

# Dunedoo

## Community Action Plan



**BUILDING OUR**  
*Warrumbungle*  
**COMMUNITIES**  
**2022-2026**

# Foreword

## Dunedoo moves to the future

Dunedoo has been through drought, fire, dust storms, a mice plague and floods, and this year, one of the best agricultural seasons we've seen in many years. Throw in a global pandemic, and yet, we're still smiling! The people of Dunedoo continue to respond with resilience and innovation. Our town is truly a place 'where the people make the difference'.

This area is rich with evidence and artefacts from the ancient Wiradjuri people's culture and heritage, and is a significant part of our landscape. Surrounded by fertile river plains, gentle rolling hills and wide valleys, the area is renowned for its Glossopteris leaf fossils and the Talbragar fish fossils. Our European history dates back to 1822, when William Lawson took up land in the area for agriculture.

Dunedoo is centrally located at the intersection of two major highways in the Central NSW region - within easy driving distance to Dubbo, Mudgee and Coonabarabran and four hours from Newcastle. It is surrounded by a patchwork of interesting rural villages within a thirty-minute drive.

Our wide main street provides easy parking with everything in one place, including a supermarket, butcher, hardware and rural supplies, retail stores, hotels and accommodation and cafes. Public amenities include parks, shady trees, a fenced playground, skate park, truck parking bay and rest area, picnic tables and an electric barbeque.

In 2022, we acknowledge our rich past as our community looks to the future. We have created this Community Action Plan through broad community engagement and collaboration.

The plan provides Dunedoo and our community with a map of our assets, visions, goals and strategies for the next five years. It will guide us in nurturing and growing our ideas, our economy and our community. It will assist us to implement and create new plans, moving us towards a brighter future as a vibrant regional town.

# Acknowledgements

**Rural Resilience Program**



**BUILDING OUR Warrumbungle COMMUNITIES**

**NALAG**  
National Association for Loss and Grief (NSW) Inc

**Rotary**  
Coonabarabran



Input into the Dunedoo Action Plan came from many Dunedoo community members from all age groups and backgrounds. This initial valuable community contribution was then refined by a core group of volunteers. We thank them all for their engagement. We give thanks to all the Dunedoo community members and Warrumbungle Shire Council staff, who shared their time, knowledge and skills.

The Dunedoo Community Action Plan acknowledges the Wiradjuri people - traditional custodians of this country. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We pay respect to the elders, both past and present, to the people of the Wiradjuri Nations and we extend that respect to other Aboriginal people.

Special thanks to the Building Our Warrumbungle Communities Committee and to the following organisations who sponsored and supported the development of the Dunedoo 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
- Printing of this document was sponsored by Rural Aid
- Anne Kable for providing the cover image and many of the images throughout the Action Plan

# Our Story



Dunedoo is located on the junction of the Castlereagh and Golden highways in Central West NSW, with a district population of 1220, close regional centres are Mudgee and Dubbo. The town lies 340kms from Sydney and 290kms from Newcastle surrounded by stunning Nature Reserves, the volcanic Warrumbungle Ranges, National Parks and the Great Dividing Range.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, Dunedoo and the surrounding area was home to people of the Wiradjuri Nation bordering both Kamilaroi and Wailwan Nations. The area became known as the Three Rivers Region. The name Dunedoo, “Dhundhu”, is Wiradjuri language for “black swan” due to the many swans in the area at the time. We pay respect to their Elders and ancestors and celebrate their continuing culture. There is much evidence of past Aboriginal presence such as rock grinding grooves, cave paintings, scar trees and stone artefacts found locally.

Dunedoo sits in the valley on the Talbragar River and was first taken up by explorers in the early 1800’s. The railway was opened in 1910 and became an important part of the Dunedoo history as it allowed for the expansion of the rural community with freight trains moving

stock and agricultural produce, as well as offering an overnight passenger service to Sydney.

