



# Seymour *2015*

**a developing community which  
is environmentally, socially,  
economically and culturally  
attuned and fulfilling**

# welcome

## State Member for Seymour Ben Hardman

This community plan has been developed by many people from varying age groups, backgrounds and walks of life in Seymour.

It seeks to build on the work done by those drawn together following the publication of the 1999 Jesuit report which ranked our town as the 10th most disadvantaged town in New South Wales and Victoria.

The community was not prepared to just leave this issue with a meeting or two but took on the challenge to turn around their town and their community.

With dedication and leadership of many community leaders, the whole community worked together to create a vision for Seymour as a better place to live and raise a family.

The 2004 Jesuit Social Services report which placed Seymour outside the top 100 indicates that the community has not only had a vision for our town but the will and the desire to make positive change.

This document provides a further vision for how Seymour's community can continue to improve and offer a lifestyle that reaches its expectations.

It also shows that the community can continue to make Seymour an even better place to live and I look forward to seeing this vision implemented.

I congratulate and thank all those involved.

*Ben Hardman MP  
Member for Seymour*



## Mitchell Shire Council Mayor Bill Melbourne



Few places in the state can lay claim to the same assets as Seymour.

The Goulburn River, our rich railway and army history, the wineries and the accessible and free treasures nature has to offer like our parks, walkways and recreation areas.

Yet one only has to drive for an hour to visit friends or family in Bendigo, Melbourne or Shepparton.

With development in the southern end of the shire at an all-time high and the development of the Craigieburn Bypass slicing even more time off the commuter distance between Seymour and Melbourne, living in Seymour has never been more appealing.

It is an affordable place to buy a residential property, parents are spoilt for choice in terms of schools, sport and leisure facilities for children and it

offers sunshine nearly 100 per cent of the year.

Seymour is well serviced with supermarkets, accommodation, social services and aged care services.

I believe Seymour is on the cusp of an exciting period of development with property, tourism, business, education and especially quality of living.

The nature of the movement of Victorians pushes family away from the rush of the city into towns that are accessible and welcome and can offer them a lifestyle to enjoy without the hustle and bustle of the city.

Seymour is leading the charge as "the place to be".

*Bill Melbourne,  
Mitchell Shire Council Mayor*

## The Seymour We Want chairperson Marc des Landes

The original planning group (Seymour 20/20), established as a result of the public meeting held in the Salvation Army Centre to discuss the original Jesuit report, was attended mainly by people who were concerned about the social implications raised in the report.

It was in organising the first planning day that it became clear that there was a much larger group of people who were concerned about what the report was showing, and the areas of concern spread far beyond the social issues.

The issues included the environment, tourism and business, the arts and education.

In order to recognise this extended vision, the planning group decided on a name change, to The Seymour We

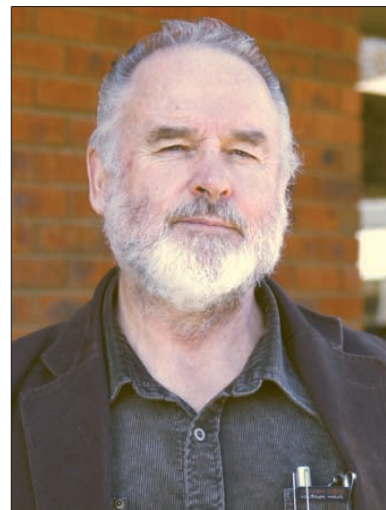
Want (a name that has survived several attempts to change it).

While the name has generated considerable discussion, those joining the discussion agree that our common interests include all aspects of life in our community.

Although this document focuses on Seymour as a township, we also welcome contributions from our neighbours including Puckapunyal and Tallarook.

The inclusive nature of our organisation continues to be one of our main strengths.

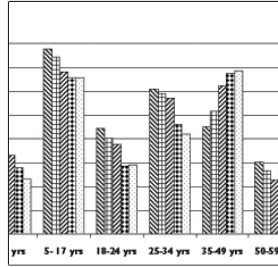
*Marc des Landes,  
The Seymour We Want chairperson*





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*Seymour: a brief history*



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*A little more about Seymour today*

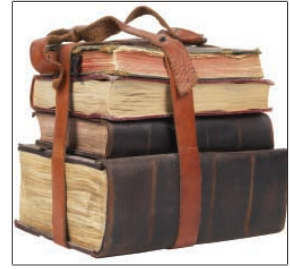
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*How Seymour 2015 came about*



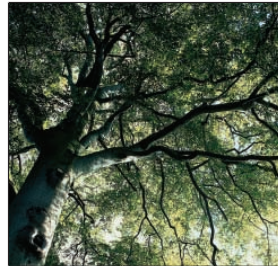
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*Walkers make their way past vines on Seymour's outskirts*

# a short history

Like most country places, Seymour and district have a rich and varied history.

There have been several significant phases in the district's development since European settlement began in the late 1830s.

Very little has been written about the Aboriginal people who lived in the Seymour area.

They were part of the Kulin nation who occupied much of central Victoria.

One of the Kulin tribal groups is known as the Daung Wurrung or Taungurung.

The Taungurung people were made up of several clans and the clan living around the Seymour area was the Buthera balug.

Most of us have become familiar with the Taungurung Country Rest Area on the Goulburn Valley Hwy north of Seymour.

This modern rest area commemorates the importance of the Taungurung people to this part of Victoria.

