



Shire of Ravensthorpe
Youth Activity Plan

2011-2016

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Executive Summary

It was identified in the Shires 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan and the 2007 – 2010 Community Safety Plan to develop a Youth Strategy that focuses on delivering more activities for young people. It is expected that more families will be moving to both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun to work in the mining industry and as such there will be an increase in young people. Although current crime statistics show that crime rates are low the rise in population may see an increase in anti social behaviour if young people are unable to participate in fun, safe and constructive activities.

In order to determine the kind of facilities and activities young people would like in Ravensthorpe, a series of focus groups took place involving 66 students from Ravensthorpe District High School (RDHS) and Hopetoun Primary School (HPS). The broader community were also invited to attend one of two consultations in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Due to the poor attendance at the consultations a survey was developed to capture the thoughts and comments of the wider community.

A popular assertion is that there are currently very few activities for young people apart from structured recreation, such as team sports. In Ravensthorpe, there is very little infrastructure or activities for young people. Access to existing facilities such as the public swimming pool is also limited as children need to be accompanied by an adult. Hopetoun has a skate park however it is considered to be too small and unsafe.

Access to transport was identified as a major issue for young people. One of the major challenges is that young people live out of town on the family farm and are unable to make their own way into town. Young people are also unable to travel between Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun without relying on parents.

Participants indentified a need for a dedicated place for young people to meet. The most popular suggestions included skate parks and a youth centres in both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Young people also wanted to see more water activities.

This Youth Activity Plan lists a number of recommendations to help address the challenges and barriers identified by young people. These recommendations focus on improving and building new infrastructure, providing a range of activities so young people have a choice, improving access to transport, ensuring young people have a voice in the community, establishing partnerships at a local level and ensuring there are adequate resources to deliver the plan.



Introduction

Prior community consultation within the Shire of Ravensthorpe has highlighted the need for youth facilities and activities for young people within the Shire. This Youth Activity Plan has been developed to identify the gaps in infrastructure and activities particularly for young people aged between twelve and eighteen. In order to determine the kind of facilities and activities young people would like in Ravensthorpe, a series of focus groups took place involving 66 students from Ravensthorpe District High School (RDHS) and Hopetoun Primary School (HPS).

The research shows that there is a need for more outdoor spaces and indoor facilities that are easily accessible and support affordable unstructured activities for young people in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. The major barriers to participation in both structured and unstructured activities are the limited options on offer and difficulty accessing existing activities. Strategically located outdoor and indoor spaces will help to address these constraints.

A number of recommendations have been formulated based on the feedback from the young people and the community. These recommendations address the barriers and gaps identified and include a range of appealing, safe and affordable facilities and activities, improving transport and access between Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, building partnerships within the community, ensuring there are adequate staff resources and ensuring that young people have a voice in the community.

It is important for young people to be involved in the design of the ‘unique places’ as the places are likely to be more appealing and therefore utilised and respected if young people are involved. This includes young people who may be inclined to vandalise an area. The success of this plan relies on the ongoing consultation of young people. All projects that result from recommendations in this report need to involve young people throughout the planning process.

Background

The Shire of Ravensthorpe has two main towns; Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, with three surrounding settlements of Fitzgerald, Jerdacuttup and Munglinup. The 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data shows that the Shire of Ravensthorpe had a population of 1,972. Since then the Shire has seen large variations within the population due to the volatile mining industry in particular the Ravensthorpe Nickel Project (RNP).



The BHP Billiton RNP was officially opened in May 2008. In order to predict the level of demand on the Shire, the Shire of Ravensthorpe contracted LAND inSights in collaboration with Data Analysis Australia in 2007 to provide a population forecast to be used in the Local Planning Strategy.

The Local Planning Strategy Review 2007 – Population Projections report used information based on the intended number and timing of BHP employees and associated people, such as their families and also additional people due to the multiplier. The population forecast can be seen in table one, this shows the medium scenario. The medium scenario is a population projection that is appropriate for most planning projects. Tables two and three show the projected population pyramids that are broken breakdown by age and gender.