Bolaro Street has art deco buildings with O.L. Milling and Lions Park running the full length of the main street. The silo art, sculptures, museum and historical displays, along with the railway station, playground, skate park and public toilets make an interesting place to stop and revive. Our local community services include education, medical, sporting, business and industry.

Tourism is becoming an important element to the local economy with the district home to many cultural, sporting, recreational and educational events. A unique natural environment, historic buildings, accommodation options, Silo Art and the Central West Cycle Trail all complement Dunedoo. The town is centrally located and a gateway to many surrounding tourist attractions in our region.

Dunedoo’s welcome sign reflects a strong sense of connectivity, expressing our unique character and culture, **‘where the people make the difference’**.



# Our Goals

- Retain and attract families and individuals by continually strengthening our rural lifestyle and local employment, educational and health services
- Encourage a strong, innovative, customer-focused and collaborative business environment
- Facilitate innovative, economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthen and diversify our local economy, business and industry
- Actively promote expansion of available land and lifestyle blocks
- Promote arts, culture and music through festivals and events to enhance tourism
- Retain strong viable sporting clubs, competitions, facilities and traditions
- 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
- Achieve shared recognition of our rich Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Engage, support and retain our valued ageing population
- Build, preserve and celebrate our significant heritage, agricultural, cultural, environmental and infrastructure assets
- Cultivate a sense of pride in Dunedoo – **‘where the people make the difference’**

# Our Vision

A welcoming, connected and resilient community caring for our people, heritage and environment.

Through strong community engagement we play, learn, work and age well together.



# Our Guiding Values

Guiding values that we embrace

- Community Commitment
- Inclusion & Diversity
- Lifestyle
- Engagement & Connection
- Resilience
- Intergenerational Solidarity
- Pride & Celebration

# Our Challenges

## Key Environmental

- Cumulative challenges and disasters
- Community appearance and tired signage
- Reduced council maintenance of community parks and infrastructure
- Zoning restrictions influencing local growth

## Key Social

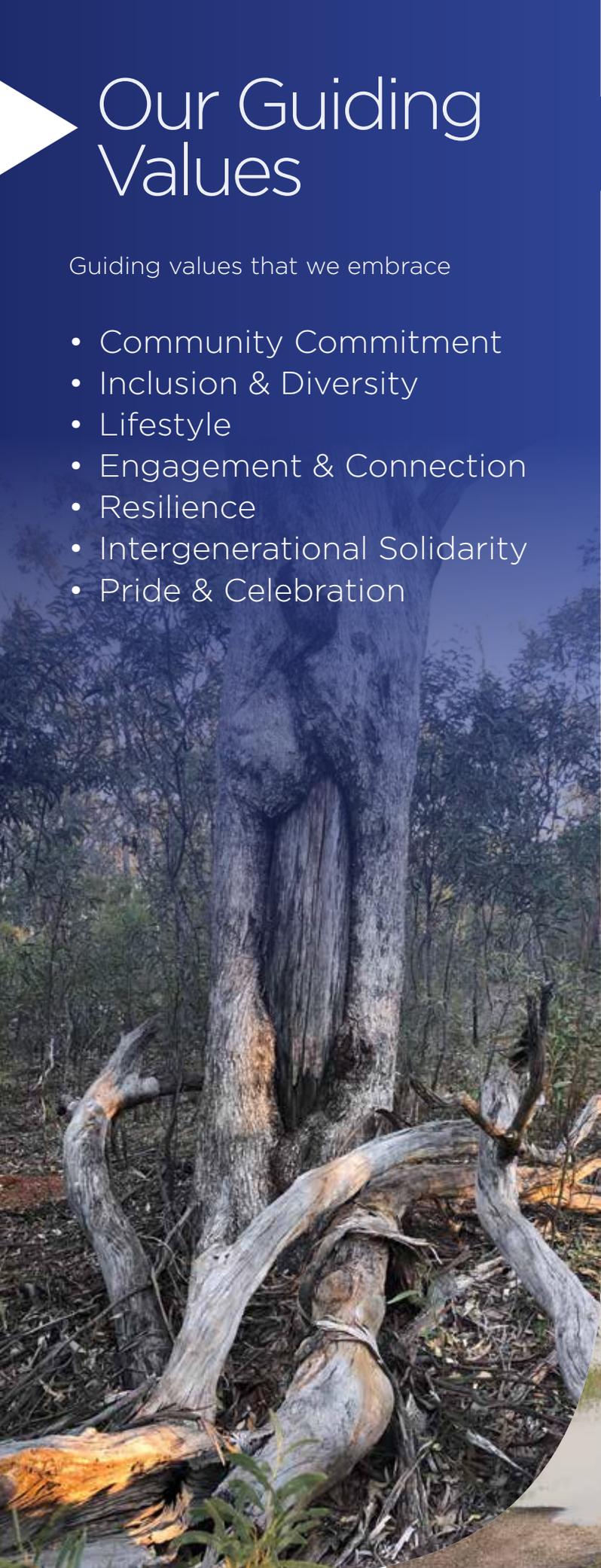
- Volunteer fatigue and declining numbers
- Limited youth options, including recreation and employment
- Cycle of intergenerational trauma, poverty and unemployment
- Lack of rental accommodation and affordable housing

