

# Oxley Community Plan 2015

## Oxley Community Vision

Oxley endeavours to build a strong and healthy local community, rich in social and cultural opportunities and supported by appropriate infrastructure and services to satisfy the needs of a growing community.

## Profile

Oxley is a thriving little semi-rural community situated alongside the King River, on the Snow Road, 13.2km SE of Wangaratta and 253km NE of Melbourne. The surrounding district remains a grazing and dairy-farming area. Vineyards, wineries and gourmet food producers have also become an important part of the landscape. Oxley is part of the renowned Milawa Gourmet Region and is one of the first rural towns outside the Wangaratta CBD that leads to the King and Alpine Valleys. The diverse community of 275 residents is represented by the Oxley Residents' Association. The Oxley Shire Hall (1875) is an iconic building in the district, restored and valued by the locals. The Oxley Recreation Reserve with its River Red Gums and old deciduous trees provide a welcome shady retreat for picnickers and horse riders.

## Background

An initial Oxley Community Planning Meeting was held on 29 May 2009 at the Oxley Shire Hall which generated 64 themes/ideas for the Community Plan. A survey was distributed to all residents' in July 2011, asking them to prioritise these 64 themes, with results collated and displayed in October 2011. The list of prioritised themes resulting from the collation of the surveys has formed the basis for the Oxley Community Plan and is included in this document.

The Oxley Community Plan was finalised and adopted in 2012.

The current development and revision of the Oxley Community Planning is being driven by the Oxley Residents' Association.



## What community groups exist?

The Oxley community has a number of active community groups driven solely by volunteers. These groups include:

- Oxley Shire Hall Committee of Management
- Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Oxley Residents' Association
- Oxley Rural Fire Brigade
- Milawa-Oxley Rotary Club

## What is good about living at Oxley?

Oxley is valued for its beautiful natural surrounds, strong sense of community and close proximity to Wangaratta, to which many residents commute for work. The township is well supported by a number of local businesses. Residents value living in Oxley for its rural environment, scenery, access to the King River, sense of space and facilities including the Shire Hall, Recreation Reserve and local park. Bicycle tracks linking Oxley to Wangaratta and Milawa are well used and provide the opportunity for residents to safely commute for work and play. Oxley is a friendly rural community, with a diverse group of residents and an increasing number of young families who are drawn to Oxley for the wonderful lifestyle that it has to offer.

## Oxley's community facilities

- Oxley Shire Hall
- Oxley Memorial Park, playground & toilets
- Oxley Primary School
- Oxley Recreation Reserve and clubrooms
- Wangaratta-Oxley-Milawa bicycle paths
- Stan Allan Picnic Area

## What community events are held?

- Oxley Bush Market
- Milawa/Oxley Australia Day Celebration
- Remembrance Day service
- Oxley Picnic Day
- Various social functions - movie nights, trivia nights and casual meals in the park
- A Feast of Art show



## Local businesses

- The Oxley Pantry & Post Office
- Oxley Service Station
- King River Café & Accommodation
- Ciavarella Oxley Estate Winery
- John Gehrig Wines
- Read's Vineyard
- Sam Miranda Wines
- Blue Ox Berries
- Willandra Orchid Nursery
- Will Oaks Bed & Breakfast
- 1888 Boutique Accommodation
- Forge's Farm
- Val's Retreat



## What memorials exist in your community?

- Cenotaph in Memorial Park
- Honour boards in the Oxley Shire Hall

## How do locals communicate?

- Noticeboard at The Oxley Pantry
- Oxley Primary School Newsletter
- Oxley Website [www.oxley.vic.au](http://www.oxley.vic.au)
- Oxley Victoria community Facebook page
- Noticeboard at the Oxley Memorial Park

## Services available to residents

- Reticulated water service
- Sewerage to part of the town
- Bus service to Wangaratta

## What attracts tourists to your area?

Tourists are drawn to Oxley for its excellent local food, wine and fresh produce. The Oxley Bush Market draws visitors from afar every year on the November long weekend. The area is popular with cycling enthusiasts who regularly use local paths and can link up with the more challenging Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

## Existing plans, strategies & programs

- Oxley Township Draft Masterplan 2006
- Oxley Recreation Reserve Management Plan 2004
- Oxley Street Tree Program (RCOW 2009)

## Ranked priority themes from the community survey

Sixty four themes were generated at the initial Oxley Community Planning Meeting. Surveys later distributed to all households asked residents to prioritise each theme from 1 to 5 (where 1 was 'not important' and 5 was 'very important'). Fifty three surveys were returned, representing over a third of the total number of households surveyed in Oxley. The results of the survey were compiled to obtain a 'priority score' and then a 'town ranking' for each theme, which has been listed below in a number of categories. These prioritised themes form the basis of the Oxley Community Plan.

