

# Nabiac Community Strategic Plan

2024 - 2029



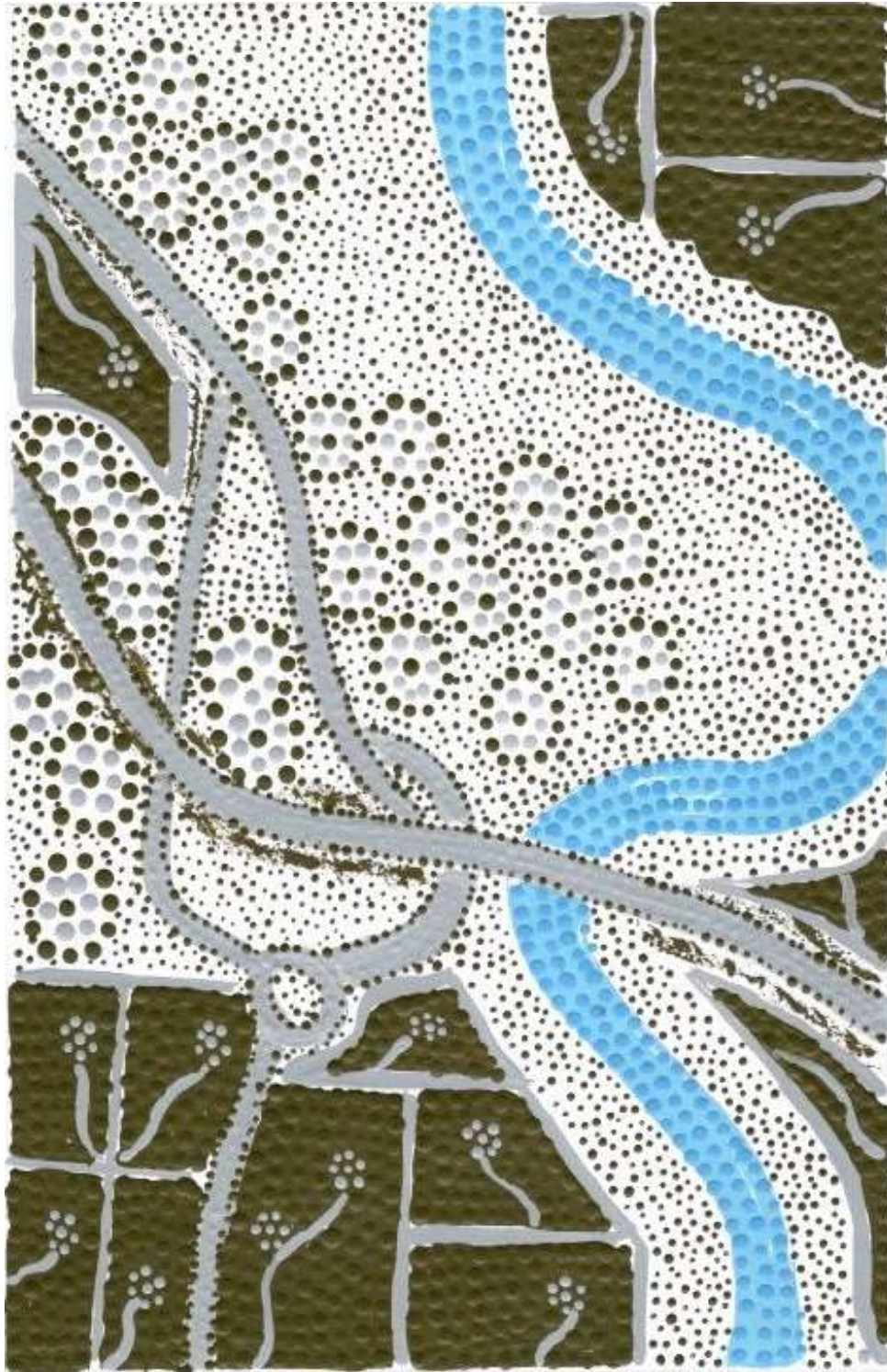
Co-ordinated by Nabiac Village Futures Group



Nabiac is a welcoming stop off point for travellers

Nabiyak

“Place of the wild fig; long narrow leafed fig tree”



Nabiac Village Futures Group wishes to thank artist Terry Johnstone of the art group “Culture and Christ: Aboriginal Elders Art” for providing us with this artwork depicting the area of Nabiac on the Wallamba River (2023).

