

The Foster Community Plan 2025-2028



Date: February 2026

For more information: fostercommunityplanninggroup@gmail.com or download a copy of the plan from www.foster.vic.gov

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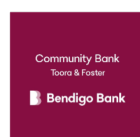


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Introduction

Purpose of the Community Plan

The purpose of the Foster Community Plan is to set out the community's shared vision for Foster's future and highlight the priorities we believe will make our town stronger, more connected and sustainable.

The Plan has been created by the community, for the community, with local input via a community survey, conversations and a community planning event. Supported by the South Gippsland Shire Council and local organisations, the plan reflects what matters most to Foster residents and provides a clear guide for future projects, decision-making and advocacy.

The benefits of developing a community plan for Foster include:

- Identifying future projects that may benefit the community
- Encouraging local and external partnerships
- Funders are more likely to support communities that have a clear, locally endorsed plan
- Building on our progressive community culture
- A plan demonstrates an understanding of interest areas to new community members and funding partners

Who facilitated the development of the Foster Community Plan

The Foster Community Planning Group facilitated the development of the Community Plan (the Plan) which included Joanne Stringer, Emma McKay, Shane Doherty and Dana Hughes.



The Foster Community Planning Group – from left Shane Doherty, Joanne Stringer, Dana Hughes and Emma McKay

Methodology

The community of Foster was consulted between August to November 2025, using several different tools. These included face-to-face conversations with community leaders and members, service groups and conversations with people on the streets of Foster.

A Community Survey (the Survey) was conducted during the month of September 2025, with 210 people responding, which is 10% of Foster's population.

The Survey was advertised via a letter box drop in Foster. There were a series of press releases and advertising in Prom Coast News during August and September, which has over 2,100 readers.

Both the Survey and the Community Planning Event were promoted on the Foster Community Facebook page and the Foster Community Planning Group's Facebook page.

Key community groups were identified who we met with and discussed the Survey and the Community Planning Event. These groups included the Foster RSL, Foster U3A, South Gippsland Community Health Foundation and Manna Gum Community House. We also attended the Do It Deadly event held at Foster Secondary School, to raise awareness with school students. Organisations supported the distribution of the survey through their networks, such as the local schools and South Gippsland hospital which was equivalent to more than 200 families.

The results from the engagement strategies were presented to the community at the Foster Community Planning Event on November 15, 2025. Over 270 people attended the event to add their ideas to the information already gathered.

The Slogan & Philosophy

The Planning Group adopted the slogan, ***"Behind every good idea is someone who believed enough to act."*** The message is simple: making a difference starts with taking action — whether it's a small act or a bigger one. It's easy to make a wish list, but without action, nothing will change.



Figure 1: Latte Dah

Foster is the community it is today because people in the past chose to act. Previous community plans show what can happen when ideas are backed by community spirit and people working together. We hope this community plan will do the same — turn ideas into action for the future of Foster

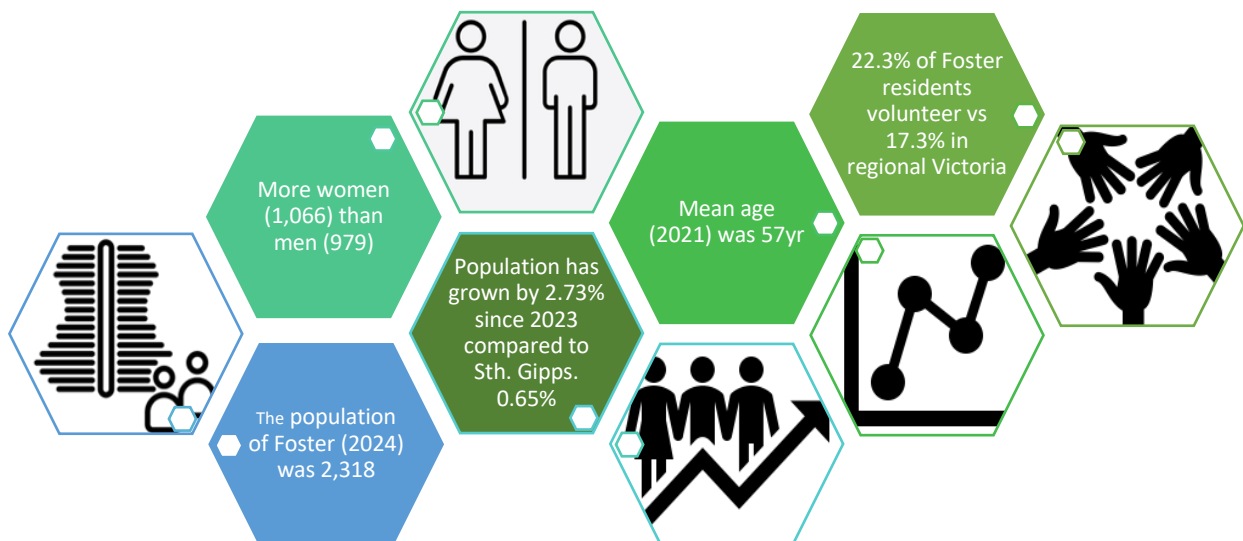
About Foster

Foster, a rural town, is 170 km south-east of Melbourne on the South Gippsland Highway, 45 km north of Tidal River, Wilson's Promontory. As the main shopping centre in the area, Foster is a short drive from other popular attractions, including Wilsons Prom, Shallow Inlet, Corner Inlet, Sandy Point and Waratah Bay and Victoria's highest waterfall, Agnes Falls. Foster is blessed with magnificent beaches, ancient forests, rich soil, abundant rainfall and vibrant, caring community.



