

# Mary Valley Community and Economic Action Plan



## How to use this plan as an individual:

- Choose a project that you would like to be involved with
- Contact the person or group responsible for the project
- Offer your time and/or skills



## How to use this plan as an organisation:

- Identify a project which fits your mission statement/purpose
- If there is already a group suggested for the project, offer your support and assistance



## If the project is just an idea, form a group:

- Prepare a project plan
- Publicise your project and seek support/funding/volunteers

*Compiled from data collected from the communities  
of the Mary Valley, May 2010*

# Contents

<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Locality Plan</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Mary Valley Vision</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Community Goals</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Mary Valley renewal—kickstart projects</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>1. ECONOMIC</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Strategy 1.1 Agriculture.....	14
Strategy 1.2 Tourism.....	15
Strategy 1.3 Business.....	16
Strategy 1.4 New industries and innovation.....	17
<b>2. SOCIAL</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Strategy 2.1 Community building.....	18
Strategy 2.2 Sport and recreation.....	19
Strategy 2.3 Opportunities for young people.....	20
Strategy 2.4 Certainty and hope.....	21
Strategy 2.5 Health and wellbeing.....	22
Strategy 2.6 Aged care and support services.....	23
Strategy 2.7 Coordination of effort.....	23
<b>3. ENVIRONMENTAL</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Strategy 3.1 Environmental stewardship.....	24
<b>4. CULTURAL</b> .....	<b>27</b>
Strategy 4.1 Civic pride.....	27
Strategy 4.2 Arts, culture and heritage.....	28
<b>Appendix: Other Community Ideas</b> .....	<b>29</b>

## Foreword

The Mary Valley Community and Economic Action Plan is an initiative of the Mary Valley community in response to the Federal Government decision to refuse approval of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, as well as the long term structural changes in the agricultural sector and the need to diversify the economic base of the Mary Valley.

We now have a plan with a vision, guiding values, community goals and a set of strategies and actions. The plan is certainly a living document that will evolve with time, and it identifies key areas for the communities of the Mary Valley to focus on and become involved in as the valley moves forward. There are many projects and ideas that have not been captured in this document. The authors acknowledge that it is impossible to record all activities and projects that are already underway or mooted for this region. However, the omission of a project or activity does not reduce its validity to the renewal process.

The plan is designed to be considered as a "building block" which will reinforce the activities conducted leading up to May 2010, and the activities yet to come. The hard work now begins with implementation. Like the planning phase, it requires the involvement of all residents and community organisations. The Mary Valley certainly does have a future, but we need to make it happen.

Finally, the renewal team acknowledges the many hours of volunteer effort committed to producing this document and to revitalising the valley. It also recognises that a key to the success of this process was the availability of some paid workers in the valley. ***For the same level of activity to continue, the team strongly recommends that a paid project coordinator and community development position be assigned to assist in implementing the outcomes of this plan.***

**Mary Valley Renewal Team - an alliance of representatives from:**



Burnett Mary Regional Group  
Cooloola Human Services Network  
Focus Health and Therapy  
Fraser Coast Regional Council  
Friends of Kandanga  
Greater Mary Association  
Gympie Regional Council  
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee  
Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Mary Valley Council of Churches  
Mary Valley Inc  
Save the Mary River Coordinating Group  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

## Abbreviations

<b>BMRG</b>	Burnett Mary Regional Group
<b>CHSN</b>	Cooloola Human Services Network
<b>CFTF</b>	Community Futures Task Force
<b>DEEDI</b>	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Qld)
<b>DERM</b>	Department of Environment and Resource Management (Qld)
<b>DEWHA</b>	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Federal)
<b>DIP</b>	Department of Infrastructure and Planning (Qld)
<b>FANT</b>	Farming and Nature Based Tourism
<b>FCRC</b>	Fraser Coast Regional Council
<b>GMA</b>	Greater Mary Association
<b>GRC</b>	Gympie Regional Council
<b>MRCCC</b>	Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
<b>MVCCI</b>	Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce and Industry
<b>MVHR</b>	Mary Valley Heritage Railway
<b>MVI</b>	Mary Valley Inc
<b>SCRC</b>	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
<b>SCU</b>	Southern Cross University
<b>STMRCG</b>	Save the Mary River Coordinating Group





## Executive Summary

An alliance of community-based organisations and local governments formed the Mary Valley Renewal Team once the Mary Valley was released from a future bound to the Traveston Crossing Dam.

In the post-dam era, the renewal team advocates for:

- those who continue to be affected by Government decisions in relation to the dam proposal;
- adequate resourcing to rebuild community capacity; and
- a continuing voice in future decisions affecting the valley and the Mary River.

Community meetings were held throughout the Mary Valley from December 2009 to April 2010 to identify issues of concern, collect ideas and develop a shared social, economic and environmental vision for the Mary Valley and broader Mary River catchment.

This process was greatly assisted by world-renowned community builder Peter Kenyon, and feedback from these meetings has been recorded and collated, and is now presented in a Community and Economic Action Plan for the Mary Valley.

It must be noted that many organisations have always operated in the valley, and despite the harrowing past four years, these groups have continued to deliver their services and events to maintain a thread of stability in the valley community. While this document aims to be a broad-ranging overview of the Mary Valley, it cannot reflect every group and event that is part of valley life. Instead, its aim is to draw broad themes and recognise significant conversations around those themes.

Annual events that continue to entertain the community may not be highlighted here, but are equally important for all that they bring to the Mary Valley community. These include the Mary Valley and Kenilworth agricultural shows, the Mary Valley Art Festival and Kenilworth Celebrates art exhibition, the international car rally through the Imbil forestry and endurance horse riding weekends.

Many and various activities occur in the Mary Valley and indicate the strong sense of community and community capacity already established in the region. Many of these groups and activity organisers may not have highlighted their activities in the renewal process, as they are already successfully contributing to a healthy community spirit. This does not mean, however, that the renewal process does not recognise or support them. This report recognises the importance of all activities, present and proposed, to the wellbeing of the Mary Valley community as a whole.

The renewal team keeps the valley informed through its website [www.maryvalleyrenewal.org](http://www.maryvalleyrenewal.org) which archives full meeting minutes, raw data from the community consultations, and reference papers, reports and documents produced by

the team. The website is also used to inform the community of communication from government, and to provide an index of useful information resources.

The Community and Economic Action Plan highlights key activities for the Mary Valley that have demonstrated support from the local community, based on the community engagement process.

The plan will be subject to review and will continue to be based on agreed community values and a shared community vision. It will guide community-based actions and private investment that will bring the vision closer to reality.

**Strategic planning process:**



It is intended that the plan will inform government policy at all levels including:

- Gympie Regional Council's economic development plan being funded by State Government;
- Gympie Regional Council's Community and Corporate Plans under the *Local Government Act 2009*;
- Gympie Regional Council's new planning scheme under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*; and
- The Wide Bay Burnett Statutory Regional Plan.

The key strategy areas identified in this document for the future of the Mary Valley are:

Certainty and hope

Tourism

Opportunities for young people

Community building

Health and wellbeing

Arts, culture and heritage

Coordination of effort

Agriculture

Business

Environmental stewardship

Civic pride

Aged care and support services

New industries and innovation

Sport and Recreation

***Providing certainty and hope for the future of the Mary Valley and the Mary River catchment is recognised as the most important strategy area to the community.***

The Mary Valley Renewal Team is eager to engage with all levels of government to see how aspects of this plan may then be put into action. However it is important to note that many activities in the plan may not be dependent on any government assistance. Working groups and individual organisations within the Mary Valley community will continue to explore opportunities for implementing the actions.

Mary Valley Renewal activities identified during the workshops and already underway include:

- proposals for land management and conservation projects under the Federal Government Caring for our Country program;
- requests for the State Government to have an ongoing community worker/project coordinator support for Mary Valley community development initiatives and renewal;
- business development of identified agritourism ventures;
- developing the "String of Pearls" concept for art and culture in significant locations along the river;
- local industry focus groups working together to identify potentially viable future agricultural projects;
- options for an environment and education centre;
- maintenance of an online business and community directory;
- weekly email newsletters connecting the communities of the valley; and
- the development of a tourism marketing strategy.

