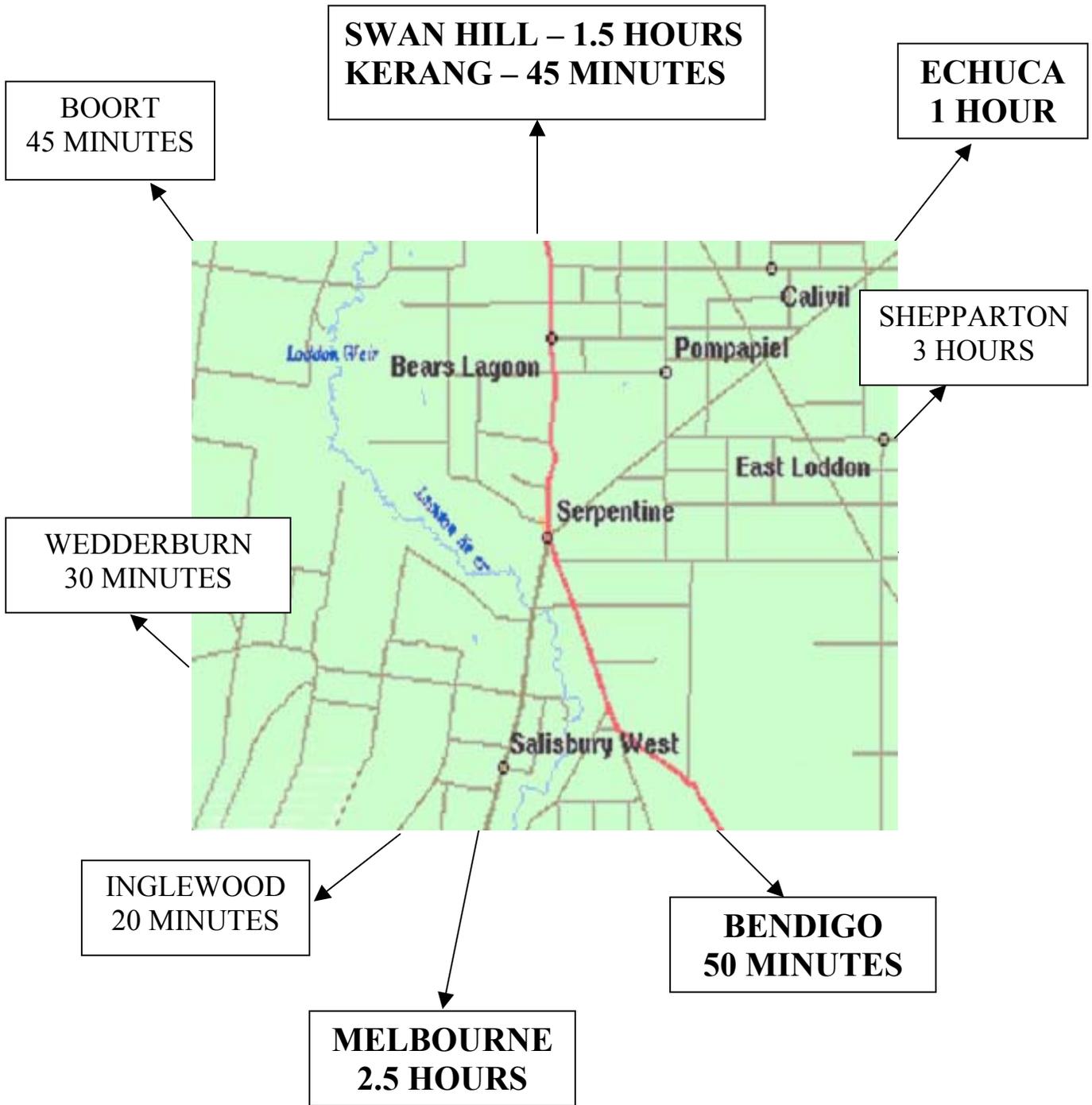


SERPENTINE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN

2003 -2013



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY- LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



SERPENTINE

GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRE OF THE LODDON SHIRE

Serpentine is a township of 200 people, with a surrounding farming population who are amongst the most innovative, successful farmers in the state.

Farming enterprises include cereal growing, lucerne pastures, beef production, prime lambs and wool production.

There is a large piggery enterprise nearby at Bears Lagoon and in recent years grape vines and olive groves have been introduced; all providing employment in the district. The township has strong sporting groups, tennis, cricket, football, netball and lawn bowls. Being only 50 minutes from Bendigo, the area has available to it major educational facilities, job opportunities, sports and the arts.

