

Eudunda & Districts

Community Development Action Plan



SEPTEMBER 2023

**Power of the past driving
the force of the future**

Foreword

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we present to you the forward for our Community Action Plan for Eudunda. The slogan of this plan is “Power of the Past Driving the Force of the Future” and is a testament to our collective commitment towards building a vibrant and sustainable community that thrives on inclusivity, innovation, and collaboration.

Eudunda has always been a community that takes pride in its rich history, strong values, and close-knit relationships. As we look towards the future, it is imperative that we come together to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our Community Action Plan serves as a roadmap that will guide us in harnessing our strengths and working towards a better future for all.

This Plan has been developed through extensive consultations with community members, community organisations, and local businesses. It reflects the aspirations, concerns, and ideas of our diverse community, ensuring that everyone’s voice is heard and valued. It is a testament to the power of collaboration and the belief that by working together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes.

The action plan encompasses various key areas that are crucial for the development and growth of our community. It includes initiatives to promote economic development, enhance education and skills training, improve infrastructure and services, foster environmental sustainability, strengthen community engagement and participation and improve our tourism assets and potential.

Our Community Action Plan is not just a document; it is a commitment to action. It sets out clear goals, targets, and timelines that will enable us to measure our progress and hold ourselves accountable. It encourages us to think creatively, take risks, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges we face. We are confident that this Plan will serve as a catalyst for positive change in Eudunda. It will empower us to build stronger connections, create new opportunities, and ensure a bright future for generations to come. Together, we can make a difference and create a community that we are all proud to call home.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this plan. Your time, energy, and passion have been invaluable, and we are truly humbled by your commitment to our community.

Let us embark on this journey together, united by a shared vision and a determination to create a thriving and sustainable community in Eudunda.

Acknowledgements

The formulation of this Business and Community Development Action Plan was initiated by the Eudunda Community, Business and Tourism Committee and coordinated by a local Task Team comprising Bob Dabrowski, Peter Herriman, Mel Zerner, Judy Partington and Neil Nicholson. It was funded by Rural Aid as part of their commitment to supporting Australia’s small rural towns. A three-day community engagement process was undertaken to gather ideas, opinions and feedback to develop the Plan. The formulation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. and Jen Curnow-Trotter from Rural Aid. Special thanks to so many passionate community members, organisations and businesses who gave so generously of their time, wisdom and experiences.



Our Story



Eudunda, known locally as the “Valley of Hidden Treasures” due to its rural charm, landscapes and historic appeal, is an agricultural town in the Mid-North of South Australia. Located 110 kilometres northeast of Adelaide in the Regional Council of Goyder, it has a district population of 1300 people.

The area is the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri people. Its rich agricultural history commenced with the clearing of land in 1840's to undertake agricultural production, battling with the challenges of low rainfall associated with farming along Goyder's Line and yet contributing substantial mixed cereal and livestock production to the state. Many of the first European settlers were German Lutheran immigrants.

Many agricultural and retail businesses such as Lauckes, Eudunda Farmers' Co-operative and Hambours originated in Eudunda and then spread to set up stores and branches in other country towns across South Australia. Eudunda value added into chicken and pig farming and the manufacture of agricultural machinery and other heavy industry products, most of which is exported to other regions of South Australia and Australia.

Eudunda township was established in 1870 by John Henry Hannan, who owned the land which was surveyed and divided for sale. The town became the centre of local government in 1878 with the establishment of the District Council of Neales,

which operated until 1932 when it merged with the District Council of Julia to create the District Council of Eudunda. It continued until 1997 when it was replaced by the formation of the Regional Council of Goyder.

Railway services were first introduced to Eudunda in 1878, with the opening of the North-West Bend Railway to Morgan. From 1914, it was the junction station for a branch running north past Point Pass to Robertstown, although this has since closed.