Collaboration and cooperation between state government, local government, community members and private investors is needed to build a solid, workable, sustainable and economically viable future that is mutually agreeable to all involved.

*Characteristics of healthy communities:*

- *They see success as an inside job - meaningful and lasting.*
- *They embrace change and take some risks. Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice. We can plan for it, shape it and emerge stronger from it.*
- *They practice behaviours that value community and have leadership renewal. If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go further, go together.*
- *They focus on their assets and possibilities, rather than problems. Know capacities and assets in the community.*
- *They are opportunity obsessive, always looking for new ideas.*
- *They are places where the capacities of all residents are identified, valued and harnessed.*

*A quote from Peter Kenyon*

## Mary Valley Vision

(A vision provides a clear picture of what everyone is striving to achieve. It unifies people, describes what we do and defines a fundamental purpose. The vision provides a starting point for moving forward and the means of both assessing progress and responding to change. It gives a sense of purpose. Visions need to challenge, stretch and inspire people so they know their effort is worthwhile.)

In two years from now, the Mary Valley will be an area of vibrant communities engaging all residents in a diverse range of agricultural, business, social and environmental activities.

It will be nationally recognised as a connected region, and will be proactive in setting a leading example of environmental stewardship, and in maintaining a healthy and happy country lifestyle.



## Mary Valley Values

- **Community inclusiveness** - appreciate and promote assets and contributions of all residents and age groups, and the need for appropriate opportunities for all community members to actively participate and collaborate in community planning and actions. In particular, older residents are valued for their past and present contributions to the community, and young people are acknowledged for their unique insights, energy and desire to be active contributors to community development.
- **Respect for the environment and sustainable practices** - through fostering a mindset that sets a leading example of environmental stewardship and results in handing on the Mary Valley to future generations in a better condition than what it is now. This represents active and passionate caring for the river and surrounding environment and iconic species, with importance placed on river health and avoiding over allocation of water resources.
- **Positive mindset**- encouraging "can do" attitudes and provide visions of hopefulness, inspiration and creativity.
- **Community spirit**- endorsing the importance of a "sense of place", connection, community spirit and mateship.
- **Collaboration and partnerships** - building effective communication, collaborative actions and positive partnerships between local groups and with key regional development organisations.
- **Identifying our assets** - acknowledging that the Mary Valley is asset rich in terms of its residents and community resources, and that the future needs to be built upon these unique strengths and capacities. Preservation of our heritage and historical values is encouraged.
- **Identifying our challenges** - acknowledging that we as a region do have challenges and looking for ways and opportunities to overcome these into the future.
- **Business excellence and innovation** - are encouraged, recognised and celebrated by the Mary Valley communities.
- **Local leadership** - local leadership is valued and actively encouraged and fostered.
- **Freedom** -to plan for a healthy, sustainable and enjoyable lifestyle with contentment and wellbeing.

## Community Goals

(A goal describes what we want to achieve overall, in the longer term.)

To develop the Mary Valley Community and Economic Action Plan, the following community goals have been identified, and provide the context for the strategies, objectives and recommended actions.

- To create safe, friendly, welcoming Mary Valley communities and vibrant, attractive towns. Our future will be built on people working together and respecting each other's values and lifestyles, welcoming and acknowledging what they bring to the table. To be honest and open between community members, be tolerant of differences and develop strong family and friendship networks.
- To develop a collective vision for the Mary Valley through an inclusive collaborative community process.
- To support existing, and implement additional, actions that build a sense of place and community spirit, strengthen social inclusiveness, foster greater community participation and collaboration and enable a sustainable lifestyle.
- To identify and implement strategies and actions which respond to the needs and aspirations of young people, enhancing their participation and contributions to community life, and encourage them to see a future in residing in the Mary Valley.
- To foster the growth of health and human services available to all the residents of the Mary Valley. To encourage and facilitate more transport options to allow us to access outside services where necessary.
- To enhance the capability of local businesses in terms of quality and diversity of enterprises, the skills of operators and the standards of supporting infrastructure.
- To identify, promote and support new innovative agricultural products and value-adding projects.
- To build local capacity and resilience through providing opportunities for developing leadership, mentorship, communication and governance skills.
- To increase the net number, quality and variety of opportunities for education, training and employment that will attract and retain families and young people in the Mary Valley.

- To build and nurture a sustainable tourism sector which co-exists and compliments the community's agricultural base and its natural, cultural, environmental and heritage assets. To strengthen linkages and partner with local and regional tourism organisations to provide every opportunity for the Mary Valley as a significant destination.
- To improve the health of the Mary River and the Mary River estuary with its Ramsar-listed Great Sandy Strait through sustainable practices and recovery actions of protecting and enhancing natural environmental assets.
- To continuously identify and secure the necessary financial and technical support to achieve community aspirations from local and external sources.
- To achieve as much certainty as possible in our lives so we can take the opportunity to invest or sell a property on the open market without the fear of a dam being re-announced, and with a degree of certainty about on-going incomes.
- To have good governance, where strong, honest, democratic and consultative government and government processes are in place. The communities expect equality and social justice, and they expect to be engaged in decision-making before decisions are made, not after.
- To have Mary Valley communities supported by on-going sustainable agricultural practices in the region.



*The following page provides a snapshot of projects identified in the thorough community consultations which began with an inspiring workshop with community builder Peter Kenyon at Kandanga in April 2010.*

*It is intended to give an overview of possible projects and directions for the valley, and is supported by comprehensive reference papers from MRCCC, STMRCG and community data, all available on the website [www.maryvalleyrenewal.org](http://www.maryvalleyrenewal.org)*

# Mary Valley renewal—kickstart projects

## Land Use

To encourage Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council to collaborate and develop a land use strategy which satisfies the communities demands for sustainable agriculture and riparian preservation.

### ECONOMIC PROJECTS (BUSINESS, TOURISM, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY)

- Recreational and tourism trails
- Environmental and Community Training Centre—to showcase our endangered species, educate and inspire
- Mary Valley Country identity—to market the valley
- Shop local—to encourage people to buy locally
- Kandanga Ck school—to consider opportunities

### PROJECTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Reclaim Traveston Crossing—re-planting, river access
- River wildlife corridor
- Kandanga Creek walk—with platypus and turtle viewing
- Habitat enhancement
- Save the Mary museum and river education centre

### CULTURAL PROJECTS (ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE)

- Design an entry statement/sign/sculpture for your town— young people can jump at this competition
- Bus shelter murals—to showcase local assets in art form on bus shelters in the valley
- String of Pearls and riverside art trail—parks and art
- Mary River Festival

### PROJECTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Community builders program—to inspire and upskill
- Advocacy—to lobby for the community to seek paid community workers based in the valley
- Community Connections—to create social networks
- Song Story for Youth—to connect youth using music
- Public transport coordination
- Scarecrow festival
- Blue Light discos

### COMMUNITY VALUES include:

- Community inclusiveness
- Community spirit
- Respect for the environment
- Positive mindset
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Local leadership
- Business excellence and innovation

### A VISION FOR THE VALLEY

In two years from now, the Mary Valley will be an area of vibrant communities engaging all residents in a diverse range of agricultural, business, social and environmental activities.

It will be nationally recognised as a connected region, and will be proactive in setting a leading example of environmental stewardship, and in maintaining a healthy and happy country lifestyle.

