

Melba Community Recovery Committee

Community Recovery Plan

Communities of Glenburn, Limestone
Murrindindi-Woodbourne
November 2009

As Submitted to VBRRA 23 November 2009



Introduction

Following the bushfires of 2009, the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority was established to oversee and coordinate the recovery of bushfire affected communities. This is a large and complex task. Across the fire-affected areas of Victoria, many communities have formed a Community Recovery Committee (CRC) to ensure that a coordinated and representative voice from members of communities is included as an active and participatory element of the overall recovery planning and activity.

Murrindindi Shire was one of the worst impacted areas of Victoria on 7 February 2009. There were 106 lives lost in Murrindindi. Forty per cent of the area in the Shire was burnt with whole townships destroyed, and nearly 1400 homes lost. With massive destruction of property, stock and natural habitat, the cost to our communities is staggering. Nevertheless, our communities are facing the challenges of recovery with the same courage with which they defended against the worst natural disaster experienced in Australia.

Experience shows that one of the most important aspects of recovery after any disaster is to engage the community in the recovery process. The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority and the Murrindindi Shire are committed to this principle. In June Murrindindi Shire Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery (Section 86) Committee formed six Community Recovery Committees and appointed community representatives to lead the recovery process. On 30 July the Melba Community Recovery Committee was convened and included representatives of the Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne communities.

Since July 2009, the Melba Community Recovery Committee has been engaged with the communities it represents to develop a Community Recovery Plan. This plan outlines the key priorities identified for longer term bushfire recovery and community development in Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne.

The Melba Communities Community Recovery Plan provides a framework for our fire-impacted communities to coordinate a community-led recovery, and to provide leadership for building unity and resilience with which to better meet any future challenges.

It gives us great pride to be able to present the Melba Community Recovery Plan to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority for integration into the State-wide Recovery Plan. We thank the VBRR, and the Murrindindi Shire Council for the opportunity to represent our communities' interests in the recovery effort.

We also express our gratitude for the generous humanitarian response of the Australian public and sponsors that has led to the establishment of the Victorian Bushfire Appeals Fund which is providing funding for re-building our communities

On Behalf of the Melba Community Recovery Committee

Tony Gilbert
Chairperson Melba CRC

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Background: Our Communities

The Melba Communities: Glenburn, Limestone & Murrindindi-Woodbourne

Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne are located within the boundaries of Murrindindi Shire, approximately an hour from Melbourne along the Melba Highway. The townships are in the rural agricultural belt to the south of Yea and to the North East of Kinglake.

Cattle, sheep and dairy farming are prominent businesses in the area in addition to the local vineyards. This is complemented by an increasing number of people of all ages that reside in the area.

Glenburn

Heading north through Yarra Glen and Dixon's Creek, towards, the town of Yea, sits the rural community of Glenburn. This small hamlet is located within picturesque rolling hills and valleys only 80 kilometres from Melbourne CBD. Farming, (cattle, sheep, dairy) and a local vineyard (Penbro) are the major productive industries in the region, complemented by an increasing number of people of all ages that are now moving into the area for the lifestyle offered.

Glenburn is more of a rural district than a town, stretching along both sides of the Melba Highway, with a small and evolving community activity precinct that is the centre of community life. The precinct features the Glenburn Hall, the old Schoolhouse, the Glenburn Hotel, and the English Oak trees (War Memorial), that are all much-valued community assets. Local community activities include the Hall and Progress Association, which organizes many functions throughout the year, a Craft Club, a Garden Group and Neighbourhood Watch. The local Country Fire Authority (CFA) is an integral part of our small but vibrant community.

Glenburn was hit badly by the Black Saturday fires, with seven houses lost, and the destruction of the historic Glenburn Hotel. Fortunately no lives were lost in our Community. The damage suffered was most significant but it could have been a lot worse if it had not been for the vigilance of our CFA, local well prepared Fire Guard Groups, with the assistance of private fire units, and the Sugarloaf Pipeline Staff and their resources.

Limestone

Limestone's population is approximately 250 people. A tightly knit community of farming families, activities in the area include cattle grazing and breeding, and the cultivation of grapevines and olives. Whilst one house was lost in the fires, the Limestone CFA was pivotal in protecting the community from destruction.

Limestone is home to the Yea Flora Fossil Site at Barclay's Cutting, (formerly called the Baragwanathia Fossil Site), which is listed on the Australian Government's National Heritage List under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The site is internationally significant as the oldest and most diverse assemblage of fossils known as the Baragwanathia Flora. These fossil deposits are purported to be 415 million years old and represent the oldest record of vascular land plants in Australia, and possibly the world.

