Eddington community plan review 2006

1 Background & CP Structure

Eddington produced its Community Plan in 2003 as a result of community workshops and consultation. A draft was circulated, amendments made and the final version approved and submitted to Council. The Eddington Community Centre Committee has reported to the community regularly on progress with planned works and has followed up with the Shire where necessary. A community meeting was held on Wednesday 22 February 2006 to review the Plan.

2 2005 OUTCOMES

- The Eddington Community Centre Committee was established as a Committee of Council under Section 86 of the Local Government Act. The Eddington Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Committee still stands until the transfer of the Hall from the Trustees to the Shire is legally complete. The Eddington Hall, Recreation Reserve and Tennis Courts are now covered for insurance purposes under the Loddon Shire Council’s umbrella coverage and the Tennis Courts, which were under an incorporated body, have been handed over to the community as part of the Reserve. A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE LODDON SHIRE AND THE EDDINGTON COMMUNITY
- Fencing of the area from the Loddon Miniature Railway gate to the Hall along McCoy Street, from the rear of the toilets to the gate of the Golf Club along Playfair Street and from the tennis courts to the commencement of the Golf Course, as well as chaining off the BBQ area parkland, was commissioned and completed by the Eddington community by using DSE grant moneys to pay for the work. This has allowed the transformation of the BBQ area into parkland, rather than parking space. A COMMUNITY PROJECT
- Loddon Miniature Railway Club has constructed and provided tables and chairs for this parkland area. A COMMUNITY PROJECT
- The toilets were upgraded – new pans and cisterns, new toilet tissue holders, new soap dispensers – partly funded by grant and part by the community. A COMMUNITY PROJECT
- Shire delivered soil to infill this area and the community spread it.
- Shire completed the sealing of the roadside parking area from the Loddon Miniature Railway entrance to near the corner of McCoy and Playfair Streets.
• Shire completed sealing the path from the road to the Hall steps.
• The bottom of Murchison Street graded and gravel laid.
• Slashing and mowing of verges and vacant blocks was undertaken more appropriately during 2005.
• The Community held meetings with the Uniting Church during 2005 regarding the future of the Uniting Church building in Eddington. An understanding was reached that a purchase price would be agreed and that the community could lease the building whilst raising funds to purchase. The community was asked to submit an application in this vein to the Dunolly Church Council and are still awaiting a definitive response. AS COMMUNITY PROJECT
• The inaugural Eddington Spring Fair was held on 1 October 2005, attracting a wide variety of attractions and stalls, with entertainment provided by the Maryborough Brass Band, Rocky Western and his Dancing Palomino, miniature train rides, pet animals, stationary engines of every description, successful local Art and Photographic Prizes and Exhibitions, with competitions, face painting, Grand Parade and much more. A substantial amount was raised for Hall & Reserve improvement funds. A COMMUNITY PROJECT

3 2006 OUTCOMES

For 2006, the community expressed a desire for:
• Completion of landscaping of triangle in centre of the crossroads area and corners of Playfair/McCoy Streets.
• Completion of Town Information Board and erection outside Hall.
• Completion of new signage on Bendigo/Maryborough Road.
• Sealing of roadside parking area from corner of McCoy and Playfair Streets along to the entrance to the Golf Club (similar to that completed in McCoy Street in front of Hall).
• Further infill soil works to BBQ area
• Screening plants along the back of the toilets in Playfair Street.
• More tables & chairs for the parkland area beside the BBQ.
• Restoration of the Avenue of Honour – identification of planting and names of Returned Servicemen and new plaques to be put in position
• Upgrade of stage area of Hall. By upgrading the stage area, the Eddington community would be able to stage more productions and provide a suitable venue for others in the Shire who wish to do the same.
move the historic backdrop curtain from the front to the back of the stage to preserve it and provide a backdrop (it is currently being damaged by being used as a front of stage curtain)
o install a lighting and sound system – we stage community shows which attract large audiences from far and wide. We need the ability to provide light and sound – till now we have been able to secure someone to bring in complex lighting and sound systems but this is costly and may well not be available when we need it
o install proper stage curtains for the front of stage
o move the steps currently in centre of stage area to the side
o create access to the stage from the supper room – this will require creating a door and providing a few steps. We use the supper room as a dressing room and this would allow direct access to the stage without having to go through the audience area in the Hall or round the outside in all weathers to the far side of the stage.
o provide wardrobe facilities in the supper room
o Upgrade the heating and cooling systems in the Hall. Currently heating is provided by bar heaters along the walls which are ineffective in such a large space. Cooling is provided by a few ceiling fans, which again are inadequate in this space.
o drainage improvements at junction of McCoy and Murchison Streets and generally around the township. Maintenance and restoration work on historic bluestone culverts at junction of McCoy and Murchison Street, Owen and Playfair Streets.

