



Strathmerton

Community Plan
2024 - 2029



Strathmerton is 178.91 km², 248 km north of Melbourne via Seymour and Shepparton, south of the Murray River and the Victoria-New South Wales border.

Community Organisations, Clubs, Tourist Attractions and Facilities

- 1** Strathmerton Cricket Club
Strathmerton Football and Netball Club
Strathmerton Golf Club
Strathmerton Lions Club
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee
Strathmerton Tennis Club
- 2** Strathmerton Bowling Club
- 3** Strathmerton Playgroup
Strathmerton Primary School
Strathmerton Kindergarten
- 4** Strathmerton RSL
Strathmerton Badminton Club
- 5** Strathmerton Post Office and Mail Box Café
- 6** Catholic Church
- 7** Strathmerton CFA
- 8** Strathmerton General Store
- 9** Railway Hotel
- 10** St Aidan's Op Shop and Community Garden
- 11** Lions Club Park with Toilets, Skatepark and Mural
- 12** History Boards Project
- 13** Cactus Country
- 14** Ulupna Island
- 15** Gazebo Motor Inn
- 16** Swimming Pool
- 17** Strathmerton Pistol Club



Our History

Before European settlement, the Bangerang people of the Yorta Yorta nation inhabited the district of Strathmerton.

In the mid-19th century pastoralists and squatters moved into the region drawn to the fertile land and the potential for farming and grazing. The Strathmerton area was surveyed in the 1860s and the Strathmerton Post Office opened on 1 September 1879 approximately 2 kilometers from the current township. Other buildings such as a church and a hotel were also located at the original township site.

With the establishment of a railway junction and a station in the late 1800s, a new Post Office was opened near the station. The local railway station was opened on the railway to Cobram in 1888, with the line to Tocumwal opened in 1905. The last regular passenger service was in 1993.

Strathmerton, like many rural towns, developed around agriculture. It became an important farming centre, particularly cropping, sheep, dairy farming and fruit growing. However, Strathmerton has also witnessed a diverse number of businesses, industries, enterprises, organisations and families evolve and change, including the original local department store Brown and Corkes. Some of these include churches, stockyards, grain stores, butchers, hairdressers, grocery stores, police station and lock up, stables, dress shop, general store, post offices, cafes, banks, service stations, schools, kindergartens, maternal and child health centres, opportunity shops and pubs.

Strathmerton has witnessed much change yet continues to be a small and vibrant community.

The name Strathmerton has Scottish origins and is believed to have been named by infamous pastoralist Benjamin Boyd who owned large pastoral runs in the district. "Strath" is a Gaelic term referring to a wide, flat river valley, while "Merton" was a tribute to Boyd's homeplace in Scotland.



Who are we?