The Eudunda district is well known as the birthplace of the nationally acclaimed author and educator Colin Thiele. His upbringing in the hamlet of Julia, and his education in Eudunda, served as inspiration for many of his writings.

Eudunda's present has built on its past and in recent times the community and its people have achieved the completion of many community projects such as the Colin Thiele Memorial Gardens, Family Heritage Gallery, Heavy Vehicle Bypass, Silo Art, Lavender Walking and Cycling Trail, 14 site Caravan Park, annual Motor Bike & Car Trials, annual SALA exhibitions, regular Hub and Shed market days, construction of the Skate Park and the successful continuation of a major regional Agricultural Show.

Where does Eudunda's FUTURE lie? Its future lies with the resilient, passionate, hardworking and skillful people and the community to which they belong.

Our Vision

A vibrant, diverse and family friendly community committed to proactively creating an environment for all generations to live, work, play and age well.

Our Goals

Community goals are broad statements of intent that direct our efforts towards accomplishing our vision in line with our guiding principles.

Below are the six community goals which guide our community aspirations, namely -

- To provide a safe, welcoming and attractive living and working environment that will attract families and skilled workers and help grow our population and business base.
- To actively promote and showcase our community as a great place to stop, stay, and experience, especially through our events, promotions, first impressions and vibrant and welcoming town centre.
- To support, promote and celebrate active community participation and volunteerism.
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported and empowered, and will view our community as an attractive, liveable place of choice.
- To retain strong sporting and cultural clubs, events, facilities and traditions.
- To develop a diversity of accommodation options for new residents, workers and visitors.



Our Guiding Values

The following six guiding values and attitudes provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely –

- **Community pride and connection** - ensuring all our community members experience connection, inclusion and a sense of pride in our rich history, hidden treasures, achievements and future.
- **Rural lifestyle** - retaining our country charm, local connections, agricultural links and rural landscapes.
- **Respect for heritage** - appreciating our unique heritage, stories, culture, traditions and their importance in our community and economic development.
- **Positive mindset** - fostering community attitudes and behaviours that embrace change, proactive 'can-do' behaviours, optimism and hopefulness.
- **Pride** - encouraging appreciation and times of celebration related to our history and culture.
- **Embracing new opportunities** - building upon our assets, capacities and creativity, and creating an environment that enable all our residents to see and experience their community as a place of opportunity.



Our Challenges

Like many small inland rural communities, our community needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges. These issues include –

- Volunteer fatigue and declining numbers.
- Key groups struggling with membership engagement.
- Ordinary town first impression entrances and tired signage.
- Bland main street appearance.
- Deteriorating state of many heritage buildings.
- Ageing population with a medium age of 54 years.
- Business loss and service gaps.
- Flood mitigation.
- Growing challenges regarding community and business support for volunteer emergency services.
- Poor intra-community communication.
- Limited space at the EFHG.
- Lack of communication between organisations.
- Negativity.
- Poor connectivity.
- Low school numbers.
- Lack of ATM.
- Limited leadership development initiatives.
- Limited housing availability and affordable rental accommodation.
- Lack of visitor accommodation options.
- Proximity of larger regional centres that act as 'Sponge Towns' drawing services and employment.
- Retail/cafe shop hours.
- High club and event insurances.
- Lack of local transport options.
- Limited support for mental health challenges.
- Lack of a local tourism strategy.
- Lack of higher education options.
- Lack of out of school hours care.
- Lack of iconic tourist attraction.
- Community conflict over use of the oval and land ownership.
- Poor footpath infrastructure.
- Limited activities for children and youth during school holidays.