4 Our issues and reasons for any change

The Eddington community wishes to continue with its vision for the future which is to:

- Treasure, maintain and improve its heritage and environment
- Provide opportunities to share its attractions with those seeking quiet enjoyment of the heritage and environment
- Maintain a vibrant community
5 What factors have an impact on the sustainability of our community?

- Aging population
- The need to retain and involve the few younger inhabitants of the area
- Tourism – ensuring appropriate facilities and activities and the protection of our environment
- Working with other communities and shires
- Transport – with the aging of the population, this will become a priority
- Good roads – maintenance
- Mobile telephone coverage – most parts of town and district do not have signals

PRIORITY LIST

- Completion of landscaping of triangle in centre of the crossroads area and corners of Playfair/McCoy Streets. As discussed with Shire landscaper (funds in budget)
- Completion of Town Information Board and erection outside Hall. As discussed with Robyn Vella (funds in current budget)
- Completion of new signage on Bendigo/Maryborough Road. As discussed with Robyn Vella (funds in current budget)
- Upgrade of stage area of Hall. By upgrading the stage area, the Eddington community would be able to stage more productions and provide a suitable venue for others in the Shire who wish to do the same.
  - move the historic backdrop curtain from the front to the back of the stage to preserve it and provide a backdrop (it is currently being damaged by being used as a front of stage curtain)
  - install a lighting and sound system – we stage community shows which attract large audiences from far and wide. We need the ability to provide light and sound – till now we have been able to secure someone to bring in complex lighting and sound systems but this is costly and may well not be available when we need it
  - install proper stage curtains for the front of stage
  - move the steps currently in centre of stage area to the side
  - create access to the stage from the supper room – this will require creating a door and
providing a few steps. We use the supper room as a dressing room and this would allow direct access to the stage without having to go through the audience area in the Hall or round the outside in all weathers to the far side of the stage
  o provide wardrobe facilities in the supper room

We would need assistance in estimating the cost of this project. The community sees it as a priority so that we can continue our tradition of providing quality community entertainment and events.

- Sealing of roadside parking area from corner of McCoy and Playfair Streets along to the entrance to the Golf Club (similar to that completed in McCoy Street in front of Hall).
- Further infill soil works to BBQ area *As discussed with Shire landscaper (funds in current budget)*
- Screening plants along the back of the toilets in Playfair Street.
- More tables & chairs for the parkland area beside the BBQ.
- Upgrade the heating and cooling systems in the Hall. Currently heating is provided by bar heaters along the walls which are ineffective in such a large space. Cooling is provided by a few ceiling fans, which again are inadequate in this space.
- Restoration of the Avenue of Honour – identification of planting and names of Returned Servicemen and new plaques to be put in position
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7 Where do we want to be in?

a 1 year
  ▪ To have completed landscaping and beautifying the entry to the township and Reserve area.
  ▪ To have installed a watering system round the Hall and Golf Club
  ▪ To have added attractions to the Recreation Reserve (such as a petanque court on the third tennis court area,
whose surface currently badly degraded and dangerous underfoot)

b 3 – 4 years
- To have a vibrant, cohesive community
- To have secured the Uniting Church building and grounds for the community
- To continue to stage productions, Fairs, and Events which provide community energy, cohesiveness and entertainment, and which attract visitors
- To be an established tourist stop off attraction
- To have a town sewerage system
- To have reticulated water system
PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PLAN DOCUMENTS
A TRANQUIL PIECE OF HISTORY

EDDINGTON'S VISION
FOR ITS FUTURE
Background
Historically, Eddington provided an important transport link for the central goldfields, having developed at the logical spot for a bridge over the Loddon on the road between the Maryborough, Dunolly, Maldon and Bendigo goldfields. It provided vital services for travellers and for the rapidly expanding surrounding rural community.

