Acknowledgements

Hands on Community Solutions would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Sandy Point Community Group, its steering committee and the other main community organisations in Sandy Point. Also, to South Gippsland Shire Council’s Recreation Co-ordinator, Ian Murphy, for his assistance in providing background information and support for this study and to Council for providing the financial contribution for the completion of this report.

The Sandy Point Foreshore Committee and the Department and Sustainability and Environment have been very important to the development of this report. To the individuals and community members whose input and advice has been essential to the development of this report.
Sandy Point is an idyllic small coastal village two hours drive south east of Melbourne. Located at the northern end of Wilsons Promontory National Park and fronting both the surf beach of Waratah Bay and the water sports area of Shallow Inlet, Sandy Point is a perfect and accessible base for exploring the beauty of the natural attractions in the area.

Sandy Point has a permanent population of just over 200 people, with a great many holiday homes and rental properties occupied at weekends and over holiday times, swelling the population to several thousand. It is set back unobtrusively behind the dunes, with multiple tracks through to the surf beach. Its commercial centre on Beach Parade, opposite the Sandy Point Foreshore Reserve and main access path to the surf club and beach, features a caravan park, general store, café, mini golf course and two real estate offices. Sandy Point also boasts a well equipped play area, tennis courts and barbeques.

This recreation study was commissioned by the Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG), which aims to represent the interests of Sandy Point property owners and residents. A brief audit of local facilities was conducted following community concerns about a range of recreation issues. The audit showed there was very limited recreational infrastructure.

Since the audit, the TP Taylor Committee has been working on the construction of a new Community Hall. This is almost complete and will cater for indoor activities and community meetings.

South Gippsland Shire Council has funded this study through a Community Grant and has also provided valuable input and advice for this project. The SPCG believes there is a need to establish better recreational facilities at Sandy Point, especially those with an emphasis on sports. To assist with this project the group resolved to use the funding provided by Council to engage a professional consultant to conduct the study. The information is used to report back to Council with a series of well researched recommendations.
Methodology

The following scope of works was provided by the SPCG for this project to review:

- Potential land sites for future recreational facilities
- Possible recreational needs and wants for:
  - younger people
  - older people (including those who have retired)

The following Methodology was completed for this project:

- A start up meeting was conducted with the project steering group
- Consultation was undertaken and will be outlined in the relevant section of this report
- Research and an industry review was completed
- A detailed site inspection was completed
- An Implementation Plan and report was developed for review by the SPCG and Council

Research conducted

The following section contains a review of relevant reports, information and plans in relation to this project. The key findings from this literature are contained herein:

Demographic Review

South Gippsland Shire was created in 1994 from the amalgamation of four previous municipalities. It has an area of 3,300 square kilometres and a current population of just over 27,000. This is expected to reach 33,300 by 2036, which is an increase of almost 25% in 25 years. At the 2006 Census, Sandy Point had a population of 227, growing to several thousand during the holiday period. It is surrounded by areas of significant natural heritage.

Sandy Point is one of the few coastal towns in Gippsland to remain relatively unaffected by the housing boom along the coast. This is partly due to its distance from Melbourne (around two hours) and the fact that a lack of town sewerage has meant a ban on further sub-division.

The Sandy Point area has a large spit system and its shoreline, on Waratah Bay, is considered of high heritage value. Sandy Point's surf beach is patrolled during the summer months and is considered good for surfing. The beach on Waratah Bay is 18 kilometres long, running between Walkerville at its north western end and Wilsons Promontory at its south eastern end.

There is a river inlet three kilometres east of Sandy Point known as Shallow Inlet. This sandy, tidal inlet is a popular fishing spot and an area for wind and kite surfing. The commercial centre of Sandy Point features a cafe, general store, mini golf facility and real estate office on Beach Parade. This street is separated from the beach by a row of sand dunes which constitute the Sandy Point Foreshore Reserve. Sandy Point is primarily a holiday retreat town, with the majority of residences living in holiday houses and apartments.
There are a number of key community infrastructure elements within Sandy Point:

- The commercial centre, located on Beach Parade, is opposite the surf lifesaving club. This area forms the focal point of the town not only as a location for which goods can be purchased, but also as a meeting place for residents and visitors.
- The surf lifesaving club is accessed from Beach Parade, to the south of the caravan park. This facility includes some purpose built meeting rooms and dedicated spaces for monitoring patrolled areas along the beach.
- The caravan park is located on Beach Parade and provides an important physical and social element of Sandy Point, particularly for tourists.
- The Community Hall, tennis courts and playgrounds are located to the rear of the commercial centre.

In the 2006 Census, 17.2% of the population in Sandy Point were children aged between 0-14 years and 47.1% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Sandy Point was 51 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

47 people aged 15 years and over in Sandy Point were in the workforce. Of these, 59.6% were employed full-time, 40.4% were employed part-time. The most common responses for occupation for employed persons were Professionals 25.5%, Managers 21.3%, Labourers 21.3%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 17.0% and Sales Workers 10.6%.

There were 44 families in Sandy Point: 15.9% were couple families with children, 75% were couple families without children and 9.1% were one parent families.

Shallow Inlet, Waratah Bay, Yanakie, Walkerville, Fish Creek and Foster are all within 20km of Sandy Point. Fish Creek and Foster host many of the major sporting facilities and businesses that people from Sandy Point travel to access.

With a population of 726 (ABS, 2006), Fish Creek has a number of art and craft shops catering to tourists who pass through town on their way to Wilsons Promontory. The current Fish Creek Memorial Hall, built in 1930, serves many purposes. There is a service station, general store, hardware supplies, nursery and fishing shop, pub, furnishings store and gallery, restaurant, primary school, fire station, wineries, other specialty shops and several art galleries. There are also a range of accommodation businesses.

The township has mainly permanent residents, but the population swells over the holiday season with tourists and day travellers.

Foster has a population of 2175 (ABS, 2006) and is surrounded by dairy and grazing farms located in the undulating land surrounding the town. The town centre itself has a good range of shops along Main Street which also support the smaller outlying communities in the area. The Exchange Hotel, with its unique conical tower, was built in 1907.
Literature Review

Sandy Point Access Parking and Mobility Study
South Gippsland Shire Council undertook an Access, Parking and Mobility Study of the Township of Sandy Point. This was undertaken in consultation with the Sandy Point community and Sandy Point Community Group to ascertain the wider community’s views.

