

Have your say: Public art

Background

Council adopted a Public Art Policy at its September Council Meeting. The policy provides a clear and transparent process for assessing and making decisions about the design, placement, and preservation of art in public spaces in Strathbogie Shire.

The new policy followed significant calls came from the community for more public art. It also followed a 2022/23 Budget allocation of \$20,000 through the Pitch My Project initiative for public art in Euroa.

After the adoption of the policy, we conducted community engagement to understand preferences for the type and location of public art in our townships. This engagement report outlines what we heard as part of the engagement process.

The Engagement Approach

Our overarching goal was simple. We wanted to show our community that we were listening to their desire for public artworks.

We established a six-week engagement program to gather feedback and ideas on the type and location of public art across the Shire. A Share Strathbogie page was established, and we used the mapping tool and a vision board to gather feedback.

Our community was informed through clear, consistent, and honest communication using all our communication channels to encourage key stakeholders, community groups and individuals to have their say.

We used media releases, social media posts, website content, and information in our weekly newspaper advert to encourage the community to have its say.

Depth: Involve

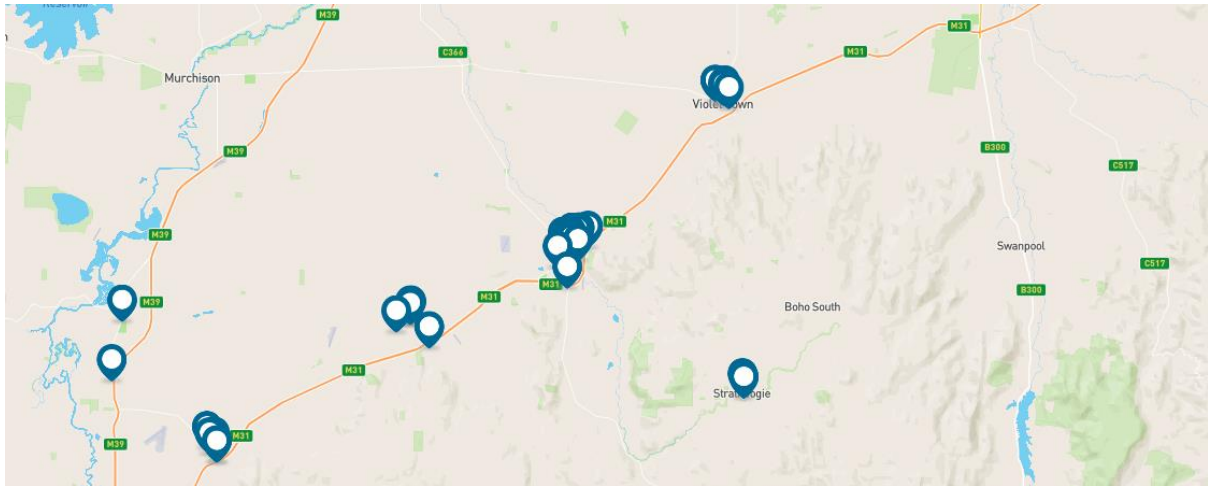
Public participation goal: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Promise to the public: We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Participation and reach

The project on www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au achieved:

457 views | 384 visits | 300 visitors | 85 contributions



Broad reach: 63 pins were placed on the mapping tool from across the Shire, as shown above.

What our community told us

Overall, the feedback was positive. Make art happen!

We heard use local arts where we can, and there was significant support for bird sculptures produced by Tank and Tobin.

But we were also told to mix it up, surprise us – embrace our region, embrace Taungurung storytelling through art and pay tribute to our history.

Recommendations

- Proceed with EOI for art installation in Euroa.
- Use feedback in other townships for further art installations when funding allows.

