

Seymour 2015

A developing community which is environmentally, socially, economically and culturally attuned and fulfilling

Foreword- *from Ben Hardman/ Mayor/ TSWW Chairperson.*

.....
.....
.....
.....

A short history of Seymour (provided by the Seymour Historical Society)

.....
.....
.....
.....

Background and scope

- **How the plan came about:**

In August 1999 a Social Jesuit Study called “Unequal in Life” was published by the Jesuit Social Services. This document identified Seymour as the 10th most disadvantaged town in Victoria. The indicators used for the study were:

- mortality
- unemployment
- low birthweight
- child maltreatment
- childhood injuries
- education
- psychiatric admissions
- crime
- income
- emergency relief

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL 27 APRIL 2015

This incident spurred the residents of Seymour into action and a group called Seymour 2020 was formed. In 2001 The Seymour We Want Inc was formed, a group working as a clearing house for ideas about Seymour and acting as a lobby group for the progress of Seymour. Two very successful public planning days were held and the living document "The Seymour We Want" saw the light. (In March 2004 a follow-up study was published by the Jesuit Social Services (Community adversity and resilience), which used 3 new indicators:

-sickness & disability support

-imprisonment

-disconnecting the domestic electricity supply.

Seymour was now ranked 110th in terms of disadvantage in Victoria.

- **Main focus areas**

The original living document of The Seymour We Want, drafted in 2001 identified 11 outcomes for the town. Since then, it has been refined to 5 areas of concern and opportunity, namely:

-Education & training (formal and informal)

-Arts & Culture (including crafts)

-Economic (including tourism)

-Environment (built/ structural & natural)

-Health & Wellbeing (including sport)

- **Time line of participation/ writing the plan/ evaluation cycle**

Ever since the first public planning days on 18 August 2001 & 12 September 2001, the public of Seymour had the opportunity to contribute to the process through comments and attendance at The Seymour We Want monthly meetings.

The last public consultation opportunity in August 2004 saw more than 200 people voice their opinions about the state and the future of the town. It is this information that is now put on display in this document, including action plans, progress partners and milestones to ensure and measure success.

- **Aim of this document**

The aim of this document is not only to introduce the residents of Seymour to their own vision for the town, but also to give people an opportunity to participate in the goals and actions set out in the plan. This is everybody's document and should be used as such.

- **Links to other documents/strategic direction (state/local govt)**

The funding for The Seymour We Want is provided by the Community Support Fund, managed by the Department of Victorian Communities. By committing this funding, the State Government is putting its money where its mouth is. The State Government is committed to progress in rural Victoria through economic, social, art and cultural, educational and environmental means. The Mitchell Shire Council is the banker of the funding and also the employer of the Community Development Facilitator for the project. This document does not stand alone, but fits into the bigger framework of growth and development in the Shire.

Community development is like a pot with three legs: one is the community/ non-profit sector, the other is local/ state/ federal government and the last leg is private business. If all three legs are of equal length, the pot is steady and initiatives bubble away in peace. If the lengths differ, then the result of the cooking in the pot will not be as satisfactory.

Key Characteristics of Seymour

Living and Working in Seymour

- Seymour township area measured 13.8 sq km in 2001.
- Population density was 466.7 persons per sq km in 2001.
- In 2001 6,441 people lived in Seymour. This is 53 residents fewer than in 1981 and 117 fewer than in 1991. The median age of residents was 32 years.
- In 2001 2,988 people lived at the same address as five years before. This figure is up from 2,882 in 1981 and from 2,791 in 1991.
- The number of dwellings fully owned in Seymour has risen from 26% in 1981 to 35% in 2001.
- The percentage of dwellings that were rented privately in 2001 (22.8%) has decreased from 30.7% in 1981, but is higher than the 18% in 1991. The median weekly rent paid to either Government or private rent was \$100 - \$149.
- Dwellings rented from the Government are nearly on the same level in 2001 as in 1981 (11%). In 1986 and 1991 this figure was 23% and 21.5% respectively. There are 321 government owned houses in the township of Seymour in 2005.
- The total amount of occupied dwellings in Seymour stood at 2,561 in 2001. This is an increase of 593 from 1981.
- Household sizes changed significantly over the two decades from 1981 to 2001. The number of one person households nearly doubled from 15% to 29%. Two person households grew from 26% to 32%. Three, four and five