Sandy Point is currently not serviced by any form of public transport, such as a V/Line bus service. As such, the primary mode of transport to and from Sandy Point is by private motor vehicle. This puts the existing infrastructure of Sandy Point under significant pressure during the peak holiday period of December to February each year. Outside of this period it is anticipated that the infrastructure of Sandy Point would comfortably facilitate the needs of permanent residents.

Sandy Point Community Centre
The new multi purpose community facility (with a total floor area of 275m²) is almost constructed adjacent to the existing facility to the north of the commercial precinct. The new facility has replaced the old hall and a new playground will be built on the old hall site.

The existing tennis and basketball rings will be retained and new car parking will be provided on Church Parade and the lane (between Church Parade and Surfers Walk).

The proposed facility will consist of:
- 150m² hall which can be divided into two separate areas
- 28.4m² meeting room which can be divided into two separate rooms
- 15m² office/consulting room
- ancillary lobby, toilet facilities and kitchen

The new multi purpose facility will provide an excellent venue for a range of community activities and events into the future.

Sandy Point Urban Design Framework 2006
The Structure Plan for Sandy Point aims to reflect the community’s vision for the town and caters for the expected growth in the future. The Structure Plan identifies the key strategies, noting in particular:
- The current and preferred future extent of the settlement, which reflects (where appropriate) a 15 year period having regard to population and develop forecasts.
- Infrastructure capacity, settlement role, environment and heritage considerations.
- Identification of the relationship between the settlement and its public land.
- Surrounding assets and values.
- Identification of preferred locations for the land use types required to achieve the vision.
- Connectivity of open spaces.

Sandy Point has been defined as a settlement and, along with Venus Bay and Waratah Bay, will continue to primarily be holiday destinations and recreational based seasonal settlements. Its secondary role will be to accommodate a small permanent population consisting of predominantly retirees who wish to enjoy the benefits of a sea change lifestyle. Based on the historical growth of dwellings at Sandy Point and the current proportion of resident ratepayers, the resident population is expected to grow only very slowly in the foreseeable future.
Vision
This vision has been developed from the values expressed by the community, planning policy and other relevant influences. In the future Sandy Point will be known as:

• a small coastal village with a vibrant and supportive community that is an attractive holiday destination for residents of Melbourne, regional Victoria and visitors from other states and overseas.
• a village that will retain a relaxed holiday atmosphere reinforced by simple urban form and land use activity.
• a village that will display a distinct character built upon a functional commercial centre surrounded by predominantly low-rise development.
• a village where future population growth will be promoted within the existing township boundaries, and clearly defined growth areas when required.
• a place where environmentally sustainable practices are promoted and widely used.
• a place for day tourists as well as being a place where residents will have convenient access by foot or bicycle to all its features and facilities.

Objectives
To realise this vision the following broad level objectives are required:

Managing Growth
• Maintain the low key holiday character of the village and enhance the character of the commercial precinct.
• Promote development that will respect and enhance the coastal character of the village.
• Where demand can be demonstrated, facilitate development within the existing boundary of the village and long term development areas when required.
• Promote long term development areas in locations which maintain pedestrian accessibility to the nearby foreshore and commercial centre.

Enhancing Environmental Benefits
• Protect the environmental values of Shallow Inlet and the nearby foreshore reserve.
• Promote environmental sustainable principles within the village.
• Protect the identified landscape values of the area.

Balancing Service Provision
• Provide infrastructure services that address the ongoing needs of the community while protecting the environmental values of the area.

South Gippsland Shire Council - Recreation Plan
The South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan was developed in 2007 and identifies some key principles for guiding the development of recreation facilities and reserves;

• A diversity of opportunities for physical and social recreation are provided in every community.
• A hierarchy of facilities matches the range of needs, competition standards, available resources, willingness and ability of the community to support these.
• The benefits of leisure participation and all available opportunities are widely promoted and acknowledged.
The needs and aspirations of residents are monitored, and people with a disability, older adults and adolescents are included along side all others.

The contribution made by clubs, associations and committees are acknowledged.

The necessary leadership and planning is provided to enhance social, economic and environmental benefits of recreation and sports for local communities.

Land managers, clubs, committees and community organisations are engaged in recreation planning, provision and management processes.

South Gippsland Shire Council – Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy considers overarching issues associated with provision and planning for open space in South Gippsland.

The South Gippsland Open Space Plan identifies offroad trails as a major priority for Council as they provide:

- the foundation for children to learn the basic skills of way-finding and cycling.
- benefits through physical exercise, getting outdoors and connecting with other members of the community, and the benefits of an improved sense of well being through the release of tension and escaping from routines and surroundings.
- leisure choices, enhanced accessibility to other community facilities, and sustainable transport options.
- important attractors for visitors, with benefits to the local economy.
- increased accessibility for an increasingly large proportion of the population as it ages and the proportion of people with mobility impairments increase.

The South Gippsland Open Space Plan recommends to, where possible, expand and develop:

- the major trail routes and circuits around each locality, utilising existing reserves, paths, unmade road reserves, foreshores, creek corridors and disused rail and tramways.
- park perimeter paths around major reserves.
- end of journey facilities and activity hubs.

South Gippsland Shire Council – Council Plan

Our Mission
To effectively plan and provide for the social, built, economic and natural environments that ensure the future well-being of South Gippsland communities.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 – A VIBRANT, ENGAGED COMMUNITY
OUTCOME 1.2 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

A community that proudly supports a sense of place and identity and contributes willingly to an enjoyable, active, healthy and safe environment for all ages and abilities.

Strategies:

1.2.1 Active lifestyles: Provide and facilitate a range of recreational, sport, and leisure opportunities for all sectors of the community.

1.2.2 Community health: Minimise the community's exposure to health risks by undertaking education, promotion and specific preventative programs and inspections.

1.2.3 Community safety: Support a safe living environment through a proactive response to public safety matters.
STRATEGIC GOAL 2 – A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
OUTCOME 2.4 OPEN SPACES
Parks, reserves and recreation areas which reflect an empathy with the natural environment and provide enhanced biodiversity values.

Strategies:

2.4.1 Planning and design: Ensure natural values are incorporated into all management planning and design of open spaces in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.

2.4.2 Maintenance: Ensure open space management regimes are continuously monitored and maintained to protect their natural assets and maximise their long-term benefit to the community.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4 – APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE
OUTCOME 4.2 COUNCIL BUILDINGS/FACILITIES
Buildings and facilities which meet contemporary community needs and provide a sustainable cost/benefit.