## Key Rural

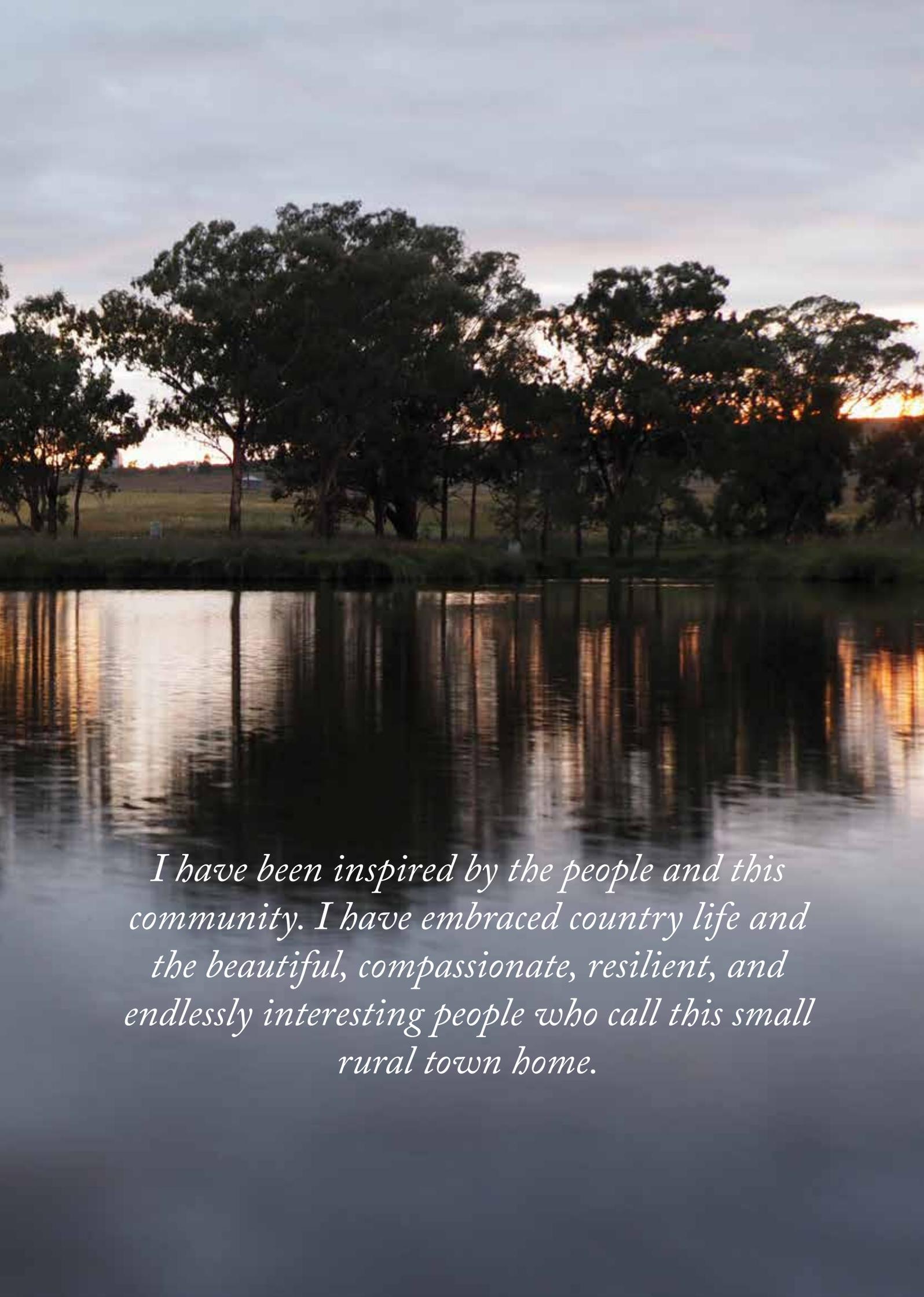
- Technology access and poor connectivity
- Ageing and declining population
- Affordable and accessible labour
- Larger regional centres compromising local services and employment