Our Assets

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

- Special events- Australia Day Breakfast, Hardi 24 Hour bi-annual event, Copyworld Walky 100, Eudunda Show, golf weekends, Open Garden Weekends, Christmas Street Parade and Party, Deb Ball, International Women's Day awards, ANZAC Day, motor bike and car trails, Sala exhibitions
- German heritage, farming heritage, Rail heritage
- Known as the "Valley of Hidden Treasures"
- Birthplace of author Colin Thiele- bronze sculpture
- Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery
- Eudunda SALA - Art exhibition
- Eudunda Markets
- Silo Art - Storytime Silos, stobie pole art, time capsule, mosaic art
- Anlaby Station
- Local Ngadjuri heritage
- Connection to the Eudunda Farmers' Co-operative Society
- Finalist, 2023 SA Agricultural Town of the Year
- Jed Dunstan cartoons & murals

People Assets

- 1300 residents in district, 700 in Eudunda and 150 in Robertstown
- Farming skills, trade skills, engineering skills
- Passionate locals, strong community leaders
- Availability of local apprenticeship positions
- Artists, photographers, cartoonist, stone mason
- Young people, young business leaders
- New families
- Justices of the Peace
- Goyder YAC
- Eudunda Agricultural Show Rural Ambassador Program

Social Assets

- Sporting Clubs- golf, basketball X2, bowling X2, cricket, netball, football, tennis X2, motorcycle, golf, darts, 8-ball, marshall arts
- ECBaT, RDCMC
- P&F, P&C, Parent Group
- Goyder SACWA, Eudunda Clubhouse
- Probus Club of Eudunda & Districts, RSL,
- Friends of SALA Eudunda, Eudunda/Robertstown Rural Watch SA
- Eudunda Playgroup, Kids for Christ group,
- Hospital Social Club, Robbie Seniors, volunteer garden group, hospital garden group
- Robertstown Telecentre and Community Centre
- Social media groups including Eudunda. net, Portal. eudunda, Eudunda News Facebook
- Social bowls
- E Web Portal, Southern Goyder News, Leader newspaper
- Churches- Eudunda/Robertstown Lutheran Church, Uniting Church
- Eudunda/Robertson Lutheran Youth
- Carer's Coffee Group.
- Town noticeboards
- YAC
- Eudunda & Districts Community Op-Shop INC.
- Hub Committee, Eudunda Hall/Catering Committee

Our Assets

Physical Assets

- Rural/rustic landscapes, village atmosphere
- Collection of hamlets
- Infrastructure: oval, Eudunda Sporting Complex, children's playground, swimming pool, community hub and shed, 14 site caravan park, free camp area, Colin Thiele Gardens, skate parks, bowling greens X2, golf course, show facilities,
- Heritage buildings- town halls, pubs, Eudunda railway station, shops, Laucke's Flour Mill, Anlaby Station,
- Central proximity to key regional centres – Barossa, Clare valley, Burra, Murray River, Kapunda
- Inspiration Point lookout, World's End Reserve, Eudunda Lookout
- Levi Creek Nature Reserve
- Fauna Park
- 10+ heritage cemeteries, war memories, Goyder's Line Marker
- Trails- Historic walking Trail, Mosaic Art Trail, Colin Thiele Driving Trail, Lavender Federation Trail, World's End Driving Trail
- Worlds End Gorge
- Recycled water for gardens

Economic

- Strong farming community
- National Parks
- Pt Pass Agricultural Bureau
- Local retail businesses- cafe, post office X2, supermarket, bakery, café, , fabric shop, Op Shop, roadhouse, general stores, newsagency, roadhouse,
- Engineering businesses- Reimann's, Demot, Schutz Industries and Root Boot
- Local professional services
- District pubs and motel
- Trade businesses- woodwork, tyre shop, mechanics,
- Agricultural businesses-
- Tourism businesses- art gallery, antique shop, Family Heritage Gallery & Gosling Cottage
- Goyder Renewables Zone and the Renewable Energy Projects
- Eudunda Visitor Information Outlet
- Organisational websites like Anlaby Station and Regional Council of Goyder