The second phase of our town's history was the coming of the white man.

In 1824 Hume and Hovell, on their return from Port Phillip, camped by the Goulburn River not far upstream of Seymour.

A monument to this expedition has been erected on the Goulburn Valley Hwy just past Hume and Hovell Rd.

In 1836 Major Mitchell crossed the Goulburn at Mitchellstown and soon afterwards overlanders and other early settlers began to use this crossing place.

The mail service between Melbourne and Sydney had been going for just a year when it was found a better route was available using the New Crossing Place.

This area is remembered today with the New Crossing Place Park on the river behind the current Royal Hotel.

By the end of 1839, John Clarke had established the Robert Burns Inn close to the ford across the river.

In 1841 the government decided that the new crossing place was the likely spot for a town.

Plans were laid before the Executive Council of NSW and Mitchell proposed the name Seymour which was approved on December 21, 1843.

The town was named after Lord Seymour, the son of the 11th Duke of Somerset.

The small town slowly grew on both sides of the Goulburn River, but eventually the area around Emily St became more prominent.

The first school was in operation in 1846.

This was the period in which our rural areas were settled and the development of our agricultural and pastoral industries took place.



*Seymour's historic railway station*

With the discovery of gold in north-eastern Victoria and the gold rushes that followed, the town grew considerably to cater for the needs of travellers — a role Seymour has continued to play through to the present era.

In 1862-63, the first bridge across the Goulburn River was built and the present historic bridge replaced it in 1892.

The town was often inundated with floodwaters and by the time the railways came to Seymour in 1872, it was decided to build the line some distance east of the town away from the flood-prone area.

The arrival of the railway had a huge impact on the development of the town and district.

People and goods could now be moved to and from the city with relative ease and a movement of homes and businesses away from Emily St to the proximity of the railway station gained momentum.

The next phase in Seymour's development was the coming of the Army.

Seymour had formed a troop of the Victorian Mounted Rifles in 1887 and this became part of the 7th Australian Light Horse after Federation.

In the early years of the 20th century Site 17, now known as Light Horse Memorial Park, was used for training camps.

A huge impetus to the military presence came as a result of a visit by

the famous British military leader Lord Kitchener in 1910.

The Seymour Camp was of major importance during World War I and continued to play a vital role between the wars.

In 1939, the Puckapunyal Military Area was established and this continues to be Victoria's major military training base.

Today's Seymour has entered yet another important phase in its history.

It is one of commercial development and anyone who knew the town in 1980 can readily recognise the huge advancement in commercial enterprises in the past 25 years.

Seymour has become a mini-regional centre, serving a large number of towns and communities over a wide area.

O ur agricultural areas have diversified since the early days and the Army still has a huge presence.

However, the railways do not play as important a role as they did in the glory years, but other light industries and various occupations have been developed.

Our proximity to Melbourne and the advantages of a country lifestyle continue to bring new residents to the town.

Seymour certainly has a rich history and a bright future.

— with thanks to the Seymour and District Historical Society

# everyday Seymour

## Living and working in Seymour

● Seymour township area measured 13.8 km<sup>2</sup> in 2001;

● Population density was 466.7 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 2001;

● In 2001, 6441 people lived in Seymour. This is 53 residents fewer than in 1981 and 117 fewer than in 1991. The median age of residents was 32 years;

● In 2001, 2988 people lived at the same address as five years before. This figure is up from 2882 in 1981 and from 2791 in 1991;

● The number of dwellings fully owned in Seymour has risen from 26 per cent in 1981 to 35 per cent in 2001;

● The percentage of dwellings that were rented privately in 2001 (22.8 per cent) has decreased from 30.7 per cent in 1981, but is higher than the 18 per cent in 1991. The median weekly rent paid to either government or private rent was \$100 to \$149;

● Dwellings rented from the government are nearly on the same level in 2001 as in 1981 (11 per cent). In 1986 and 1991 this figure was 23 per cent and 21.5 per cent respectively. There are 321 government-owned houses in the township of Seymour in 2005;

● The total amount of occupied dwellings in Seymour stood at 2561 in 2001. This is an increase of 593 from 1981;

● Household sizes changed significantly over the two decades from 1981 to 2001. The number of one-person households nearly doubled from 15 per cent to 29 per cent. Two-person households grew from 26 per cent to 32 per cent. Three, four and five-person households declined by 2 per cent, 10 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. The mean household size was 2.8 people;

● Household income for everyone declined from 1981 to 2001, with those earning the least increasing by 12 per cent and those earning the most decreasing by 4 per cent. The median household income was \$600 to \$699 per week;

● The median weekly individual income in 2001 in Seymour was \$200 to \$299 and the median family income per week \$700 to \$799.

● The unemployment rate in Seymour rose from 4.5 per cent in 1981 to 9.9 per cent in 2001. This figure peaked

in 1991 (12.9 per cent) and 1996 (12.8 per cent);

● In 2001, the biggest industry employer was the retail trade sector, followed by manufacturing; government administration and defence; and health and community services. In 1991, government administration and defence was the forerunner in the employment industry, followed by the retail trade, manufacturing and transport and storage. This was also the case in 1981;

● The changes in population age over the 20 years from 1981 to 2001 indicate a growing number of residents in the age categories over 35 years of age and a definite decline in the number of zero-to-four year-olds. The number of five-to-17-year-old and 18-to-24-

● Monthly housing loan repayments in 2001 were as follows:

★ 28 per cent of home owners paid \$400 to \$599 a month on their mortgage;

★ 22 per cent paid \$600 to \$799;

★ 13 per cent paid \$800 to \$999;

★ 6 per cent paid \$1000 to \$1199.

