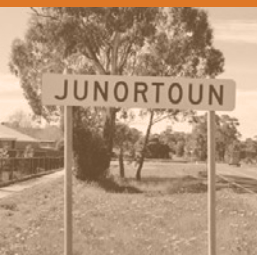




# Junortoun Community Plan 2023-2027



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## Contact the Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG)

- a. Junortoun Community Action Group Inc.  
PO Box 5  
Junortoun Vic 3551
- w. [www.junortoun.vic.au](http://www.junortoun.vic.au)
- e. [admin@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:admin@junortoun.vic.au)
- f [www.facebook.com/junortoun](https://www.facebook.com/junortoun)
- o [www.instagram.com/junortoun/](https://www.instagram.com/junortoun/)
- t [twitter.com/junortoun3551](https://twitter.com/junortoun3551)



# Introduction

## Welcome to the Junortoun Community Plan 2023-2027

For more than ten years Junortoun has been a leader and a model for community engagement and representation in Greater Bendigo. The Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) has used the first two Junortoun Community Plans as foundations to organise, mobilise and campaign for a wide range of initiatives that have made Junortoun a highly desirable, inclusive and connected community.

This third community plan celebrates and recognises our strong community, the resources we share, the actions we take to make Junortoun such an enviable place to live, and the many accomplishments achieved since we first came together. This plan outlines the qualities we desire for our community and nominates key projects that will help us reach those goals.

The views and wishes contained in the plan are drawn from the residents of Junortoun, gathered through conversations, focus groups and surveys. It is our community's expression of what Junortoun is, what we wish to preserve, and what we would like Junortoun to become.

The Junortoun Community Action Group was formed in 2012 to develop and implement the first Junortoun Community Plan. More than ten years later, and as strong as ever, JCAG pursues and advocates on issues of importance to Junortoun residents. JCAG will use this third community plan to guide its operations, ambitions and endeavours over the next five years.

We trust that this plan, like previous plans, will guide decision making by the City of Greater Bendigo, State and Commonwealth government departments, service providers and investors. We thank everybody who has contributed to its development.

### Colin Smith

Chair: Junortoun Community Action Group

### Kevin de Vries

Lead: Junortoun Community Plan 2023-2027

## About Junortoun

Junortoun is located 8km east of Bendigo, home to 3,800 people.<sup>1</sup>

Junortoun truly is a home in the bush. The forest of Bendigo Regional Park and Wellsford State Forest lies to the north; the Greater Bendigo National Park is in the southwest; and the O'Keefe Rail Trail serves as a linear park, passing from east to west.

Most of Junortoun is outside of Bendigo's Urban Growth Boundary and is zoned Low-density Residential Zone (LDRZ) or Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ). A small area in the west of Junortoun (McIvor Forest Estate) falls within Bendigo's Urban Growth Boundary and is zoned General Residential (GRZ). Junortoun is a high-risk fire locality. All of Junortoun is designated as a Bushfire Prone Area, and much of the land in Junortoun is subject to Bushfire Management Overlays.

Features of Junortoun include: a general store and post office, hotel, plant nursery, private secondary school campus, Baptist Church, and trotting and greyhound tracks. The volunteer Junortoun Fire Brigade was established in 1943, and now operates from a modern, expanded facility. Bendigo Domain Village is a complex of 217 independent living units catering for older people. A significant shared use sporting development is under construction at Catherine McAuley College, and a low fee independent Christian primary school is planned to commence at the Bendigo Baptist Church in 2023.

However, there are also notable services that cannot be found in Junortoun, including childcare and early learning facilities, kindergarten, Government primary school, maternal and child health service, medical practice, pharmacy or allied health professionals. There is no public swimming pool or public tennis court, and no sports clubs are based in Junortoun.



While McIvor Highway provides direct access to and from central Bendigo, its presence running through Junortoun serves to divide the community, creates conflicts between through traffic and local road users, and restricts movement of residents from one side of the highway to the other. The highway is a formidable environment for all but the bravest cyclists.

