Jerramungup History Group Strategic Plan

Introduction

The Jerramungup History Group is committed to preserving, protecting, and sharing the rich and diverse history of the Jerramungup region. This strategy provides direction and supports the Group's mission of safeguarding local stories, records, photographs, artefacts, and cultural knowledge for current and future generations.

The strategy acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the Jerramungup (Yarra-mo-up) region and recognises their enduring connection to Country, culture, knowledge, and community. The Jerramungup History Group respects the continuing contributions of Aboriginal people and communities in caring for and sharing the history of this land. The strategy also recognises the contributions of pastoral pioneers, farming families, soldier settlers, volunteers, businesses, community organisations, and all those who have helped shape the region's history and identity.

Strategic Priority 1:

Preserve and Protect Local Heritage

Goal

Ensure historically significant materials, stories, and artefacts are collected, documented and cared for according to recognised heritage practices.

Objectives

- Develop and maintain a collection management policy.
- Improve cataloguing and documentation of all historical materials.
- Identify and prioritise preservation needs for photographs, documents, oral histories and artefacts.
- Establish secure storage and display practices.
- Encourage donations of historically significant items and records.

Success Measures

- Collection register completed and regularly updated.
- Preservation standards implemented.
- Growth in the number of catalogued items.
- Increased community donations and acquisitions.

Strategic Priority 2:

Capture Community Stories

Goal

Record and preserve memories, experiences, and stories that reflect the region's diverse history.

Objectives

- Implement an oral history program.
- Record memories of farming families, community leaders, sporting groups, businesses, and volunteers.
- Document stories relating to soldier settlement and agricultural development.
- Work respectfully with Aboriginal community members to support preservation of Indigenous history and cultural knowledge where appropriate.
- Create a digital archive of interviews and stories.

Success Measures

- Number of oral histories recorded each year.
- Increased representation of diverse community voices.
- Digital archive established and maintained.

Strategic Priority 3:

Increase Community Engagement and Awareness

Goal

Make local history visible, accessible and engaging for residents and visitors.

Objectives

- Deliver annual exhibitions and displays.
- Contribute articles and historical features to local media and newsletters.
- Celebrate significant anniversaries and local milestones.
- Host community history events, talks and heritage walks.
- Develop programs that encourage younger generations to engage with local history.

Success Measures

- Increased attendance at events.
- Growth in membership and volunteer participation.
- Positive community feedback.
- Increased public awareness of local history initiatives.

Strategic Priority 4:

Improve Access Through Digital Preservation

Goal

Use technology to safeguard and share historical resources.

Objectives

- Digitise photographs, documents, maps, and publications.
- Develop an online presence to showcase collections and stories.
- Establish digital backup systems to protect historical records.
- Explore partnerships with State Library WA and regional heritage organisations.
- Create searchable digital resources for researchers and community members.

Success Measures

- Number of items digitised annually.
- Online historical collection developed.
- Improved accessibility for researchers and schools.
- Reduced risk of loss or damage to original materials.

Strategic Priority 5:

Build Strong Partnerships

Goal

Strengthen collaboration to support heritage preservation and community education.

Objectives

- Partner with local schools to promote local history projects.
- Collaborate with the Jerramungup Community Resource Centre, Shire of Jerramungup, libraries, museums and heritage organisations.
- Work with Aboriginal organisations and Elders to support cultural understanding.
- Seek opportunities for joint exhibitions, grants, and heritage initiatives.

- Develop relationships with regional history groups.

Success Measures

- Number of active partnerships.
- Joint projects completed.
- Increased funding opportunities accessed.
- Community participation across partner activities.

Strategic Priority 6:

Strengthen Organisational Sustainability

Goal

Ensure the long-term capacity of the History Group.

Objectives

- Recruit and retain volunteers.
- Develop succession plans for key leadership roles.
- Pursue grants, sponsorships, and fundraising opportunities.
- Maintain good governance, policies and financial management.
- Develop annual work plans aligned with strategic priorities.

Success Measures

- Stable or growing membership.
- Increased volunteer participation.
- Successful grant applications.
- Strong governance and financial sustainability.

Priority Projects 2027-2030

High Priority

- Establish a comprehensive collection database
- Commence oral history recordings with long-term residents and soldier settlement families
- Digitise priority photograph collections
- Develop a permanent local history display
- Create a Jerramungup History Group website or online archive

Medium Priority

- Community heritage walk project
- School history engagement program
- Heritage publications and local history booklets
- Anniversary and commemorative events

Future Opportunities

- Regional heritage tourism initiatives
- Historical trail and interpretive signage
- Mobile exhibitions
- Community heritage centre or permanent museum space

Strategic Outcomes

By 2030, the Jerramungup History Group aims to be:

- A respected and trusted custodian of local history.
- A growing repository of community memories and historical records.
- A valued educational resource for schools, researchers, residents, and visitors.

- An active contributor to community identity and pride.
- A sustainable volunteer-led organisation with strong partnerships and community support.

Guiding Principle: *Remembering the past, preserving the present, and inspiring future generations to value the unique heritage of Jerramungup and its people.*