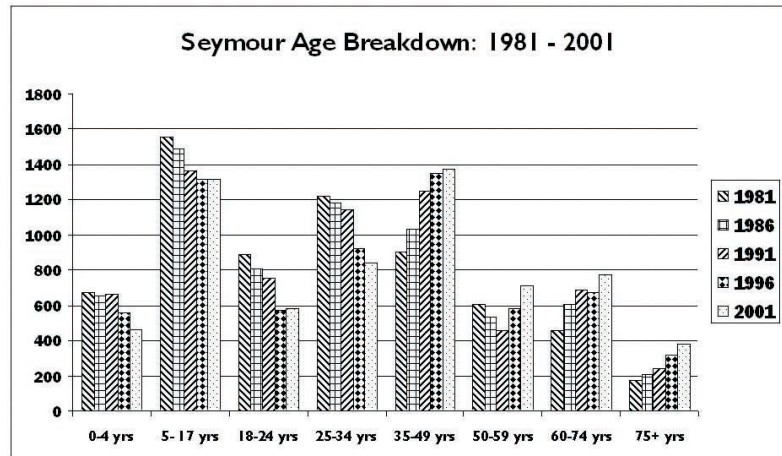
## What it all means

What does all of this mean for Seymour and how does it impact on people's lifestyles?

The population of the town is not growing and those who do live here are getting older.

This has serious implications for the aged care and health services in the town.

It is also the older sector of the community who are involved in volun-



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001 census

year-old people from 1996 to 2001 remained stable and even showed a slight increase in the latter category;

● The religion with the largest following in Seymour is the Catholic Church, followed by the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian/ Reformed faith;

● The highest level of schooling for those over 15 years of age in Seymour in 2001 was as follows:

★ 85 per cent had completed years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12;

★ 4 per cent were still at school or did not go to school at all;

★ 10 per cent of respondents chose not to answer the question.

● 90 per cent of Seymour residents speak English, followed by other languages such as Italian, Greek, German, Dutch and Polish.

teen activities rather than any other sector.

Families are getting smaller in terms of household size.

This might be due to an increase in the divorce rate or more people living alone after the death of a partner.

Couples are not having as many children as 20 years ago or not having families at all.

This has implications for the educational sector (especially schools), family cohesion and the sense of belonging.

The stable number of school and study age young people poses challenges for absorption into employment and educational opportunities in the town.

Seymour has a very solid retail and trade sector that has only grown stronger from 1981 onwards.

Home ownership is still seen as an ideal for residents and the number of houses to choose from has increased significantly.

# background & scope

## How Seymour 2015 came about

In August 1999 a Jesuit Social Study called *Unequal in Life* was published by the Jesuit Social Services. This document identified Seymour as the 10th most disadvantaged town in Victoria.

The indicators used for the study were:

- mortality
- low birth weight
- childhood injuries
- psychiatric admissions
- income
- unemployment
- child maltreatment
- education
- crime
- emergency relief

This incident spurred the residents of Seymour into action and a group called Seymour 2020 was formed.

In 2001 The Seymour We Want Inc was formed, a group working as a clearing house for ideas about Seymour and acting as a lobby group for the progress of Seymour.

Two very successful public planning days were held and the living document *The Seymour We Want* saw the light.

In March 2004 a follow-up study was published by the Jesuit Social Services called *Community adversity and resilience*, which used three new indicators:

- sickness and disability support
- imprisonment
- disconnecting the domestic electricity supply

Seymour was now ranked 110th in terms of disadvantage in Victoria.

## Main focus areas

The original living document of *The Seymour We Want*, drafted in 2001, identified 11 outcomes for the town. Since then, it has been refined to five areas of concern and opportunity, namely:

- education and training (formal and informal);
- arts and culture (including crafts);
- economic (including tourism);
- environment (built/structural and natural);
- health and wellbeing (including sport).

## Timeline

Ever since the first public planning days on August 18, and September 12, 2001, the public of Seymour had the opportunity to contribute to the process through comments and attendance at The Seymour We Want monthly meetings.

The last public consultation opportunity in August 2004 saw more than 200 people voice their opinions about the state and the future of the town.

It is this information that is now put on display in this document, including action plans, progress partners and milestones to ensure and measure success.

Thank you to every single resident who contributed to this plan and also to those who provided area-specific information on the environment, economic and educational goals.

## Aim of this document

The aim of this document is not only to introduce the residents of Seymour to their own vision for the town, but also to give people an opportunity to participate in the goals and actions set out in the plan.

This is everybody's document and should be used as such.

## Links to other documents

The funding for *The Seymour We Want* is provided by the Community Support Fund, managed by the Department of Victorian Communities.

By committing this funding, the Victorian Government is putting its money where its mouth is.

The government is committed to progress in rural Victoria through economic, social, art and cultural, educational and environmental means.

The Mitchell Shire Council is the banker of the funding and also the employer of the community development facilitator for the project.

This document does not stand alone, but fits into the bigger framework of growth and development in the shire.

Documents that this community plan will feed into are the environmental strategy, the council plan, the community services plan, the open space strategy and planning initiatives of the Mitchell Shire Council.