Institutional Assets

- Education- pre-school, Eudunda Area School, St John's Lutheran School, Robertstown Primary School.
- Police
- Eudunda & Kapunda Health Services- Hospital & Aged Care Facilities- 45 beds in hospital, 90 beds in aged hostel
- Medical centre
- Community car, Foodbank
- Regional Council of Goyder
- Community Library
- Carers Centre
- Eudunda Red Cross
- Ucare Gawler Inc- Eudunda Branch
- Pt Pass Agricultural Bureau





Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Strengthening Community Capacity & Connection

ACTIONS

1

- 1. Undertake a community asset and learning mapping activity to discover our community's skills and contributions and their learning aspirations through creation of a Task Team.**
Timeframe: Immediate
- 2. Promote the importance, achievements and stories of our local organisations and the need for community active support and participation, especially the local emergency services.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 3. Hold an annual Appreciation Dinner for our Emergency Services' and other volunteers.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 4. Create more opportunities to regularly hear our youth voices and their involvement with ECBaT.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 5. Create a local initiative (e.g., the RuMAD? Program) to encourage greater child and youth participation and citizenship.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 6. Restore Town Hall Meetings and regular community conversations.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 7. Introduce a Eudunda town volleyball competition.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 8. Utilise a range of local, regional, state and national programs, regularly identify and connect local individuals with leadership development opportunities. Building upon our successful 'Rural Ambassador Program', identify and connect more local young people with regional, state and national youth recognition and leadership development experiences.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 9. Organise regular first-aid training courses.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
- 10. Support the development of the foodbank facility at the Op Shop.**
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

ECBaT
RDCMC
RCG

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

EFHG
YAC
Community Hub
SACWA

RSL
Rural Aid
BOI

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Enhancing Tourism Potential

ACTIONS



1. Continue support for the Eudunda and Districts Tourism Strategy that identifies practical actions related to enhancing promotional initiatives, visitor accommodation, new attractions, operator networking, agri-tourism, trail tourism and customer service. A focus of our Strategy will be the development of additional tourism options via the corridor between Eudunda, Kapunda and Burra, focused on our heritage, arts, trails and Local Ngadjuri heritage.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
2. Support the development of our Eudunda Markets.
Timeframe: Short term
3. Expand the appeal of our Caravan Park by providing cabin accommodation.
Timeframe: Short term
4. Support the Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery to extend their facility to better store and display their impressive collection.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
5. Renew and print our key tourist flyers- Colin Thiele Drive, World's End Drive, Eudunda Caravan park; and develop new flyers related to Eudunda Caravan Park and self-drive trails of District cemeteries, renewables projects and the Eudunda to Morgan walking/riding trail.
Timeframe: Immediate
6. Continually add to the 'Goyder Goodness' visitor information pack including local discount vouchers.
Timeframe: Ongoing
7. Develop better connections with and promotion of Anlaby Station as a key local tourist destination, including improved road signage, website links and brochure distribution.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
8. Install an electric charging station in Eudunda.
Timeframe: Short term
9. Ensure Eudunda and Districts tourist brochures are available at all major regional tourism information outlets. And familiarisation with staff is an ongoing activity
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
10. Advocate strongly for the installation of an ATM in the main street.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

LEAD GROUPS

RCG
ECBaT
RDCMC
EFHG
Hub Committee

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

SALA
SART
RDA North Mid North

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Developing Community WOW Factor & Appeal

ACTIONS

3

1. Form a Task Team to undertake a 'first impressions and signage audit of our district.
Timeframe: Immediate
2. Form a Town Team to focus on the revamp of our Eudunda Mainstreet and its appeal, including the redevelopment of the top-end of town, lookout, carpark, historical interpretive signage and flood mitigation.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
3. Form a Task Team to focus on the reinvigoration of Eudunda and hamlet entrance statements.
Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing
4. Continue to support our community based public art projects including SALA, Stobie Pole Projects, mural cartoons etc.
Timeframe: Short term and ongoing
5. Protect and promote our heritage buildings and heritage façade appeal.
Timeframe: Short term and ongoing
6. Install lights at the Eudunda Silo Arts Project.
Timeframe: Immediate

