

Baradine

Community Action Plan



BUILDING OUR
Warrumbungle
COMMUNITIES
2022-2026

Foreword



The creation of the Baradine Community Action Plan, began during an extended period of drought and the recognition of a greater need to work together as a community. In 2020, Building our Warrumbungle Communities group was formed. A series of events in every town in the Warrumbungle Shire took place in May 2021 after several Covid related delays, resulting in the development of Action Plans for each community in the Shire.

Facilitation of the community engagement process and community public events and preparation for the plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S, assisted by a group of passionate drivers who made up the Building Our Warrumbungle Communities team. More than 560 people took the opportunity to attend the 18 community gatherings across the Shire to share ideas and collaborate, bringing together their passions and visions for the future of each community. Having identified our wealth of assets - people, physical environment, institutions, cultural, economic and social networks - we considered what we needed to retain, regain, change or create.

Now, based on the richness of our community's history of working together for the betterment of all, the Baradine Community Action Plan focuses on our future. It will provide a map for short - long term projects, detailing goals to pursue and ideas to nurture and grow. It lays the groundwork to utilise funding and volunteer manpower to augment and commence many community projects. Our objective is to create a prosperous and attractive locality for everyone to enjoy and foster our vision of a welcoming, caring, connected and proactive community that takes the lead in embracing our heritage and creating our future.

Acknowledgements



Input into the Baradine Community Action Plan came from community members from all age groups and backgrounds across the Baradine area. This initial valuable community contribution was then refined by a core group of volunteers. We thank them all for their engagement.

We acknowledge the Gamilaroi people, the traditional custodians of the land of the Baradine district. We pay respect to the elders both past, present and emerging, extending our respect to all Aboriginal people.

Special thanks to the following organisations who sponsored and supported the development of the Baradine Community Action Plan.

Australian Federal Government under the Drought Communities Extension Funding

Department of Primary Industries - Rural Resilience Program

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Bank of Ideas - Peter Kenyon

The Rotary Club of Coonabarabran

NALAG - National Association for Loss and Grief NSW Inc.

Inland Rail Community Grants

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Liz Cutts for providing the cover image and all images throughout the Action Plan.

Our Story



Gateway to the Pilliga

History

Baradine is the gateway to the largest native Cypress Pine Forest in New South Wales – the Pilliga Scrub.

The traditional owners, the Gamilaroi people, lived off the land here for thousands of years before European settlers arrived. These same people witnessed white explorers and acted as guides to show them the area.

The region was originally settled by farmers and graziers, and Baradine was officially proclaimed a town in 1865. In the years that followed, the town grew on the back of the timber industry and arable farming land was developed to further the town's commerce.

Baradine is the administrative centre of the Pilliga Scrub, whose history is documented in *A Million Wild Acres* by local farmer Eric Rolls, written in the 1970s.

Today

Baradine is the quintessential country town noted for its friendliness and hospitality. It is an energetic and vibrant community driven town always seeking ways to sustain and expand viable economic growth.

Baradine is in the Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Area, centred in Coonabarabran. Baradine has two hotels with accommodation, a great caravan park with group cabin accommodation, Bed & Breakfast, two cafes, bowling & recreation club (with squash courts), skate park opened 2020 at the playing fields, an amazing National Parks and Wildlife Discovery Centre, a mechanical workshop/fuel station, a hospital with attached medical

centre, a CRT rural supplies merchant, a fantastic IGA supermarket, a chemist, swimming pool (seasonal), lively Catholic and Anglican churches with regular services, police station, post office, pre-school and two schools - St John's Catholic Primary School and Baradine Central School, active Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service, plus Country Women's Association, Progress Association and Keeping Place run by the Baradine Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Baradine Central School provides for children from Kindergarten to Year 12. Students are drawn from the immediate township, surrounding properties and the villages of Kenebri and Gwabegar. Their Agriculture program produces many successful entries in the surrounding local agricultural shows.

The local area is a bird watching paradise, and local attractions such as the Sculptures in the Scrub and the Pilliga Bore Bath (70km north) mean that travellers find much to do in this tiny town. Baradine has a proud agricultural history, with many farming and grazing areas in the district.

