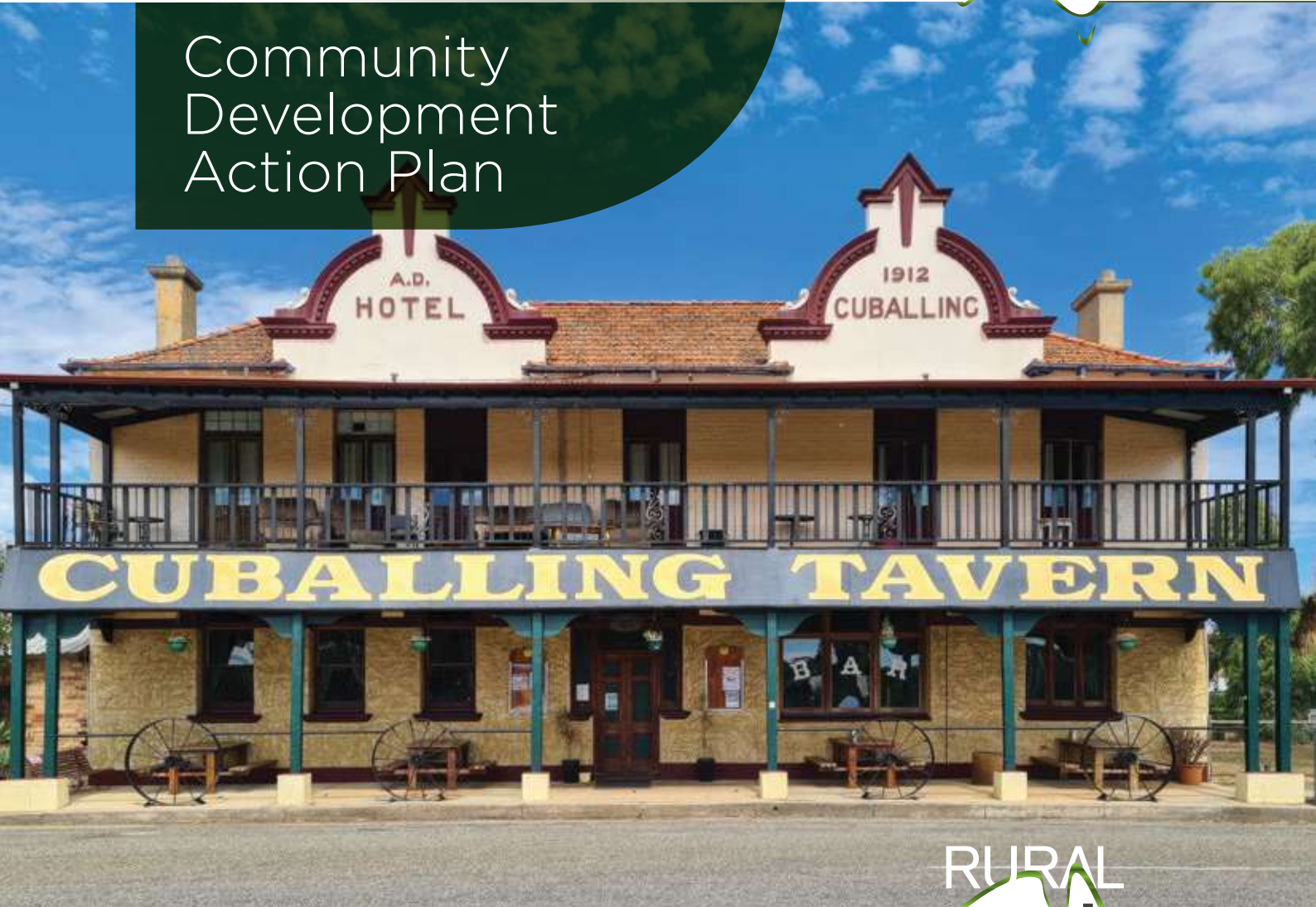


# Cuballing/Popanyinning

## Community Development Action Plan



**May 2023**

# Foreword

Cuballing isn't just a community; it is a cluster of communities – Popanyinning, Yornaning and Cuballing – all unique but linked by the Hotham River and the Great Southern Railway and Highway.