# 1. ECONOMIC

PROJECT TITLE	BRIEF	WHO TO ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1.1 Agriculture</b>			
<b>Community objective: To encourage diverse sustainable agriculture</b>			
<b>Summary of Assets and Challenges:</b> Soil, rainfall and access to irrigation water from the Mary River, coupled with the subtropical climate and the proximity to markets for this established agricultural area are considered as advantages. Challenges range from issues associated with the economy, market availability and returns, production and industry issues, potential interest in monoculture, and the erosion impacts of quarrying industries.			
<b>1.1.1 Preferred land use strategy</b>	To work with GRC/SCRC on mapping preferred land use based on data collected by the renewal team and others. To clarify buyback/lease/rental issues and consider areas of conservation/environment/water and recreation; agriculture; housing/industry/retail development.	Mary Valley Renewal Team GRC Kerry Rolfe SCRC Libby Ozinga	<i>Short term</i>
<b>1.1.2 Farm and Nature-Based Tourism (Agritourism) Project</b>	To diversify agricultural properties into tourism enterprises – 20 participants	Southern Cross University - Rose Wright 0438 657981; DPI - Jason Keating 0411 271674	<i>Underway – 2 years</i>
<b>1.1.3 Feasibility study for large-scale agriculture including cooperatives</b>	Investigate sustainable primary production opportunities on leased land such as expanding the dairy industry, integrating farm forestry into existing primary production enterprises, encouraging sugar, ginger, maize enterprises.	MRCCC working group 5482 4766	<i>Underway</i>
<b>1.1.4 Slow Food – Mary Valley branch</b>	To support and encourage involvement in Slow Food Sunshine Coast Hinterland and promote “food that is good, clean and fair”.	Lesa Bell 5488 6595 Julie Shelton 0439 944690	<i>Monthly meeting underway</i>
<b>1.1.5 School Edible Gardens</b>	To encourage community and permaculture gardens and growing your own food. To encourage mentoring by farmers. Mary Valley State College has received funding for an Edible Gardens Project with Leonie Shanahan.	Mary Valley State College 5488 5333	<i>Underway</i>
<b>1.1.6 In-school agriculture integration</b>	DPI has introduced a program at Mary Valley State College to educate and encourage students to follow agricultural careers. The aim is to establish a “gateway school to agribusiness”.	Mary Valley State College 5488 5333	<i>Underway</i>
<b>1.1.7 Dairy bull calves project</b>	To evaluate the feasibility of a dairy bull calves business	Jim Thrower, Imbil	<i>Underway</i>

## Strategy 1.2 Tourism

**Community Objective: To encourage people to visit and re-visit the Mary Valley**

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

Assets include more than 100 recreation activities from camping and trail-bike riding through to exploring the natural environment, some 40 creeks and tributaries flow into the Mary River, 60,000 hectares of natural woodland including nine national parks, state forests and forest reserves. Key tourism assets include the steam train experience of the Valley Rattler, country markets, rural scenery, diverse flora and fauna and charming villages. Good access from the Bruce Highway encourages repeat visitors and residents enjoy affordable real estate and the family friendly atmosphere. You can visit the Mary Valley from anywhere in the world through the website [www.maryvalley.com.au](http://www.maryvalley.com.au)

The lack of awareness of the region and how to find it are key challenges; the region has no single “iconic” image; there is a need to establish a clear, sustainable and differentiated tourism position. Other challenges: The sale of forestry assets and their on-going access, visual impacts from quarries and major road works.

<p><b>1.2.1 Mary Valley Country identity project</b></p>	<p>To action recommendations from Tourism Queensland’s Mary Valley Identity Report “Mary Valley Country” to develop and implement an identity and marketing strategy for the valley. To incorporate the subsequent projects into the Gympie Region Economic Development Plan and to progress to the next level of community participation and review. <b>Status:</b> Marketing committee has been formed to implement report recommendations. Proposed implementation plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brand Review/Finalisation:</b> Indicative cost \$5000 (ex-GST).</li> <li>• <b>Website and Internet Strategy:</b> Indicative cost \$10,000-\$12,000 (ex-GST).</li> <li>• <b>Brochure/Map:</b> Indicative cost \$5000 (ex-GST) with print quantities to be determined.</li> <li>• <b>Business/Industry Development Workshops:</b> Indicative cost per workshop \$100-\$200</li> </ul>	<p>Gympie Cooloola Tourism 5482 5444 Tourism Queensland Mary Valley marketing committee</p>	<p><i>Underway</i></p>
<p><b>1.2.2 Kandanga RV park</b></p>	<p>To <b>attract “grey nomads”</b> by establishing an RV park facility in Kandanga to encourage overnight tourists. <b>Status:</b> Funding options are being investigated with CTF.</p>	<p>Friends of Kandanga – David Sims 5484 3109 GRC</p>	<p><i>Underway</i></p>
<p><b>1.2.3 Mary Valley signage audit</b></p>	<p>To conduct a signage audit and develop an improvement plan to take to regional councils and tourism bodies (include river access and exits off the highway). <b>Status:</b> Signage is a key focus of the Mary Valley Village Tourist Experience Project which is underway. Report due in June 2010.</p>	<p>MVI <a href="mailto:projects@themaryvalley.com.au">projects@themaryvalley.com.au</a> Southern Cross University</p>	<p><i>Underway</i></p>

<b>1.2.4 Continued participation in national FarmDay initiative</b>	National FarmDay gives city families the opportunity to visit farms across Australia in May. MVI is promoting it in the valley.	MVI <a href="mailto:projects@themaryvalley.com.au">projects@themaryvalley.com.au</a>	<i>Underway</i>
<b>1.2.5 Recreational and Education Future Planning Strategy</b>	To develop a strategy for a network of trails (including non-motorised recreational pursuits such as walking, cycling, mountain bike riding, canoeing and horse riding) and river access parks using the land use study (GRC) and reports such as plans put forward by QWI, the String of Pearls feasibility study and Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Strategy and associated framework.  The Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Strategy is to guide the future development of a recreational trail network on the Sunshine Coast and throughout the region between the years 2010 – 2025. Project to include opportunities for trails for recreation, revegetation and environmental awareness	Recreation and outdoor trails focus group: Murray Stewart 0437 800920	<i>Short term - 3 months</i>
<b>Strategy 1.3 Business</b>			
<b>Community Objective: To develop viable business enterprises</b>			
<b>Summary of Assets and Challenges:</b>			
Assets supporting business include the Mary Valley business and community directory, the website - <a href="http://www.maryvalley.com.au">www.maryvalley.com.au</a> and the Mary Valley newsflash email newsletter. Local shops, businesses and markets are all identified as assets. A major challenge is to replace the long-term residents and customers who have left the Mary Valley, some residents are not supporting local businesses, some lessees and renters are not spending on improvements to properties as owner landholders would. The area needs better mobile phone and internet coverage.			
<b>1.3.1 Mary Valley Business and Community Directory</b>	As of 2010 the online version of the directory will be maintained and updated. A hard copy will not be produced for 2011	MVI <a href="mailto:projects@themaryvalley.com.au">projects@themaryvalley.com.au</a>	<i>Underway</i>
<b>1.3.2 Mentoring for Growth</b>	Promote “ <i>Mentoring for Growth</i> ” training, investment or start-up incentives and to support development of new micro businesses.	DEEDI/ MVI/Mary Valley and Kenilworth chambers of commerce	
<b>1.3.3 Shop Local campaign</b>	To develop a marketing campaign to promote local businesses. <b>Status:</b> Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce is investigating options.	Mary Valley and Kenilworth chambers of commerce	<i>Short term – 3 months</i>

## Strategy 1.4 New industries and innovation

**Community Objective: To foster and support new ideas and innovation**

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

A key asset is the opportunity to be involved with the Mary Valley identity initiative "Mary Valley Country - come out to play". The valley is close to the SEQ population, it has improving internet services which could support home-based businesses. Kenilworth and Hervey Bay have formed Transition Town committees and a Slow Food initiative meets once a month in Imbil.

Distance from markets and suppliers, as well as competition from existing businesses are seen as challenges. There is poor mobile reception and slow internet coverage in some areas, delays in land development approvals, and inadequate infrastructure.