The original Nabiac Community Strategic Plan was first developed in November 2004. The plan has been revised at community workshops held in February 2006, April 2009, April 2012, October 2015 and February 2023.

The 2016 - 2021 Plan was revised to align with Council goals after the amalgamation of Great Lakes, Greater Taree and Gloucester LGAs. The process of revision of 2016-2021 Plan was delayed due to COVID19 lockdown.



To provide feedback on this plan, contact the Nabiac Village Futures Group

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***Nabiac Farmers Market : “Locally made, baked and grown”***



***The internationally renowned National Motorcycle Museum of Australia Is located at Nabitac***

## **Background**

Nabitac is situated on the Wallamba River on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

‘Nabitac’ means ‘place of the wild fig’ and lies within lands traditionally inhabited by the Warrimay (Worimi) and Birripi (Biripi) Aboriginal tribes. (“A Grammar and Dictionary of Gathang” A. Lissarrague 2010). Early maps of the Wallamba were published in the 1820’s, The northern limit of settlement in 1826 was Cape Hawke (“The History of Nabitac and District” L Gilbert 1954). European settlers began arriving on the Wallamba firstly as cedar cutters, then as farmers. The Wallamba waterway is tidal and has been a vital transport link in the past. It’s now used more for recreation, with a public boat ramp at Wharf Street. Nabitac is 24 km south of Taree and 25 km west of Forster/Tuncurry, servicing the surrounding communities of Wootton, Failford, Rainbow Flat, Dyers Crossing, Krambach and Coolongolook.

In 2003, the Nabitac Chamber of Commerce and Tourism accessed funding through the Dept of State and Regional Development’s Towns and Villages Futures Program to prepare a strategic plan for the local community. Nabitac Village Futures Group (NVFG) was established to oversee the implementation of the plan. The plan identifies the community’s vision for the future, and the priorities and actions required to achieve this vision. It is a guide for future projects and activities in our community over the next five years. Achievement of the priorities identified within the plan will require ongoing



community support. We aim to regularly review the priorities contained within this plan to ensure that the priorities remain reflective of the emerging needs of the community.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and pay our respects to elders' past, present and future.



***A popular spot to catch up with friends***

**Vision**      'A Vibrant Rural Village'

**Mission**    'To aid in the further creation and maintenance of a family friendly rural village with improved facilities for all ages.'

**Values**      The key values and standards to drive our mission are:

- Leadership and Integrity
- Initiative and Planning
- Professionalism and Caring
- Excellence and Efficiency
- Quality of Life and Employment
- Identity and Independence

## About Nabitac

Nabitac's population is slowly increasing with around 1293 in the town and a further 1783 people residing in the region including Minimbah, Dyers Crossing, Possum Brush, Firefly, Wang Wauk, and Failford. (Source ABS. 2021 census). In early 2023 Nabitac Public School had just under 200 students. Great Lakes College (Tuncurry Campus) is the nearest High School. Before and After School Care and Vacation Care facilities are available for school aged children in the Village. Preschool, Childcare, Family Day Care, and Playgroups are well established. Nabitac has 3 churches, each holding regular services in their heritage buildings.

Nabitac Memorial Neighbourhood Centre is used by local committees, volunteers, and special interest groups. It's home to Nabitac Second Chance Opportunity Shop, the Community Technology Centre with the Community Garden established at the rear. Nabitac folk like to reuse and share. There are a number of street libraries, and the Wallamba Share Cart provides a space for sharing of plants, fruit and veggies. School students grow vegetables in NabiPatch and share any excess produce in baskets at the school fence. The Showground is the home of rodeos, camp drafting competitions, the monthly Nabitac Farmers Market, Library, cattle sales, and the Wallamba District Agricultural Show.

Nabitac has a unique village atmosphere, with shops for vintage and collectables, gifts, and an art gallery. It's also home to the highly regarded National Motorcycle Museum. Some wonderful delicacies are produced in the area and sold in local outlets. There is a hotel and liquor outlets; a range of eateries within both the town and along the Highway corridor; motel accommodation; B & B's; self-contained cabins or farm stay. The nearest caravan park is at Failford. Many caravanners pull up to use the shopping area. The bakery is popular and there are picnic tables and seating near the shops. There are vehicle and caravan repairs, caravan sales, 24-hour fuel, EV charging, sports fields, a skate park, swimming pool and exercise groups indoors and in the park.