The half a million hectares of native cypress pines and eucalypts that make up the Pilliga Forest are home to a variety of native wildlife. The well-established self-drive scenic bird trails through the forest attract twitchers throughout Australia and from around the world. You may even meet some local inhabitants of the Pilliga such as kangaroos, possums, emus, echidnas, goannas, the occasional brumby and a species of unique hopping mouse, the Pilliga Mouse.

Our Vision

A welcoming, caring, connected and proactive community that takes the lead in embracing our heritage and creating our future.

Our Goals

- To actively promote and showcase our community as a great place to stop, stay, experience, work and reside, especially through a vibrant and welcoming town and villages.
- To facilitate opportunities and experiences that build upon local assets and the capacities and creativity of all community members.
- To actively pursue new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthen and diversify our local economy and business life.
- To encourage a strong, innovative, customer-focused, and collaborative business environment.
- To support, promote and celebrate active community participation and volunteerism.
- To retain strong sporting and cultural clubs, competitions, facilities, and traditions.
- To maintain and continually expand our lifestyle and employment options and opportunities.
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported and empowered, and will consider returning to our community for work, business, family and lifestyle opportunities.
- To preserve, maintain and strengthen our environment, heritage and community assets.



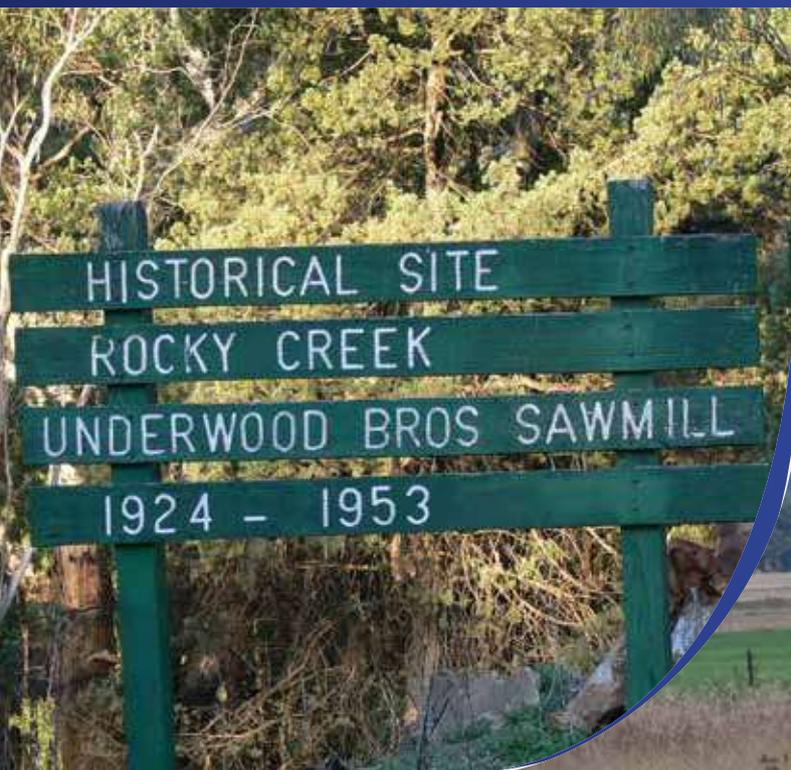
Our Guiding Values

Our guiding values represent the fundamental values and beliefs we share as a community. They help foster trust, respect, collaboration and unity.

