



**MILLTHORPE**  
HERITAGE WITH STYLE

# Millthorpe & District Community Strategic Plan



Trade &  
Investment



Prepared by The Millthorpe Village Committee Inc.

**June 2014**

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Summary
1	July 2012	Randall Edwards	Initial Draft Template
2	November 2012	Randall Edwards / Ian Rogan	Draft
3	February 2013	Randall Edwards / Ian Rogan	Version 2 Adopted by the MVC on 20 February
4	June 2014	Randall Edwards	Review of plan and projects completed

## **1. COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

A community Strategic Planning Workshop was held in July 2012 in Millthorpe and was facilitated by Trade & Investment NSW.

During the workshop the community identified SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), values, vision and mission statements. Current issues were identified, placed under key result area headings and prioritised. Groups were formed for each key result area and participants nominated short, medium and long term projects to address the issues.

To implement the program, the community will action the projects on a project-by-project basis. The Millthorpe Village Committee will plan the implementation of projects and will require broader community support and involvement to do so. Some projects will also require approval, financial commitment or in kind support from Blayney Shire Council.

The students of Millthorpe Public School were also involved in the planning process and were surveyed for their thoughts on activities, new facilities and longer term goals. The responses to the surveys are at appendix 1 of this document and have been incorporated in section 8.

## 2. THE ROLE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The role of this document is to:

- ✓ Act as a framework to direct the development of the community
- ✓ Facilitate cooperative working relationships between the community, businesses, Council and other external partners
- ✓ Formalise the goals and objectives of the community in relation to its economic and social future

The plan is divided into the following three categories:

1. Where are we now?

- ✓ Values Statement
- ✓ Situation Analysis
- ✓ SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

2. Where do we want to go?

- ✓ Vision and Mission Statements

3. How are we going to get there?

- ✓ Key Result Areas
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ Issues

The Plan contains a value, vision and mission statement and a set of strategic priorities and objectives that have been developed to guide the community program over the next 10-15 years. The status of each current project is reviewed regularly By The Millthorpe Village Committee, the community and Blayney Shire Council.



### 3.2 Blayney Shire Settlement History

The following short summary of Settlement History is either quoted or paraphrased from the Blayney Shire Heritage Study (1991).

European explorers first arrived in the district around 1815. Following exploration of the district by George Evans in 1815, Governor Macquarie gave permission for limited occupancy of the western lands, mainly to the east of the Macquarie River. However, squatters soon settled large tracts of land in the Blayney District.

Sites were set aside for official towns at Kings Plains (near Blayney) and Carcoar in 1828 and 1829. However, the first settlement at Carcoar was a private town in Thomas Icely's 'Coombing' property and the official township was not laid out until 1834.

The discovery of gold at Ophir in 1851 had a significant impact on the growth of the area with a number of local mining activities occurring, particularly in the 1870's and 1880's. Population growth resulted in improved government services including post, telegraph and a police presence. Agriculture also grew considerably, particularly with the arrival of the railway in the 1870's which opened up access to the Sydney markets.

The main impact was the consolidation of towns and villages in the 1860's and 1870's. Carcoar reached its peak in this period and contained a number of excellent examples of Victorian buildings (e.g. Blenheim Hall) as well as industrial buildings such as the flour mills at Carcoar, Moorilda and Millthorpe. There are also several commercial and public buildings of the Late Victorian period including the court houses at Blayney and Carcoar.

The railway reached the Town of Blayney in 1876 and subsequently a line was built to Cowra via Carcoar in 1888. By this time, Blayney had become the dominant town in the region and Carcoar fell into decline. Carcoar was incorporated in 1879 and Blayney in 1882 and the area came under local government administration as the Lyndhurst Shire in 1906. Electrification came to Blayney in the 1920's.

In the early twentieth century the local population reached its historical peak. However, the population and growth of the area soon began to decrease due to farm mechanisation, the impact of the motor car and accessibility of other centres such as Orange and Bathurst, the 1930's depression, and climatic conditions. In 1937, Blayney and Carcoar municipalities were absorbed into the Lyndhurst Shire (now Blayney Shire).