Cuballing embodies everything that the country should be; peace and tranquillity, open space and clean air, stunning landscapes, a caring and inclusive community, welcoming sporting clubs and interest groups and a great pub. It also provides for everyday needs – good internet and mobile services with medical, banking and government facilities just a stone's throw away in the larger towns of Narrogin to the south and Pingelly to the north.

The soils and rainfall of Cuballing supports a strong agricultural industry, renowned for reliably producing grain, hay, wool, lamb, pork and beef. Agriculture has given rise to many spin off industries, including metal fabrication, feed mills and construction, and is the major source of employment in the shire.

The jewel in Cuballing's crown is the Dryandra National Park, the largest remnant of native vegetation in the western Wheatbelt. It is a woodland of great beauty and biodiversity, one which can be explored on foot, mountain bike or car. It is home to the largest wild population of numbats which, thanks to the efforts of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and local farmers, is on the rise and sightings of these beautiful little creatures during the day is now a common event. Dryandra National Park also is home to Barna Mia, a breeding centre for endangered fauna and famous for its nocturnal tours.

# Acknowledgements



The formulation of this Community Development Action Plan was initiated and coordinated by the Cuballing/Popanyinning Community Builders Team- Simone Lansdell, Michelle Atwell, Eliza Dowling, Tim Haslam, Adrian Kowald, Julie Christiansen, Helen Elliott, Verity Harris, Scott Ballantyne and Stan Scott. It is funded by Rural Aid as part of their commitment to supporting Australia's small rural towns. The formulation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S., Jen Curnow-Trotter and Roger Hitchcock from Rural Aid and Londa Finlayson (Community Connector). Special thanks to so many passionate community members who gave so generously of their time, wisdom, and experiences.

This Plan acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wilman people of the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

# Our Story



The Shire of Cuballing is a small pro-active rural community of 902 residents, approximately 190 kms south of Perth. It is known for its rural charm, sense of community and set of historic buildings. It comprises of three small communities along Great Southern Highway between the Shires of Narrogin and Pingelly – Cuballing (13 kms north of Narrogin), Yornaning (situated 11 kms further north) and Popanyinning (situated another 8 kms further north).

The area of the Shire of Cuballing was occupied for thousands of years by the Wiilman people, one of the fourteen dialectical groups of the Noongar aboriginal people of the southwestern region of Western Australia. It contains many traditional names mainly referring to water and geographical features. Popanyinning was originally named 'Popaning' which stands for waterhole in the Noongar language and the Noongar meaning of Yornaning is 'land of many waters'.

In 1835, Surveyor General John Septimus Roe passed to the west of what is now the Great Southern Highway and named the Montague Hills. Shepherds grazed flocks of sheep through

the area seeking pastures and watering points from the 1840s and the sandalwood trade encouraged cutters to the region not long afterwards.

The name Cuballing is taken from 'Cooballing Pool' which was documented on a lease application in 1868. The Great Southern Railway was completed in 1889 and with this link, the rush of settlers began. Yornaning was originally one of the most important railway sidings along the Great Southern Railway, as a major water taking stop for the steam engines.

On average, 30 passenger and freight trains once passed through Yornaning per week. Townsites began in all three communities with the first hotel in 1891, first school in 1895, first bank in 1903 and first church in 1904. The Cuballing Roads Board was established in 1903 and the Cuballing Agricultural Hall built in 1912.

Today, the communities of Cuballing, Popanyinning and Yornaning provide social and business support to a strong agricultural sector and a growing retirement and family lifestyle population.



# Our Vision

A Vision Statement is a vivid description of what our community aspires to become, without its current barriers, but tied to what we value as a community.

The statement below is our intended outcome –

*‘Welcoming, safe and resilient communities that care for our people, environment, heritage and culture.’*

# Our Goals

Community goals are broad statements of intent that direct our efforts towards accomplishing our vision in line with our guiding principles.

Below are the six community goals which guide our community aspirations, namely –

- To retain our sense of rural tranquility, village feel and strong personal connections.
- To develop as communities where people of all ages and abilities are active, connected and contributing.
- To actively promote and showcase our communities as great places to stop, stay, experience, and reside, especially through vibrant and welcoming town centres.
- To preserve, strengthen and promote our community assets, natural environment and heritage.
- To retain strong sporting and cultural clubs, competitions, facilities and community traditions.
- To create the environment where local businesses thrive, and new business and employment opportunities are attracted and created.



