

# CARDROSS & KOORLONG COMMUNITY PLAN



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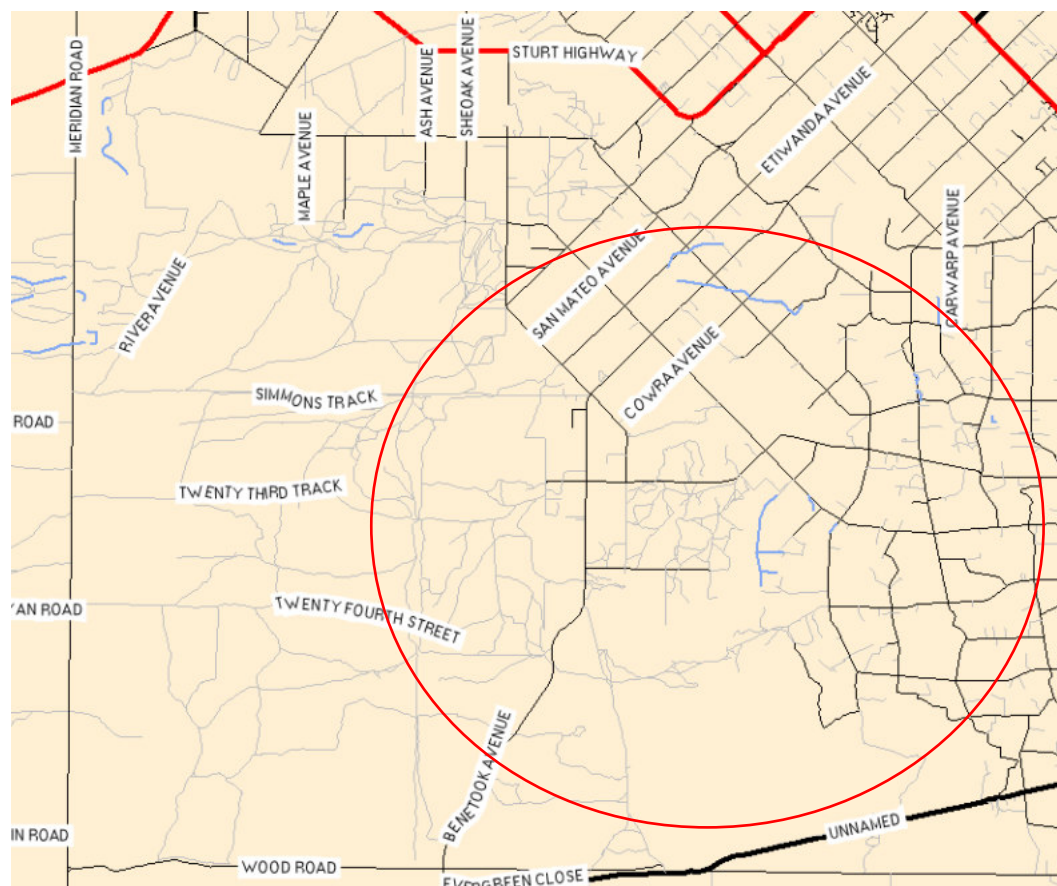


Mildura Rural City Council



### About Cardross and Koorlong

Cardross and Koorlong are both small townships approximately 15km south-east of Mildura. Providing a concrete definition of the boundaries of Cardross and Koorlong has proven to be challenging as there are at least six different definitions ranging from separate ABS statistical maps, Australia Post boundaries, Government electoral maps, Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) locality maps.





### History of Cardross and Koorlong

## CARDROSS



Camp in the new settlement – Mary Chandler

The north-west area of the Red Cliffs Soldiers' Settlement was one of the last allocation to be opened up. It was originally known as north-west Red Cliffs but as many of the settlers came from overseas, including retired army officers from the English and Indian armies, it was soon nick-named "New England."

One very hot Sunday, the English settlers gathered under the shade of a huge pepper tree on Block 698-99 clustered around a small table. Mr. Harry Youngs of Block 616 agreed to contact "Steele Blayde", a Sunraysia Daily reporter, to explain to him the resentment felt by the use of the nick-name.

A meeting was then called of the whole district. It was held at Mr. L.G. Painter's property on Wednesday March 5, 1924. Major G. Hooper was elected chairman, Mr. L.G. Painter organising secretary. This was the first of many meetings.

