



Tantanoola Community Town Plan





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Zone Map for Tantanoola taken from the Wattle Range Council Development Plan

Executive Summary

Tantanoola is situated in the south east of South Australia. It is a part of the traditional lands of the Boandik people.

European settlement began to shape a town from the year of 1879 and steadily grew. It began as a farming community and continues to be.

The town grew substantially with the establishment of the Cellulose Pty Ltd cardboard factory in 1941 and APCEL Pty Ltd. in 1964. In the 1960s and 1970s, Tantanoola was a vibrant community with a lively business centre which included a bakery, butcher, post office, mechanic, petrol station, hotel and other stores.

Currently, the local industries include paper manufacturing, forestry, horticulture (herb farming) and agriculture, sheep and cattle, grain production, and dairying. A large windfarm is situated to the west of the township.

In 2016, the Census recorded a population in Tantanoola of 496 people. The number and range of employment opportunities in the immediate area has decreased over recent decades. The most significant consequence of this has been an aging of the population.

The Tantanoola Football and Netball Club remains pivotal in the community as a centre for sporting and social interaction.

The Tantanoola Cave, Woakwine Range Windfarm Tourist Drive, Tantanoola Tiger Hotel and Railway Reserve area of the town are tourist attractions. The Railway Reserve frequently has numerous campervans, caravans and recreational vehicles staying overnight or longer.

The community is now at a point whereby it is keen to consider its best way forward to maintain its positives and to further enhance these and to develop its aesthetics, its opportunities and possibilities.

The residents identify its clean and green credentials to grow the community, increase local employment opportunities and to build the social capital of the township. With these intents, there is energy and commitment to reflect, consider, plan and work to reinvigorate to celebrate its assets and to capitalise upon these to improve the lives of all within the community.

The History of Tantanoola

The Boandik People lived along the coastline of this South Eastern region of South Australia for many thousands of years. They enjoyed the bounty of the sea as well as the rich land back to the first range. Evidence exists of their middens, tools and water storage in this general region.

The first Europeans to pass through the Tantanoola district were members of a Government survey party: Governor George Grey, Charles Bonney, Thomas Burr, George Angas, a Mr. Gisborne and 3 policemen in 1844.

The town was proclaimed on the 10th July 1879 and originally called Lucieton after the Governor Jervois' daughter Lucy Caroline. Within a few years (1888) the name of the town was changed to Tantanoola, which is a Boandik word thought to mean boxwood/brushwood hill or camp and was once a portion of Mayura Station.

A wayside inn was built in the 1860s on the overland mail coach route to Gambier Town. The first town blocks were surveyed and auctioned in 1879.



In 1879 the Beachport to Mt Gambier railway line was opened which caused much controversy as it separated the town down the middle from north to south. In 1957 the railway line was converted from narrow to broad gauge and continued to operate until both freight and passenger operations ceased in April 1995. However, tourists continued to utilise the railway line through limited services provided by the Limestone Coast Railway group, until it ceased operations in June 2006.

The historic Tantanoola railway station is currently listed on the South Australian Heritage Register.

In 1893 there were reports of a strange animal in the Tantanoola area, which was described as a tiger, and prowled the district for several years. In 1895, the 'tiger' was killed, only to be discovered that it was an Assyrian Wolf, which is now on display in a glass case at the Tantanoola Tiger Hotel. However, sheep continued to disappear even after the 'tiger' was shot until a local rabbit shooter was arrested by police. The shooter admitted in the subsequent trial to the theft of over 4000 sheep over nearly 20 years, selling the skins and earning as much as 5 pounds a week, a good income in the depressed 1900's.

The settlement steadily grew with its first post office and store established in 1880. In the decade following a school, hotel, saddler's shop, butcher, cheese factory, blacksmith, billiards room, and bakery all became part of the townscape.

The Tantanoola and District Sporting Club was inaugurated in 1894 and remains a crucial sporting and social centre for the residents.

The Tantanoola Cave was discovered in 1930 by Boyce Lane.

The land between the first range and the coast was prone to flooding during winters. Farmers on the flat country grazed sheep and grew wheat, barley, rye and oats. The farmers on more hilly terrain milked cows and grazed sheep. Pigs were sometimes a favourable sideline. 'Coastal Disease' proved to be a problem in the early years of agriculture.