The community of Junortoun is growing, however with the absence of local services, shops, schools, and recreational facilities, it is vitally important that good transport links (car, bike, walking and bus) are available to allow Junortoun residents to access these destinations in neighbouring suburbs.

Further reading on the history of Junortoun can be found at: [www.junortoun.vic.au/about-junortoun/history](http://www.junortoun.vic.au/about-junortoun/history)

1. ABS census data (2021)

## About the Junortoun Community Action Group

The Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) was formed in 2012 to prepare the first Junortoun Community Plan (2013-15). Since then, JCAG has operated successfully for more than ten years, bringing the residents of Junortoun together, and driving initiatives to benefit and improve the Junortoun community.

JCAG organises events and activities for the Junortoun community, convenes special interest groups (walking, gardening, books), acts as Committee of Management for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve, maintains strong relations with Council and government agencies, and has a history of achievement as one of Greater Bendigo's most effective community groups.

JCAG takes responsibility for leading the development of the Junortoun Community Plan and for implementing or overseeing the actions contained in the plan.

You can read more about the achievements of JCAG in Appendix 2.

## Acknowledgements

The Junortoun Community Action Group sincerely thanks all community members who contributed to the development of the third Junortoun Community Plan, in particular:

- Members of the Junortoun Community Action Group
- All the members of the Junortoun community who have participated in meetings, surveys and conversations to help us formulate this plan
- Staff of the City of Greater Bendigo

## Photo credits

- Roger Dunn
- Kevin de Vries
- Junortoun Community Action Group

## Themes, goals and projects

The pages that follow detail the actions that the Junortoun community will pursue over the next five years and in the longer-term. The actions are built around eight themes, which have been developed from the previous community plans and reflect the aspirations and priorities of Junortoun residents.

Each theme expresses the community's goal, outlines the actions already underway to meet those goals, and outlines projects we intend to implement, pursue or advocate for.



## Junortoun priority actions

- Advocate for a structure plan to be commissioned for Junortoun to guide future development. No major project should be approved by Council until a structure plan is completed
- Install identity signage for Junortoun along Mclvor Highway
- Construct a separated walking and cycling path along the south side Mclvor Highway from Harley Street to the O'Keefe Rail Trail
- Advocate for construction of an underpass where the O'Keefe Rail Trail crosses Mclvor Highway
- Undertake drainage works on St Vincents Road where it crosses Splitters Creek to prevent flooding during heavy rain, to ensure emergency vehicle and community access, and allow volunteer fire fighters to respond to a call-outs
- Provide safe cycling connections from Homebush Estate to the Strathfieldsaye bicycle network to support children cycling to/from school in Strathfieldsaye
- Produce a 'newcomers pack' to welcome new residents to Junortoun
- Install a shared cycling and walking path on Trotting Terrace between Mclvor Forest Estate and La Valla Court
- Continued safety improvements for Mclvor Highway through Junortoun, particularly at the intersections of St Vincents Road, Somerset Park Road and Bennetts Road
- Continue to deliver the objectives and projects of the Honeyeater Bushland Reserve Management Plan
- Install wayfinding signage along the O'Keefe Rail Trail and key routes to support their use
- Extend the Myki ticketing system to fully cover the Bendigo-Heathcote bus route





## Building a strong sense of community

Junortoun is a unique community. It is not considered to be a suburb of Bendigo, and yet is certainly not a rural town. As a result, matters of importance to the Junortoun community can be overlooked by planners and decision-makers.

The uniqueness of Junortoun, a mixture of urban and non-urban, needs to be communicated regularly to councillors, council staff, politicians and decision makers as we continue to grow as a safe, welcoming and inclusive community.