Community development is like a pot with three legs: one is the community and non-profit sector; the second is local, state and federal governments; and the last leg is private business.

If all three legs are of equal length, the pot is steady and initiatives bubble away in peace.

If the lengths differ, then the result of the cooking in the pot will not be as satisfactory.



Marc des Landes, *The Seymour We Want* chairperson, invites a group of youths to offer opinions about what can be added to the Seymour 2015 community plan.

# putting it together

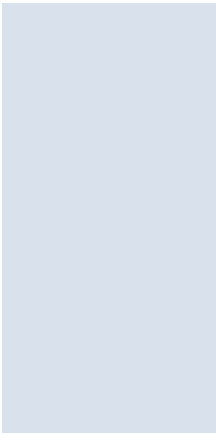
The following information reflects the goals and actions that come directly from the public consultations held in 2004. Each area is divided into goals, actions, progress partners, target dates and milestones. The goals are the only parts of the plan that are quite fixed; the other categories will be reviewed annually by the residents of Seymour to ensure that the plan stays on track, but also to give the residents of Seymour the opportunity to make changes or adapt it to meet their needs.

## *Education and training (formal and informal)*

People (especially young families) are attracted to places where educational facilities and offerings are of a high standard. It is shown as a key determinant in surveys of industry location. The link between educational and economic development is shown by preparing the community for the world of today and tomorrow and not yesterday. All actions regarding educational achievement should be geared towards improving quality, raising inclusiveness, ensuring relevance to the current employment and social environment, fostering innovation, active promotion and developing leadership.

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Fully integrated educational service for Seymour, inclusive of all ages and abilities, reflecting the lifelong culture of learning in Seymour	Seymour residents The Contact Place Primary schools Secondary schools GO TAFE Seymour U3A Department Education and Training Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network University Representative Seymour Special School Seymour Community House	Review of Educational needs, current provision and resource utilisation across all educational sectors for the wider Seymour community	First meeting prior to end October 2004; Review completed November 2005; Integrated delivery plan: 2006; COINS (Integrated Learning Computer System Network): November 2006	75 per cent seamless service delivery rate in first year of implementation 98 per cent seamless service delivery rate in fifth year of implementation
		Implementation of integrated educational strategy		
		Lobby for a community representative on the GO TAFE advisory council to support delivery of relevant programs		Community comments and feedback opportunities regularly used to participate
		Support GO TAFE in its efforts to expand the		Uptake of new courses by local and external students
		Provide more educational technology throughout the community and establish mentor programs to assist		University offering into Seymour: 2007 University presence in Seymour, using existing resources





Boost and support ongoing improvement of service delivery in our school exchanges

Annual increases in uptake of tertiary training places by young people from Seymour

Celebrate and recognise educational achievements of local people and support educational leaders and champions

An annual public event to honour and celebrate educational achievement



*The goals in place for Seymour during the next decade will bring about a better future for residents.*

# Economic (including tourism)

Economic development in Seymour should provide a broad range of opportunities that is skill-based; is current within the economic climate; keeps our young people here or encourages them to return after they have left to study; is environmentally sound; and bring visitors and tourists into the region. Seymour has solid economic industry attraction factors: available land, good road and rail access, a good water and power supply, an under-utilised labour force, a broad range of business services and very good weather. The contribution of non-economic factors to the economic development of a town should not be underestimated. Everyone wants to live in an attractive and efficient town (that is easy to get around in). Everyone wants to live in or visit a town that has an attractive character. This is why it is so important to spend time and money on streetscaping, improving town centres, retaining and enhancing the existing character of the town and making it a physically attractive place to live.

The other aspect that gives Seymour a real sense of place is its historical buildings and heritage areas. The active historical railway centre is complemented by the historic railway station. The Australian Light Horse Park is a national icon complemented by the Army Tank Museum at Puckapunyal. Both of these aspects celebrate Seymour's rich history as railway town and army town. They are ideal drawcards for tourists. Added to these are assets such as the historic Goulburn River bridge, the old courthouse, the Pioneer Cemetery and accessible historical walks and books on these areas.

Goal	Partners	Actions	Target	Milestone
Attract new enterprise, investors and agencies	Seymour residents Mitchell Shire Council Rural Development North East Victoria Area Consultative Committee Media Training/Education	Promote Seymour to investors; Continue to offer incentives; Council to promote investor activities better	Ongoing (within two years from 2004)	10 per cent increase in new business annually from 2007
		To be Tidiest Town in Victoria again		Tidiest Town 2001 attracted wide publicity
Retention and growth in existing businesses	Seymour residents Mitchell Shire Council Rural Development North East Victoria Area Consultative Committee Media Training/Education	Share business skills through the use of networking groups; Make use of assistance available	Ongoing	85 per cent retention of local youth skills (2007)



*Preserving and promoting Seymour's attractions, such as celebrating our historic links to the railway industry, enhances the local economy and boosts tourism.*



Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Greater awareness of Goulburn River and river-based activities (ultimately attracting new activities)	Seymour residents Seymour Business and Tourism Goulburn-Murray Water's Tourism Group Mitchell Shire Council The Seymour We Want Tourism Vic Local media SeymourFM 87.6 Goulburn River and Ranges Tourism	Extend the current walking trail	2007	Increased visitor and tourist numbers by 10 per cent annually
		Better use and expansion of Seymour and region <i>Goulburn River and Ranges</i> brand		Establishment and success of safe and insured river-based activities — one additional activity per year