<b>1.4.1 Green business seminar</b>	To promote a "green" business seminar to highlight community expectations and demonstrate efficient environmental processes while saving dollars.	MVI/Gympie Cooloola Tourism/Gympie Regional Council	<i>Date set for June 3 2010</i>
<b>1.4.2 Environmental and community not-for-profit centre</b>	To secure the existing Garapine facility and develop a "social enterprise" model offering interpretive environmental showcase, recreation eg mountain biking, training, education, camps for corporate/youth, community activities etc.	New not-for-profit group Murray Stewart 0437 800920 is developing a business case	<i>June 2010 (dependent on QWI future usage or possible gifting of property)</i>



## 2. SOCIAL

PROJECT TITLE	BRIEF	WHO TO ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 2.1 Community building</b> <b>Community Objective: To build community spirit, strengthen social inclusiveness and foster community collaboration</b> <b>Summary of Assets and Challenges:</b> Community assets include the website <a href="http://www.maryvalley.com.au">www.maryvalley.com.au</a> , the Mary Valley newsflash email newsletter, more than 100 community focused groups, people know their neighbours and enjoy a community spirit and a sense of connection between villages. A sense of humour is obvious, and bush fire brigades have both a functional and social value. Large allotments encourage the rural residential lifestyle, and the mothballed Kandanga Creek State School is an infrastructure asset. Both the community development officer and project coordinator are identified as assets but a challenge is to establish permanent positions in these roles. There has been a loss of permanent residents, family structures and social networks have been damaged over the past four years of turmoil, and some people suffer feelings of isolation and insecurity, fear of low-flying aircraft and distrust State and Local Governments and QWI. More challenges include short term leases by QWI, security patrols of QWI property/invasion of privacy. Maintenance and rental issues relating to QWI properties exacerbate feelings of a loss of harmony and the tendency to live in the past for some residents. It will be a challenge to lose apathy, negativity and divisive attitudes, to keep the Mary Valley lifestyle and to break down the barriers to new residents engaging in community activities.			
<b>2.1.1 Advocacy for permanent paid positions for a project coordinator and community development officer</b>	Secure employment of a permanent paid project coordinator and community development officer to assist in implementation of community building projects. <b>Status:</b> Current positions terminate June 30 2010 - need permanent position supported by local government.	Mary Valley Renewal Team – Glenda Pickersgill 0411 443589 GRC/SCRC/MVI	<i>ASAP</i>
<b>2.1.2 Continue to offer email newsflash and printing service</b>	Continue to offer email newsflash and local printing services to community organisations and businesses	MVI <a href="mailto:projects@themaryvalley.com.au">projects@themaryvalley.com.au</a> Paid community workers	<i>On-going</i>
<b>2.1.3 Community builders program</b>	To deliver a program of on-going workshops designed to empower/upskill residents, and to share and build on ideas with local community groups.	Paid community workers SCRC/GRC/MVI Mary Valley and Kenilworth chambers of commerce - Graham Miller 5446 0100	<i>Short term</i>

<b>2.1.4 Community Connections</b>	To promote and foster networks to build social capacity. To continue café conversations and focus groups on a needs basis. Sustainable communities focus group - Transition Towns concepts	Paid community workers Mary Valley Renewal Team Marie Hensley 0408 708803	<i>On-going</i>
<b>2.1.5 Kandanga Creek State School project</b>	To identify and encourage a use for this mothballed facility by an organisation.	Cr Jan Watt for advice on potential opportunities 0437 733383	<i>ASAP</i>
<b>2.1.6 “Ideas notebook” project</b>	Secure a sponsor for small notebooks to be provided to each valley resident with a pen for their bedside table – so they can jot down ideas and send to their community group	MVI - Cr Jan Watt 0437 733383	<i>Short term</i>
<p><b>Strategy 2.2 Sport and recreation</b></p> <p><b>Community Objective: To have infrastructure in place to encourage participation in sport and recreation</b></p> <p><b>Summary of Assets and Challenges:</b></p> <p>Showgrounds at Imbil and Kenilworth, parks, ovals and swimming pools at Imbil, Kenilworth and Kandanga are listed among the assets register with halls at Amamoor, Kandanga, Kandanga Creek, Imbil, Brooloo, Kenilworth, Gheerulla, Federal, Ridgewood and Belli Park. The natural environment of creeks, rivers, parks, forests and the country side supports equestrian events and activities and other outdoor pursuits.</p> <p>However, the Kandanga bowls club and swimming pool are subject to flooding which is expensive to fix and drains community funds. Other challenges include the need for more volunteers, a lack of documented information about recreation sites and noise concerns about some recreation activities eg trail bikes.</p>			
<b>2.2.1 Kandanga sporting precinct</b>	To negotiate for flood-free land from QWI for a sport and recreation precinct to allow relocation of the bowls club, and consider planning for relocation of the swimming pool and soccer recreation ground. Source funding to move bowls club. <b>Status:</b> Proposal completed and funding/QWI land opportunities are being investigated. GRC has given support in principal to relocation of the bowls club.	Kandanga Bowls Club and Swimming Club Mary Valley Rangers Julie Worth 5484 3195 Community development officer Sport coordinator	<i>Prospectus by June 2010 underway</i>
<b>2.2.2 Regain Mulligans Flat at Carters Ridge</b>	To re-instate a community recreation area at Mulligans Flat, originally used as a cricket oval for public access. This area is now owned by QWI. “We want Mulligans Flat back!”	Carter’s Ridge community c/- Victor Hill 5447 9288	<i>ASAP</i>
<b>2.2.3 Kandanga 1000 horse ride</b>	This event started as a horse rally against the Traveston Crossing Dam, and now is considered an annual event to celebrate the beauty of the valley.	STMRCG Info centre 5488 4800	<i>October 8-9 2010</i>

## Strategy 2.3 Opportunities for young people

**Community Objective: To help young people realise their full potential and want to return to the Mary Valley to live and work**

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

Village schools and traineeships offered through Mary Valley State College are among the assets but the community is losing young people from the area in the 20-40 years age group. Challenges include youth boredom and a lack of activities, limited jobs and concern over noisy motorbike riders and hoons.

<b>2.3.1 To develop a social and physical 30-year vision for the region</b>	To engage youth in conversations to understand what is needed more in the Mary Valley for young people and develop a 30-year vision. Start with schools and use kids as catalysts and facilitators; involve uni students as group leaders and engage support from service organisations.	Marie Hensley 0408 708803 Matt Allard - GRC youth development officer 1300 307800	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.3.2 Song Story for Youth</b>	To deliver a music-based capacity building program for youth involving song writing, learning to play instruments and music therapy. No music knowledge needed.	Focus – Derek Foster 0488 409244 Relationships Australia	<i>August 2010 underway</i>
<b>2.3.3 Traineeships for young people in valley businesses</b>	Mary Valley State College has an existing program to identify these opportunities with local businesses	Mary Valley State College 5488 5333 Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce – Heinke Butt 5488 6848	<i>Underway</i>
<b>2.3.4 Blue Light disco program</b>	Bring the successful Blue Light disco program to the Mary Valley	Neighbourhood Watch c/- Imbil Police 5484 5222	<i>June 2010 underway</i>

## Strategy 2.4 Certainty and hope

**Community Objective: To build a strong and confident community that will invest in the Mary Valley for the long term**

### Objectives

- To develop a community and economic plan with vision, values and strategies
- To develop an effective communication process to share ideas and build on community actions
- To seek answers/clarity/support

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

Strong community networks and a long-term history of working together in small villages will help the Mary Valley deal with challenges such as uncertainty about the Government's intentions with QWI owned properties and the difficulty in getting the State to communicate with the community. Other challenges are overcoming a lack of trust, the need to remove the Mary River (Kenilworth) and the Traveston Crossing Dam sites from State legislation, the interbasin transfer of water out of the catchment, rental issues with QWI-owned properties and the need for Government funding to protect the river and endangered species.

<b>2.4.1 Mary Valley Community and Economic Action Plan</b>	<p>To develop a plan from the community and use it to inform Gympie and Sunshine Coast councils, State and Federal Government of community expectations for the future of the Mary Valley, and to assist the Mary Valley communities to build on ideas, work together and move forward towards a sustainable future. To have outcomes included in the Regional Economic Plan being developed by Gympie Regional Council.</p> <p>To work with State Government on land ownership and land use opportunities through Gympie and Sunshine Coast councils.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Draft copy available on website <a href="http://www.maryvalleyrenewal.org">www.maryvalleyrenewal.org</a></p>	<p>Mary Valley Renewal Team – Glenda Pickersgill 0411 443589 Project Development Officer</p>	<p><i>Plan to be completed by May 31 2010</i> <i>Discussions around landuse: 3-6 months.</i></p>
<b>2.4.2 Land use planning</b>	<p>To form task groups to evaluate options for land use/ownership and to negotiate with Government (via GRC) - works in with 1.1.1</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Task groups formed to look at Agriculture, Environment and Recreation opportunities with QWI owned land.</p>	<p>Mary Valley Renewal Team – Glenda Pickersgill 0411 443589</p>	<p><i>3-6 months after June 2010</i></p>

## Strategy 2.5 Health and wellbeing

**Community Objective: To foster community wellness and have good access to support services**

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

Human services support including Lifeline, Focus and churches are among assets, with the rural lifestyle. Kenilworth has formed a Transition Town committee. Poor mental and physical health due to long-term stress and feelings of being unsafe due to new people moving into the area are consequences of the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal that need to be overcome. There is limited public transport (especially difficult for young and old) and limited mobile phone coverage. With an increasing population and more recreation users in the valley, there is a need to improve First Responder/ambulance support.

