

**DRAFT**  
**DEVENISH**  
**TOWNSHIP PLAN**

Please Note: This document is a draft version of the Township Plan. The information contained within has been collated from various sources and may be outdated. The Community Development Team from Benalla Rural City Council want to work together with the Devenish community to develop and update this document so that it accurately reflects the current plans and priorities of the town and its community members. Your feedback on this document will help shape consultations and the future of Devenish.

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## **Executive Summary**

This document details a community led action plan that showcases a vision for the progressive development of Devenish. Included in this plan is acknowledgement of Devenish as a progressive, cohesive, and forward-thinking community, which values serenity, community cooperation, the beauty of the bush and all that Devenish offers for peaceful and harmonious co-existence with nature.

## **Vision Statement**

To improve Devenish for residents to reside and work, visitors to stay, and for the future prosperity of Devenish from a social, economic, recreational and environmental perspective; whilst maintaining the character intrinsic to the community.

To engender good-will, build partnerships between local groups and the residents of Devenish, and promote a spirit of co-operation. To ensure initiatives have a greater likelihood of being supported, by how they are perceived by the community and for volunteers to support projects.

## **Purpose of the Township Plan**

The Devenish Township Plan is based on the ideas, hopes and aspirations of the Devenish community together with the Benalla Rural City Council (BRCC). The Township Plan aspires to guide the future development of the town by developing a list of projects and priorities to inform council strategic planning and to support the community to apply for grants when funding is available.

The plan:

- Articulates the issues that are important to Devenish residents
- Provides a clear blueprint for the future development of the Devenish township and surrounding region
- Assists the Devenish community to attract local and state funding to help achieve identified priorities and projects
- Provides a coordinated approach for the social, cultural and economic development of the township and surrounding enterprises
- Aspires to promote Devenish as a tourism destination & as a great place to live

## **Alignment to BRCC Community Plan & Vision 2036**

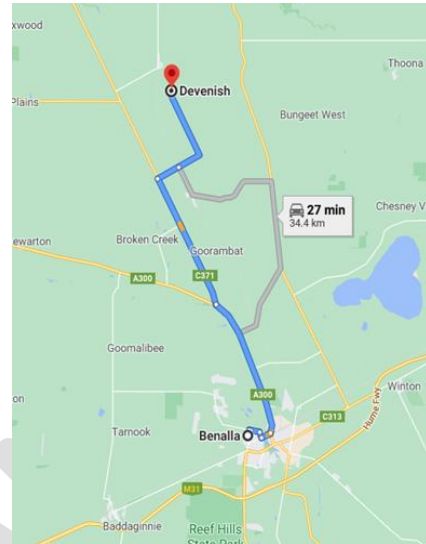
The Devenish Township Plan aligns with the BRCC Community Plan and Vision 2036 documents respectively as together they seek to provide a pathway to the development of individual towns and the rural area of Benalla as a whole.

The information in this document has been collated from a number of sources including the Benalla Rural City Council website, previous community consultations and grant applications, google and Facebook searches and various other council documents.

Information may be updated, changed and further developed by the Devenish community to specifically reflect the communities' actions, plans and priorities.

## Location

Devenish is a small rural town, 230 kilometres north of Melbourne and 34 kms north of the rural city of Benalla in northeast Victoria.



## History of Devenish

The Devenish Post Office opened on 9 June 1877 as Broken Creek and was renamed Devenish in 1878. In 1883 on the arrival of the railway, the office was moved and named Devenish Railway Station, reverting to Devenish in about 1889 as the township developed.

The Devenish concrete grain silos were built between the railway line and the main street and opened to receive wheat in December 1943. Later the Bulk Oat storage building was built in 1965.

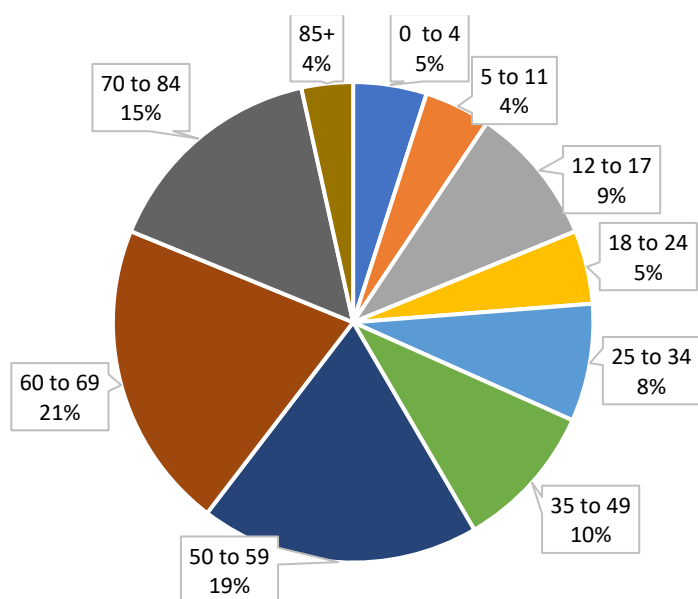
The first Roman Catholic Church was built in Devenish in 1883, it was decommissioned in 2005 and put up for sale. The town had an Australian Rules football team that formed in the early 1890s, initially competing in the Benalla- Yarrawonga Line Association, and later in the Benalla & District Football League until the league folded due to lack of players. Premierships were won in the years 1902 and 1909, then again in 1914, 1922 and 1929.

