000. EMOCOM is committed to financially providing a \$15,000 contribution towards these works. EMOCOM would appreciate the support of \$20,000 from Strathbogie Shire Council.