Situated at a junction of roads being the Loddon Valley Highway, Bridgewater Road and the Serpentine Echuca Road, Serpentine experiences a lot of through traffic both day and night.

The following attributes of Serpentine have been strongly identified throughout the development of this plan:

- It is in the centre of the Loddon Shire.
- Having a major highway going through it.
- Having an annex of the Loddon Shire Offices there.
- Having the Loddon River and the Serpentine Creeks close by for recreational fishing and natural beauty .
- It is an area of natural beauty yet untouched by development with many nice spots to visit, where people can get away by themselves.

The Aim of the Development Plan is to give the Serpentine community together with the Loddon Shire a plan of how and where Serpentine would like its community to progress in the future.

The plan was formulated by a process involving all the community being invited to come to a series of meetings allowing everyone to have an equal opportunity to contribute. If people could not get to the meetings they were welcome to voice their ideas by ringing or writing to the committee. There was always a member of council at these meetings to contribute when necessary.

The Serpentine Community would like to promote the fact that we are in the centre of the Loddon Shire on the Loddon Valley Highway.

At the moment many meetings are held in the township, day and night. People comment what a comfortable venue the Shire offices are.

The Serpentine Bowling clubrooms have recently been revamped and are being used by the general public more and more.

The Serpentine Memorial Hall is the largest indoor hall in the area with kitchen facilities and adjoining change rooms that can be opened up to make the area even bigger.

A fact not advertised but of great public relations value to the shire is the fact that Serpentine is where the Home and Community Care Office and also the Agribusiness, Economic Development and Tourism offices are situated, and that the HACCC business has the highest rating of customer satisfaction in the Shire. These businesses being at Serpentine away from the Wedderburn office gives the Loddon Shire a wider profile for this side of the shire which may otherwise feel a 'little out of it!!!'.

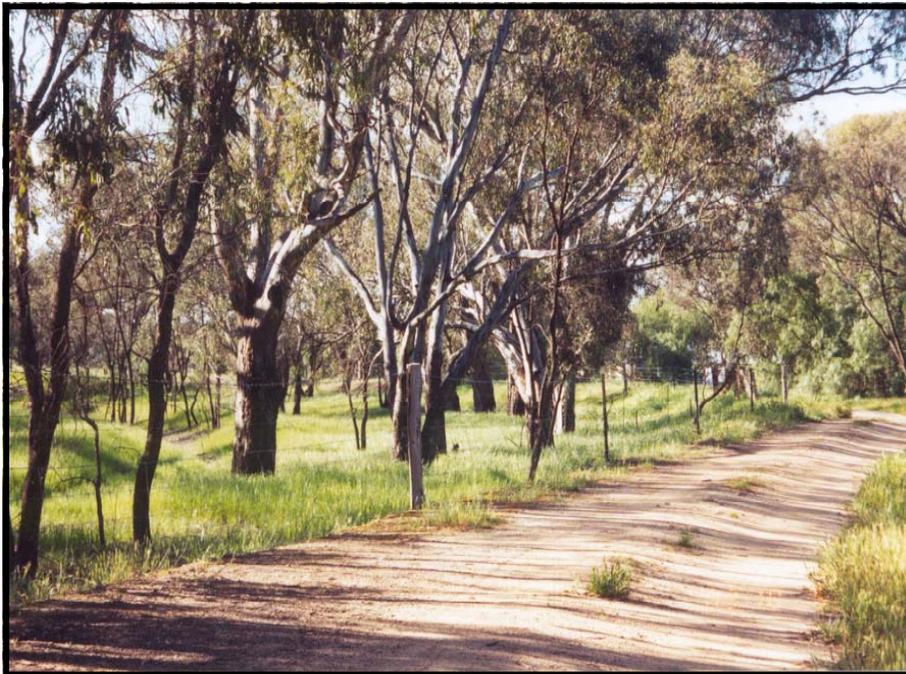
PRIORITY LIST

Achievable now-

PONDAGE REDEVELOPEMENT

To be called ‘Pon Bon Reserve’.

This is an area behind the netball courts that the community would like to participate in developing into a native bushland area with a walking/bike track around it, with fitness stations strategically placed.



