

# Newbridge – The Perfect Place to Pause



## Newbridge Village Community Plan 2018-2028

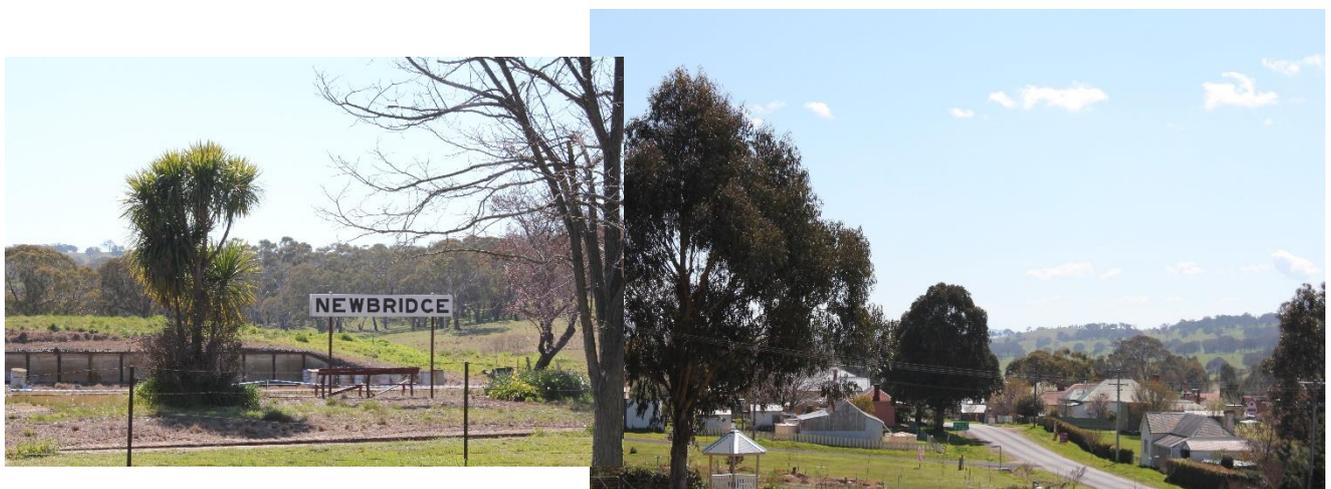


Developed in partnership with the Blayney Shire Council

# Newbridge - The Perfect Place to Pause

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# Newbridge - The Perfect Place to Pause

## Vision

We are a vibrant and pro-active community with a celebrated history. Our unique local events and activities provide a welcoming family friendly atmosphere to residents and visitors. We offer great country hospitality.

## Mission

We will achieve this by:

- Restoring our history for our future
- Providing opportunities for our inspiring local artisans to collaborate and work together
- Promoting our heritage, annual signature events and cultural attractions that will enhance the visitor experience
- Volunteer and support each other at our local shows, business and festivals
- Raise the profile of our accessibility within the region and unique tourism aspects
- Encourage and welcome community involvement and be open to new ideas
- Promoting our local living and railway history so that we can develop projects to promote Newbridge as the perfect place to pause
- Encouraging inter village events and collaboration

## Introduction

The Newbridge Village Progress Association has developed a vision for Newbridge so that the potential that exists for the village becomes a reality. The Newbridge Village Community Plan 2018-2028 was developed in partnership with Blayney Shire Council, which supported the Village Progress Association's enthusiasm and efforts in setting some goals and projects that will ensure the future viability of the Newbridge village.

By June 2018, Blayney Shire Council will adopt a new 10 year Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the whole shire under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. The CSP identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community, and must involve a whole of community engagement process. A CSP identifies who is responsible for its implementation and may include the community, individuals, local, state and federal government.