With the establishment of a Drainage system and increased mechanisation following World War II, farming achieved far greater production.

The Cellulose cardboard manufacturing factory was established in 1941 and continued operations until end of 1982.

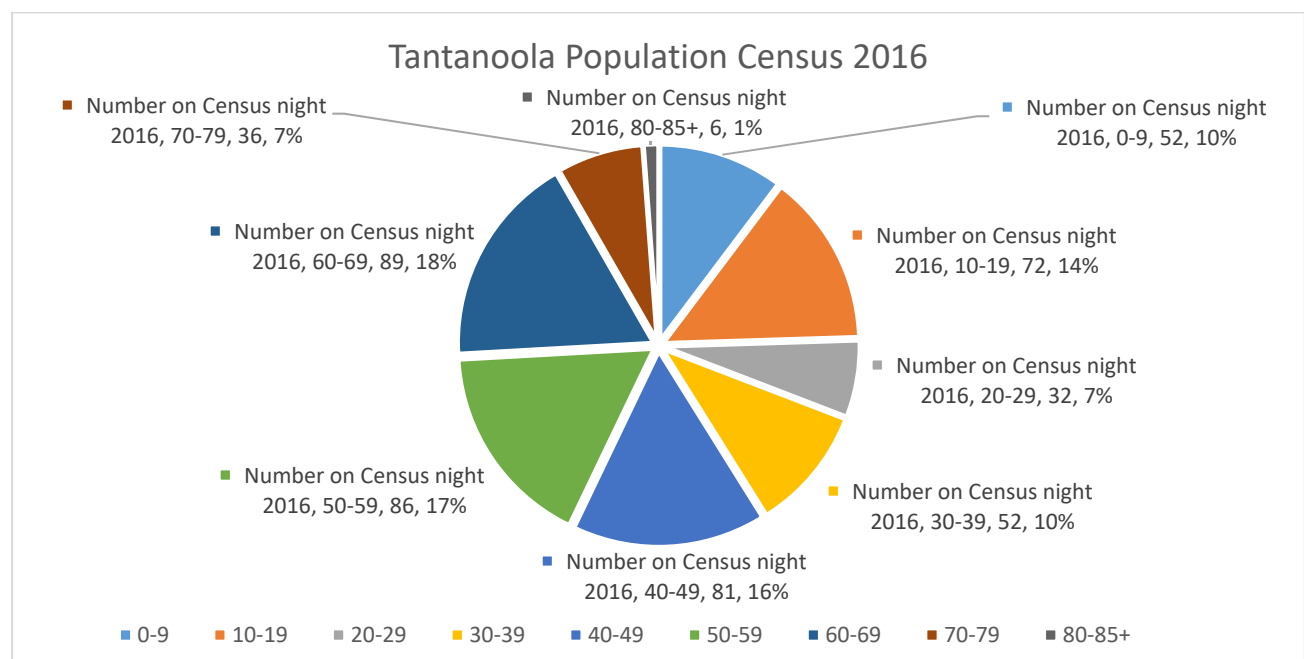
The APCEL Pty Ltd toilet and tissue factory began in 1961 and continues to be in operation. The original Tantanoola Forestry Reserve covered an area of 6,375 acres of plantation and 2,400 acres of native forest. The area of pinus radiata plantations have increased and blue gum plantations have also been established. Wood was also used as firewood. It was also cut and transported to Cellulose Australia Ltd at Snuggery to burn to produce steam power to operate the mill. Thousands of posts and palings were cut for fencing. The wood is now either chipped or logged for export.

Tantanoola Today

Tourism is a drawcard for Tantanoola and comprises the 'tiger', windfarm scenic drives and the Tantanoola caves. The town has a vibrant netball and football club and small primary school. Local businesses include Holla-Fresh, Kimberly Clark Australia- Millicent Mill and Blue Lake Dairy. The area includes agricultural activities extensive livestock grazing, dairying, forestry, grain production, transport operators, a post office and the Tantanoola Hotel.

Population and Employment

According to the 2016 Census Tantanoola had 496 people, 51% male and 49% female, with 131 families which had a median age of 46 years. The population dominant age groups were 45-49 years with 52 people or 10.3% of the population, children aged 0-14 years making up 17% of the population and people over 65 years making up 16.8% of the population (see chart).