Population

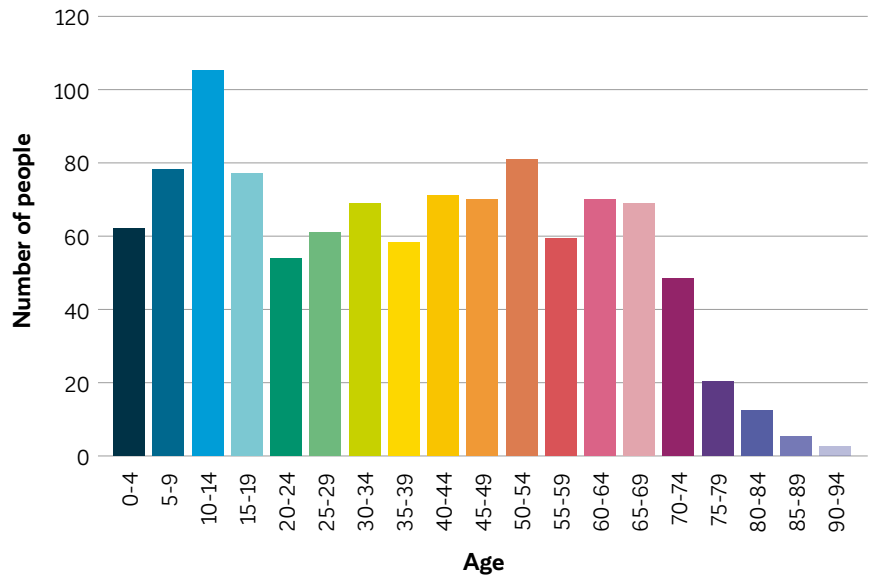
Total: 1,072



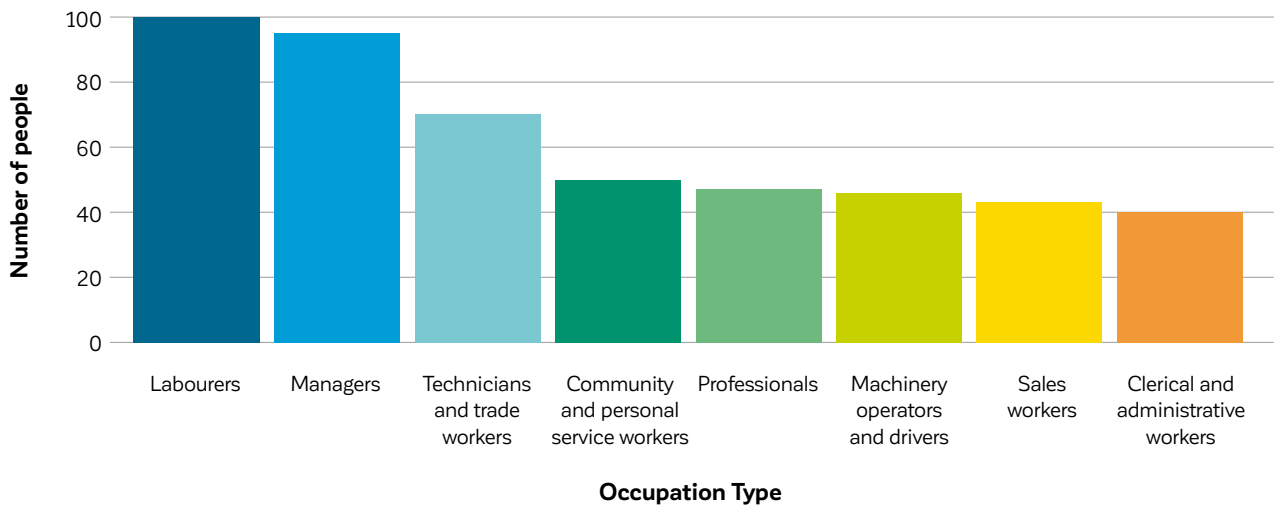
599 Male 511 Female

Age

Strathmerton is the youngest town in Moira Shire with a median age of 38.



Occupations





Workforce by Industry

- 86 Manufacturing
- 78 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- 52 Construction
- 51 Health Care and Social Assistance
- 42 Retail Trade
- 27 Accommodation and Food Services
- 27 Transport, Postal and Warehousing
- 23 Education and Training
- 16 Wholesale Trade
- 16 Other Services
- 14 Public Administration and Safety
- 11 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- 10 Administrative and Support Services
- 8 Financial and Insurance Services
- 8 Arts and Recreation Services
- 3 Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services
- 3 Information, Media and Telecommunications
- 3 Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services



Emergency Information

Call 132 500 from anywhere in Victoria for flood, storm, tsunami and earthquake emergency.

For life-threatening emergencies call 000.