In April 1925, a meeting was held to choose a name for the new township, four names being selected, Cardross, Kenyon, Sundale and Sinai. A ballot was held and the name Cardross was selected. Mrs. Agnes Tomey, whose family came from Cardross, Scotland, had put forward its name.

From the beginning Cardross was a very busy close-knit community and in a request for the establishment of a new township, they asked for a school, church, business and residential buildings, a public hall, a packing shed and recreational facilities.

From the start, the Cardross Progress Association was exceptionally alive, and on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1925 a dance was held at Bright's shop, the first function held in the township, the profits of the dance being divided equally between the newly formed school committee and the Progress Association.

The school began in what was known as the "Meat Safe" with 30 people attending school by December 1925. The new school costing three thousand four hundred pounds and consisting of two rooms and a cloakroom officially opened on

## CARDROSS & KOORLONG COMMUNITY PLAN

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February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1926 and over the years until the present day further extensions and alterations have taken place.

In 1925 the Cardross Cricket Club was formed and shortly after a Tennis Club and over the years the town has sported a Soccer Team, a Golf Club, a Rifle Club, Aussie Rules Football Club, a Life Saving Club which was the first registered inland life saving club and the Cardross Rowing Club which contained both a men's and women's team. For many years the Cardross Lake was the venue for the last two groups, plus it was very popular for picnics and swimming. Today Cardross still has a Cricket Club and a Football/Netball club.

Over the years Cardross also had a butchers shop, two general stores, a school, health centre, scout hall, church and of course a Hall. The original Hall was a shed purchased from the Red Cliffs Co-op for One hundred pounds. It burnt down in 1938. The new and current hall opened later in the year. It cost One thousand five hundred pounds and was built and paid for by the community.

It was used for dances, balls, kitchen teas, engagements, weddings, concerts, (the Blind Concert was a very popular event) parties, the Mothers' Club, Cardross School, and today Red Cliffs Players, and of course for the Spring Show.

The Cardross Progress Association reformed in 2001 to restore the Hall to its former glory. Thousands of dollars have already been spent on the Hall, the last being a new roof on the outside and a newly repaired ceiling on the inside.

Red Cliffs Players now operate out of the Hall and are working in partnership with the Progress Association Committee. They have built "Lizzie's Shed" an addition out the back to store their props and each year hold several productions in the Hall.

Cardross is still a progressive close-knit community and welcomes all newcomers to its midst. New houses are springing up and the town has expanded over the years. The community looks forward to continuing prosperity and growth.



Cardross Lakes Surf Lifesaving Club – Mary Chandler

## **KOORLONG - "One Tree Hill" to 2010**



**Hot dipping Grapes in 1931 – Museums Victoria**

Early maps indicate that a residential section was to be situated at the far end of Deakin Avenue, at a place called "Irymple" between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> streets. This planned development did not eventuate, largely due to the depression. The area between the planned development and Dow Avenue became known as Koorlong. In 1892 the Victorian Government Gazette of May 6<sup>th</sup> announced that Mildura Shire was now divided into four ridings, which were named Mildura, Sandalong, Lake and Koorlong. Koorlong was part of the original "Chaffey Brothers' Irrigation Plan."

In 1896 a great financial depression and the financial collapse of the Chaffey Brothers forced a lot of settlers off their land. The early 1930's and onwards saw many Italian Immigrants taking up the opportunity to purchase fruit blocks in the Koorlong district.

Koorlong developed early because it was able to produce lime from several limekilns, which was used for a type of concrete utilised for the building of houses and many of the early concrete channels through the FMIT area. The burnt lime was also used as lime sulphur for spraying the vines against disease. Large areas of limestone were also quarried for crushed stone.

A Community Hall was constructed using limestone walls, iron roof, and pressed metal (Wunderlich) ceiling with timber floor - a day's work ensuring a share in it. This building was used for everything – meetings, dances, church and school. This building was obviously an important focal point for the Koorlong Community.

The present hall was built in 1927 uniquely clad with corrugated iron. The ceiling and lining completed in 1948. Hall interior was relined in 1962. The original limestone building was demolished in 1945 and some of the materials used to add a supper room (kitchen) to the new hall. These materials (Wunderlich etc.) still remain in the present kitchen

Dances, for which Koorlong was renowned, were held regularly from 1950's - 1980, organised jointly by The Hall Trustees and Koorlong Primary School Mothers Club. Timber floor was polished with a mixture of kerosene and sawdust. New septic ablution blocks were built in 1969. Backyard yard securely fenced in 1987 to cater for recently formed Play Group.