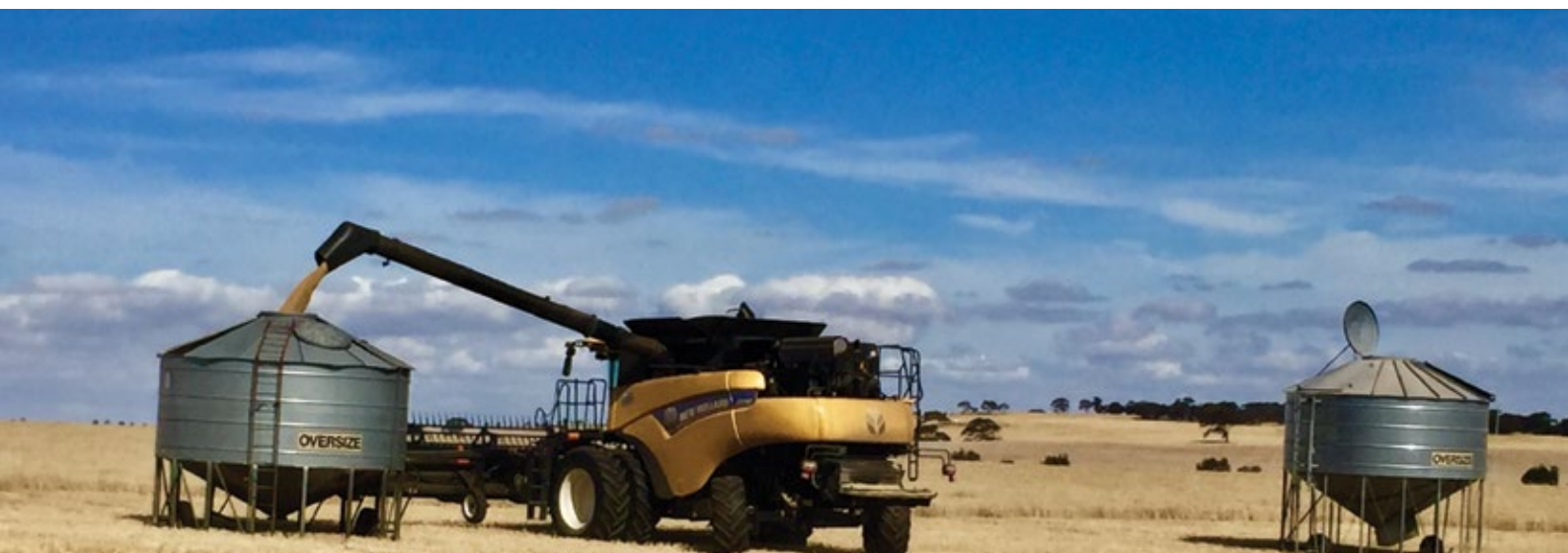
LEAD GROUPS

RCG
ECBaT
RDCMC

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Town Team Movement
EFHG

RDA North Mid North
SALA



Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four

Population Attraction Strategy

ACTIONS



1. Continue support for the 'Renewable Energy Projects', especially with its focus on supporting new accommodation and links to local business and employment opportunities.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

2. Develop a youth retention and attraction strategy including a mechanism to regularly keep in touch with former Eudunda and Districts youth residents, reminding them of current lifestyle and work opportunities.

Timeframe: Short term

3. Instigate a calendar of school, community organisation and sporting team reunions as a way of drawing former residents back to our Eudunda and Districts and as an opportunity to highlight current community prospects and assets.