## Key Economic

- Service gaps and loss of services including allied health and GP support
- Tourism and business challenges
- Local employment opportunities
- Lack of confidence in an under resourced local council







*I have been inspired by the people and this community. I have embraced country life and the beautiful, compassionate, resilient, and endlessly interesting people who call this small rural town home.*

# Our Assets

## Economic

**Service Stations** (1 being 24hrs)

**Accommodation** - Hotels, Motel, B&Bs, Farm stays, Caravan Park

**Local Trades** - Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Interior Design, Engineering, Auto Electricians

**Mechanical Services** - Light, heavy and farm machinery

**Rural Service** - Delta Ag, Dunedoo Rural Hardware, Leigh Stoddart & Company, Milling Stuart, Lions Drum and Battery Muster, Sale Yards, Vermin Control, Stud Breeders Sales, Rural Contractors

**Local Businesses** - Takeaway Food/Restaurants/Cafes, Supermarket, Stock and Station Agent, Antiques and old wares, Hairdressers and Beauticians, Post Office and Bank Agencies, Chemist, Free Wifi in main street, Gift Shops, Butcher, Newsagent, Bakery, Active Farmers, Creative Spaces, Financial Advice/Services

**Consumers** - Farming Community, Transit Workers, Tourist/Travellers, Residents

Facebook - Local Buy, Swap and Sell, Dunedoo Community and Events

**Transport Services** - Local companies, school, NSW train link, freight (general, livestock, grain)

**Local Clubs/Pubs** - Dunedoo Sports Club, Dunedoo Bowling Club, Hotel Dunedoo, Local Sporting Clubs

**Resource Management** - Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), Wind/Solar Farms, Essential Energy, Telecommunication Networks, Underground water

## Institutions

**Warrumbungle Shire Council** - Local staff, library, office/meeting rooms, pool, hall, cemetery and columbarium, waste facilities and depot

**Education** - Dunedoo Central School, St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Preschool & Kindergarten, Dunedoo TAFE, DCS Agricultural Plot

**Police Station and Court House**

**Emergency Services** - Police, Ambulance, State Emergency Services, Rural Fire Services, Town Fire Brigade, NRMA, Westpac Rescue Helicopter

**Dunedoo Multi-Purpose Service** - Hospital with Aged Care

**Community Services** - Dentist, Podiatrist, Community Nurses, Child and Family Health Nurse, Women's Health Nurse, Skin Cancer Doctors

**Home and Community Care** - Warrumbungle Community Care, Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Home Maintenance, Respite for Carers, Social Support, Connect Five Children's Services