In March, 1903 concern was raised regarding the need for a school in Koorlong. Approval was given by the department for the establishment of a school in the

Public Hall. Lease agreement was signed on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1903 and State School No 3470 Koorlong opened in the leased premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1904 with an enrolment of 12 pupils. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1918 the leased hall was deemed "building unsatisfactory" by District Inspector. 5 acres next to the Koorlong Hall was surveyed and reserved for school purposes on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1919. The new State owned timber building was erected in June 1920.

A regular bus service between Mildura and Koorlong was introduced about 1937. During the war years few people owned cars so motor bikes were a popular form of transport. Petrol was rationed and alternative fuels were used. The Hall was used to store rubber goods for recycling. An Honour Board hangs in the Koorlong Public Hall acknowledging local soldiers who went to war. A photo of VC recipient Samuel Pearse, once a resident of Koorlong also adorns the wall of Koorlong Public Hall.

The first Post Office and Telephone Exchange was started in 1912 at a private home in Benetook Avenue. This service was moved on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1918 to the newly established Koorlong Store. In 1922 the post and telegraph office with adjoining store were burnt to the ground. Telephone communication was temporarily cut off and 20 telephone subscribers were isolated. Electricity was connected to the Primary School and Public Hall in 1950.

Tennis courts and cricket ground were originally situated on Benetook Avenue, approximately 1 mile north-east of the Koorlong Post Office. Tennis Courts were formed in 1920, originally crusher dust and later bitumen. In the late 50's interest lapsed but in 1983 the club was rejuvenated. With the growth of the Tennis Club, money was raised to build 2 crusher dust courts behind the Koorlong Public Hall. These courts were named the Max Cooke Memorial Courts in 1991. The cricket pitch was a concrete slab with a malthoid covering. The cricket club went into recess during the war years but reformed after the war and eventually wound up about 1956. The grounds were sold to private buyers.

The late 1970's through the 1980's saw a trend of "Hobby Farmers" purchasing vacant 10 acre blocks. Applications to subdivide  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre residential blocks from these blocks were granted. Roads were extended and sealed. In the latter years Mildura City Council and Mildura Shire amalgamated to become the present local governing body of Mildura Rural City Council. Permits for these  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre subdivisions were abolished.

Due to Community issues arising in 1981 the Koorlong Progress Association was formed and later disbanded in 2003.

In 2004 Koorlong residents on Benetook Avenue were invited to tap into potable water available through the pipeline extending to the newly established Titanium Plant on the corner of Benetook Avenue and the Werrimull – Red Cliffs Road. In 2003 - 2004 an application to subdivide the area from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to behind the Koorlong Primary School into 1 acre residential lots was approved by Council. "Bushland Rise" was developed, markedly increasing street lighting and the population of the Koorlong township.

2004 – 2005 saw the beginning of a depressed horticultural industry, later the takeover of FMIT by the Government body Lower Murray Water and drastic changes to the availability of irrigation and domestic water supplies. Many former vibrant horticultural holdings in the Koorlong district have been cleared and no longer are primary producers. Private buyers employed in Mildura and surrounding districts have sought these blocks to take up residence out of the densely populated town areas of Mildura. In 2007 Koorlong Social Club was formed as a sub committee of the Koorlong Public Hall Committee Inc.

### What is Community Planning?

Community planning has become an important process for towns and communities in rural Australia. Whilst community planning is still a relatively new concept, there have been over 500 community plans developed throughout Australia.

Community planning is the process whereby people are encouraged to become actively and genuinely involved in providing feedback about their thoughts and visions for the future of their community. Community planning assists in identifying the direction the community wants to take to move forward, as well as documenting some of the ideas and suggestions to make it happen.

Community planning aims to improve:

Social inclusion:

*Social inclusion means that members of the community are able to access services, connect with family and friends, work, develop personal interests and have a voice within their local community;*

Engagement of community:

*Encourages people to be involved, opens up communication channels and helps people connect;*

Capacity building:

*Increases the skills within the community and increases community members' confidence;*

Participation in everyday life

*Promotes community connectedness and involvement, encourages the meeting of new people and promotes community members working together.*

### How are community plans created?

Community plans are developed by the community for the community. The initial steps involve people from all walks of life sharing their ideas about how they would like to see their community develop in years to come.