### Goals

- Junortoun is a safe, welcoming, inclusive community
- The residents of Junortoun are well connected, involved in their community, and have a strong sense of identity and belonging

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 7: A safe, welcoming and fair community*



### Existing actions that support these goals:

- Special interest groups (walking, gardening, book club, working bees) are organised to encourage community involvement and provide connections for participants
- Community events and activities are organised to bring residents together
- The community supports and is connected to local institutions and businesses, including: Junortoun Fire Brigade, Bendigo Baptist Church, Bendigo Domain Village, Catherine McAuley College, Farmers Arms Hotel, Rodilesa Nursery and the Junortoun Post Office and General Store
- JCAG provides regular communications to residents through social media, newsletters and a community website
- JCAG supports the Junortoun Fire Brigade to communicate messages of fire safety to residents
- JCAG raises and acts on issues of community safety as they are identified

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Install identity signage for Junortoun along Mclvor Highway – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Produce a 'newcomers pack' to welcome new residents to Junortoun – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Provide general interest tours, information, discussion sessions, and opportunities for community involvement
- Maintain a relevant and contemporary website for the Junortoun community
- Promote Junortoun as a unique, growing, community-minded, semi-rural community of Greater Bendigo whose residents value living in their bushland environment

# 2

## Community infrastructure and facilities

This theme includes sporting clubs and recreation opportunities for the residents of Junortoun.

Consideration of future commercial development is discussed under Theme 3: *Structure planning and balanced development*.

### Goals

- The infrastructure and facilities of Junortoun are developed to meet the needs of a growing community
- The residents of Junortoun have local opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and recreation activities

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places*

- *Goal 2.8: Targeted investment in services, facilities and programs to communities most in need*

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- A new fire station has recently been built to meet the needs of the Junortoun Fire Brigade
- NBN fibre connections have been installed through much of Junortoun, and an NBN communications tower was erected at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve to provide wireless internet connections for Junortoun residents
- Significant building works are underway to provide sporting facilities at Catherine McAuley College. The Junortoun community has been promised shared use of these facilities upon completion
- A new Primary School - Bendigo Christian College - is planned to open for Foundation to Year 2 students in 2023, on the site of the Bendigo Baptist Church, and will increase to Year 6 over time
- The facilities at Bendigo Baptist Church are used to provide multiple playgroups and a coffee van service

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Promote recognition of the O'Keefe Rail Trail as Junortoun's linear park, and look for opportunities to enhance the trail to further support its use
- Promote opportunities for residents to participate in organised sport at local sporting clubs
- Maintain, renew and expand the McIvor Forest Estate Play Space including a wider range of age appropriate equipment
- Advocate for appropriate landscape management of the upstream drainage bowl in McIvor Forest Estate
- Encourage establishment of childcare, kindergarten and primary schools in Junortoun
- Explore opportunities to create a 'drop-in' community centre and meeting space
- Consider the need for public toilets, drinking fountains and public BBQs in Junortoun





## Structure planning and balanced development

A great deal of development has already occurred in Junortoun without formal planning. A Structure Plan is a local Council document that guides future land use, building types and sizes, public spaces and activity centres. The Junortoun community calls for completion of a structure plan before any major developments are approved in Junortoun.

Balancing growth, community and environment will help maintain Junortoun as “Our Home in the Bush”.

### Goals

- Growth and development in Junortoun is planned, and is managed in a responsible manner. Residents are participants in the planning process
- Junortoun is recognised as a unique, semi-rural community of Greater Bendigo whose residents value living in their bushland environment – “Our Home in the Bush”
- Decision making affecting Junortoun community is based on appropriate data, and reflects the needs and wishes of Junortoun residents

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places*

- *Goal 2.7: Healthy, liveable spaces and places: Sustainable population growth is planned for*
- *Goal 2.6: Healthy, liveable spaces and places: More people live in 10-minute neighbourhoods*

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- JCAG develops and oversees the Junortoun Community Plan
- JCAG represents the Junortoun community in responses to Greater Bendigo strategies, plans and projects
- JCAG is a strong advocate for issues that are important to the Junortoun community and encourages all agencies to recognise JCAG as a voice for the community

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Advocate that a structure plan should be commissioned for Junortoun to guide future development. No major project should be approved by Council until a structure plan is completed – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Request changes to the boundaries of the community profile produced by .id (Informed Decisions) and used by the City of Greater Bendigo for demographic analysis, to remove Junortoun from the “Rural East” classification, and assign Junortoun its own classification
- Commence discussions with the Department of Education and Training (Vic.) about its plans for and potential location of a future Government primary school in Junortoun



# 4

## Environment, conservation and climate change

Numerous actions have already been taken to strengthen Junortoun's special relationship with nature and the forest and to ensure Junortoun's status as "Our Home in the Bush". The community commits to preserve the natural environment of Junortoun.