Findings

Mapping tool feedback

Location	Comment
Violet Town	A large Babbler Sculpture at Shadforth Reserve.
Euroa	Mural (Burtons IGA wall)
Strathbogie	After a successful Heritage day in Strathbogie recently, I would love to see the mapping of the significant places of interest, as a wall mural on the south side of the Strathbogie Memorial Hall. This could reflect the places of interest, and incorporate the Heritage Trail story plaques or reflections of the past. A wonderful way to showcase the heritage and history of our community through public art.
Longwood East	Something related to the history of Old Longwood.
Euroa	Different part of town as people come in for tourism to help other businesses instead of just the main street (Tarcombe St)
Euroa	The Magpie of course as Euroa is the home of the Euroa Magpies Football Club. The area in front of the Post Office, this will give a great impact as people enter the main shopping centre
Euroa	Footy oval
Avenel	I would like to see flowing metal art in Jubilee Park, Avenel. As I'm a local metal sculpture artist I would like to contribute to my community.
Euroa	I would love to see a Tank and Tobin magpie on the banks of The Sevens - where the blue wren was. The magpie can be portable so it can be moved to Memorial Oval for sporting events, corporate events and other events.
Euroa	Animal art - magpie at park near bbq area (Sevens Creek). Also kids adventure playground in park in Euroa.
Euroa	I would love to see street art scattered along the Main Street, and perhaps a few locations along Clifton/Tarcombe Sts. Also the rest area at Sevens Park. A great way to bring visitors to the area and draw them along the length of Binney street, and also a great way to promote and celebrate local artists.
Euroa	Would look great sitting near the Sevens Creek Bridge in Kirkland Ave
Avenel	Adding art works that recognise the equine industry = horses, riders, trainers, whose regional presence brings interest and cash to the area.

Euroa	Love the birds, or native animals, but also something that is interactive for children and adults would be good. The birdcage at the (Euroa Music) festival last weekend seemed to be a big hit. A row of recycled bikes joined together in the park or around at the community garden, that families could peddle and have pics taken would be fun and cheap with only a minimal maintenance cost maybe.
Violet Town	A new subdivision has been approved on the corner of Murchison Rd and Orchid St. Back fences will be facing the roads, along which the Avenue of Honour WW1 runs. I would like the Council to fund the fencing so that it is attractive and uniform. It should be used as a public art space to create a mural that will respect and enhance the Avenue of Honour. This will add to the cultural heritage of Violet Town in a similar way to the Southern Aurora space.
Violet Town	I would like to see all the Leunig town entry signs revived in bright new paint.
Euroa	Potential to install public art at all entrances/ gateways to town across the shire. The important thing is not just replica other installation because it was loved somewhere else. Be unique and representative of the locality.
Euroa	A flock of birds to entice people into Euroa then more at the beautiful Friendlies Oval
Violet Town	Shadforth Reserve, Violet Town: Sculptures by Shadforth An Annual Event. A walking tour of "Sculptures" thru out the Reserve, using mainly local talents, growing to include international works. (Based on the very successful "Sculptures by the Sea" Cottesloe WA.). This event could follow on or be staged over the same week as the Benalla Festival, giving tourists and locals a different and exciting new way to view and enjoy the very best of local craftsmen and women, to evolve and attract state and international Acts. The backdrop of the stunning nature reserve "Shadforth", available access to public toilet facilities, low level security requirements makes this the perfect spot for 24hr access. Under lights at night. Creating the perfect environment for all levels of photographer's delight, beginners to professionals. To raise funds for the yearly event, gold coin donation for entry fee. Catalogues/walking track guides for sale . Fundraising around and throughout site.
Euroa	A bird sculpture of a magpie on the corner near the post office. Also, more bird sculptures and murals, big and small with info about the different types of birds in the region
Euroa	A fabulous large bird outside the Post Office, similar to the Galah enjoyed at the Euroa Music festival. I would love a whole trail of these bird sculptures across the whole Strathbogie Shire, with a tourism type map attached so people can drive & spot them all. Small ones could be sponsored by local businesses that wheel them in & out & get included on the map.
Euroa	A mural depicting the history of Euroa and events that shaped our town on Burtons wall. I'd also like to see Tobin & Tank art relevant to our history at the entrances to the town and in various town locations - Ned Kelly, Eliza Forlonge, magpies.
Euroa	A magpie by Tank and Tobin which can also be moved around the town for special events - e.g. Memorial Oval

