



# BEALIBA & DISTRICT OUR COMMUNITY 2030



# OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

**The Bealiba & District Community Plan 2030 sets out the community’s vision for the next ten years.**

Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community’s voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in October 2019 and was completed in April 2020.

Residents in and around Bealiba and district were invited to share their input into the planning process in a variety of ways:

- an online survey
- community postcards
- a drop in session
- a focus group
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Bealiba & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government).

This project was delivered with funding from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund.



## OUR VISION

**In 2030 Bealiba & district will be:**

**A community that celebrates its history and heritage, is closely connected, active, healthy and engaged with a stable population, growing tourism and access to services.**



# OUR TOWN

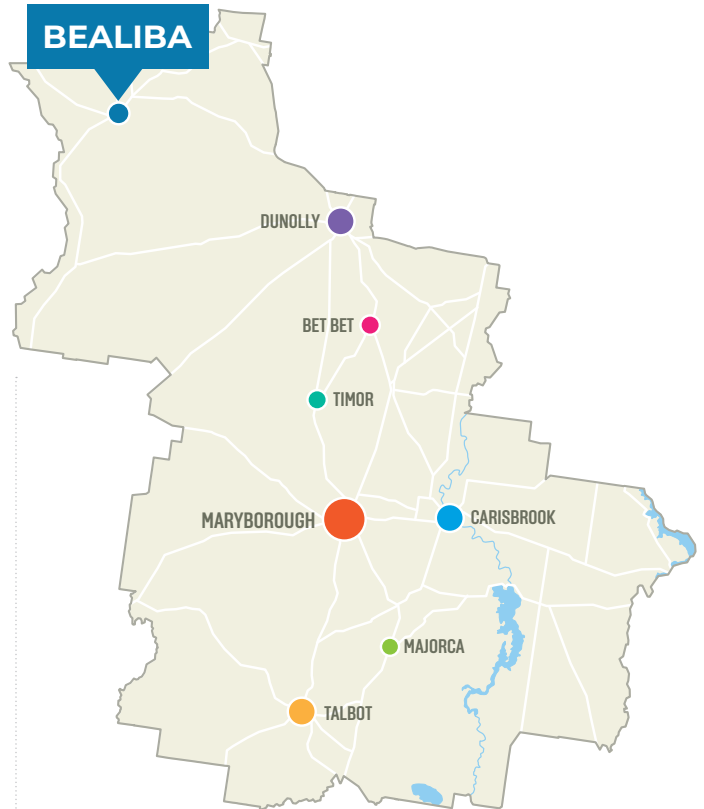
**Bealiba is a rural township 170km north-west of Melbourne and about midway between Dunolly and St Arnaud.**

Bealiba has its own Primary School, Post Office, Town Hall and other small businesses, historical and various societies, churches, active CWA, Pony Club, local tennis club, weekly indoor bowls and is part of the Natte-Bealiba football/netball club.

## Our History

The Bealiba history is steeped in gold, timber and farming. Gold was first recorded in 1856 (The Evans Hotel was built soon after), followed by several small rushes. Thousands of tons of wood and timber products were first carted by horse and dray and then by rail to Melbourne during the late 1890s.

There are many buildings of historical significance standing today. Part of the original Town hall, Penningtons, Renshaws and other buildings are constructed from locally made bricks.



“I love the quietness – but for the bird calls, frogs and crickets.”

# CENSUS SNAPSHOT



## POPULATION: 206

- Male: 54.7%
- Female: 45.3%
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people: 1.4% (Victoria 0.8%)



## AGE

- Median age in Bealiba: 57 years (Victoria 37 years)
- Children aged 0-14 years made up 12.6% of the population (Victoria 18.3%)
- 36.2% of the population are aged 65 years and over (Victoria 15.6%)



## DWELLINGS

- 28.1% of dwellings were unoccupied (Victoria 11.7%)
- Median weekly rent: \$80 (Victoria \$325)



## HOUSEHOLDS

- 52.7% were family households
- 24.9% (39 people) were living in single person households (Victoria 24.7%)
- 4.4% were group households
- 6% of households had no car



## EMPLOYMENT

- 53.8% worked full-time (Victoria 57%)
- 26.9% worked part-time (Victoria 31.4%)
- 13.5% were unemployed (Victoria 6.6%)
- 5.8% were away from work (Victoria 4.9%)



## INCOME

- In Bealiba 55% of households had a weekly income of less than \$650.00 (Victoria 20.3%)
- 0% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 (Victoria 15.5%)



## INTERNET

- 39.4% of households in Bealiba did not have access to the internet at home (Victoria 13.6%)

## IN BEALIBA & DISTRICT WE LOVE ...

- The friendly and caring people
- Country living
- Peace and quiet
- History and heritage
- Local community activities
- Community connections
- Bush/nature/wildlife
- Bealiba Primary School
- Bealiba Hall
- Community bus
- Our safe community

## KEY ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Population decline
- Changing demographic
- Ageing community
- Loss of local pub
- Poor mobile phone service
- Tired streetscape
- Maintaining ageing buildings/heritage buildings
- Lack of activities for children
- Limited childcare options
- Access to health and wellbeing services
- Lack of tourism
- Attracting and retaining volunteers
- Managing red tape
- Unemployment



