

Paterson

Community Development Action Plan



June 2025

Foreword



Paterson is one of the Hunter Valley's oldest villages, nestled between two ranges that meet on the Paterson River. The river, road, and railway all converge in this small space, landlocked by steep ranges and the floodplain, creating a unique village renowned for its historic buildings and charming streetscapes. Views from the village showcase either the misty adjacent ranges or the fertile, expansive river lands, creating a sense of place unlike any other village.

The hinterland of Paterson encompasses commercial farms and many lifestyle properties, with the large Tocal estate—now an agricultural college—being a prominent part of Paterson's history since European settlement.

"Tocal" is an Aboriginal word from the local dialect meaning "large," "big," or "plenty," which is believed to reflect the bountiful nature of the natural environment. The river was known as Yimmang by the local Aboriginal people.

Paterson serves as the gateway to the Paterson Valley, which comprises the ancestral lands of the Wonnarua, Gringai and Worimi Aboriginal Peoples.

The village was established at the head of navigation of the Paterson River and served as the centre of business for the valley community for decades, until the railway displaced the riverboat for transport.

History tells us that the Paterson community has always stood up for itself and worked collectively toward a better future. The opportunity afforded by Rural Aid was enthusiastically grasped to enable the community to take the next step as our nation's economy develops.

The community is very grateful for the enthusiastic leadership of Peter Kenyon OAM, supported by Steph Walsh and Rural Aid. Peter's curation of the process has brought the community together in a way otherwise not possible.

Much has already been achieved, and this Community Action Plan provides a pathway to the future. Community action requires community-wide support, and the process that Rural Aid has so generously funded has built that foundation for the Paterson community.

Many thanks to those who generously contributed their photographs to this Plan:
Angus McGee (front cover, p.2, 6 & 7); Tocal Homestead (p.4); Julie Overton & Hannah Flinn (p.5);
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Our Story

Paterson is a lively, historic and picturesque village in Dungog Shire, Hunter Region of New South Wales. Well-known for its colonial heritage, agricultural traditions and strong sense of community, this charming settlement sits on the banks of the Paterson River within the Paterson Valley. Local historian, Cameron Archer coined the phrase “The Magic Valley” to describe this Valley for the way it has constantly provided for its inhabitants, based on Norman Lindsay’s imagery of the “The Magic Pudding”.

The village of Paterson has played a pivotal role in the Hunter Region’s development, from its early days as a trading and farming hub to its present-day status as an attractive country destination for visitors and those seeking a rural lifestyle.

Indigenous peoples lived in the Paterson Valley for thousands of years before European arrival. Another local historian Dr Brian Walsh captures this enduring connection: “Their history is one of relentless change. It is a dynamic history marked by continuous and at times dramatic changes in climate, sea level, landscape, population, social organisation, groupings, territories, lifestyle, diet and use of tools.”

European exploration began in 1801 when Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson led the first expedition up the river that would bear his name. By 1804, convict gangs were cutting cedar logs in the district and floating them downstream. Permanent European settlement commenced along the Paterson River from 1812, with the 1820s seeing settlers granted or sold land throughout the valley.

As Brian Walsh notes, this expansion “caused large-scale dispossession of Aboriginal people from their land and widespread colonisation of the Valley.” The growing areas devoted to cattle, sheep and cropping steadily reduced the spaces available to local Indigenous

people to maintain their traditional way of life.

Settlement of the valley proceeded rapidly, with Paterson emerging as the regional centre due to its position at the head of navigation on the tidal Paterson River. The railway’s arrival in 1911 marked another milestone, connecting the town to broader markets while gradually displacing the river trade that had sustained it.

Today, Paterson retains its historic character through well-preserved nineteenth-century buildings, including the Court House, Post Office, hotels, churches and heritage homes. The town’s welcoming pubs, cafes and shops create a vibrant social heart, while community events like the Tocal Field Days, Paterson Historical Society’s Annual Historic Walk, Tocal’s Homestead’s “Peek into the Past” event and Tucker Park activities, from Paterson Rotary’s Cracker Night to local markets, bring residents together.

Paterson people stand up for their town, it’s part of their character, and newcomers quickly embrace this spirit. Over the past decade, residents have mounted a determined campaign against the prospect of hundreds of heavy quarry trucks rumbling through their village from dawn to dusk. Through public protests, media campaigns, and representatives speaking at public hearings and in the NSW Land and Environment Court, the community has consistently opposed expansion of the nearby Martins Creek Quarry.

This ongoing fight, now strengthened by this Community Action Plan, has deepened Paterson’s sense of purpose and determination to preserve what makes it such a wonderful place to call home.