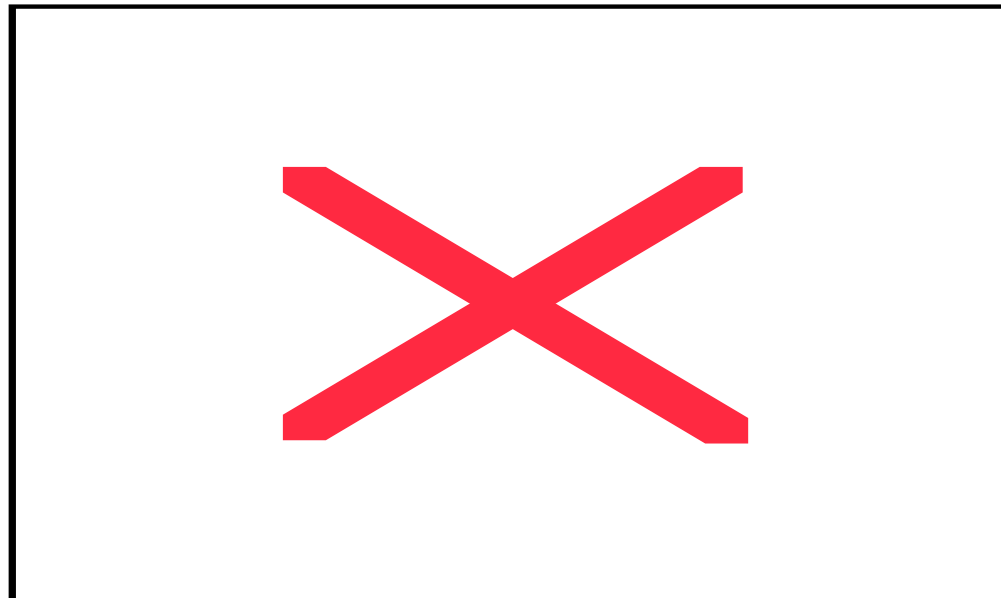
- person households declined by 2%, 10% and 8% respectively. The mean household size was 2.8 people.
- Household income for everyone declined from 1981-2001, with those earning the least increasing by 12% and those earning the most decreasing by 4%. The median household income was \$600 - \$699 per week.
 - The median weekly individual income in 2001 in Seymour was \$200 - \$299 and the median family income per week \$700-\$799.
 - The unemployment rate in Seymour rose from 4.5% in 1981 to 9.9% in 2001. This figure peaked in 1991 (12.9%) and 1996 (12.8%).
 - In 2001, the biggest industry employer was the retail trade sector, followed by manufacturing, government administration & defence and health & community services. In 1991 government administration and defence was the forerunner in the employment industry, followed by the retail trade, manufacturing and transport and storage. This was also the case in 1981.
 - The changes in population age over the 20 years from 1981 to 2001 indicate a growing number of residents in the age categories over 35 yrs of age and a definite decline in the number of 0-4 yr olds. The number of 5-17 yr old and 18-24 yr old people from 1996 -2001 remained stable and even showed a slight increase in the latter category.
 - The religion with the largest following in Seymour is the Catholic Church, followed by the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian/ Reformed faith.
 - The highest level of schooling for those over 15 years of age in Seymour in 2001 was as follows:
85% had completed year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12.
4% was still at school or did not go to school at all
10% of respondents chose not to answer the question
 - 90% of Seymour residents speak English, followed by other languages such as Italian, Greek, German, Dutch and Polish.
 - Monthly Housing Loan Repayments in 2001 were as follows:
28% of home owners paid \$400 -599 per month on their mortgage
22% paid \$600-799
13% paid \$800 – 999

6% paid \$1000 – 1199

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001 Census)

What does all of this mean for Seymour?