The following 2016 Census employment data relates to people over 15 years. There were 135 full time employees, 80 part time, 16 away from work and 16 unemployed in the week before Census night in Tantanoola. The top five occupations were managers (47), labourers (45), technicians and trade workers (34), community and personal service workers (27) and professionals (21).

The highest educational attainment for people (aged 15 years and over) was a bachelor degree level and above of 21 people (15%), advanced diploma and diploma level (29 people), certificate level IV (11 people), certificate III (63 people) while 61 people have year 12, year 11 (70) and year 10 level (52 people).

For the industries of employment, 10.2% worked in sanitary paper product manufacturing (18 people), sheep farming and aged care residential services were equal at 11 people each (6.2%), primary education of 10 people (5.6%) and dairy cattle farming at 9 people (5.1%).

Community, Sport and Education

Tantanoola Cave

The spectacular Tantanoola Cave is located 16kms from Millicent on the Princes Highway. It is the only single-chamber pink dolomite cave in Australia and features easy access pathways, which are suitable for wheelchair and pusher access. The strategically placed lighting enhances the caves natural beauty. Choral and dance performances have taken place in the cave. It is open daily for tours and entry fee's apply.



Woakwine Range Wind Farm Tourist Drive



This magnificent drive takes you past the Woakwine Range Wind Farm. Dozens of giant turbines, which dominate the Woakwine Range skyline, make up one of the largest wind farm developments in the Southern Hemisphere. The 123 spectacular turbines at Canunda and Lake Bonney wind farm development are a key tourism destination.

Tantanoola Railway Station



The original buildings of the railway station can be seen from the sheltered picnic spot opposite the Tantanoola Tiger Hotel.

Free self-contained motor home parking for short stays are allowed in the parklands, a dump point & toilet is available.

Tantanoola Institute Hall Management Committee

The Committee was established under the provisions of Section 41 of the *Local Government Act, 1999* charged with the responsibilities for the care, protection, management, operation and improvement of the Tantanoola Institute Hall.

Tantanoola Football & Netball Clubs

Formed in 1894, the Tantanoola Football Club played challenge matches against teams in including Compton, Suttontown and Millicent. In 1920, it became a member of the Drainage Areas Football Association and in 1926 entered the South East Association B Grade competition. In 1936, it went on to become a foundation member of the Mid South East Football League. In 2018, there are seven netball and five football teams who play in a multiple of grades in the Mid South Eastern Football League.

The Tantanoola Sporting complex includes the football oval, netball courts, cricket nets, toilet facilities and children's playground.

Tantanoola Cricket Club

The club is affiliated with the Millicent & District Cricket Association and has been a feature summer sport for many years in the District.

Tantanoola CFS



Part of the Wattle Range Group, the Tantanoola CFS meets each Wednesday for training. The brigade responds to natural disasters (storm damage/flooding); fires other (car, rubbish and other fires); fires rural (grass fires & bush fires); structural fires (house, factory & shed fires). It has a variety of specialist equipment including breathing apparatus, chain saw, firefighting foam and quick fill pump. The response area

includes agricultural crops, grasslands, rural area, towns and urban areas.

Tantanoola Primary School

The Tantanoola Primary School first opened in 1883, with the school gym constructed in 2011. In 2017, the school had one primary school class, and a play group operating one morning per week with eleven students at the end of the year. Over 50% of the student population is eligible for the school card. Indonesian is the language of study at the school. Combined with students from Rendelsham and Beachport primary school the Tantanoola Primary School students participate in the Coastline Sports Day. A school art display is also prepared for the Millicent Show.

The Purpose of a Town Plan

The idea of a *Tantanoola Community Town Plan* arose out of initial general discussions between Wattle Range Council staff and the Tantanoola Sport and Progress Association. Essentially, the *Tantanoola Community Town Plan* provides:

- An opportunity to articulate the issues that are important to Tantanoola residents
- A clear blueprint for the future development of the Tantanoola township and the surrounding region
- A basis to attract local, state, and potentially, federal funding to help achieve identified community priorities and projects.
- A more coordinated approach for the social, cultural and economic development of the township and surrounding enterprises
- An opportunity to enhance the reputation of Tantanoola as a tourism destination.

Vision Statement

We want Tantanoola to be a viable and vibrant community which is family friendly and with a mix of age groups who can all positively contribute to our safe, clean and green community. It can be a place of education, employment, business and an inviting place for visitors. Tantanoola can be an inclusive community where residents support each other in an aesthetically beautiful location.