Town Ranking	Theme	Priority Score
<b>Rural Landscape and Environment</b>		
5	Very careful consideration given to future sub-division to protect lifestyle, ambience, water supply and environment	224
7	Maintain rural/small town feel (e.g. nature strips, roadside vegetation)	221
9	More responsible pet owners (e.g. dogs within fenced boundaries)	220
12	Maintain farming in harmony with town feel and economy	213
14	Weed control on Public and Council land, including road reserves and Recreation Reserve	209
20	Keep rural sized blocks for character (greater than 0.5 acre)	197
35	Beautification of the entrances to Oxley	177
42	More street trees	164
43	Beautification/facilities at Stan Allan Reserve	163
<b>Infrastructure and Amenity</b>		
1	Increased proportion of Council rates returned to rural areas	237
3	Security of water supply and quality, capacity to meet population growth	230
6	Continued development/maintenance of roads and drainage infrastructure	224
11	Connection of natural gas	216
24	Complete road seal in town	187
25	Sewerage system for town	187
28	Shade sail over BBQ/playground	183
36	Widening of Oxley Meadow Creek Road to make width consistent	177
38	Fix drainage and parking at Memorial Park	174
39	More seating and tables at the park/playground	172
40	Fix the tennis courts at Recreation Reserve	168
46	More post office boxes or longer post opening hours	160
49	Energy efficient town – solar farm and self sustainable use	155
50	Fix reserve oval at Recreation Reserve	155
51	Extend children's playground	154
57	Property for usage of community for developing solar electricity	147
58	Underground power	143
60	Roadside mail delivery	140
<b>Community - Young, Senior, New Families and Residents</b>		
4	Support and maintain Oxley Primary School	227
17	Formulate community strategic plan document	204
19	Continued support and recognition of existing community organisations	200
21	Improved community use/sharing/better coordination of community infrastructure	195
22	Activities to support elderly citizens	193
23	Continued attraction of families to Oxley	188
26	Improved community involvement and participation in town social activities	186
29	Activities to support local youth	183
31	More town social activities (e.g. movie nights, BBQs, etc.)	182

Town Ranking	Theme	Priority Score
<b>Community - Young, Senior, New Families and Residents (continued)</b>		
32	Activities to support primary school students	182
33	Encourage broader/multiple use of Recreation Reserve	180
34	Activities to support secondary school students	178
37	Activities to support play groups	175
44	Community Information Board online for social, tourism, safety information	162
47	Recognition for people in the community	160
48	Walking track along river in Crown Land Reserve to Smith Street or Rec Reserve	157
52	Further develop the Oxley community website	154
53	Run more local events in conjunction with Council events	153
62	Develop a skate park/bike jumps/BMX track	137
63	Develop a community garden	130
<b>Economy - Business, Industry and Tourism Development</b>		
30	Continue to develop/sponsor closer links with Milawa Gourmet Region	183
41	Expansion of produce (e.g. microbrewery, café, olive shop)	165
54	Grocery store	151
<b>Safety and Accessibility - Communication and Transport</b>		
2	Telecommunications – improved mobile and broadband coverage	234
10	Fire planning – consult CFA and Fire Brigade	218
13	Develop a Community Emergency Plan	212
15	Managing fire prevention/fuel management	208
16	Emergency plan developed with or by relevant authority	208
18	Public transport to Wangaratta and Milawa	201
27	Installation of CFA water tanks at Recreation Reserve	185
45	Bike track along Oxley Meadow Creek Road from town to Rec Reserve	162
56	Consideration of street lighting	148
59	Bike track to King Valley	142
61	Solar lighting on walking/bike tracks for tourism benefit and local use	140
64	Review of speed zones (80km to Wang-Whitfield Road corner)	119
<b>Arts, Culture and Heritage</b>		
8	Preservation of town history and heritage	221
55	More art and culture events in town	151