Strategies:

4.2.1 Maintenance: Ensure the Council’s buildings and facilities are continuously monitored and maintained to a safe standard, maximising their long-term benefit to the community in accordance with priorities set through comprehensive asset management planning.

4.2.2 Funding: Plan to generate funds to ensure that sustainable asset maintenance, renewal and replacement are undertaken at the appropriate times.

4.2.3 Review: Regularly review and analyse all existing and proposed buildings/facilities on a commercial cost/benefit basis.

The Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) describes the financial and non financial resource requirements over a four-year period.
Surrounding Facilities and organisations

Sandy Point Community Group (SPCG)
SPCG has a commitment to developing a strong liaison with South Gippsland Shire Council, the DSE and various other State Government departments to help improve the facilities and services of Sandy Point while preserving the natural environment. SPCG engages in community strengthening programs and aims to nurture a ‘sense of community’ through social and project activities, such as the recent Sandy Point Wind Festival. There is an elected committee which holds regular meetings. SPCG had 252 members in 2012.

South Coast Boardriders
South Coast Boardriders Club is for surfers of any age and any skill level - from learners to advanced. Season contests are popular. The club also hosts family events and free surf days.

Waratah Beach Surf Lifesaving Club
The Waratah Beach SLSC, formed in 1963, is located on the foreshore at Sandy Point. It provides the only patrolled section of beach on Waratah Bay and is within easy walking distance of on-street car parking and the Sandy Point Caravan Park. The club has 500 members, with 100 of those active lifesavers. Two-thirds of the members come from Melbourne while the remainder are locals or from Foster and the Latrobe Valley.

Foreshore Committee of Management - DSE
Sandy Point Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management manages the foreshore reserve on a day-to-day basis. Parks Victoria manages the adjoining Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park. Increasing popularity and ongoing public use of the reserve has highlighted the need to address a number of management issues, including the upgrade or replacement of existing facilities, multiple user groups, beach access, dune management, fire management, weed management, revegetation requirements, asset management, rationalisation of reserve boundaries, and the appropriate assignment of management responsibilities. The Department of Sustainability and Environment is currently working with the Committee of Management and Parks Victoria to establish which agency or group is best suited to manage parts of the reserve. This report will inform that process where relevant.

CFA District Office
Fire authorities have assessed Sandy Point as having a very high bushfire risk. State Government awarded $250,000 to Council in 2010 for the development of a Place of Last Resort at Sandy Point. A suitable site is currently being investigated. Local residents and visitors should be prepared for fire and have a plan. A number of information sessions have been held during the development of this project. Bushfire risk will continue to be an ongoing concern for residents and the Community Hall will have a role to play in the event of an emergency.

TP Taylor Hall
The TP Taylor Hall has a number of existing user groups who will continue to use the new community centre. These include: Corner Inlet Activities Group, Anglican and Catholic Churches, Kidz Klub, Christian Fellowship Group, Sandy Point Community Group and public meetings, tennis, indoor bowls, Sailboard Club, private parties and functions, community social events (monthly), indoor markets and art shows.
Surrounding Schools

Fish Creek and District Primary School - is only 15 minutes away from Waratah Bay. 104 students.

Foster Primary School - enrolment varies between 195-205.

The South Gippsland Secondary College has an outstanding record of achieving success for all students. Established in 1920, the College has been recently rebuilt to provide an excellent learning environment for students in Years 7 – 12.

Planning controls affecting Sandy Point

Sandy Point is zoned predominantly Township, which allows for a variety of uses including residential, commercial and industrial. This zone requires that services must be provided to new subdivisions and development, and a strong emphasis is placed on the established neighbourhood and township character when deciding on applications for new developments.

The Public Conservation and Resource Zone applies to all land along the foreshore and extends further inland beyond the south east end of the village. The intent of this zone is primarily to protect and conserve the natural environment, and provide facilities for educating the public on the natural environment, whilst allowing for appropriate resource based uses. This zone effectively prohibits uses that are not carried out by or on behalf of the public land manager.

There are two small parcels of land (containing 11 allotments) zoned Rural Living situated on the northern side of Sandy Point Road in Tilikum Court and Aqua Court. This zone allows for low-density residential development in a rural setting and low scale agricultural uses which are conducted in a sustainable manner. The Rural Zone applies to the land on the north and west sides of the village. The purpose of the Rural Zone is for agricultural and horticultural uses. It also permits limited residential and commercial uses in appropriate areas.

Overlays are additional controls over land that offer a further level of direction to areas that have a particular sensitivity or unique circumstance. There are three overlays that apply to Sandy Point, and these include:

- Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 3 - Coastal Areas (ESO3)
- Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 5 - Areas Susceptible to Erosion (ESO5)
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay 3 applies to the entire village and surrounding area. This overlay is applicable to coastal areas and contains objectives relating to the protection of the coast to retain important environmental features. Development controls in this overlay have been implemented to assist in minimising erosion, pollution and destruction of the natural environment. Most development in this overlay area requires a planning permit. Please note that South Gippsland Shire Council’s Planning Department should be contacted in regards to specific planning enquiries.
The following list of facilities and open space areas has been developed for the Sandy Point township:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Facility Specifics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Community Centre/Hall, tennis courts, playground and public toilets</td>
<td>The Public Use Zone 6 - Local Government applies to the site where the hall is located. Any use or development within these zones must be consistent with the primary purpose for which the land is designated. The Hall is co-located with two tennis courts. Also a new playground and basketball ring will be returned to the area, built on the old hall location. The facility is located at the rear of the commercial precinct. The facilities will be managed by the TP Taylor Committee of Management. This is one of the main recreation areas in the town, ideally co-located with the commercial area.</td>
<td>150m2 hall which can be divided into two separate areas. 28.4m2 meeting room which can be divided into two separate rooms. 15m2 office/consulting room. Ancillary lobby, toilet facilities and kitchen. 2 tennis courts Basketball ring (to be re-installed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Foreshore/Beach</td>
<td>The foreshore and beach area is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone which ensures protection and appropriate use of the area of this type. The foreshore is managed by a Crown appointed Committee of Management. Pristine coastline, look outs, car parking, picnic facilities, walking tracks and beach access are all important features of the foreshore reserve.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Commercial Centre/Mini Golf</td>
<td>The commercial area consists of a general store, café, real estate office and caravan park. The town centre is a hive of activity and also includes the mini golf and main foreshore toilet block and picnic facilities.</td>
<td>The small mini golf course is open all year round and is busiest during peak holiday periods when the weather is not favourable. It also offers hire of bikes, kayaks and surfboards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Surf Lifesaving Club</td>
<td>The surf lifesaving club is located on the foreshore reserve, leased to the club for its activities. The facility includes a domestic kitchen that is used for functions and club use, accommodation, bar and meals area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shallow Inlet</td>
<td>Is located three kilometres east of Sandy Point. Known for its fishing and is a popular area for wind and kite surfing. Shallow Inlet is one of few places in Victoria where you can launch your boat off the beach.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Shallow Inlet – Roy Henderson Walking Track</td>
<td>A new bike and walking track has been created by the Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management and was opened for use in December 2010. It is a well formed, compacted gravel track that runs 2.2km from Manuka Street to Shallow Inlet. This new path is a wonderful addition to Sandy Point’s natural attractions and already the path is very popular. DSE gave a grant of $35,000 for the development of the Shallow Inlet track and the construction works were planned and carried out by the Sandy Point Foreshore Committee in late 2010.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CFA</td>
<td>The Public Use Zone 1 applies to the CFA site. Any use or development within these zones must be consistent with the primary purpose for which the land is designated. Used to store CFA equipment and host town meetings as required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recreation Facilities / Open Space Areas Audit continued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Facility Specifics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Pocket Parks</td>
<td>There are also a number of sites designated as Council Reserves zoned Public Park and Recreation. These sites are seen both by the Council and local residents as important assets that need to be retained as local pockets of open space. They can be used for passive recreation and picnics.</td>
<td>These include Ash Ave, the main playground on Beach Parade and another small unusable area on Graeme Grove. These spaces are not large enough to be suitable for any ball sports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tip Site</td>
<td>Located between Shallow Inlet and Manuka Street, the area is unreserved Crown Land. The area is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone.</td>
<td>The area is located away from the township and the ownership/management would prevent development of open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Transfer Station</td>
<td>Located in the farming zone, the old transfer station site is located on Sandy Point Road. The area is managed by Council and would require environmental assessments for any use.</td>
<td>Located away from the main town and in unusable condition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facilities located in nearby towns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fish Creek Recreation Reserve</td>
<td>Home to the main oval and recreation facilities. Also, Fish Creek has a bowling club.</td>
<td>Football, netball and bowls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Showgrounds/Recreation Reserve</td>
<td>Main showgrounds, oval, netball courts and playground. Incorporating a stadium and gym that is home to the Hard Work Café.</td>
<td>Football, basketball, netball, gymnasium and fitness classes. Cricket is played at the nearby recreation reserve and soccer at the South Gippsland Secondary College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leongatha SPLASH</td>
<td>An indoor swimming pool that operates all year round.</td>
<td>Learn to swim, water aerobics, fitness classes, basketball, public swimming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toora and Foster Swimming Pools</td>
<td>Toora - undercover heated swimming pool open for an extended summer season. Foster - outdoor swimming pool open for the summer season.</td>
<td>Learn to swim, water aerobics, public swimming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Activities</td>
<td>A range of other facilities are located in the surrounding towns that include: recreation facilities, halls, dancing studios, playgrounds, walking tracks, bowls clubs, golf courses.</td>
<td>Activities include; U3A, dancing, bowling, golf, fitness classes, social groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilsons Promontory</td>
<td>At the southern-most tip of mainland Australia, it offers spectacular scenery of huge granite mountains, open forest, rainforest, sweeping beaches and coastlines.</td>
<td>Bushwalks from under an hour to over three days. Visitors can camp, caravan or stay in huts, cabins, wilderness retreats or lodges at Tidal River where there is a general store and take-away food shop. The waters surrounding the Prom are protected as a Marine National Park and offer outstanding diving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Southern Rail Trail</td>
<td>Approximately 50km, all completed except for 3kms. An extension has recently been funded by the State Government.</td>
<td>Fine gravel pathway from Fish Creek to Foster. The trail is suitable for walking, cycling, horse riding and wheel chairs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sandy Point is located near the following towns; 15kms from Tarwin Lower, 10kms from Waratah Bay, 15kms from Fish Creek, 25kms from Foster, 55kms from Venus Bay, 40kms from Leongatha – Regional Centre, 201kms from Melbourne (2.5 hours).
Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the following key groups:

• Sandy Point Community Group
• Department of Sustainability and Environment
• Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management
• Country Fire Authority
• TP Taylor Committee of Management
• Waratah Beach Surf Lifesaving Club
• South Gippsland Shire Council officers
• Hard Work Café
• South Gippsland Health Service
• Other sporting clubs

The results of the consultation were used to develop this report and the priorities contained within. The draft document was presented to the key stakeholders and community groups for their further input and advice.

Survey Findings

There were two surveys undertaken to assist in the development of the Sandy Point Recreation Study; 67 general survey responses and 18 youth surveys. Residents of Sandy Point and district were asked to participate in a survey to gauge insight into the recreation needs of the local population.

An electronic version of a General Survey was displayed on the Sandy Point Community Group website. A hard copy of the survey was made available at the local general store, at various community meetings and distributed at the Easter Art Show. A Youth Survey was distributed to local young people by the Sandy Point Community Group.

General Survey Results

Top Ten Recreational Activities currently participated in:
Beach swimming/surfing/boogie boarding/body surfing
Beach walking/walking
Cycling/bike riding
Fishing/boating
Beach/beach activities (not water based)
Bird watching
Tennis
Art gallery visits, art show
Lifesaving
Mini golf
Of those living in Sandy Point, 78% travel from Sandy Point to participate in recreational activities. Respondents indicated they travel the following distances to participate in sport and recreation:

- 15 – 30 mins: 45%
- 46 – 60 mins: 14%
- More than 60 mins: 14%
- 31 – 45 mins: 11%
- Would not travel: 11%
- Less than 15 mins: 5%

These distances are travelled to access sport and recreation activities like:

- Playing golf at Meeniyan or Foster
- Walking group and photography group
- Bowls competitions at other clubs across South Gippsland
- Play as far as Phillip Island for cricket and football
- Some dance competitions are as far as Melbourne

The types of activities respondents would like to try in Sandy Point included:

- Walking/cycling/horse riding tracks/facilities
- Tennis/tennis lessons
- Basketball ring/court
- Art groups/craft/classes/photography
- Badminton
- Skate park/scooter area
- Aerobics /yoga/strength training/gym
- Oval/Open space - cricket/football
- Fishing groups/areas/boating

The top three responses for the types of facilities and/or equipment locals would like in Sandy Point were:

- More walking/cycling /horse riding tracks
- Basketball ring access again
- Safe open area/recreation space

Youth Survey Results

The top five sport or recreational activities local young people are currently involved are:

- Surfing
- Bike riding
- Dog walking
- Basketball
- Football
Respondents indicated they travel to Sandy Point, Foster, Fish Creek, Leongatha, Bennison and Toora to participate in recreational activities. Those that travelled to participate in recreational and sporting activities listed they would travel up to 25kms. All of those that travelled listed family members as their means of transport, relying on mum and/or dad, aunties and uncles to drive them to their destination.