Since the 1950's there have been a number of efforts to increase growth in the area with the reopening of the Blayney Abattoir in 1957 (which has subsequently closed), a Council funded program for house and road construction, and plans for the Bathurst-Orange Growth Centre ('BOGC'). However, these programs were soon insufficient and the region's growth reduced in the late 1900's.

In the 1990's significant mineral deposits were found in the Cadia area and throughout the Shire that has resulted in employment opportunities and economic growth in both Orange Council area and surrounding Shires. Blayney Shire has grown as a result, but never to the height of population in the early 1900's.

### 3.3 Blayney Shire Population & Demographics

#### Population

The total population of the shire was 6,985 as at the 2011 census. Overall, the total Shire population grew by an average of only 0.05% per year in the 30 years to 2006) but this has increased to about 2.5% per year since 2006. Clearly the areas in closer proximity to Orange and Bathurst (Northern section- including Millthorpe, Blayney & Newbridge) are proving to have the highest attraction for growth.

In 2004 a study was carried out by Newplan on behalf of Cabonne Shire Council to ascertain the demand for settlement within commuting distance from Orange, Millthorpe being in that zone. The study defined the 'Orange Commuter Zone' as the areas within 20-30 minutes drive of Orange - that aligns relatively closely with the Northern part of the Shire.

#### Demographic Profile – Age Structure

The following table shows the age structure across the shire as at the 2011 census.

Age Groups	No in Millthorpe	% in Millthorpe	% in shire	% in Australia
0 – 4 years	96	8.6	6.6	6.6
5 – 14 years	181	16.3	12.6	12.7
15 – 25 years	110	9.9	12.9	13.3
25 – 54 years	440	39.5	41.5	41.8
55 – 64 years	156	14.1	11.7	11.6
65 and over	127	11.5	14.7	14.0
Median Age	-	38	40	37

- **Median Age:** The median age in Millthorpe (38) is lower than the average of the Shire (40) and similar as that for Australia. This suggests that Millthorpe attracts and supports a diverse range of ages that creates a socially sustainable community.
- **Younger Children:** There is a higher percentage of 0-14 year old children in Millthorpe (24.9%) compared to the Australian average (19.3%) and this will create a demand for additional education and child care services if this trend continues.
- **Senior Citizens:** There is a slightly lower percentage of +65 year age groups in Millthorpe compared to the Blayney shire and national figures.
- **Young Adults:** The lower numbers of 15-24 year olds is likely to be due to the lack of Tertiary education facilities and local employment in Millthorpe and the relocation of this age group to regional centres.

### **Demographic Profile – Income**

The following table sets out the income structure across the shire at the 2011 Census. The income levels in the Shire are below the Australian average however incomes in Millthorpe are above the Australia average.

<b>INCOME (Population aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>Millthorpe</b>	<b>Blayney Shire</b>	<b>Australia</b>
Median individual income (\$/weekly)	657	533	577
Median household income (\$/weekly)	1601	1092	1234
Median family income (\$/weekly)	1739	1376	1481

### **Demographic Profile – Occupation**

The following table sets out the occupation structure across the shire at the 2011 Census. Blayney Shire has a higher proportion than the Australian average in the fields of managers, labourers, and machinery operators – but lower proportion in the fields of professionals, clerical and administrative workers and sales workers. A break up of occupations for Millthorpe residents was not available.

<b>OCCUPATION (Employed persons aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>No in Millthorpe</b>	<b>% in Millthorpe</b>	<b>% in Blayney Shire</b>	<b>% in Australia</b>
Professionals			12.8	21.3
Managers			17.4	12.9
Technicians and Trades Workers			14.7	14.2
Community and Personal Service Workers			8.7	9.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers			13.5	6.6
Labourers			12.7	9.4
Clerical & Administrative Workers			11.9	14.7
Sales Workers			6.5	9.4

### **Demographic Profile – Household Composition**

The following table sets out the household types across the shire at the 2011 Census.

<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE – OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS</b>	<b>Millthorpe</b>	<b>% in Millthorpe</b>	<b>% in Blayney Shire</b>	<b>% in Australia</b>
Family household	279	77.3	71.9	71.5
Lone person household	82	22.7	26.6	24.3
Group household	0	0	1.5	4.1

### **Demographic Profile – Family Structure**

The following table sets out the family structure across the shire at the 2011 Census. In general the family characteristics in Millthorpe and Blayney Shire are similar to the Australian average.