Our Vision

A Vision Statement is a vivid description of what our community aspires to become, without its current barriers, but tied to what we value as a community.

The statement below is our intended outcome:

A vibrant, safe and welcoming community where our heritage, village charm, rural enterprises and lifestyle opportunities proudly combine.



Our Guiding Values

Guiding values are the fundamental, moral, and ethical beliefs that we share as a community. They represent core principles and capture what our community considers important. They help foster trust, respect, collaboration, and unity.

The following seven guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely:

- **Sense of Community:** Ensuring all Paterson community members experience a deep sense of connection, inclusion and contribution.
- **Active Citizenship:** Fostering attitudes and behaviours that encourage greater community engagement, ownership and altruism.
- **Village Lifestyle and Charm:** Retaining our sense of country way of life, neighbour connections and rural landscapes.
- **Intergenerational Connections:** Creating opportunities for all ages in our community to share, support and learn from each other.
- **Respect for Our Heritage:** Appreciating our unique indigenous and non-indigenous heritage, stories and traditions and their importance in community and economic development.
- **Respect for Our Environment:** Valuing and protecting our beautiful natural environment including our riverways, landscapes and prolific wildlife.
- **Positive Mindset:** Fostering community attitudes that embrace change, proactive 'can-do' behaviours, optimism and hopefulness.

Our Goals

Community goals are broad statements of intent that direct our efforts towards accomplishing our vision in line with our guiding principles.

- To continually foster our sense of community identity, connection and involvement
- To facilitate opportunities and experiences that build upon local assets and the capacities of all community members
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported and empowered, and will consider staying in or returning to our community for work, business, family and lifestyle opportunities
- To develop a flourishing local economy that offers a diverse range of businesses and local employment opportunities
- To encourage an innovative, customer-focused and collaborative business environment and a community with a strong 'buy local' mindset
- To retain strong sporting and cultural clubs, events, facilities and traditions
- To preserve, maintain and strengthen our community assets and heritage

Our Challenges

Like many small inland rural communities, our community needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges. These issues include:

- Volunteer fatigue
- Lack of distinctive identity and brand
- Bland mainstreet
- Limited youth activities
- Lack of rental accommodation
- Road design
- Limited resources for tourism marketing
- Limited visitor accommodation
- Poor parking options
- Cost of living challenges
- Limited public transport
- Train timetabling and need for more services
- Lack of awareness and celebration of local Aboriginal heritage
- Truck traffic through town
- Poor and tired signage
- Limited visitor infrastructure and attractions
- Lack of a welcome strategy for new settlers
- Entry barriers to farming
- Dungog-centric attitudes of Council
- Lack of resourcing from Council
- Limited nightlife
- Council procedures and delays
- Lack of creative recreational options
- Poor internet connectivity
- Flood impacts



Our Assets

People

- Community leaders and influencers
- 960 residents, 276 families, median age of 41.5yrs
- **Agriculture and Environment:** apiarists, farmers, rural contractors, gardeners, permaculture groups, Paterson Allyn Garden Group
- **Arts and Culture:** artists, musicians, Pelican Art Makers & Restorers, historians, sportspeople, grant writer
- **Education:** Preschool educators, school teachers, Paterson Public school students (100), Martins Creek Public School students
- Local Councillors, Dungog Shire Council
- Paterson Community Builders
- Volunteers and committees
- Tocal College teachers and students (180)
- New residents, former residents, retired residents
- Community noticeboard, Community Facebook sites
- The Paterson "Psst", Gresford News, Dungog Shire News of the Area
- Paterson Community Builders Newsletter

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- **Historical Sites, Buildings and Events:** Court House Museum, cenotaph, police buildings, old school principal's residence, Goodfellows Hall, churches x3, CBC Bank, Old Rectory, Tocal Homestead, train station, Rail Museum, post office, historic homes, Paterson Historic Walk, rail tours
- **Arts:** School of Arts Hall
- **Events:** Paterson Markets, PRC Carols by Candlelight, PRC Cracker Night, Tocal Field Days, PRC comedy and variety entertainment
- Wonnarua, Gringai and Worimi People's cultures and heritage
- Paterson Historical Courthouse Museum, Paterson Historic Walks, local history publications x50
- Agricultural heritage, dairy heritage, education heritage, rail heritage
- Paterson Rail Motor Society museum collection
- Pelicans of Paterson artworks and legacy of Bill 'Wallaby' Cummins
- Psst Year books

