

BOUNTIFUL WOORINEN SOUTH & DISTRICT

Woorinen South and District is a community of some 600 people (2016 Census) located 10kms to the North West from Swan Hill. It is a bountiful area surrounded in horticulture farms, producing a variety of cereal grains, stone fruits, grapes (wine and table), nuts and vegetables. During the season, fruit freshly picked from the trees is available for sale direct to the public.

The community of Woorinen South and District supports a Pre-School with a Maternal Health Centre attached and an active Primary School. We have a Post Office/General Store, local Tavern, Upholstery and Landscaping businesses. We also have a privately owned historical museum relating to Woorinen South and District, available for viewing by appointment and a Bush Reserve for a gentle stroll through for both two and four legged friends. We have a children's playground, skate park and adult gym. We also have a Community Hall with BBQ Facilities attached, which holds a variety of functions. An oval which every year, in the first week of April, Mallee Steam & Oil Machinery Club, hold their annual rally and the Woorinen & District Progress Association assist with gate duty. Also, important to our town, is our Fire Brigade who are active in our community and as a way of saying thank you, every Christmas Day they turn out with Father Christmas to deliver surprises to our local youngsters.

Our community also has a very active Football, Netball and Cricket Clubs. The Woorinen Football and Netball Club have new clubrooms due to be opened soon after an unfortunate fire 2 years ago, and the WDPA allocated funds towards the rebuilding of the new Club House. We also assist with Gate Duty for the Football/Netball Clubs on their home games.

The Woorinen & District Progress Association (WDPA) in its various forms has been operating since November 2001. Action and Progress Groups were started by the Swan Hill Council by means of remaining connected to their communities and to help them focus on what the various communities needed.

Over the years, improvements have been made in Woorinen South and in the more recent years we have seen, a Skate Park developed with input from the teenagers of the day, with a mural painted and two penny farthing bike stands out the front entrance. An upgraded playground for the children along with a Bubble Tap and more recently an adult gym next to the children's playground. After the school was refurbished, the WDPA in conjunction with the SHRCC arranged for the Library/Bus indentation in Bright Street. Woorinen South's town entrance signage has been replaced along with refurbishment of Public Toilets at the back of the Community Hall along with appropriate signage. A town notice board has also been raised outside the local Post Office and General Store, with a street map of our community and district on the back.

Sewerage for Woorinen South is ongoing and important to our development. Negotiations with SHRCC and Lower Murray Water are ongoing and this includes improvement work to be

done on Monday Street. Some \$28,000 has been allocated from the 2017/18 Budget for this work.

WDPA also has future plans for the area including the development of a walk way on the land along the railway line. Negotiations are underway between SHRCC and Vic Track to enable us to develop the area from the entrance of the town to the land at the bottom end of Station Street. The WDPA is also looking for a building that we can use to develop a co-op shop/café/craft and possibly an Art Hub. Also on the list is improvement for our internet and mobile services, RV Park, Art Work on the Wheat Silos, modifications to the Community Centre, Footpaths, improvement on the Church Road Bridge and another Family Fun Day.

Over the years the community has changed, people have come and gone, businesses have changed, moved on or closed down but this community exists. The residents love living here and are proud of their community. They support the efforts of the WDPA and what they have accomplished overtime. Also thanks needs to be given to the Swan Hill Rural City Council, because as we have cared, so too have they responded and now every month we have council cutting the verges and grass into the town entrances along with the lawn around the Community Centre and the Oval. The Councillors or their representatives attend our meetings regularly and always leave our monthly meetings with a list of objectives to action.

Woorinen South & District whilst small is an active community in which residents take pride. We are a thriving, growing, and proud community.