Nowadays, Eddington is one of the smaller townships in the Shire, comprising fewer than 20 houses in the township itself, some of these being occupied only at weekends. There is no longer a store nor a pub in town, and the school closed as a result of the rationalization of educational facilities in the early 1990s.

Eddington is, however, the centre of a productive mixed farming area, with a stockfeed mill employing around 30 people and a small engineering works employing a further ten or so. Enterprising local properties manage to spread the risk by mixing cropping, grazing and even vine growing. In addition, some residents operate small service-type businesses from home.
For shopping, medical and other facilities, Eddington and district looks to Maryborough and Dunolly in Central Goldfields Shire, as well as to Bendigo and Ballarat for major shopping and specialist services. Whilst considering their families as part of the Eddington community, many of the local properties are, in fact, entirely or partly within Central Goldfields Shire.

**Demographics**
As with many rural communities, the proportion of families with young children has declined. The closure of the school because of falling numbers, in turn acts as a disincentive to families with school age children to consider settling here. In addition, the economic realities of farming in recent times has made it less likely for the younger generations to stay on the farm and, in turn, provide successive generations. Newcomers have tended to be mature people whose families have grown up, seeking an alternative to town or city life.

All of this means an aging population with implications for the types of services which will be required into the future.

**Community facilities**
There is a well-used community centre, with good facilities which the community is at pains to maintain and improve. Outside is an undercover, electric barbecue area and a historic gazebo shelter which was moved to this site from the school grounds when the school building was sold off, so that the shelter would be retained for the enjoyment of the community. There are tennis courts which have great potential but require some attention, and a fun and challenging 9 hole golf course with cosy clubhouse.

An important tourist feature of the town is the Loddon Miniature Steam Railway, a miniature railway track layout which offers regular monthly public runs as well as catering for tour buses and groups at other times. Adjoining the hall are public toilets which the community currently has to clean and maintain.

The fact that the golf course is on crown land, whilst the hall, toilets and tennis courts are not is an issue which causes considerable difficulties for the community. Whilst the 'recreation reserve' comes within the purview of the Crown Lands public liability cover, the community must currently find the funds to pay expensive public liability insurance each year for the hall and surrounds.
Assets

Heritage and Environment

Eddington was a vital link in the transport network on the central goldfields, as it developed at the logical spot for a bridge over the Loddon on the road between the Maryborough, Dunolly, Maldon and Bendigo goldfields. Coaches, horses and riders fed and watered themselves before continuing their journeys. Although gold was not mined in Eddington itself, the village is surrounded by mullock heaps and evidence of historic diggings and is very much part of the goldfields experience.

At one time, it boasted a brewery and bottle making factory, a butter and cheese factory, a flour mill, as well as saleyards, stock and station agents, bank, blacksmiths, saddlers, bakers, general and provision stores, as well as a plethora of pubs and grog shops. Most denominations could find a church to provide for their spiritual needs after they’d done their money on the local racecourse. Eddington provided vital services and recreational opportunities for a rapidly developing rural community.

There is a heritage overlay on the township and many of the buildings are of historical significance to the town and the district. At least one of the pubs in town was, according to one source, credited with serving up the ‘worst beer on the goldfields’. More than one of them laid claim to being coaching change stations, as coach companies played one publican off against another to secure the most favourable terms and as rival companies tried to steal a march on the others. Two of the old pub buildings, the old general store
and post office (with original signs intact), the police barracks, the school building and the schoolhouse survive, all

McCoy Street

of them now comfortable dwellings. Of the two churches still standing, one is now a dwelling but the other is still used for services and community celebrations. The buildings, the verandahs, parapets, chimneys, daisy-fringed streets and shady trees evoke a sense of time and place.