Strathbogrie	Repair the water tower on the hill in the Strathbogrie township and have mural painted on it, similar to that seen on wheat silos in some other country towns in Victoria (https://www.visitmelbourne.com/see-and-do/road-trips-and-itineraries/silo-art-trail-touring-route)
Euroa	Giant bird sculptures all along Binney Street and Kirkland Ave Park.
Euroa	Steve Tobin's giant bird sculptures (Binney St)
Euroa	I would like to see one of the metal bird sculptures here permanently (Binney St)
Euroa	Our fabulous Creek walk is used, enjoyed by community and visitors alike. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be known for the wonderful sculpture exhibition along the creek.
Longwood	Some sculptures would be nice around Longwood, near the pub, recreation grounds and the rail crossing.
Euroa	A stronger presence of the Taungurung needs to be made along the waterways and in the town generally. Ancient petroglyphs exist along this waterway. It would be suitable and respectful to represent the people and culture who were displaced by colonial occupation and their continuing relationship to their country.
Longwood	Ugly space- fill it with ART! (Cnr Down and Hill Sts)
Violet Town	This is the site of the Southern Aurora Garden & Carriage-Museum which attracts people from all over Australia. I propose the addition of full-size painted steel human representations of the gangsters who originally built the North East line 150 years ago in 1873 and maintained it.
Avenel	Sculptures from the incredible artists of our community and an Avenel sign would be wonderful here to mark one of the entry points into our township
Avenel	The wall at Avenel Kindergarten and the Maternal Child Health Nurse would be the perfect place for a mural celebrating the value of the community's youngest members. It has excellent visibility from Watson & Jones St.
Avenel	Entry to Avenel near Servo. It would be great if we could showcase something here showing that Avenel is just a servo! As a lot of out of towners think.
Avenel	Jubilee Park in Avenel something somewhere around Jubilee Park where people will get to see it either passing through town, going to the markets etc or going to playground
Euroa	A biennial 'Sculpture by the Sevens' event to foster sculptural exploration of the cultural and natural habitat, build a body of artworks along the river (at least one acquisitional winner) and drive cultural tourism to the shire.
Longwood	Would look fantastic to add a meandering pathway through the gums, with various artwork reflective of the town past, present and cultural in different mediums. Extending and complimenting the new area recently installed near the train line.
Euroa	Interpretive series of Taungurung history in the form of a trail of signs along the Seven Creeks Apex walking trail, incorporating language (places, wildlife, seasons). Signage constructed with materials that are not jarring against the natural creek landscape (such as laser cut Marek with natural rusted appearance) in form that can withstand the regular rise in water level.

Euroa	Painted mural on wall of Telstra exchange building, currently a plain brick wall. NOT war related. Perhaps a reflection of the beautiful natural assets of Strathbogie, such as our tall green forests, creek, wildlife.
Longwood	A tall sculpture in the centre of the pub paddock surrounded by wild flowers
Euroa	A colourful sculpture in the main roundabout in Binney Street shopping centre
Euroa	A tall colourful structure in the middle of the park amongst the trees
Euroa	A continuous art trail that links our towns - starting in high profile sites - eg. Binney Street, Euroa. DESIGNEuroa has had such positive responses to the Binney Street installations - let's build on that !!
Euroa	Sculpture as you enter town, near Friendlies Oval.
Euroa	Would love to see art installed at either side of the park in Kirkland Ave. Something bright and interesting to catch the passing travellers eye!
Longwood	I would like to see a sculpture in the pub paddock at Longwood. A Tank and Heavy Metal Art collaboration. Maybe a King Parrot or crimson rosella?
Euroa	I would love to have a mural on our club room at Euroa Miniature Railway or a sculpture featuring old loco
Euroa	Giant magpie please for the corner of Kirkland ave and old highway.
Euroa	Corner of Kirkland be and old highway for a giant magpie would be great
Euroa	Giant bird from Tank and Tobin!
Euroa	Tank Tobin art. One of their birds.
Euroa	When the amazing blue wren was in this spot it was fabulous... you could see it driving past, could have one sculpture here and it here's in the park area as well
Euroa	Something at the roundabout would be fabulous... it could be a low sculpture so it doesn't impact on vision
Tabilk	Yeah
Nagambie	Just some art as you drive into Nagambie
Euroa	I'd love to see some art in Binney Street. Whether it be sculpture, glazed brick mural or painted mural. Something by a local artist
Longwood	Art installations as part of the "Pub Paddock" at Longwood. Possibly interactive.
Longwood	It would be awesome for local artists from Longwood to be able to display their artwork in the Pub Paddock at Longwood. It has the potential to become Longwood's answer to Silo Art and generate interest in this little town that my family has been residents (and past residents) for over 80 years.
Longwood	Amongst the tree/grassed area next to the train line, Hill Street side. Longwood Township
Euroa	I think this a prominent spot to get people passing by to engage with Art and other attractions in the shire (Cnr Tarcombe and Kirkland Sts, in park)
Euroa	Euroa Memorial Oval - Magpie