Medium Scenario Population Forecast

Region	Year			
	2006	2011	2016	2021
Ravensthorpe Town	436	522	575	617
Ravensthorpe Hinterlands	311	318	326	330
Hopetoun	586	1,396	1,651	1,920
Hopetoun Hinterlands	517	522	533	544
Munglinup	14	14	11	12
Munglinup Hinterlands	108	108	106	108
Shire Total	1,972	2,880	3,202	3,531

Table One (sourced from the Local Planning Strategy Review 2007 – Population Projections Report)

Medium Scenario Population Pyramid 2016

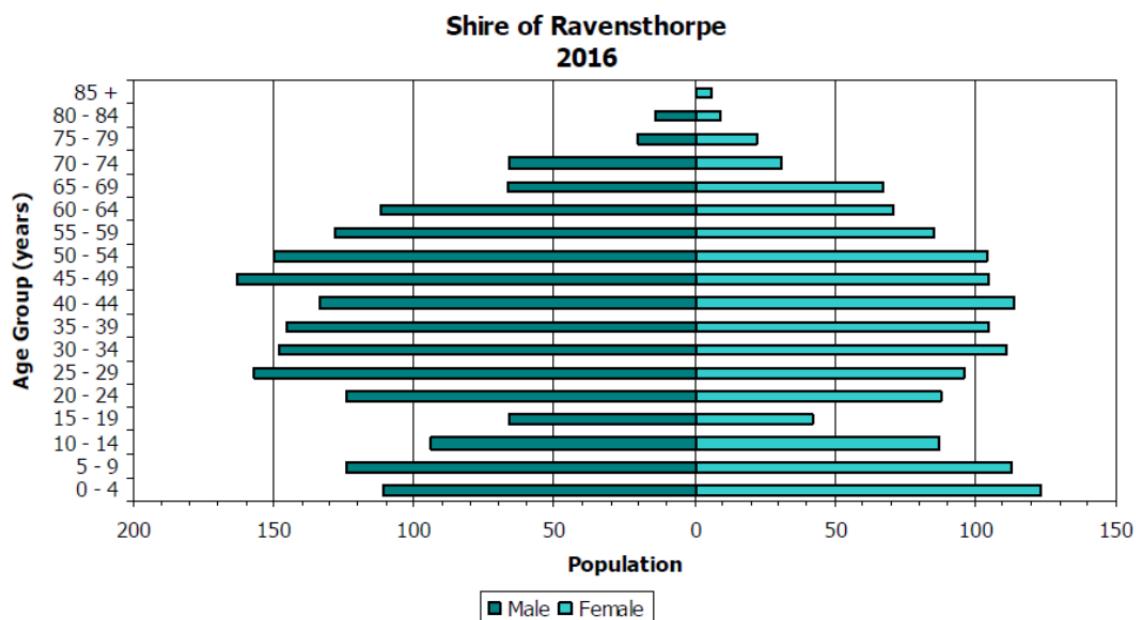


Table Two (sourced from the Local Planning Strategy Review 2007 – Population Projections Report)