Timeframe: Short term and ongoing

4. Continue to advocate for the implementation of the housing subdivision.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

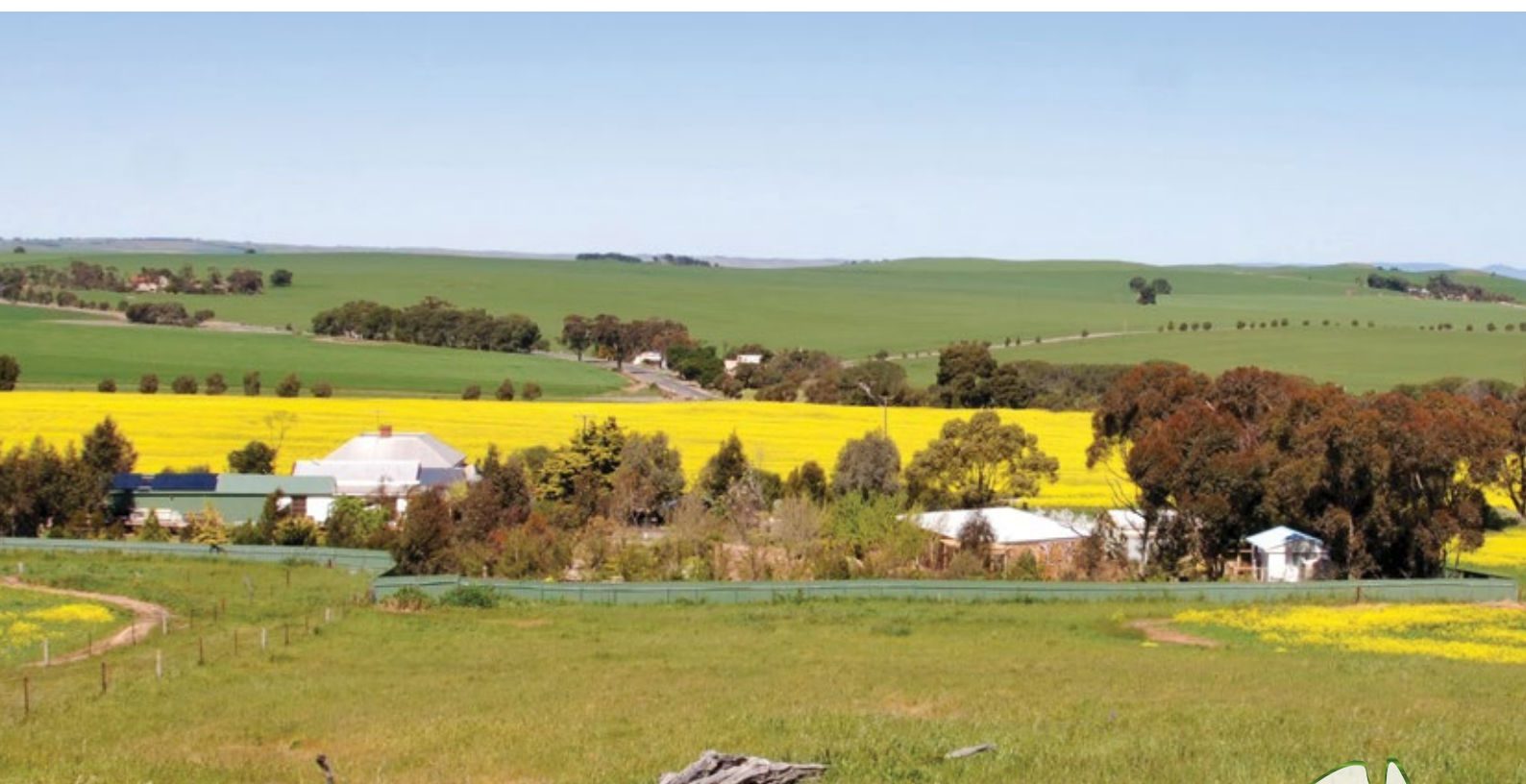
LEAD GROUP