Limestone is also home to the Cheviot Tunnel, a heritage listed 19th Century Railway Tunnel constructed of handmade bricks. Since the decommissioning of railways through Yea, the tunnel remains standing as a historic site of interest to tourists and locals.

Murrindindi-Woodbourne

Murrindindi-Woodbourne is a long established community based in the Murrindindi Valley from whence the Shire attained its name in 1994. More than 80 dwellings exist within the community, which is sandwiched between the Black Range State Park and the Melba Highway. Nine houses were lost on Black Saturday, 2009. The town, once boasting two schools, a Post Office, a local 'store', a church and a hall, has been reduced over time to one key community structure, the Murrindindi-Woodbourne CFA Brigade, based in an inadequate building in Cummins Lane.

Following the centralization policies of the mid-last century, the community, similar to a vast number of rural communities throughout Australia, suffered neglect. However, the ambiance of the valley, and its close location to a major metropolitan area have seen a resurgence as new skills and interests have moved into the region.

Once exclusively rural, the community now boasts a number of well established, high profile vineyards, the second largest trout farm in Australia, alpaca breeding, award winning olive groves and other boutique agronomic projects. The former Creed Bros Mill, now under new management is at full production.

The historic Murrindindi Timber Mill was close to the epicentre of the catastrophic Murrindindi Black Saturday bushfires, and was destroyed in the firestorm. The region was hard hit, with nine houses destroyed, along with many outbuildings, machinery, fencing and pastures. More importantly, business activity was almost totally destroyed as a result of smoke taint to the vineyards, the annihilation of the Wilhelmina Trout Farm, (second largest in Australia) and other sources of income including livestock. The iconic Murrindindi Mill was destroyed, along with the historic Woodbourne Coach House. The most devastating loss, in terms of flora and fauna, was the complete destruction of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve, including the Wilhelmina and Cascade Falls.

The February Bushfires

Murrindindi Shire was hit with the full force of the firestorm on Saturday 7 February with almost 70 per cent of businesses, houses, livestock and natural landscape destroyed. The fire, starting a short distance from the Murrindindi Timber Mill, destroyed vast areas of pasture and state forest, and the water supply was severely affected. Typical of a wildfire, long stretches of fencing were destroyed but, most importantly, seven properties were destroyed at Glenburn, nine at Murrindindi-Woodbourne and one at Limestone.

The direct effect on business units within the Murrindindi Valley was devastating. One commercial business was lost at Murrindindi (Wilhelmina Trout Farm,) and the well known Glenburn Hotel was destroyed. All of the vineyards suffered severe smoke tainting of their grapes, resulting in the total loss of the vintage. Other commercial activities were severely affected, and a number of private businesses were disrupted or destroyed. Not only was the Mill destroyed, but the supply chain of timber was destroyed. Several plantations were also destroyed. Tourism to the area is seriously set back, with the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve destroyed, including the loss of important tourist sites within.

Livestock losses in the area have been estimated in the hundreds, including cattle, sheep, horses poultry, and alpacas. Unknown numbers of wildlife have been lost to the area, with the full impact of environmental destruction yet to be assessed.

The renowned Murrindindi Scenic Reserve, including the Wilhelmina Falls was devastated, with all infrastructure for visitors and campers destroyed. The pristine vegetation of the Black Range State Park, as well as the classic 'Cascades' waterfall and the river were reduced to a tea-coloured trickle. The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve remains closed.

Recovery to date

A total of sixty-nine properties have been cleared across Glenburn, Murrindindi, Woodbourne and Limestone. Some \$1.7 million in grants have been disbursed in the region from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund to date. Of the 2400 kilometres of boundary fencing damaged, over 1600 kilometres has been repaired to date in the area.

Urgent recovery works have been undertaken to protect threatened species in the State forests, parks and reserves surrounding Murrindindi. This has included work to regenerate and rehabilitate forests, parks and reserves, natural habitats and waterways.

Other Recovery activities underway since February include:

- The formation of the Melba Community Recovery Committee to work with the communities towards a Community Recovery Plan. The first meeting was convened 30 July 2009, with this plan being prepared for submission to VBRRA in November 2009.
- A number of community events have been held across the towns including social gatherings and functions designed to raise community spirits, especially throughout the winter months.
- Glenburn hosted a recovery concert and BBQ on 27 February and more than 400 people attended. It was a celebration of the community and a thank you to the people from the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project who assisted the locals to fight the bushfires.
- Murrindindi-Woodbourne held a Community BBQ at the CFA shed on 15 April to reconnect with locals after the fires.
- On Sunday 17th May the Glenburn Fire Groups held a luncheon prepared by Master Chefs. The function was organised by the Glenburn Rural Fire Brigade to thank the local Fire Guard Groups for the part they played in fighting the fires.
- Murrindindi-Woodbourne mystery bus-dinner trip was held on the 2nd October, 2009, bringing together the community for a wonderful evening at the Trawool Valley Resort.