This information is then collated into a list of key themes which are set out in a community plan document. Within each of these themes, the community makes suggestions or proposed project ideas that might address the issue or enhance the community. These are then used as a guide to implementing key actions and projects for a community.

Once the document is complete, the plan is presented to Mildura Rural City Council for endorsement. A community plan is very important to the Council as it is used to assist them in gaining a better understanding of the needs of communities and then in planning for services, facilities and activities within the municipality.





### Why do Cardross & Koorlong need a community plan?

The townships of Cardross and Koorlong need their own community plan as they are individual rural locations within the greater City of Mildura. Each community has individual needs but have also identified common areas which can be worked on together.

Both communities consist of a diverse range of families and individuals who have chosen to live in the area because of the location (close to town, but separate); good quality primary educational facilities allowing children to receive a more individualised education and the advantage of the small tight knit community 'feel'.

However, the core reason that these two townships require a community plan is to provide an opportunity for the residents of Cardross and Koorlong to have input into the future of their community.

Individually and collectively, members of the Cardross and Koorlong community have identified wants and needs for the community we choose to live in. The identified issues include not only the basics needs, but also additional extras that are required to meet the ongoing needs of our community and afford us the ability to grow.

The community consultation process with community members identified that the community does want input into our future, and a community plan is required for a number of reasons which include:

- To identify what is important to our communities
- To allow the community to have input into how the townships can grow and develop
- To acknowledge the needs and wants which exist by members of the community
- To have a clear plan and direction for the future
- To create a stronger feeling of community and improve the connections within it
- To ensure the community is sustainable on a number of levels
  1. physical infrastructure and public facilities
  2. community wellbeing
  3. community involvement
  4. environmental



Koorlong Camp Oven Cook Off 2010



Theatre at the Cardross Public Hall

### How the community plan was developed

Discussions regarding the development of the Cardross and Koorlong community plan initially commenced in June 2010 with the process facilitated by Mildura Rural City Council's Community Development Officer, Nardia Sheriff.

The engagement phase of the plan began with the intention of meeting with as many different community groups, businesses and individuals as possible over a 3-4 month period. Existing communication channels and networks via the schools, local stores and hall committee groups were utilised to inform the broader community about the community planning process.

Feedback from the community was obtained through a number of different methods including one on one chats, existing group meetings, open invitation public meetings, community BBQ's as well as electronically via fax, email and facebook.

With continued engagement with the community, many issues, suggestions and ideas emerged and these were categorised into themes to ensure that this information could be logically collated. This allowed the community to come up with proposed ideas which could address some of the issues and/or progress some of the ideas within these themes.

At the end of the engagement phase, the Cardross and Koorlong communities had identified 13 themes. With the knowledge that most community plans are more successful if the number of themes the community works upon is more achievable, the community then prioritised the top six themes of most importance. They then identified which of the themes could be worked on with a joint community approach, and which of the themes was locality specific.

The community plan document is owned by the community and is designed to give community members the opportunity to participate in achieving the proposed actions relevant to each theme. Proposed actions identified under the themes of the community plan reflect the ideas presented by members of the community in previous discussions.



Koorlong Primary School Students



Cardross Primary School Students

## **Important Themes for Cardross & Koorlong**

The following themes emerged from the various discussions and public meetings that were held.

Street & town pride

Public facilities

Community wellbeing & involvement

Safety

Public transport

Education & youth

### Street & town pride

**Includes beautification works and the environment**

#### **Cardross - Proposed actions/projects**

- improve town directional & entrance signage
- undertake plantings & beautification works along main st
- undertake planting & beautification in the Reserve behind the Hall in Cardross
- coordinate a clean up Cardy day/s
- improve signage to highlight natural environment – ie symbols such as BBQ, walking tracks, reserves
- undertake maintenance of wildlife corridors

#### **Koorlong – Proposed actions/ projects**

- improve town directional & entrance signage
- undertake plantings & beautification works along Main St (avenue of honour)

#### **Joint Community opportunities**

- investigate beautification programs for mutual benefit of both communities



### Public facilities

**Includes best utilisation and access of existing public facilities and the need for additional public facilities**

#### Cardross - Proposed actions/projects

- improve the amount of playground & family friendly equipment at the reserve (ie play equipment, BBQ)
- continue to improve hall facilities for community use – ie renovations / improvements
- better public toilet facilities
- improve lighting at intersections
- improve lighting at toilet block at the Cardross Recreation Reserve
- improve sporting facilities/amenities at Cardross Recreation Reserve
- provide welcome packs to new residents