<b>2.5.1 Mental Health First Aid workshops</b>	Two Mental Health First Aid workshops are to be hosted in the Mary Valley	Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice FOCUS – Derek Foster 0488 409244	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.5.2 Opportunity to employ Local Sport and Recreation Coordinator</b>	Present an information session on the funding opportunity to employ a Mary Valley Sport and Recreation Coordinator. Funding is available on a rolling system (no closing date) with the Department of Communities – Sport and Recreation.	MVI – Cr Jan Watt (chair of council's sport and recreation committee) 0437 733383	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.5.3 Multipurpose wellbeing site</b>	Undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a multipurpose wellbeing site in the Mary Valley.	CHSN Ken Meldrum 5489 8407; FOCUS – Derek Foster 0488 409244; Marie Hensley 0408 708803	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.5.4 Implement transport study recommendations</b>	Submit application for transport coordination officer and fund to relevant Government departments	MVI transport sub-committee – Julie Worth 5484 3195	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.5.5 Health related transport system</b>	Investigate possible models for the establishment of a health related transport system for the Mary Valley.	CHSN Ken Meldrum 5489 8407; FOCUS – Derek Foster 0488 409244; Marie Hensley 0408 708803	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.5.6 First Responders</b>	To assist the First Responders program to assess any changes that might be needed in the near future (groups in Imbil and Kenilworth)	CHSN Ken Meldrum 5489 8407; FOCUS – Derek Foster 0488 409244; Marie Hensley 0408 708803	<i>Short term</i>

## Strategy 2.6 Aged care and support services

**Community Objective: To develop a supportive environment for the aged**

**Summary of Assets and Challenges:**

Volunteers give their time to operate a Meals on Wheels service in the valley and First Responders groups in Imbil and Kenilworth. However, there is always a shortage of willing helpers. There is also a need to establish an aged care facility in the Mary Valley - currently elderly have to move away to Gympie or the coast.

<b>2.6.1 Aged Care services</b>	Undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of aged care services in the Mary Valley which is to include considerations for a community nurse/visitor system.	CHSN Ken Meldrum 5489 8407 FOCUS – Derek Foster 0488 409244 Marie Hensley 0408 708803	<i>Short term</i>
<b>2.6.2 Aged Pension Guide Project</b>	MVI has located a comprehensive “Aged Pension Guide” and will work with Federal MP Warren Truss to produce more copies for circulation in the valley. This will address an identified need for information about services available to the elderly.	MVI – Trish Gabbana 5484 3465	<i>Underway</i>
<b>2.6.3 Aged Care services volunteer drive</b>	Volunteers are needed for the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals on Wheels – operated by the Mary Valley Support Group;</li> <li>• Imbil First Responders.</li> </ul>	Meals - Judy Kenworthy 5488 6064 Responders - Stacey Robinson 5488 4479	<i>On-going</i>

## Strategy 2.7 Coordination of effort

**Community Objective: To encourage collaboration and partnerships**

**Summary of Assets and Challenges:**

Partnerships with local regional councils and good networking between all groups in the Mary Valley and along the Mary River are great assets.

However, more education is needed on how land use impacts downstream communities eg lack of fresh water flows to the sea, excessive nutrients and sediment impacts. Other challenges are competition for funding for environmental projects in the Mary catchment, competition for funding of community projects, unclear communication pathways, the need for better-maintained roads. Mary Valley covers two regional shires and the planning schemes are not aligned, and the SEQ/WideBay region boundaries create a lack of coordination on issues such as water ownership and responsibilities for water quality/health of the Mary River.

<b>2.7.1 Relevant to all projects and activities</b>	Coordination of effort requires communication and commitment from all organisations, Government, non-government and all sectors of the community and business.	Everyone	<i>On-going</i>
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### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT TITLE	BRIEF	WHO TO ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 3.1 Environmental stewardship</b> <b>Community Objective (long term): To care for our natural assets for future generations resulting in handing on the Mary Valley in a better condition than what it is now</b> <b>Specific Objective (short term): To create a healthier river and tributaries within a decade with rainforest establishing along the stream banks, shading the water and connecting with other remnant native vegetation higher up in the rural landscape of the Mary Valley.</b>			
<b>3.1 Identification and protection of Key Habitat Areas (including a River Wildlife Corridor)</b>	To identify key areas to protect from a biodiversity viewpoint on QWI owned land. To identify key wildlife habitat corridors that link with private ownership <b>Status:</b> Group formed and evaluating environmental data	MRCCC 5482 4766 BMRG STMRCG	<i>Map and selection criteria to be completed by June 30 2010</i>
<b>3.2 Regional recovery plan for the Mary River</b>	In conjunction with Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), develop and implement a Regional Recovery Plan for the Mary River <b>Status:</b> Federal and state departments liaising. BMRG/MRCCC Working group mapping critical habitat areas and identify opportunities for connection.	DEWHA with assistance from MRCCC 5482 4766	<i>Terms of Reference and planning commencing October 2010</i>
<b>3.3 Implement Mary River recovery actions for threatened aquatic species</b>	Caring for our Country Federal funding application to continue recovery actions on the Mary River for four EPBC riverine species and an ecological community on the EPBC priority assessment list: Mary River Cod, Mary River Turtle, Queensland Lungfish, Giant-barred Frog. The habitat requirements of these species also form part of a nominated ecological community currently being assessed as the "Pool/riffle/bar river sequences of the SEQ bioregion". Implementation of on-ground recovery actions focuses on the breeding lifecycle stage of each species. <b>Status:</b> Application submitted	MRCCC through Caring for Country funding 5482 4766	<i>Pending Federal Implementation over three years (pending approval)</i>

<b>3.4 Biosphere marketing opportunities</b>	<p>To develop a management plan for the Great Sandy Biosphere and endorsement of Biosphere logo for various products and services. May involve product development meeting benchmark environmental standards to be accredited or sponsoring river habitat restoration works or other activities.</p> <p>Promotion of businesses and groups implementing the principles of sustainable development as outlined in UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program objectives.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Currently developing the management plans and endorsement guidelines.</p>	<p>BMRG David Brown 4181 2999</p>	<p><i>Over next 12 months</i></p>
<b>3.5. Save the Mary River Museum and River Education Centre</b>	<p>To set up a museum and river education centre at the Save the Mary Info Centre near the Kandanga Railway for locals, visitors and school excursions.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Building renovations complete. Now setting up displays. Need more volunteers.</p>	<p>STMRCG Info centre 5488 4800</p>	<p><i>Opening June/July 2010</i></p>
<b>3.6 "Cool Schools" Project</b>	<p>Encourage students/families to participate in "Cool Schools" project to survey valley students on where our carbon usage is and recommendations for reducing it.</p>	<p>MVI project under Low Carbon Diet funding – Kaili Parker-Price 0447 053244</p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
<b>3.7 Reclaim Traveston Crossing for the Community</b>	<p>Organise revegetation of stream banks at Traveston Crossing and install a commemorative plaque and trail.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Planting started. Negotiation with GRC and QWI required for road reserve and adjacent properties.</p>	<p>STMRCG Info centre 5488 4800 GRC Private landowners</p>	<p><i>12 months</i></p>
<b>3.8 Showcase environment centre</b> <i>* Refer to similar economic project Environmental and community not-for-profit centre</i>	<p>To develop an interpretive centre showcasing endangered and other species. Possible sites: Garapine at Traveston Crossing, Lake McDonald, Tiaro</p> <p><b>Status:</b> MRCCC Focus Group formed. Economic business case being drafted by Murray Stewart.</p>	<p>MRCCC working group BMRG Murray Stewart 0437 800920 Marc Bright 0402447317</p>	<p><i>Long term</i></p>
<b>3.9 Kandanga Creek walk</b>	<p>To develop a creek walk in Kandanga with platypus and turtle viewing platforms</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Plan being developed with first planting planned as part of Mary River Festival on November 13 2010.</p>	<p>Friends of Kandanga STMRCG Info centre 5488 4800</p>	<p><i>12 months</i></p>
<b>3.10 Shade for Mary - Stream Bank Blitz</b>	<p>To develop skills and support revegetation of the stream banks by community volunteers and landholders.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Start in 12 months and on-going.</p>	<p>STMRCG – Glenda Pickersgill 0411 443589</p>	<p><i>Start in 12 months and on-going</i></p>