Figure 1: Map of Foster and surrounds

A Snapshot of the People

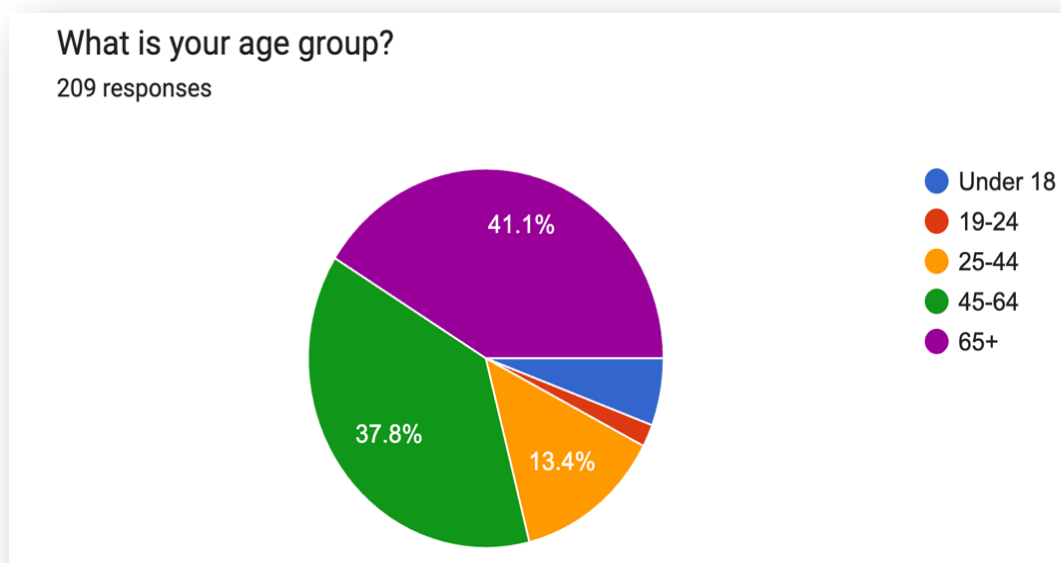
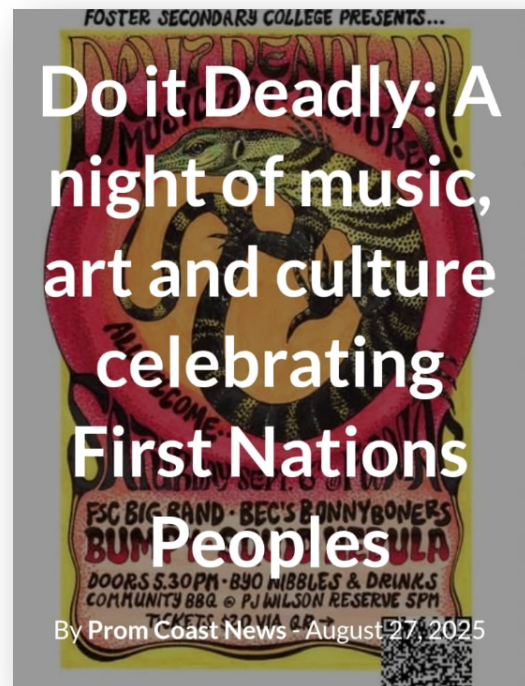


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¹ <https://forecast.id.com.au/south-gippsland/about-forecast-areas?WebID=110>

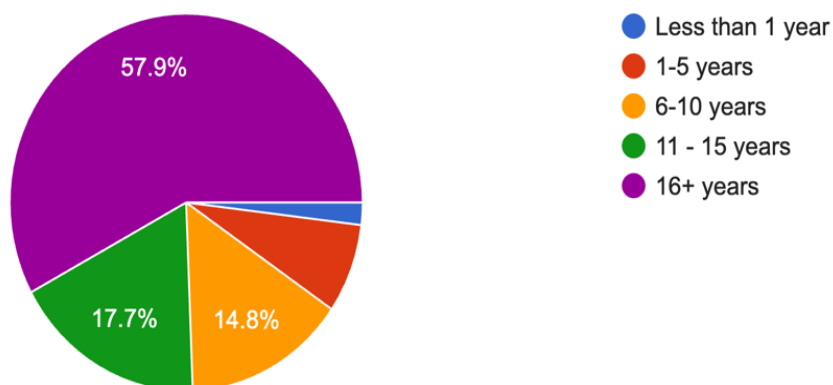
The community survey was offered both online and as a paper copy. People could access it through a web link or by scanning a QR code. Some community members were unsure about using the QR code. So hard copies were available on request and from Manna Gum Community House. The awareness campaign was supported by local business owners with the slogan “I’ve completed my survey, have you?”

Most people who responded to the survey were aged over 44, which reflects the average age of the community. To make sure younger voices were included, the planning group reached out through local schools and activity groups. At the Community Planning Event, younger people clearly identified the need for a skate park and shade sails at the pool



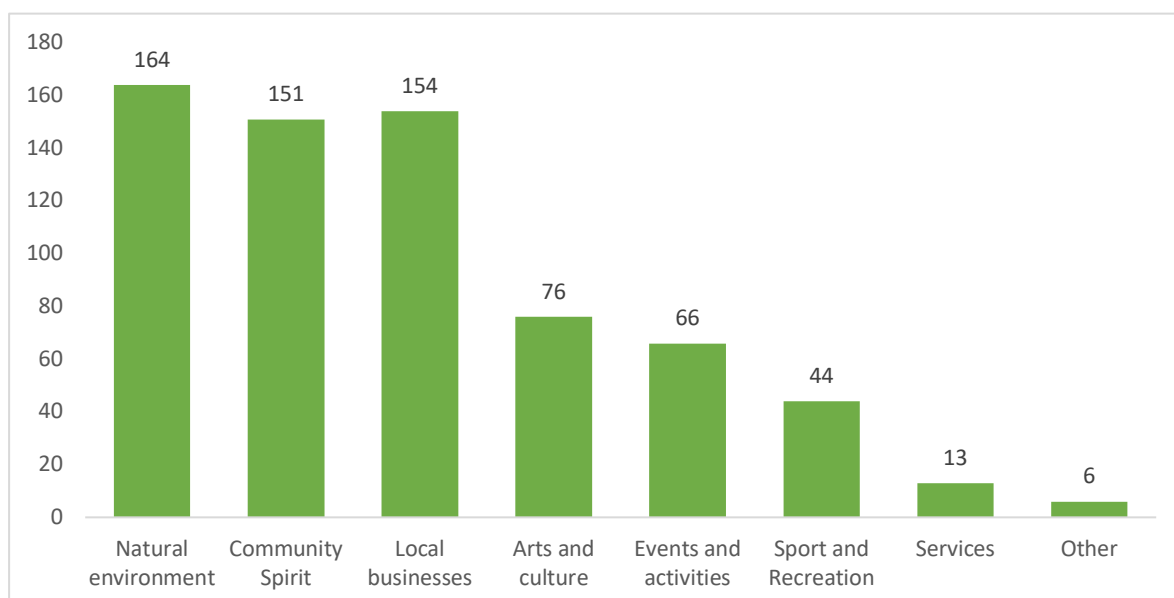
About You How long have you been connected to Foster?