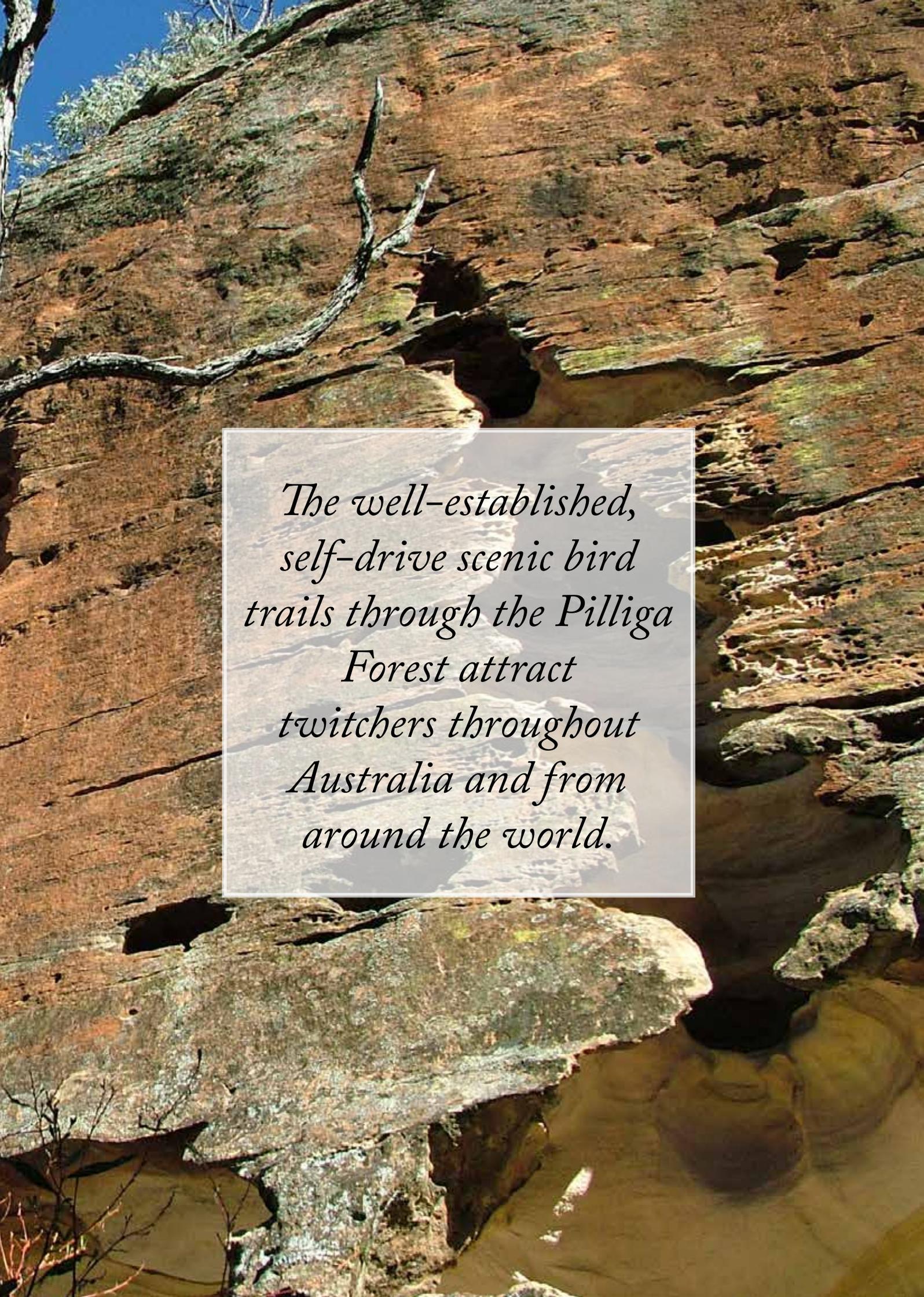
- Community Pride and Connection
- Embracing New Opportunities
- Respect for Heritage and Environment
- Commitment to Business Excellence
- Positive Mindset
- Celebration
- Intergenerational Solidarity

Our Challenges

- An ageing and declining population, contributing to the weakening of social networks and community cohesion.
- Volunteer fatigue and declining numbers and dependence on a few pro-active community members.
- Community appearance - tired signage, bland look of mainstreet and lack of appeal.
- Limited visitor infrastructure and attraction.
- Business loss and service gaps.
- Lack of early childhood services and childcare.
- Attraction and retention of suitably qualified staff.
- Limited after-hours youth recreation activities.
- Lack of housing and rental accommodation.
- Decline in number of community gatherings and special events.
- Poor connectivity.
- Poor road networks.