Medium Scenario Population Pyramid 2021

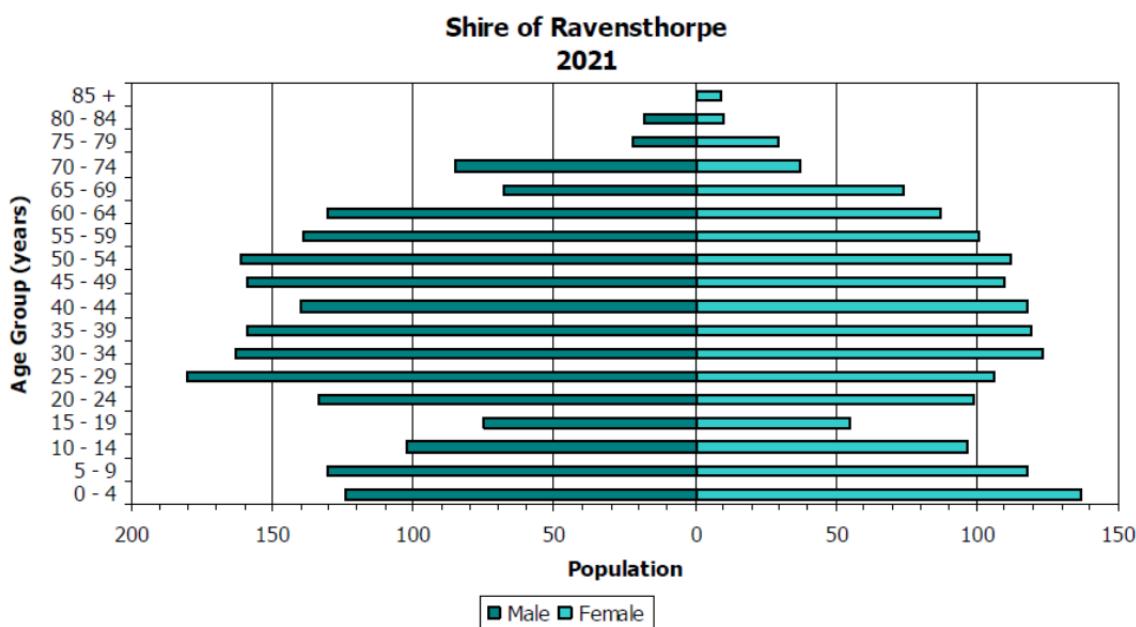


Table Three (sourced from the Local Planning Strategy Review 2007 – Population Projections Report)

BHP ceased operation in January 2009 which led to a significant decline in population and meant the previous population projections provided in the 2007 report needed revision. In October 2009 the Ravensthorpe Shire Population Projections report was released. This report provided four population scenarios, scenarios two and three as shown in tables four and five were the medium population projection and are considered to be appropriate for most planning objectives.

Scenario Two

Region	Year						
	2009	2014	2019	2024	2029	2034	2039
Ravensthorpe	363	366	363	356	349	343	337
Ravensthorpe hinterlands	285	287	285	279	274	270	265
Hopetoun	389	392	389	381	374	368	361
Hopetoun hinterlands	430	433	430	421	413	407	399
Munglinup	12	12	12	12	12	11	11
Munglinup hinterlands	94	95	94	92	90	89	87
Shire of Ravensthorpe	1,573	1,586	1,572	1,541	1,512	1,488	1,461

Table Four (sourced from Ravensthorpe Shire Population Projections Report October 2009)

Scenario Three

Region	Year						
	2009	2014	2019	2024	2029	2034	2039
Ravensthorpe	345	351	352	354	358	366	373
Ravensthorpe hinterlands	246	250	251	253	255	261	266
Hopetoun	369	376	377	379	383	392	399
Hopetoun hinterlands	326	332	333	335	338	346	353
Munglinup	10	10	10	10	10	11	11
Munglinup hinterlands	75	76	77	77	78	80	81
Shire of Ravensthorpe	1,371	1,395	1,400	1,408	1,423	1,455	1,484

Table Five (sourced from Ravensthorpe Shire Population Projections Report October 2009)

In the Ravensthorpe Shire Population Projections report, Data Analysis Australia recommended revising the population projections for the Shire of Ravensthorpe should there be any developments in the Shire with regards to employment prospects. In early 2010 First Quantum began operations on the RNP. Whilst it is difficult to determine the impact First Quantum will have on population numbers it is recognised that numbers will be higher than that forecasted in the latest Populations Projections report, although numbers may not rise to the level predicted in the Local Planning Strategy Review 2007 – Population Projections report. With more families moving to the area to work on the RNP, Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe will see an increase of young people and it is important to provide facilities and services that will cater to their needs.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe's 2011 Service Delivery Questionnaire highlighted the need for youth facilities and activities for young people within the Shire. 41% of respondents stated that the level of services and facilities provided for youth/teenagers is below average. It has been identified in the Shires 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan and the 2007 – 2010 Community Safety Plan to develop a Youth Strategy that focuses on delivering more activities for young people.

The Shire of Ravensthorpe Community Safety Plan 2007 – 2010 highlights that crime rates experienced in Ravensthorpe between 1996 and 2004 were well below those in the region and the state for most years in the series for all offence categories, except drug offences. Western Australian Police Statistics show that crime rates in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun is still low from July 2009 to December 2010 (please see appendix two). Whilst recognising that crime rates are low the report states that the majority of those who were consulted appreciated that early intervention with children and youth in providing them with constructive activities will significantly contribute to deterring them from crime later in their childhood and teenage years.

The Shire Community Safety Plan 2007-2010 recommends that:

- Youth services and activities are required in both Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe.

- Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe Progress Associations, Primary and Secondary Schools and the Shire of Ravensthorpe should be encouraged to initiate community activities and events which promote community and agency service awareness, as well as youth leadership and involvement.