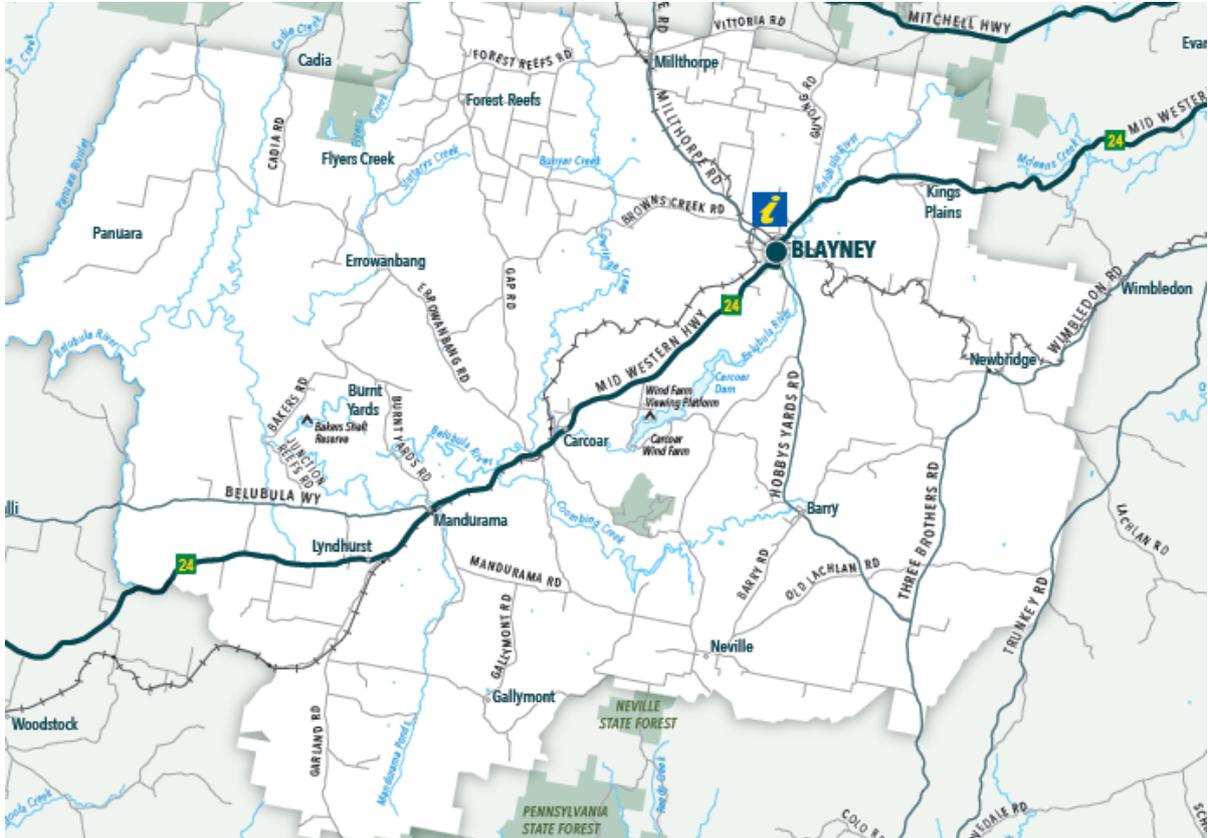
As part of Council's long term sustainability program the development of the Village Community Plan is a key element for future planning and service delivery. As Blayney is the 'Shire of Villages', Council has recognised the importance for the village of Newbridge to take advantage of its amazing heritage, country lifestyle and high visitor appeal and that we work together for the benefit of the community and local businesses.

There is no person, organisation or level of government that can achieve this alone. A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community are dependent on everyone working together.

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## Where is Newbridge?

Newbridge is on the eastern gateway into the Blayney Shire, 15km from Blayney township following the mid-western Railway line. A comfortable 3.5 hour drive from Sydney, just 20 minutes from Bathurst and 40 minutes from Orange, Newbridge is a great destination for a relaxing day trip or weekend country escape.