### Goals

- The bushland of Junortoun is recognised, preserved, protected and restored
- The Junortoun community supports climate change mitigation projects
- Activities supporting conservation of the environment are a key principle of living in Junortoun's bushland environment

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 5: A climate resilient and healthy landscape*



### Existing actions that support these goals:

- JCAG acts as Committee of Management for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve, rehabilitating the reserve according to an agreed Management Plan
- JCAG conducts roadside clean-up activities along Mclvor Highway
- Nest boxes are constructed, erected and maintained on public land throughout Junortoun

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Continue to deliver the objectives and projects of the Honeyeater Bushland Reserve Management Plan – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Assess the health of Splitters Creek and develop an engagement model to promote and preserve its ecological value
- Foster and build relationships with other groups through the Bendigo East Landcare Network, the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Dja Dja Wurrung community and Landcare Victoria. Investigate the opportunities to establish a Junortoun Landcare group
- Provide information to residents about the unique features of Junortoun's box-ironbark forests and the plants and animals that live in the local environment
- Purchase, or otherwise preserve and protect the 4.5-hectare parcel of privately owned land located between Knul-doorong Woodland and Honeyeater Lane, to provide environmental linkage between the O'Keefe Rail trail and Honeyeater Bushland Reserve and adjoining reserves
- Support other revegetation or conservation activities in Junortoun, such as at Knul-doorong Woodland, O'Keefe Rail Trail, Manning Reserve, Greater Bendigo National Park, Bendigo Regional Park, and Wellsford State Forest
- Look for opportunities to protect and preserve other parcels of land in Junortoun
- Promote community action that reduces our contribution to greenhouse gases in order to reduce climate warming and consequent climate change
- Encourage property owners to care for the road reserve in front of their property
- Support work with agencies to control introduced pests (foxes, rabbits, feral cats, Indian mynahs) and weeds



# 5

## Roads and road safety

Since the very first Junortoun community survey and plan residents have highlighted road safety issues, the division caused by Mclvor Highway, and the conflict between through traffic and local road users. The community strongly supports improvements to intersection safety, walking and cycling paths and the need for safe crossing points along Mclvor Highway.

### Goals

- Mclvor Highway is a road that is safe for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and local motorists
- Local roads are built, maintained and signposted to meet the needs of residents, including pedestrians

#### Relationship to Victorian Road Safety Action Plan (2021-23):

- Supporting vulnerable and unprotected road users
- Reducing underlying risk

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- JCAG communicates with Regional Roads Victoria (RRV), the City of Greater Bendigo and the State Government on road safety issues of concern
- Regional Roads Victoria completed a review of Mclvor Highway (2019-21) and presented its ideas and vision to the community. JCAG assisted RRV with this review
- Regional Roads Victoria undertook safety improvement works at the intersection of Pratts Park Road and Mclvor Highway (2019)
- Regional Roads Victoria completed safety improvement works at intersections along Mclvor Highway (2021-22) at Wilkie Road and Cashens Road
- Regional Roads Victoria commissioned safety improvement works at the intersection of Mclvor Highway and Popes Road, but this work has not yet commenced