LOGO FOR SIGNS INTO TOWNSHIP

Another sign further out of the township than existing signs saying-

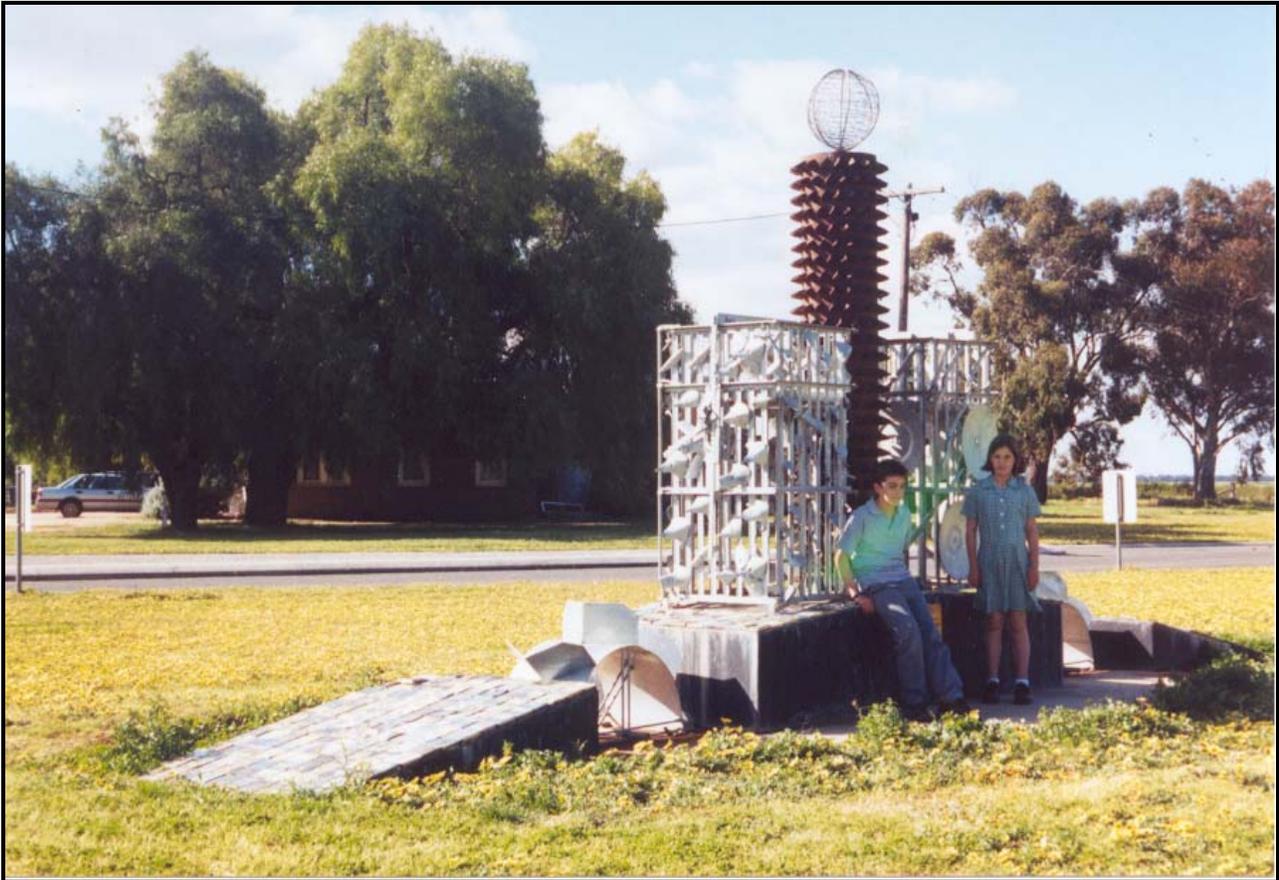
SERPENTINE
SITE OF FIRST OFFICIAL AIR RACE- 1921
AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY
DRYLAND LUCERNE COUNTRY

We envisage growing a crop under the sign each year, (with a sign saying what it is), e.g. lucerne, wheat, etc. It would be a talking point for travellers, seeing what we grow each year.

INFORMATION BOOKLET

To update our existing information booklet about the Serpentine area and also to compile a welcome kit for new residents which will be delivered to them personally.

MAINTENANCE OF ‘THE FLOW’ STATUE



The statue was built as a year 2000 Centenary project. It commemorates the significance of wool, agriculture, irrigation and flora and fauna in the development of the Loddon Shire.

The community would like to see it lit up and have formed a committee to maintain it on an ongoing basis. Some of the tiles have either fallen off or have been vandalized.