Emergency Radio Stations

ABC Local 91.1 FM, 594 AM, 675 AM and 774 AM

Defibrillators

<https://registermyaed.ambulance.vic.gov.au>

Closest Medical Centres

Cobram NCN
24 Broadway St, Cobram
03 5871 0777

Numurkah NCN
Katamatite-Nathalia Rd,
Numurkah
03 5862 0555

Closest Police Stations

19 Saxton St, Numurkah
03 5862 3311

36 William St, Cobram
03 5871 1977

SES

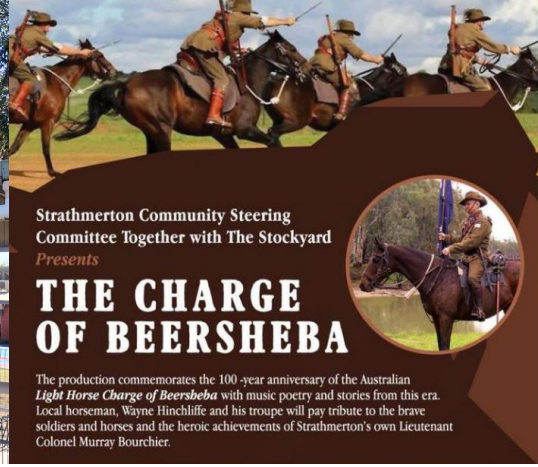
36 Nelson St, Numurkah

CFA

Strathmerton Fire Station,
68 Goulburn Valley Hwy,
Strathmerton

Local Council

Moira Shire
44 Station St, Cobram
03 5871 9222



Strathmerton Community Steering Committee Together with The Stockyard Presents

THE CHARGE OF BEERSHEBA

The production commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Australian Light Horse Charge of Beersheba with music poetry and stories from this era. Local horseman, Wayne Hinchliffe and his troupe will pay tribute to the brave soldiers and horses and the heroic achievements of Strathmerton's own Lieutenant Colonel Murray Bouchier.



Community Planning

Community Planning is about creating a safe space for the community to discuss the future of their town, to explore all those questions and more, and come up with ideas to make their local area an even stronger, more beautiful, and more inclusive community.

Community Planning isn't about giving Council a wish list, although Council will take on board all of the views and opinions expressed during the process. It's about local people making sustainable change collaboratively and making good things happen for everyone in their community. After all, a goal without a plan is just a wish. Community Planning is about wrapping realistic strategies around everyone's hopes and dreams so that they can become reality.

What has already been achieved?

Strathmerton created its first five year Community Plan which ran from 2017–2022. From this, many outcomes have been achieved:

The Strathmerton Community Steering Committee (SCSC) created a facebook page and is continuing to improve the communication of Strathmerton and the surrounding district.

More events have been put on, such as 'The Re-enactment of the Charge of Beersheba,' celebrating local war hero Brigadier Sir Murray Bouchier. This event was hailed as a huge success.

SCSC lobbied successfully for the speed limit to be reduced to 60 km/h through Strathmerton.

A feasibility study to investigate a rail trail along the old railway line from the old Strathmerton station to the Cobram station was carried out. The Committee strongly believes in this project, and although there have been hold ups, we are hopeful it will come to fruition.



The town has been beautified including the railway/Lions park area. Hundreds of trees have been planted and are doing well, already making a difference to this area, with travellers stopping to utilise the RV facilities.

Continued issues over rubbish brought about improved access, lobbying for better town signage, a drink fountain, and improved street scaping.

A beautiful, colourful mural has been created to improve the public toilet block appearance, painted by local ceramicist and young female Indigenous artist Tiame Hall.

A new history boards project is in development at the old Strathmerton Railway Station.

A new walking track lined with hundreds of trees has been constructed at the Strathmerton Recreation Reserve. SCSC applied for and received a grant through The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Moira Shire for this project which will greatly improve the wellbeing of residents and encourage greater use of this wonderful facility.

A community garden has been successfully set up working with St Aidan's Opportunity shop and we are hopeful that the much needed new kindergarten will come to fruition.

The Lions have been an integral part of many of these projects, one in particular being the Christmas Party, which together, we have made into a much grander event, creating town decorations and musical entertainment with the local Primary School.

The Renewed Community Plan

After 5 years of such solid improvements, the time came to renew the Community Plan. In 2023, extensive consultation was undertaken. Activities ranged from tree planting (May 2023), Donut drop (7 June), coffee mornings (29 June and 6 July), as well as extensive promotion and advertising of the online and paper survey. Collection boxes were placed in the Mail Box Café and the Primary School. A very impressive number of surveys were completed (90), and nearly 150 people of all ages attended the consultation events.

From the data collected, and the conversations along the way, the resulting renewed Community Plan was formed, with renewed 5 year goals for Strathmerton's Community, Economy, Development, Environment and Heritage.