It is important to invest in the young people of Ravensthorpe as the limited opportunities will lead to boredom which has the potential to lead to an increase in antisocial behaviour. The current crime statistics shows that there is currently a low crime rate within the Shire of Ravensthorpe however if not sufficiently planned for the forecasted rise in population of young people could see a rise in crime.

Vision

The vision statement for the Shire of Ravensthorpe is “Growing our Community”. This Youth Activity Plan is a commitment to that vision. By investing in infrastructure and programs for young people the Shire is responding to the needs and aspirations expressed by the community. The actions to come out of this plan will encourage participation in community life and enhance the health and wellbeing of young people making it an attractive place for families to work and raise their children.

Investing in infrastructure that helps meet the needs of young people will also benefit the wider community and strengthen the tourism industry within the region by providing fun and exciting activities for families and young people.

Objectives/Scope

- Providing infrastructure and activities for young people so they enjoy living in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.
- Prevent antisocial behaviour that may occur from the rise in population and boredom.
- Connecting young people in the Shire.
- Establish a Youth Advisory Council to ensure that young people have a voice in the community.

Methodology

Student Consultations

In order to determine what activities young people would like in both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, students from RDHS and HPS participated in a series of focus groups. There were four separate focus groups and the method was adjusted to fit the size and age of the groups. In total 66 young people participated in the consultation.

The first group were the Student Councillors of RDHS. There was nine representatives in this group with students from year's five to twelve, who resided in both Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe. The student councillors listed all the activities for young people that are currently available, the challenges they face and the barriers in accessing activities as well

as provided ideas about the kinds of activities they would like to see in the future. The students were each given three stickers and were asked to place them next to their top three priorities.

The second focus group was the high school students of Ravensthorpe. Nineteen students participated. Eight students were from Ravensthorpe and eleven from Hopetoun. Because of the large group size and time constraints, the group was broken up into four smaller groups and based on the challenges they faced accessing facilities and activities they brainstormed activities they would like to see in the next five years. The students were each given three stickers which they then placed next to their highest priorities. The students were able to choose ideas from other groups.



While the plan focuses on young people aged between twelve and eighteen, the decision was made to consult with the younger students, as these students will be most impacted by the recommendations made from this report. Sixteen students from age six to twelve participated, all of them live in Ravensthorpe or on rural properties out of town. It is recognised that the needs and interests of young people change as they get older however it is still important to capture the ideas of this age group. The students were asked to list all the activities they currently enjoy. They were also asked to think about activities they like to do when they visit other places on school holidays or activities they liked to do if they had lived in another place. This was to get them thinking about the activities they would like to see in their own town. They were then asked what activities for young people they would like to see in the future. This group were not asked to priorities as the reading level varied due to age.

The fourth group were students from Hopetoun Primary School from years five to seven. There were a total of twenty two students involved in the consultation. As in the previous focus groups, students were asked to list current activities and any barriers that may restrict access to activities. They were also asked to think about activities they like to do in other places to help identify examples of the kinds of activities that they would like to see in Hopetoun. They were then asked what activities they would like to see in the future and also more specifically what activities they would like to see in a Youth Centre. They were given the opportunity to priorities using the three stickers like the previous groups.

Community Consultations

The broader community were invited to attend one of two consultations in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Flyers were sent out through networks and it was advertised through schools and community groups. Both consultations were poorly attended, with no one attending the Ravensthorpe consultation and four people attending the Hopetoun consultation.

Due to the low numbers, a survey was developed to help capture the thoughts/comments of parents, community groups and other young people who are no longer of school age. Please see appendix one to view the survey questions.

The survey was distributed through schools and through community networks. In order to make it more convenient for participants, there were a number of drop-off points including the Shire, all schools and the Hopetoun Community Resource Centre. Seven surveys were completed.



Findings

Challenges/Barriers

A popular assertion is that there are currently very few activities for young people apart from structured recreation, such as team sports. Current activities in Hopetoun include 'hanging out' at the skate park, however this skate park has been described as dangerous and small. Despite this, the skate park still gets used as there are limited places for young people to meet. Other activities include jetty jumping and riding scooters around town. Both communities identified a lack of an integrated footpath network as an issue. Young people are forced to ride on the street and as a consequence have had their scooters confiscated by the local police.

It was identified that there is a lack of activities for young people to do after school and during the school holidays. The limited options on offer for young people means that many find themselves bored. Boredom can lead to anti social behaviour as young people look for ways to occupy themselves. It is important to have a diverse mix of both structured and unstructured activities on offer for young people to participate in.