<b>FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>Millthorpe</b>	<b>% of total families in Millthorpe</b>	<b>% of total families in Blayney Shire</b>	<b>% of total families in Australia</b>
Total families	282	-	-	-
Couple families with children	134	47.5	43.3	44.6
Couple families without children	100	35.5	40.2	37.8
One parent families	43	15.2	15.2	15.9
Other families	5	1.8	1.3	1.7

### **3.4 Millthorpe History & Current Overview**

#### **History**

##### *Overview*

Millthorpe has heritage significance as it remains an outstanding example of a small Australian village of the nineteenth/early twentieth century periods. The ridges surrounding the town constrain the town size, create a strong visual backdrop, and result in glimpses of the settlement on approach.

The early tree planting is unusual and consists of three dominant types evident from many vantage points. The large Plane trees flank the main roads, the Pines provide windbreaks and boundary identification and the Hawthorn hedgerows originally substituted for fencing and also provided wind protection for stock.

Also influenced by the topography is Millthorpe's street plan, which is centred upon the disjointed crossroads of the early Blayney-Orange and Flyer's Creek intersection, adjacent to which the streets form a grid pattern of sorts. There are typically wide streets and there are a number of closed vistas arising from the irregular street plan giving Millthorpe an intimate atmosphere.

The built fabric of the town has a coherence and continuity of period and style and the scale is harmonious both in terms of the buildings with the streets and the buildings with the surrounding countryside.

##### *Early to Mid 1800's*

The whole district around Millthorpe was originally known as 'The Forest' as the bush was so dense, but eventually, it was known as the place where the track from Guyong to Flyer's Creek crossed the track from Blackman's Swamp to King's Plains and became known as the 'Crossroads'.

Millthorpe began as a government stock station in 1823. Charles Booth, an ex-convict, was in charge of several convict stockmen in the area and became the first settler in 1834. He was granted 1,000 acres where he built a substantial house, which he named Grove Farm. Other settlers began to arrive in the next decade and the land's cropping potential was then realised.

By the 1850's the village which had developed as the centre of this agricultural area was known as Spring Grove, probably because of Charles Booth's Grove Farm. During the 1860's Methodist and Anglican churches were erected, a school was built in 1876 and the same year the railway arrived. In 1886 a new railway station replaced the original one. The post office was opened in 1874.

##### *Late 1800's*

One of the most important events in the town's history occurred in 1882 when the Great Western Milling Company built its flour mill in the town. In fact, two years later the town's name was changed to Millthorpe [1884]. Other developments followed during the 1880's and Millthorpe became well known for its annual agricultural shows and ploughing matches. The 1890's depression was felt here as elsewhere, but confidence and development recommenced shortly after.

### *Early 1900's*

A host of new buildings were erected during the early 1900's and the town's commercial centre was extended. Principal local produce included wheat, oats, potatoes and cream and by 1910 the district population was 1400 and a record school attendance of 340 pupils.

From the 1920's there was sporadic development as the agricultural sector and labour force were contracting. Improved transport and urban drift had an impact on Millthorpe just as it did on so many smaller Australian centres. However, it is due to this lack of subsequent development and success of the original town plan that Millthorpe has retained such a high level of integrity as an historic village.

### *Churches*

Millthorpe consists of a wide range of building types which collectively form a town of great heritage value and integrity. Churches include St Mark's Anglican, the original one having been built in Romanesque style in 1878 and the later church being of Gothic style and dating from 1909 with a rectory erected in 1903. St Marks, built of blue stone, was opened in 1909. The Methodist Church, built of brick, dates from 1885. The Baptist Church, built of bluestone, in 1902. St Canice's Roman Catholic Church is a Gothic church constructed in 1904. Having a cemetery in the vicinity of the church is an early and rare example which also reflects the contained character of the Village.

### *Public Buildings*

The village reflects the full range of public buildings and institutions. In 1875 the bluestone public school and residence were built reflecting the Rustic Gothic style of architecture. The post office building was completed in 1927 and the railway station completed in 1886. The Good Templars Hall (a museum by the 1970s) was built of stone in 1881. The School of Arts was built in 1897. The Police Station and residence was built of brick in 1902.

