

COMMUNITY PROFILE

NUMBER OF PEOPLE 672

%Percentage of Shire population 3.5%

FAMILY TYPE

Family households *married or defacto 42% slightly below average

Single parent families 1.8% well below average

Residents living alone 6% average

AGE OF POPULATION

Under 25's 35% average

Over 50's 27% slightly above average

ETHNICITY

Born in Australia 77% below average

EDUCATION STATUS

Post school qualification 20% average

Higher Education 11% average

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Retired or not in the workforce 20% well below average

Full-time employment 27% average

Part-time employment 16% average

Unemployed* % of residents 1% well below average

COMPUTER USE

Uses computer at home 40% below average

Uses internet at home or elsewhere 35% well below average

TOP THREE OCCUPATIONS

MALES

1 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing

2 Manufacturing

3 Construction/

Property services

FEMALES

1 Health & Community Services

2 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing

3 Accommodation, Cafes,

Restaurants

all percentages have been calculated based on the total population for Deans Marsh using 2001 ABS census data. Comparisons are against Shire-wide averages.

WHAT'S GOOD "Energetic people who make events/festivals happen."



Deans Marsh

Deans Marsh/Bambra/Boonah/Pennyroyal/Benwerrin

Deans Marsh is a tiny hamlet situated mid way between Lorne and Winchelsea. It has traditionally been a farming community, however there has been a recent increase in the number of houses and small allotments. Traditional farming such as dairying is becoming less common, and there has been an emergence in non traditional farming practices including agro forestry, olives, grapes and llamas. The town is lively in arts and entertainment, hosting a monthly Music @ the Marsh and a produce market; a yearly Pioneer Festival and a variety of community based activities. The town boasts a primary school, a general store, a petrol station, café, community hall and community cottage.

WHAT'S GOOD, What we value

- **THE PEOPLE:** We like the people we live with, we work together for the good of the whole community and have a great community spirit.
- **ARTS AND CULTURE:** We like the Pioneer Festival, Music @ the Marsh, the markets and other events and activities in the town. We enjoyed making the Curtain and appreciate seeing it in our hall.
- **COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** We like the Community Hall and its historical mementos. The Community Cottage is active and provides a good range of interesting activities and classes. We appreciate council support for the Hall and the Cottage.
- **TOWNSHIP:** We like the small town feel of the place. It is not too far from other major centres, and is close to the coast. We like our school, our general store and the café as the new addition to the garage.

WHAT'S NOT GOOD, What needs improvement

- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** The roads in our area are not well maintained and there are no footpaths in the town or surrounding district. The sporting facilities are limited. The oval needs to be upgraded, the tennis courts have deteriorated and the facilities around the oval are very poor.
- **DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:** There is a lack of consideration for the long time residents of this area due to subdivision controls. Rural development policies are no longer applicable to the needs of the area. The wetlands have been fenced and divided.
- **COUNCIL ISSUES:** Council does not maintain the facilities or the roads. Council does not always respond to issues raised in the area, and there is not enough consultation.
- **TOWNSHIP:** Young people have to leave the area as there is not enough scope for accommodation.

OUR TOP PRIORITIES What we want in the future

- **DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:** We need to maintain the village and rural atmosphere. Integrated planning is needed to ensure sustainable development that is appropriate for local needs. Planning needs to be creative and to consider environmental impacts.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Roads need to be improved and maintained. Heavily used gravel roads need sealing and paths need to be built within the town. Sporting facilities need upgrading and maintenance. The oval needs to be resurfaced.
- **THE ENVIRONMENT:** The natural environment needs to be preserved in order to protect the unique and fragile natural habitat remaining.
- **COUNCIL ISSUES:** Council needs to increase levels of support for community activities, be more consultative and responsive to local needs and issues.
- **COMMUNITY:** It is important to maintain and foster a cohesive, caring, vibrant community through utilising community skills.

YOUTH and SECTOR SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **YOUTH PRIORITIES:** We like the skate park, but it needs to be bigger and we need to be able hire skate gear. There are not enough recreation and leisure facilities. The skate park needs lighting, grass, bubble taps and shelter.
- **DISABILITY PRIORITIES:** Paths need to be constructed within the town to allow all weather access. Public transport of some sort should exist in the town. Services for the elderly need to be taken into consideration in future planning.