Goal	Partners	Actions	Target	Milestone
A fully accessible and integrated public transport service	Seymour residents Mitchell Shire Council Local transport services (taxis and buses) State and federal governments	Lobby for better accessible timetables of trains and better pricing on trains	2006	State government continuing upgrade of railway lines
		Lobby for increase in bus services;		20 per cent increase in use of bus services in Seymour
		Bus to Seymour from outlying areas		
	Local travel agencies	Monitor existing interstate train and bus services to ensure they are maintained and that V/Line continues to provide connecting services for the Sydney XPT		

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Support for — and investment in — local traders and business	Seymour residents Mitchell Shire Council Websites on Seymour Traders in general General community Projects such as the Business Retention and Expansion program	Promote a variety of retail in Seymour (eg a bookshop and more fashion shops)	2004-05	Event/facility attendance increase
		Support <i>Seymour Shop Local</i> campaign		5 per cent increased local employment opportunities a year; 10 per cent increase in new businesses a year

Market special days  
(eg: link with Expo,  
Christmas etc.)

Annual “All  
Seymour”  
Christmas  
catalogue;  
Trader rate and  
promotion  
incentives —  
annually for all  
businesses

Support farmers’  
market days

Positive feedback  
from community  
and business into  
community plan  
and other public  
documents

Strive to keep  
meeting local  
needs, eg: local  
suppliers stock  
what big businesses  
stock, or can get it  
easily

Reduction of out-of-  
town business  
targeting the  
Seymour consumer  
market — reduction  
in junk mail from  
outside Seymour

**Goal**  
Celebration of  
Seymour’s  
assets,  
attractions and  
events

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Mitchell Shire  
Council  
SeymourFM 87.6  
Websites on  
Seymour  
Businesses  
The Seymour We  
Want  
Schools

**Action**

Raise community  
awareness about  
Seymour

**Target**

Ongoing

**Milestone**

Event/facility  
attendance  
increase

Seymour residents  
and business  
people need to be  
ambassadors for  
the area

Annual local  
resident  
satisfaction survey

Regular  
familiarisation tour  
for the community

Produce quarterly  
newsletters with  
happenings and  
local celebrations

**Goal**  
Octoberfest  
(major events  
combined)

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Event committees  
Mitchell Shire  
Council  
Other community  
groups  
Tourism VIC (event  
funding)  
The Seymour We  
Want

**Action**

Use the network of  
event committees  
and community  
groups to co-  
ordinate major  
events

**Target**

2006

**Milestone**

Financial and  
tourism success of  
Tastes of the  
Goulburn and other  
surrounding events



**Goal**

A recreational tourism mecca

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Mitchell Shire Council  
Existing interest groups  
Potential users  
State and federal government funding sources  
The Seymour We Want

**Action**

Seek appropriate locations where motorised sports can be encouraged, eg: go-kart business and off-road motorbike trails

**Target**

2005

**Milestone**

Positive feedback and participation from children and teenagers in the community

Invest in a major recreational event that will bring people to Seymour (such as ute muster)

2006

Support Rail Trail to final phase

Ongoing community and landowner support for the rail trail



The vision of Seymour 2015 sees community groups and residents coming together to discuss issues and offer support for solutions that meet the needs of the community.

# Environment (built/structural and natural)

Seymour is defined by its relationship with the Goulburn River, which curves round the town itself. Tributaries which have ongoing impact on river health are Whitehead’s Creek, Sunday Creek and South Creek. While these tributaries are often partially degraded, they are areas of native vegetation that are very valuable both as habitat and as filters to maintain water quality. Water quality from the Goulburn is remarkably good and Seymour is less likely than other inland communities to face water shortages.

Seymour sits in a beautiful location on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Vegetation consists of box-ironbark plant communities, sometimes called ‘‘goldfields’’ vegetation type. Along the rivers and creeks there are fertile grassy plains, lagoons and red gums. Silver wattles line the river, giving a great show of colour in spring. Goulburn and New Crossing Place Lion’s Park provide access to redgum woodland that would have been widespread in the early days of town settlement.

Many birds and animals share our environment with us and most Seymour residents would have no trouble treating visitors to the sight of grey kangaroos, koalas or wombats and possums. Other less common animals are sugar gliders, tuans or brush-tailed phascogales, echidnas, and yellow-footed antechinus. Once-common animals such as bandicoots or goannas are rarely seen now. This is largely due to clearing of their habitat. Other impacts are foxes and feral cats. Seymour is blessed with a wide range of bird species that find refuge in the areas of native vegetation and it varies from small woodland birds such as wrens, robins and honeyeaters to larger birds such as parrots and falcons. Water birds such as black duck, wood duck, pelicans and swans are to be seen all around. Ibis perform essential tasks, eating huge numbers of grubs from the farm soils.

The skyline of Seymour is graced with lovely trees and residents can easily access the great variety of open space and parkland which encircles the township. The river can be accessed on foot along the walking trail, or by boat for fishing, kayaking and canoeing. Our stewardship of the natural environment around us will ensure that Seymour develops in a way that all can enjoy a healthy environment for generations to come.