### *Commercial Buildings*

Among the town's commercial buildings are the Commercial Hotel of 1911, the 1902 Bank of New South Wales, the Commercial Bank, the Grand Western Lodge Hotel of 1901, the Pym Street shops of 1910, the theatre built in 1912, and the brick potato sheds. Many shops have retained their early nickel alloy framed shopfronts with leadlight over panels and glazed ceramic tiles.

The 1882 flour mill closed in 1960 and subsequently was partly used as a potato washing and packaging plant. A number of Victorian cottages in Millthorpe are very important structures on account of their consistency of style.

### *Housing*

The variety of housing within the town is broad and reflects the socio-economics of society. There are substantial stone houses with full verandahs, detached bluestone cottages, attached cottages built in pairs, and unusual cottages clad in galvanised ripple iron.

## **Current Overview**

The name Millthorpe means village of the mill. Millthorpe is 965m above sea level and is set in a rural landscape. Established in the pioneering era, Millthorpe has a rich agricultural history, a legacy of grand buildings, heritage architecture and a streetscape that has remained largely unchanged since the early 1900's. The entire village is classified by the National Trust and the population as at the 2011 census was 1109. There has been significant population and economic growth in Millthorpe for the past five years. It is estimated that the projected future growth rate for Millthorpe is likely to be in the range of 0.78% to 1.5% annual growth with an average growth of 1% per year. Assuming an average projected population growth for Millthorpe of 1.0% per year there will be an increase in population by 2036 of an additional 313 people. This medium-high rate of growth will require some additional services and infrastructure to support this additional population.

Millthorpe has a thriving Public School and a very active P&C which runs the well renowned Millthorpe Markets twice each year which is the main fundraiser for the school. There are many active community groups including the Millthorpe & District Historical Society who operate the Golden Memories Museum, Country Women's Association (CWA) and the Anglican Women's Association (AWA). Details of other community and sporting groups can be found at [www.millthorpevillage.com.au/community](http://www.millthorpevillage.com.au/community). In recent years Millthorpe has enjoyed a significant shift towards (and commercial benefit from) tourism across accommodation, food, wine, boutique shops, arts and antiques with its unique streetscape a significant heritage attraction in its own right.

The Millthorpe Village Committee (MVC) is a not for profit incorporated association and is the peak body representing the Millthorpe community. It works in partnership with Blayney Shire Council to ensure local issues and concerns are brought before Council. The Committee has been in operation for approximately 30 years and works to enhance amenities in the village, organises community events and provides a forum for the community. The MVC has a co-operative cross-committee relationship with many other local community organisations to support and deliver projects for the whole community. There are 4 sub-committees of the MVC being the Millthorpe Garden Ramble Committee (MGRC), the Millthorpe Garden Club (MGC), the Millthorpe Business Committee (MBC) and the Redmond Oval Committee (ROC). The MGRC organise the annual Millthorpe Garden Ramble which is a major fundraiser for the village of Millthorpe. All funds raised by the annual garden ramble are dedicated to projects which benefit the wider community of Millthorpe. The MGC co-ordinate garden visits and garden related outings. The MBC are essentially a small chamber of commerce whose aim is to develop, strengthen and co-ordinate the activities of businesses in the community to promote the village as a destination for potential visitors and prospective businesses alike. The ROC promote, develop, consult and action matters relating to the improvement of Redmond Oval as a community asset.

## 4. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

The village of Millthorpe has always been a strong, cohesive and proactive community that has worked on delivering projects for the community for many years. The following is a list of projects that the community has achieved over recent years:

- ✓ Millthorpe Garden Ramble event successfully run for the last 8 years raising close to \$70,000 for village projects including street tree plantings, donations to the RFS, Golden Memories Museum, School of Arts, new street furniture and bins, development of Mill Green, War Memorial maintenance, Millthorpe promotional signage, Skate/BMX Park, Millthorpe Bowling Club, Millthorpe Junior Cricket Club, Millthorpe tennis courts and kiosk at the oval
- ✓ Millthorpe Markets (Millthorpe Public School P&C) now run bi-annually and another very successful event raising funds for Millthorpe Public School
- ✓ Branding of Millthorpe with village logo 'Heritage with Style'
- ✓ Development of a village website promoting accommodation, food & wine, boutique shops, art & antiques, services, heritage, community and events and venues, including an interactive village walks page with a downloadable village walks brochure and a more detailed historic points of interest flyer
- ✓ Production of four annual Millthorpe Visitor Guides
- ✓ Production of a Millthorpe Television Commercial for tourism promotion
- ✓ State government funding of \$15,000 for tourism marketing promotions i.e. visitor guide, website and television commercial
- ✓ Upgrade of Millthorpe promotional roadside signage at Vittoria and Blayney
- ✓ Tennis court upgrade in conjunction with BSC with contributions of \$4,000 from the Millthorpe Garden Committee, \$4,660 from Cadia valley Operations and \$40,000 from the MVC via the Community Building Partnership Program 2010
- ✓ Tennis court lighting funding of \$15,000 available from the Community Building Partnership Program 2011 with a \$5,000 commitment from Blayney Shire Council, a \$5,000 contribution from Cadia Valley Operations (Newcrest Mining) and a \$1,000 contribution from both the Millthorpe Public School P&C and the Millthorpe Garden Ramble Committee
- ✓ Securing of funding and upgrading of the Cricket Pitch – Park Committee
- ✓ Securing of funding and upgrade of Cricket Nets – Cricket Club
- ✓ Application to TASAC (Tourism Attraction Signposting Assessment Committee) for recognition of Millthorpe as an historic tourism product – 5 new directional fingerboard signs installed and funded by Blayney Shire Council at an approximate cost of \$1,000
- ✓ The MBC achieved finalist status for the Business Enterprise category of the 2010 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards
- ✓ The MVC delivered a new Niche Wall for Millthorpe
- ✓ The MBC has expended over \$60,000 on tourism promotion for Millthorpe from early 2009 to date with \$15,000 being State Government funding from Trade & Investment NSW
- ✓ Shiny Halo Street project for Millthorpe businesses focusing on business sustainability around energy and water use and waste disposal
- ✓ Upgrade of village map and signage and new 'Welcome to Millthorpe' banner for Pym Street
- ✓ Significant upgrades to the Golden Memories Museum with the completion of a new Master Plan for future installations and enhancements
- ✓ Production of a historic Millthorpe DVD

## 5. STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

### 5.1 Strengths

- Millthorpe is accessible to larger centres (i.e. Blayney, Orange and Bathurst) that offer more choice in retail, services, facilities and employment.
- Rural Character
- Education – a growing and dynamic public school and a preschool/child care facility (the Millthorpe Children’s Garden).
- Aged care facilities – Inala Retirement Units
- Community facilities – School of Arts, Masonic Hall and CWA Hall
- Open Space & Recreation – Redmond Oval incorporating a rotunda, children’s playground, free gas BBQs, tennis courts, oval, cricket pitch, cricket nets, skate/BMX park, kiosk and amenities. Mill Green and the Dog Exercise Area are additional community spaces.
- Reasonably low levels of unemployment compared to the Shire
- The lowest proportion of +55 year olds compared to all of the other villages in the shire which suggests a higher proportion of people of working age and less pressure on health and aged care services.
- Higher median individual, household and family incomes in Millthorpe compared to the Shire and, in fact, higher than the national average income levels.
- Good community associations that can foster community spirit and local solutions to community needs.
- Proximity to Orange Airport
- Access to natural gas which may attract future light industry to Millthorpe and provides residents with a more energy efficient and affordable option to electricity.
- Local NSW Police Service
- Local Rural Fire Service
- Community Interest (attendance)
- Welcoming / friendly
- Village /School aesthetics
- Pride
- Seen as a destination
- Heritage
- Agriculture / Mining / Rural
- Lifestyle
- Art / Food / Wine