If given the opportunity, the types of activities young people would try included:

- Art lessons
- Singing lessons
- Movie nights
- Bicycle paths
- Ball games
- Netball
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Fitness Boot Camp
- Windsurfing
- Indoor Rock Climbing

The top five facilities that young people would like to see in Sandy Point were:

- Basketball half court
- Cinema
- Skate area
- Music area
- Oval

The input of young people is integral to the success of recreational projects in the future.
Identified Issues and Opportunities

Open Space Management

The open space identified in this study which is to be developed as an informal recreation area is located on Crown Land. The land is managed by a Crown Appointed Committee of Management. South Gippsland Shire Council does not provide any financial assistance to this committee and the Department of Sustainability and Environment only provides grants for capital works projects and ongoing advice and support to the committee.

The identification of an area for open space at Manuka Street will require that a formal survey be undertaken to determine who will manage the land, who will conduct the maintenance and what the land can be used for. Discussions with key stakeholders suggest the most appropriate option is for Council to assume responsibility for regular mowing of the area and to become the land manager on behalf of the community. The foreshore committee has identified that it would not be able to increase the maintenance of the area due to its present workload. However, this will need to be further considered by all parties and is also likely to impact on the development of the area and the standard of maintenance provided.

The space would become an informal passive recreation area that would not include any permanent infrastructure unless an agreement is reached in regards to crickets nets if warranted.

Volunteers

It is being recognised throughout the recreation industry that volunteer Committees of Management are unable to provide the expertise and breadth of skills required to manage public land. Also, it is difficult for volunteers to fully commit to the hours required to manage complex recreation precincts. There are many important operational aspects of these areas that include; Tree Management, Occupational Health and Safety, Building Maintenance and Oval Irrigation and Turf Management. It is not practical to expect volunteers to be able to achieve expectations set by sporting associations, Work Cover and Council itself. It is important for Council to provide resources, support and training for volunteer Committees of Management. Recreational facilities are expensive to replace, repair and maintain, and funding is difficult to secure. It is important that professional advice and expertise is provided to manage facility improvements, oval renovations and maintenance to ensure the best, cost effective outcome in the long term.

Additionally, as identified in the participation section of this report, actual numbers playing formal sport relies heavily upon the volunteers to offer quality, well organised sporting competitions. This requires enormous time and energy from many community volunteers who require ongoing support and assistance to ensure they continue to play such an important role.

The issue of volunteers should be considered carefully in the planning and development of any formal recreation facilities as this will become a very important factor in their long term management.

Sandy Point is a small community and a few very committed volunteers are relied upon heavily to co-ordinate community events and activities. Any further development may place additional burden on these volunteers.
Open Space: Size and Shape

It should be noted that while an area for open space has been identified, we are not recommending the development of sporting oval or formal recreation facilities. The main reasons for this are;

- The land available is not adequate and the space needs to integrate with the surrounding environment and residential area
- The management and maintenance of the open space will become an issue
- There is limited demand or need
- Consultation with key stakeholders has identified the preference for a passive recreation area
- While the space is not ideal, it was deemed the only appropriate option during the course of this study

Transfer Station and Tip sites

In the initial Recreation Facilities Audit the community identified the option of using the land that was previously the site of the transfer station and tip. Council has advised the land would not be suitable for public use due to the physical testing and environmental assessments that would be required. This would then have to be followed by land rehabilitation to ensure the suitability of the space that once stored waste.

In addition to this fundamental issue is the physical site works required to bring the areas to a level of accessible condition. The earthworks would be significant. Furthermore, each location has been deemed unsuitable for recreation facilities as they are difficult to access, are located away from the town centre and not linked with any other infrastructure. The Transfer Station site is also located in the Farming Zone.

New Community Centre/Hall

The new community centre will present an enormous opportunity for Sandy Point residents. A range of activities were conducted from the old hall, but the space and condition of the facility limited its use. Many suggestions have been raised for the new facility and once equipment and furniture can be sourced, activities can be trialled in line with a new budget to ensure the development of sustainable community use.

Ideas include;

- Badminton
- Indoor bowls
- Movie nights
- Table tennis
- Social nights- cards, darts, bush dancing, live music
- Youth facilities- Ipad, bean bags
- U3A
- Art, craft, painting, photography classes
- Community events

The facility will be managed by the TP Taylor Committee of Management which will host events or allow access to other community organisations or businesses to develop their own activities.
Beach, Foreshore and Natural Environment

The pristine beaches of Sandy Point are the main drawcard for the area. Many locals have identified the key features of the township as the natural environment, relaxing atmosphere, beautiful scenery and water sports. It is easy to overlook the recreation options the beach setting offers. While a grassed open space area is being sought through this project, the open beach offers a good walking surface, open area for family activities and informal sport, water activities and fishing which are all very valid recreation opportunities other towns cannot offer.

Any other recreation facilities or activities need to be developed in a way that maximises this foreshore or works in partnership with what the town already offers. However, it is noted that activities are required for days when the weather is inclement.

Pathway Projects

Shallow Inlet “Roy Henderson” Track

A 2.2km well formed, compacted gravel track running from Manuka Street to Shallow Inlet was opened in 2010. It has been an invaluable addition to Sandy Point’s natural attractions and is already well utilised.

Proposed Sandy Point to Waratah Bay Pathway

The consultation for this project identified that cycling and walking trails were the most important recreation facility/activity. This strongly supports the development of additional trail. The Sandy Point Community Group has started planning a pathway running from Sandy Point to Waratah Bay, along the inland or farmland side of the large protective sand dune. This 4.5km route is already a designated Fire Track, but is at present overgrown and impassable for bikes, horses, pedestrians and emergency fire vehicles. This long, narrow stretch of track is Crown Land and its custodians are the DSE for the 3.5km of track at the Sandy Point end. The remaining 1km is under South Gippsland Shire.