The Melba Community Recovery Committee (CRC)

The Melba Group Community Recovery Committee (CRC) is made up of community members from Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne. The function of the CRC is to prepare and manage a Community Recovery Plan for the Melba communities, and to work with local communities and organisations, VBRRRA, the Murrindindi Shire Council, and other stakeholders, to oversee its implementation.

Members of the CRC are:

Stan Banbury
Sue Devereaux
Tony Gilbert, Chairperson
Michael Guerin
Philip Loblely
Doug McArthur
Pam McKenzie
Iain McPherson
Matt Noonan
Mel Ryan
Heather Staggard

Councillors & Officers attending and supporting the CRC include:

Cr Lyn Gunter Mayor
Cr Sally Abbott-Smith
Cr John Walsh

Darrell Treloar, Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Coordinator,
Murrindindi Shire Council

Kim Fawcus Community Engagement Coordinator, VBRRRA
Michele Braid, Community Development Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council
Kylie Lewis, Administrative Support, Murrindindi Shire Council

Community Recovery Committee Meetings are open to the public, and community members are welcome and regularly attend to support the Committee.

About our Community Recovery Plan

A Community Recovery Plan is an important part of how the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA) will understand and support communities to undertake their community recovery activities. The Community Recovery Plan outlines a wide range of projects and requirements, designed and prioritised by the communities themselves. Once the plan has been developed, it is provided to the Authority. The Authority then reviews each community's recovery plan and incorporates it into the overall State-wide Plan for recovery, the first phase of this State-wide Plan was presented to the State and Federal Governments on 16 October this year. Ongoing development of the State-wide Plan will include projects identified by the Melba communities as priorities for restoring community infrastructure and strengthening social connectedness.

Part 1. Overview of Melba Community Priorities for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery

1. Communications

Extensive and reliable communications, both broadcast and interactive, are essential for fast, considered, appropriate response and decision-making in any situation, but more so when under threat such as experienced in Summer 2009. The Melba Communities have notably poor communication coverage at the present time, and an upgrade is considered essential, urgent and imperative.

It is important to note that some communities (i.e., Woodbourne) have **NO** mobile communications (including SMS warnings), no 'free-to-air' television reception (with the recent changes to AUSTAR, there is now no local Victorian ABC news program for fire warnings and updates) nor AM or FM radio services (e.g., ABC 774). The situation is now worse than during Black Saturday, and occurs in a community that is less than 80km from a major metropolitan area.

An informed preliminary proposal is attached but the committee is aware that a number of other committees have communications as a high priority. As such this proposal is expected to be amalgamated with similar proposals from other CRCs and a combined application submitted to State and Federal government via VBRRRA.. We strongly recommend that the project be adopted by the governments, and sponsored and managed appropriately and urgently.

2. Community Meeting Spaces

Communities are often defined by their public places of gathering and larger communities might sometimes take meeting spaces for granted. Neither Murrindindi-Woodbourne, nor Limestone has any meeting spaces (both CFA buildings being simply tin garages).

The Glenburn community spaces are in urgent need of rebuilding and/or refurbishing. The loss of the Glenburn Hotel has placed additional burden for a meeting place upon the local Glenburn community.

As a result, we propose, in the case of Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne, meeting rooms be built for each of the communities, in close proximity to the proposed replacement CFA fire sheds to enable sharing of the facilities.

For the development of Glenburn township, it is proposed to work with existing land and structures. However, complexity and proposed multiple uses of the site at Glenburn required the development of a Master Plan prior to commencement of building works. A draft Master Plan has been completed, and was endorsed by the Glenburn community at a public meeting held recently (18 November).

The Melba CRC recommends the funding of the three Community Meeting Space projects - Murrindindi-Woodbourne, Limestone, and the Glenburn development comprising four key elements, as the highest priority that we can hope to achieve under our own cognizance.

3. Restoration of Nature Reserves, Habitat and Tourist Amenities

The Nature Reserves are a major asset to the local community in that they provide the basic tranquillity and ambience of the lifestyle desired by the residents, and shared with many like-minded visitors. The reserves also serve as the habitat for many bio-diverse life forms, a large majority of which (greater than 90% is one estimate) were killed during the fires. The Reserves also serve as a major attraction to bring tourists, and their revenue, to the area.