Institutions

- **Education:** Paterson Public School, Martin Creek Public School, Paterson Valley Community Preschool, Tocal College, nearby University
- **Transport:** train, intertown bus service, school bus runs
- Dungog Shire Council
- Paterson Rural Fire Service, Martins Creek Rural Fire Service
- Local Land Services
- **Visiting Services:** Mobile Services Centres for Services Australia & Service NSW
- Dungog District Chamber of Commerce, Dungog Regional Tourism, RDA Hunter
- School buses

Our Assets

Physical

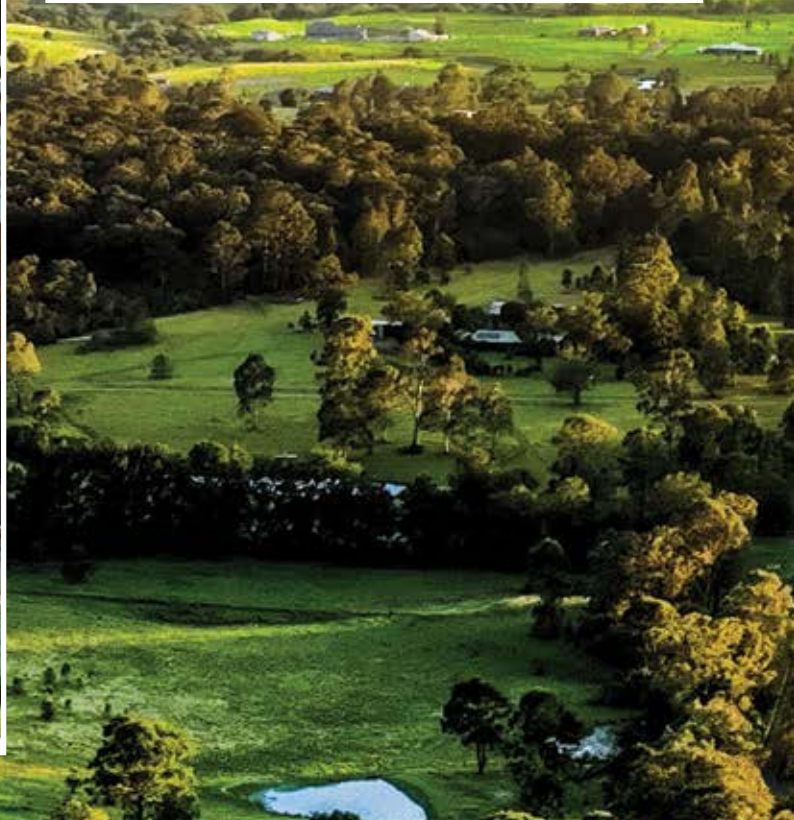
- **Natural Features:** Paterson & Allyn Rivers, fishing spots, rural and picturesque landscapes, wildlife, mountains, Kings Wharf Park, Lagoon, national parks, John Tucker Park & poplar Trees, Paterson Park, riverine spaces, flood-prone area, no light pollution, quietness
- **Recreational Facilities:** sportsground, oval, cricket field, golf course, netball courts, tennis courts, league field, multipurpose sports court, campground, playgrounds, BBQ shelter, cricket nets, boxing gym, boat ramp, public BBQs, toilet blocks
- **Infrastructure:** rail bridge, roads linking the region, public toilets, pay phone
- **Community Buildings:** Paterson Public School, Martins Creek Public School, Paterson Courthouse Museum, Railway Station, Showgrounds amenity block, Police Station, School of Arts Hall, churches and halls x2, RFS sheds x2, Tocal College (Accommodation, Conference Centres, Swimming Pool) and Tocal Homestead
- **Transportation and Accessibility:** train station, proximity to major population centres, physical and resource links with Vacy and Gresford, mainstreet parking
- 374 private dwellings, unused workspaces in historic buildings
- Air quality