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Beautiful Seymour streetscapes through a whole-of-Seymour approach	Seymour residents Mitchell Shire Council The Seymour We Want Local businesses Landcare groups	Employ landscape planners to work in consultation with the community to design a Seymour-wide plan (amenities, hard rubbish and recycling, and landscapes included)	Process agreement between Mitchell Shire Council and The Seymour We Want by August 2006	Public planning document for all of Seymour
			Consultation with the community to form a plan and reply by October 2006	60 per cent attendance/ feedback from Seymour residents
			Implementation: ongoing and starting after October 2006	Ticking off milestones in plan itself on time, and within budget
		Train existing shire landscaping staff		Uptake of community comments by shire planners
		Support rural landcare to branch into urban landcare		Annual working bees well attended



**Goal**

**Environmentally sound community improvement**

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Landcare groups  
Environment Victoria  
Greening Australia  
Community Trust for Nature  
The Seymour We Want  
Landcare groups

**Action**

Exploration of option for existing groups to do environmental monitoring; training and support of a new environmental monitoring group if necessary

**Target**

January 2006 onwards

**Milestone**

Audit of environmental groups and memorandum of understanding between them

**Goal**

**Local body environmental legislation and bylaws are monitored and implemented**

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Mitchell Shire Council  
The Seymour We Want

**Action**

Establish procedure in dealing with issues received and issues reported, eg: stormwater at industrial estate

**Milestone**

100 per cent reporting rate to Mitchell Shire Council and other relevant authorities from residents

Determine if above-mentioned monitoring group is willing to implement

100 per cent resolution rate from Mitchell Shire Council and other authorities

Keep the town tidy through neat vacant lots and nature strips, anti-littering campaigns, doggy poo bins, tidy memorials, supermarket trolley blitzes etc

Annual increase of 10 per cent of usage for recycling, Clean Up Australia days, tree plantings, etc

Continually promote and support the Tidiest Town Keep Australia Beautiful 365-day-a-year program

Tidiest Town in Victoria in 2001; tidiest town at least three in every 10 years



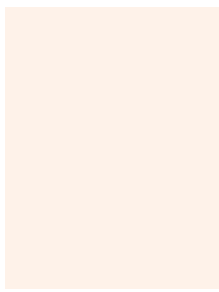
*Seymour's natural surrounds are an asset to be enjoyed by residents and visitors through initiatives such as restoration of the historic Goulburn River bridge.*

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Support, reward and promote environmental responsibility across the board in Seymour	Seymour residents Seymour schools GO TAFE Social service agencies Community and sports groups Individual households Local businesses (retail, manufacturing, construction and development)	Develop and audit mechanism for environment and social footprint of organisation in a positive mode	Research done by end of 2005; development of audit useful for Seymour by end of 2005	Comprehensive document published; integrated use of audit across the board
		Host an annual local awards ceremony with rewards in each category	Implementation by 2006	
		Lobby for sufficient and accessible recycling opportunities and hard rubbish collection		Recycling use increased by 10 per cent each year; recycling facilities upgraded

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Celebrate and preserve the history of Seymour	Seymour residents The Seymour We Want Goulburn River Bridge Group Light Horse Park committee Seymour and District Historical Society	Support the restoration of the Old Goulburn River Bridge and the enhancement of other aspects, eg: extend walking track	Immediate and ongoing	Fundraising for at least 50 per cent of money needed to restore the Old Goulburn River Bridge
		Support to groups through individual membership and letters of support		Increased membership of Seymour and District Historical Society

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
Promote our unique parks system in and around Seymour and ensure its integrity stays intact	Seymour residents The Seymour We Want Mitchell Shire Council environment and recreation departments Light Horse Park committee Seymour Bushland Park committee King's Park committee of management Department of Sustainability and Environment Service clubs Community user groups	Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy in conjunction with other regional tourist groups	Immediate and ongoing	Detailed brochures on use of parks and recreation facilities
		Support links between the various parks that ring our town		Walkways between parks and recreational areas
		Promote use of native species in all green projects in the town and surrounds		Annual tree plantings (at least two) in and out of town





**Goal**

A town that recognises the importance of its environment, for the sake of its children and future generations

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
The Seymour We Want  
Mitchell Shire Council  
Interest groups  
Landcare groups

Retain the clean and chemical hazard-free image of Seymour

No toxic waste dumps in the area

Develop and promote park use by publication of individual brochure for each park

Increase in visitors to parks and recreational facilities of 10 per cent a year

**Action**

Facilitate public discussion forums

**Target**

Ongoing

**Milestone**

One public forum on environmental issues annually

Ongoing and open dialogue between differing points of view about environmental issues

Spread information about all environmental issues

At least one media release about environmental issues per month

**Goal**

A town that acknowledges that serious environmental challenges are faced on a local and national level, within a global context

**Partners**

The Seymour We Want  
Mitchell Shire Council  
Community groups  
Seymour residents  
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
Seymour Neighbourhood Renewal Area

**Action**

Promote the increased use of public transport, energy-efficient housing and subdivision design, and renewable energy

**Target**

Ongoing

**Milestone**

At least one "leave your car at home" day per year  
5 per cent growth per year in walking groups

Retain native vegetation in accordance with state guidelines



Goals to expand educational opportunities are reflected in the community plan, such as offering more GO TAFE courses and community-based VCAL options.

# Arts and culture (including crafts)

Seymour is in the privileged position to have an abundance of arts in the town and district. Performing arts, visual arts and hobby groups have good membership and are very active on the local scene. The town also has two great art galleries, with one regularly featuring national and international artists. The visual artists of the area also take part in annual events such as Tastes of the Goulburn with exhibitions. Performing arts groups participate in productions across the Mitchell Shire. Young people express their talents through FREEZA events, taking part in events such as the shire-wide "Battle of the Bands" and supporting "Unplugged" evenings. Hobby and community groups support local events through exhibitions.