Four projects have been completely finalised over the past three years since the finalisation of the 2012 Oxley Community Plan:

- Town ambience – Responsible pet ownership flyers distributed to residents in May 2014. No follow up visits by Council as promised. Raised with Enforcement Unit in January 2015 and follow up street visits likely to occur this year.
- Sewerage scheme – North East Water have completed the construction of the scheme in part of the Oxley town (roughly covering the designated half acre lots in the Township Zone). Residents have five years to connect to the scheme.
- Natural gas – The option of connecting natural gas to homes in Oxley was investigated in detail through meetings with Tim McCurdy, the State Government of Victoria and Rural City of Wangaratta. It is not viable to connect Oxley and Milawa for the small number of homes involved.
- Public facilities at Oxley Memorial Park – The park has been improved through funding received through a successful grant application and other sources. New shade sails and an undercover BBQ area were completed. The park is well used and is a great asset to our community.

## Oxley Community Action Plan 2015

### Rural Landscape and Environment

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
Maintain rural small town feel in harmony with agriculture	Oxley Residents' Association (Don Heath, Graham Abotomey) Joan Maher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage future subdivision and zoning</li> <li>• Beautification of streets and entrances to Oxley</li> </ul>	To keep Oxley as a small rural village with large house block size (minimum 0.5 acre), nature strips, tree lined streets and surrounded by a rural landscape	RCOW	Ongoing. Currently being encompassed in Oxley Township Development Planning project run by RCOW.
Weed control on public and private land	Arthur Parker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To clarify the responsibility for weed control on roadsides</li> <li>• To control noxious and State listed weeds on roadsides</li> </ul>	To improve awareness of local weeds and to manage and prevent the spread of current weeds	RCOW (Bronwyn Chapman & Glen Schoefield) DELWP Landcare	Not pursued to date. Talk to champion further.
Improvements to Stan Allan Reserve	Oxley Residents' Association (Janet Heath)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved drainage</li> <li>• Designate parking and picnic areas and formalise vehicle access</li> <li>• Weed control</li> <li>• Revegetation</li> <li>• To support recreational users (swimming &amp; fishing)</li> </ul>	To create a beautiful, natural reserve for the enjoyment of locals and tourists	RCOW NECMA Vic Roads DELWP CFA	Ongoing. RCOW are in process of being formally appointed as Reserve Manager. RCOW investigating various issues in Reserve.

## Infrastructure & Amenity

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
Continued investment by RCOW in town infrastructure	Oxley Residents' Association (Bruce Uebergang)	To maintain strong communications with RCOW and to ensure all funding opportunities are identified.	To make councillors aware of the town priorities and funding needs through the auspices of the Oxley Residents' Association.	RCOW	Ongoing. For example, the recent connection of public toilets and Oxley Shire Hall to the sewerage scheme demonstrates this.
Water supply	Oxley Residents' Association (Don Heath, Tony Ciavarella)	To have a guaranteed and reliable supply of quality water.	To undertake a review of the current water supply system to ensure treatment plant and storage capacity meet current and future needs.	RCOW North East Water State Government	Not pursued to date. Talk to champions further.
Road sealing	Oxley Residents' Association (Don Heath)	To complete the sealing of all roads in the Oxley township. To ensure that adequate maintenance occurs to existing sealed roads, including repairs of pot holes. To ensure that bike track repairs are carried out as required and that degradation to track caused by sewerage scheme construction is rectified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To complete the priorities for road sealing in accordance with the agreed road sealing program supplied to Council.</li> <li>To inform Council of any road maintenance that is required</li> <li>To clarify who will be responsible for road sealing assuming when further sub division occurs</li> </ul>	RCOW (Director of Infrastructure)	Ongoing. RCOW tabled a Rural Road sealing Program in Jan 2014 minutes. Sealing of one road a year is no longer supported by Council. Next road on agenda is Johnson Street (South), approx 3 years from now. Council are responsible for general/ongoing bike track maintenance.