***An aqua aerobics session at the Nabitac pool***



After the uncertainty of the COVID19 lockdown many residents have commented about the services and facilities that we were fortunate to have in Nabiac. Supermarkets, bakery, butchers, bistros, cafes and takeaway foods; hairdressers, clothing stores; Doctors, pathology, pharmacy, massage therapy, beautician; home and farm supplies, and vehicle repairs; banking at the post office, newsagent, real estate agencies; and a variety of trades people. We have appreciated the businesses that were operated from homes and properties and who altered their service operations to keep our lives comfortable. Since then, home deliveries have continued. We've also experienced the growth of online businesses and of support services such as maintenance, mowing and household cleaning.

Retirees and families from the cities seeking a healthier lifestyle are attracted by the village environment, close-proximity to the river, beaches and bushland, along with easy access to the Highway for business and pleasure activities. The community sees the benefits of planning for an environmentally sustained economic expansion, while maintaining the village ambience. Forward planning is vital for Nabiac over the next few years as it continues to be a well sought out location and a delightful place to live.



***Sustainable development of housing***

## **Successful projects**

Many projects and nominated priorities that were identified in the 2016 plan have been undertaken and completed. These include:

- Dump point for recreational vehicles installed.

- EV charger installed.
- Road Safety improvements at Dibbs Street (stop sign) and changes to Failford intersection with M1. Sealing and drainage at Memorial Park and removal of old fence in roadway at the school. A 40 zone around the shopping area has approval but has not yet been implemented.
- Memorial Park – a new fence, removal of old play equipment, new War Memorial signage.
- New children’s play area with little kid’s bike track, BBQs tables and seating.
- Swimming pool - installed solar heating and security cameras.
- Planting of new trees around the Oval.
- Town Creek - removal of weeds, lining of creek bed with rocks and planting of native plants; installation of picnic tables and seating.
- Community art works - planned for installation at the recently upgraded Showground entry and at the skatepark.
- Aub Ferris Complex - amenities block with canteen facilities, meeting room and undercover space; equipment sheds for MCC, Rugby and Soccer Clubs; and a water station.
- Continued community interest in events and improvements is evident in the continued improvement to facilities at the community preschool, Nabitac Public School, the Showgrounds, Hall and Kitchen. Volunteers are giving of their time at the Show, Farmers Markets, Op Shop, Fire Brigades, Library, and CTC.

The monthly Farmers Markets have recently celebrated 20 years of operation. The National Motorcycle Museum’s annual swap meet is a popular event and ‘De Olde Donk Klub’ has been setting up interesting old machinery displays in the town. Nabitac Landcare group has continued to work at Lillypilly Bend on weed reduction and installing seating.

- In the plan, exercise stations, a community garden and repairs to Tennis Courts were issues identified. Karuah & Great Lakes Landcare worked to establish the community garden at the rear of the Neighbourhood Centre.
- The installation of exercise stations on new pathways and further works required at the tennis courts are included in our revised plan.
- The community supported the Nabitac Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) which provides a series of strategies to improve facilities for walking and riding. This Plan provides for pathways linking a number of areas and plans for completion of the pathway circuit of Clarkson, Nabitac, Farnell and Hoskins Streets including a pathway to the Showground.



## Our Vision for Tomorrow and Beyond

As previously stated, our unique village atmosphere is enjoyed by travelers and tourists who venture in off the highway. We seek to increase this casual visitation, by providing and promoting attractions and points of interest, to make Nabitac a destination in its own right.

As a vibrant historical rural village with a strong environmental sustainability focus, it's a friendly place where people of all ages participate in activities that nurture the environment. They enjoy arts and cultural events as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. Families seeking a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle are seeking social engagement and strong communities, Nabitac offers something for everyone. Perceptions of safety are high. Community groups are vibrant, strong, open and friendly, with plenty of willing volunteers.

It is important that older residents be able to continue living in the community they know, with support from family, friends, local medical practitioners, support services and regular visiting medical specialists. There is a choice of purpose-built retirement or aged care facilities within our catchment area. A regular bus service to Forster or Taree is available if needed.



***Riverside picnic on the banks of the Wallamba River***

The entrances into Nabitac are attractive and colourful. Public spaces are attractively planted out and residents enjoy walking along shaded pathways through restored natural habitats. The boat ramp and picnic area near the river are popular with

picnickers and water sport enthusiasts. There are art installations dotted throughout the village telling stories of Nabitac - past, present, and future. Local produce is enjoyed, valued, and celebrated. Outlets for local produce attract shoppers from across the district looking for high quality fresh food and local eateries promote local producers.