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Advocate for construction of an underpass where the O'Keefe Rail Trail crosses Mclvor Highway – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Construct a separated walking and cycling path along the south side Mclvor Highway from Harley Street to the O'Keefe Rail Trail – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Undertake drainage works on St Vincents Road where it crosses Splitters Creek to prevent flooding during heavy rain, to ensure emergency vehicle and community access, and allow volunteer fire fighters to respond to a call-outs – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Continued safety improvements for Mclvor Highway through Junortoun, particularly at the intersections of St Vincents Road, Somerset Park Road and Bennetts Road – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Advocate for safety improvements at the intersection of Somerset Park Road and Mclvor Highway
- Advocate for safety improvements at the intersection of St Vincents Road and Mclvor Highway
- Advocate for additional safer crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists along Mclvor Highway
- Cycle lanes on Mclvor Highway must be contiguous, meet relevant Australian and VicRoads standards, and should connect all the way to the intersection of Mclvor Highway and Reservoir Road
- Advocate for footpaths and segregated cycling paths to be included in all new subdivisions and property developments
- Support the safety of pedestrians and cyclists using Junortoun Road by constructing a footpath along this busy linking road

# 6

## Public transport



Public transport services reduce Junortoun's car-dependency, and provide accessibility options for residents who do not, cannot or choose not to drive.

### Goals

- Residents of Junortoun can access public transport services for commuting, shopping, services and leisure
- Bus services in Junortoun are integrated with Bendigo Bus Network and are equipped with Myki

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places*

- *Goal 2.5: More sustainable active and public transport services*

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- Bus services through Junortoun were significantly improved in 2018

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Fully integrate the Bendigo-Heathcote bus route into the Bendigo Bus Network
- Extend the Myki ticketing system to fully cover the Bendigo-Heathcote bus route – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Assign a route number to the Bendigo-Heathcote route
- Construct an additional bus stop on Mclvor Highway, adjacent to Domenica Drive and Homebush Drive (east)
- Consider the need for an additional bus stop to serve Catherine McAuley College
- Consider a review of the bus route to provide a service to the Junortoun Caravan Park
- Provide support for pedestrians to safely cross Mclvor Highway at all bus stops
- Install shelters at well-patronised stops on bus and school bus routes
- Trial the installation of bicycle racks at 2-3 bus stops along the Bendigo-Heathcote route
- Provide sealed footpaths leading a reasonable distance to/from bus stops in Junortoun
- Develop a relationship with the Department of Transport / PTV to promote service usage and increase viability. Promote the use of bus services in JCAG community newsletters
- Ensure that bus stops, including school bus stops, are well-constructed and maintained

# 7

## Walking and cycling trails and connections

To support recreation and access to shops, services and schools it is important that pedestrians and cyclists can move around safely, protected from motor vehicles. Junortoun is poorly connected to other paths of the Bendigo Bicycle Network. School students living in the in the east of Junortoun cannot access bicycle routes to allow them to cycle safely to school.

### Goals

- **Footpaths are present in all residential streets to allow residents to safely move around**
- **Safe cycling routes allow residents to move around Junortoun and provide unbroken, clearly marked connections to Bendigo, nearby suburbs and key destinations**

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places*

- *Goal 2.3: Everyday walking and cycling is easier for all ages and abilities*

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- JCAG maintains a good working relationship with the Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail

### Future projects and campaigns:

- Install a shared cycling and walking path on Trotting Terrace between Mclvor Forest Estate and La Valla Court – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Construct a separated walking and cycling path along the south side Mclvor Highway from Harley Street to the O’Keefe Rail Trail – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Advocate for construction of an underpass where the O’Keefe Rail Trail crosses Mclvor Highway – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Install wayfinding signage along the O’Keefe Rail Trail and key cycling routes to support their use – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Provide safe cycling connections from Homebush Estate to the Strathfieldsaye bicycle network to support children cycling to/from school in Strathfieldsaye – **PRIORITY PROJECT**
- Provide safe, continuous, well-signposted cycling routes to support access to sporting and recreational facilities located in adjoining suburbs
- Expand the scope of the Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo: Walking and cycling strategy to include Junortoun. Develop detailed future connections to existing cycling paths
- Ensure that all new subdivisions and property developments provide footpaths and segregated bicycle paths
- Advocate for additional safer crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists along Mclvor Highway
- Promote use of the O’Keefe Rail Trail as a route to move throughout Junortoun
- Promote awareness of the Bendigo Bushland Trail as a recreational route and as a means of moving around Greater Bendigo
- Provide a shared walking and cycling path along the north side of Mclvor Highway between Halter Court and Popes Road
- Include Junortoun in any micro-mobility trials (public scooters) conducted in Greater Bendigo
- Explore potential to seal the O’Keefe Rail trail with bitumen from Mclvor Road to central Bendigo to support its use as a safe cycling route