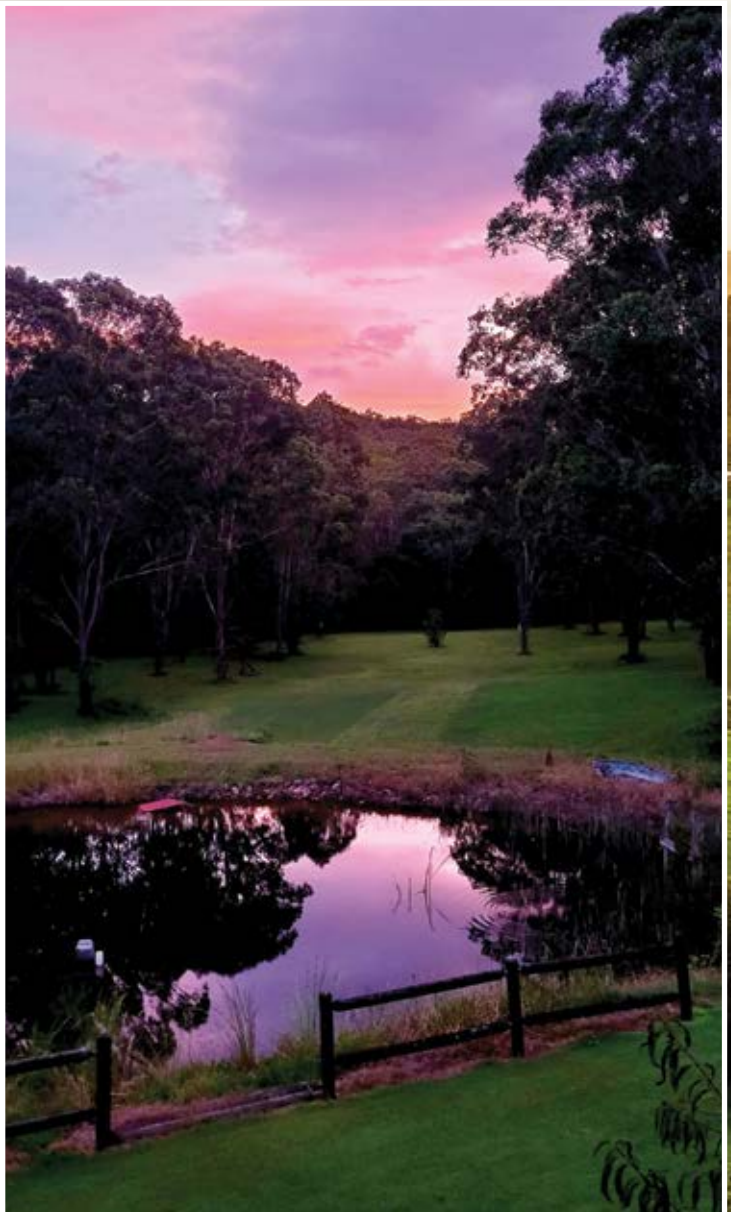
Social Networks

- **Sports and Recreation:** Gresford-Vacy Football Club, Paterson Cricket Club, Paterson Tavern Fishing Club, Paterson River Pony Club, Paterson Golf Club, Paterson River Rugby League, Paterson River Netball Club, Boxing Gym, Paterson Swimming Club, Paterson Tennis Club, yoga classes
- **Community and Social Groups:** Paterson Progress Association, Paterson Historical Society Inc., Vacy Country Carnival Committee, Paterson-Vacy Red Cross, Twin Rivers Hub (website), Rail Motor Society, Landcare group, Paterson Public School P&C, Martins Creek Quarry Action Group, Paterson Allyn Garden Group, St Paul's Men's Breakfast, permaculture groups and Permaculture at the Pub
- **Service Groups:** Paterson Community Builders, Paterson CWA, Rotary Club of Paterson, Paterson-Vacy Red Cross, Paterson Sportsground Reserve Management Committee, Paterson School of Arts Management Committee
- **Management Groups:** PSAMC, PSRMC
 - **Churches:** St Paul's Anglican Church, St Columba's Catholic Church

Economic

- **Retail Businesses:** post office (with banking facility), supermarket, fuel outlets x2, butcher, chemist, newsagency, NSW Lotteries, café x3, bottle shop, fish monger, florist, nursery, rural supplies
- **Tradespeople:** plumber, electrician, auto electrician, mechanics, painter,
- **Hospitality and Accommodation Businesses:** Kings and Queens, Paterson Court House Hotel/Motel, Paterson Tavern, Tocal Homestead Events Centre, Banjos Bushland Retreat, Tocal Barracks, Airbnb
- **Healthcare:** doctors, pharmacist
- **Services:** mechanical & transport, mowing & rural services, firewood supplies, barber, consulting engineers, towing, handyman, fencing, real estate, hairdresser, herbalist, massage therapists
- **Agriculture and Food:** farms, roadside farm stalls, rural contractors
- **Tourism Product:** historic buildings, Court House Museum, Rail Museum, Horseshoe Drive, Country Wander Drive, QR Code Town Walk





Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Building a More Engaged & Connected Community