**Support** - Angel Flight, Breast Screening, visiting NGOs, Service NSW (mobile), Can Assist, Uniting Care, Care Flight Helicopter

**Churches** - Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian Anglican Columbarium

**Showground** - Facilities, Land Managers (Trust) and committee

**Communication Networks** - Three Rivers FM Radio, Dunedoo District Diary, School Newsletters, Business House Newsletters, Dunedoo Community Calendar

**Service Groups** - Lions, Leos, MPS Volunteers, CWA, Anglican Women's Association, Church Groups, Hospital Auxiliary, Dunedoo & District Development Group, Dunedoo/Mendooran Aged Hostel Limited, Historical Society, Dunedoo/Leadville Returned Service League, Men's Shed, Wellness, Landcare, Junior Landcare and seed library, Australian Unity, Dunedoo Central School P&C, St Michael's P&F, Leadville Community Association Incorporated

## People

Strong sporting tradition with noteworthy state and national identities

Significant and active aged population with knowledge of our history

A community of active volunteers and residents with specific expertise

Local and regional professionals

Historical identities and pioneering families

Dunedoo residents (both past and present) develop a sense of belonging to the town

**Local identities** - Hugh Bowman (Winx Jockey), Sir Ivan Dougherty (Major General), Dave Ballard (Boxer), Gail Yeo (Olympic Swimmer), Eric Nielsen (Shooting), Chantell Greaves (Golf), Brian Johnston (Rugby League), Jamieson Leeson (Boccia Paralympian), Rebecca Smyth (Women's Rugby Union), Sharon Nott (Golf), Malcolm Fitzgerald (Jockey)

# Our Assets

## Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

**Indigenous Culture** – Crown Lands, Black Swan/Lagoon, Grinding Stones, Scar Trees, Wiradjuri Language Lessons, Yarning Circle DCS, Artefacts

**History** – Old Picture Theatre, Museum/ Historical Society, Fossils and Mega Fauna Bones, History on the Porch, A Step Back in Time, Railway Station, Locality Cemeteries

**Cobb & Co Historical Buildings** - Cobbora Station, Birriwa Homestead, Pine Ridge Homestead, Martindale, Merotherie, Mount Pleasant, Bowenbung, Corumbene Horse Stud, Curragundy, Wargundy, Mt Pleasant

**Regional Significance** - Talbragar River, Dunedoo Swans, Fish and Leaf Fossils, Tucklan Gold Fields, Tucklan School House, Denison Town Inn, Cobb & Co Stopping Post, Constable Ward Grave, Chinaman Springs, Dunedoo Show, Woodland Learning Centre, Leadville Mine Site, Cobbora Cemetery, Cobbora School House, Cobbora Gaol, Cobbora Hall, Sam Poo Bushranger

**Service History** – Dunedoo War Memorial, Leadville War Memorial Hall, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day

**Tourist Attractions** – Silo Art, Central West Cycle Trail, Sculptures, Solar System Drive, Heritage Rail

## Physical

**Sporting Facilities** – Football Oval, Netball Courts, Swimming Pool, Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, Squash Courts, Polocrosse Grounds, Bowling Greens, Touch Football Fields, Cricket Pitch

**Scenery and Parklands** – O.L. Milling Park, Lions BBQ and Picnic Tables, Talbragar River, Silo Art Trail, Park Playground + Skate park, Sculptures in the Park, Solar System Drive, Native Gardens, Public Amenities, Off Leash Dog area, Water Towers and Tanks, Golf Course Dam, sunset and sunrise, big sky and stars, appealing climate

**Heritage** – Main Street Buildings, Museum, Picture Theatre, Step Back in Time and History on the Porch, Cemetery, Railway Station, Woodland Learning Centre, Crown Land

**Key Facilities** – Jubilee Hall, Show Complex, Robertson Oval and Clubhouse, Local farming properties, Caravan Park, Saleyards, Library, Heavy Vehicle Parking Area, Coach Stop, Retirement Village Project