- The population of the town is not growing and those who do live here are getting older. This has serious implications for the aged care and health services in the town. It is also the older sector of the community who are involved in volunteer activities rather than any other sector.
- Families are getting smaller in terms of household size. This might be due to an increase in the divorce rate or more people living alone after the death of a partner. Couples are not having as many children as 20 years ago or not having families at all. This has implications for the educational sector (especially schools), family cohesion and the sense of belonging.
- The stable number of school and study age young people poses challenges for absorption into employment and educational opportunities in the town.
- Seymour has a very solid retail and trade sector that has only grown stronger from 1981 onwards.
- Home ownership is still seen as an ideal for residents and the number of houses to choose from has increased significantly.



The following information reflects the goals and actions that come directly from the public consultations held in 2004. Each area is divided into Goals, Actions, Progress Partners, Target dates and Milestones. The goals are the only parts of the plan that are quite fixed, the other categories will be reviewed annually to ensure that the plan stays on track, but also to give the residents of Seymour the opportunity to make changes or adapt it to meet their needs.

Education and Training (formal and informal)

Goal	Action	Progress Partners	Target	Milestone
Fully integrated educational service for Seymour inclusive of all ages and abilities	Review of Educational needs, current provision and resource utilization across all educational sectors for the wider Seymour community Implementation of integrated educational strategy	Neighbourhood House Primary Schools Secondary School TAFE DHS (pre-school) Seymour U3A DET LLEN University Representative Seymour Special School	First meeting prior to end October 2004 Review completed November 2005 Integrated delivery plan: 2006 COINS (Integrated Learning Computer System Network): November 2006 University offering into Seymour: 2007	

Economic (including tourism)

Goal	Action	Progress Partners	Target	Milestone
Attract new enterprise, investors, agencies	Promote Seymour to investors Continue to offer incentives MSC to promote investor activities better	Seymour residents MSC Rural Dev (Stat Govt) NEVACC (Federal Govt) Media Training/ Education	Ongoing (within 2 yrs from 2004)	Increase in new businesses (2007)
Retention and growth in existing businesses	Share Business skills through the use of networking groups Make use of assistance available	Seymour Residents MSC Rural Dev (Stat Govt) NEVACC (Federal Govt) Media Training/ Education	Ongoing	Retention of youth skills (2007)
Greater awareness of Goulburn River/ River	Extend the current walking trail	Seymour Residents SBT	2007	Increased visitor and tourist numbers

based activities (ultimately attract new activities)	Better use and expansion of Seymour & region Goulburn River & Ranges brand	Goulburn Murray Waters Tourism Group MSC TSWW Tourism VIC Local media SeymourFM 87.6 Goulburn River & Ranges Tourism		Establishment and success of River Based Activities
A fully accessible and integrated public transport service	Lobby for better timetables Lobby for increase in bus service Bus to Seymour from outlying areas Better timetables of trains within the Shire Better pricing on trains	Seymour residents MSC Seymour Coaches State/Federal Government	2006	
Support for and investment in local traders and business	Promote variety of retail in Seymour (eg. Bookshop and more fashion shops) Support "Seymour Shop Local campaign" Market "special days" (eg. Link with Expo, Christmas, etc) Support farmers' market days Strive to keep meeting local needs, eg local suppliers stock what big business stock or can get it easily	Seymour residents MSC SBT Traders in general General Community Projects such as the Business Retention and Expansion programme COE (major events, traders aware)	2004/2005	Increased employment Positive retail trends New businesses "All Seymour" Christmas catalogue Trader incentives Positive feedback from community and business Reduction of out of town business targeting the Seymour consumer market
Celebration of Seymour	Raise community awareness	Seymour residents	Ongoing	Event/ facility attendance

assets/ attractions/ events	about Seymour. Seymour residents/ business people need to be ambassadors for the area. Familiarisation tour for the community Produce quarterly newsletters with happening & local celebrations	SeymourFM 86.7 MSC Website Businesses TSWW Schools		
Octoberfest (major events combined)	Use the network of event committees and community groups to coordinate major events	Seymour residents Event committees MSC Other community groups Tourism Vic (event funding) TSWW	2005	Success of Tastes of the Goulburn and other surrounding events
A recreational tourism mecca	Establish Go kart hire business Liaise with Speedway lessee Invest in a major recreational event that will bring people to Seymour (such as the ute muster) Off road motorbike tours Support Rail Trail to final phase	Seymour residents MSC Existing interest groups Potential users State/ federal govt funding TSWW	2005	Positive feedback from our kids/ teenagers. Community support of the rail trail.