The Farm (former Police Barracks) off McCoy Street
The Loddon at Eddington

The Loddon is still the focus of the town. It sustains not only local farms and gardens but also a rich environment for plants and wildlife. The contour of the river is easily identified from whichever road you enter town, marked as it is by stately river gums. The river provides the perfect environment for a diverse range of bird species, both permanent and migratory. Some of the species identified are:

black swans · pelicans · ibises · several varieties of heron (including the less common nankeen night heron) · egrets · cormorants · musk ducks · mallards · chestnut teals · shelducks · wood ducks · geese · grebes · several varieties of kite · wedgetailed eagles · goshawks · several types of owl · ospreys · swamp hens · native hens · kingfishers · kookaburras · tawny frogmouths · several varieties of honeyeater · fairy wrens · willie wagtail · grey fantail · eastern rosellas · red rumped parrots · musk lorikeet · little lorikeet · corellas · sulphur crested cockatoos · galahs · black cockatoos · ringneck parrots · blue bonnets · crested shrike-tits · yellow rumped thornbill · silvereyes · jacky winters · pardalotes (both spotted and striated) · rufous whistlers · welcome swallows · firetail finches · noisy miners · wattle birds · friarbirds · cuckoo shrikes · trillers · orioles · magpie larks · magpies · babblers · sitellas · tree creepers · warblers · grey shrike thrushes · robins · pipits · bronze cuckoos · pallid cuckoos · crested pigeons · choughs

This list is by no means exhaustive. Frogs and lizards abound (snakes too), as well as sugar gliders and echidnas, and there are, of course, possums and kangaroos a-plenty. There are also reports of platypus on stretches of the river.
Attractions
As well as the environmental and heritage attractions mentioned above, there are several other events and attractions in and around Eddington.

A major feature of March in Eddington is ‘The Eddington Sprints’. Rather like quarter horses, vintage sports and classic cars line up for a standing start and ‘sprint’ over a measured quarter mile. It’s usually a beautiful day and many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of vintage and classic cars are parked under the trees and all around the hall.

The Annual Sprints

The Eddington community will grab any excuse to get together, have fun and raise much needed funds for local causes. Christmas is one such opportunity when we pack the Community Centre for our Christmas Show and Dinner, which makes a welcome contribution to our Community Fund. Carols by Candlelight is another feature of an Eddington Christmas, when the small Uniting church glows in the light of dozens of candles and the local Christmas choir leads the community in a unique celebration.
Getting ready for hungry golfers at the golf club

The Golf club stages several special events during the season, including an exciting season opener, a Camp Oven Roast, night and other novelty tournaments. In 2003, we even managed a spectacular bonfire to raise funds for the local CFA.

Needless to say, this was not in fire season and there were plenty of firefighters on hand just in case.

The Loddon Miniature Railway Club contributes a valuable tourist attraction to the town. The track was considerably extended in 2001 and now winds through an attractive landscape of gums and shrubs, with plans to extend this further in the future. Visitors – and the adults are as keen as the children - pay a small fee for a ride on one of the meticulously built scale working models of famous steam trains. On busy open days, they queue up outside the clubhouse at the small ‘station’, eager for turns on the trains, whilst others enjoy the barbecue facilities or have a hit round the golf course.

All steamed up on the trains
Easter, Melbourne Cup, you name it, we celebrate it. Eddington, despite its small size, is a vibrant community, kept alive by a small core of committed volunteers.

_Easter at Eddington_

_Volunteers_

_The Church at Christmas_

As all small communities do, Eddington relies on a committed core of volunteers. They make sure the Community Centre and its surrounds, including the public toilets, are maintained and improved. They clean up rubbish from around the town, attack noxious weeds wherever they pop up, look out for their neighbours, check things out when neighbours are away, round up stray stock, make sure gates are shut, care for wildlife, as well as organize community activities.