**Evacuation Centres** – Dunedoo Sports Club, Jubilee Hall, Dunedoo Central School, Neighbourhood Safe Place (Showground)

**Location** – encompasses 2 highways running through the main street

## Social Networks

**Sporting Groups** – Active Farmers, Polocrosse, Junior League and Netball, Senior League and League Tag, Squash, Tennis, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Touch Football, Aqua Aerobics, Yoga, Bullinda Bike Busters, Pony Club, Swimming Club, Cricket, Boccia, Step Up Dance Academy

**Recreational Attractions** – walking, bush walking, cycling, veteran golfers

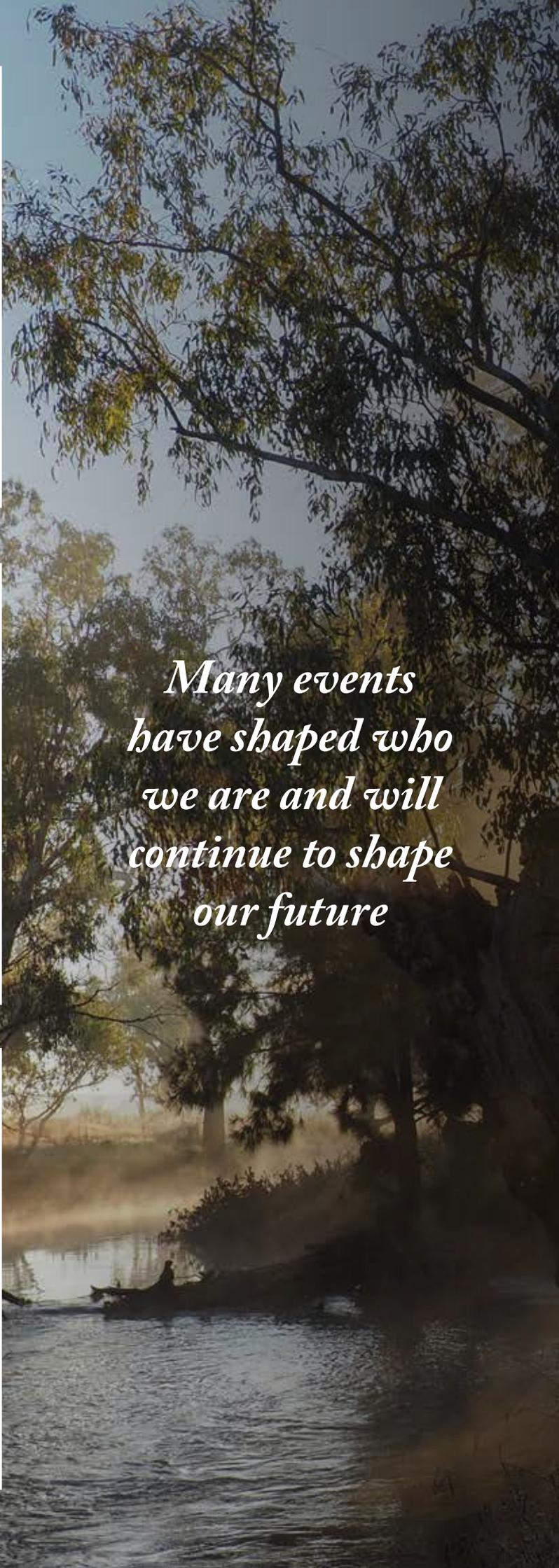
**Social Groups** - Film Club, Ladies Craft, Book Club, Makers Space

**Annual Events** – Dunedoo Show, Art Unlimited, Tunes on the Turf, Run for Resilience, Lions Youth of the Year, Debutante Ball, Dunedoo Preschool Trivia Night, Senior Citizens Luncheon, Melbourne Cup Calcutta, Church Trivia Night, School Reunions, Dunedoo Bowling Club Swan Classic, Dunedoo Golf Open, Volkswagen Scramble

**Seasonal Events** – Made ‘n’ Grown Markets, Local Areas Bus Trips, Sporting Competitions



*Many events  
have shaped who  
we are and will  
continue to shape  
our future*