Environment (built/ structural & natural)

Goal	Action	Partners	Target	Milestone
Beautiful Seymour streetscapes through a <i>whole</i> of Seymour approach	Employ landscape planners to work in consultation with the community to design a Seymour wide plan (amenities, hard rubbish and	Seymour residents MSC TSWW Local businesses	Process-agreement MSC + TSWW including \$ by June 2006 Consultation with	

	<p>recycling and landscapes included)</p> <p>Train existing landscaping staff</p> <p>Support rural landcare to branch into urban landcare</p>		<p>community to form plan + report by June 2006</p> <p>Implementation - ongoing and starting after June 2006</p>	
<p>Environmentally sound community improvement throughout Seymour</p>	<p>Exploration of option for existing groups to do monitoring</p> <p>Training and support of new monitoring group (if necessary)</p> <p>Monitor and promote</p>	<p>Seymour residents Landcare groups Environment Victoria Greening Australia, Community Trust for Nature, TSWW</p>	<p>June 2005</p> <p>June 2005 onwards</p>	
<p>Local body environmental legislation and bylaws are monitored and implemented</p>	<p>Establish procedure in dealing with issues received and issues reported e.g. stormwater at industrial estate</p> <p>Determine if above-mentioned monitoring group is willing to implement procedure</p> <p>Keep the town tidy through neat vacant lots and nature strips, anti-littering campaigns, doggy poo bins, tidy memorials, supermarket trolley blitzes etc.</p>	<p>Seymour residents MSC TSWW</p>		
<p>Supported, rewarded and promoted environmental responsibility across the</p>	<p>Develop an audit mechanism for environment and social footprint of organizations in a positive mode</p>	<p>Seymour residents Seymour schools Goulburn Ovens TAFE Social Service agencies</p>	<p>Research done by end of 2005</p> <p>Development of audit useful</p>	

board in Seymour.	<p>Host an annual awards ceremony with rewards in each category</p> <p>Lobby for sufficient and accessible recycling opportunities and hard rubbish collection</p>	<p>Community and sports groups</p> <p>Individual households ,</p> <p>Local businesses (retail, manufacturing, construction, development)</p>	<p>for Seymour by end of 2005</p> <p>Implementation by 2006</p>	
Celebrated and preserved history of Seymour	<p>Support the restoration of the Old Goulburn River Bridge and the enhancement of other aspects e.g. extend walking track</p> <p>Support to groups through individual membership and letters of support</p>	<p>Seymour residents</p> <p>TSWW</p> <p>Goulburn River Bridge Group</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	
Promote our unique parks system in and around Seymour are promoted and intact integrity is ensured.	<p>Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy in conjunction with other tourist groups</p> <p>Promote the use of native species in all green projects in the town and surrounds</p> <p>Retain the clean green image of Seymour</p>	<p>Seymour residents</p> <p>TSWW</p> <p>MSC environment and recreation departments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
Ongoing and open dialogue between differing points of view about environmental issues	<p>Facilitate public discussion forums</p> <p>Spread information about all environmental issues</p>	<p>Seymour residents</p> <p>TSWW</p> <p>MSC</p> <p>Interest groups</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

Art and Culture (including crafts)