# Our Guiding Values

Guiding values are the fundamental, moral, and ethical beliefs that we share as a community. They represent core principles and capture what our community considers important. They help foster trust, respect, collaboration, and unity.

The following four guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely –

- **Sense of community** - ensuring all our community members experience a deep sense of connection, inclusion and contribution.
- **Small rural village lifestyle** - retaining our unique sense of country way of life, close personal connections and rural landscapes.
- **Celebrating** - encouraging pride and times of celebration relating to our heritage, uniqueness and achievements.
- **Safety** - maintaining our sense of community safety, peacefulness and wellbeing and low crime rate.



# Our Challenges

*Generated from the local residents who attended the public comment night...*

Like many small inland rural communities, our community needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges. These issues include:

- Ageing population – only 2% of population in the 15-29 age group.
- Lack of housing and available residential land.
- Limited rental accommodation.
- Limited Shire resources due to size.
- Limited retail options.
- Lack of appealing café space.
- Physical Cuballing town division due railway line and key businesses on highway.
- Lack of wow factor on highway.
- Limited after-hours youth recreation activities.
- Limited and bland signage within the towns.
- Freight costs.
- Limited visitor infrastructure and attractions.
- Volunteer fatigue and declining numbers and dependence on a few pro-active community members.
- Loss of local schools.
- Proximity to Narrogin - many locals tend to volunteer in Narrogin, especially at their children's schools and sporting clubs.
- No caravan park or overnight camping space in Cuballing.
- Leveraging off the presence of the Equestrian Park.
- Rail safety issue and regulations in use of Railway Reserve.
- Yornaning CBH Bin - not used for five years.
- Engagement of Cuballing & Popanyinning residents with Shire.
- Limited local health and wellbeing services.
- Bushfire risk.

# Our Assets

## People

- Volunteers – Fire, Ambulance, SES.
- Community Builders Team.
- Business operators, farmers, Shire workers, professionals, tradespeople.
- Published authors, artists.
- Local entertainers – music, belly dancers & line dancers.
- Cuballing Community Volunteer Group, Popanyinning Progress Association.
- CATS/Homecare/ part of the Virtual Village Hub.
- Small Shire- low rates.
- ‘Tidy Towns’ State Award Winner.

## Social Networks

- Men’s Shed, Women’s Shed.
- Community Volunteer Group, Popanyinning Progress Association.
- Sporting clubs - tennis, golf, cricket, netball, pony club and adult riding groups
- Cultural groups- craft group, boot scooters, belly dancing, old time dancing.
- Fire Brigades – Popanyinning and Cuballing
  - Cuby K9 – dog training
    - Pony Club & Adult riding groups
    - Virtual Village

## Physical

- Heritage buildings.
- Recreational facilities- recreation center, skate park, Dryandra Regional Equestrian Park, grassed ovals, cricket ground, Memorial Park, Men’s/Women’s Sheds, playgrounds, golf course, tennis courts, picnic areas and barbecues.
- Mobile Towers, fire brigade sheds
- Dryandra National Park - 22,000 hectares of Woodland and walking trails
- Dryandra Village and Barna Mia
- Rail Reserve
- Rural landscapes, bushland, forests, trees, shade.
- Cemeteries
- Transfer station and tip shops.
- Hotham River, Yornaning Dam.
- Four Independent Living units
- Wildlife, numbats, birdlife.
- Attractive destination for retirement, lifestyle.
- Great climate, night skies, sunsets.
- Interesting town entrance statements - unique horse-shoe entrance.
- Proximity to regional schools, hospitals, banking, and government services



# Our Assets

## Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- Local history, buildings, and trails.
- Heritage buildings
- Vintage Machinery Display & Trail
- Special events- Winter Ball, Popanyinning Bonfire Night, Music Festival, Anzac Day services, Kids Festival, Australia Day Breakfast, Thank a Volunteer Day, Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, Movie night, Blue Light disco.
- Entry Statements, Sculptures.
- Art bus shelters, skate park paintings.
- 'Numbat Country - The story of the Shire of Cuballing'.
- Wiilman Noongar heritage. Noongar in connection with sporting teams
- War Memorials
- Dryandra National Park, Yornaning Dam, woodlands and reserves.
- Rare native mammals including the numbat and woylie and Barna Mia animal sanctuary and breeding program
- War stories, farming heritage, rail heritage, horse industry.
- Football memorabilia collection, cricket history.
- Facebook sites.
  - Popanyinning wildflower trails, walking trails, bike trail.