The return trip from Sandy Point to Waratah Bay would be a real drawcard; through attractive countryside, protected from the often strong Bass Strait winds and independent of the tide levels and soft sands we currently experience when using the beach.

Progress to date: South Gippsland Shire councillors and staff have been a source of support and encouragement to the small group of Sandy Point locals nurturing the concept. Officers at the DSE, including Angie Gutowski, have also expressed interest and have made positive suggestions about the track. Members of the Rail Trail Committee have been helpful in identifying the issues involved in track development, maintenance and costs. For example, their experience shows that a pathway built to Rail Trail standards cost around $40,000 per kilometre.

The responsibility for future maintenance of any trail that is developed needs to be clearly defined and documented as the additional workload will be significant.

Benefits: The Waratah (WA) to Sandy Point (SP) trail, known as the WASP Trail, would provide an attractive and safe pathway for push bike riders, walkers and horse riders over a secluded 4.5km distance, away from vehicles and dangerous road situations. It would provide a healthy exercise strip that was not too strenuous and could become a valuable addition to the tourism potential of the area. Although designated by DSE as Fire Access Track FA_11, the existing rough pathway is not suitable for emergency vehicle access. However, if the overgrown path was properly constructed it could potentially provide vehicle access to DSE staff to eliminate noxious weeds, which continue to invade this area.
The group will continue to work on this project which will require detailed planning and implementation. In the future it will also be of benefit to link the Shallow Inlet track and the proposed WASP Trail if possible with a formal pathway link.

**Waratah Beach Surf Lifesaving Club**
The Waratah Beach SLSC, formed in 1963, is located on the foreshore at Sandy Point.
The aim of the SLSC is:
1. To preserve and safeguard life by the study and practice of methods of lifesaving as taught by Surf Life Saving Australia; to provide, maintain and operate efficient lifesaving appliances; to render first aid on the beaches and adjacent reserves as occasion may require.
2. To arrange classes of instruction and promote demonstrations in lifesaving and swimming and to further generally the best interests of surf lifesaving and surf bathing.
3. To provide facilities and amenities for club members and to assist in lifesaving and the safeguarding of surf bathing by acquiring, constructing and maintaining and/or improving any premises deemed necessary to the achievement of the above listed purposes.

The flagged patrol area is generally located at the front of the club. The closest access track to the patrol location is the extension of the Surfers Walk.

The club runs a number of events throughout the season. It hires the facilities for the broader community and has a liquor license for the bar.

**Patrol Times:** Saturday afternoons, Sundays and Public Holidays, December to Easter, Service extension everyday from Boxing Day (26th December) to Australia Day (26th January).

**Other services:** Volunteer Marine Rescue Waratah - Offshore rescue boat providing support on Shallow Inlet or Waratah Bay. First Response - Lifesaving personnel have the skills to provide advanced resuscitation and first aid to people in distress in the township of Sandy Point. Beach Safety Education - Nippers is an excellent way for children to learn about safety and the surf environment.

Some feedback has been provided in relation to the facilities being difficult to access and that the fees may be cost prohibative. In response, the SLSC maintains it has made the facility available at no cost when feasible. There needs to be some discussion between both parties to clarify the issues to pave the way for the facility being used to its fullest potential benefiting the entire community.

There may also be some documentation required to develop the lease between the Foreshore COM and the Surf Club. Lifesaving Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment are currently looking at these types of arrangements across the state.

The SLSC has also made mention that it requires ongoing financial investment for building maintenance and major capital works projects. These have been included in the projects section of this report and the club will require community support for these items.
Youth Space and Activities

As part of the consultation, the idea for a skate park/scooter area was raised. While these types of facilities do provide a great opportunity for young people to be physically active, they are expensive and require ongoing maintenance to manage risk.

Ideally, these areas would be in a location that was well supervised due to the risk of vandalism and unsociable behaviour, and located close to shops or similar access points in case of an emergency. As highlighted throughout this report, there is a lack of land available for any type of recreational activities. This is even more of an issue in regards to land that is suitable for a skate park. The piece of land identified at Manuka Street is not suitable for a skate park.

Furthermore, a concrete skate park would cost a minimum of $100,000. This is not feasible in a town the size of Sandy Point, with its relatively low population of young people. There may be some tourism benefit although not enough to justify this type of major infrastructure.

An option that could be considered however, is the hire of temporary or mobile skate ramps, similar to those at http://www.simplyskateboarding.com.au/our-services/mobile-ramps/. The community could consider the closing of street areas for temporary events or activities during peak season.

It is recommended that a group of young people be formed to identify projects of priority in this Recreation Study that they could support and lobby for their implementation. The members could discuss what type of activity they would like, where it should go and then fundraise so that they develop ownership and pride.

Research has shown that facilities and/or activities specifically aimed at young people but created without their direct buy-in and involvement are not well utilised or preserved.
Cricket Nets
One of the key drives for this project has been the need to identify a suitable location for cricket nets. This project has identified some open space off Manuka Street which may become suitable for cricket nets in the future. However, there is only limited interest at this time to warrant the installation of this type of infrastructure. Recreation trends indicate that cricket nets are largely used for formal cricket practice, at cricket grounds where formal sport is played. Informal community use of cricket nets is low.

If this is a continued priority, an option may be to purchase temporary cricket nets that could be located at Manuka Street or on the beach during peak periods, used for supervised activities as a cost effective solution that would meet demand.

Source:

This project has not identified a permanent location for cricket nets as further management and development of the open space area will need to be completed prior to the planning for permanent infrastructure.

Commercial Facilities
The mini golf located in the centre of town operates all year round, but is only staffed through summer and during other peak holiday periods. During other times, users can access the key to mini golf at the general store. Participation tends to increase on days where the weather is not suited for beach activities. The mini golf attracts a maximum of 100 people per day and the 25 year old course is likely to need a major upgrade in 5-10 years. The business also offers bike, kayak and surfboard hire. The business is not sustainable in its own right but plays a very important role in recreational activities. A business case should be completed before investing in major infrastructure of events.

The café is only open part time in the off season and while the consultation identified the need for more commercial facilities, they may not be warranted at this time.
Urban Design Framework

In the next 15 years Sandy Point is expected to experience slow growth. However, the urban design framework has outlined some areas for residential expansion. This proposal for growth is based on reticulated sewerage being installed in the village to respond to the existing problem of contamination from septic systems. Regardless of any future increase in population the problem of contamination needs to be addressed. However, if no reticulated sewerage is to be installed then no further expansion or growth of the village should occur beyond its current boundaries.