# OUR KEY PRIORITIES

- 1 OUR COMMUNITY**
- 2 OUR ECONOMY**
- 3 OUR ENVIRONMENT**  
(BUILT & NATURAL)
- 4 OUR LEADERSHIP**

# OUR COMMUNITY

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### A COMMUNITY WITH STRONG SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, PRIDE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Hold regular community events, activities and get togethers' at 'community meeting points' e.g. hall, CFA shed, park etc.
2. Organise a regular monthly get together led by an outside person for community to gather around (e.g. pizza man, cheese, wine, music etc.).
3. Seek funding for the development of a Community House in Bealiba.
4. Explore the viability of a community 'pub' model at the community hall.
5. Develop a service/community group/information directory for residents.
6. Plan local activities that will increase community pride in Bealiba & district.

### A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

1. Offer after school 'taster' recreational activities for children and young people.
2. Work together with health service providers to increase visiting health and community service activities for residents (especially for ageing residents).
3. Explore the viability of a long-day care/preschool model for Bealiba.
4. Advocate for quality GP and health service access in Central Goldfields Shire.
5. Explore the viability of a visiting GP service for Bealiba.
6. Seek funding for the installation of exercise equipment around the reservoir.
7. Advocate for free or cheaper pool entry/whole of shire season pool entry.
8. Work together with Council and road authorities to improve road safety through school zone speed limits and a pedestrian crossing.
9. Ensure the ongoing delivery of the community bus service in Bealiba and encourage active community use.

### CELEBRATION OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE

1. Plan and deliver activities that capture, celebrate and promote local history and heritage.
2. Review the future needs of the Bealiba Museum.

“Our sense of community spirit could be built up.”



# OUR ECONOMY

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY

1. Explore ways to increase tourism to the area and encourage drivers to stop in Bealiba.
2. Promote and enhance the Bealiba Ranges as a tourist destination.
3. Advocate for the return of the tourist train to Bealiba.
4. Seek funding to paint the silos in Bealiba and actively promote them as part of the Victorian silo trail.
5. Seek funding for the installation of railway themed art on the water tank at the railway station.
6. Seek funding for street art in Bealiba & district.

### RELIABLE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

1. Advocate for improved mobile phone service and internet connection in Bealiba & district.

### POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Promote the liveability of Bealiba and district.
2. Work together with Council to lessen red tape e.g. for planning and permit processes.

### LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND CREATIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

1. Seek funding to install a commercial kitchen in the community hall to support social enterprise activities.
2. Explore the viability of offering cafe services from the Bealiba Hall on weekends.
3. Investigate new industry opportunities such as renewable energy and social enterprise projects that could increase local employment opportunities.

“Paint the silos and add them to the Victorian silo trail.”

# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## (NATURAL & BUILT)

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

#### SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Work together with Council to improve and increase footpaths in Bealiba.
2. Install more shade and seating at the playground.
3. Work together with Council to maintain the Bealiba Town Hall, a crucial community resource for the town.

#### STREETSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AND WAYFINDING

1. Beautify the streetscape and town entrances in Bealiba.
2. Install updated town signage in Bealiba that will assist with guiding visitors.
3. Create a locally relevant tree plan with Council including addressing the challenges with current trees in the main street of Bealiba.

#### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL HERITAGE

1. Work together with Council, Heritage Victoria and private owners to maintain, repair and manage heritage buildings in Bealiba.
2. Restore the horse trough and identify a suitable home for it.

#### PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Advocate to Council for improved and regular control of weeds e.g. control of bindii in the Bealiba playground.

“Bring back two or three planter boxes in the Main Street.”



# OUR LEADERSHIP

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

### ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

1. Actively connect with Council's 'champion' for Bealiba to ensure leadership and support from Council with the Bealiba & District Community Plan and its identified community projects.
2. Actively lead the implementation of the Bealiba & District Community Plan.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

1. Recognise and support volunteers and actively encourage the creative involvement of new volunteers, especially younger and 'new' residents e.g. through volunteer tasters.
2. Review and consolidate community group structures in Bealiba and test creative group structures that could increase connections between groups and decrease volunteer burnout.
3. Create a yearly tidy towns presentation for Bealiba & district.
4. Gather and promote good news stories in the Bealiba community.
5. Source leadership resources and training for existing and aspiring volunteers.

“We have too many community organisations run by too few people.”

# PUTTING OUR PLAN INTO ACTION

## Implementation of the Bealiba Community Plan will be led by the local community.

Central Goldfields Shire Council's 'Champion' for Bealiba and district will attend meetings and offer guidance, advice and support wherever possible.

Relevant key stakeholders/project partners will be invited to work with the Bealiba community on shared priorities.

An action plan template has been developed to assist with project planning and regular review of community priorities.

### Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in making Bealiba and district an even better place to live in 2030 contact:

#### Manager Community Partnerships

Central Goldfields Shire Council  
(03) 5461 0610