ACTIONS

1

1. **Instigate a quarterly Forum of Paterson Community Groups** that come together to collaboratively discuss, share, plan and implement actions to advance the village of Paterson and help achieve its vision and goals.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. **Instigate a calendar of low-cost family events that connect residents and build community relationships** e.g. community fun days, cracker and bonfire night, community talent event, family fun day/picnic, micro street parties, Christmas market, crop swaps, community swap meets etc.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Continually promote **volunteering & community engagement** through:
 - Continual invitation to community members to voice ideas, suggestions and actively volunteer
 - Recognition and celebration of community volunteers through media exposure and an annual 'Volunteer Appreciation Event'
 - Seeking support from the NSW Centre for Volunteering and utilisation of their resources, programs and training
 - Nomination of local volunteers for the annual NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards
 - Continual promotion of the importance of local emergency services and their dependence on local volunteers

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Building a More Engaged & Connected Community

ACTIONS

1

4. Continue to edit and distribute the **'Paterson Community Builders Newsletter'** to share and highlight Paterson community initiatives and opportunities to volunteer.

Timeframe: Ongoing

5. Form a Welcome to Paterson Task Team who contribute to the development and distribution of a **'Paterson Valley Welcome Kit'** and coordinate **'Welcome to Paterson' events**.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

6. Implement a **'Buy/Support Local' Campaign** to assist Paterson businesses.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

7. Continue to support and contribute to **the Psst**.

Timeframe: Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

PCB
PPA
Welcome to Paterson Task Team

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DSC
RCP
PCWA
PVRC
Paterson business community
PSAMC
PSRMC
GVFC
Paterson service groups

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Greater sense of community connection and engagement
- Formation of a quarterly Forum of Paterson Community Groups
- Implementation of four community events annually that connect residents
- Increased number of local residents volunteering with local groups
- Creation of a 'Welcome to Paterson Valley Kit' and its distribution to new residents
- Implementation of two 'Welcome to Paterson' events annually
- Regular dissemination of the 'Paterson Community Builders Newsletter'
- Greater sense of community commitment to buy local

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Developing & Expressing Community WOW Factor

ACTIONS



1. Initiate a **Paterson Village Beautification Project** to enhance physical appeal of the Village by undertaking the following actions:
 - Create a Paterson Village Beautification Task Team
 - Undertake an audit of existing street presentation
 - Seek ideas and suggestions from Paterson residents, businesses and students
 - Create prioritised beautification actions with regards to:
 - Visual appeal
 - Heritage enhancement
 - Signage refreshment
 - Rejuvenation of garden beds
 - Creation of pocket gardens and tiny forests
 - Improved parking arrangements
 - Seek funding and technical support to implement opportunities
 - Join the Town Teams Movement and access their resources

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Support the **Pelicans of Paterson Sculptures Renewal and Mapping Project** to ultimately restore the legacy of Bill 'Wallaby' Cummins artworks.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

3. Form a Signage Task Team to undertake a **Signage and First Impressions Audit** of Paterson and its districts and implement improvements, including out-of-town advertising, town entry statements and directional signage. Exercise includes:
 - Development of an assessment tool
 - Undertaking of the audit
 - Reviewing and determining recommendations for improvement
 - Sharing impressions and suggestions with Dungog Shire Council and wider Paterson community

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

4. As part of the Signage Project above, identify and implement **opportunities to acknowledge Traditional Custodians.**

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

5. Identify, plan and implement **an annual community festival** that is quintessentially Paterson.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

6. Continue to support the **actions of the Martins Creek Quarry Action Group.**

Timeframe: Ongoing

7. Advocate for more **traffic calming** in the mainstreet.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Developing & Expressing Community WOW Factor

ACTIONS

8. Explore options to enhance **the rail bridge including floodlighting and adding a foot/cycle way.**

Timeframe: Short-Term

9. Enhance the **cultural heritage of Paterson** by making experiences more interactive and meaningful, through community engagement and education, including digital media, events, storytelling and exhibitions.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

10. **Elevate the 'Paterson' brand** as a stand-alone destination within Dungog and Hunter Valley tourism.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

Paterson Village Beautification Task Team
Pelicans of Paterson Task Team
Signage Task Team
PCB
PPA
PHS
Total Homestead

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DSC
RCP
MCQAG
AUH
DRT
PSAMC
PSRMC

Paterson service groups
RA
BOI
TfNSW
DDCC
TTM
Groundswell Collective

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Growth in visitor statistics: number of visitors, length of stay, expenditure and degree of satisfaction
- Creation of a Beautification Project and priorities identified
- Completion of the Pelicans of Paterson Sculptures Renewal and Mapping Project
- Completion of signage and entrance audits and improvements implemented
- Implementation of signage to acknowledge Traditional Custodians
- Creation of an annual Paterson festival
- Reduction in town centre speed limit achieved or trialled
- Creation of new cultural tourism products
- Sense of Paterson as a known tourism destination