209 responses



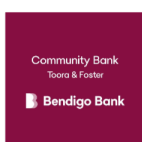
The question “*What do you love about Foster?*” revealed strong shared themes, while also highlighting the wide range of places, services and traditions people value. Community organisations such as Manna Gum Community House, the Community Bank Toora and Foster, the medical precinct and Foster’s strong farming culture and local businesses were repeatedly mentioned as things people are proud of and appreciated.

What do you love about Foster?



Note: Other included comments such as Church, Angie (at IGA), Community House and away from the big city

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What are Foster's strengths?

The strongest message from the community was: **Foster's greatest strength is its sense of community.** Respondents said that it's the community itself that makes Foster such a special place.

A close second was the range of services available for a town of this size. The medical precinct which includes South Gippsland Hospital, Foster Medical Centre and Prom Country Aged Care was highlighted as a major asset. Overall, the feedback showed that for many of the respondents Foster is a strong, connected community supported by excellent local services.

Foster Community Plan
24 Sep 2025

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FOSTER

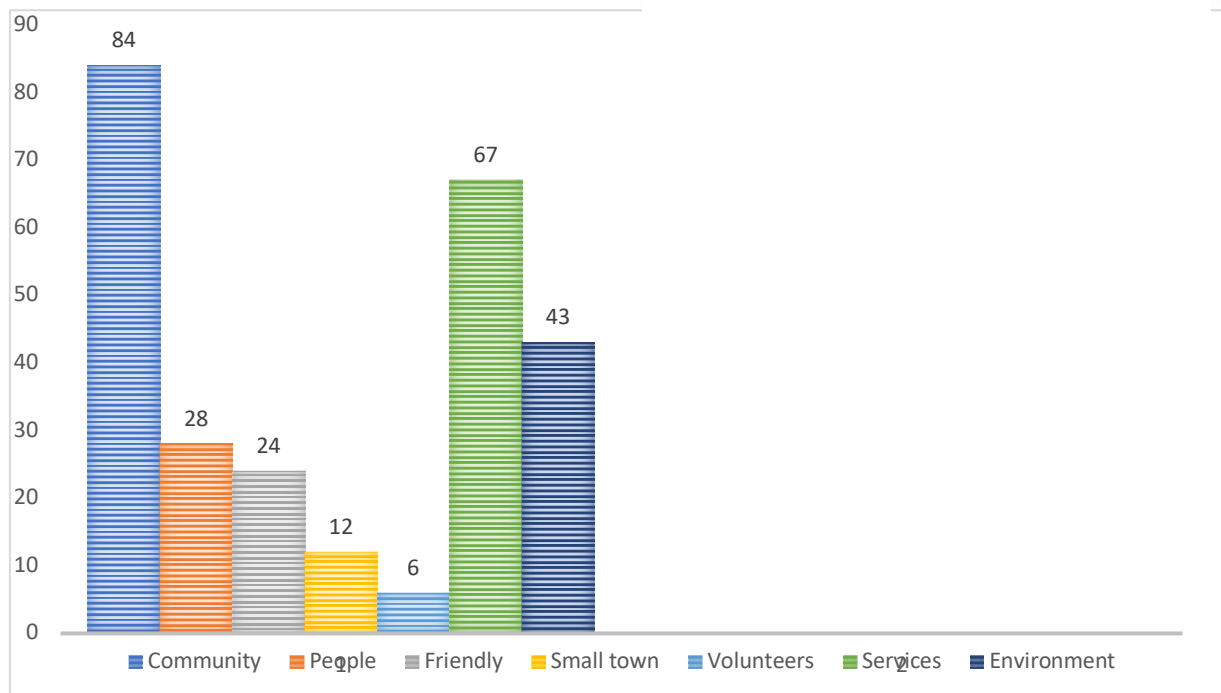
We've done the survey. Have you?

Help create a shared five-year vision for Foster.
Add your voice to the community plan.
<https://forms.gle/FRJQSYA7JHFEZM7>

Survey closes in 1 week!
Have your say by completing the Foster Community Plan Survey:
<https://forms.gle/fhNmpCNeY17LhKFH7>
Follow us on Facebook for updates [Foster C...](#) See more