- Family friendly
- Opportunity to increase employment
- Safe environment
- Aesthetically pleasing well maintained parklands, trees and community garden
- Inclusive and supportive community
- Existing industries
- Viable local businesses
- Meals on wheels delivered
- More facilities for older citizens

What Are Tantanoola's Assets and Attractions?

Commentary based on community feedback

Insert a WORDLE with the key words of what the community say makes Tantanoola unique.

Affordable
Beautification
Camping
Cave
Clean living
Community spirited
Convenient location
Diversity
Families
Farming/agricultural
Forestry
Free camping
Friendly

Generous
Green
Historical
Honest
Lake Bonney
Open spaces
Peaceful
Picturesque
Playgrounds
Post office
Prosperous
Pub
Recreation

Rural
Safe and Safe playgrounds
School
Space – rural living
Sports
Supportive – aged, families
Tiger
Tourist friendly
Vibrant community
Weather
Welcoming
Wildlife
Windfarm

Location

Tantanoola is in the southern end of the Wattle Range Council area. It is located just 15 minutes from Millicent and it is 45 minutes south of Beachport or 1 hour south west of the Coonawarra Wine Region & 30 minutes to the Blue Lake and the rural city of Mount Gambier.

It is within easy access of Canunda National Park and the beaches of Carpenters' Rocks and Port MacDonald and close to diving and caving challenges.

Products and Services

- Hay baling contractor
- Adams scaffolding
- Air BnB Accommodation
- Beef cattle production
- Blue Lake Dairy
- Sink holes - diving
- CFS
- Dairies
- Egg farming – Serles
- A number of public playgrounds
- Free Camp area
- Greater Gather Ocean Group
- Glen Alz harvesting
- Historic Railway Station
- Holla-Fresh: hydroponic herb farm
- Kimberly Clark Australia
- Lake Bonney
- Last resort area for bushfires
- Livestock transport operator
- Mechanic
- Mobile Ice cream van
- MOD Cleaning
- Music teacher
- Tourism
- Pine Plantations
- Plumber
- Poultry trading (Earl)
- Primary School and Play Group
- Quarry: Sibelco
- Robert Randall Carpentry
- Sheep, wool & lamb production
- Sasha Reiley Beauty Room
- Snuggery industrial area
- Tantanoola Cave
- Tantanoola Cricket Club
- Tantanoola Football Club
- Tantanoola Hotel
- Tantanoola Netball Club
- Tantanoola Post Office
- Tantanoola Roadhouse
- Telfer's Scarves and Toys
- Whitty Fencing
- Windfarms
- Waikeri Dairy

Who and what do we need to attract to Tantanoola?

- Businesses
- Tourism enterprises
- Industry
- Events/festivals: ***proposed kite festival***
- Volunteers to assist with sport & recreational clubs
- Industry – Berry Farm
- Value adding
- Attract young families
- Reliable NBN
- Farmers market once a month
- More businesses i.e. mechanic
- Collective/town solar farm alternative energy
- Community hub
- Artists
- Old train at railway station – Potential for a laser cut ‘steam train’

Marketing & Promotion

At present there is a social media presence from:

- Tantanoola Cricket Club
- Tantanoola Football & Netball Club
- Tantanoola Hotel

At present there are websites:

- Holla-Fresh
- Kimberly Clark Australia
- Tantanoola Caves
- Tantanoola CFS
- Tantanoola Primary School

Appendix

Tantanoola Projects

Look and Feel of Tantanoola

Time Line: A = 1-2 years B= 3-4 years C=5-8 years D= 9-12 years E=13-17 F= 17-20 years

Time Line	Project	Working Groups	Other Comments
A	Signage	Community with the WRC, NTSA, DEW, National Parks SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Tantanoola signs placed at the entrances to the town on the northern and southern entry roads. Signs to be constructed in a design and/or material relevant to Tantanoola • Improved Tourist signage with directions to the caves and windmills • a 'finger sign' along with large sign showing directions to these two attractions, as well as location of Post Office, fuel and sporting ground. • History and information signs placed all through the town as part of a tourist walk • Better signage for Tantanoola Caves
A	Road Enhancement	WRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain the cause of the undulations at the northern entry point to the township • Remove these undulations between the '50kph Ahead' sign and the '50kph' sign
B	Artistic Enhancements	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front of the Post Office
	Railway Reserve Area Enhancement	Community with assistance from State Government/Crown lands and WRC. University of SA students to develop an overall plan for the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a sign providing tourist information • Upgrade and maintain the existing buildings. • Create a 4-par golf course in Parklands • Enhance camping facilities: showers • Install large drinking water tanks for campers etc. • Coin operated washing machine / dryer & shower in camp area • Pop up café in one of the buildings • Tourist information centre