Photo: Dantny Cleary



What our Community Said

What do you love about Strathmerton?

Diversity Close to River and Nature Facilities

Shops Mural **Community** Agriculture Peace and Quiet

Good Location **Friendly People** Lifestyle Nothing!

Neat and Tidy **Small Country Town** Good Place to Stop

Strathy Lions **Sporting Clubs** Cactus Country

Good place to raise a family and grow up

Primary School Mail Box Café Good Place to Work

What would you change and what would you add to Strathmerton?

Cemetery Outdoor Gym Machines Neighbourhood Watch

Market Off Leash Dog Path Silo Art

Skate Park Shade Sail Improve Entrance to Rec Reserve Frog Jump

Splash Park Local Trade and Employment Bega Cheese Outlet Shop

I wouldn't change or add anything, it's good

Caravan Park **More Services** Golf Course Walking Track

Housing and facilities for elderly **Safer Footpaths** A Creative Space

Mural **More Attractions** Extended Post Office Hours

Improve roads **Landscape Main Street** Benches

More Youth and Community Activities

Little Free Library **Upgrade Footy Club Facilities**

Continued growth **Rail Trail to Cobram** Servo In Town

BMX Race Track **No Burn Out Pad** Outdoor Cinema 3 times a year

Pool Open Longer **More Shops** Involve Young Families I want to leave

Want Burnout Pad **New Kinder** Better Ulupna Boat Ramp

Educational Opportunities **Public Basketball Courts** Medical Access

Improve Entrances to Town **Upgrade Skate Park** Disabled Access

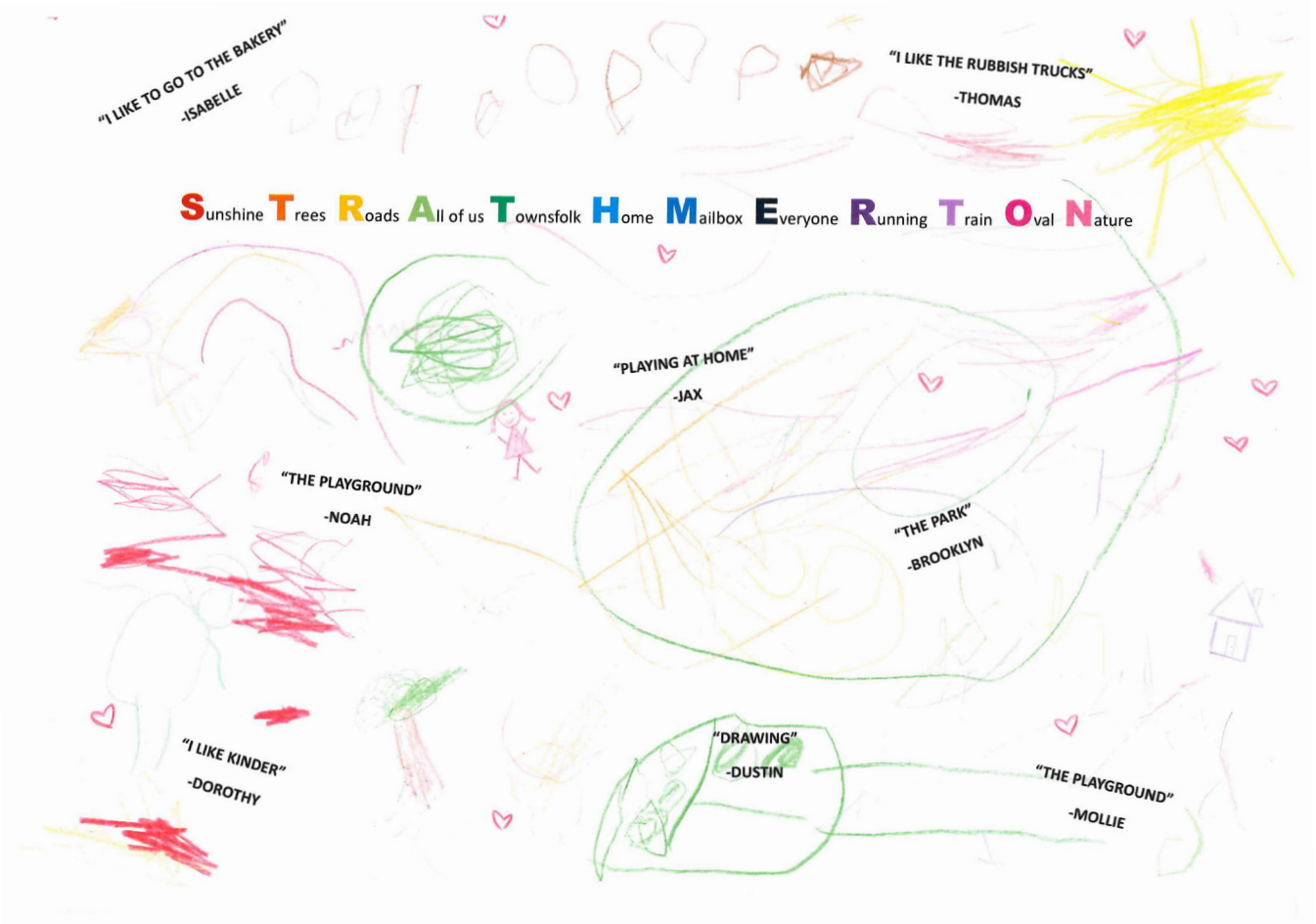
Street Lights **Lockable Bike Shed for Schoolkids** Meals on Wheels