Figure 3: Prom Meats

What are Foster's Strengths



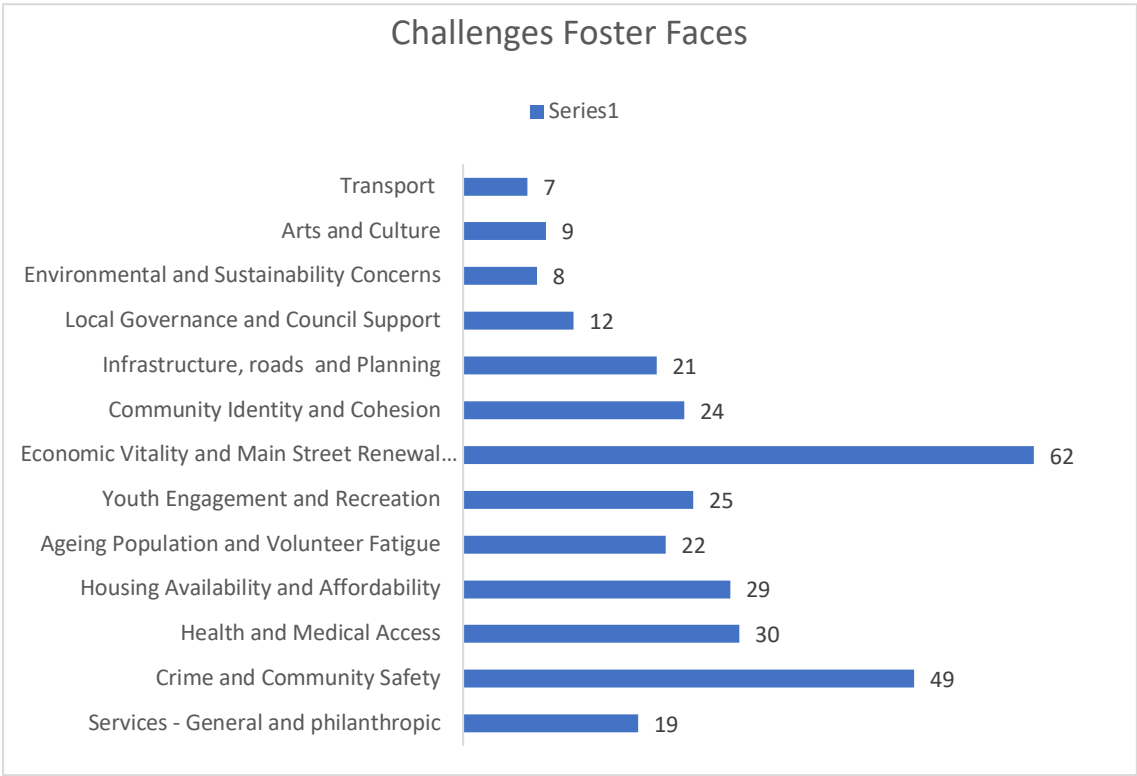
"Foster has everything:- schools, kindergarten, shops, medical centre, hospital, sports venues- golf, footy bowls basketball tennis, an aged care facility, shops and a bank." Survey respondent

Challenges Facing Foster

Respondents were asked about the challenges Foster is facing right now. One of the greatest concerns was the economic health of the retail area. Comments varied — some people mentioned empty shops, others wanted more variety in food options or more outdoor dining. There was also recognition that it can be difficult for business owners to stay open for long hours but the desire for longer hours was expressed.

Other comments centred around the importance of maintaining the small town feel when the population is growing, young people leaving town and for some the experience of not being welcomed. Crime was another issue raised, particularly in the survey responses, with people expressing concerns about public safety.

Note: The survey was conducted in September 2025 when there was a spate of break-ins and car thefts, which is unusual for Foster. Community anxiety was heightened and was therefore evident in the survey. Vic Police commented on the issue in the Prom Coast News September 2026 outlining that these crimes had been committed by one individual who has subsequently been apprehended.



"It's a welcoming and friendly community. Also, the hospital, medical precinct and aged care facility are extraordinary for a town this size."
Survey respondent

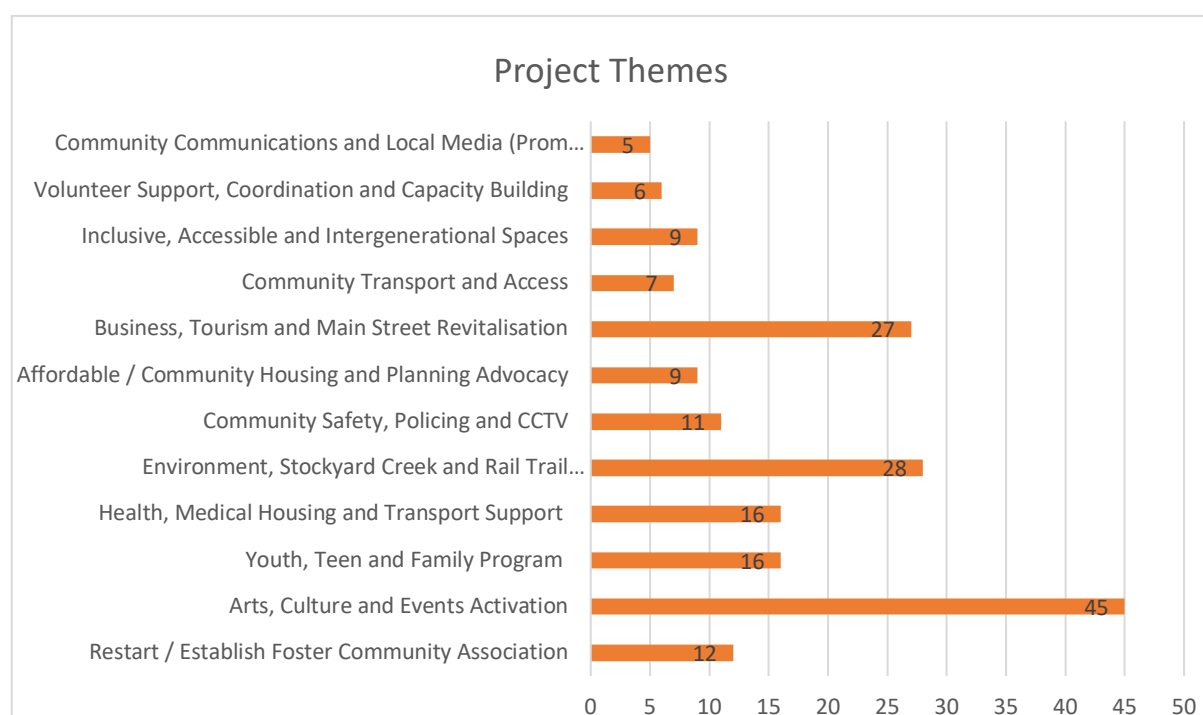
Community Values

The key values identified through the Survey were:

- Caring and connected
- Inclusive and welcoming
- Sustainable and resilient
- Creative and enterprising
- Respectful of our environment and heritage

Project Themes

Several key themes emerged through the Survey. These themes were then presented at the Community Planning Event. Within each theme there were a variety of potential projects or actions. The themes and types of projects are summarised below



“Meeting the needs of the expanding population i.e. need more medical services, childcare services, allied health services” Survey Respondent

Action, Advocacy and Timing

Projects differ in what's needed to initiate, implement and maintain. Some can be implemented by an existing community group right now, while others are beyond a group or the town's control. In those cases, a group can still speak up and advocate for change.