A photograph of a rocky cliff face. The rock is reddish-brown and has a textured, layered appearance. A dead, gnarled tree branch extends from the left side of the cliff. In the center, there is a dark, irregularly shaped opening in the rock, possibly a cave or a crevice. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green foliage at the top left. The overall scene is rugged and natural.

*The well-established,
self-drive scenic bird
trails through the Pilliga
Forest attract
twitchers throughout
Australia and from
around the world.*

Our Assets

Physical

B&B
Aloes
Bilby fence
Bird trails
Bore baths at Pilliga
Camp Cypress
Dark skies
Doctor's house
Fire tower
Forestry park
Hospital
Lions park
Local creek
Macquarie Marshes
Memorial Hall
National parks, close to 4
Pilliga forest
Pool
Post Office
Salt caves
Sculptures in the Scrub
Showground
Siding Spring
Skate park
Sports ovals & facilities
Tennis club
Warrumbungles
Wildflowers
Wooleybah, Rocky Creek

Economic

Accommodation
Aerodrome
ASM Mechanical
B & B
Bowling club
Buses (Bulla / Darren)
Café
Camp Cypress
Camping facilities
Chemist
CRT Rural Supplies
Doctor
Dressmaker
Earthmoving
Embassy cafe
Farms
Garage
Hairdresser
Hotchkiss signage
Hotels x 2
IGA
Inland Rail
Local contractors
Matthews Building
Matthews Concrete
NRD Transport
NSW Farmers
Plumber
Post Office
Preschool
Silo
Small businesses
Swim instructors
Tiler
Timber - value adding
Timber mill x 2
Tourism

Social Networks

Anglican Ladies
Art exhibitions
Bowling Club
Camp draft committee
Church groups
Cricket
CWA
Football Club
Netball Club
Golf Club
Gym
Handicraft group
Jockey Club

Junior sports
Moorambilla
P&C at St Johns
Path
Pistol Club
Pony Club
Play groups
Preschool committee
RSL Sub Branch
Rusty Club

Show
Show Society / Land Managers
Skate park
Squash & Volleyball club
Swim Club
Tennis Club
Tour de Gorge
Yoga group

Our Assets

Institutions

Aged care
Ambulance
ARTC
Bowling club
Churches - Anglican, Catholic
Community hall
Fire brigade
Forestry
Golf Club
Health Council
Hospital Auxiliary
Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Library
Medical Centre - MPS
National parks
NSW Farmers
NSW Health
Playgroup
Police
Pony Club
Pre school
Rural Fire Service
Schools x 3
SES
Tennis Club
Yowies

People

Aboriginal families
Aged population & their knowledge
Art & yoga leaders
Artists
Baradine Progress Association
Bird watchers
Builder
Cattle & sheep stud
Community gardener
Community groups
CWA leaders
Electrician
Embassy cafe
Farmers
Forestry
Hall committee
Handicrafts
Librarian
Library grants writers
Local Councillors
Mechanics
National Park employees
Nurses
Organisers of ANZAC day
Organisers of the Show
Painter
Plumber
Returned soldiers
Rural Fire Service
Show Day
Teachers
Transport drivers
Truck drivers
Veterans
Volunteers
Youth
Youth worker

Cultural

Aboriginal heritage
Art exhibitions
Balls
Baradine Show
Baradine sign
Bird sculpture
Building & art contributions in town @ Middle Pub, Embassy, fence at School, School Ag club
Campdraft
Carving of old hospital at MPS
Churches
Discovery Centre
Forestry building
Heritage
Hot Bore
Keeping place

Lands Council
Memorial Hall
Military history
Murals
NAIDOC week
Pilliga Forest
Railway line

Rusty club
Sandstone caves
Schools
Sculptures in the scrub
Veterans
Warrumbungles
Wooleybah, Rocky Creek



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Community Development & Connections