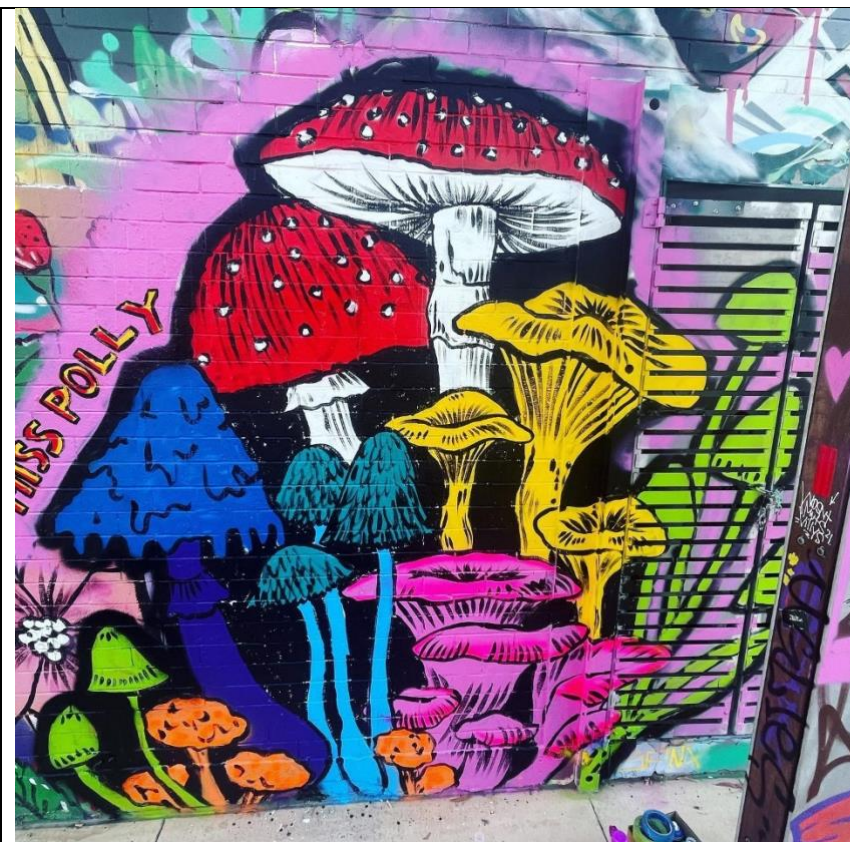
Vision board feedback



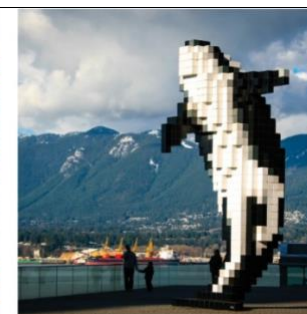
Interactive Art: I like the idea of creating some larger scale sculptural works that allow for the viewer to interact or move around the art in some way. Love the idea of an art walk or multiple works that can be discovered by locals and visitors. We've seen some fabulous artworks by local artists around the shire recently. It would be great to see more of these local talents showcased.



Aboriginal Art along the creek: Feature Aboriginal Art to show our respect, and strong regard for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, traditions, customs and beliefs of the Taungurung people



Strathbogie Ranges: Strathbogie Ranges Conservation is planning their fourth “festival of fungus” for May 2023 in Euroa to celebrate the amazing role fungi play in our natural environment. Our area is becoming renowned for its incredible fungi and many people travel from far and wide to attend our fungi festival events, forays and workshops. Some fungi focused murals would be a great addition to our events.



Surprising imaginative sculpture: More sculpture and art please. I love Tank and Tobin's beautiful work but would not like to see the birds turned into mascots, instead keep it surprising. Other examples attached I'd love to see in parks (Seven Creeks park for clothes peg type sculpture) or urban environments (Binney street laneway for red ball type sculpture). Thanks