Given some support and the wherewithal, Eddington’s volunteers could achieve even greater things for their community.
Eddington’s Vision

A Tranquil Piece of History

The community feels that Eddington’s charm is its tranquility and sense of history and that this holds the key to its future. We do not see the future in terms of housing development, carving up valuable farmland and taxing the ability of infrastructure to keep up. Whilst recognizing that stagnation is not an option, we see the future in terms of population replacement, by offering an environment attractive to newcomers who are seeking a tranquil escape from town or city, by continuing to welcome new faces, new ideas and new energy. We also see it in terms of heritage- and environmentally-based low-key tourism, encouraging visitors to enjoy the history, the bird and wildlife and the wonderful river environment.

Given this vision of the future, we have set the following objectives.

Objectives

• To maintain and develop Eddington as ‘A Tranquil Piece of History”
  • To beautify and maintain the current environment, heritage and attractions
  • To share our attractions with others, whilst preserving the tranquility and heritage
  • To develop, encourage and promote heritage and environment friendly tourism
• To promote a sense of community and cohesiveness
  • To welcome new residents and encourage participation in the community
  • To expand the core of volunteers
  • To create opportunities for community events which encourage participation
• To ensure the provision of adequate services to the town and surrounds
  • To work in tandem with, lobby and enlist help from Shire Council, government agencies and representatives
  • To secure better telecommunications provision
  • To secure better utilities infrastructure
  • To secure better roads and works infrastructure
  • To secure transport services

Planning Priorities:

Infrastructure

Short term

• Drains and drainage requires attention in the township.
  • Water forms lakes on most verges for a long time after rain, encouraging mosquito and insect breeding.
  • Some existing drains do not effectively take water away.
  • Stagnant, fetid water lies in front of 55 McCoy Street. It does not drain to the culvert at the bottom of the street, as the fall is inadequate.
  • Water cascades across Murchison Street near its junction with McCoy Street when it rains, breaking up the surface of the road.
Roads
  - Potholes and broken edges of asphalt road surfaces need to be filled and maintained. Potholes and corrugations on dirt roads need to be graded and filled.
  - Signage needs improvement.
    - The signs on the main Bendigo Road are inadequate and difficult to read on the move. We would like clear, simple signage, to include tourist signs which indicate 'heritage' or 'historic' village, as well as one for the miniature trains.
    - The community would prefer 'Local Traffic Only' rather than the 'No Through Road' sign at the top of McCoy Street.
    - Move the 'Give Way' sign in McCoy Street at the crossroads outside the hall. It is in a dangerous position currently and needs to be moved away from the roadside a little.
    - Sign which clearly inhibits large trucks from mistakenly turning down through the village.
    - Consideration of speed restrictions signs in town.
  - Improve the Bendigo/Dunolly Road turn-off. This is an awkward and hazardous turn, with difficult sight lines.
  - Verges and vacant blocks need to be mowed on a regular basis - however, LEAVING THE DAISIES at the bottom end of McCoy Street and round the corner into Murchison Street. This daisy and statis streetscape contributes to the visual appeal of the town. An added bonus is that the daisies keep down the grasses and other weeds.
  - Clarification of the status of unused roads. The status of some old roads around the village, in particular those accessing the river, is unclear. Some are currently leased and conditions for access to them needs to be clarified, in light of our vision for recreational walks and cycle paths for the future.

Mid-Long term

Telecommunications. Whilst this is not directly a Shire responsibility, communities look to their local government representatives to lobby telecommunications providers and government policy makers. Communities such as Eddington can only survive into the future with efficient means of communication. Business and study, especially in country areas, are increasingly being conducted electronically. Residents, too, will need efficient communication to access vital services.
  - Better mobile coverage. Coverage is currently unsatisfactory. Even CDMA phones experience coverage difficulties.
  - Upgraded line and exchange infrastructure. Standard telephone connections are currently unreliable, probably because of obsolete line and exchange infrastructure.
  - Upgraded internet connections. Broadband is as yet unavailable, except by prohibitively expensive satellite and ISDN is not available to most locations because of obsolete line and exchange infrastructure.
- **Town Water, Sewerage and Natural Gas**
  Developments in small scale, localised provision of these services should make it possible in the future to provide for the needs of the town.