There have been opportunities in the past for young people to take part in dance and drama classes using the Hopetoun town hall as a venue, however, the instructors have moved on and there has been no one to replace them. The lack of skilled instructors to run art and recreation classes were identified as an issue at the Hopetoun community consultation.

The Arts Council and Hopetoun Progress Association are very proactive in the community and organise a range of entertaining and educational activities and events for young people and families to enjoy. One of the criticisms is that the educational classes, such as photography, are not on an ongoing basis and often targeted at beginners. Young people have expressed that they want to be able to develop their skills further.

In Ravensthorpe, there is very little infrastructure or activities for young people, other than structured sports at the Recreation Centre. The parks are run down and are not appealing to young people. When asked what activities they currently do, many of the young people provided examples of activities they did at home or on their family farm. They also said that they liked to visit the pool, however, this is made difficult because by law they are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This is difficult for young people whose parents work, especially during the school holidays.

Limited transport and access has been identified as a major issue for young people. One of the major challenges is that young people live out of town on the family farm and are unable to make their own way into town. Furthermore young people from Hopetoun attend Ravensthorpe District High School and the students build friendships over the school term but find it difficult to 'hang out' over the school holidays because they live approximately 50 kilometres apart. There is a community bus, but due to the cost, groups are discouraged to use it. Young people rely on their parents to transport them as there is no opportunity for them to visit their friends or use the facilities the other town may have to offer.

Although not identified by the young people themselves, it is apparent that there are few community groups and no paid officer to develop and coordinate activities for young people within the Shire of Ravensthorpe. It is essential to have staff and volunteers dedicated to plan, organise, coordinate and operate youth activities. It is important to have a Youth Officer to help build partnerships within the community and build the capacity of community groups. Relying on volunteers alone can be problematic as it can lead to mismanagement, burnout, low retention rates and difficulties in recruiting new members.

Opportunities

Participants indentified a need for a dedicated place for young people to meet. The most popular suggestions included skate parks and a youth centres in both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Young people also wanted to see more water activities.

This could be achieved by improving access to the existing pool at Ravensthorpe and installing new equipment such as inflatable slides and obstacles.

Improving footpath networks and parks were also listed as a priority. By creating parks that are more appealing to young people, aged between twelve and eighteen, it provides another



space for young people to meet. Installing exercise equipment and water activities are just a couple of examples provided by participants. There is also a flow on benefit to the wider community as parks can be used by the general community and tourists.

Participants at the Hopetoun Community Consultation and on the survey identified a need for a Youth Advisory Council. It would be preferable to have one Youth Advisory Council for the Shire of Ravensthorpe with representative from both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun that was coordinated by a Youth Officer. Although initial consultation has taken place to develop an overall plan for youth activities, it is essential that young people are consulted on an ongoing basis as the plan is implemented.

The following tables outline the future opportunities identified by young people and the community. The tables have been broken down into key themes including parks and skate parks, water activities, other infrastructure, possible school holiday activities, art activities and recreational activities.

Parks and Skate Parks

Parks and Skate Parks	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Improve Skate Park at Hopetoun (make bigger)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors, High School Students, Hopetoun Primary School Students and Hopetoun Community	26
Skate Park	Ravensthorpe High School Students, Lower School Students and Ravensthorpe Community	7
Skate Park for Skateboards, Bikes, Scooters and Ripsticks at Ravensthorpe	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	3
Lights in Skate Park (Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Park with Giant Slide (eg Katanning)	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students and High School Students	2
Mini Golf	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	2
Bigger Parks with More Equipment	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Adventure Park	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Big Sandpit with Diggers	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Upgrade Parks and Equipment (Ultimate Playground eg Donnybrook)	Hopetoun Primary School Students	3
Flying Fox	Hopetoun Primary School Students	1
Park for Older Kids	Ravensthorpe High School Students and Hopetoun Community	
Motor Cross Track	Ravensthorpe High School Students and Hopetoun Community	
BMX Track	Ravensthorpe High School Students	