It is vital for the village to be well connected with footpaths and cycle ways which support residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to be mobile with ease and safety. The pathway networks must display interpretive signage to highlight the natural and human history of the area.

The vision is to ensure that as the “Gateway” to the Manning Valley, Gloucester and Great Lakes, Nabitac continues to develop its 7-day trading experience while retaining its rural village charm. The town boasts a variety of charming village style shops and eateries, with many places to sit and chat or meet up with friends and visitors. This blend of contemporary style with old world charm brings a rich cultural feel to the village. Shopping is to be encouraged by good directional signage, colourful and quirky shop fronts and further development of accessible parking for cars as well as caravans and RVs.

New businesses abound and offer employment for locals without overdeveloping the area.

The town is home to many artists and craftspeople. There are art, music and social events and activities both in the shopping district as well as at the showground. The showground is a drawcard for community activities as well as eco and agri-tourism and people travelling with horses. The nearby sport precinct supports a range of activities and is a favorite place for all ages. New sports such as Pickle Ball and Futsal have been introduced. The banks of Town Creek are maintained. The Creek continues to provide attractive spaces for families to picnic and enjoy the natural habitat.

Innovative projects such as off grid power options and solar charging stations are a way for residents to be involved in leaving a small footprint in their environment. We are committed to balancing, protecting, and enhancing our diverse environmental elements for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations.

The revival of old skills and crafts has been taken up with enthusiasm (wood-working, blacksmithing, gardening, weaving, quilting etc.). Community groups are vital and well supported. Events such as the annual show and the farmers market have an abundance of volunteers. The Neighbourhood Centre and NVFG continue to strengthen and to support the town and the community.



## How do we achieve our vision and how does our plan fit with MidCoast 2030?

### Nabiac Community Strategic Plan 2024 -2029

### MidCoast 2030

#### STRATEGY 1 Protect and enhance our village charm (family friendly rural village)

##### Priority Actions

##### 1.Top Priority Action - Develop a Traffic Management Plan

- Ensure that the 40km speed reduction agreed to in the business area, is introduced. Introduction of traffic calming devices and pedestrian crossings at strategic locations in the village.
- Improve traffic flow through the village through the design of alternative parking options.
- Create dedicated caravan and RV parking areas away from the Village Green.
- Consider a 'no parking' strip on one side of road for approximately 100m of Clarkson Street, south from the intersection of Nabiac and Clarkson Streets.
- Consider a limit 4m+ parking south of the Memorial Park.

##### 2.Retain our unique identity

- Encourage and support local businesses that reflect and enhance our unique rural village charm.
- Promote activities that highlight our rural history and provide direction to points of interest.
- Ensure the streetscape maintains an eclectic mix of shops showcasing arts, crafts, locally made and grown, and the charm of yesterday.
- Encourage and support the commercial and social businesses that provide the daily services essential to a small community and its visitors such as supermarkets, medical services, banking, post office, social activities, trades, and specialty goods.

Strategy 2.2.1: Plan for, provide and maintain a safe road network that meets current and future demands

Strategy 1.16: Empower our towns and villages to retain and celebrate their unique identity, while working towards a shared community vision.

#### STRATEGY 2 Promote sustainable economic development

##### Priority Actions

##### 1.Increase casual visitation, by providing and promoting attractions and points of interest

- Ensure ongoing promotion and improvements at the Showground (local representatives working with Council as per Showground Management Plan).
- Explore emerging opportunities for the Showground to attract groups to a venue that is unique in its depiction of historically important infrastructure, typical of a bygone era.
- Lifting the profile of the Nabiac Showground amongst event organisers. Such as swap meets for larger items, car club displays, expos, practical demonstrations of outdoor activities, open air concerts, etc.

##### 2.Ensure the community website [nabiac.com](http://nabiac.com) is kept relevant and current

- Include information about local businesses, historical significance, and social initiatives. Online traffic to be encouraged via the planned new community information board in Memorial Park.

##### 3.Encourage people to 'buy quality local'

- Market, support and promote locally grown products, craft, collectables, and vintage sale items.
- Support food and accommodation providers, local businesses, and the Nabiac Farmers' Market. Many of these traders are individuals who gain benefit from the greater collective and increasing range of attractions available to visitors across the region.

Strategy 4.1.1: Develop and promote our region as an attractive visitor destination offering products and experiences that meet the needs of our visitors and residents.

Strategy 4.2.1: Implement innovative programs and projects to support business precincts in creating and maintaining vibrant spaces.

Strategy 4.1.2: provide an environment to grow and strengthen local businesses and attract new business.