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
Drainage	Oxley Residents' Association (Bruce Uebergang, Don Heath, Sally Day, Graham Abotomey)	To provide adequate drainage to ensure trafficability and public health requirements are met.	To have the Council Engineer review drainage and formalise a program for rectifying problems.	RCOW (Alan Clark)	Ongoing. Champions to review and devise a strategy for pursuing. Need to more clearly identify the issues.
Solar	Helen Taylor	To increase the volume of solar electricity generation in Oxley.	To investigate opportunities for installation of solar technology in Oxley for residents' and community resources.	RCOW State Government Solar NE	Not pursued to date. Talk to champion further.
To maintain and enhance the Oxley Shire Hall	Oxley Shire Hall Committee	Continued restoration and improvements of the Oxley Shire Hall and grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the parking and vehicle entrance facilities to the Hall through sealed access</li> <li>Re-establish the heritage fencing surrounding the Hall grounds</li> <li>To install solar power to offset hall electricity usage</li> </ul>	RCOW DELWP Crown Land Management	Ongoing. Have been unsuccessful in applying for Grants through RCOW for road sealing and heritage fence. RCOW were going to investigate solar potential for hall.
To improve facilities at the Oxley Recreation Reserve in line with their Strategic Plan	Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (Dianne Feldtmann, Clare Cowdery)	To improve facilities to build utilisation and broader usage of the Oxley Recreation Reserve with various user groups and the general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refurbish the tennis courts</li> <li>Improve access track to the river and continue to manage weeds in Reserve</li> </ul>	RCOW DELWP Crown Land Mangt Moyhu Pony Club Oxley Rec	Ongoing. Much has been achieved and Grants recently received for more works. New Strategic Plan . Dressage arenas are completed.

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve facilities for multiuse of the reserve.</li> <li>• Install electric BBQs,</li> <li>• Plant more shade trees</li> <li>• Improve toilets and showers</li> <li>• Support new user groups such as cricket, tennis, fishing groups, etc.</li> <li>• Install historical signage</li> <li>• Construct a bike/walking track to the Reserve</li> </ul>	Reserve COM	One fully functioning tennis court others still need work. Undercover area and improvements to the pavilion should be completed by end of 2015. River frontage has been cleared and fenced so you can walk along a long section of the river.



## Community – Young, Senior, Families, New residents

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
To ensure the long term sustainability of the various Committees in Oxley	Oxley Residents' Association Oxley Hall Committee Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee Oxley Rural Fire Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that Committee members remain engaged and active in their roles</li> <li>To engage with new residents as they move into Oxley and encourage them to be involved in volunteer activities</li> <li>To ensure that volunteers are actively supported in their roles by relevant organisations ie. Council</li> <li>Develop a 'Welcome to Oxley' information pack for new residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support Office Bearers and ensure that they are adequately supported in their roles by the General Committee e.g. covered on leave.</li> <li>To split/share roles where possible to spread the workload</li> <li>To hold one event annually focusing on recruiting new Committee members</li> <li>To improve Council's awareness of the various tasks undertaken by the Committees in Oxley</li> </ul>	Oxley Residents' Association Oxley Hall Committee Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee Oxley Rural Fire Brigade	New item added in 2015
To support the Oxley Primary School	Oxley Primary School - Jeremy Campbell (Principal), Representative from School Council Bruce Uebergang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build a strong relationship between the Primary School and the Oxley community.</li> <li>To maintain viable enrolment numbers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve communication between the wider community and the Primary School.</li> <li>To promote and support school events and functions.</li> <li>To run combined</li> </ul>	Oxley Primary School Oxley Residents' Association	Ongoing. Have established noticeboard at the Oxley Memorial Park. Including School news on website and in ORacle. School events advertised on the Oxley Pantry noticeboard.

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
			social events with the Primary School and Oxley Residents' Association.		
<p>To build social connectedness in our community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth activities</li> <li>• Social events</li> <li>• Support elderly citizens</li> <li>• Childrens playgroup</li> </ul>	<p><i>Youth</i> - Darcie Pegler, Tate Pegler  <i>Social</i> - Oxley Residents' Association Social Sub committee (Dianne Feldtmann)  <i>Playgroup</i> - Pam Bertalli</p>	To provide social events to gather the community together.	<p>To identify the needs of the specific social groups in the Oxley community.  To organise social events on a regular basis to draw the community together.</p>	<p>RCOW  Youth Council  NESAY  Oxley Residents' Association</p>	Ongoing. Need help from the wider community in organising events to lessen the load on the Social Committee. Need to engage with more Residents' to get them supporting Oxley events.
Walking track along the King River linking the Snow Road to Smith Street	Oxley Residents' Association (Sally Day)	To establish a shared path along the King River for passive recreational use.	To investigate an alignment for the path and seek funding for construction.	<p>RCOW  DELWP Crown Land Management  Land holders  North East  CMA</p>	Not pursued to date. Talk to Champion.