ACTIONS

1

1. Retain, Develop and Expand Sporting facilities

- Explore through community consultation the opportunity to have a health and wellness hub located at the swimming pool. Including: Improved amenities, gym, yoga and exercise area, activities for youth and seniors, facility for allied health providers to utilise, multi-purpose facility eg Library/Book exchange
- Improve pool facilities to increase utilisation
- Promotion of Memorial Hall as a suitable indoor sport venue
- Undercover arena and facility developments at Showground
- Community sports promotion days
- Promote dancing classes

Timeframe: Medium - Long Term

2. Retain and Expand Community Services

- Medical Services: Doctor, MPS and Pharmacy
- Childcare Services: 0-2 years, Daycare
- TAFE Courses - provide local access
- Youth Engagement and Activities (after school) - active involvement and development
- Community transport car
- Activities for Seniors
- Support Church communities - Anglican and Catholic

Timeframe: Long Term

3. Community Collaboration and Networking for Events

- Host networking get-togethers between local organisations to promote local events and activities
- Initiate and promote community dinners, balls, dancing eg. Debutante Ball
- Support and promote existing local events

Timeframe: Medium Term

LEAD GROUPS

Baradine Progress Association
Baradine Hospital Auxillary
Baradine Sporting Groups
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Baradine Crown Land Manager (Showground)

OTHER PARTNERS

Baradine Central School
St Johns School
Baradine Preschool
Baradine Aged Care Committee
Health Council
Yowies

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Tourism & Event Initiatives

ACTIONS

2

1. Improve and develop tourism access roads and walking/cycling tracks

- Seal roads to notable tourist attractions eg. No. 1 break road and Pilliga road
- Explore and develop cycling and walking trails eg. Rail Trails

Timeframe: Immediate

2. Develop Tourism Initiatives and Events

- Bird Watching Trail, App and Annual Event of national significance eg. Connecting other state trails
- Create annual event for Baradine eg. Regain Baradine Races, Mud Run, Colour Run, Yowie Festival etc
- Become involved in the Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park
- Support and promote existing annual events eg. Baradine Show, Campdraft
- Support and develop improvements at Camp Cypress
- Promote and utilise the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre
- Create and design a new Baradine website and social media pages for tourist information and event promotion eg. Collaborate with schools to implement

Timeframe: Medium Term

LEAD GROUPS

**Baradine Progress Association
Forests NSW
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Camp Cypress Board**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Baradine Central School
St Johns School
Health Council
Rail Trails for NSW
Walking and Cycling Organisations**

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Street Appeal and Development

ACTIONS

3

1. Preserve and Promote Local Heritage and Attractions

- Identify and install historical interpretive signage – including outlying villages as part of a Tourist Trail
- Convert old forestry office into a Museum and/or Art Gallery

Timeframe: Short – Long Term

2. Enhance Street Appeal

- Conduct signage audit and identify requirements
- Replace and install new and appealing signage eg. Approach to town, business, street signage, park etc
- Initiate more public art projects eg Silo's, side of Bowling Club etc
- Beautify the mainstreet by collaborating with mainstreet businesses eg. Promote facelift, planter boxes, trees, lighting, seating etc
- Improve disability access to mainstreet businesses

Timeframe: Medium - Long Term

LEAD GROUPS

Warrumbungle Shire Council
Baradine Progress Association
Local Businesses
Local Historians

OTHER PARTNERS

Baradine Central School
St Johns School
Baradine Local Aboriginal Lands Council



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four

Business Retention, Expansion & Attraction

ACTIONS

4

1. Promote and Support existing and new local businesses

- Promote buying local
- Welcome and support new small businesses
- Community advertising to attract tradespeople
- Encourage and promote local employment