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme One

# Enhance Lifestyle & Population Attraction

## ACTIONS

# 1

### 1. Access to Health Services

- Develop a plan to increase availability of doctor appointments within the town
- Liaise with Health Council and Health Service Manager
- Maximise accessibility to allied health through shared use of existing spaces
- Explore opportunities for use of the Old Bank Building as a health hub/visiting non-government organisations (NGO) hub
- Investigate crisis accommodation options within the town

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 2. Changes to Local Environmental Planning

- Explore opportunities with Warrumbungle Shire Council for rezoning options for smaller sized lifestyle blocks and industrial spaces

**Timeframe: 2022-2023**

### 3. Access to 24hr Policing

- Work with local villages to lobby Orana/Mid-Western Police District to increase policing staff and hours

**Timeframe: 2022-2023**

### 4. Improve Library Services

- Increase hours
- Facilitate technological advances
- Establish Tourist Information Centre

**Timeframe: 2022-2024**

### 5. Expand Recycling Options, including

- Green waste bin
- Compost
- Tip shop
- Skip bin access

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 6. Evolve Retirement Village

- Continue lobbying with Warrumbungle Shire Council and government bodies
- Mitigate Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community
- Advance the construction of a retirement village in Dunedoo

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

## LEAD GROUPS

**Dunedoo Health Advisory Council, Dunedoo & District Development Group, Local Council Representative, Dunedoo/Coolah Landcare, Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community Project Committee.**

## OTHER PARTNERS

**Western NSW Local Health District, Dunedoo/Mendooran Aged Hostel Limited, Local MP, Macquarie Regional Library, Warrumbungle Shire Council, Dunedoo Central School, St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Preschool, Dunedoo TAFE, Orana/Mid-Western Police District, NSW Police Force, Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum**

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Two

# Build Community Connections

## ACTIONS



### 1. Secure Dunedoo Representative on Warrumbungle Shire Council

- Support nominated and elected local representatives

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 2. Support Community Builders, Services and Events

- Develop strategies to welcome new residents to town and to join community groups
- Grow, promote and encourage current and new events
- Promote access and support for new/existing services and community spaces
- Investigate opportunities for community disaster preparedness, including upgrading current facilities for use as an approved evacuation centre

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 3. Promote Volunteering and Community Engagement

- Invite community members to actively volunteer
- Initiate a volunteer mentoring program
- Recognise and celebrate community volunteers

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 4. Youth Engagement

- Develop a retention and attraction strategy
- Seek opportunities for education, employment and training
- Support youth engagement and leadership programs
- Encourage youth community involvement

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

## LEAD GROUPS

**Dunedoo Central School, St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Preschool, Dunedoo/Coolah Landcare, Dunedoo & District Development Group, Lion's Club, Leo's Club, Art Unlimited, Dunedoo Sport's Club, Dunedoo Hotel, Dunedoo Bowling Club, Active Farmers**

## OTHER PARTNERS

**Warrumbungle Shire Council, Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community Project, Dunedoo TAFE, Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum, Dunedoo Men's Shed, Dunedoo Show P.A.H.& I, Macquarie Regional Library, Made 'n' Grown Markets Committee, Dunedoo MPS and Volunteer Group, Dunedoo Bowling Club, Junior Rugby League & Netball, Swimming Club, Tennis Club, Touch Football Association, Cricket Club, Squash Club, Pony Club, Polocrosse, Creative Kids Programs, CWA, Bullinda Bike Busters**

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Three

## Community Spaces Appeal & Development

### ACTIONS



#### 1. Cycle and Walk Ways

- Develop comprehensive cycle and walkway trail network
- Develop and revise a town access plan ensuring main street accessibility
- Continue the development and accessibility of the Talbragar Riverside trail

**Timeframe: 2022-2024**

#### 2. Swimming Pool and Grounds

- Improve grounds and schedule of lawn maintenance
- Retain access for individuals and groups
- Liaise with Warrumbungle Shire Council to propose a review of the canteen menu and amenities