In the February 7 Bushfires, the renowned Murrindindi Scenic Reserve including the Wilhelmina Falls, was devastated, with all infrastructure for visitors and campers destroyed. The pristine vegetation of the Black Range State Park, the 'Cascades' waterfall and the river were reduced to a tea-coloured trickle. The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve remains closed. The Community Recovery Plan identifies the restoration and re-opening of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve as an urgent priority.

4. Restoration of Bridges

Access route alternatives are limited within the communities in which we live, and in many situations, only one access/egress route exists. We need bridges and emergency egress for people living in fire prone areas and to ensure access for fire and emergency services. On 7 February, several lives were endangered by the inability to choose alternative escape routes. Several of these escape routes existed previously, but have either been destroyed in prior disasters or allowed to fall into disrepair.

We have identified and advise estimated costs for two bridges in the Melba region of Murrindindi Shire for immediate replacement and/or upgrade, being the Eucalyptus Road and Break O'Day Road bridges and further bridges for upgrade in future planning cycles.

5. Business Recovery and Economic Development

Although the region still has a strong rural component that needs to be maintained, the area has undergone an expansion of boutique developments. Given the natural beauty of the region, and its proximity to Melbourne, there is a huge opportunity for the Melba region to stand alone as one of the preferred tourist destinations depicted in the Vic Tourism jigsaw.

With the current capacity of towns such as Yea to support the 'passing trade', there is the opportunity for nearby Melba communities to participate in expanding regional tourist markets, including eco-tourism, and the 'day tripper' sector. These tourists seek ease of access to places of environmental interest and enjoyment, unique to Victoria, and seek quality local foods, wines, produce and crafts. The Melba region offers a variety of eco-tourism and outdoors experiences, and plethora of small businesses offering outstanding local product.

A project proposal to develop a Business Development Plan is appended, which discusses the need for an investigation of the tourism capability of the region, the development of a tourism plan, and the infrastructure required to support business development.

6. Social Wellbeing of the Melba Communities

A key philosophy guiding the Bushfire Recovery efforts in Victoria, is an understanding of the importance of community connectedness for community rebuilding, resilience and wellbeing.

The Melba CRC proposes to organise a Community Gathering aimed to unite the communities of Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne and to reflect, re-connect

and celebrate as one community. This event is designed to be both a social occasion and a supportive event – an opportunity to check in with the community and see how we are currently faring, and to prepare for the coming fire season and the February anniversary. This will be an opportunity to bring people together including families, children and young people and help us to consolidate our sense of community.

A proposed date is Saturday 16 January 2010, subject to consultation with local community organisations, and it is anticipated that around 500 - 750 people will attend.

7. Safety and Preparedness of Our Communities

The importance of communications, not only for the local community, but also for visitors, cannot be under-estimated. As such, we have prepared, as the number one priority, a proposal for improvements in radio and mobile communications to the region. However, there is also a need to improve visual stimuli such as road signs, community notice boards and emergency information.

In both the Business Development Plan and the Safety and Preparedness Plan, there are requests for increased signage, community notice boards and visitor information, including updates on the status of access to the Reserves.

It is also important to recognise the combined input of the CFA and DSE, and appropriate co-ordination of these groups, in protecting and advising the community.

Melba Community Recovery Committee

Community Recovery Plan Communities of Glenburn, Limestone Murrindindi and Woodbourne

Part 2: Melba Priority Project Plans Submitted to VBRRA

Melba Priority Project Plans

**Table 1: Index of Priority Recovery Needs
for Melba Communities:
Glenburn, Limestone & Murrindindi-Woodbourne.**

Priority No.	Idea / Need	Cost Estimate
1.	Mt Despair Integrated Communication Facility	
1.1	Establishment of reliable communications by provision of telecommunications facilities on top of Mt Despair	In Excess of \$1,000,000
2.	Community Meeting Spaces	
2.1	Building of a Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Meeting Room	Up to \$316,000
2.2	Building of a Limestone Community Meeting Room	\$100,000
2.3	Glenburn Community Activity Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and Rebuild Glenburn Hall • Old Schoolhouse Refurbish • Multipurpose Community Pavilion • Men's shed with storage facility 	\$250,000 \$35,000 \$400,000 \$25,000
3.	Rehabilitation of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve	In Excess of \$2,000,000
4.	Rehabilitation or Restoration of Bridges	In Excess of \$1,000,000
4.1	Eucalyptus Road Bridge	\$800,000
4.2	Break O'Day Road Bridge	\$650,000
5.	Melba Community Economic Recovery Strategy	\$75,000
6.	Social Well-being – Melba Communities Re-Connect Gathering	\$25,000
7.	Safety and Preparedness <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Notice Boards 2. Improved signage 3. Emergency information 4. Information for visitors 	\$25,000