	<i>Railway Reserve Picnic and Playground Areas</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a risk assessment of the play equipment • Upgrade and maintenance of equipment. • Improved maintenance of play grounds: weed removal • Increase the amount of picnic furniture • Historical walking trail throughout Railway lands & town
	<i>General aesthetic enhancement of the town</i>	WRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check safety of gum trees – remove & replace

Social Media and Tantanoola Advertising & Promotion

Time Line: A = 1-2 years B= 3-4 years C=5-8 years D= 9-12 years E=13-17 F= 17-20 years

Time Line	Project	Working Groups	Other Comments
A	<i>Promotion of Tantanoola via social media</i>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Tantanoola website • Facebook page • History App cemetery • Post office is on internet
A	Improved NBN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Wi-Fi at the railway lands / residents

Tantanoola Celebrations & Events

Time Line: A = 1-2 years B= 3-4 years C=5-8 years D= 9-12 years E=13-17 F= 17-20 years

Time Line	Project	Working Groups	Other Comments
	Monthly farmers market	Community	
A	Music festival	Community	
A	Kite Festival		
	Jam/Music sessions		
	Autumn festival		
C	Historical trail	Community and NTSA.	
A	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	Community	
	<u>Progress Association:</u> Re-establish.	Community with guidance from WRC and Consumer Affairs Dept.	

Tantanoola Assets & Infrastructure

Time Line: A = 1-2 years B= 3-4 years C=5-8 years D= 9-12 years E=13-17 F= 17-20 years

Time Line	Project	Working Groups	Other Comments
A	<u>Railway Buildings:</u>	DPTI – State Government – Heritage groups. Advocacy by WRC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgently require attention as they are quickly falling into disrepair. Significant and focal point of Tantanoola as this area is regularly used by tourists as a stop-over. Solar lighting and security camera within the main area of the buildings Use material that can't be vandalised, i.e. cement floor, wire mesh/glass windows
	<u>Railway Park Playground:</u>	WRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install solar security light. Padlock double gates, are often left open. Move single entry gate to northern perimeter of fence, self-closing, current entrance is directly in line of traffic.
	<u>Trees:</u> Need more trees, 'with character' in Railway Park.	Community & School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant avenue of trees along entrance roads north, south and east of town, beginning with Southern entrance. Possibly deciduous trees with leaves turning autumn colour. Encourage school to become part of National Tree Day
B	More house blocks made available	WRC	
	Utilise the Goods Shed for another 'Porch Session' or Bands etc.	Community.	
	Asset and Infrastructure improvements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade drains in the Railway lands (culverts) and Bridge Corella control Seal the road between Peters and Lane Street
A	Facilities for youth	WRC & the Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMX track at Football Oval Skate park
	Windmills		Potential for murals
	Drains – Searles Road & Wetlands	Drainage Board	
B	Sporting grounds	Tantanoola Football and Netball Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More ladies' toilets Upgrade lights – opportunity for night games

Tantanoola Community Projects

Time Line: A = 1-2 years B= 3-4 years C=5-8 years D= 9-12 years E=13-17 F= 17-20 years

Time Line	Project	Working Groups	Other Comments
A	Tree planting and community garden	WRC & Community/School	
A	Modernise BBQ area (child friendly)		
A	Doggy do-bag stations	WRC	Rail lands area.
B	Arboretum		North Terrace
	Mural on big railway shed		
	Mural on wind turbines		
A	Community Notice Board	Community & WRC	

Other Issues/Opportunities

A	Promote hall in winter for campers	Hall Committee	<i>Will require upgrade and approvals from Council.</i>
	Geocaching		Opportunity for the community to be involved in Geocache placements and the subsequent attraction of visitors.
C	Lake Bonney restock fish/yabbies & sailing facility	PIRSA Sailing club(s)	
	Rehabilitation of Lake Bonney		