The power of collective thinking was demonstrated at the Community Planning Event where groups shared their ideas and projects with each other and partnership opportunities emerged.



Figure 4: Members of the South Gippsland Community Health Foundation networking with others at the Planning event

"We could advocate for Affordable Housing, Health, and Transport"
Survey Respondent

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Community Bank
Toora & Foster
Bendigo Bank



Projects Led by Community Champions

Great ideas come to life when someone is willing to drive them. The projects listed below were voted as high priorities through the Survey and the Planning Day, and each has a group or champion ready to take it forward.

Many great ideas for projects were identified in talking with the community. Each of them with the potential to build community capacity and meet the needs of different residents. However, unless someone is prepared to take the idea and be its champion it will remain a great idea. A list of the project ideas can be found in Appendix 1: Project Themes, Specific Projects, Champions and Type of Action above.

Below are key projects identified by the community and a champion or group have indicated to move the project forward

Focus Area 1: Re-establish the Foster Community Association

Project name	Re-establish the Foster Community Association
Description	To re-establish the Foster Community Association by April 2026 to act as an auspicing body for community groups in Foster
Why it's important	A Community Association acts as the main voice for the community when dealing with groups like Council or the State Government. It can also support smaller community groups by taking care of the formal requirements and paperwork, allowing those groups to focus on getting things done.
Key Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish interest in the re-establishment of the Foster Community Association• Develop a plan to outline a clear path forward• Communicate the plan with the community
Who might be involved / champions	Joanne Stringer – Current Secretary of FCA (currently inactive) , Emma McKay, Kerry Hill, Rosemary Brooks, Luke Hannigan
Possible partners	South Gippsland Shire Council & Foster Chamber of Commerce
Measures of Success	The FCA is formed and active by April 2026. The Foster Community Plan is being used to drive key projects
Timeframe	April 2026 and beyond – Short term for re-establishment and medium and long term for possible projects

Focus Area 2: To erect shade sails at the Foster Pool

Project name	Erect shade sails at the Foster pool
Description	Erect shade sails over the Foster Pool (where exactly)
Why it's important	As people become more aware of the importance of sun safety, it affects how they use the pool. Without proper shade, spending a long time at the pool isn't a safe or responsible option.
Key Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify possible funding opportunities• Source quotes for the product and the installation• Work with Council and the funders to complete the project
Who might be involved / champions	Foster Pool Committee
Possible partners	South Gippsland Shire Council, Victorian State Govt, Department of Sport and Recreation
Timeframe	Medium term
Resources Needed	~ \$60,000
Measures of success	Shade sails installed for the summer season of 2026/27



Focus Area 3: Revegetation of Stockyard Creek

Project name	Revegetation of Stockyard Creek
Short description	Remove the weeds and revegetate Stockyard Creek with indigenous plants
Why it's important	Revegetating Stockyard Creek is important because it protects the environment, improves the area for recreation and strengthens the community's connection to this natural space and supports the platypus community in the creek.
Key Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish volunteer group / capacity• Work with Council, Landcare and the Catchment Management Authority (CMA)• Develop a project plan
Who might be involved / champions	Corner Inlet Landcare
Possible partners	South Gippsland Landcare, Catchment Management Authority
Timeframe	Short term
Resources Needed	Funds to purchase plants
Measures of success	Stockyard Creek will be free of weeds and planted with indigenous plants



Focus Area 4: Upgrading the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

Project name	Upgrade the arts centre (FWMAC),
Description	Plan for future re-development and action current strategies to ensure the FWMAC is able to service key community activities.
Why it's important	The FWMAC is a key facility in Foster . It houses FAMDA and U3A as well as many regular community events and activities that support community wellbeing.
Key Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the current Strategic Plan to direct activities• Build community support for the proposal• Advocate for support
Who might be involved / champions	The Foster Hall Committee
Possible partners	South Gippsland Shire Council Arts Victoria User Groups
Timeframe	Both short and long term
Measures of success	Council commits to a re-build plan



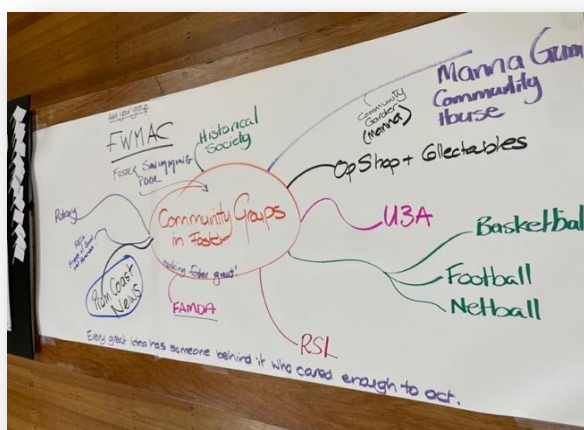
Figure 5: Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Committee

Focus Area 5: Building the Colin Hall Pavilion

Project name	Colin Hall Pavilion
Description	Constructing a 12m x 6m shed divided into 2 sections: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. environmentally controlled storage area2. Display area for collection of agricultural equipment
Why it's important	This space is vital for storing over 100 yrs of copies of the Mirror and a growing collection of items as a place of deposit for Public Records Office Victoria.
Key Strategies	Raise funds and build awareness
Who might be involved / champions	Foster Historical Society
Possible partners	Bendigo Bank, Rotary, Lions and RSL
Timeframe	Short to medium
Measures of success	Completion of building and fitting out of facility



Current Projects with Champions



There are many community groups in Foster who cater for a wide range of interest areas. This Plan has not captured all these activities

The Community Planning Group recognises that these groups are crucial to the social, mental and physical wellbeing of our residents and have current or pending projects and are active in the community.



Another tool used on the day to gather ideas and questions from the community.

Two key ideas that emerged were rebuilding the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre so it can be used for a wider range of activities and extending the footpaths out to the Foster Cemetery and further.