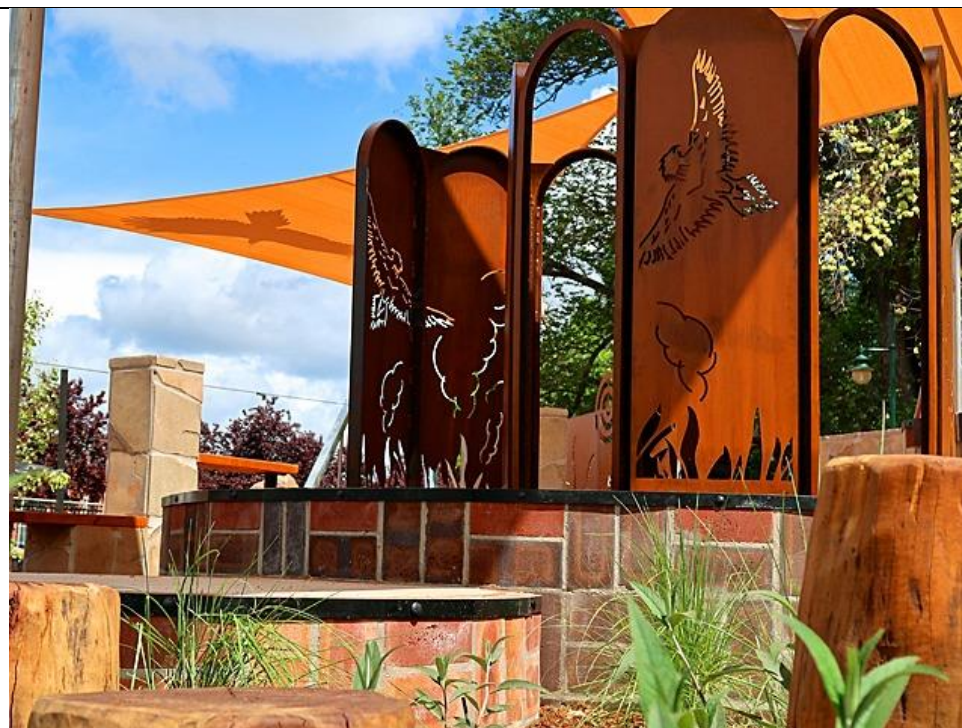
Kookaburra: So fun and engaging for high traffic areas like main streetscapes and open spaces where folks come together to connect.



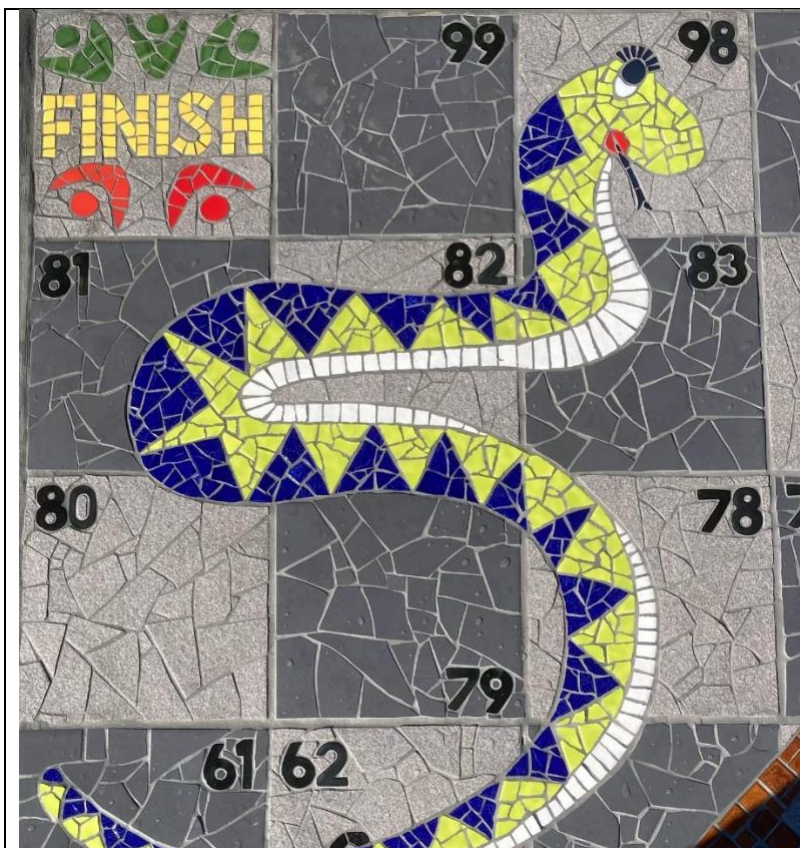
Beautiful character filled birdies: The wonderful Garry the Galah. So fun and engaging for high traffic areas like main streetscapes and open spaces where folks come together to connect.