Flood prone areas have also been identified surrounding the town which limits the potential for expansion, along with the broader South Gippsland Shire and Victorian Government planning policy for coastal towns. Therefore, population growth and the potential for tourism are going to be limited in the coming 10 years and hence impact on the need for community facilities.

The urban design framework also identifies the issue of balancing service provision with the needs of the community while protecting the environmental values of the area.

The permanent population is a blend of retirees and young families. This trend is likely to continue in the short to medium term, providing that young adults are retained in the community once they have completed their schooling. If this does not occur the population is likely to age more dramatically in the medium to long term.

Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) 2010

The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) was a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010.

The top 10 activities for participation in Victoria are:
- Walking
- Aerobics/Fitness
- Swimming
- Cycling
- Running
- Golf
- Tennis
- Australia Rules football
- Bush Walking
- Basketball

The Victorian trends reflect that more people are engaging in walking, swimming and cycling activities - passive recreation that is reflected in the local trends in Sandy Point.
South Gippsland Recreation Plan

The South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan identified a hierarchy of facilities matching the range of needs, competition standards, available resources, willingness and ability of the community to support these. Recreation Reserves are supported in the major towns and it is very difficult to provide the justification for formal recreation facilities at Sandy Point.

Consultation

The community survey and consultation undertaken for this project identified many options for recreational activities at Sandy Point. These activities can be undertaken in the facilities that already exist (or the new Hall), which presents more options for offering formal classes or activities further utilising the existing infrastructure.

It has also been identified that the local community currently and will continue to travel for recreation activities not offered at Sandy Point.

There is a perceived need for formal recreation facilities, like an oval, etc, but formal walking/cycling paths have been recorded as a higher priority.
The Project Implementation Plan has been developed as a result of the issues identified and the opportunities/projects raised by the Sandy Point Community Group and other key stakeholders. The projects have been ranked using the following scale but should be implemented as funding or resources allow:

- **Very High** Action within 12 months
- **High** Action within 1-3 years
- **Medium** Action within 3-10 years
- **Low** Works not programmed at this stage but fits into the longer term plan

Please note that these projects have been listed in no particular order. Each project will require community support and a key community group to lead implementation of the project to ensure success. A project’s priority may change to better meet community needs, funding availability and local demographics.
**Project Area 1 - Development of an Open Space area**

*Identified Actions*

The open space area identified off Manuka Street will require a survey to be undertaken and then documentation to outline formal responsibilities.

*Survey documentation* - $2,000
Priority - Very High

Clearing and levelling will be required to ensure the area is safe, potentially with bollards to prevent vehicle access.

*Clearing and earthworks* - $20,000
Priority - Very High

An ongoing arrangement will need to be determined in regards to maintenance.

*Annual maintenance cost*
Priority - Very High

Signage will be required to define the area, warn vehicles and ensure appropriate use.

$1,000
Priority - Very High

If further residential development occurs at Sandy Point, ensure that appropriate Open Space Contributions are made.

Priority - Very High if applicable

All of the key stakeholders will be partners for this Project Area.
Project Area 2 - Surf Lifesaving Club improvements

*Identified Actions*

Consultation found the club will require community support for some major capital improvements in the future, these will include:

Issues with the colour bond roof’s screws rusting that will be addressed in the short term. This will probably require roof replacement in the next 10 years.

The kitchen, which is largely domestic in scale, is not substantial enough to adequately cater for training, school camps or functions that could utilise this space. The club is looking at an upgrade of this facility.

Painting of the facility due to a generous donation from Dulux will occur in 2012 and will need to be re-done on an ongoing basis due to the harsh environment.

Ideally, the space would be more usable with the installation of a toilet block on the first floor to separate it from the current shared shower/toilet facility. Some reorganisation of the internal bar/kitchen area will make better use of that space.

*Costs have not been provided for these works, but community fundraising and support will be required.*
Priority - Medium to High

Key community groups would work with the Surf Lifesaving Club to host community events and activities from their prime location.

*No cost but volunteer time and effort will be required.*
Priority - Very High
Project Area 3 - Youth activities and sporting equipment

Identified Actions

There is a need to identify a suitable location for cricket nets and to consider the purchase and storage of relocatable nets. This has been discussed in the Issues and Opportunities section of this report.

$2,000
Priority - High

Review the installation of cricket nets at the open space area if warranted.

$20,000
Priority - Medium

A concrete surface for the re-installed basketball ring is required to ensure optimal usage.

Concrete pad - $3,000
Priority - High

Maximise use of the Community Hall and Surf Lifesaving Club for youth friendly activities that include live music, access to computers/internet, movie nights, games nights.

Volunteer time for events and activities
Priority - High

The open space/beach area caters for ball sports and passive recreation, but not infrastructure (like a skate park) at this time. However, temporary or relocatable equipment may be an option for short term activities.

General equipment purchase
Priority - Medium

Consider ways to ensure young people are engaged in community events/activities/volunteering. Formation of a youth advisory group as interest is shown.

Priority - High

Plan for maintenance and upgrade of tennis courts to keep them in a adequate condition for social use and local competition. Works would include fencing and re-surfacing.

Costs will be determined depending on scope of works
Priority - High

Temporary cricket nets are an option in peak season

Project to be lead by local young people.
Project Area 4 - Pathway Projects

Identified Actions

As discussed in the Issues and Opportunities section of this report, pathway projects are a very high priority for the community. Of note is the pathway from Sandy Point to Waratah Bay. The Sandy Point Community Group will need to keep working on this project for a number of years, in partnership with Council, DSE and the Foreshore Committee of Management to bring it to fruition. Responsibility for ongoing maintenance and management of the proposed trail is a major issue and will need to be clarified as part of the project planning.

Volunteer time for planning and liaison with stakeholders. Councillors to consider supporting its listing on the Register of Trails and Pathways. Consultant’s reports will be required at a later date. Construction costs are still to be determined.

Priority - Very High

Request South Gippsland Shire Council to include the Sandy Point to Waratah Bay Trail in Council's Paths and Trails Strategy to highlight the importance of this project.

Priority - Very High
Project Area 5 - Community Hall / TP Taylor Committee of Management

Identified Actions

Once completed, the Community Hall will be an invaluable asset for the community. Indoor Bowls will resume in the new facility. Other activities that could be tried in the hall include;
- Badminton
- Movie nights
- Table tennis
- Social nights - cards, darts, bush dancing, live music
- U3A
  - Art, craft, painting, photography classes

An investment in equipment may be required for some activities that might include a projector, table tennis table, tables and chairs, etc. A business case should be prepared or each activity to determine viability.