#### Koorlong - Proposed actions/projects

- investigate opportunities to create a public space/facility for the community, particularly given the many new families in the community. To include playground & BBQ facilities. This is a priority for this community
- investigate opportunity for Koorlong public toilets and/or renovation/refurbishment of Koorlong Hall toilets (which are not public)
- continue to improve hall facilities for community use – ie renovations / improvements
- provide welcome packs to new residents

#### Joint Community opportunities

- work together to identify appropriate grants for hall refurbishments
- work with MRCC to investigate recreation reserve improvements
- Work together to source items for welcome packs



**Cardross Public Hall**



**Koorlong Public Hall**



### Community wellbeing & involvement

**Includes community connection, volunteering, social cohesion and involvement**

#### Cardross - Proposed actions/projects

- develop skills in better preparing grant applications to attract funding for community activities & improvements
- create a community newsletter & website
- create a social calendar of events/activities for the community to encourage the community to meet more regularly. Events/activities could include information nights on various topics, Zumba, adult education – skills and/or community courses
- involve more youth and investigate a mentoring program
- show community that certain groups/clubs are not a 'closed shop' and encourage new people to get involved
- develop a tradies/contractors directory covering Cardross & Koorlong to encourage support of local businesses
- Reinstate the welcome pack for new people who move to the area

#### Koorlong - Proposed actions/projects

- attract more members to social activities & foster closer community
- develop more extra curricular activities and community events – ie to be done in hall or school ie Zumba, adult education – skills and/or community courses
- develop skills in better preparing grant applications to attract funding for community activities & improvements
- investigate a Men's shed-like group
- create a community newsletter & website
- show community that certain groups/clubs are not a 'closed shop' to encourage new people to get involved
- develop a tradies/contractors directory covering Cardross & Koorlong to encourage support of local businesses
- develop marketing strategy and event plan for Camp Oven Cook Off
- Look at creating a welcome pack for new people who move to the area

#### Joint Community opportunities

- a joint community newsletter and website
- a tradies/contractors directory
- joint activities held in each community's hall
- seek opportunity to undertake a joint grants writing workshop
- investigate opportunities to create joint community events (youth disco, BBQ's etc)
- work together on sourcing local items for the welcome pack



**Koorlong Camp Oven Cook Off**



**Cardross Show**

### Safety

**Includes traffic management, children safety and awareness**

#### **Cardross - Proposed actions/projects**

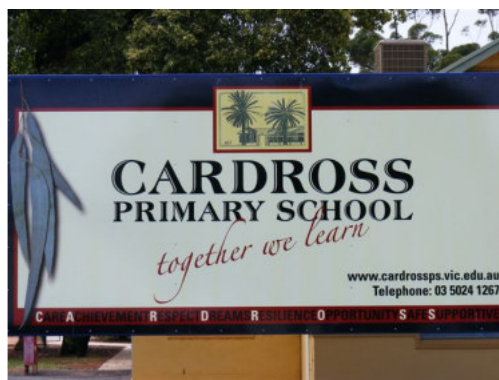
- increase number of bus shelters which are needed on bus routes
- improve bike track maintenance
- generate awareness regarding school zones
- investigate the improvement of school crossings and including flashers
- improve lighting at particular intersections
- improve lighting in public toilets at recreation reserve

#### **Koorlong – Proposed actions/projects**

- address issue of speeding traffic past school, particularly trucks
- address issue of sporting events causing additional traffic, many of which are speeding – particularly at night
- improve signage to Koorlong & house numbering – emergency vehicles have had trouble finding properties in the past
- increase number of bus shelters which are needed on bus routes
- generate awareness regarding school zones
- investigate the improvement of school crossings and including flashers

#### **Joint Community opportunities**

- work together as a joint effort to address common Safety issues, in particular the bike path maintenance and road safety within school zones



