

BENALLA RURAL CITY

**DRAFT**

# THOONA 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 The information contained within has been collated from various sources and may be outdated.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 Benalla Rural City Council Community Development Team want to work together with the Thoona 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 Thoona.

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## Executive Summary

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

## Vision Statement

To improve Thoona for residents to reside and work, visitors to stay, and for the future prosperity of Thoona 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 Thoona, 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 Thoona Township Plan is based on the ideas, hopes and aspirations of the Thoona 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 Thoona residents
- Provides a clear blueprint for the future development of the Thoona township and surrounding region
- Assists the Thoona 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 Thoona as a tourism destination & as a great place to live

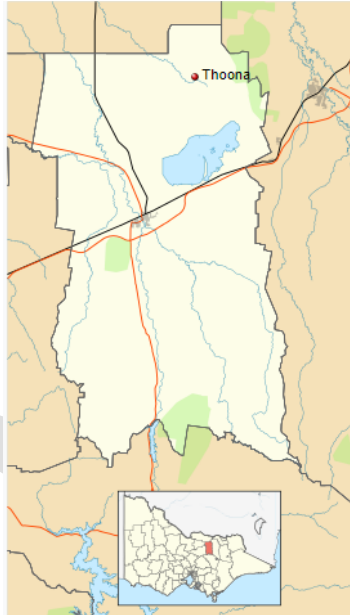
## Alignment to BRCC Community Plan & Vision 2036

The Thoona 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, previous town action plans, various other council documents and google and Facebook searches. Information may be updated, changed and further developed by the Thoona community to specifically reflect the communities' actions, plans and priorities.

## Location

Thoona is a small township situated 247 kilometres northeast of Melbourne and is 34kms north from the Rural City of Benalla.



## History of Thoona

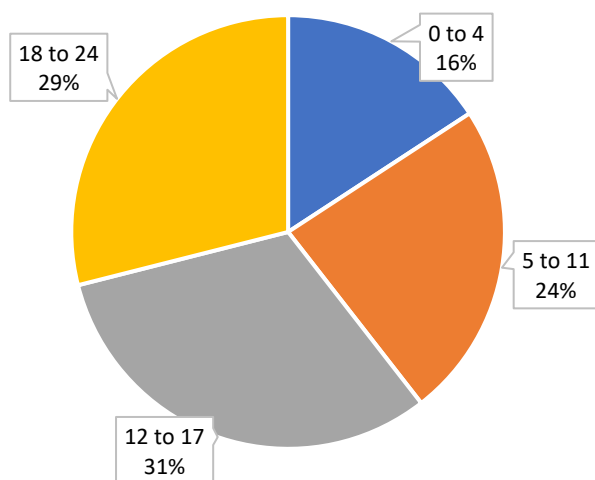
Thoona is located on the edge of a small hill and the word Thoona is Aboriginal for “small hill”, also. The Warby Ranges are around 5 kilometres east of the town. Thoona was home to the first co-operative butter factory in north-east Victoria in 1889 and it also had a post office (1882), brickworks, foundry, mechanics’ institute, primary school and dramatic and choral groups. The village and school were named Mokoan until 1886. The Thoona Football club was active from 1885 – 1954.

## Thoona Today\*

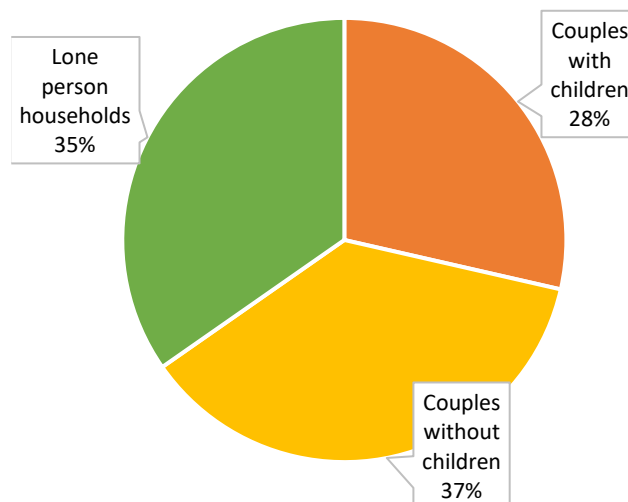
In March each year Thoona hosts the Victorian Wheelie Bin championships. A documentary on the event was made in 2001. The Thoona Primary school closed in 2015.

At the 2006 census, Thoona and the surrounding area had a population of 474 dropping to 129 in 2016, with 74 males and 54 females. Of these, 11 residents were born overseas and 3 require assistance due to age or disability. Education statistics show 6 children attend pre - school or primary school, 9 attend secondary school and 11 attend TAFE. There are 71 dwellings in Thoona, 26 residents own their homes, 19 are purchasing and 4 are renting.