Table Six

Water Activities

Water Activities	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Water Park	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students, High School Students and Student Councillors	4
Big Water Slide	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students and Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	1
Diving Board	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students, High School Students and Student Councillors	1
Big Slide in Pool	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Pool in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Inflatable Obstacle for Pool	Ravensthorpe High School Students and Student Councillors	1
Pool in Hopetoun (that has a giant slide and rope swing)	Hopetoun Primary School Students and Hopetoun Community	15
Water Slide on Pontoon (Hopetoun)	Hopetoun Primary School Students, Ravensthorpe High School Students and Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	4
Wave Machine in Pool (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Whirl Pool (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Pool Equipment (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe High School Students	3
Lifeguard at Ravensthorpe Pool	Ravensthorpe High School Students, Student Councillors and Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Community	2

Table Seven

Other Infrastructure

Other Infrastructure	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Youth Centre (pool table, arcade games and soccer table)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors, Ravensthorpe Lower School Students High School Students and Hopetoun Primary School	12
Place to hang out with friends with activities	Hopetoun Primary School Students	3
Games Room (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe High School Students	2
Teenage Retreat	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Music Centre	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Blue Light Discos	Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Community	
Youth Events	Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Community	4
Outdoor Cinema (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students and Student Councillors	1
Outdoor Cinema	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Cinemas (Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe High School Students	4
Cinema (Ravensthorpe)	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Drive in Cinema	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
After School and Holiday Activities	Ravensthorpe High School Students and Hopetoun Community	7
Youth Activity Committee with Parents as Volunteers	Hopetoun Community	
Youth Advisory Council	Hopetoun Community	1
Gym (Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	4

Fitness Gym	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Gym for Teens (Ravensthorpe & Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe High School Students and Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Community	3
Dance Studio	Ravensthorpe Students Councillors	3
Mobile Rock Climbing Wall	Hopetoun Primary School Students	1
More Place to Hang Out	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Bus Station for Kids (with shelter)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors and High School Students	1
Bus from Ravensthorpe to Hopetoun	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Bus Transport	Ravensthorpe High School Students, Student Councillors and Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe Community	3
Integrated Footpath Network	Hopetoun Primary School Students and Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Community	4

Table Eight

Possible School Holiday Activities

Some of the activities listed below were identified as activities that the students would like to see in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun in the future, however, due to the scope of this plan they have been listed as possible holiday activities. Young people can either visit other towns that have these activities to offer or the Shire/Community groups can organise to have these activities visit the Shire during the school holiday break.

Activity	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Ten Pin Bowling	Ravensthorpe Lower School Student and Student Councillors	1
Ice Skating	Ravensthorpe Lower School Student	
Paint Ball	Ravensthorpe Lower School and High School Students	1
Laser Tag	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Rock Climbing Wall	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Adventure Camp	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Museum	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Animal Watching Centre in Bush		
Graffiti/Urban Arts Days	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Pool Day (Lifeguard so parents don't have to take you)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Bush walk	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Bike Ride	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	1
Skate Park Comps	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	2
Camp or excursions to cities/towns, organised by school/parents using the bus for transport	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors, Ravensthorpe High School Students and Lower School Students	
Bus to take to activities	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students and Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	1
School holiday bus run	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Go to the beach (swim, walk, fish)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Movie night	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors, Hopetoun Primary School Students and Hopetoun Community	2
There are art activities for kids but	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	

they are just one off projects	
In school and out school craft club (sand sculptures)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors

Table Nine

Art Activities

Art Activities	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Art Classes (painting)	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students and Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	2
Guitar Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Drama Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Urban art on skate park	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Photoshop Course	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Music Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Photography Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Art Program	Hopetoun Community	2
Community Art	Hopetoun Community	

Table Ten

Recreation Activities

Recreation Activities	Identified By	Number of Priority Stickers
Basketball	Hopetoun Primary School Students and Hopetoun Community	1
Soccer Team	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	1
Tennis Lessons	Hopetoun Community	
Gym, Karate, Ti Quan Do (Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors and Ravensthorpe High School Students	1
Judo	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Dance Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Swimming Lessons Out of School Term	Hopetoun Community	
Swimming Team	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Swimming Club (Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun)	Ravensthorpe Student Councillors	
Dance Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Gymnastics Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Zumba Classes	Ravensthorpe High School Students	
Horse Riding	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
BMX	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Motor Bike Riding	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	
Fishing	Ravensthorpe Lower School Students	

Table Eleven

Recommendations

Infrastructure

Provide a range of appealing, safe, accessible and affordable facilities that aim to attract and cater for young people.