### Public Transport

**Includes safety and accessibility aspects**

#### **Cardross - Proposed actions/projects**

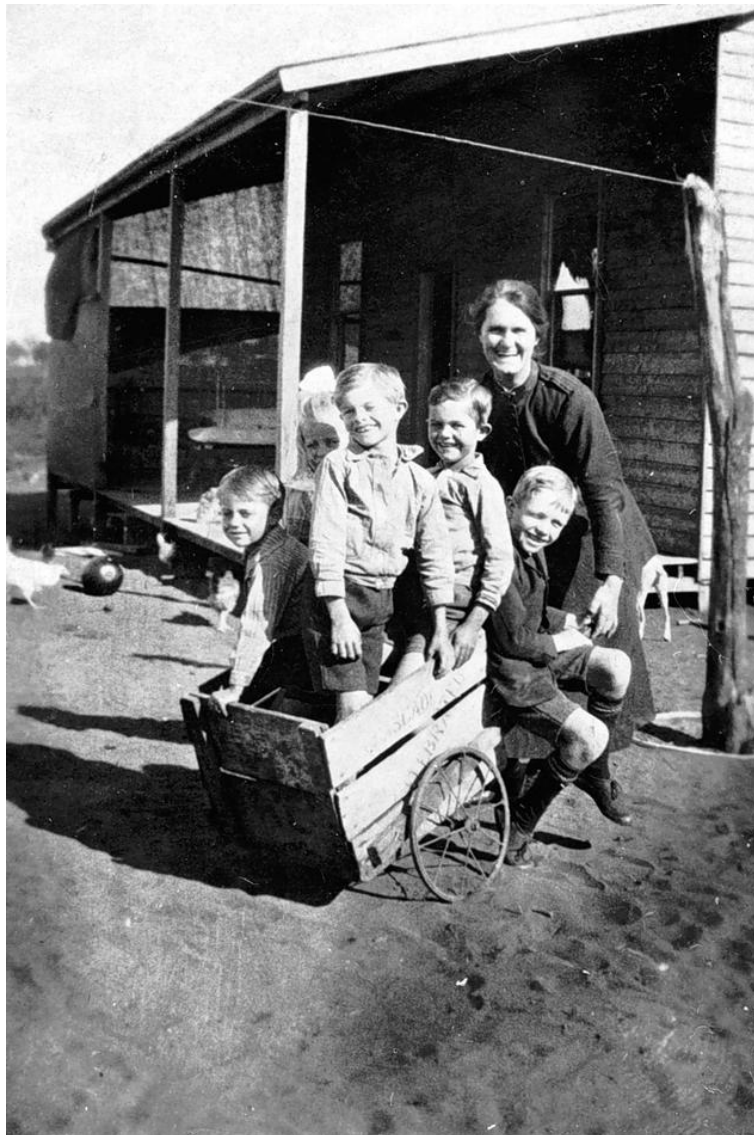
- increase number of bus shelters which are needed on bus routes
- investigate the viability of a bus service from town to Mildura/Red Cliffs
- investigate a local car pooling program to/from work/school

#### **Koorlong – Proposed actions/ projects**

- increase number of bus shelters which are needed on bus routes

#### **Joint Community opportunities**

- work together as a joint effort to address Public Transport issues
- investigate other communities who may have similar issues (ie Irymple, Red Cliffs)



Kids being given a ride in a cart in Koorlong – Museum Victoria

### Education & youth

**Includes identifying and investigating social activities for youth and supporting school projects**

#### **Cardross - Proposed actions/projects**

- support school to undertake community garden project
- improve bus services to get children to schools
- encourage sporting, music or drama participation outside of school time
- improve the social opportunities for youth ie hold a disco/film night in hall, self defence or Zumba class in the evening
- investigate after school/vacation care programs
- improve playground and family friendly equipment at recreation reserve

#### **Koorlong – Proposed actions/ projects**

- investigate the possibility of a public space/facilities that children and youth could access
- support school to undertake community garden
- support the school in continuing their development of the reserve behind school
- assist school in promoting after school & vacation care
- promote Koorlong Playgroup to young families in the area and in Sunraysia
- improve the social opportunities for youth ie hold a disco/film night in hall, self defence or Zumba class in the evening