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Strengthening Collaboration & Connections with other communities in the Valley & Dungog Shire Council

ACTIONS



1. Working collaboratively with Community Builder Teams in Gresford and Vacy, develop and distribute a **'Paterson Valley Welcome Kit'**.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

2. Participate in a joint **community stall** at the monthly Gresford and Paterson Markets with Community Builder Teams from Gresford and Paterson, as an opportunity to:
 - Meet, greet and welcome new residents in the Paterson Valley
 - Distribute the *'Paterson Valley Welcome Kit'*
 - Promote the activities and events of community organisations
 - Share volunteer opportunities and recruit
 - Showcase local businesses
 - Distribute local newsletters/newspapers

Timeframe: Ongoing

3. Seek the establishment of a **regular quarterly meeting** between Dungog Shire Mayor, Councillors, senior staff and representatives from Paterson organisations.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

4. Advocate for the annual allocation of a **Community Development Grant** for each of the townships in the Dungog Shire Council. This would enable each community, through an annual **Community Forum**, to determine their community development priorities in utilising the funding

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

5. Continue to participate and contribute to the **Twin Rivers Community Hub** (website: www.twinrivers.au) which seeks to provide a local community website that creates space for the residents of Paterson, Vacy and Gresford to connect, communicate and create.

Timeframe: Ongoing

6. Participate in the Dungog Shire-wide initiative to create a **Community Foundation** that pools donations into a coordinated investment and grant-making facility dedicated primarily to supporting future social and economic development of the communities. Create a **Paterson Sub-Fund** of the Foundation.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

7. Participate in the **Platypus Trail Project** being developed by Upper Hunter Community Builders Teams as one initiative to link communities physically and organisationally. Such an initiative seeks to create opportunities for eco-tourism, education, environment protection and Indigenous inclusion.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Strengthening Collaboration & Connections with other communities in the Valley & Dungog Shire Council

ACTIONS



8. Participate in the **'Big Weather'** initiative – a district-wide collaborative project about mobilising community-led disaster planning, preparation, resilience and recovery.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

9. Working collaboratively with other Community Builder Groups, seek funding for a **Twin Rivers Shared Resource Hub** that provides access to equipment and tools that community groups may need to hold events, e.g. data projector, whiteboards, video conferencing equipment, whiteboard advertising A-frames, display units, printer... plus people resources.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

PCB
PPA
DSC

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Community Builder groups in
Vacy, Gresford, Dungog,
Paterson community and
sporting groups
Clarence Town and Stroud
Paterson Valley Landcare
groups

RCP
HRLN
HWC
CFA
DDCC
GVFC

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Creation of a 'Welcome to Paterson Valley Kit' and its distribution to new residents
- The establishment of a regular quarterly meeting between Dungog Shire Mayor, Councillors and senior staff and representatives from Paterson organisations
- Creation of a Community Development Grant to each of the townships in the Dungog Shire Council
- Establishment of Community Foundation with a Paterson Sub-Fund
- Development of the Platypus Trail Project as a significant cultural, tourism and educational initiative
- Active participation in the 'Big Weather' initiative
- Successful implementation of the Twin Rivers Community Hub (Shared Resource Kit)

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four

Creating Better Utilisation of Our Waterways

ACTIONS

1. Form a **River Enhancement Task Team** to explore options and develop plans for:
 - DSC to implement better and easier access to the river
 - River walkway/pathway/cycleway
 - Lagoon clean-up to enable residents to walk around it
 - Vegetation clean-up at Queens and Kings Wharves
 - Cleaner river water to attract more canoeing, fishing and swimming
 - Organisation of a Paterson River Carp Muster
2. Seek community ideas and involvement in creating **more river-based events**, including the reinstatement of the raft race from Kings Wharf to Queens Wharf.

Timeframe: Short-Term and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

**PCB
PPA
River Enhancement Task Team**

**RCP
Hunter LLS**

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**RDA Hunter
HWC
NPWS**

**Landcare groups
Hunter LLS**

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Formation of a River Enhancement Task Team
- Implementation of three river improvement initiatives
- Implementation of one new river-based event

Theme Five

Expanding Community Lifestyle & Infrastructure

ACTIONS

1. Form Task Team to design and implement a **Paterson Community Hub and Information Centre** that provides:
 - A one-stop-shop for community information
 - Maintains and updates the Community Asset Map
 - Coordinates community sharing and learning opportunities
 - Provides access to community building resources
2. Continue to support the Paterson Progress Association to advocate for the introduction of a **'Return and Earn' reverse vending machine** in Paterson to benefit from the statewide 10 cent container recycling scheme.