## 5.2 Weaknesses

- Proximity to larger centres may result in 'escape expenditure' where people spend the majority of their money outside of Millthorpe resulting in limited potential growth of local services and facilities. A lack of local services can make Millthorpe less suitable for those without access to private transport.
- Lack of rail access - failure to utilise existing passenger services is a significant lost opportunity to increase accessibility for tourism to Millthorpe and the Shire as generally access is limited to private vehicles.
- The lack of public transport alternatives is a significant constraint, particularly for those without regular access to private transport such as the elderly, teenagers and lower socio-economic groups.
- Issues with a main road and a higher rate of heavy vehicles and traffic flows passing through the core of Millthorpe particularly with pedestrian safety and noise that reduces amenity.
- Lack of appropriate sites for parking facilities during peak tourism weekends and events. Most parking is on street and it is difficult to manage with signage in the heritage streetscapes.
- No designated disabled parking.
- Lack of appropriate retail space for further business growth and expansion.
- Limited local employment (other than tourism, limited local services and The Wood Blinds Factory) with heavy reliance on employment at Blayney and other regional centres.
- Limited local retail services and community services to support a growing population. The population has not yet reached a critical mass to support some key local services and avoid the need to drive for these services.
- Heritage conservation area can be perceived as a constraint to development and an additional expense for alteration of buildings which may limit investment potential. Heritage and the conservation area can also make it difficult to incorporate new retail and commercial businesses that have a design that is inconsistent with the desired streetscape of Millthorpe (e.g. larger retail shopping facilities and off-street parking).
- Current playing field facilities at Redmond Oval are at or exceeding capacity and/or in need of a more intensive maintenance program.
- Lack of diversity of housing types to support a range of dwelling needs in society, particularly as it changes and there is an ageing population.
- Lower speeds of broadband internet access which reduce the potential for home businesses, trades, and professionals to operate in the Millthorpe area.
- Vandalism
- Train not stopping
- Lack of fuel outlet
- Mining
- Limited trading hours
- Lack of cash availability (i.e. Bank and/or ATM)
- Pedestrian and bike access
- Aged care units underdeveloped asset - lack of assisted care

### 5.3 Opportunities

- If Millthorpe is to maintain its more recent population growth then it will need to address some of the historic reasons for population loss by providing sustainable local employment, affordable housing, lifestyle and building upon local attractions. Millthorpe also has strong potential as a commuter suburb to Orange as a key employment centre.
- Create a DVD on Millthorpe History
- Skate park for younger children
- Athletics facilities
- Better public gardens
- Pedestrian crossing
- Modern Buildings/less ugly city housing
- Walking trails
- Re-open train station – stop on request service
- Swimming pool/cinemas
- Mobile library
- Farmers markets
- Lolly shop
- More facilities for younger people
- Link cemetery with museum

### 5.4 Threats

- Mining
- Development - urban
- Business closures / limited trading hours
- Popularity
- Transient population
- Growing school
- Lack of community recreational space
- Aging leadership
- Lack of employment
- High rentals

## **6. COMMUNITY VALUES, VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS**

### **6.1 Values Statements**

- Accessibility
- Heritage
- Conservation of Historical Buildings
- Environmental sustainability
- Sharing and utilising facilities
- Pride and people
- Feel good
- Promote participation / involvement
- Great place to live
- Vibrant successful businesses
- Safe environment / relaxed
- Accepting community
- Uniqueness of businesses

### **6.2 Vision Statements**

- Safe friendly lifestyle
- More encompassing
- Less insular
- Encouraging progress
- Sustainable business
- Embellishing History / Heritage
- Good brand – Heritage with Style
- Diversity / Innovation

### **6.3 Mission Statement**

Working together to build a safe, friendly, prosperous and environmentally sustainable community and heritage village.

## **7. KEY RESULT AREAS AND PRIORITISED ISSUES**

The following key result areas were chosen and are in line with the Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan:

- ✓ Grow the wealth of the Village
- ✓ A centre for sports and culture
- ✓ Preserve and enhance our heritage and rural landscapes
- ✓ Develop and maintain Village infrastructure
- ✓ Develop a strong and connected community
- ✓ Leadership

## 8. OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS

The following keys (Timing and Who) apply to all tables in Section 8 of this document.