1. Communications

Idea / Need	1	Mt Despair Integrated Communication Facility
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Description	<p>Communications is the unanimous #1 priority for our MCRC Group. The very poor coverage of CFA radio and pagers, Mobile Phones and Internet, Local Emergency Radio (774) was highlighted during the February 2009 Bush Fires. The profound lack of communication during times of crisis may well have been a contributing factor for some fatalities. The MCRC area consists of many hills and valleys that result in large dead spots; areas that prevent Mobile phone, Internet and terrestrial TV coverage. This project will significantly overcome most, if not all of the existing communication problems, and form a platform for future development.</p>	What it would fix / do...	<p>A communication facility integrated with a fire watch tower will provide significant improved coverage area encompassing not only the Melba area, but as far as Kinglake, Yea, Highlands, Strath Creek etc. It will provide coverage to most, if not all areas that do not have signals at present.</p> <p>It will be a facility that will cater for future generations and will be an economical answer to our current and future communication problems (e.g. imminent closure of Analogue TV). Whilst good communications systems are of utmost importance, the quality and reliability of information being communicated is of critical significance to the safety of the community. See Project 7: Safety and preparedness.</p>
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How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	Community support for this project is overwhelming. Significant improved benefits to the community will be realised. Safety is our first consideration but normal communications (from mobile phone to TV) have always been difficult in this mountainous area. Mr Doug McArthur, ex TV & Radio Broadcasting Manager Victoria has provided technical input and advice.
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	This will be a major investment, the cost of which is difficult to define until a close investigation of all the infrastructure has been investigated, It may need to be a Federal Government funded project. Refer below for additional comments.
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	Refer below: <i>Appendix 1.</i>

Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower
Timeline	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <i>Eighteen months would be a realistic and achievable target</i>
Difficulty Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aspiration – a big picture idea
Notes / See Also	See additional information below <i>,Appendix 1.</i>

2. Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne Meeting Facilities

Idea / Need	2	Community Meeting Places	
Description	The Melba Community Recovery Committee has defined as their number two priority, the building and/or refurbishment of community meeting places. Two of the three areas forming the Melba Group do not have a community facility, whilst Glenburn has a decrepit hall scheduled for demolition and replacement. All areas applied to the Sugarloaf Pipeline Regional Benefits Grant Committee for funding but only Glenburn was allocated half their requested amount. Limestone and Murrindindi meeting rooms were unsuccessful in their grant applications.	What it would fix / do...	Both Limestone and the Murrindindi Communities are in need of meeting places. New CFA Fire Sheds are proposed and will be funded by the CFA. It is important that the meeting rooms be in close proximity to the Fire Sheds for community convenience. The meeting rooms have not been funded and this application is for suitable funding to provide these vital community facilities. Previous attempts for funding from the Pipeline Authority for the Meeting Rooms for both communities were unsuccessful. In the case of Glenburn, the existing hall is beyond economical repair, and plans have been drawn up to replace the facility with a new community hall as part of the Glenburn Community Activity Centre Master plan. Funding to \$250K has been granted by the SPLRBC but leaves a shortfall of > \$250K.
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	In all three areas (Glenburn, Murrindindi and Limestone) the Communities rate this as their number one priority after communications, of critical necessity to assisting communities to recover and become more resilient. All three communities have undertaken extensive consultation and projects are strongly supported.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	Initial estimates have suggested costings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Limestone Meeting room \$100,000 • 2.2 Murrindindi-Woodbourne Up to \$316,000 • 2.3 Glenburn Community Activity Centre Master Plan comprising 4 elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and Rebuild Glenburn Hall \$250,000 • Old Schoolhouse Refurbish \$ 35,000 • Multipurpose Community Pavilion \$400,000 • Men's shed with storage facility \$ 25,000 		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	The Communities of Murrindindi-Woodbourne and Limestone are developing the projects in association with Murrindindi Shire Council and other community stakeholders. The Glenburn projects are being developed in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council, the Section 86 Committee of Management and the Glenburn Hall and Progress Association Inc., and in consultation with all stakeholders in the Glenburn community. The development of a Master Plan for the Glenburn Activity Centre is proceeding.		
Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength		
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term And, any specific date or timeline to note?		
Difficulty Rating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also			

