

Balingup Progress Association (BPA)

Strategic Plan May 2021

Annexes

Annex A

Summary of Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results (SOAR)

Many more strengths, opportunities & aspirations were identified, this is a summary of those prioritised during the Conversations/Open Space by those present. Duplications have been omitted.

Balingup Strengths

- Golden Valley Tree Park
- Street scape – trees, entry, pond
- Events – longevity, impact, attendance, history of their return to community, history of volunteerism
- Natural environment – rolling green hills, misty mornings, GVTP, intersection of two valleys, ley line.
- Community make-up – well educated, artistic doers, engaged, diverse backgrounds, naturally inclusive, welcoming, not cliquey, caring, skills, available
- Railway line
- Vintage accommodation accomplishment
- Unique: people don't have to be lonely
- Strong community desire to preserve environment
- We are all committed to what we are doing
- Willingness of current leaders to let go – be open to change

Opportunities & Aspirations

We are a village:

- Build on what we have, maintain a country feel and sense of community, maintain village aesthetics
- Less Landscaping in town (lawns etc), more native vegetation
- Unused spaces could be revegetated with edible plants & bee pollinator attractors (Free Food Project)
- Architecture guidelines – keep authenticity of the village
- Cluster Developments

We teach, learn and work together:

- Liaise with community annually regarding projects
- Centre of education – artisan skills and ideals/values resulting in a cottage industry
- Become a university/TAFE training town (GVTP or see Pingelly)
- Centre of learning: all skills available, learning, training employing workshops
- Further education in town to support youth community leadership – sustainability, agriculture, artisan
- Diversity of profitable businesses employing people, paid jobs for volunteers
- Mentoring for new businesses in town drawing from our town's resources and mentoring to help set up events
- Grow business/tourism leaders with community connections
- Older people mentoring programme
- Market set up on a permanent basis
- Create business converting fossil fuel vehicles to electric
- Help and community care, expansion, awareness, employ younger people
- Local pub, family focus
- Health and wellbeing hub of SW or WA
- Linking/mentoring with school children – 'Old people's home for 4-year old's' concept.
- Bridging the gap – monthly events / long table lunch or dinner / fun day play day / billboard invitation display
- Hydrotherapy pool (small like Augusta)
- Healthy independent living (young people involved)
- Use connections (to connect various skills available). Need a skills register
- BADSA meal nights
- Smile and say hello – what are you interested in?
- Cut down formalities of meetings. Organise informal gatherings – discussion.

- Individuals initiate conversations with young people they know and young people they don't know. Look for opportunities to relate.
- Connections – partnership between the BPA and school P&C
- There's no age gap in town. Activities are more family focused instead of visitor/\$\$ focus
- Older residents to operate informal creche to free up young Mum's for community activities

Our leaders are responsive and inclusive:

- Restructure BPA to appeal to younger people
- BPA create further partnerships in town with businesses and P&C.

We are an active community:

- Use the Blackwood River for activities such as horse riding, bird watching, cycling (learning opportunities)
- Blackwood Recreation Area for all abilities
- Collaborative & funded event management
- Increase small events – regularly: community and private
- Roads suitable for safe bikes/vehicles (wide enough). Pull off areas

We are conscious of our environment:

- Awareness of country threats (fires etc)
- Reclaim pine plantations for agriculture
- Clean waterways (Revegetation of brook and tributaries)
- Round-up free town – use less harmful – fusillade/steam along roads
- Brook revegetated and managed = walk trails & horse trail tourism and living
- GVTP/Kings Park association
- Climate change is a threat which can unite us and motivate us to work together on mitigation
-

We are self-sufficient

- Town self-sufficient in all areas of utility infrastructure
- Micro-grid power systems/solar panels
- Create a fabulous eco-environment of sustainability

How we will measure our success (Results)

- Quality of air, water, and soil
- Condition, mental health of the community, diversity of ages, children of long-term residents are returning to live in Balingup. Post secondary training education
- World class Arboretum: Attract tourists from around the world, Centre of excellence in conservation and fire science, new industry sectors opening in Arboriculture (Forests) and Silviculture (individual trees)
- Businesses not seasonal or changing hands
- Tourists to see different eco-systems and education facility
- Revegetation in waterways etc to support wildlife and bees
- Numbers of people stopping and staying – food/accommodation.
- Volunteer groups are thriving
- Local skills register – education centre established workshops in progress.
- Kids more involved (numbers) in community work, activities, experiences.
- Health and wellbeing. All ages in attendance.
- Engaged school activity/participation.
- More eco-friendly farms developed -reduction in waste
- Younger new people at meetings and events 'taking over the reins.' Others want to step back (seniors offering support/mentorship)

Conversation Priorities

ENVIRONMENT - Balingup is a centre of environmental sustainability.

Built environment:	Votes
• Build on what we have and maintain a country feel and sense of community.	12
• Cluster Developments.	7
• Golden Valley Tree Park.	10
• Street scape – trees, entry, pond.	5
• Awareness of country threats (fires etc).	4
• Maintain village aesthetics.	11
• Village Green Piazza.	0
• Less Landscaping in town (lawns etc), more native vegetation.	4
• Architecture guidelines – keep authenticity of the village.	5
• Roads suitable for safe bikes/vehicles (wide enough). Pull off areas.	3
• Footpaths provide safe movement and encourage residents and visitors to exercise.	8
• Unused spaces could be revegetated with edible plants & bee pollinator attractors (Free Food Project).	5
• More financial support from the Shire for Balingup Townscape.	8
Natural environment:	
• Reclaim pine plantations for agriculture.	5
• Clean waterways (Revegetation of brook and tributaries).	7
• Round-up free town – use less harmful – fusillade/steam along roads.	3
• Brook revegetated and managed - walk trails & horse trail tourism and living.	3

ECONOMY & TOURISM - Balingup is a resilient, thriving community with a vibrant, village feel.