Newbridge has a one lane bridge passing over the railway line which brings passengers to the Central West on a daily basis. While not currently in use, the historic train station has won a number of awards for one of the best presented in the State. The station remains a centrepiece treasured by residents and fondly remembered as the stopover for Queen Elizabeth II during her 1970 Royal visit.

The local pub has accommodation, a restaurant serving modern cuisine and live music on Sunday afternoons. There's a village craft shop, art galleries, playground, tennis courts, picnic area with electric BBQ and amenities. Visitors are welcome for free camping at the local sportsground.

Following Proclamation of the township of Bathurst in 1815, Governor Lachlan Macquarie, with Surveyor, Evans travelled to the Three Brothers area where Newbridge is now located. Quite a large settlement grew in Moorilda, 4 kilometres south of Newbridge.

When Gold was discovered towards Kings Plains the original settlers were miners and farmers. However, in 1874, work began on the railway line between Bathurst and Newbridge and the station opened in 1875. It was then called Back Creek but

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the name was changed to Newbridge in 1878 and the town became a major centre for shipping goods.

In the 1950s, Newbridge was a thriving town with a baker, green grocer and general and rural supplies store. Churches include St Bartholomew's Anglican Church (1938) and St Joseph's Convent (1898). Newbridge had a public school (1877), police station (1890s) a post office (1904) and Royal Hotel (1877) which have been preserved as private residences.

### Community engagement strategy

Residents were invited to come along and check in to review then share their great project, ideas or a new event to bring visitors and attract residents to the village of Newbridge. On Monday 32 October 2017 about 18 residents participated in a planning workshop to contribute to the review of the Newbridge Village Community Plan.

The evening was facilitated by Blayney Shire Council with council staff and Councillors providing logistics support to document the list of projects and ideas for the future of Newbridge. A copy of the invitation and program is included at the back of this plan.



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## The profile of Newbridge Village

 <p><b>PEOPLE</b></p>	<p>There are 297 people living in the Newbridge area, which represents 6.7% of the overall population of Blayney Shire Local Government Area. Of these 80% were born in Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 0% of the population.</p>	
	0 – 19 years of age	68 (22.89%)
	20 – 39 years of age	22 (7.41%)
	40 – 59 years of age	99 (33.34%)
	60 – 79 years of age	104 (34.01%)
	80 years or older	4 (1.34%)
 <p><b>FAMILIES</b></p>	<p>Of the families in Newbridge, 40% were couple families with children, 55% were couples without children, and 4% were one parent families.</p>	
 <p><b>EDUCATION</b></p>	<p>In Newbridge 43% were in primary school, 24% in secondary and 33% in a tertiary or technical institution.</p>	
 <p><b>INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT</b></p>	<p>Of the residents in Newbridge, 37% were employed full time, 19% employed part time, 2% employed outside the shire, 2% were unemployed and 41% were not in the workforce</p>	
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	55.56%
	Education and Training	44.44%

Source: Remplan (ABS Census, 2016)

Newbridge data includes the village of Newbridge and localities of Moorilda and Caloola

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## Strengths, weakness, opportunities & threats

### We wish to build on and take advantage of our *Strengths*

- Our signature events, being the Winter Solstice Festival and the February Swap meet, provide an opportunity to promote our local artisans and crafts
- The Rural Fire Brigade has had a resurgence and is the better than ever, with pro-active volunteers
- The recreation facilities, tennis courts and showground which is available for free camping is safe and the village is set in a picturesque scenic rural environment
- The Gladstone Hotel is a hub of local interaction, good food and good times drawing visitors from far and wide
- Our picturesque cemetery is one of the best in the shire where people can research their family history
- The community is well supported by a band of volunteers supporting Rural Fire Services, animal rescue, village events and the Craft Shop Cooperative, gallery and art trail
- The island train station building being the only one in regional NSW and outside metropolitan Sydney. In particular the Queen enjoyed an overnight stay which provides a wonderful anecdote and connection to our railway heritage
- There are regular community programs which operate in the village, including an active art group which meets weekly and exercise classes are held weekly also
- Newbridge is close and very accessible to the regional centres of Bathurst, Blayney and Orange
- Being part of the village network, Hobbys Yards, Neville and Barry as a cycling and motorbike touring route