# 8

## Responsible community representation

The community should be represented by an organisation that is committed to fairness and transparency.

### Goals

- The Junortoun Community Action Group represents the community of Junortoun effectively and in a transparent manner
- The Junortoun Community Action Group takes responsibility for implementing and advancing the Junortoun Community Plan
- The Junortoun Community Action Group pursues and advocates on issues of importance to Junortoun residents

*Relationship to Mir wimbul (Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2021-2025):*

*Outcome 1: Lead and govern for all*

### Existing actions that support these goals:

- People of all ages, cultures, genders, faiths, lifestyles are welcome at Junortoun meetings and activities
- JCAG develops and oversees the Junortoun Community Plan
- JCAG builds and maintains constructive relationships with elected representatives and government authorities. JCAG works cooperatively with the City of Greater Bendigo and with State and Commonwealth agencies in the delivery of services and initiatives
- JCAG communicates with residents through social media, regular newsletters and a community website
- JCAG manages money and other assets responsibly
- JCAG provides an annual report to the community on its activities and management of community assets, and makes these reports publicly available
- JCAG seeks grants from appropriate organisations to support its activities

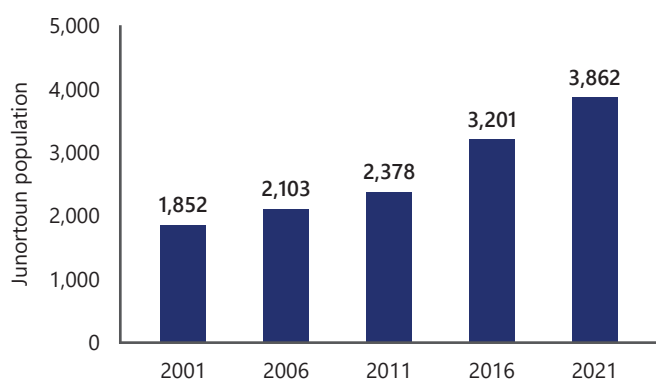
### Future projects and campaigns:

- Recognise and thank JCAG volunteers
- Recruit more community members to JCAG committee, including future leaders
- Develop a mechanism to attract and receive tax deductible donations for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve and related environmental projects
- Make further efforts to include women, people with disabilities, older persons, lonely people, culturally diverse people, young families, and youth in Junortoun activities

# Appendices

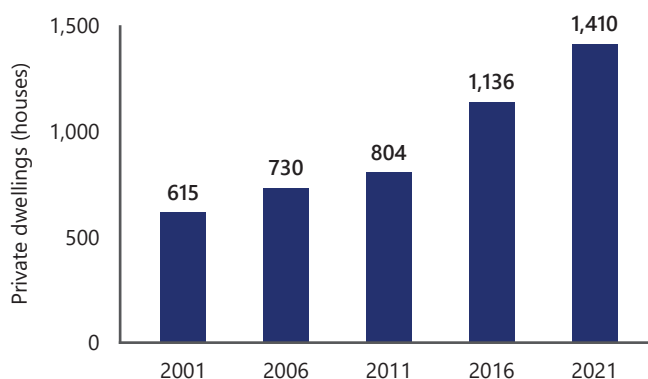
## Appendix 1 – Junortoun demography and growth