2.1 Limestone Community Meeting Space

Idea / Need	01	Limestone Community Meeting Space	
Description	CFA region 12 have already allocated funds for a new fire station at Limestone. The idea is to provide additional funds to have a community meeting place/hall co-located near the new fire station to form a small community hub..	What it would fix / do...	The Limestone community currently hold gatherings at the Limestone fire station in the form of BBQ's but are limited to the warmer months. Training sessions at CFA are a social gathering of the community as well. The current fire station is simply a tin shed with no toilet or kitchen facilities. The proposed additional community meeting space/hall would provide room for approximately 30 people comfortably seated or 60 people standing . It would accommodate community gatherings in all seasons and provide a valuable information centre in the event of bushfires such as was experienced in February. It would also serve as focal point for a community which has limited facilities. The building would be used to hold more regular social gatherings which are vital to a rural community where hardships such as bushfires and drought are a regular occurrence. The facility would also be used for small private functions, community meetings in times of need such as natural disasters and it would also provide a more comfortable environment for visiting CFA strike teams to eat, rest and recuperate during their shift rather than balancing meals on their knees in hot and dusty conditions like the Feb 7th bushfire.
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	There have been a number of community meetings regarding the idea which provided information to the community and allowed the opportunity for questions. The community was given the opportunity to vote on the proposal with the proposal being given an absolute majority support. There were two residents opposed to the idea. One was a neighbour who opposed to the idea based on the building being bigger than the existing shed and its visual impact on their property value. The other resident felt the community area wasn't needed. The Limestone Soldier's Memorial Hall committee was reactivated. It has been largely inactive since the original hall was burnt down in the 1969 bushfires and the decision was made then by the community to replace the building with a fire truck and shed.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	The idea to add a community hall space and kitchen to the new fire station would cost approximately \$100,000. The CFA have already allocated the funds to build the new fire station according to the attached plan and will commence building in January 2010. The community need to raise a further \$100,000 to cover the cost of the meeting space and kitchen area shown on the attached plan.		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	The community would be involved in the planning and development of the meeting room in association with the Soldier's Memorial Hall Trustees and other communiity stakeholders including the Murrindindi Shire council, DSE and the CFA.		
Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength		
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term January 2010 the fire station building will commence on co-location site.		
Difficulty Rating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	Refer to any connected ideas / needs		

2.2 Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Meeting Room

Idea / Need	2.2	Building of a Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Meeting Room	
Description	<p>The community of Murrindindi-Woodbourne has NO public facilities for meetings, educational activities, festivities, etc.</p> <p>In fact, a community get-together immediately after the fires had to be held at a private residence because of the lack of this crucial facility</p>	What it would fix / do...	<p>The creation of a public meeting facility would be the backbone of the community and act as the focus of a wide range of community activities, some of which have never developed because of the lack of a facility.</p> <p>Of particular note would be the ability to develop educational, health and safety and recreational pursuits. It should also be recognised that the facility will act as an emergency centre in times of crisis, including accommodation for CFA/DSE/etc strike forces.</p>
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	As described in detail above, there is unanimous support for the priorities listed, especially the meeting room. Led by senior members, the entire community has been able to have input into the plan.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	Costs estimated at up to \$316,000		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	We believe it is important that the entire community be involved. However, the Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Building Committee, with membership from the local community would be responsible for day-to-day management of the project. Support from the Shire of Murrindindi, VBRRA and DSE would need to be intimately involved		
Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Health and Safety		
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term And, any specific date or timeline to note?		
Difficulty Rating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	Refer to any connected ideas / needs		