### TIMING

S	Short Term	Next 12 months
M	Medium Term	2 – 5 years
L	Long term	5 years +
O	Ongoing	

### WHO

ACG	All Community Groups
BSC	Blayney Shire Council
CWA	Country Womens Association
FG	Federal Government
LCG	Local Church Groups
LSC	Local Sports Clubs
M&DHS	Millthorpe and District Historical Society
MBC	Millthorpe Business Committee
MGRC	Millthorpe Garden Ramble Committee
MPC	Millthorpe Park Committee
MPS	Millthorpe Public School
MTC	Millthorpe Tennis Club
MVC	Millthorpe Village Committee
OV	Other Villages
P&C	Millthorpe Public School P&C
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
TNSW	Transport for NSW
TO	Taste Orange (Brand Orange)

## 8.1 Grow the wealth of the Village

Employment is needed to attract and keep people in the Village. There are opportunities for growth in niche agriculture, mining and tourism. Mining brings economic benefits but also pressure on accommodation, wages and shift work constraints on community living. Retail needs continued local support to remain viable and grow. There is also a need for the water, energy and transport sectors to be sustainable and provide a platform for future growth.

PROJECT	PROJECTS	TIMING	WHO	COMPLETED
1	Improve communication between existing businesses	O	MBC	
2	Maintain & support signature events in Millthorpe	O	P&C / MGRC / MVC	
3	Quarterly farmers markets	M	MBC / MVC	
4	Create events involving food, wine, art, music & poetry	M	MVC / MBC / TO	
5	Work with other villages to develop tourism product / value add	M	BSC / MBC / OV	
6	Shop local campaign – to encourage sustainability	S	MBC	
7	Develop a strategy to attract new businesses to Millthorpe	M	MBC	

## 8.2 A centre for sports and culture

Participation in sports and cultural activities and events has and will continue to bring the community together. A co-ordinated program of events also has the potential to attract visitors and help grow and sustain local business. Events can be subject to funding pressures, red tape, regulation and rising insurance costs. A co-operative community approach to events can help overcome these issues.

PROJECT	PROJECTS	TIMING	WHO	COMPLETED
1	Establish tennis club and maintain courts	O	BSC / MTC	2013
2	Reform the park / oval management committee	S	BSC / LSC	2014
3	Develop a second recreation area	M / L	BSC / MVC / LSC	
4	Establish a junior skate park	L	?	
5	Establish a film club / regular film screening in school hall	M	?	
6	Promote arts including music	O	?	
7	Upgrade and expand sporting facilities for the younger members of the community e.g. athletics facilities	M	BSC / MVC / LSC	

### 8.3 Preserve and enhance our heritage and rural landscapes

Although the rural landscapes are beautiful there are issues with the amount of remaining native vegetation, erosion and salinity. Action needs to be taken to encourage sustainable land use practices particularly with population increases. Our heritage stories need to be interpreted and made accessible. We have built heritage that gives character to our Village. This can be maintained, enhanced and supported through sympathetic urban design and landscaping.

PROJECT	PROJECTS	TIMING	WHO	COMPLETED
1	Improve visual entrance and exits to village	M	BSC / MVC	
2	Maintain historic walking trail & interpretative signage	O	BSC / MVC / M&DHS	
3	Create historic Millthorpe DVD	M	M&DHS	2014
4	Streetscape beautification (e.g. garden boxes)	O	BSC / MVC	
5	Maintain and enhance heritage values	O	BSC / MVC	

#### 8.4 Develop and maintain Village infrastructure

Social and physical infrastructure is the skeleton that supports a community. Transport, rail and roads connect the Village to the region and help people and goods move in to, out of and around. Information and communication technologies are the new highways to the world and it is important that there are adequate services and coverage available so everyone across the Village can be connected. Water and sewer infrastructure are essential for public health and economic growth through property development. Social infrastructure includes schools, government and emergency services, medical facilities, aged care and housing.

PROJECT	PROJECTS	TIMING	WHO	COMPLETED
1	Improvement to parks and oval	O	BSC / MPC	
2	Redevelop the kiosk at the oval	M	BSC / MGRC / P&C	
3	Establish & develop bike and walking tracks	M / L	BSC	
4	Develop a Caravan park	L	?	
5	Improve traffic & pedestrian flow in the village	M	BSC / MVC	
6	Establish access to library facilities	M	?	
7	Access to toy library	M	?	
8	Develop and implement a transport strategy for improved rail & bus	L	BSC / MVC / RMS / TNSW	
9	Enhance and encourage the development of aged care facilities in Millthorpe	L	?	