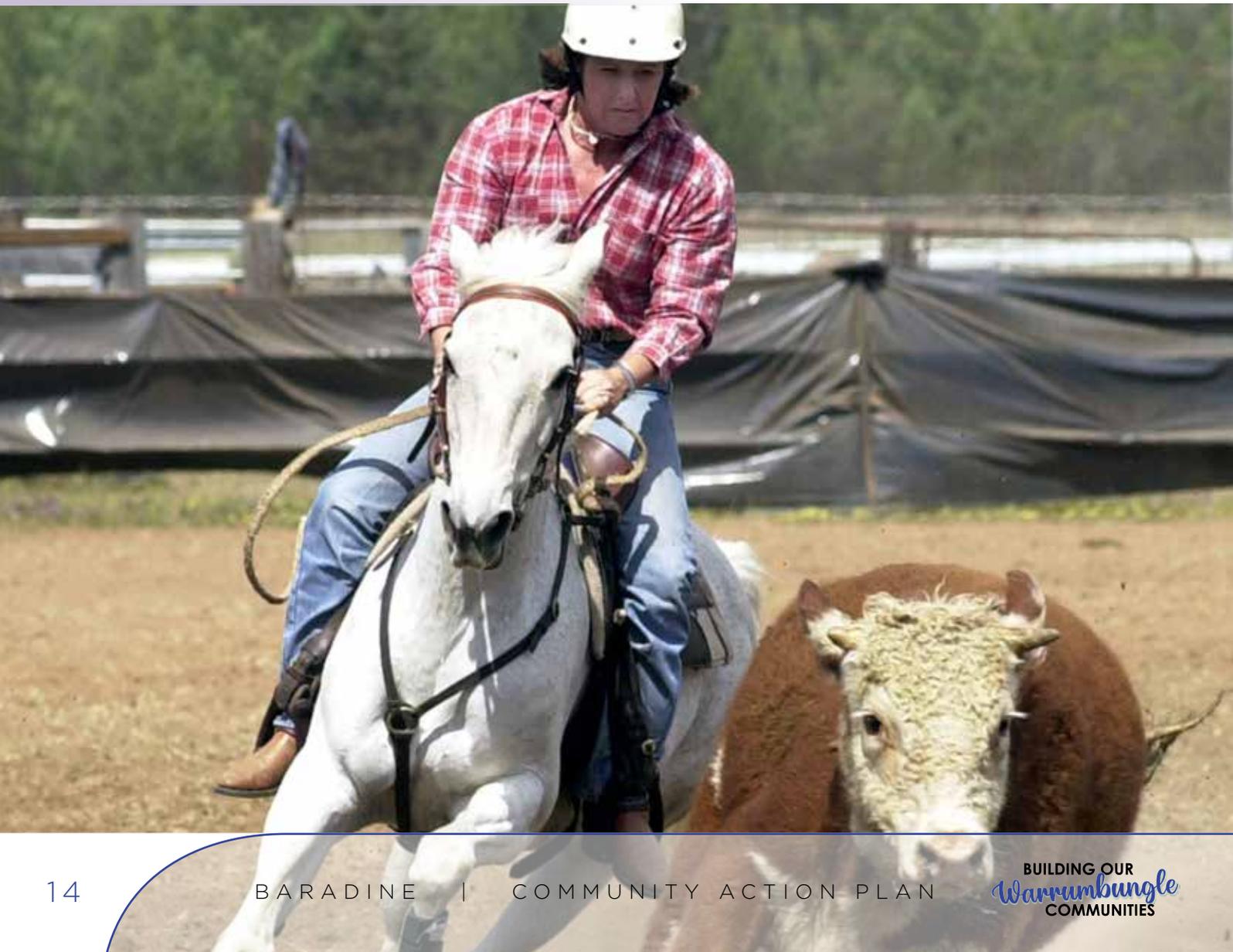
Timeframe: Immediate - Medium Term

LEAD GROUPS

**Warrumbungle Shire Council
Baradine Progress Association
Local Businesses**

OTHER PARTNERS

Community Members



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Five

Enhance Lifestyle & Population Attraction

ACTIONS

5

1. Promote community as a great place to live

- Welcome to town package/booklet to services etc
- Annual welcome BBQ
- Invitation to family friendly events
- Utilise social media and website
- Support and promote the use of Community Newsletter by all the community organisations etc.
- Promote collaboration between community groups to better welcome new people