Events:	Votes
• Collaborative & funded event management.	4
• Increase small events – regularly: community and private.	6
Business Opportunities:	
• Diversity of profitable businesses employing people, paid jobs for volunteers.	9
• Mentoring for new businesses in town drawing from our town's resources and mentoring for events.	2
• Market set up on a permanent basis.	5
• Use the Blackwood River for activities such as horse riding, bird watching, canoeing, cycling	8
• Create business converting fossil fuel vehicles to electric.	3
Community resilience:	
• Micro-grid power systems/solar panels.	6
• Town self-sufficient in all areas of utility infrastructure.	
Education Opportunities:	
• Become a university/TAFE training town (GVTP or see Pingelly).	5
• Further education in town to support youth community leadership – sustainability, agriculture, artisan.	5
• Centre of learning: all skills available, learning, training employing workshops.	7
Golden Valley Tree Park:	
• World class Arboretum: Attract tourists from around the world, Centre of excellence in conservation and fire science, new industry sectors opening in Arboriculture (Forests) and Silviculture (individual trees).	8
• Centre of education – artisan skills and ideals/values resulting in a cottage industry.	6

LIFESPAN & LIVING -Balingup is a community that creates, learns, and grows together.

Intergenerational activities:	Votes
• Help home and community care, expansion, awareness, employ younger people.	5
• Local pub, family focus.	3
• Linking/mentoring with school children.	1
• Connect younger with older women through mentoring.	3
• Bridging the gap – monthly events / long table lunch or dinner / fun day play day / billboard invitation display.	2
• Hydrotherapy pool (small like Augusta).	2
• Healthy independent living (young people involved).	
• “Old people’s home for 4-year old’s” concept.	1
• Connect to skills available - skills register.	2
• BADSA meal nights.	2
• Individuals initiate conversations with young people they know and young people they don’t know. Look for opportunities to relate.	2
• There’s no age gap in town. Activities are more family focused instead of visitor/\$\$ focus.	4
• Older residents to operate informal creche to free up young Mum’s for community activities	
Health & Wellbeing:	
• Health and wellbeing hub of South West or WA.	3
Arts & Culture	
• Expand and market arts/creative culture already here.	5
Education:	
• An education centre – start with building on what is already here.	3

COMMUNITY & GOVERNANCE - Balingup Progress Association is an intergenerational, community- led, resilient, change and innovation group.

Balingup Progress Association:	Votes
• Restructure BPA to appeal to younger people.	10
• Cut down formalities of meetings. Organise informal gatherings – discussions.	10
• BPA create further partnerships in town with businesses and P&C.	3
• Make it clear to the Shire what we want/strategies.	7
• Liaise with community annually regarding projects.	3
• Grow business/tourism leaders by improving community connections.	5
• Create a fabulous eco-environment of sustainability.	10

Community Conversation – 25 May 21

Held to discuss “given all the ‘what’ and new ideas and energy.....how does the BPA organize itself to support the aspirations of the community?”

Start/do more of:

- Additional opportunities for interconnectivity between formal groups/individuals.
- Formal BPA every month. Flexible separate BPA meeting 1 x month.
- Build on the town’s strength for punching above its weight – human capital, organizational capacity, involve First Nations people, mentoring, open to new ideas.
- Alternate formal BPA Executive meetings with social/community meetings held at Village Green, BADSA, GVTP, school etc (6 of each per year). Could also use Open space format combined with meals night.
- Advocacy/lobby group to Shire and other government organizations.
- Meetings welcoming, fun and informative.
- Festival which interests young people.
- Open space structure for meetings with appropriate note taking and consensus processes/social media.
- Social events including meals nights and documentaries that talk about certain themes regarding sustainable communities (such as waste, transport, arts & culture, food security, environment/landcare, health).
- Include children.
- Share local stories to highlight our common threads and inspire and understand what can be and has been.

What we need to keep:

- Structure of BPA & SFFD. BPA executive needed for governance.
- SFFD theme on regenerative farming and expand on it, within the community and during the event.
- SFFD theme of self-sufficiency and have more educations and demonstrations on pemaculture.
- Mentoring – connect mentors with those wanting to take on a new role/task/activity.
- Keep our special feeling that other towns like Hyden have copied and envy.

What we need to do less of:

- Relying on individuals, create opportunities for sharing knowledge.
- Having voluntary workers who are unpaid, but rather pay them from the money in the bank from the SFFD and Carnivale (in days when they did have money – hopefully that will happen again).
- Having to organize events.
- Less housekeeping jobs in community.
- Less formality
- Less long minutes.

What we need to stop doing:

- Complaining – be proactive in the community, initiate ideas oneself
- Heated arguments – be respectful.
- Saying “no” to new ideas.

BPA Conversation Café – Individual Action Plans (template)

Topic Title: e.g. Creative Learning Centre		Date:			
		Initiator:			
		Recorder:			
Present					
What will we do?	Who else will we involve?	Immediate next steps			
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	WHAT (\$)