## Devenish Today\*

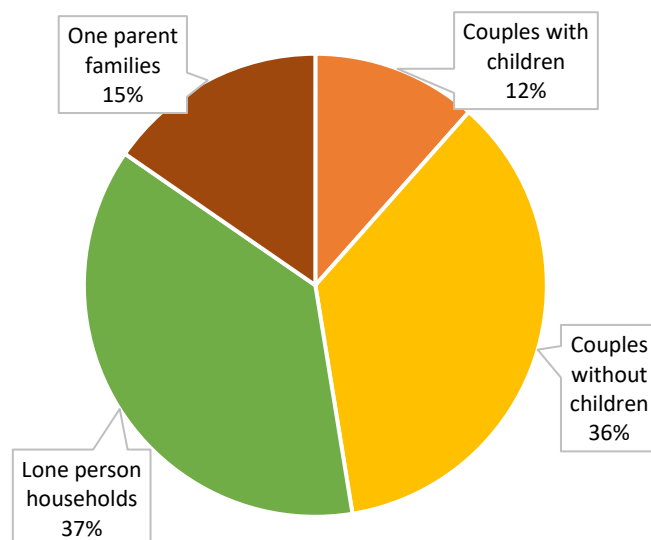
V/line operates 3 coach services (weekdays) and 2 coach services (weekends) 7 days a week from Benalla to Yarrawonga. The coach service stops at Devenish along the way and connects to V/line train services to/from Melbourne (Southern Cross) at Benalla Station.

According to the 2016 Census, Devenish and the surrounding district had a population of 200, with 94 males and 106 females. Of these, 16 were born overseas and 13 require assistance due to age or disability. Education statistics show 12 children attend pre - school or primary school, 14 attend secondary school and 5 attend TAFE. There are 108 dwellings in Devenish, 51 residents own their own homes, 22 are purchasing and 5 are renting.