Riding track like Burramine **Access to Tip** Signpost Caravan and Truck Parking

Roundabout at Numurkah Road **Fish and Chip Shop**

Bad Smell from Water Treatment

Strathmerton Pre School – 3 year olds



Strathmerton Pre School – 4 year olds



Our Goals



GOAL 1 Community

- Celebrate Strathmerton as a friendly community which is inclusive, vibrant, welcoming, a great place to live and a great place to raise a family.
- Facilitate more community events:
 - Youth events – investigate ways to provide activities and infrastructure for youth and younger people.
 - Whole community events, which involve the whole town.
- Encourage newcomers to Strathmerton to get involved in the life of the town – provide engagement opportunities for the new families and new residents of Strathmerton.



GOAL 2 Economy

- Build the Strathmerton to Cobram Rail Trail.
- Promote local trade and businesses – to encourage “shop local” through social media, and by making Strathmerton an attractive place to have a business and set up shop.
- Market – hold a regular market day for local producers.
- Stop on your way through – promote Strathmerton as a comfortable and welcoming place to stop, improve and beautify RV friendly toilet facilities.



GOAL 3

Development

- Beautify Main Street – provide landscaping, more trees and shaded areas, more benches.
- Facilitate the return of the Strathmerton Railway Area which will then form the beginning of the Rail Trail to Cobram.
- Plan for a Recreation Hub to be used by all stakeholders.
- Support plans to incorporate the Strathmerton Kinder on the Primary School grounds.
- Facilitate Basketball development.



GOAL 4

Environment and Heritage

- Work to complete the History Boards Project with continual additions to the on-line resources. Promote as a Tourist Attraction.
- Liaise with Parks Victoria to install signs at local entries to Barmah Forest and promote the proximity of Strathmerton to the Murray River, Ulupna Island, nature and wildlife for health and wellbeing.
- Promote the Golf Course Walking Trail and complete its beautification with tree planting and maintenance.



Implementing our Plan

- The Strathmerton Community Steering Group Committee and the wider Strathmerton community are responsible for this plan.
- The Committee will continue to meet regularly, and drive the achievement of the identified actions and goals.
- The Community Plan is a dynamic, flexible document. Priorities can change over time, according to environmental and economic factors. Priorities and goals will be reviewed after a period of 5 years.
- Any substantial changes to the Plan should be decided at a Public Meeting of the Strathmerton Community.



This Plan has been developed by the Strathmerton Community Steering Committee,
with support from Moira Shire Council.

Special thanks to everyone who submitted photos to include in the Strathmerton Community Plan.

Front cover aerial photo by Danny Cleary



Photo: Chloe Smith Photography



Photo: Danny Cleary



Photo: Chloe Smith Photography

