

ULTIMA

COMMUNITY PLAN 2021-2025





WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

The Swan Hill Rural City Council supports communities in the Swan Hill Municipality who wish to develop their own Community Plans. Community Planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provide invaluable input into Local, State and Federal Government planning.



ULTIMA - Small town, big heart

Today, Ultima remains the social hub for this farming community. It covers an area of 2.9 square kilometres and has a population of 165.

Ultima is a small rural town 32 kilometres West of Swan Hill, on the Sea Lake Road. As in John Williamson's song about him being a Mallee boy, this town is in the typically red dust of the Mallee with an abundance of Belah, Box and Mallee trees – some up to 500 years old.

Initially, Ultima was the ultimate end of the railway line and is unique in that it was built South of the road so people usually drive past, but not through, the town. Ultima was a thriving town with three Hospitals, four Churches, three Grocery Stores, two Bakeries, two Coffee Palaces (where you could stay overnight while resting the bullocks), two Blacksmiths, Farriers, Horse- Breakers, a Hairdresser, a Barber, a Butcher, a Café, a Post Office, School, two Banks, a Police Station and a Garage with a hire car business. However, when the railway line was eventually extended, the town's circumstances began to change.

The Ultima Golf Club is on the road to Lake Boga, which means a left turn before the railway. It is a kilometre from here and just past the Ultima water reservoir. It is a nine hole course with sand scrapes and is a very, very difficult course.

Driving into Ultima from Swan Hill you will first see on your right, and just over the railway crossing, the "million bushel silos", and to the left, older concrete silos. Even today, in a good year all the silos are utilised by local

farmers.

Over the railway line, a turn left into the township takes you past the Ultima Hotel. The original hotel was burnt down in the 1920s and this one was built to replace it. It is open Tuesday through to Sunday and has delicious meals available. It has recently gone through major refurbishments and also provides accommodation.

Just past the Hotel on the left, is the original Ultima Water Tower, which was decorated with its mural to celebrate the Primary School's Centenary in 1992.

A little further after that on the side street (Breen Street) is one of the water troughs donated by Annis & George Bills. They left a bequest in the late 1920s for water troughs to be constructed for horses, with small side troughs for dogs. There are over 200 of these, mainly in country Victoria.

Dillon Street, the main street of Ultima is wide and offers a look at the way it was almost like a Hollywood stage set, with the Bakery painted up (but not operating), the restored Ultima Café which was purchased by the Ultima Progress Association with a Rural Transaction Centre grant. This is in-turn leased out, and so the town retains all the services of Post Office, milk, bread, groceries, bill paying facilities, and Centrelink, Take-Away and delivered meals etc. Why not call in for a restoring cappuccino or refreshing milkshake.



ULTIMA - Small town, big heart

The Ultima Lions Club building has some interesting steam engines and other old equipment in it which can be viewed from the far side. The Lions Club maintain the park that has free-to-use barbecues, tables, and playground. The Ultima Public Hall is available for hire and has recently been upgraded with more efficient kitchen and heating/cooling facilities.

Continue down Dillon Street and you will come upon the Memorial, which is nestled on the corner with Vernon Street.

The Ultima Skateboard Park, BMX Track & Playground are on these blocks of land too.

Continuing down until a right turn at Cameron Street will take you past the Ultima Primary School. In the 1930's there were 130 students. Student numbers have since declined. The free standing building to the left is the original Gowanford, 1 teacher School. It has been in the last couple of years that the School has received grants for the multipurpose sports shed, playground equipment, and refurbishment of the School building.

Following the road right into Gladstone Avenue will bring you up to Hayes Street and a left turn will take you down to the intersection with the Culgoa Road. Over slightly on your left is the Ultima Recreation Reserve. The first building, the mud hut, is used by community groups and hired out. The Ultima Football Netball Club is actively supported and is definitely the centre of activities during the season. The facilities are testimony to the dedication of supporters over the years. Exiting the Recreation Reserve by turning right will take you in the direction of Culgoa, and about a

kilometre out, on the left is the Ultima Cemetery. This is very well maintained and has graves dating back to first settlement in the area.

And there you have Ultima:

Small Town, Big Heart

ULTIMA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE & VISION

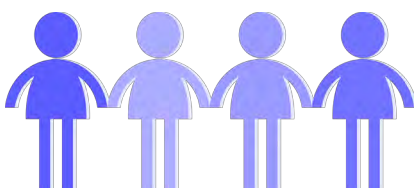
The purpose and vision of the Ultima District Community Plan is to acknowledge our history, enjoy the present and cultivate the future

MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The Ultima Progress Association (UPA) have been elected by the community to manage the Plan. It is the responsibility of Focus Groups to plan and implement projects as identified by the community. Community Plan reports and updates on each project are to be presented by the Focus Groups at scheduled Ultima Progress Association meetings.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- Ultima CFA
- Ultima Recreation Reserve
- Ultima Cafe & RTC
- Ultima Primary School
- Town Entrances
- Ultima Hotel
- Ultima Gold Club
- Ultima Cemetery



174

51

MEDIAN AGE



20.5%
PARTICIPATED IN VOLUNTRY WORK

5%

UNEMPLOYED

ACTION PLAN

2021-2025

Council Support

Project Description	Actions	Responsibility/ Partners	Timeframe	Budget
YOUTH PRIORITIES—SKATE PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun box, table settings, BBQ, replace BMX/ cycling track • Beautification • Unisex chemical toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRCC • UPA & JUPA 		
TOWN HISTORY WALKING TRAIL SIGNAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage installation to preserve the history of the Ultima 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPA • SHRCC 	2022	
RTC/CAFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing upgrades and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPA 		
COMMUNITY GARDEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing upgrades and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPA • SHRCC 		
MENS SHED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the viability of a men's Shed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPA • SHRCC 		
INTERSECTION UPGRADE—DILLON ST (BREEN ST) & SEA LAKE-SWAN HILL RD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VicRoads • UPA • SHRCC 		

OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



- Town and street beautification
- Art & craft
- Ultima Public Hall—build a shower as part of travellers’ rest
- Town signage as a whole
- Road improvements
- Capture town water
- Ultima Recreation Reserve
 - Upgrade kitchen (extend out)
 - netball Courts (full-length lockable sheds)



The background of the page is a photograph of green foliage. In the lower-left corner, there are several bright orange, elongated berries hanging from a thin branch. One of the berries is cut open, revealing a dark red interior. The rest of the image is filled with various shades of green leaves and stems, some in sharp focus and others blurred.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Sonia Cunning

Email: Scunning1@bigpond.com