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
<b>Well supported and maintained local art venues</b>	Seymour residents SeymourFM 87.6 Local media Local business Local drama groups	Support the completion of the Seymour Performing Arts Centre (SPAC)	2009	Completion and opening of Seymour Performing Arts Centre
	Seymour Arts Council Seymour Technical High School Mitchell Shire Concert Band	Attend and participate in events, including movies in the SPAC theatre, and fundraisers	Ongoing and immediate	20 per cent increase per year in attendance at arts events
		Promote the multi-use facility at SPAC, attracting conferences and conventions		

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
<b>A town that welcomes artists and nurtures artistic development</b>	Seymour residents SeymourFM 87.6 Local media Local business Business and tourist groups Local artists and galleries Seymour Arts Council	Strengthen membership of the Seymour Arts Council	2006	Increased membership of 2 per cent per year
		Register and promote new art and cultural groups at the Visitor Information Centre and Seymour Services Directory	2005 and ongoing	Register acts and groups at least once a year in Visitor Information Centre and Seymour Services Directory
		Bring big and well-known plays to Seymour through SPAC	2007	At least one well-known artist or play in Seymour each year
		Support local and regional festivals and arts events with attendance and participation	Immediate and ongoing	Increase of 10 per cent a year to markets, such as Tastes of the Goulburn



**Goal**

A town that celebrates its rich history

**Partners**

Jaambi Aboriginal Co-operative  
 Seymour and District Historical Society  
 Seymour Bushland Park Committee  
 Seymour Railway Heritage Centre  
 Puckapunyal Army Tank Museum  
 Seymour Arts Council

**Action**

Host a Koori (indigenous) music festival, using well-known artists, as well as local artists

**Target**

Inaugural concert staged before June 2006

**Milestone**

Bi-annual indigenous music festival in Seymour

Support Seymour's railway heritage through attendance and promotion at relevant events

Historical exhibits at the Alternative Farming Expo and throughout the year

20 per cent increase in steam train excursion participation

Promote and support all cultural and historical initiatives

Ongoing and immediate

5 per cent increase per year in membership and groups



The community plan is a living document that will grow to meet the needs of residents during the next 10 years.

## Health and wellbeing (including sport and leisure)

Seymour boasts more than 40 sport and leisure groups. The town has excellent recreational facilities, including an indoor pool, outdoor pool, football ovals, tennis courts, walking tracks and parks.

Community services in the town include agencies working with most aspects of human wellbeing such as young people, community education, domestic violence, family counselling, men's programs, etcetera. The town can still do a lot to introduce new opportunities such as cycle lanes and respite care for disabled minorities such as young children.

Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
<b>An accessible and connected community for people of all abilities</b>	Seymour residents Specialist Children's Services (DHS) Disability Services (DHS) Goulburn Options G.A.T.E. Enterprises Mental Illness Fellowships Victoria Seymour Parent Support Group Mitchell Community Health Services Berry Street Victoria Other local support groups	Support initiatives for community-friendly services, such as privacy for consultation rooms, women and youth-friendly medical services, etc.	2006	80 per cent satisfaction rate from users of community services
		Lobby for ongoing improvement of health and wellbeing service delivery for all agencies	Immediate and ongoing	
		Lobby for a mother/baby facility and clean and safe public rest facilities in town	2006	Building an integrated public facility that includes disability access, parent room and infant nursing areas
		Raise awareness about disability issues and support the installation of a playground for children of all abilities	Immediate and ongoing	Fundraising of at least 50 per cent to match funding for installing such a playground
	Department of Human Services Seymour Community Services Goulburn Valley Family Care	Investigate the option of creating a time-out centre for people in crisis, for short-term residential purposes	2008	Successful funding applications to build crisis facilities
	The Seymour We Want Mitchell Shire Council Seymour Neighbourhood Renewal DHS Service agencies Community services Goulburn Valley Family Care Seymour Parents Support Group	Investigate the option of creating a time-out centre for respite care givers	2008	Successful funding applications to build time-out centre for care givers



DHS Funding service agencies Community services Seymour Community Transport	Establish and maintain a user-friendly multi-purpose centre for all of Seymour	2007	Successful funding applications to build multi-purpose centre for all of Seymour
Goulburn Valley Family Care Mitchell Community Health General practitioners	Lobby for the establishment of a “medical run” for patients to and from Melbourne for treatment and appointments, which could involve sharing a car	2006	Practical arrangements to suit and support residents that is well-used
Goulburn Valley Family Care	Raise the awareness of men’s health issues and lobby for more funded services	Immediate and ongoing	10 per cent annual increase in participation uptake of men’s programs
Karingal Hostel Department of Health and Ageing Services Seymour residents Goulburn Valley Family Care Seymour Hospital	Lobby for and support initiatives for more funded aged care beds in Seymour	Immediate and ongoing	20 per cent increase in aged care beds in Seymour within three years

**Goal**

A safe community on all levels

**Partners**

Seymour residents  
Seymour Violence Prevention Network  
Goulburn Valley Family Care  
Victoria Police  
Seymour schools  
Community groups  
Youth groups  
Mitchell Shire Council