### We need to address our *Weaknesses*

- Whilst we have a train station with daily passing train services the fact is; the train does not stop in Newbridge
- Access to public transport is limited and irregular therefore not encouraging for usage, so even an alternative of a free taxi service to Bathurst is perplexing

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- The signage and tourism information we provide is minimal and not sufficient for visitors to self-navigate their way around the village and surrounding attractions
- The main sealed road from Blayney to Newbridge is not an easy drive and at times presents unsafe driving conditions, with Village Road becoming more dangerous as more trucks take an alternative route to the Mid-Western Highway
- There is limited to nil signage coming from Bathurst that directs traffic to Newbridge
- Whilst there are some younger families in the area they are not involved in community organisations or events
- The mobile phone coverage is poor which limits communication access for visitors to the village
- There is no school for young families, which means that a bus ride into Blayney or Bathurst is necessary for primary aged children.
- The gravel and local roads are sometimes in a poor state of repair and these are important transport links from Bathurst to CTLX and increasing in use
- There is a lack of a good footpath network and there is no footpath connecting the sports ground to the village centre

### **We want to ensure that we create *Opportunities* and make them a reality**

- The Newbridge Train Station if made accessible to passengers would provide the visitor economy boost that the village needs to grow
- The recreation facilities at the showground are very appealing for the caravan and camping market, and would be even better with improvements made to the Showground Hall and construction of showers and a laundry facility
- We are a quiet and beautiful village offering a unique experience for those tree changers wishing to leave the hustle and bustle of the city
- The events we have developed are becoming known throughout the region including the Annual Swap Meet and Winter Solstice, and exposure we receive during the Blayney to Bathurst bike ride provide opportunities for attracting visitors for Art Shows or workshops
- Our assets for an increasing tourism market include the heritage buildings, train station and the surrounding scenery and natural landscape
- Small bush walking trails offer abundant natural biodiversity, fantastic bird viewing and koala habitat

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- Newbridge is in close proximity to surrounding villages of Hobbys Yards and Barry providing points of interest along the way for a Heritage Trail
- Our local craft shop could provide for a 'pop up' café with outdoor seating to cater for passers-by if a kitchen was installed

### We must tackle the *Threats* together and as a united community

- The Gladstone Hotel is the central hub for all social activities, and if we ever lost this business it would be a terrible blow to the village.
- The lack of village expansion is limiting new housing development opportunities
- The Winter Solstice is at a critical point of making a decision to continue or cease due to lack of support and volunteers
- Newbridge must involve and include more families into events and community activities in order to grow
- Our beautiful trees are being attacked by Elm Beetles, and a coordinated approach is absolutely necessary
- Patchy telecommunications have hindered growth and installation of a Telstra antenna may improve service, however Telstra Air WiFi would be of benefit



## Newbridge Projects

Each Project or Objective has been grouped into an overarching Strategy and listed in order of collective priority as determined by the community forum held in October 2017. The Strategies are categorised under the themes of:

- Public Infrastructure and Services
- Local Governance and Finance
- The Local and Visitor Economy
- Community, Sports, Heritage and Culture
- Our Natural Environment.

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Partners, responsible agency and a lead person if applicable have been identified for each project group. The Newbridge Village Progress Association will be the vehicle through which stakeholders and interested community members may provide feedback and project updates in order to communicate the status of the Newbridge Projects 2018-2028. The Newbridge Village Community Plan 2018-2028 created a number of strategies which were developed along the following themes.