People also raised the question: “What should happen to Wilson Park?” and “Does Foster have a Fire Management Plan?”



“Skate Park at Station Park, built with thought it could service all the interest and, communities, communities from kinder age to adult.”

Survey Respondent

Next Steps

The Plan will be handed to the Foster Community Association and can be used to guide activities over the next 3 years. Council may use the Plan to inform decisions related to Foster and community groups can use the data collected to support funding applications.

To ensure relevance it is envisaged that the following will occur.

- Annual community check-in
- Progress report published on website or Facebook
- Plan updated every 3 years

Acknowledgements

The Community Planning Group would like to thank everyone who helped develop the plan. Manna Gum Community House also provided practical and in-kind support as did the Community Strengthening Team at Council.

Thanks to those who contributed financially and in-kind:

- Community Bank Toora and Foster
- Foster RSL
- Manna Gum Community House
- South Gippsland Sire Council
- Virginia and Paul Odwyer

We are especially grateful to the volunteers who generously gave their time to represent their groups and support the process.

Exhibitors

- Foster Cemetery Trust
- Foster Historical Society
- Foster Op Shop and Collectables
- Foster Arts Music & Drama Association
- Foster Swimming Pool
- Foster U3A
- Prom Coast News
- Manna Gum Community House
- South Gippsland Community Health Foundation

Appendix 1: Project Themes, Specific Projects, Champions and Type of Action

The comments below are direct quotes from the Community Survey and the Community Planning Event. Some comments were similar, so they've been grouped together. Ideas that received a lot of support have been highlighted to make them easier to spot.

If you can see a way you could help move any of these project ideas forward, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact fostercommunityplanninggroup@gmail.com

Theme	Theme Description	Suggested Projects	Champions/partners or Lead Agencies <i>(a project must have a champion to progress)</i>	Project Status	Advocacy/Action
Restart / Establish Foster Community Association		Restart a Foster Community Association	Past FCA Secretary and 5 interested people	In Progress	Action
Arts, Culture and Events Activation FAMDA - theatre	Support for more hall performances, music jams, regular concerts, arts precinct, upgraded arts centre (FWMAC), festivals, visiting entertainers and a stronger public arts presence in Main Street.	Hall Performances			
		Music performances. / I would love to see more things happening. / Music on the streets. Wake up this town.	FAMDA	In progress	Action
		Upgraded and redevelop arts centre (FWMAC) / New Arts Centre – redevelop, combine art gallery, theatre and U3A centre.	Foster Hall Committee		Action & Advocacy
		Develop an arts precinct. / A stronger public arts presence in Main Street.			
		Recognise Foster War Memorial Art Centre for the sub-regional facility it is for the Prom Coast region.	Foster Hall Committee, SGSC		Advocacy

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		Grand piano at the FWMAC. / Get a concert grand piano to attract top musicians for concerts.			Action
		Trips to Melbourne to the Theatre on the community bus.			
		Support Little Kin Music. So great for children's development and not financially viable for the ladies who run it.			
		More Art Galleries			
		Start working with the school as a work experience programme to launch careers in the arts.			
		Celebrate the importance of organic farming and growing fresh fruit and veggies in schools.			
		School kids sessions in the community garden, woodwork classes for old and young			
		Similar events weeklong activation as in Yarram next Easter, including celebrating wildlife. Yarram next Easter includes Strzelecki Koala Festival which celebrates our precious wildlife.			
		Skate Park			
		Skate Park (Strong support at the Community Planning Event)	South Gippsland Shire Council	In progress	Action and Advocacy
		Skate Park not beside kids playground. Because older kids use bad language and bad behaviour.			
		Skate Park at Station Park, built with thought it could service all the interests, communities, communities from kinder age to adult.			

Youth, Teen and Family Programs	Requests for youth spaces e.g. skatepark, safe gathering places, teen excursions, school volunteering, inclusive activities for non-sporting kids and support for young parents/new mothers.	Skate Park./ We want a skate park next to the museum near the shops, so the kids are safe and have fun. Have a fun thing to do.			
		We want a skate park next to the museum near the shops, so the kids are safe and have fun. Have a fun thing to do.			
		Safe gathering places			
		Teen excursions			
		School volunteering			
		Activities for non-sporting kids			
		Young parents/new mothers. group	Manna Gum Community House	In progress	
		Rotary support to Manna Gum youth programmes and primary school - Yacht Club.	Rotary, Manna Gum Community House		
		Youth drama classes and local theatre.			
		South Gippsland Secondary College and FAMDA work together.			
		Music Club.			
		Craft related clubs, for example textiles, woodworking, knitting, sewing and weaving.			
		Support journalism course at school.			
		A place where young moms can go with older women can go to support each other. Young women need support of older women and older women love to be around and help the village idea. Someone had added. Love this.	Manna Gum Community House?		
Health, Medical Housing and	Ideas to create shared/temporary	Medical			
		Housing for Health workers			

Transport Support	housing for visiting health staff, improve access to GPs, fund medical staff accommodation and provide community transport to out-of-town appointments.	Given the crowded Foster Medical Centre, would some Doctor like to start a new clinic.	Medical Centre, PCAC, Sth. Gipps. Community Health Foundation		
		Foster is an important medical hub for other local townships, for example Sandy Point and Toora.			
		The lack of medical staff GPS is quite frankly, dangerous. Foster needs more doctors.			
		Consider sponsorship scholarship for visiting GP's and locums.			
		Housing for the homeless is more important than this e.g. social determinants of wealth. The GP clinic makes a profit. They should pay like other industries. Incentivized doctors to come here			
		What can be done to close the gap?			
		Monthly lunches with our elderly as in Mirboo North.			
		Community Transport	Flying Doctors Service	In progress	
		Collect stats on homeless poverty and food security in the district, then work out a strategy with the Shire to fix the problems.			
Environment, Stockyard Creek, Station Park and Rail Trail Improvements		Native planting & revegetation			
		Cleaning up and activating Stockyard Creek	Corner Inlet Landcare Group	In progress	Action
		Stockyard Creek revitalization, weeding. Make it a focal point.			
		Stockyard Creek regeneration, a treasure for the town. Make it beautiful.			
		Management plan for Station Park			Advocacy & Action
		Exercise equipment at the Rail Trail			