**Action**

Lobby for and implement an anti-bullying and anti-violence prevention program

Support the work of the local Police Consultative Committee on community safety and initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch for all of Seymour

Promote the development of, and uptake of, volunteers for social service and support groups

**Target**

Immediate and ongoing

2006

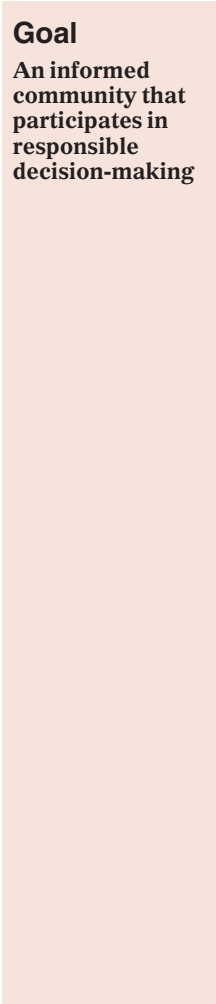
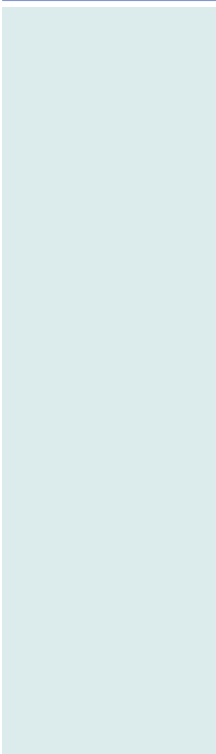
Immediate and ongoing

**Milestone**

Successful implementation of anti-bullying and anti-violence prevention program, resulting in zero tolerance of bullying behaviour

Increased membership of the PCCC and 10 per cent annual increase in establishment of Neighbourhood Watch groups in all of Seymour

Increase of 10 per cent in number of volunteers



Report hazardous spots in town and anti-social behaviour such as public drunkenness, speeding, and graffiti attacks

Immediate and ongoing

40 per cent increase in 2006 in reporting incidences to relevant authorities

Lobby and support Mitchell Shire Council continuously for the maintenance of public spaces and areas, such as pavements, roundabouts, parks, etc

Immediate and ongoing

Support and promote an increase in a wide range of activities and interests for young people

Immediate and ongoing

Annual event for young people to showcase their talent and inclusion of information about young people's activities on a regular basis to the media

**Goal**

An informed community that participates in responsible decision-making

**Partners**

- Seymour residents
- The Seymour We Want
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Visitor Information Centre
- Hobby clubs
- Service clubs
- Seymour Neighbourhood Renewal
- Seymour Business and Tourism Group

**Action**

Create and maintain a central point for information collection about social services, and business and leisure opportunities, in Seymour; distribution of the information (hard copy and web-based options)

**Target**

2005

**Milestone**

10 per cent increase in submissions to public documents annually

Continue to provide positive news stories to the *Seymour Telegraph*, the *Seymour/Nagambie Advertiser*, *Puckapunyal Boomerang*, SeymourFM 87.6, and regional television

Immediate and ongoing



Goal	Partners	Action	Target	Milestone
<p><b>An active community with a family-friendly focus, supporting all activity groups, including those not involved in sporting activities</b></p>	<p>Seymour residents Community groups Service clubs Sport groups Kings Park committee of management Environmental groups Mitchell Community Health Services Victoria Police Seymour Business and Tourism Group The Seymour We Want</p>	<p>Support the establishment of a networking body for sport groups</p>	2006	<p>Regular network meetings for all sports groups</p>
		<p>Promote the introduction of new sport codes in Seymour</p>	2007	<p>Two new sports codes every five years introduced to Seymour</p>
		<p>Support existing sporting groups in membership drives and give-it-a-go opportunities</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	<p>At least one give-it-a-go day per year</p>
		<p>Participate in the work of environmental and hobby groups in their efforts to enhance the physical environment of Seymour</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	<p>20 per cent increase in participating for tree plantings, public painting, clean-up operations, etc</p>
		<p>Actively seek and promote opportunities for young people and young women to network and showcase their talents</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	
		<p>Investigate the economic feasibility of leisure opportunities such as a rollerskate rink, bowling alley, etc, for the town</p>	2006	<p>Successful lobbying/fund-raising for activity centre</p>
		<p>Nurture and support the precious volunteer base in the community</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	<p>Increased number of volunteers every year and annual training provided to volunteers</p>

**KEN DANIEL STAND**



*The vision for Seymour 2015 calls for strong community support and networking of all activity and sporting groups.*

*Residents recognise the importance of Seymour's many recreational facilities and the goals outlined will ensure they are accessible to everyone.*



*The large thoroughbred industry in the Seymour district is complemented by the local race track, which comes alive during the Spring Racing Carnival, providing entertainment for local residents and visitors.*





**René Laan**  
 Community Development Facilitator  
 The Seymour We Want  
 c/o Goulburn Ovens TAFE  
 Wallis Street, Seymour, VIC, 3660  
 (03) 5735 2458 (work)  
 (03) 5735 2441 (fax)  
 0408 514 419 (mobile)  
 renel@mitschellshire.vic.gov.au



Membership to The Seymour We Want costs \$5 per person per year. Meetings are held from 7 pm to 8:30 pm on the third Monday of each month at the Goulburn Ovens TAFE in Wallis St, Seymour. Meetings alternate between business meetings and information sessions with speakers. Anyone is welcome.