Priority - Very High

The TP Taylor Committee should develop a set of booking procedures, hire fees and operational manuals to ensure good management of the new facility.

Volunteer time
Priority - Very High

External partners should be sought to develop commercial use of the facility, to provide good services to the community and to maximise use of the facility.

Volunteer time
Priority - Very High
Project Area 6 - Roadway Access

Identified Actions

The principal roads leading into Sandy Point are fully constructed and asphalt-sealed with grassed swale drains. Maintaining the informality of local roads is important to the community as it contributes to the relaxed ambience of the town.

There are many signs throughout the town that explain the roads are shared access for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. It is important to keep re-enforcing this message through community education programs. Largely, the town will remain without footpaths in keeping with the town setting, with everyone sharing the roadways.

Community education programs will require volunteer support.
Priority - Medium

There is a need to maintain formal traffic management in the town centre to ensure safe movements of pedestrians around key areas. Footpaths may be of some benefit.
Council to review traffic management and implement appropriate measures.
Priority - Medium

Informal sport is currently played on roadways which adds to the community feel to the town and should be encouraged in co-operation with land owners where safe.
Priority - High

Access from Surf Club to beach
Project Area 7 - Playground development

Identified Actions

There are two main playgrounds at Sandy Point. The first is located off Beach Parade and provides a picnic shelter, large slide and playground equipment. The second playground will be located adjacent to the new Community Hall, on the old hall site.

It is important that regular maintenance is undertaken and that major upgrades are planned every 5-10 years to keep the equipment in line with current trends and safety standards.

*Maintenance cost and capital replacement program.*

Priority - Medium
Project Area 8 - Support for the Foreshore Committee of Management

Identified Actions

As outlined in this report, the Foreshore Committee of Management at Sandy Point has a heavy workload. The community may not be aware that the key area in town is maintained by this committee. The workload could be shared via working bees, more support for the committee’s activities and community education programs.
Priority - Very High

The Foreshore Committee of Management has been trying to manage the ‘dogs off leash’ issue in a range of ways. Broad community support is required to ensure safe control of dogs in key public areas.
Priority - High

Gippsland Shire Council is an important partner for this project.
Project Area 9 - Community Events

Identified Actions

Community events have already been held at Sandy Point for many years with great success. Most recently the Sand Castle competition attracted hundreds of people from all generations. Many ideas for events have been provided in the Consultation Report for this study and should be developed by key community groups as warranted.

Volunteer support from a range of key stakeholders
Priority - Very High

Bush Dance on the tennis courts

Sand Castle Competition
Project Area 10 - Shallow Inlet / Bird Hide

Identified Actions

The idea of having a fishing platform has been raised at Shallow Inlet. Considerable planning needs to be undertaken to further this project.
Priority - Medium

The Sandy Point Community Group is working on the development of a Bird Hide for local bird watching enthusiasts to be located at Shallow Inlet.
Priority - Medium

Council, DSE, Foreshore Committee and Parks Victoria will need to be involved in the planning of both projects. They have not been costed at this time due to the planning required.
Project Area 11 - Partnerships

Identified Actions

As mentioned in the Community Hall section of this report, it is important to identify key project partners that may be able to offer programs and services at Sandy Point. For example, the Planned Activity Group (PAG), U3A, Hard Work Café and other clubs or groups. These might include fitness classes, one off workshops, art classes or bus trips into other main towns to join recreational activities.

Volunteer support from a range of key stakeholders.
Priority - Very High

There may also be an option to link with business operators to offer tours, packages, nature tours, fishing trips, bike hire, etc to create recreational opportunities during peak seasons. This is already being offered by the mini golf operators and could be supported further to expand if warranted.

Commercial operators to conduct a business case and work with local stakeholders.
Priority - High
Federal Government
Various funding is released and information on suitable grants should be obtained from South Gippsland Shire Council as it will be required to auspice the grants.

Department of Planning and Community Development – Sport and Recreation Victoria
The Community Facility Funding Program contributes to the provision of high-quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. Building Community Infrastructure provides grants to improve places where communities meet and interact. Applications under the Minor and Major Facilities category are available for community groups, working in partnership with Council, to develop or upgrade community sport and recreation facilities.

Regional Development Victoria
This State Government department has access to funding that supports the building of community infrastructure where economic benefit and broad community use is identified. Not ideally suited for recreation facilities, but broader aspects of reserve development may be considered, especially given the tourism benefit for the visitors to the South Gippsland region.

Philanthropic Grants
There are active philanthropic organisations supporting regional Victoria through various grants programs. More information can be obtained through http://communityfoundations.philanthropy.org.au.

South Gippsland Shire Council Funding Programs
- Community Grants Program, which allows community groups to apply for project funding
- Capital Works Annual Budget, which is developed through identified priorities in key strategic planning exercises and demonstrated need
- Council employs Community Development staff and a Grants Officer to assist with the preparation of funding applications and advise should be sought on all identified funding applications
Recommended and Conclusions

A broad range of issues have been considered as part of this recreation study. The outcomes have focused on making the most of the existing facilities and natural features to ensure the important community village feel is retained and maximised.

The local demographics do not require large scale recreation facilities, but rather focus on getting people engaged and active in a range of activities and events.

The proposed pathway from Sandy Point to Waratah Bay and the open space area at Manuka Street should be the key priorities along with the opening and utilisation of the new Community Hall.

In conclusion;

- The Sandy Point Recreational Study should be adopted as a framework for facility and infrastructure development.
- Detailed planning, design, approvals, construction and implementation of priorities should be undertaken in a planned and professional manner.
- The Sandy Point Recreational Study should be reviewed in five years; evaluated against achievement of key actions within the strategy and updated to reflect any new priorities.

Disclaimer of Liability

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of the Sandy Point Community Group. All recommendations by Hands on Community Solutions are based on information provided by or on behalf of the Committee and other key stakeholders and we have relied upon such information being correct at the time this report has been prepared. Readers should note this report might include implicit projections about the future which, by their nature, are uncertain and cannot be relied upon. They are dependent on potential events or technical assessments, which have not yet occurred.

References

The following references have been used in the development of this report:

- DPCD website - Planning scheme data and maps, grant information
- South Gippsland Shire Council - website/Recreation Plan
- Australian Bureau of Statistics - population data
- Planning studies and strategies as identified in the document

Appendix

Aerial Plan of Recreation and Open Areas
Consultation Report