- **Shop and Pub.**
  Whilst restoring a pub to the town may be very long term, a specialist or general store is not out of the question if the community’s tourism objectives are fulfilled.

**Transport**

*Short term and Long term*

**Affordable Public transport provision** to Dunolly, Maryborough and Bendigo. Our aging population will increasingly need public transport to these centres to access shopping, medical and other services. To maintain independence, people who no longer find it desirable or possible to drive themselves need access to adequate transport. It is more efficient and cost effective to subsidize public transport than to provide home help services or care-based services.

**Facilities**

*Short term*

- **Return ownership of the Community Centre and tennis court 1 and to the Crown.** The Hall and surrounds are currently held under an old Mechanics Institute Trust arrangement. This means that the community cannot be covered for public liability under the Crown Lands arrangements and must find the money to pay for expensive public liability insurance. This process is currently in the hands of the Shire Council and needs to be resolved.

- **Upgrade and maintain the public toilets.** The community is currently responsible for cleaning, maintaining and upgrading these toilets, despite the fact that they are classified as ‘public’ toilets. Shire workers, Telstra workers, visitors to the golf course, trains and barbecue area all make use of the toilets and it has become unrealistic to expect local volunteers to clean and maintain them. The alternative is to lock them off to the public so that we only have to clean them after an event at the hall. In addition, tiling needs to be undertaken, especially to provide a hygienic environment in the disabled toilet.

- **Provide lighting for the barbecue area.** The barbecue is well used by the community and an increasing number of visitors. Lighting would enable it to be used in the evening.

- **Provide a concrete path from the parking verge to the steps of the Community Centre.**

- **Provide a better surface for parking outside the Community Centre.** When culverts and drains were done in recent times, a parking shoulder was provided around the hall. The surface of this shoulder is proving inadequate for parking and needs attention.

- **Upgrade tennis courts.** The current state of the tennis courts does not encourage their use by residents or visitors.
- **Maintenance of boat ramp by bridge.** This is an important public facility, giving access to the river. It needs to be maintained and a rubbish bin provided.

**Priority Acquisition**

- **Acquire the Uniting Church building as a community facility.** This building, along with the hall, is a vital focus of community activity. The community in recent years has spent a good deal of its own funds and volunteer effort on salvaging and maintaining the fabric of the building. Indeed it may well not have survived without this input. Apart from the regular church services held there, the community uses it for appropriate celebrations such as Christmas, weddings, funerals etc. It has been used for non-denominational and civil celebrant type services. Every year now, the community organises its own, non-denominational Christmas Carol Service, provides its own choir, decorates the church and provides supper at the Hall afterwards.

![](image)

**The Church at Christmas**

The community is anxious to save the church for community use, rather than having it sold off as a dwelling/weekender, as the only other remaining church building has been. We envisage being able to promote a package of facilities, to include the hall, barbecue and community church (non-denominational) for weddings and other celebrations.

We are anxious to keep up the care and repair of the church but are hesitant to invest more community labour and funds whilst we have no say in the building’s future. We would hope that the Shire Council would support the community in any future negotiations with the Uniting Church.

**Heritage and tourism**

- **Information Board near barbecue area.** This board would incorporate directions, information on facilities and local attractions, plus a walking tour map of the village.
- **Tourist signposting on main Bendigo Road** (as per item in ‘Roads’ above).
- **Historic plaques for buildings and sites where owners wish it.** These could be in the form of freestanding structures with photographs and description, such as those in Dunolly and Maryborough. Alternatively, plaques could be fixed to the buildings, where appropriate, with freestanding ones showing features which no longer stand.
- **Encourage Bed and Breakfast/Weekender provision in and around the township.** The Shire Council needs to carefully examine its regulatory and planning requirements for bed and breakfast and weekender facilities. Council needs to facilitate and encourage, and take a flexible approach to considering applications. If regulations and requirements are too onerous to comply with, or unsympathetic to the existing features of a building or environment, they will discourage such development.