Magpie by Tobin and Tank: Large metal magpie sculpture



Reflective of area: Metal



Mosaics (pictured left): Could include interactive art

https://youtu.be/-96_1quQOms	Doesn't have to cost the earth or be permanent. Opportunities to have facilitated collaborative experiences in open spaces with all ages and abilities
https://youtu.be/LyLcD_VTC5w	So many wonderful ideas here
https://vimeo.com/230792026	Colourful kinetic spectrum
https://youtu.be/PIbk4AKFMTc	So many inspiring possibilities and mental health benefits with sculptures that promote mindfulness and connection to open spaces. A disappearing seat sculpture to meditate whilst listening to a babbling creek, wind through trees, birds calling. Can imagine watching a mesmerizing kinetic dandelion like sculpture minute upon minute, losing myself in the now 🧘

https://youtu.be/PIbk4AKFMTc	A giant kinetic dandelion
https://youtu.be/kDHDDeoMM82g	Would be great for our fantastically talented artists to create some kinetic and interactive works
Comment	Safety: As a Taungurung person I would like art posted along road to provide something for children to guess answers for and also keep drivers alert. The signs can be changed regularly teaching children about Taungurung land but also keeping safety at mind – ie: how to be safe passenger - animal names in Taungurung language - how to say be safe in Taungurung language - and also something like how many rainbow trees you find (sculptures) or truck questions or road based questions. Would like to talk as Taungurung rep and established artist

Submissions

1. **Euroa Community Action Group:** The Euroa Community Action Group encouraged our community to share their thoughts on Share Strathbogie as part of the public art consultation. I thought I would share the encouraging response we received from one of our social media posts highlighting a magpie sculpture by Tank and Tobin.

The post received 180 likes and 42 comments providing positive responses. There was only one person who said they didn't like magpies, because they swoop. However, majority of comments loved the magpie because of the football club connection and native bird presence in town. There was comments of wanting multiple sculptures around town and we already have the blue wren at Yiiro, so it's an opportunity to build on the existing public art.

I thought I would share this with you to show the positive momentum it is receiving. You can see more here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid038CET9A4aGFSBAX7hAn8z9MN3Sw2Hx7M96HnG5mr6Rg1mncrWUy1543mepF5mmbuJl&id=1637821322976135&mibextid=qC1gEa

I look forward to seeing the outcome of this work. As ECAG were the ones who pitched for this initially, we would appreciate being involved in the outcomes.

2. **Victorian Pride Lobby:** Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the community consultation on public art in Strathbogie Shire. The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community-based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for lesbian, bisexual, queer, gay and same-gender attracted Victorians.

In 2020, we launched the Rainbow Local Government campaign to recruit and support LGBTIQ+ candidates and allies to increase diversity and champion change on LGBTIQ+ issues in local government. Strathbogie Shire Council is one of only six Victorian councils that do not fly

the rainbow flag from public buildings or illuminate public buildings in rainbow colours to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia ("IDAHOBIT").

We note that the Council Plan (2022 update) states that Council will celebrate IDAHOBIT "through our social media pages and website" and that Council has since said that it may light trees across the municipality in rainbow colours on the day.

On 7 November, we emailed your Director of People and Governance to ask if Council will light trees across the municipality in rainbow colours to mark IDAHOBIT in 2023. We are yet to receive a response.

We have previously recommended that the Draft Nagambie Streetscape Plan include provision of a second flagpole in the proposed new "civic space" to enable the rainbow flag to be flown on IDAHOBIT.

In relation to public art, we recommend that Council install a public artwork in Euroa to commemorate the local Indi electorate voting to support same-sex marriage. We're very happy to work with the Council on implementing LGBTIQA+ priorities in your local area, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

Resident

I offer a late submission to the Public Art Engagement Hub. As a resident of Avenel since 2004 I know the town has a proud history of its forbears. Just prior to Covid 19 , I did research for a special ANZAC tribute (sadly never proceeded due to COVID) and found that this former resident of Avenel was recognized for her nursing contribution during the Boer War : Marianne Rawson.

I would like to see a bust of this lady made to immortalise her contribution to advancing nursing in this country. She was very brave and courageous. As for location, I am not sure of an ideal location to select. <https://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/IMP0230b.htm>
<https://www.bwm.org.au/nurses.php>