<b>3.11 Property Pest Management Planning</b>	Provide professional extension services to develop "Property Pest Management Plans" (weed management plans) in consultation with landholders. <b>Status:</b> Service now available to landholders.	MRCCC 5482 4766	<i>On-going until June 2011</i>
<b>3.12 Healthy Soils Management Plans</b>	Provide professional extension services to develop property-level "Healthy Soils Management Plans" in consultation with landholders. <b>Status:</b> Service currently available to landholders.	MRCCC 5482 4766	<i>Service available now to landholders On-going until June 2011</i>

<b>3.1 Environmental stewardship</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong community spirit to protect the river and the environment</li> <li>• Native vegetation and plentiful bushland</li> <li>• Variety of soil types and vegetation types including some rare and endangered</li> <li>• Wildlife including some rare and endangered species eg platypus, koalas, gliders, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, Mary River Turtle (endangered), Mary River Cod (endangered), Queensland lungfish (vulnerable), grey headed flying fox (vulnerable)</li> <li>• Clean air</li> <li>• Interesting rural landscape</li> <li>• Opportunities to market products with Biosphere logo and endorsement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To engage people throughout the river catchment in caring for our natural assets and protecting them for future generations</li> <li>• A history of water/irrigation activity primarily linked to dairying</li> <li>• Degradation of stream banks from stock access, grazing, flood damage, gravel extraction</li> <li>• Interbasin transfer of water out of the catchment</li> <li>• Over-allocation of water particularly during dry season and dry years</li> <li>• High level of E. coli in creeks and river from cattle excrement</li> <li>• Elevated salt levels and low dissolved oxygen during low flows in the river and some creeks</li> <li>• Environmental weeds eg camphor laurel, chinese elm, madiera vine, cats claw</li> <li>• Increasing traffic and highway noise</li> <li>• Lack of education about the environment</li> <li>• To access environmental data collected through the EIS process to inform community on areas to protect and restore in a recovery plan for endangered species</li> <li>• The Mary River and Traveston Crossing dam sites need to be removed from interactive resource and tenure maps managed by Dept of Minerals and Energy</li> </ul>

## 4. CULTURAL

PROJECT TITLE	BRIEF	WHO TO ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 4.1 Civic pride</b> <b>Community Objective: To create a sense of place</b> <b>Summary of Assets and Challenges:</b> Historic villages with individual charm, strong volunteer participation around the heritage railway stations, magazines and newsletters such as the Mary Valley Voice, Imbil Community News and Kandanga Rag are all assets. A loss of civic pride due to QWI ownership of many properties compounds the “catch-up” maintenance required on properties as little has been spent over the past four years because of the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal.			
<b>4.1.1 Place making through public art</b>	Develop a project across the valley – working title Pillars of Access - creating entry statements (sculpture/signage). Encourage young people to design entry statements for Kandanga and other towns.	Friends of Kandanga Julie Worth 5484 3195 Student Kaya Mayne Town representatives needed	<i>6 months</i>
<b>4.1.2 Kandanga Main Street scaping</b>	To improve the appearance of Kandanga’s Main Street <b>Status:</b> Application for street scaping of Kandanga main street has been made to CFTF – includes making land available for community use eg QWI land near war memorial site.	Friends of Kandanga - David Sims 5484 3109	<i>Underway</i>
<b>4.1.3 Imbil CBD revitalisation and station project</b>	Pilot project underway to improve the appearance of Imbil CBD. The original Federal Jobs Fund application (unsuccessful) represented a collaboration with MVHR and stakeholder groups to re-develop the Imbil, Kandanga and Amamoor platforms and layout. <b>Status:</b> Concept plan has been drafted for GRC.	GRC	<i>Being re-evaluated</i>
<b>4.1.4 Amamoor street scaping</b>	To improve the appearance of Amamoor CBD <b>Status:</b> Application for street scaping at Amamoor has been sent to CFTF.	Friends of Amamoor Julie Worth 5484 3195	<i>Underway</i>

## Strategy 4.2 Arts, culture and heritage

**Community Objective: To foster creativity and retain cultural heritage**

### Summary of Assets and Challenges:

The community identifies assets including historical buildings, street scaping such as that in Kenilworth, and local artistic talent both in music and the arts. However, individual towns such as Kandanga face landscaping issues with steep banks along the main street making it hard to maintain. Another challenge is finding a permanent home for the Mary Valley art mural.

<b>4.2.1 Mary River Festival</b>	This annual festival has been held for several years and is timed to coincide with the celebration of overturning the decision to dam the Mary River.	STMRCG Cooloola Community Arts	<i>Planning for November 13 2010 underway</i>
<b>4.2.2. Bus Shelter Project</b>	Recommendation of the Mary Valley Transport Needs Analysis – where a local artist will work with a team to repair and revitalise bus shelters in the valley. <b>Status:</b> MVI has successfully received RADF funding to progress this project.	MVI/young people Julie Worth 5484 3195	<i>12mths underway</i>
<b>4.2.3 Scarecrow festival</b>	To revive the scarecrow competition throughout the Mary Valley annually.	Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce - Graham Miller 5446 0100 Town representatives needed	<i>Planning for festival in August-September 2010 underway</i>
<b>4.2.4 Riverside art trails and String of Pearls concept</b>	To look at the feasibility of developing river access parks showcasing art along the length of the Mary River. <b>Status:</b> MRCCC has received RADF funding for a feasibility study for String of Pearls concept.	MRCCC 5482 4766 Marc Bright has a proposal for an additional art trail 0402 447317	<i>Short term</i>



## Appendix: Other Community Ideas

### 1.1 Agriculture

- Identify Government advice and grants for new start-up farming enterprises
- Agriculture education and training (on-farm training initiatives) for young people
- Young farmer incentive for rural business opportunities eg lease arrangements
- Develop community supported agriculture
- Support Transition Towns initiatives
- More organic agriculture and permaculture
- Allow landholders a one-off opportunity to subdivide a block to clear mortgage
- Protect prime agricultural land from being planted up to monoculture timber plantations
- Create viable farms by amalgamating some smaller farms
- Create a "food bowl" trail
- Create assistance scheme to put good farmers on farm land
- Aquaculture - eg barramundi farming
- Farming to be encouraged with a farmers co-op
- Multiple occupancy sustainable/viable community properties
- Eco farm tours - farm walks along creeks
- Niche farming
- Offer small farms (that are currently Government owned) on a lease basis to young farmers
- More produce markets promoted on low food miles
- Provide vegetative barriers around all industrial areas, quarries and other plants, along roads to help reduce noise and improve aesthetics
- Upgrade the river and banks so that it is "the cleanest river" in SEQ and an area that we can be proud of - this will probably include fencing all cattle away from permanent watercourses, off stream watering points (troughs) and revegetating the fenced off areas
- Assistance scheme, long term leases to put good farmers on farm land
- Farm stay training centre
- Develop more value-added produce eg milk- cheese-yoghurt
- Protect good farming land from gravel extraction and mining
- Plant bush tucker/food forest
- Develop a school farm at Kandanga