Timeframe: Immediate

2. Investigate housing opportunities

- Consider ways to increase housing availability and retirement housing

Timeframe: Medium - Long Term

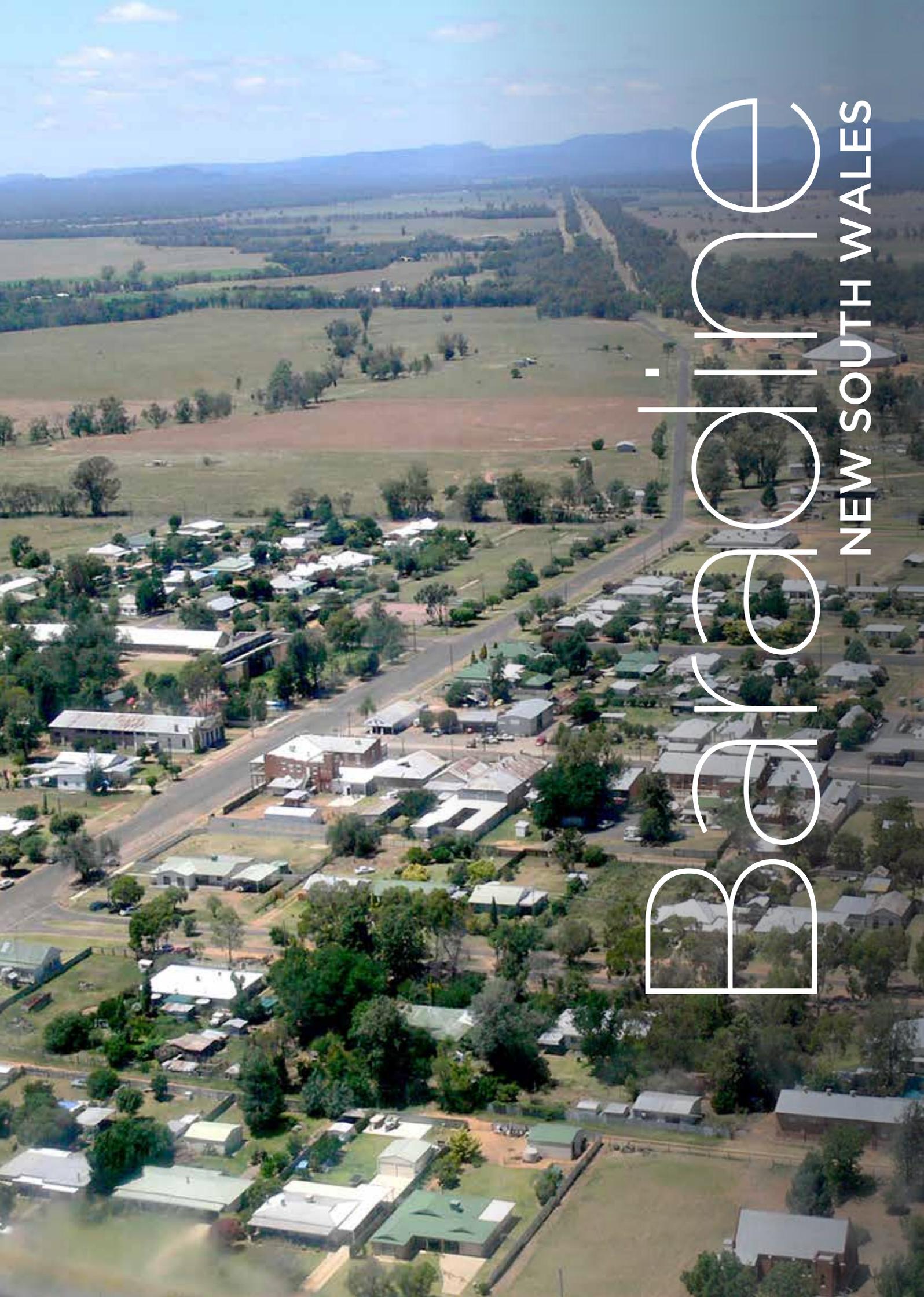
LEAD GROUPS

Warrumbungle Shire Council
Baradine Progress Association
Local Businesses
Baradine Sporting Groups
Baradine Community Organisations
Baradine Central School
St Johns School

OTHER PARTNERS

Community Members





Merimbine

NEW SOUTH WALES