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
Establish a skate park in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun	Lottery West / Royalties for Regions	
Establish a Youth Centre in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun	Lottery West / Royalties for Regions	
Provide young people with a range of water based activities by; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate installing water features into McCulloch park in Hopetoun• Investigate ways of improving access to the Ravensthorpe Public Pool to allow for greater use.• Installing inflatable obstacles and slides at Ravensthorpe swimming pool• Investigating equipment options to install at Hopetoun Beach	Royalties for Regions Dept Sport and Rec Lottery West Royalties for Regions	
Identify key parks and reserves and earmark them for upgrades to include infrastructure for teenagers and explore the option of an adventure park.	Royalties for Regions	
Provide an integrated foot/cycle path network in both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun to allow young people to travel around town safely.	Royalties for Regions	
Support inclusion of youth consultation in all infrastructure projects that will impact them.	Staff Time	

Rational:

- There is an identified need by young people for a dedicated place for young people to meet. A Youth Centre will provide young people with a place to meet friends and engage in purposeful and fun activities in a safe and controlled environment.
- Skate park, parks and water activities will provide young people with a choice of places to 'hang out'/meet and will allow them to take part in unstructured recreational activities.
- Currently young people are required to have an adult accompany them to the public swimming pool as some parents work during the after school hours and on school holidays this restricts access for young people.

Activities

Provide young people with a range of activities that cater for the diverse needs of young people.

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
Develop and coordinate a school holiday program that allows young people to become involved in a range of activities that they would not normally have the opportunity to participate in (please see table five for a list of possible activities).	Dept for Communities / Healthway	Youth Officer
Work in partnership with community organisations to coordinate youth focused events.	Dept for Communities/ Lottery West	
Work with volunteers to organise Blue Lights Disco's, one every school term.	Deptfor Communities	Youth Officer
Invest in an outdoor movie screen that can be used by community groups to hold movie nights for young people and families.	Lottery West	Youth Officer
Improve access to the Ravensthorpe Recreation Centre Gym for young people.	Shire	

Rational:

- Young people have diverse interests it is important to cater to the range of needs of young people. Keep young people interested and active in community life.
- Providing structured activities will reduce boredom over the school holiday periods and weekends.

Transport

Improve transport and access between Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun (and rural properties).

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
Investigate access to and affordability of the community bus and develop ways to reduce cost and improve access.	Staff Time	Youth Officer

Rational:

- Access is a key issue for young people as most are either too young to drive or do not have access to a motor vehicle.
- Young people will be more motivated to undertake an activity if it is easy to access.

Ongoing consultation

Ensure that young people have a voice in the community and are consulted on all decisions that will impact them.

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
<p>Establish a Youth Advisory Committee with young people from both Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, coordinated and overseen by the Youth Development Officer.</p> <p>Function of the Youth Advisory Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise local council on a wide range of issues relating to young people.• Participate in the design of public places for young people.• Plan and organise activities for young people.• Become involved in initiatives with schools and community groups.• Consult with other young people with regards to planning or other key issues.	Shire / Staff Time	Youth Officer

Rational:

- The genuine involvement of young people will contribute more to their development and will add greater value to the community.
- Young people should be given the opportunity to contribute their ideas
- Facilities and activities are more likely to be relevant to young people if the ideas of young people are taken into consideration.
- Young people are more likely to respect environments if they are involved in the planning.
- Involvement in planning will contribute to the positive development of young people.

Partnerships

Establish partnerships at a local level with schools, community groups, businesses and young people working together on youth initiatives.

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
The Shire to allocate resources to initiate activities and programs through schools and with community groups.	Shire / Staff Time	Youth Officer
The Shire, schools, community groups and/or businesses to provide venues or activity facilitators, and/or promote activities.	Shire / Staff Time	Youth Officer
Establish a volunteer data base.	Staff Time	Youth Officer

Rational:

- Partnerships are lacking and rely on motivated individuals.
- Will contribute to a coordinated approach to achieving projects.

- The linking of resources will enable more significant projects and outcomes.
- Existing programs are valuable and should be further supported.

Resources

Ensure there are adequate staff resources to implement the actions in this plan.

Actions	Possible Funding	Responsibility
Employ new staff if required and if it is within the Shires resources.	Shire	CEO

Rational:

- A strong commitment from local government is needed.
- The plan could ‘sit on the shelf’ without motivated staff committed to its implementation.
- Assist in coordinating partnerships
- Coordinate and oversee the Youth Advisory Council
- Manage volunteers