### Population growth



ABS Census data

### Growth of private dwellings in Junortoun



ABS Census data

### Selected demographic characteristics

	Junortoun	Urban Bendigo	Victoria
Median age	43	39	38
Children aged 0-19 years	29.2%	24.6%	23.6%
Average number of children per family	2.1	1.9	1.8
Family composition: Family with children	51.5%	39.3%	45.5%
Family composition: Couple without children	40.8%	39.7%	37.6%
Family households	81.9%	66.7%	70.1%
Average bedrooms/dwelling	3.6	3.2	3.1
Houses with no motor vehicles	2.2%	5.5%	7.5%
Houses with 2 or more motor vehicles	75.8%	57.2%	55.3%

ABS Census data 2021

Residents of Junortoun are slightly older, on average, than residents of urban Bendigo and Victoria; this may be influenced by the presence of Bendigo Domain Village.

Junortoun has a higher percentage of married people than the Bendigo, and Victorian average; a higher proportion of families with children; and a higher percentage of children aged 0-19 than urban Bendigo.

Houses are generally larger than those found in Bendigo or elsewhere in Victoria, with higher median rental payments and higher mortgage repayments than both urban Bendigo and Victoria.

Junortoun is not a “walkable community”, is not a “10-minute neighbourhood”, and its residents are highly car dependent.

The *Australian Urban Observatory Liveability Report for Bendigo* (2020) places Junortoun in the lowest ranks for liveability, walkability, social infrastructure, public transport and food environment

## Appendix 2 – Achievements of the Junortoun Community Action Group 2012-2022

In 10 years the Junortoun Community Action Group has achieved an enormous amount. Some of the Group's accomplishments include:

### Building a strong sense of community

- Communication with the community through newsletters, website and social media, including documenting the 20th century history of Junortoun
- Numerous community events and public forums, and countless sausage sizzles. These include: Australia Day breakfasts and annual Welcome to Summer BBQs, The Big Conversation (2015), road, transport and cycling forums, and a community cultural event at Knul Doorong Woodland (2018)
- Erection of interpretive signage and maintenance at Manning Reserve
- Establishment of local community interest groups: walking, gardening and book groups and Honeyeater Reserve volunteers

### Community infrastructure and facilities

- Advocacy for construction of a playground at Mclvor Forest Estate (2014)
- Support for bid for Junortoun Community Sports Precinct at Catherine McAuley College (2021)

### Structure planning and balanced development

- Contribution to numerous Greater Bendigo consultations, projects, planning studies, policies and projects

### Environment, conservation and climate change

- Weed control at Manning Reserve
- Construction and erection of over 100 nest boxes on the O'Keefe Rail Trail (from 2016 onwards)
- Establishment as a Committee of Management for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve (2019) to protect, manage and rehabilitate 17 hectares of public space
- Development of a Honeyeater Bushland Reserve Management Plan
- Clean up days at Manning Reserve, Mclvor Highway and O'Keefe Rail Trail

### Roads and road safety

- Speed limit reductions along Mclvor Highway to improve community safety (2018), and construction of turning lanes and additional lighting (2021)

### Public transport

- An increase in frequency of the public transport bus service along Mclvor Highway between Heathcote and Bendigo (2018)

### Walking and cycling trails, connections

- Advocacy for construction of a sealed walking and cycling path through National Park between Junortoun (Mclvor Forest Estate) and Strathfieldsaye (2018)
- Design modifications at La Valla Court to provide for a bicycle track to access the O'Keefe Rail Trail

### Responsible community representation

- Development of two Community Plans (2013 and 2016)
- Establishment as Incorporated Association (2014)
- Working constructively with Council and State and Federal Government elected representatives, staff and agencies and departments
- Partnering with Junortoun Fire Brigade, Bendigo Baptist Church, Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo Domain Village, Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail, Strathfieldsaye & District Community Enterprise, and Landcare
- Obtaining thousands of dollars in grants which have been invested back into the community through events and infrastructure
- Weathering the challenges of COVID-19 (2020-22)
- Demonstrating accountability through public reporting of activities and financial statements

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For further reading about the development of this community plan please visit: [www.junortoun.vic.au/community-plan](http://www.junortoun.vic.au/community-plan)