- **Develop recreational walks and cycle paths.** Access to the river banks and to old, unused roads for walks and cycling would greatly contribute to the attractions of the village. This would include recreational access to the Redgum Forrest on the eastern bank of the Loddon. There is currently a network of cycle tours based on Dunolly and the suggestion is to develop cycle paths to link with these and provide a comprehensive cycle tour of the area. If weekender, bed and breakfast and occasional visitors are to be encouraged, we need to have attractions and activities to offer, which are sympathetic to our ‘tranquil piece of history’ vision.

- **Develop Hogan’s Bridge area as recreation/tourist facility.** The bridge at the junction of the Loddon with Bet Bet Creek is extremely picturesque. It was long ago destroyed by fire. Whilst rebuilding the bridge as part of a historic walking/cycle track may be long term, in the short term, the community hopes to develop the area as a recreation/picnic spot.

- **Encourage small craft boating on Loddon River.** The river is currently used by canoes, row boats and small craft. Unfortunately, obstructions in the water are making this more problematic. Consideration needs to be given to removing some of the obstacles.

- **Seed funding to establish EDDINGTON WINTER FESTIVAL.** We are looking to add to the list of attractions and events we offer. Whilst its crisp winters could be seen as a disincentive, we plan to make them an asset by featuring a week long winter festival. We envisage basing some events on current assets and activities, such as miniature railway open days, golf tournament, novelty tennis, variety show at the Hall (an Eddington speciality), bonfire night, as well as developing new events. Such an undertaking would take a great deal of time and energy to get underway and seed funding would be helpful for event development and promotion.

- **Promotion of events and visitor attractions.** The community has limited resources to promote itself and its attractions. It needs assistance with this as part of a co-ordinated and cooperative Loddon Shire/Central Goldfields effort.

- **Production of tourist brochure/leaflets.** These may be inclusive of all attractions, or separate leaflets could be produced for heritage walks and for recreational walks and cycle tours. The community would need financial assistance to produce these.

- **Establish a historical society or association.** Eddington needs a group to undertake research, to lobby on its behalf, to encourage promotion and act as the focus for the protection and promotion of its heritage.
Beautification

- **Landsaping/beautification of hall and barbecue area.**
  - The grass area between the hall and barbecue is low-lying and marshy whenever there is rain. Currently, people drive in and park here, cutting up the ground and creating further potholes. In order to remedy this problem, we wish to close it off to parking at the road and at the tennis court end, build it up with top soil and plant shrubs or small, flowering native trees.
  - The parking area between the hall and the golf club building requires gravel surfacing.

- **Beautification of the historic gazebo/shelter.** This building was moved next to the hall when the school building was sold off, so as to retain it for public enjoyment. It requires some attention and fresh paint.

- **Landsaping/beautification of crossroads.** To provide an appealing focal point and entrance to the village.
  - **Triangle in middle of crossroads.** This area becomes weed infested and does not provide an appealing focal point for the village. We would like to landscape it with low-growing, low-maintenance plants and a focal point in the centre. One suggestion is for a reproduction Victorian/Edwardian lamp (may be possible to make it solar). Another is for a cairn or monument marking the contribution of early settlers in pioneering the district.
  - **Landsaping/beautification of corners of crossroads.** Again, we would like to beautify the corners with low-growing, low-maintenance plants.

- **Beautification of river banks and river.** We need to provide easier access to the river banks for recreational walking. Some of the more recent tree and limb falls make this difficult and risky at the moment. As mentioned previously, some of the obstructions in the river itself need to be removed for safety.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Eddington has a unique charm, emanating from its historic buildings, rural setting and its situation on the Loddon River. Despite its small size, it is a vibrant, energetic community which has a strong vision for the future. That vision encompasses treasuring its heritage and environment, sharing its attractions with those seeking a 'get away from it all to enjoy the tranquil, rich environment and fascinating history' experience.