Themes	Strategy
<b>Public Infrastructure and Services</b>	<p>Facilitate increased usage and access to Public Transport opportunities</p> <p>Work with Council to plan for ongoing maintenance works and capital projects that will improve Newbridge's infrastructure for visitors and residents</p> <p>Develop the Newbridge Recreation / Showground as the centre for sporting, community and local activities</p>
<b>Local Governance and Finance</b>	<p>Finalise the Blayney Shire Developer Control Plan and Residential Land Strategy, then undertake a review of LEP to enable small building blocks and new business in Newbridge</p>
<b>The Local and Visitor Economy</b>	<p>Coordinate a series of events and activities that attracts visitors to Newbridge</p> <p>Improve telecommunications access for business growth and economic development opportunities</p>
<b>Community, Sports Heritage and Culture</b>	<p>Build on the positive participation of our volunteers to create community events that acknowledge and showcase local talent</p>
<b>Our Natural Environment</b>	<p>Develop a Village Ramble and Walking Trail for Newbridge to connect local native animal and environment attractions</p>

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Theme: Public Infrastructure and Services	Partners
<b>Strategy: Facilitate increased usage and access to Public Transport opportunities</b>	
<p>Work with NSW Country Train service to enable Stop on Request at Newbridge</p> <p>Accepting that the restoration footbridge is not feasible, design and develop an alternative pedestrian access to the train station</p> <p>Ensure that John Holland Transport maintains the Newbridge Railway Station as per their contract of management</p> <p>Whilst a train service is not available, lobby the NSW Government for a NSW Countrylink Bus Service</p> <p>Work with NSW Government to replace the Railway Line Bridge extending the sealed road network along to the 50km zone</p>	<p>NSW Government</p> <p>NVA</p> <p>BSC</p>
<p>Install a shelter shed for School Bus Services opposite the Hotel next to the Telstra Box</p>	<p>BSC</p>
<b>Strategy: Work with Council to plan for ongoing maintenance works and capital projects that will improve Newbridge's infrastructure for visitors and residents</b>	
<p>Improve accessibility throughout the village including laybacks and level walkways</p> <p>Beautify the street scapes of the Village and install new street furniture</p> <p>Preserve and maintain our parks, gardens and reserves</p>	<p>BSC</p> <p>NVA</p>
<p>Maintain the road infrastructure to a better standard in town and access roads</p>	<p>BSC</p> <p>NVA</p>
<p>Install better tourism and directional signage which is relevant and promotes the scenic routes within our village network</p>	<p>BSC</p> <p>NVA</p>
<p>Relocate recycling bins to showground or more suitable location at the Showground</p> <p>Promote and expand rubbish disposal and collection points for waste transfer and recycling, with increased collection rates</p>	<p>BSC</p> <p>NVA</p>

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Theme: Public Infrastructure and Services	Partners
<b>Strategy: Develop the Newbridge Recreation / Showground as the centre for sporting, community and local activities</b>	
<p>Tennis Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install lights on the tennis courts to enable evening usage</li> <li>- Put basketball rings on tennis court</li> <li>- Undertake regular maintenance including the light at the BBQ, which needs to be switched off</li> </ul> <p>The Hall needs some new timber weatherboards, exterior painting, rewiring, interior painting and a new Kitchen</p> <p>Develop the Showground as a community facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate RV friendly and application as a Primitive Camping Ground</li> <li>- Upgrade power outlets for camping or caravans</li> <li>- Pull down the northern side of the small ancillary shed</li> <li>- Undertake regular mowing and maintenance of showground</li> <li>- Remove and replace the old Pine trees</li> <li>- Construction of new horse safe fencing around main arena area</li> </ul> <p>Improve the showground facility by upgrading the watering system at the hall, install a bore for watering and refurbish the buildings</p>	BSC NVA
Continue to allocate Village Enhancement Plan funds for Newbridge projects	BSC
Review the Residential Strategy to facilitate new housing opportunities in the village	BSC