**Timeframe: 2022-2023**

### LEAD GROUPS

**Dunedoo & District Development Group, Dunedoo/Coolah Landcare, Warrumbungle Shire Council, Dunedoo Central School, St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Men's Shed**

### OTHER PARTNERS

**Dunedoo Fire and Rescue, Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community Project, Dunedoo TAFE, Dunedoo Preschool, Dunedoo Swimming Club, Central West Cycle Trail**



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Four

# Town Development & Beautification

## ACTIONS



### 1. Parks and Gardens

- Liaise with local council members, organisations and volunteers to develop a strategy to maintain and upgrade park and garden facilities
- Create equipment storage for community groups
- Upgrade BBQ facilities
- Explore community garden options

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

### 2. Streetscape Development

- Lobby Warrumbungle Shire Council for a more regular maintenance schedule eg. streetscape, clean footpaths, gardens and seating areas, regular beautification and upgrades
- Refresh all town entrances
- Undertake town and district signage audit and restore, refurbish and/or install as identified
- Continue development of Silo Art site and skate park
- Illuminate Silo Art

**Timeframe: 2022-2025**

### 3. Mainstreet - Bolaro Street Buildings

- Encourage businesses to take a collaborative approach in upgrading and maintaining building facades
- Collaborate with and help building owners to utilise empty shops for “pop-up” use and displays to improve mainstreet appearance
- Promote heritage buildings and their street appeal
- Investigate mainstreet heritage requirements and propose town colour scheme

**Timeframe: 2022-2024**

### 4. Amalgamated Sporting Club facility

- Investigate having one consolidated Sporting Club facility on the highway for active sporting groups and a community gym
- Investigate potential locations eg. eastern end of main street
- Structure to retain capital from existing clubs, buildings and infrastructure

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

## LEAD GROUPS

**Local Businesses, Warrumbungle Shire Council, Dunedoo & District Development Group, Dunedoo Sports Club, Dunedoo Bowling Club, Lion’s Club**

## OTHER PARTNERS

**Dunedoo/Coolah Landcare, Dunedoo Central School, St Michael’s Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Preschool, Dunedoo TAFE, Central West Cycle Trail, Dunedoo Men’s Shed, Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum, Tracey Mathews Fitness, Disability Access Committee, all Dunedoo Sporting groups**

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Five

## Business & Industry | Development & Support

### ACTIONS



#### 1. Tourism Development

- Create a Free Campground
- Request additional Public Toilets
- Upgrade BBQ facilities
- Install electric car charging station
- Explore options and develop Local Tourist Information Centre
- Encourage the development of additional accommodation options
- Seek further resources to promote the town, events and attractions
- Continue development and upgrades of the Tourist Brochure and website
- Continue upgrades to recreational grounds

**Timeframe: 2022-2026**

#### 2. Community owned business

- Explore opportunities for community owned and managed businesses or enterprises

**Timeframe: 2022-2024**

#### 3. Promote Sustainability

- Explore options for usage of renewable energy and collaborate with the Wind/Solar Developments, Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, local enterprises, sustainable farming
- Encourage and support local entrepreneurial development
- Explore ideas and opportunities for businesses to support and connect with our local community including the agricultural sector

**Timeframe: 2022-2027**

#### 4. Local Environmental Planning

- Navigate commercial and industrial zoning opportunities

**Timeframe: 2022-2027**

### LEAD GROUPS

**Warrumbungle Shire Council,  
Dunedoo & District Development Group**

### OTHER PARTNERS

**Dunedoo/Coolah Landcare, Dunedoo Central School, St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Dunedoo Preschool, Dunedoo TAFE, Local Businesses, Wind/Solar Developments, Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, Lion's Club, Macquarie Regional Library, Dunedoo Historical Society and Museum, Central West Cycle Trail, Dunedoo Men's Shed**

# Turned

NEW SOUTH WALES