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Five

Expanding Community Lifestyle & Infrastructure

ACTIONS



3. Form a **Task Team** to advocate for community ownership of the **old Principal's House** and then identify best option(s) for use.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
4. Advocate for an improvement in **train service timetabling**.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
5. Advocate to the Dungog Shire Council for **improved pathway connectivity** around the village of Paterson and the construction of a **riding trail between Tocal and Vacy**.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
6. Identify **temporary/unused spaces for artists/makers in residence programs** to connect to community projects and new ideas.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
7. Investigate a **Men's/Community Shed workspace** to encourage participation and reduce social isolation.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
8. Elevate the Paterson **Sportsground Reserve Camping Area** as an option for staying overnight in Paterson.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
9. Create **community gardens** in one or more locations in Paterson to grow and consume fresh produce, improve community connection, increase mental wellbeing, and decrease loneliness.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

PCB
PPA
DSC
RCP
Community Hub and Information Task Team
Old Principal's House Task Team

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

PCWA
PSAMC
PSRMC
NPWS

RDA Hunter
HRLN
FRRR
RA

NSW Environmental Protection Authority
NSW Department of Education
St Paul's Anglican Church
Paterson service groups

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Successful implementation of a Paterson Community Hub and Information Centre
- Establishment of a 'Return and Earn' reverse vending machine in Paterson
- Securing of community ownership of the old Principal's House, and its use as a community asset
- Improvement in train service timetabling
- Improvement pathway connectivity around the village of Paterson
- Creation of a Men's/Community Shed workspace in Paterson
- Growing use of the Paterson Sportsground Reserve Camping Area as an option for staying overnight in Paterson
- Successful implementation of community gardens in Paterson and growing number of community members involved

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Six

Enhancing Opportunities for Our Children & Young People

ACTIONS

6

1. Form a Youth Development Task Team (including Paterson young people) to research, design and implement more **youth programs targeting the 13-17 age group**.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
2. Maintain **regular contact with young people after they leave the community** via social media, regular newsletter and organisation of a calendar of school and sporting reunions.
Timeframe: Short-Term and Ongoing
3. **Identify and support progressive young leaders** by linking them to regional, state and national leadership development experiences.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
4. Encourage **Rotary Club of Paterson** to facilitate key Rotary youth initiatives, namely Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) and other youth leadership opportunities to benefit more local young people in their personal and leadership development.
Timeframe: Immediate and Ongoing
5. Investigate the **RuMAD? Program (BOI)** as a tool to encourage students to design and implement community building programs based on what they care about and hold discussions with local schools.
Timeframe: Short-Term and Ongoing
6. Form a Task Team to develop and implement a **skate park and pump track** next to Tucker Park.
Timeframe: Short-Term and Ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

PPA
PCB
Youth Development Task Team
Skatepark Task Team
RCP

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DSC
PPS
MCPS
GVFC
PSAMC

PSRMC
Paterson service groups
Paterson community and sporting groups

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Creation of two new youth activities in Paterson
- Engagement held with PPS and MCPS regarding RuMAD
- Regular participation of Paterson young people in Rotary youth leadership programs
- Creation of regular contact with former Paterson young people
- Establishment of a skate and pump track