SCHOOL BUS DROP

School bus at shire offices to pick up and drop off by driving into access road, children to be collected and dropped off from Rudkins Reserve both morning and night.



School children wait on medium strip to get on bus in the morning



In afternoon get off at medium strip

TOURISM AND HISTORICAL CENTRE

To incorporate a Tourist Centre, historical showroom and storage, sale of local products, arts and craft, internet access for locals and travellers and to also include new toilets.

To have all these services in the one location would be wonderful for locals and visitors. It was thought it could be used as a drop in/neighbourhood house type facility with the ability to open up tremendous avenues for the sharing and learning of knowledge or just that most important thing in life, friendship, a cuppa and a chat. Things such as ‘Men in the Shed’.

The existing park area and public toilets are a popular rest stop for a continuous flow of travellers. There are many buses with large groups of people, families and the elderly with caravans that stop for a toilet break, a meal and a rest here. It is obviously thought of as a nice safe, shady and clean spot to stop.

If we could get these people into our Tourism/Historical Centre they may decide to spend longer in the Serpentine area and the Loddon Shire than they had anticipated. Trained volunteers in tourism could promote and direct people to the many and varied range of things available throughout our Shire.

Having the Agribusiness, Economic Development and Tourism Office right next door would mean people could access more information about the availability of housing, investment, job opportunities in Serpentine and the Loddon Shire.

STOCK RIVER WITH FISH AND DEVELOP CAMPING AREAS

To stock the Loddon River with fish and promote the fact. Also to develop picnic, camping areas at strategic locations along the river and the Serpentine Creek.

A great way to develop our tourism/leisure industry.



Serpentine Creek - people often stop for a fish or a picnic

RE ENACTMENT OF THE AIR RACE

Thought of as a major event/fund raiser to be held every 3 to 5 years. It would incorporate an olive, wool and grape theme, with many different attractions for all ages. The community has formed a committee for this and will soon decide when they will hold the first event. The only worry being accessing insurance.

SERPENTINE TENNIS COURTS

One hard court with lights.

The community is keen to do this as it would extend the playing time for tennis enthusiasts.

ENVIRONMENT

- Beautification of nature strips outside hall and parking area.
- Trim pepper trees on a regular basis.
- High quality water for town. Encourage the proposal of piping water from the Waranga Channel to the towns and farms.
- Signs at other side of Serpentine Creek, and at the tip asking/reminding people to not drop their rubbish on the way to the tip. Let them know they could be prosecuted.
- The district encourages the Shire to continually monitor the Bears Lagoon Piggery.
- Maintain our local roads, paint white posts and bridges. Weeds are an increasing problem on the sides of roads.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY

- Support the effort to get mobile phone coverage improved.
- Park benches placed at strategic positions around the town, where people can sit, chat, and ‘watch the world go by’.
- Trim trees that ‘blind your view’ when coming onto highway from side roads.
- Signs on entry to town saying, “Please no exhaust breaks”

RE NAME RECREATION RESERVE

To name the recreation reserve ‘JANIEMBER PARK’ and put up a sign saying this. We have it in the historical records that this was what the area was originally called, but cannot find out where the name came from.

FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

POLICE STATION

Serpentine is on the Loddon Valley Highway at the junction of four main roads that carry a lot of traffic day and night. It is strongly felt by the community that a police station is needed in the town.

DAILY BUS SERVICE TO BENDIGO

There was interest to look into a daily bus service to Bendigo within business hours. This would make it possible for workers and students to commute daily making living in Serpentine more attractive, also for people to get to medical appointments and take some of the load off the services which are being called upon increasingly to provide this service.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ROOMS

Incorporated from Maternal and Child Health rooms. These rooms sit unused for the majority of the time. Would be beneficial if used for women's health, family health, men's health, natural health, podiatrist etc.

TOWN LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS

Although Serpentine is a small town, lighting and footpaths are important for safe access for residents.

FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- A small one-lane road between the tennis courts and residents road.
- At undercover area at “Tom Rudkins Reserve’, to be concreted and tables put in.
- Roll in area to get buses off the road.
- Relocate the gravel dump behind the netball courts to a more suitable site.
- Develop a truck-parking bay at either the gravel dump at south end of town, or on the Serpentine Bridgewater road.
- Seal George Street.

The Serpentine community wishes to acknowledge the initiative of our shire in instigating this development plan for our district.

We realise it is a plan that will only come to fruition with the enthusiasm of our community, willing to commit their time and effort to help make these proposals be put into place, along with the help and guidance of the Loddon Shire Council.