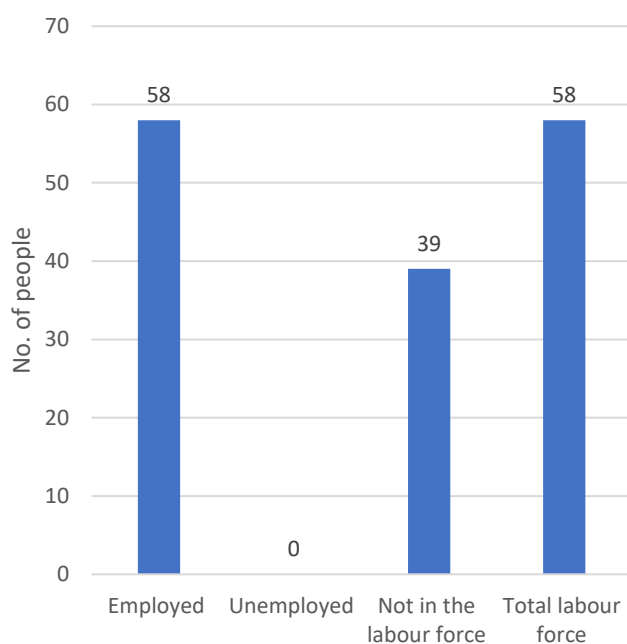
## POPULATION BY AGE



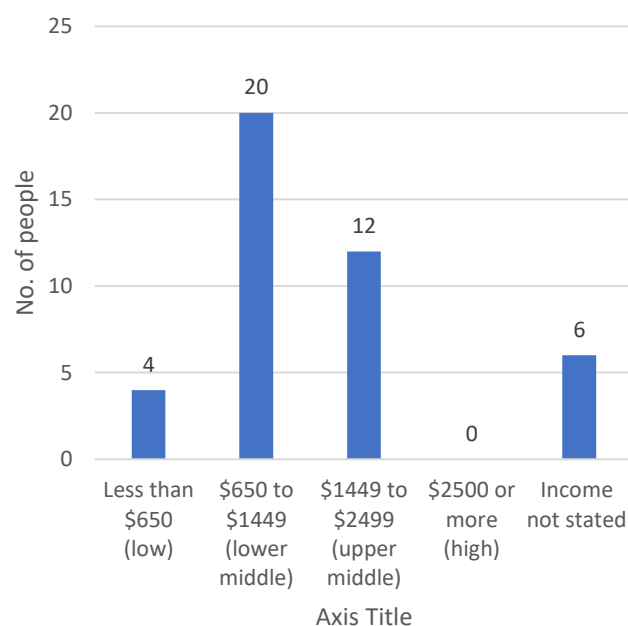
## HOUSEHOLD TYPES



## 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 Thoona unique

Thoona is a small peaceful country town situated 5 kms away from the Warby Ranges. These ranges have popular walking and bike riding trails and bird watching. The area consists of farming, agriculture and the Thoona pub attracts locals and visitors.

### Products & Services

- General Store
- Thoona Pub

### Community Groups

- CFA
- Thoona CWA
- Thoona & District Progress Association
- Thoona Hall Committee
- Thoona Recreation Reserve Committee
- The Cemetery Trust Committee
- The Thoona Water Board



### Sport & Recreation

- Thoona Tennis Club
- Thoona Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve

### Education

- Thoona Primary School (closed 2015)

### Attractions

- Wheelie Bin Championships
- War Memorial
- Thoona Progress Park

### Marketing and Promotions

- Thoona Pub Facebook – active, 4259 followers  
<https://www.facebook.com/thethoonapub/>

### Desired Town Improvements

- General maintenance Ferris Rd Signage, gutters, drains, park, cemetery, weeds
- Road Maintenance – drainage/shoulders/grading/lines/fire access/overhanging limbs
- Public toilets – Thoona Hall/Maintain Rec res toilets
- Repurpose school play equipment
- Increase tourist traffic to town
- Community Hub & involvement
- Support for Business owners (pub)
- A town vision

## Past & Recent Funding Grants

Year	Project	Amount	Source	Group
2020	Thoona Memorial Hall Interior/exterior paint	\$2500	CG	Thoona Memorial Hall Committee Inc.
2016	Girls Night Out	\$500	CSP	WHGNE
2016	AED	\$2500	CG	Thoona Rural Fire Brigade
2015	Tennis Club	\$2500	CG	Thoona Memorial Hall Committee Inc.
2015	Thoona Hall	\$2500	CG	Thoona Memorial Hall Committee Inc.
2015	Australia Day Celebrations	\$200	CG	Thoona Memorial Hall Committee Inc.
2014/15	Thoona Progress Assoc.	\$500	CSP	Thoona Memorial Hall Committee Inc.

Funding Source Legend

CG = Community Grant

ME = Major Event

CSP = Community Sponsorship

YP = Youth Participation

## Infrastructure Projects

Year	Project	BRCC Funding	State Gov Funding	Project Total
2016/17	Sayers road maintenance & shoulder re-sheeting			
2015	New Town entry sign			

## Thoona 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
	Ferris Rd signs			To slow vehicles down
	Gutter maintenance			
	Road Maintenance – shoulders/table drains/roadside vegetation/lines/overhanging limbs/fire access			
	Hard Rubbish Collection			
	Public Toilets			
	Repurpose school equipment – new park?			

## CHARACTER & APPEARANCE OF THOONA

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

## THOONA CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments
	Increase Tourism			
	Wheelie Bin Championships			



### THOONA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments
	A Vision for the Town			
	Increase in community spirit & contribution			

### THOONA SOCIAL MEDIA, ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments
	Thoona webpage/socials			
	Community Newsletter			

### ONGOING ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments

### LONG TERM GOALS & ASPIRATIONS

Priority	Project	Working Groups	Proposed Costs	Other Comments





# **BENALLA**

**RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

DRAFT ONLY

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