Strong interest in cleaning up and activating Stockyard Creek, better paths and signage linking rail trail to town, native planting, environment centre, and more support for sustainability initiatives.	Toilets at the Rail Trail	Council & Community		
	Better paths and signage linking rail trail to town			
	A master plan for Station Park that incorporates linking the rail trail to the town centre.			
	Station Park needs a better use of facilities. and revitalisation, it has potential.			
	Environment centre / Support for sustainability initiatives.			
	What are we going to do with Wilson Park?	Council		Advocacy
	Dog Park			
	Dog Park / Dogs off leash park old station area.			Action
	Enclosed off leash park for dogs at Oval			
	Rail Trail			
	Rail Trail, Fish Creek End. Pine Needles. Dangerous in the wet?			
	Better drainage in spots on the trail e.g. Fish Creek end also.			
	Rail Trail - more seating areas to sit and reflect.			
	Improve accessibility for all to the Rail Trail. Use Rail Trail infrastructure to link communities. Trackless electric trains access for all, not just cyclists. How? Do less able visitors enjoy the rail trail?			
	Exercise equipment at the rail trail and seating in the area.			
	Link rail trail to town.			

		Public toilets at the Rail Trail for users- (Strong support at the Community Planning Event)			
		Walking path to Foster Cemetery from town.			
		Community and council to stop using toxic chemicals. On roadside and on public grounds including around the childcare schools. / Council to reduce the use of chemicals in public spaces	Council		Advocacy
Community Safety, Policing and CCTV	Desire for greater police presence, town-wide CCTV/security, lighting upgrades, neighbourhood watch, and coordinated response to rising break-ins and petty crime.	Town-wide CCTV/security,	Council Police Vic		Advocacy
		Lighting upgrades. / More streetlights.	Council		Advocacy
		Establishment of a neighbourhood watch			
		Coordinated response to rising break-ins and petty crime, / More police presence.	Police Vic	In progress	Advocacy
		Dogs on leads safer for walkers, wildlife, riders and other pets.			
		Rumble strips on road between Foster and Toora.			
		Improve SGRT crossing at the Toora end where the bend is			
		No CC TV surveillance of citizens.			
Affordable / Community Housing and Planning Advocacy	Calls to protect agricultural land, enable more affordable/energy-efficient housing,	Protect agricultural land	Landcare / Farmers		
		Enable more affordable/energy-efficient housing	Council, Community Association		Advocacy
		Council to allow more tiny houses - we can't get a reasonable cost accommodation for our farm workers.			
		Improve planning transparency	Council, Foster Community Association		Advocacy
		Ensure new estates are green and community focused.			

	improve planning transparency, and ensure new estates are green and community-focused.	Make more land available through subdivision in less productive land.			
		Help young people to leave home if they need to.			
		Community owned battery bank for power outages.	Manna Gum Community House		
		Promotion of Linton court.	Linton Court Committee of Management		
Business, Tourism and Main Street Revitalisation	Support for more diverse food options, longer shop opening hours, food truck events, destination drawcards, Sunday activation, and help to make starting a business easier.	More diverse food options			
		Longer shop opening hours			
		Food truck events			
		Sunday activation			
		Create Foster as a foodie destination like Meeniyan. Where is the good food movement?			
		Night dining venues? Where there are cafes, shops. delicatessens.			
		Help to make starting a business easier			
		Better notice boards and more notice boards.			
		More notice boards for community events, less of the business notices, local art, etc. Theatre.			
		Planning			
		Reduce red tape. Planning costs. EHOS and cost of normal business, for example food safety costs.			
		Reduce red tape. Planning costs. EHOS and cost of normal business, for example food safety costs.			
		Planning to permit outdoor eating etc.			

		Small businesses need staff – The staff need rentals - This is a housing issue.			
		Shopping events to draw shoppers to town.			
		Pressure hose for the footpath to clean them.			
		Encourage PV to partner with local tourist industry			
		Entrance from rear car park needs resurfacing and better drainage.	Council		
		Consistent shop front instead of changing businesses.			
		More streetlights around Foster.			
		Encourage free camping sites to the area as caravan owners spend money in the local area.			
		Encourage and help IGA to improve their front garden.			
		This town needs to lift its game to attract people with a variety of better cafes.			
		Build a positive atmosphere so businesses are supported by local and community for example,			
		Hospitality to work together to ensure a food outlet is open at weekends.			
		Preserve heritage shops.			
		Tackle Google - maybe - and direct traffic through town?			
Community Transport and Access		Flying doctors transport to Melbourne./ Fund and expand patient transport services, for example the Royal Flying Doctor Service.	Flying Doctor Service	In progress	Advocacy
		Low-cost transport to medical services,			
		Better connection across Corner Inlet communities.			Advocacy
		Vline			

	Requests for a community bus (seniors, teens, between towns), low-cost transport to medical services, and better connection across Corner Inlet communities.	Comfortable, easily accessible Vline buses.			
		The Vline is very poor compared to what others have like trains to Melbourne.			
		At a reasonable time, Vline too early or too late.			Advocacy
		Community Bus			
		Better public transport to Melbourne locally Fish Creek. Meeniyah, Foster, etc. / Better public transport. (Strongly supported at the Community Planning Event)			
		Community bus to Melbourne. For the theatre.			Advocacy
		Requests for a community bus. / Community bus that elderly can access to Leongatha and Wonthaggi. Toora has a bus to take people shopping to Shepperton each Tuesday.			
		Community bus service between towns.			
		How about a baby boomer cohort of volunteers? Baby boomer besties?		In progress	
Inclusive, Accessible and Intergenerational Spaces	More accessible facilities (toilets, paths, dog park, park upgrades), community space for young mums, all-abilities walks, gathering places at the station precinct,	More accessible facilities e.g. toilets, paths, dog park and park upgrades	Council,		Advocacy
		A space for young mums			
		Community space for young mums	Council, Manna Gum CH	In progress	
		A place to change nappies at the Library or Information Centre		Mentioned 3 times	Advocacy
		All-abilities walks (Foster Station Park Management Plan)			Action and Advocacy
		Gathering places at the station precinct (Foster Station Park Management Plan)			