#### **Joint Community opportunities**

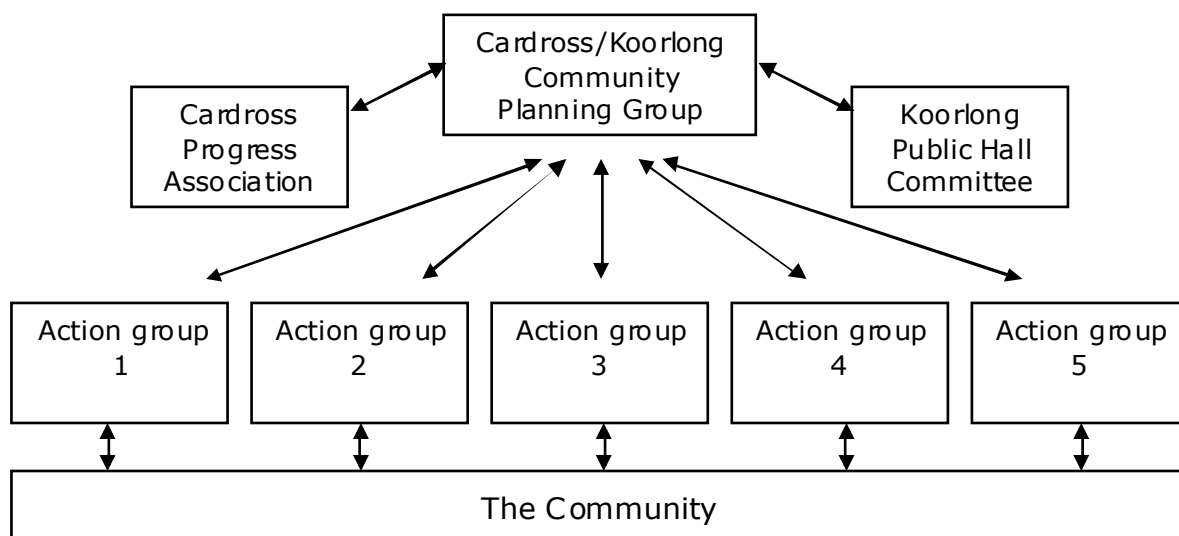
- investigate possibility of a joint Youth action Group to be involved in identifying opportunities for Cardross and Koorlong youth



## Proposed Action Group structure moving forward

It is important that the implementation of the community plan exists within a structure that is open to all people within the community. It is proposed that a Cardross/Koorlong Community Planning group is established to ensure that all stakeholders are represented and are able to contribute.

This planning group will oversee the implementation of the action groups who will ultimately be responsible for the projects that are developed.





### How can I be involved?

There are many opportunities for the community to become involved in the implementation of the Cardross and Koorlong Community Plan.

You may be interested in getting involved at a committee level.

Or, you may simply like to be involved in a project.

Either way, there are many opportunities to be involved with the implementation of the community plan. The following details will help you get in touch:

Contact the Cardross & Koorlong Planning Group – as people come and go, the best way to find out this information is to contact the Community Planning Team at Council and ask who is the best contact for the Cardross/Koorlong Planning Group.

Community Planning  
Mildura Rural City Council  
Ph. 5018 8321  
[community.planning@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:community.planning@mildura.vic.gov.au)

You can also be kept up to date via the Cardross Koorlong Community Plan facebook page.

### Review and evaluation

The Community has identified that reviewing the plan is an important element to ensure the plan is working.

Ideally, the plan will be review after two years but within three years. The Cardross & Koorlong Planning Group, with the support of Mildura Rural City Council will look to engage with community members to review the current themes and actions/projects in this community plan.

Completed actions/projects would then be removed and replaced with themes and actions/projects that are relevant and timely for the improvement of the Cardross and Koorlong community.

#### Themes to be considered at review

Several themes did not rank as highly when the community was asked to prioritise the ones that were important. That said, several projects from these themes have been accommodated into other areas.

These and/or other themes may arise again during the review and have been placed here as a historical reference point to ensure they aren't forgotten.

**Volunteering/ succession planning**

**History/Legacy**

**Economic viability**

**Infrastructure & Planning**

**Lifestyle & Recreation**

**Promotion of community**

**The Environment**

### Acknowledgements

Without the support of the community, this plan would not have been possible. Thank you to the following for your contribution to this Community Plan.

#### *Photos supplied by:*

Cardross	Mary Chandler and the Cardross Primary School
Koorlong	Koorlong Primary School and the Public Records Office of Victoria

#### *History supplied by:*

Cardross	Mary Chandler
Koorlong	Jenny Lloyd

#### *Community organisations:*

Cardross Progress Association  
Koorlong Public Hall Committee  
Koorlong Hall Social Club  
Cardross General Store  
Koorlong General Store  
Cardross Primary School  
Koorlong Primary School  
Cardross Football Netball Club  
Koorlong Playgroup

#### *Cover pages designed by:*

Cardross Primary School  
Koorlong Primary School

And finally to all the people who participated in meetings, discussions, conversations and BBQ's for taking the time and the interest in the community planning process.