## 1.2 Tourism

- Produce a map of recreation opportunities and trails
- Investigate opportunities to connect with Great Sandy Biosphere (BMRG) and Noosa Biosphere (SCRC)
- Encourage local humour - scarecrow competition, naming places eg "Kan do ..."
- Audit of tourism program
- Customer service program
- Undertake a feasibility study for a wildlife interpretive centre
- Promote local produce markets eg Mary Mangoes
- Promote Federal "Gateway to the Mary Valley" off the new highway route
- Highway signage eg "Welcome to Mary Valley - expect the best, so much to see" and another sign listing attractions in the valley - Borumba Dam, Valley Rattler
- Bull riding classes or horse riding through the valley
- Cross promote towns and join activities (canoe/hiking/bike riding)
- Eco-koala world
- More use of steam train eg seven days/week
- More sustainable tourism = more long term jobs
- Better maintenance of Mary Valley roads; upgrade the road from Eumundi to Conondale to a consistent standard and sealing the road into the Obi valley
- Maps of the Mary Valley to include small communities like Federal, Carters Ridge, Ridgewood, Belli Park; signs showing Mary Valley info maps to be located in villages and on main roads
- More scenic lookouts on roads, signposted and marked on maps eg Peacons Pkt, Brooloo bluff, Carters Ridge
- More parks (including tables and chairs) at river and creek crossings eg Traveston Crossing, Tuchekoi, Goomong, Kandanga
- More river access, safer places to launch canoes and walk, viewing platforms
- Eco tourism - showcase of training centre - involve eco media
- More promotion of the Mary River and its rare flora and fauna
- Centre for the best in sustainable and environmental inventions and natural products where young people especially can be trained by the experts - the inventors and the older wise people
- Re-open fish hatchery and display at Borumba Dam
- Work out ways to protect but promote our environment
- Eco farm tours - farm walks along creeks
- More free camping areas for "grey nomads" and toilet dump site at Imbil - RV friendly parks
- People visiting community with smiling people leaves a good impression
- Kandanga - sound shell for outdoor concerts
- Kandanga - more signs to encourage people to visit the town - expand Kandanga on to main road
- More camping areas
- Imbil - riverboat on weir on Yabba Creek
- Signs in the toilets (what you can do)
- Horse-drawn taxi
- Keep markets as local - not selling imported stuff
- Pre-Muster events for Kenilworth, Imbil, Kandanga, Amamoor - contact artists to come weeks beforehand
- Kandanga - a lungfish breeding operation for sale, currently at Bundaberg

- Disabled camping experience
- Kandanga - Meter Maids (information cow maids or cowboys) meeting the train
- Botanical gardens - bush foods
- Amamoor - vintage machinery
- Statue eg "big lungfish", "big Mary River cod"

### 1.3 Business

- Develop more accommodation eg cabins
- Develop more businesses which support agriculture
- Develop more businesses which value-add/process products
- Encourage more coffee shops/restaurants
- Create 4WD parks
- Create more local jobs
- Enterprise facilitation to help develop ideas into reality or new industry innovation committee
- Business advisor/mentor for the Mary Valley
- Encourage more horse studs
- Kandanga - bakery, gift shops
- Signs to direct people to local pie shop or cake shop
- Leather shop
- New speedway track in the Mary Valley
- IGA/Woolworths/Aldi shops
- EBay for the valley to sell goods
- Relocate Kandanga post office to old NAB building, Main Street, Kandanga
- Wesfarmers bank
- Caravan parks - with botanical gardens
- Villa-type housing for young/aged



## 1.4 New industries and innovation

- Look for opportunities to attract sustainable industries eg renewable energy/solar power/composting toilets
- Encourage cottage industries in town precinct
- Brainstorm innovative eco ideas for industrial land
- Encourage aquaculture opportunities
- Encourage more people to work from home - need high speed internet service
- Green jobs initiatives
- New businesses connected to Mary Valley Country branding
- Develop abseiling off Brooloo Bluff
- Create a showcase eco-centre, environmental energy efficient training ground
- Encourage eco-businesses
- Bush tucker plantings to sell products
- Centre for the best in sustainable and environmental inventions and natural products where young people especially can be trained by the experts - the inventors and the older wise people
- Retain rural atmosphere with any new development
- Improve mobile phone coverage eg Kandanga, Kenilworth, Amamoor & Carters Ridge
- Allocate a business industrial estate near highway at Federal or Kybong
- Start a community business by establishing a fund with members paying \$1000-\$5000 to participate
- Sustainable energy - solar powered "green" Mary Valley
- Encourage businesses to develop a vibrant "wow" factor
- "Themes" for each town with a particular focus/attraction eg Kandanga pineapple festival, Amamoor Heavy horse day, Dagon garden/markets



## 2.1 Community building

- Undertake a community skills audit
- Dialogue with Government to fill empty QWI houses with people
- Participate in community development forum and community development strategic plan - Gympie Region
- Develop a community neighbourhood centre to house human services etc
- Connect with past residents/students and invite them back to be involved in the community. Build a database of past residents.
- BBQ days welcoming/promoting valley groups
- Identify and recognise existing programs
- Form an action group to investigate investment opportunities
- Encourage more volunteers
- Build a community that works together
- More email/internet communication
- Regain pride in community spirit
- Regain sense of knowing neighbours, feeling of security of property and respect of property of others
- Regain school community
- Opportunities for young and old to work together on projects
- Federal hall - develop a multi-purpose sports and community centre with community garden, information centre for trekking, trails
- "Care for Community" campaign
- Expand Mary Valley Voice to include smaller communities ie Federal and Carters Ridge/Ridgewood/Belli
- Increase youth activities and entertainment
- Greater involvement of elderly people in projects
- Develop sense of community with welcoming kit to new residents and in schools
- Regain communication and concern for neighbours
- Carters Ridge/Ridgewood - regain newspaper delivery service
- Create happy communities
- Create leaders
- More brainstorming activities in groups
- Imbil - create a park for everyone with views of Yabba Creek eg council caravan site
- Imbil - start a comedy club
- Dunny houses race festival - challenge Ettamogah pub
- Long term locals need to be welcoming to new locals and visitors
- Local radio
- Kandanga is a town of survival - residents can do anything as a community
- Website for jobs in the Mary Valley
- More Community noticeboards/suggestion boxes
- "The Mary Valley - Grow up here, Come back here, Retire here"
- Kenilworth needs a new fire station

## 2.2 Sport and recreation

- Kandanga - encourage young people to play more sport
- Participate in the review of the Gympie Regional Council Open Space and Recreation Plan recommendations for the Mary Valley
- Action opportunities that arise from the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Recreation and Sport Strategy
- Promote natural infrastructure - water, forest for all recreation activities - this is relevant to economic, tourism, youth, health and wellbeing sectors and fits with proposed branding concept "Mary Valley Country"
- Support Great Aussie Camp Out initiative in 2011
- Attract bicycle riding clubs/university adventure clubs (and other sport clubs) to Mary River and surrounds and develop a cycling strategy and more bike tracks along main roads; Tour de Mary for amateurs
- Encourage multi-generational recreation activities
- Create an active, fit community
- More canoeing - a canoe club to encourage participating, develop skills and safety
- Mary Valley Golf Day "come and try"
- Develop a fundraising plan for a sports floor in the Imbil school multi-purpose facility which will allow more involvement in different sports - cost \$100,000
- Designate area for motor bike riders in State forest to minimise noise and safety risks for private property with motor bike specific camping area nearby
- Motocross track
- Kandanga - encourage mountain bikes and trail bikes
- Midnight movie matinees with plenty of back seats available!
- Develop a new golf course
- Bring soccer A-league fixtures to the soccer grounds in the Mary Valley
- Create a skate bowl in the valley
- Horse race track
- Imbil - build a public toilet at playground near bridge, move the fire station out of town, then turn the site into a combined park with the caravan park Imbil - keep the market in centre of town to be more visible
- Imbil or Kandanga - Australian Bowling Championships



## 2.3 Opportunities for young people

- Youth team/youth action groups
- More opportunities for our children ... more direction for them
- Introduce RUMAD Program into schools
- Young farmer incentive for rural business opportunities eg lease arrangement
- Fish farm (reserve) - youth to catch fish and tourist attraction
- More local jobs
- SES "cadets"
- Improve education services
- Youth centre
- Get kids involved in designing a funky toilet
- Improve transport - use school buses for other users
- Form a group to investigate ways to keep in regular contact with youth after leaving school in the Mary Valley
- Survey young people on the future of the Mary Valley
- Disadvantaged youth outdoor program for self esteem building
- Kandanga - encourage young people to play more sport
- Liaise with GRC Youth and Community Development Workers on revegetation projects
- Consider Green Army initiative ([www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au](http://www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au)) where workers will have paid work placements to undertake environmental work including regeneration and revegetation
- Kandanga - to attract young families, provide incentives for young home buyers

## 2.4 Certainty and hope

- Create employment
- Private ownership instead of government owned land
- Re-value properties that are subject to buyback scheme
- Community consultation on all major issues that affect the community
- More communication and consultation
- State Government timeline for release of land back to other buyers and developers
- The change from rental to private ownership will improve town pride, smiling faces, enterprises.