2.3 Glenburn Community Activity Centre Master Plan

Idea / Need	2.3	Glenburn Community Activity Centre Development by Master Plan:– including, Rebuild of Glenburn Hall and Refurbishing of Schoolhouse Community Centre	
Description	<p>A coordinated development of the Glenburn Community Activity Centre including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rebuilding of the Glenburn Hall and • the refurbishment of the Schoolhouse Community centre, • the redevelopment of community assets on council owned land including a multi purpose Community Pavilion; • the establishment of recreational infrastructure including a Men’s Shed and Storage facility. <p>Murrindindi Shire Council will work with the Glenburn community to create and implement a Master Plan for this project..</p>		<p>What it would fix / do...</p> <p>The hall to be replaced has been used for decades as the Community meeting place for all manner of activities, and also as a community support centre in times of crisis. The Schoolhouse provides small-group meeting space for the expanding use of community interest groups. Both facilities are in urgent need of upgrade to meet growing community need for quality activity and recreational spaces. The integrated redevelopment of the activities precinct will establish community infrastructure for future generations and provide a natural centre for the growth and prosperity of the entire Melba region.</p>
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	<p>The Glenburn community have demonstrated strong support for this project, through many public meetings, the Murrindindi Shire auspiced “Make a wish forum” , and the Community Building Initiative (CBI). The majority of Glenburn’s active community groups support the proposed development of the Glenburn Community Activity Centre, including the GHPA Inc, Glenburn CFA, Glenburn Craft Club, Glenburn Gardeners Group, Glenburn Social Group, Neighbourhood Watch (MUR2) and 3717 Watch Inc.. The proposed Master Plan was overwhelmingly endorsed at a Public meeting held in Glenburn on 19 November. Further development of the Master Plan will be further developed in consultation with community organisations and the views of all community members will be canvassed.</p>		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenburn Community Activity Centre (by Master Plan) comprising 4 elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and Rebuild Glenburn Hall \$250,000 • Old Schoolhouse Refurbish \$ 35,000 • Multipurpose Community Pavilion \$400,000 • Men’s shed with storage facility \$ 25,000. 		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	<p>The Glenburn projects are being developed in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council, the Section 86 Committee of Management and the Glenburn Hall and Progress Association Inc , and in consultation with all stakeholders in the Glenburn community. The development of a Master Plan for the Glenburn Activity Centre is in progress See Attached Concept plan.</p>		
Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength		
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term And, any specific date or timeline to note?		
Difficulty Rating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	<p>Please refer to our detailed project plan including concept drawings for the Master Plan.</p>		

3. Restoration of Natural Environment (Murrindindi Scenic Reserve)

Idea / Need	3	Rehabilitation of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve
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Description	The Murrindindi-Woodbourne community have been particularly proud of the beautiful valley in which we live. The disastrous bushfire of February 7 th , 2009, started not far from the Murrindindi Mill. The destruction to the Murrindindi Scenic reserve was overwhelming and disastrous to both flora and fauna. (See photos, cover of this document).	What it would fix / do...	Rehabilitate the forest reserve; rebuild park infrastructure. Value to the local community – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation (walking, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, swimming, nature conservation, photography, etc) • Scenic ambience • Potential for financial support for the community from tourists (see Business Plan) Re-build and re-open – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor and tourist facilities. • Camping facilities and amenities • Signage and emergency information • Walking, hiking, etc • Trail bikes and 4 wheel driving
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How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	As described in detail above, there is unanimous community support for the priorities listed.
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	The costs of rehabilitating the reserve will be in excess of \$2 million.
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	We believe it is important that the entire community be involved. Support from the Shire of Murrindindi, VBRRA and DSE is essential

Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Health and Safety
Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term And, any specific date or timeline to note?
Difficulty Rating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea
Notes / See Also	Refer to any connected ideas / needs

4. Rehabilitation and/or Restoration of Bridges

Idea / Need	4	Glenburn Area. Local Road Bridge replacements and improvements.
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Description	During the February Bush fires a most critical situation developed where the Community were placed in considerable danger due to the lack of bridges. It was only by the Grace of God that fatalities were avoided as many persons were initially trapped on the wrong side of the encroaching fires with no means of escape.	What it would fix / do...	The "Eucalyptus Road" bridge (long since removed due to lack of funding to repair same) was crucial during the fire. Many people became trapped with no other means of escape. The bridge requires re-establishment to ensure safe egress for residents, rather than having to traverse the heavily wooded Westbridge Road. The main Break O'Day single-lane bridge requires realigning and widening, and the approaches are subject to flooding. The bridge requires urgent upgrade to support the traffic flow between Glenburn and Flowerdale. The Limestone Road one lane bridge also requires eventual widening and upgrade to support the increase in traffic volumes. Other bridges in the area (e.g. Walls Road) will also require eventual upgrades.
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How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	The residents of these areas have collected signatures and have submitted a petition to the Murrindindi Shire Council. The Eucalyptus Road Bridge has been identified as a priority through the Community Building Initiative (CBI).
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eucalyptus Road Bridge Replacement Estimate: \$800,000 • Break O'Day Road duplicate/replace Estimate: \$650,000 <p>The Murrindindi Shire has already stated it has not the funds to commit to these projects. . The Bridges identified are not included in the Bridge Rebuilding Program.</p>
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	The Murrindindi Shire would have to be the Project Management Authority.

Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Highest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower
Timeline	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term
Difficulty Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea
Notes / See Also	Community safety is paramount and the residents were very lucky to escape what could have been a holocaust.