	and arts/culture hub.	Make footpaths safe			Advocacy
		Indigenous culture celebration and sorry business deal dealt with			
		Bitumen around the oval so accessible to aged and disabled for walkers at the show and markets			
		Celebration of palaeontology findings around here for example insects, dinosaurs and special flora			
Volunteer Support, Coordination and Capacity Building	People are willing to help but are tired; want better coordination, grant-writing support, and shared planning to prevent burnout and make projects sustainable.	Grant-writing support	Council, Community Association	In progress	Action
		Shared planning regarding volunteers to prevent burnout			
		Continue and support Rotary Volunteer of the Year award.	Rotary		Action
		Volunteer Register			
		Project support and infrastructure.			
		Need some volunteering? More sustainable small chunks?	Available – need communication		
Community Communications and Local Media	Support for making Prom Coast News sustainable, better local information-sharing (Foster.com.au), and a single place for community news and events.	Support for making Prom Coast News sustainable. / We need a weekly paper.	Prom Coast News		
		Better local information-sharing (Foster.com.au)	Foster Community Association		Action
		A single place for community news and events.	Community Assoc.	In progress	Action
		How can we digitise media for greater reach and next generation engagement?			
		Where is the Foster social media/ Instagram plan. e.g. Sandy Point.			
		A fabulous community asset. (Prom Coast News)			
		Scholarship for journalism at school or apprenticeship.			

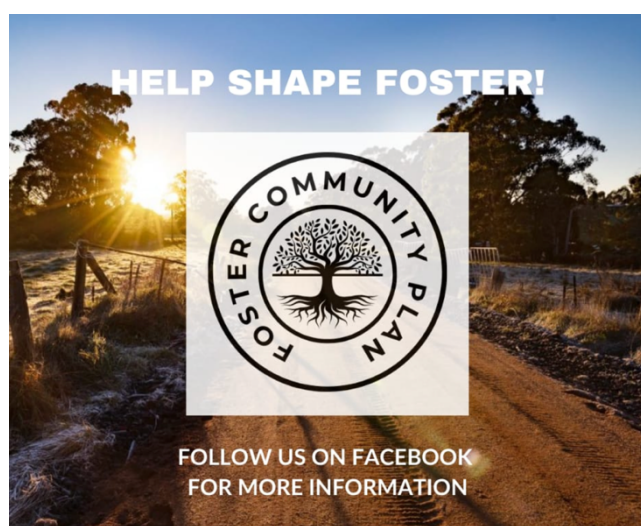
Community groups for sport and recreation.	Raised specifically at the Community Planning Event	Pool	Foster Pool Committee		
		We want a diving board at the pool and a water slide.			
		We want shade cloth at the pool and for it to stay open longer./ Shade cloth, longer period of opening. Same as Toora.			

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Appendix 2: Portion of the Social Media Plan

Timing	Audience	Channel/s	Key message / call to action	Description	Who	Notes e.g. images
<i>August</i>						
6/8/25	Local region farmers	Social media: Facebook Webpage - Linda Giddy Newspaper	Info: Complete the survey	Share photos of Past projects	Emma	specific info here
13/8/25	Locals and wider network	Social media: Facebook Webpage - Linda Giddy Newspaper	Complete the survey	Share photos of Past projects	Emma	Use image from folder, link to post etc
20/8/25	Locals and wider network	Social media: Facebook Webpage - Linda Giddy Newspaper	Complete the survey	Share photos of Past projects	Emma	Use image from folder, link to post etc
27/8/25	Locals and wider network	Social media: Facebook Webpage - Linda Giddy Newspaper	Complete the survey	Share photos of Past projects	Emma	Use image from folder, link to post etc



Appendix 3: Example of Facebook Post

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Appendix 4: Example of Community Flyer



① Complete the survey by 30th September

Have your say:

- Scan QR code to complete survey OR go to:
<https://forms.gle/fhNmpCNeY17LhKFH7>



② Join us at the Foster Community Plan event

Saturday 15th November 9-12pm
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

- Add your voice to the Plan
- Talk about our community and what's important
- Refreshments provided!

③ Launch the draft plan

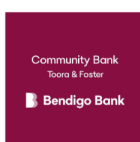
Next steps:

- We will share the draft plan for comment
- The final Foster Community Plan will be presented to Council.

*"Behind every good
idea is someone
who believed
enough to act."*

fostercommunityplanninggroup@gmail.com


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Appendix 5: Example of Town Entry Sign



Appendix 6: Example of Community Survey



Foster Community Plan 2025-2030 Survey

B I U  

Help Shape Foster's Future!


A Foster Community Plan is in the works and we want your ideas, hopes and big dreams.

Whether it's better footpaths, more local events, a thriving economy or simply keeping that special Foster feel, this is your chance to speak up. Your input will help create a shared vision for our town and guide the coordination of future projects.

Take the quick survey and tell us your thoughts.

Save the date! We'll be sharing the survey results (and much more!) at the **Foster Community Planning Day Saturday 15 November 2025, Foster War Memorial Art Centre Hall** Come along, continue the conversation, and find out how you can get involved in making things happen.

Thanks for your contribution – it really matters.

What do you love most about Foster? (Select up to 3) 

- ☐ Natural environment
- ☐ Community spirit
- ☐ Local businesses
- ☐ Arts and culture
- ☐ Events and activities
- ☐ Commercial hub

Appendix 7: Who Volunteers In Foster

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decision)

Volunteer work							
Foster and surrounds - Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	2021			2016			Change
Volunteer status	Number	%	South Gippsland Shire %	Number	%	South Gippsland Shire %	2016 to 2021
Volunteer	553	27.2	22.3	648	35.3	29.3	-95
Not a volunteer	1,293	63.6	70.4	1,039	56.5	60.9	+254
Volunteer work not stated	186	9.2	7.3	151	8.2	9.8	+35
Total persons aged 15+	2,032	100.0	100.0	1,838	100.0	100.0	+194