## Institutions

- Shire of Cuballing- staff, building, funding, programs, services.
- Fire Brigades – Popanyinning and Cuballing.
- Dryandra Regional Equestrian Park
- Independent Living Units
- Trans WA.
- Silver Chain.
- 'Staying in Place' Virtual Village.
- Rail and Highways

## Economic

- Strong and productive farming district.
- Post office, general store & roadhouse
- Tourism opportunities. Narrogin and Dryandra Visitors Centre.
- Local businesses- Cuballing Tavern, Mile Feeds, Hotz Plumbing and Gas, McDougall Weldments, Bird's Silos & Shelters, Cuballing Renovations, Keeling Electrical, Whitford Fertiliser, Whangagin Grain, piggeries, beef feedlot, Cuballing Windscreens, Patmore Feeds.
- Accommodation- Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, Cuballing Tavern, B&Bs, Rosedale Farm, Lazeaway Holiday Farm and Caravan Park and free camping (Popanyinning Oval, Yornaning, and Cuballing).
- School buses and drivers.





“We love our vibrant and active community”

MICHELLE ATWELL



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme One

### Strengthening Social Connection

#### ACTIONS

# 1

- 1. Undertake a 'Skill and Passion Audit' of local residents.**  
Timeframe: Medium & ongoing
- 2. Form a Task Team in Cuballing to develop and implement a Plan to create a Community Hub/CRC as the key town social point.**  
Timeframe: Immediate & ongoing
- 3. Form a Community Hub In Popanyinning at the old School site.**  
Timeframe: Immediate & ongoing
- 4. Continue to expand on the 'Calendar of Special Events and Gatherings' that build community connection.**  
Timeframe: Ongoing
- 5. Form a Task Team to instigate a Community Garden.**  
Timeframe: Immediate & ongoing
- 6. Undertake negotiations with Cuballing Roadhouse on the possibility of evolving into a more social gathering space similar to Pickering Brook.**  
Timeframe: Immediate
- 7. Support involvement in the Town Team Movement.**  
Timeframe: Immediate

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC  
Community Builders Team  
PPA  
Cuballing Community Volunteer Group  
Cuballing Community Hub Task Team  
Popanyinning Community Hub Task Team

#### OTHER PARTNERS

Pingelly CRC  
WDC  
RA  
RDAW  
FRRR  
DLGSC  
Lotterywest  
CBHIF

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Two

### Enhancing Recreational Facilities & Experiences

#### ACTIONS



- 1. Establish a Pump Track Task Team to design and implement a Pump Track facility. Incorporate active youth and family input.**  
**Timeframe: Immediate to medium term**
- 2. Continue to expand the number and diversity of walking, bicycle and bridle trails, and establish the Shire of Cuballing as a significant 'trails destination.'**  
**Timeframe: Ongoing**
- 3. Explore the feasibility and funding options for a rail trail between Cuballing and Yornaning.**  
**Timeframe: Medium term**
- 4. Investigate building a camp kitchen facility at Yornaning Dam.**  
**Timeframe: Immediate & ongoing**
- 5. Investigate building a Rage Cage as a youth recreational attraction.**  
**Timeframe: Medium term**
- 6. Form a Task Team to explore the establishment of a Nature Playground in rail reserve.**  
**Timeframe: Immediate**
- 7. Continually explore ways to gain greater use and value for locals and visitors from the Equestrian Centre complex giving them a better experience.**  
**Timeframe: Immediate & ongoing**
- 8. Investigate building a camp kitchen facility at Yornaning Dam. 8. Continually explore new sporting and cultural activities and clubs that could be run and/or established within the Shire of Cuballing.**  
**Timeframe: Medium term & ongoing**

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC  
Community Builders Team  
PPA  
Dryandra Regional Equestrian Association

#### OTHER PARTNERS

RA  
DLGSC  
FRRR  
KBA  
Lotterywest  
ARC  
CBHIF  
WDC  
RDAW



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Three

### Developing Tourism Potential

#### ACTIONS



**1. Develop a shire-wide tourism strategy that incorporates**

- Audit of current tourism attractions, facilities, events, trails and initiatives.
- Review of regional tourism links and trails.
- Opportunities for existing tourism product enhancement.
- Identification and development of new tourism products, including building on the strong horse industry and fraternity.
- Enhancement of marketing, customer service, community storytelling and operator networking.
- Identification of a branding strategy to communicate shire attractions, especially Dryandra National Park to metropolitan residents.