5. Melba Community Business Recovery & Economic Development

Idea / Need	5	Creating a Unified Business Recovery and Economic Development Plan for the Melba region	
Description	The Melba communities have no cohesive plan to guide the recovery of businesses destroyed or impacted by the Bushfires. This priority project aims to develop a recovery plan and provide a blueprint for expansion of economic activities and tourism occurring within the communities of the Melba region.	What it would fix / do...	The creation of a business development plan that supports the expansion of business infrastructure, diversity and co-operation is mandatory. Once created, the plan should guide each of the communities along a path of development that ensures that the entire region collaborates in attracting tourists to the region to take advantage of the natural beauty of the environment as well as the multiple talents of the communities along the Melba Highway.
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	As described in detail above, there is almost unanimous support for the priorities listed.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	<p>Would involve a number of steps –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study by an Economic planning group skilled in tourism • Marketing Strategy for local products and tourism • Advertising and notices (eg Glenburn, Murrindindi-Woodbourne Notice Boards) <p>Develop and implement business plan for and produce store and craft shop at Glenburn</p>		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	We believe it is important that the entire community be involved. Although the support of business leaders would be a critical factor, the entire community would need to ‘promote’ the products and crafts created by the communities.		
Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength Education, Health and Safety		
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Highest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Difficulty Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	The business plan would aggregate as number of projects that have been proposed by the communities, including public meeting facilities (for craft displays, tourist-focussed activities, produce stalls, etc), notice boards, improvement of infrastructure (eg, bridges, roads, Scenic reserves, etc)		

6. Melba Communities - Social Well-being

Idea / Need	6	Melba Communities Re-connect – Community Gathering	
Description	A Community Gathering aimed to bring together the communities of Glenburn, Limestone and Murrindindi-Woodbourne as a unified Community to reflect, re-connect and celebrate. This event is designed to be both a social occasion and a supportive event – an opportunity to check in with the community and see how we are currently faring, and to prepare for the coming fire season and future challenges.	What it would fix / do...	Help us to consolidate our sense of community and help us to bring people together. Provide an opportunity for families, children and young people to unite as one community, to aid recovery from Bushfire trauma and build resilience and confidence in the community. It is anticipated that around 500-750 people will attend.
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	This idea is well supported by the Community Recovery Committee and a number of community groups who are keen to support the event. We understand that this kind of event aligns to a model for community rebuilding and well-being. The proposed program will be developed with further engagement of the Melba communities.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	<p>\$ 25,000. We would need funds to arrange, book and setup the venue. However we would welcome partnership with any donor organisations that can be identified to assist us to off-set costs.</p> <p>We propose to provide a spit roast lunch for 500-750 people, afternoon tea and some music in the afternoon to evening. Children will be catered for with special activities.</p> <p>It is important in the current context to provide food to people at little or no cost. However while the event would utilise locals to 'resource' it, we anticipate the need to use local commercial providers, as the capacity of local volunteer organisations is exhausted.</p>		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	Local Community Groups in including the recovery committee, the local community development groups, a range of volunteers and stall holders, musicians etc, and council to approve the use of the site and provide insurance for the event.		
Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength		
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Highest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term Summer 2009/2010		
Difficulty Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	Support for local community businesses		

7. Safety and Preparedness of Our Communities

Idea / Need	7	Melba Communities safety and Preparedness	
Description	<p>This priority project addresses the importance of communications, not only for the local community, but also for visitors, to assure safety and preparedness for living in fire prone areas. We have identified a need to improve visual communication for the public including road signs, community notice boards, and the availability of emergency information in community settings.</p> <p>The project proposal identifies a need to partner with the CFA, local Fire Guard groups and the DSE, in preparing, informing and safeguarding the community.</p>	What it would fix / do...	<p>This project would enhance the safety and Preparedness of the community, and ease anxiety of residents and visitors in the coming fire season by promoting safety awareness and advice through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Notice Boards • Improved signage • Emergency information availability • Information for visitors.
How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?	This idea is well supported by the Community Recovery Committee, in consultation with local communities and community organisations.		
What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?	\$ 25,000		
Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?	Local Community Groups including the recovery committee, CFA, DSE, the local community development groups, a range of volunteers, and council .		
Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength		
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Highest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower		
Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term Summer 2009/2010		
Difficulty Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea		
Notes / See Also	Support for local community businesses		

Melba Community Recovery Committee

Community Recovery Plan Communities of Glenburn, Limestone, and Murrindindi-Woodbourne

Part 3: Appendices: Detailed Priority Project Plans