Theme: Local Governance and Finance	Partners
<b>Strategy: Finalise the Blayney Shire Developer Control Plan and Residential Land Strategy, then undertake a review of LEP to enable small building blocks and new business in Newbridge</b>	
<p>Gather support and co-operation between residents and Council to develop and preserve the architectural heritage within and around the village</p> <p>Provide heritage guidelines with a preference and consideration for maintaining the look and feel of the village</p>	BSC NVA

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Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy	Partners
<b>Strategy: Coordinate a series of events and activities that attracts visitors to Newbridge</b>	
Continue to utilise Council's Calendar of Events calendar to promote Newbridge activities	NVA BSC
Promote the Regional Art Trails – what's open and when	NVA BSC
Investigate the resources required to control spread of pest and disease problems with fruit	NVA
<b>Strategy: Improve telecommunications access for business growth and economic development opportunities</b>	
Lobby the Federal Government and facilitate appropriate locations for mobile phone tower and antenna installations to improve mobile phone communication and NBN access	NVA BSC

Theme: Community, Sports, Heritage and Culture	Partners
<b>Strategy: Build on the positive participation of our volunteers to create community events that acknowledge and showcase local talent</b>	
Reproduce and update the Newbridge Village History book and develop and village archive collection	NVA
Record our amazing living history whilst our older generation are alive	
Promote Newbridge as an historic destination for train tours	
Build on the success of the Winter solstice by adding additional features and activities	NVA
Hold a Spring market at the Showground	NVA

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Theme: Community, Sports, Heritage and Culture	Partners
Develop new activities including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote Newbridge as an arts area and expand the monthly Arts Trail</li> <li>- Kids tennis competition</li> <li>- Horse camps at the Showground</li> <li>- Open Garden Weekend</li> <li>- Arts and Photography workshops</li> <li>- An arts and crafts retreat at the showground</li> <li>- Movie under the stars at the showground or in the hall</li> </ul>	NVA
Develop an historic villages Cemetery Tour Brochure and host a blessing of our ancestors program on an annual basis	NVA

Theme: Our Natural Environment	Partners
<b>Strategy: Develop a Village Ramble and Walking Trail for Newbridge to connect local native animal and environment attractions</b>	
Develop a designated trail whereby people can walk, cycle or ride a horse along the road grass verges a safe distance from the road to connect the villages of Hobbys Yards and Barry	NVA BSC RMS
Develop a Koala sighting and bird watching walking track in Newbridge	

LEGEND	
BSC	Blayney Shire Council
NVA	Newbridge Village Progress Association
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services

## Appendices

1. Workshop Invitation
2. Workshop Program

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# Newbridge

*the favourite Village destination*

**It's time to check in to review the**

# **Newbridge Village**

# **Community Plan**

# **2016-2026**

**Date: Monday 23 October 2017**

**Time: 6pm – 8pm**

**Venue: Newbridge Showground Hall**

Blayney Shire Council in conjunction with Newbridge Progress Association invite you to come along and share your thoughts whilst we revisit the vision and projects for Newbridge.

We will review the Newbridge Village Community Plan created last year so that community projects feed into the new Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan to be developed in 2018.

A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community is dependent on everyone working together.

Everyone is welcome. A light supper, tea and coffee provided.

*Newbridge – the favourite Village destination*

An initiative supported by Blayney Shire Council and the Newbridge Progress Association

# Program

### 1. Is Newbridge the favourite village destination?

- Thumbs Up/Thumb Down

### 2. Vision and Mission

- Do they still sound OK and on track?

### 3. Strengths

### 4. Weaknesses

### 5. Threats

### 6. Opportunities

- Yes/No? More or Less?

### 7. Projects

- What can we tick off as completed?
- What can we remove because we don't see it as a priority anymore?
- What can we add?
- What do we need to change?

### 8. Dotocracy

- Now take 10 dots and make your mark!