Goal	Action	Partners	Target	Milestone
Well supported and maintained local art venues	<p>Attend and participate in events, including movies in the SPAC theatre and fundraisers</p> <p>Promote the multi-use facility of the SPAC, attracting conferences, conventions.</p>	<p>Seymour residents Seymour FM 87.6 Local media</p>		
A town that welcomes artists and nurture artistic development	<p>Strengthen the membership of the Seymour Arts Council</p> <p>Register and promote new art and cultural groups at the Visitor Information Centre</p> <p>Bring big and well known plays to Seymour through the SPAC</p> <p>Support local and regional festivals/ arts events with attendance and participation</p>	<p>Seymour residents Seymour FM 87.6 Local media Business and Tourist group Local artists and galleries</p>		
A town that celebrates its rich history	<p>Host a Koori (indigenous) music festival, using well-known artists as well as local artists.</p> <p>Support Seymour's Railway heritage through attendance and promotion at relevant events</p> <p>Promote and support all cultural and historical initiatives.</p>	<p>Jaambi Aboriginal Co-operative SAC Seymour Historical Society Seymour Bushland Park Committee Seymour Railway Heritage centre Puckapunyal army tank museum</p>	<p>Inaugural concert held before December 2005</p> <p>Historical exhibits at the Expo in 2005</p>	

Health and Wellbeing (including sport and leisure)

Goal	Action	Partners	Target	Milestone
<p>An accessible community for people of all abilities</p>	<p>Support initiatives for community friendly services, such as privacy for consultation rooms, women & youth friendly medical services, etc.</p> <p>Lobby for the ongoing improvement of health and wellbeing service delivery for all agencies</p> <p>Lobby for mother/ baby facility and clean and safe public rest facilities in town</p> <p>Raise awareness about disability issues and support the installation of a playground for children of all abilities.</p> <p>Investigate the option of creating a “time out” centre for people in crisis for short term residential purposes.</p> <p>Establish and maintain a user friendly multi purpose centre for all of Seymour.</p> <p>Lobby for the establishment</p>	<p>Seymour residents SCOPE Specialist Children's Services (DHS) Disability services (DHS) Goulburn Options G.A.T.E. Enterprises Mental Illness Fellowships Victoria Seymour Parent Support Group</p> <p>DHS Seymour Community Services</p> <p>TSWW Mitchell Shire Council Seymour Neighbourhood Renewal Dept of Human Services Service Agencies Community Services</p> <p>Dept of Human Services</p>		

	<p>of a “medical run” for patients to and from Melbourne for treatment and appointments.</p> <p>Raise the awareness of men’s health issues and lobby for more funded services</p> <p>Lobby for and support initiatives for more funded aged care beds in Seymour</p>	<p>Funding Service Agencies Community Services</p> <p>Goulburn Valley Family Care Mitchell Community Health General Practitioners</p> <p>Karingal Hostel Dept of Health & Ageing Services Seymour residents</p>		
A safe community on all levels	<p>Lobby for and implement an anti bullying & anti violence prevention program</p> <p>Support the work of the local Police Consultative Committee on community safety and initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch for all of Seymour</p> <p>Promote the development of and uptake of volunteers for social service and support groups. Report hazardous spots in town and anti-social behaviour such as public drunkenness, speeding and graffiti attacks.</p> <p>Lobby Mitchell Shire Council continuously for the</p>	Seymour residents		

	<p>maintenance of public spaces and areas, such as pavements, roundabouts, parks, etc.</p>			
<p>An informed community that participates in responsible decision making</p>	<p>Create and maintain a central point for information collection about social services/ businesses and leisure opportunities in Seymour and distribution of it (hard copy and web-based option).</p> <p>Contribute to public consultation opportunities to comment on issues relating to Seymour on local, state and federal level.</p> <p>Continue to provide positive news stories to the 2 local papers, the Puckapunyal paper, SeymourFM 87.6 and regional television.</p>	<p>Seymour residents TSWW Mitchell Shire Council Visitor Information Centre Hobby clubs Service Clubs Seymour Neighbourhood Renewal</p>		
<p>An active community with a family friendly focus</p>	<p>Support the establishment of a networking body for sport groups</p> <p>Promote the introduction of new sport codes in Seymour</p> <p>Support existing sporting groups in membership drives and give-it-a-go opportunities</p> <p>Participate in the work of</p>	<p>Seymour residents</p>		