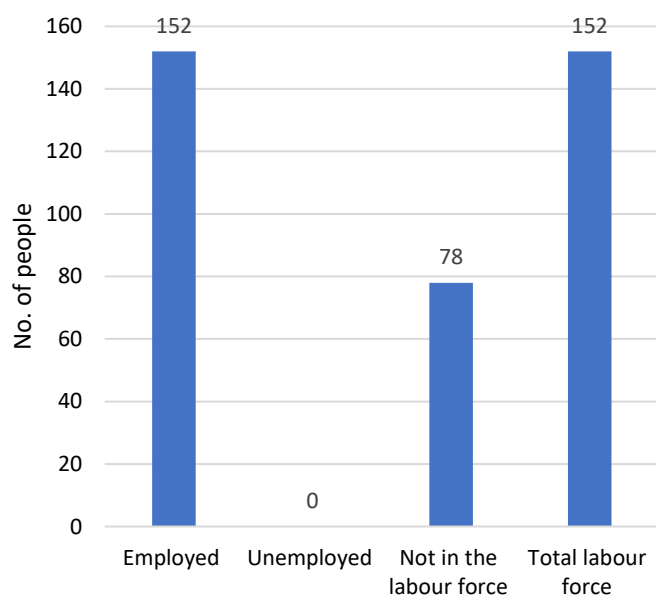
## POPULATION BY AGE



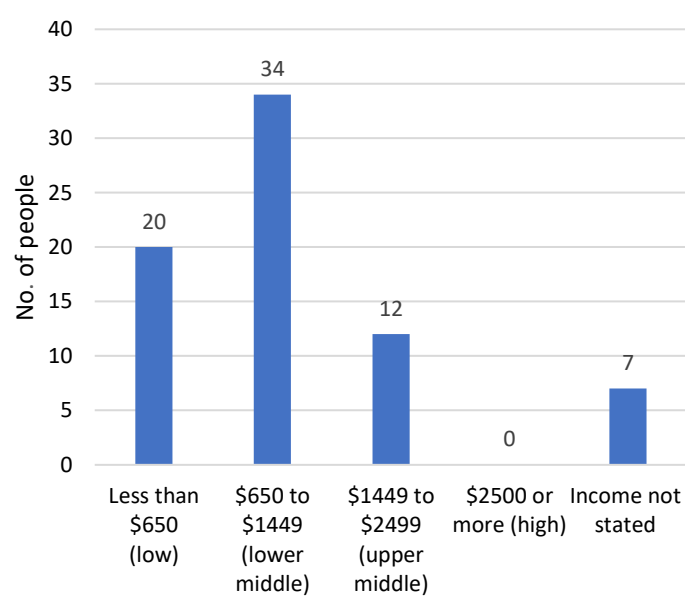
## HOUSEHOLD TYPES



## LABOUR FORCE



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME



*\*The information represented in the above graphs has been taken from the 2016 Census from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and therefore may not be an accurate reflection of the township in 2021.*

## What makes Devenish Unique

Devenish is a small peaceful country town.

### Products & Services

- Devenish Railway Hotel
- Devenish General Store
- Devenish Uniting Church

### Community Groups

- CFA
- Australia Day Committee
- Devenish Uniting
- For the Good of Devenish Inc.
- Devenish Public Hall Inc.

### Sport & Recreation

- Devenish Sports Club

### Education

- Devenish Primary School

### Attractions

- Art Silos
- Hotel
- Tea Rooms
- Makers Market & Car Boot Sale

### Marketing & Promotion

- Devenish Community Facebook - 712 followers  
[www.facebook.com/Devenishcommunity/](http://www.facebook.com/Devenishcommunity/)
- Devenish Primary School Facebook - 169 followers  
[www.facebook.com/Devenish-Primary-School-800511716811710/](http://www.facebook.com/Devenish-Primary-School-800511716811710/)
- Devenish Railway Hotel Facebook - 793 followers  
[www.facebook.com/people/Devenish-Railway-Hotel/100057644612010/](http://www.facebook.com/people/Devenish-Railway-Hotel/100057644612010/)
- Devenish Cemetery Trust Webpage  
<http://australiancemeteries.com.au/vic/benalla/devenish.htm>



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## Desired Town Improvements

- Improved...

DRAFT ONLY

## Past & Recent Funding Grants

Year	Project	Amount	Source	Group
2020	Stump and bearer replacement at hall	\$1048	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2019	Noxious weed removal at sports ground	\$2,000	CG	Devenish Memorial Sports Club Inc
2019	AED	\$2,500,	CG	Devenish Fire Brigade
2019	Portable ramp for increased accessibility	\$1,400	CG	For the Good of Devenish Inc
2019	Upgrade Park BBQ, tiling, top & hot plate	\$1,500	CG	For the Good of Devenish Inc
2019	Fireproof safe for hall	\$1,200	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2019	Remembrance Day luncheon	\$500	CSP	For the Good of Devenish Inc
2018	Purchase & install of 5 ceiling fans for Sports Pavilion	\$1600	CG	Devenish Memorial Sports Club Inc
2018	Installation of Silo information and notice board	\$12000	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc/Silo Committee
2018	Devenish Hall	\$2500	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2018	Upgrade community noticeboard	\$650	CG	For the Good of Devenish Inc
2017/18	100 new chairs for the hall	\$1,500	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2017	Australia Day	\$200 p/a	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2016/17	New hall doors	\$2500	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2016	High Tea Extravaganza Table Competition	\$1200	ME	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2015	New spouting in hall supper room & kitchen	\$2000	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.
2014	Community event	\$2000	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc
2013	Devenish Hall	\$2500	CG	Devenish Public Hall Inc.

Funding Source Legend

**CG** = Community Grant

**ME** = Major Event

**CSP** = Community Sponsorship

**YPG** = Youth Participation

## Infrastructure Projects

Year	Project	BRCC Funding	State Gov Funding	Project Total
2016/17	Bridge repair, drainage project & St James road maintenance			
2015	New Town Entry sign			



## Devenish Projects & Priorities:

Priority - Time Line:    **A** = SHORT TERM (1- 2 years) **B**= MEDIUM TERM (3-4 years) **C**= MED -LONG TERM (5-8 years) **D**= LONG TERM (9+ years)

### ASSESTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

### CHARACTER & APPEARANCE

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

### CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

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## SOCIAL MEDIA, ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

## ONGOING ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

## LONG TERM GOALS & ASPIRATIONS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

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### Key Community Contacts

Name	Landline	Mobile	Email	Group	Title