Abbreviations

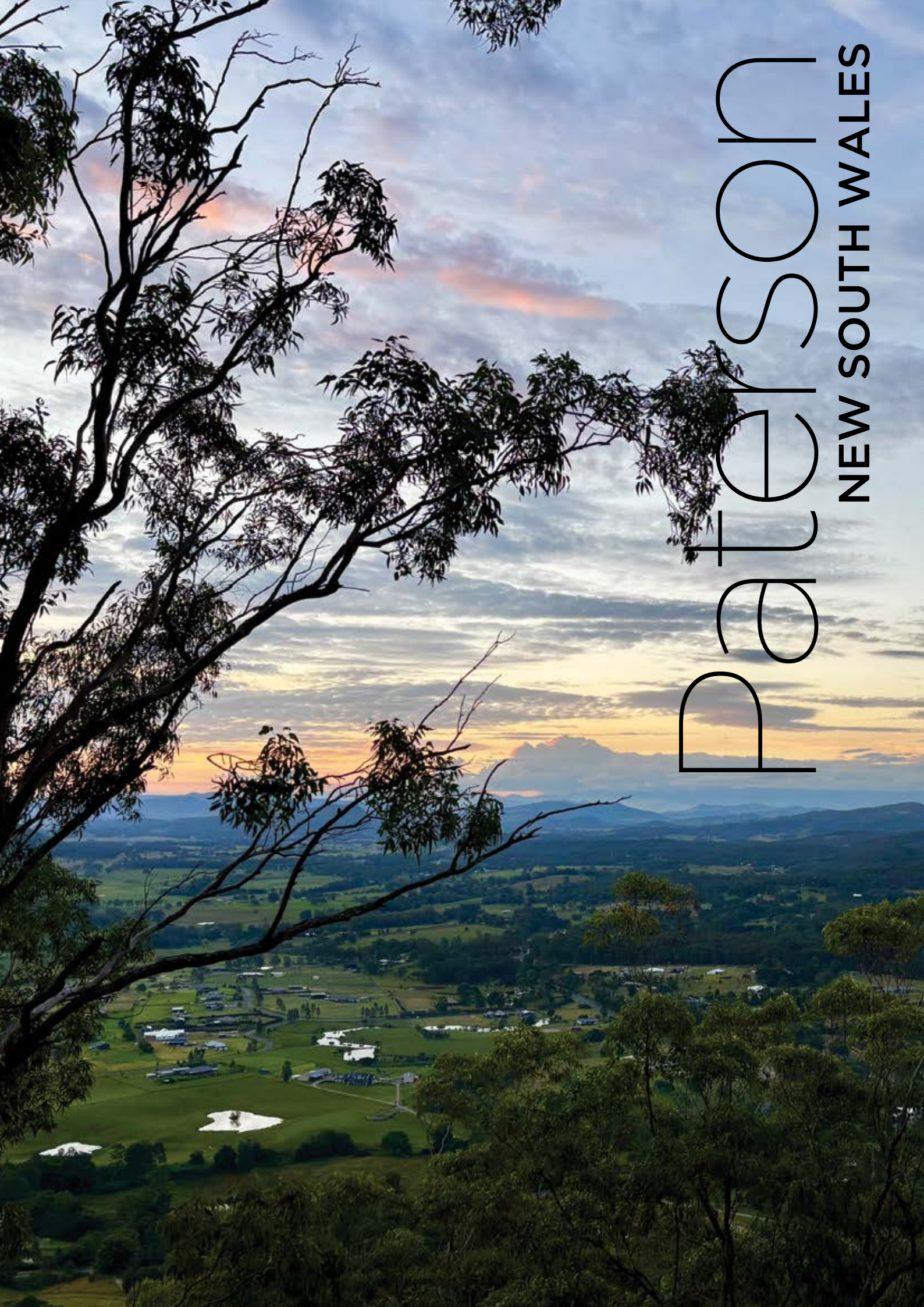
AUH	Arts Upper Hunter
BOI	Bank of I.D.E.A.S.
CFA	Community Foundations Australia
DDCC	Dungog District Chamber of Commerce
DSC	Dungog Shire Council
DRT	Dungog Regional Tourism Inc
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
GVFC	Gresford-Vacy Football Club
Hunter LLS	Hunter Local Land Services – NSW Government
NPWS	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
HRLN	Hunter Region Landcare Network
HWC	Hunter Water Corporation
MCQAG	Martins Creek Quarry Action Group
MCPS	Martins Creek Public School
PCB	Paterson Community Builders
PCWA	Paterson Country Women's Association
PHS	Paterson Historical Society Inc
PPA	Paterson Progress Association
PPS	Paterson Public School
PSAMC	Paterson School of Arts Management Committee
PSRMC	Paterson Sportsground Reserve Management Committee
PVRC	Paterson-Vacy Red Cross
RA	Rural Aid
RCP	Rotary Club of Paterson
RuMAD?	Are You Making a Difference youth program
RYE	Rotary Youth Exchange
RYLA	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
RYPEN	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
RDA Hunter	Regional Development Australia Hunter
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales
TTM	Town Teams Movement

Acknowledgements



The formulation of this 'Community Development Action Plan' was initiated and coordinated by the Paterson Community Builders (Julie Overton, Andrew Overton, Zoltan Lyall, Jacky Keena & Leah Gale) and enabled by Rural Aid as part of their commitment to supporting Australia's small rural towns. The formulation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. assisted by Steph Walsh (Community Development Programs Manager, Rural Aid) and Jim Doyle (Upper Hunter Community Builder Program Connector. Special thanks to so many passionate community members who gave so generously of their time, wisdom and experiences.

We respectfully acknowledge the Wonnarua, Gringai and Worimi Peoples as the traditional owners and First People of the lands which comprise the village of Paterson and its districts. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Wonnarua and Worimi Peoples.



Patterson

NEW SOUTH WALES