**Timeframe: Medium term**

**2. Undertake Shire-wide signage audit and implement improvements including out of town advertising, town entry statements and directional signage. Heritage Trail**

**Timeframe: Short term**

**3. Design and install theme to enhance the Popanyinning entry statements - Echidna.**

**Timeframe: Short term**

**4. Establish an electric vehicle charge point.**

**Timeframe: Short term**

**5. Establish a Cuballing Heritage Trail.**

**Timeframe: Short term**

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC  
Tourism Task Team  
Signage Task Team  
PPA

#### OTHER PARTNERS

Tourism WA  
WDC  
RDAW  
KAB

## Theme Four

# Increasing Housing & Accommodation Options

## ACTIONS



**1. Form Housing Task Team.**

**Timeframe: Immediate**

**2. Undertake audit of existing land and housing availability including on farms.**

**Timeframe: Immediate**

**3. Undertake research into housing, land and subdivision development initiatives happening in other small rural communities.**

**Timeframe: Immediate to short term**

**4. Explore resourcing options and state government funding.**

**Timeframe: Immediate to short term**

**5. Develop and implement a Housing, Subdivision and Land Development Strategy that encompasses short term worker and permanent housing options including housing on Shire land in Austral Street.**

**Timeframe: Short to medium term**

**6. Explore the feasibility and options to create accommodation base for visiting tradies.**

**Timeframe: Immediate to medium term**

## LEAD GROUP

SoC

## OTHER PARTNERS

WDC  
RDAW  
PPA  
Lotterywest



# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Five

### Improving 'Ageing in Place' Supports

#### ACTIONS



1. Continue to be an active partner in the 'Staying in Place' Virtual Village initiative, expanding membership and local programs.  
Timeframe: Ongoing
2. Explore funding options to expand the number of senior housing units.  
Timeframe: Immediate

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC  
'Staying in Place' Virtual Village

#### OTHER PARTNERS

CBHIF  
RA  
Lotterywest

## Theme Six

### Creating Stronger Business Environment

#### ACTIONS



1. The Shire of Cuballing explore the feasibility of a Light Industrial Area on Cuballing town outskirts.  
Timeframe: Short term & ongoing
2. The Shire of Cuballing explore the feasibility of business establishment incentives  
Timeframe: Medium term & ongoing

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC

#### OTHER PARTNERS

# Our Strategies & Actions

## Theme Seven

### Maintaining Strong Advocacy re: Rail Facilities & Options

#### ACTIONS

1. Continually lobby and negotiate with rail line operator regarding improved access and use of rail corridor land.  
**Timeframe: Ongoing**
2. With regional Council support, develop a case for the creation of a passenger train service from Brookton to Narrogin.  
**Timeframe: Ongoing**

#### LEAD GROUP

SoC

#### OTHER PARTNERS

Arc Infrastructure  
Neighbouring councils  
WDC  
RDAW

## Abbreviations:

<b>BOI</b>	<b>Bank of I.D.E.A.S.</b>
<b>CBHIF</b>	<b>Co-operative Bulk Handling Investment Fund</b>
<b>CRC</b>	<b>Community Resource Centre</b>
<b>CVG</b>	<b>Community Volunteer Group</b>
<b>DLGSC</b>	<b>WA Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries</b>
<b>FRRR</b>	<b>Foundation for Regional and Renewal Renewal</b>
<b>KAB</b>	<b>Keep Australia Beautiful WA</b>
<b>PPA</b>	<b>Popanyinning Progress Association</b>
<b>RA</b>	<b>Rural Aid</b>
<b>RDAW</b>	<b>Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt</b>
<b>SoC</b>	<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>
<b>WCC</b>	<b>Wheatbelt Cycling Collective</b>
<b>WDC</b>	<b>Wheatbelt Development Commission</b>



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