## Safety & Accessibility – Transport & Communication

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
Telecommunications	Oxley Residents' Association	To have reliable broadband and mobile phone services within Oxley.	To have service providers recognise the poor mobile service coverage within the township and to formulate a plan to rectify the coverage.	RCOW Local businesses Emergency service organisations Telecommunications service providers	Ongoing. Recent roll out of NBN should offer a reliable internet service for residents. New towers planned for construction through the mobile black spot program may resolve poor mobile phone coverage.
Community Emergency Plan	Oxley Residents' Association (Tony Ciavarella, Neil Brock)	To develop a Community Emergency Plan.	To liaise with Council and Emergency Services to develop a township Emergency Plan. To impart this knowledge to the Oxley community and have them understand appropriate responses in an emergency.	RCOW Community Support North East Emergency service organisations DHS State Government	Not pursued to date. Talk to Community Champions further.
Fire prevention and suppression in the Oxley area.	Rural Fire Brigade	To protect life and property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have land owners undertake fire prevention works and understand their obligations and fire risk in the community.</li> <li>To attract new members to the</li> </ul>	Broad Community Emergency Service organisations. Oxley Recreation Reserve CFA	Ongoing. Initiatives to assist elderly in changing smoke alarm batteries. Areas of the township now included into RCoW fire prevention/fuel reduction slashing program. Provided info to community re:

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	Progress @ 2015
			brigade, particularly those available mid week.		burning off, regulations etc. Fire access road issues brought to the notice of RCoW. Attended community meetings re: property maintenance for fire prevention.
Improved communication	Oxley Residents' Association (Sally Day, Jamie Boatwood, Tony Ciavarella)	To improve communication at various levels (within the Oxley community, within the district, community to council).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve awareness and use of the Oxley website</li> <li>• Formally invite Councillors to bimonthly Oxley Residents' Meetings</li> <li>• Engage residents through various means (Facebook, email and hardcopy flyers) for social functions, news and events.</li> <li>• Purchase a colour A3 copier/scanner.</li> </ul>	RCOW Milawa Gourmet Region Rural Fire Brigade King Valley Tourism Association Oxley Residents' Associaton Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Website has been very successful to date. ORacle newsletter also useful, but needs to be more regular. Councillors still not attending bimonthly meetings. Have unsuccessfully tried to secure a grant for a colour printer and laptop on three occassions. New Facebook page is working well. Ongoing work on this item.

## Arts, Culture and Heritage

Priority Need	Champion	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder	
Preserve town history and heritage	Oxley Residents' Association (Neil Brock, Tony Ciavarella, Dianne Feldtmann)	To compile and maintain local records, documents and photographs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To participate in the development of the Oxley Plains history.</li> <li>To continue to display and develop collection of photographs and documents at the Oxley Shire Hall.</li> <li>To seek funding to establish an archive and preserve existing documents of the former Oxley Shire.</li> </ul>	RCOW Heritage Victoria Milawa Historical Society Wangaratta Historical Society	Ongoing. Much work to be done as Oxley collection continues to grow. Development of Town Heritage walk in progress. Need a laptop, scanner and hard disk drive to facilitate the safe storage of material. Provided significant contribution to Oxley Plains Book. Needs formation of a sub-committee.
Greater number of arts and culture events in Oxley.	Oxley Residents' Association (Janet Heath)	To encourage performances and exhibitions in Oxley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To talk to Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and RCOW Tourism Officer about promoting the Hall facilities.</li> <li>To increase usage of the Hall for a greater number of arts and culture events.</li> </ul>	Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre RCOW Tourism Officer	Hall Hire for private functions is booming. Unsure that any arts/culture events have been secured at the Hall through WPAC. Continue to support Milawa Gourmet Region to use the Oxley Hall as their venue for the Feast of Art show.