## 2.5 Health and wellbeing

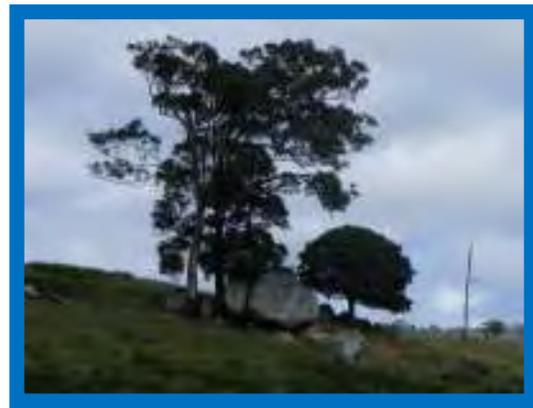
- Action recommendations from the Mary Valley Transport Needs Analysis
- Review the Community Facilities Needs Assessment undertaken by Gympie Regional Council
- Create a wellness centre, doctors surgery
- Imbil/Kandanga - establish a community centre
- Increase spiritual and environmental awareness
- Retain good lifestyle
- Happiness results from expectations being met (eg advertising - true representation), great facilities (eg overnight camping), activities for youth (fun competitions)
- Better ambulance services
- Improve public transport
- Look after new community members

## 2.6 Aged care and support services

- Review the outcomes of the Mary Valley Aged Care Study for implementation actions
- Need aged facility in the Mary Valley
- Attract retirement village investment eg Dawn Fraser
- Retirement centre/facility for "former famers" - training opportunity, educate the young, keep contact with animals, gardening
- Free transport for elderly and disabled to hospitals and doctors eg Graham House at Murgon
- Action Mary Valley Transport Needs Analysis recommendations eg need for a coordinated transport/aged care service
- Eco uni training centre for older-skilled people to bring their knowledge
- A training centre - skilled old timers to bring and share their knowledge to others (men and women)
- Kandanga - rural living style communities for the over 50s
- Improve health services for the elderly

## 2.7 Coordination of effort

- Develop structure of quadruple bottom line
- Identify partners and responsibilities for other community ideas
- Identify scale of operation for clarity
- Connect Transition Towns in the catchment eg Hervey Bay, Kenilworth
- Share community vision and proposals with State Government- request their support re provision of river parcels of land, availability of land parcels for eco-development/new agriculture/innovation
- Create events/networks/information exchange that link communities from source to the sea
- Exchange program between upper and lower catchments eg schools, clubs
- Three councils within the catchment need to work together on water issues eg reduce over allocation of the river, water conservation initiatives
- Write to councillors/Main Roads about specific concerns about roads
- Need Gympie representation in development plans for SEQ
- Community consultation and negotiation on all major issues that affect the community
- More Council transparency and openness
- More of Government listening to the community
- Meet with environment groups and government departments



### 3.1 Environmental stewardship

- More native trees and shrubs to provide more wildlife habitat, vegetative screens and reduce noise from around all industrial areas, quarries and roads
- Educate the community on weeds threatening the environment
- Provide incentives for farmers to fence off creeks and plant creek banks and wildlife corridors
- Hold an annual Mary River conference to attract, research and support local knowledge
- Lobby council to support and continue "Land for Wildlife"
- Focus groups for triple or quadruple baseline could support the experts dealing with environmental issues
- Creek walks - platypus/turtle viewing platforms/bird viewing hides
- Regain clean, healthy river and creeks
- Create animal corridors over/under the new highway
- Replace camphor laurels and chinese elm with native species especially close to streams and along roads
- Observation decks for viewing lungfish and other creatures - including underwater viewing
- Showcase eco-centre, environmental energy efficient training ground
- Bush tucker plantings
- More involvement of Gympie and District Landcare with landholders
- Landholders to replant areas with diverse native trees, shrubs, herbs and tubers for fruit, vegetables, flowers and medicine for people, animals birds etc
- Expand Biosphere status to include all the Mary catchment
- Eco friendly homes eg solar/recycle/water efficient
- Low emission transport eg rail, bike
- Projects needed to address Energy and Carbon management
- Attract volunteers for conservation projects - water watch, naturalists club, men of the trees
- Night walks spotting wildlife eg frogs, possums
- Waste management even Zero waste Mary Valley
- Wildlife corridors from river to hills
- Koala interpretive centre with koala food trees eg grey gum, spotted gum,
- Proper rehabilitation of gravel pits
- Re-open fish display at Borumba Dam - let's educate
- Create a conservation buffer along the Mary River allowing for public access and some recognition of the endangered species ie an interpretive centre/walk
- Kenilworth - develop access to Mary River (eg behind Police Station) for picnics, canoeing etc
- Liaise with GRC Youth and Community Development Workers on revegetation projects
- Consider Green Army initiative ([www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au](http://www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au)) where workers will have paid work placements to undertake environmental work including regeneration and revegetation
- Kenilworth - Isaac Park - plant flowering trees and shrubs to attract birds/butterflies from town leading to park and it could become tourist attraction for visitors and bird watchers
- Retain country ambience - rural lifestyle, natural environment, clean river and creeks, natural flora and fauna

- Promote water conservation and efficiency for urban and agriculture uses, as well as effective water harvesting throughout the Mary Catchment and SEQ to minimise the take of water from the river and creeks

#### **4.1 Civic pride**

- Employ locals to keep the valley looking good eg weed control
- Imbil - spend some money on the Imbil hotel
- Create a working group to control environmental weeds
- Create a task group to develop and promote an agreed community vision for the valley's people and to attract like-minded people
- Involve youth so that they take ownership and pride eg skate parks
- Develop pride in own home - both owner occupier and renter
- More festival/street parades celebrating community pride and achievement
- Retain rural atmosphere with development
- Need for a town based gardener for valley towns
- Imbil - improve assets eg school needs shade over playground
- Kandanga - park benches and public art, murals along the street
- Kandanga entrance sign of stone suggested: "Welcome to Kandanga. Bowls, Beef and Booze. Best Rumps in the Valley"
- Kenilworth -retain town character
- Kenilworth - improve access road
- Revamp facades in towns
- Create a park like Kenilworth that will draw in the community, tourists
- More museums, history of towns and the Mary Valley
- Install rubbish bins made in a style to suit country town
- More articles in the Mary Valley Voice and Range News
- Amamoor has plans to have a platypus viewing area and railway walk trail
- Differentiate our valley; to do this we need different expectations from other parts of the state; we must be cleaner, prettier, environmentally better

#### **4.2 Arts, culture and heritage**

- Bush food demonstration site
- Coordination of events/festivals on annual calendar
- Host schools/conferences
- Public art projects
- Continue the Mary Valley oral history project
- Regain local indigenous knowledge and stories about art, bluff, lungfish
- Kandanga - encourage music of all kinds, start a beer festival, concerts in the parks or muster site
- Hold an annual flotilla to bring people back to celebrate and incorporate food, markets
- Develop Kandanga as cultural centre (visual arts/music/theatre etc)
- More festivals/street parades celebrating community pride and achievement
- A comedy club