Strategy 1.2.2: Support the preservation and uniqueness of our history and cultural heritage in our towns, villages, and significant places.

#### 4.Encourage and support community artwork or mural projects

Across the village, access to arts and cultural activities not only has the potential to boost feelings of satisfaction and lifestyle fit, but also correlates with greater investment of time and resources into the community. Plan with Council for the future maintenance of artworks.

- Display of local history, photos and historical walkways via the website and new information board to be located in Memorial Park. A QR code to keep the information current and allow expansive information.
- Continue to provide attractive, pleasant open spaces in the area of the shops (such as the Village Green, Town Creek, and Memorial Park). The installation of shade sails over the newly installed seating area adjacent Town Creek.
- Support and promote overnight camping at the Showground, including digital communication to a 'caretaker'.

Strategy 1.2.3: Support and encourage our vibrant and creative arts sector.

### STRATEGY 3 Enhance the natural beauty of the village

#### Priority Actions

#### 1.Top Priority Action - Develop a village landscape plan, including tree-planting

- Installation of shade sails over the picnic tables at Town Creek.
- Create atmosphere by installation of solar 'fairy' lights to enhance gardens, trees.
- Provide community food growing opportunities, extend community gardens.
- Beautify the street scape and improve the aesthetics of the village.

#### 2.Protect our waterways

- Improve drainage in low lying town areas.
- Regular removal of weed growth in creeks. Planting of native flora along edges of creeks and river.
- Extend curb and guttering.
- Increase facilities at the Wharf Street boat ramp, such as a jetty, BBQ and public toilets. Promote the boat ramp via the new information board.

#### 3.Support production and use of alternate energy

- Installation of additional electric charging stations in the village or surrounds, possibly solar powered.
- Support residents to learn about solar production such as community batteries and neighborhood storage.

#### 4.Subsainably manage our waste

- Encourage reuse, recycling and repairs (vintage shops, op shop, sale and exchange of items).

Strategy 3.1.4: Improve the capacity of industry and the community to achieve the best possible outcomes for the natural environment.

Strategy 3.1.3: Protect, maintain and restore water quality within our estuaries, wetlands and waterways.

Strategy 3.2.1: Sustainably manage our waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and repurposing.

Strategy 3.1.5: Ensure our natural assets are maintained to a standard appropriate to their use.



**STRATEGY 4    Actively encourage health wellbeing and participation**  
**Priority Actions**

**1.Top Priority Action - Upgrade of sporting facilities**

- Short term - repairs to tennis courts (surface, lights, fencing).
- Long Term - plan to relocate tennis and include netball at Aub Ferris Sports Complex. Create an accessible sports area at Nabitac Street tennis site that includes but is not limited to; training hoops, pickleball, and futsal. Aim to provide easy access for users and spectators. Encourage regular use by children.

**2.Top Priority - Encourage and support opportunities and initiatives that connect people and facilities within our community**

- Increase access to recreational facilities. A pathway network as per the Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan (PAMP), connecting facilities, including connection of Showground and Aub Ferris Sports Complex to the village.
- Promote local walking trails, highlighting 'Connection to Country' introducing some Gathang language. This includes Improving access at Lilly Pilly Bend, creating steps on the Woosters Creek steep embankment and ensure ongoing maintenance of the bushland at end of Farnell Street.
- Encourage local sporting clubs (e.g. cricket, tennis, equine, soccer, netball, rugby, etc.) to promote themselves on the Nabitac website.
- Install bike racks.

**3.Upgrade the existing skate park**

- Improvement of drainage and support murals to be painted by children.

**4.Retain medical, pharmaceutical and pathology services**

- Focus in retaining these within the village to ensure a range of accessible services for residents.

**5.Provide support for residents to continue to live in their own homes**

- Support provision of in-home services
- Support provision of smaller homes with well-designed, appropriate facilities for elderly and disabled residents.

Strategy 2.4.4: Encourage physical health and fitness through provision of appropriate recreational facilities.

Strategy 2.4.3: Increase the capacity of community, businesses and organisations to understand and meet public health standards.

1.1.4: Support a diverse housing mix that provides choice and meets the needs of our community.

## Nabiac CBD - Yesterday and Today



*And today*





***Coffee on the run***



***Monthly cattle sales***





***Wildflower trails in the spring***



***Launching into the Wallamba River***





***Skill and Fun at the Wallamba District Show***



***Woodchopping is a crowd favourite at the Wallamba District Show***