## 8.5 Develop a strong and connected community

There is a need to integrate, improve communication and linkages within our community so we can share, support and learn from one another. This will also help build the capacity to be self reliant. Both transport and modern technology can help with this. Strong communities are healthy and fit communities and this is especially important as the population ages. Access to medical facilities when needed is important particularly in emergencies. Balanced communities retain both younger and older members and this helps maintain viable population levels. Both age groups need the facilities and opportunities to participate and contribute to community life.

PROJECT	PROJECTS	TIMING	WHO	COMPLETED
1	Encourage community participation in the village committee	O	MVC	
2	Recognise community achievements through awards	O	MVC	
3	Encourage active participation of young people in the community	O	MVC / MPS	
4	Establish mental health support network	M	CWA / LCG	
5	Ensure adequate child care services	M	BSC	
6	High speed broadband network	M	FG / MVC	
7	Regular village newsletter	O	MVC	
8	Encourage community groups to share resources and collaborate on village projects	O	ACG	
9	Encourage community support and involvement in village projects to ensure sustainability of community groups	O	ACG	
10	Establish a community kitchen	M	MVC	

## 8.6 Leadership

To achieve our preferred future we will all need to work together. Working together will be easily achieved if we have strong relationships and networks. Present relationships and networks will benefit from a planned approach to community engagement and involvement in decisions and activities that are important to people. Building the capacity of existing and emerging community leaders will strengthen networks, build trust and result in more successful outcomes. Elected representatives need to work as a team and organisations need to be well run and resourced to deliver outcomes and achieve the preferred future. Governance needs to be open with every interaction an opportunity to build trust, confidence and credibility.

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
1	Establish a youth leadership group training program	M	Rotary / Schools	
2	Maintain strong linkages and relationships with Blayney Shire Council	O	BSC / MVC	
3	Establish a leadership training program (succession planning) for all community groups.	M	MVC	
4	Community awards recognising outstanding contributions to the community	O	MVC	

## 9. SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

The following issues were identified as key projects by the community and are presented in prioritised order. The priority indicates the number of votes the particular project received at the strategic planning workshop:

Project	Priority
Beautification of entrances / exits to town	13
Improved public /community transport	11
Develop calendar of signature events	9
High speed Broadband	9
Establish youth leadership group	7
Improved community participation at Village Committee level	7
Tennis Court access	7
Develop new music /arts / literacy events	7
Millthorpe Historic DVD	6
Expansion of facilities at Redmond Oval for young people	5
Cinema development	4
Walk / Bike trails	4
Oval / Park Management	4
Millthorpe represented on Blayney Shire Council	3
Improve Communications between businesses	3
Mobile Library / Toy Library	3
Collaboration and sharing of resources / facilities	2
Sustainable volunteers / community groups	1

## **10. APPENDIX 1**

Responses to surveys of years 4, 5 and 6 students from Millthorpe Public School.

### **On weekends and after school I like to:**

- go to the park / playground / skate park
- walk or play with dog
- walk around streets
- work on farm, play at home
- kick a ball, play netball
- ride my bike, scooter, skate board, horse, swim
- plays sports – tennis, soccer, rugby etc
- play with friends
- go to cafes / shops
- play computer games, watch TV

### **Millthorpe would be better if / I would like Millthorpe to have:**

- there was more play equipment
- junior skate park
- another oval / bigger park
- better athletics area
- there was access to the tennis courts for everyone
- there were better gutters. 'less ugly city houses', no potholes, road crossing near shop
- a bike track
- a woods / walking area
- people would drive slower
- a netball court / team
- more shops e.g. bakery, supermarket
- re-open the station
- gym, library, auditorium, bank, cinema
- a swimming pool
- a lolly shop
- a high school
- a hospital
- more places for children to 'hang out' e.g. coffee club

### **In 10 years time I think Millthorpe will:**

- be a no. 1 tourist destination
- be bigger and better, more popular, big success, more exciting
- be a lot more populated
- be the best town in Australia
- be a great town to live in
- have a bigger school
- better roads
- be a place you can tell your grandkids about
- be better than Orange