ECBaT

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

RCG
EFHG
YAC

CASA
FRRR
SALA

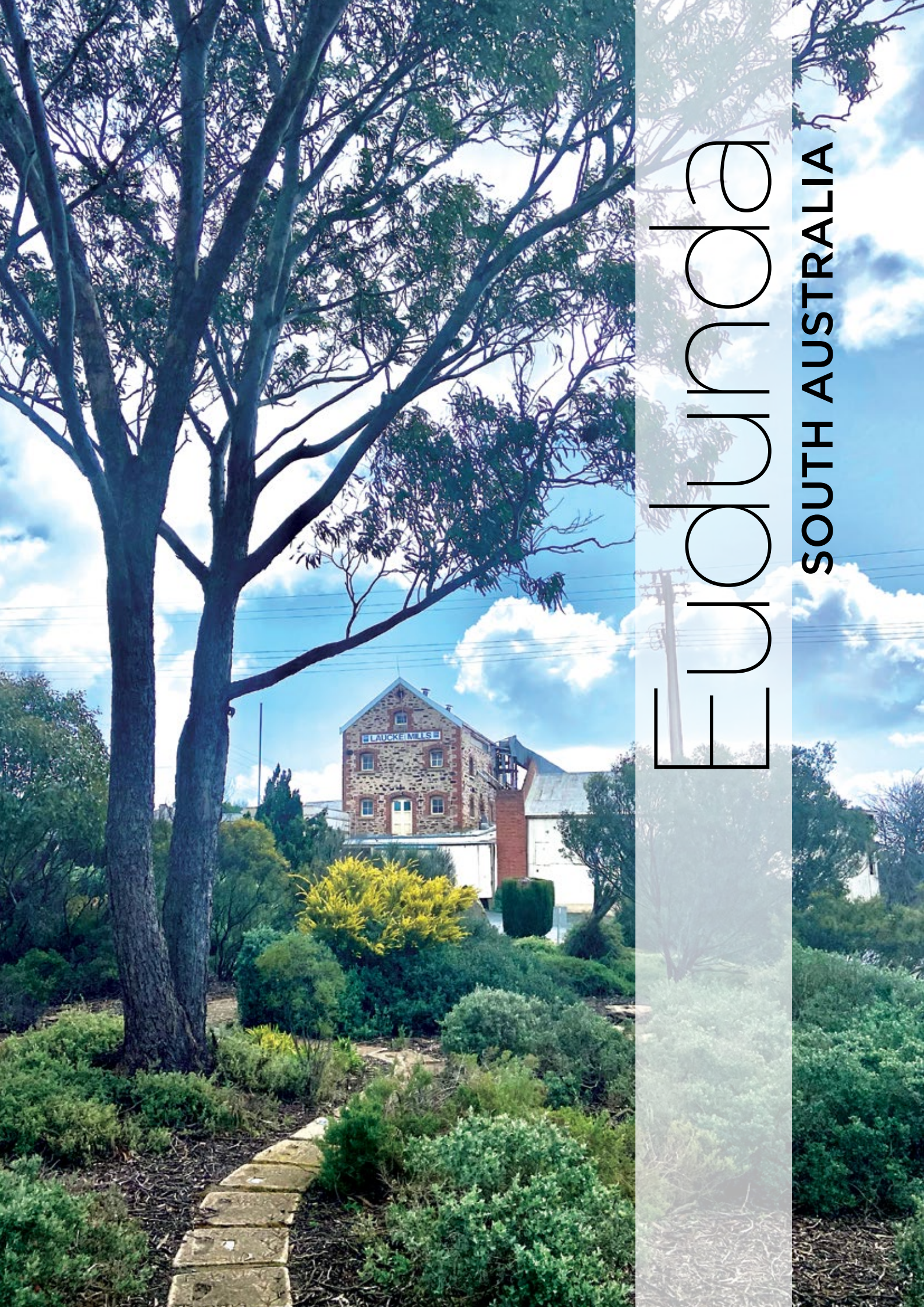


Abbreviations

BOI	Bank of I.D.E.A.S.
CASA	Country Arts SA
CFS	Country Fire service
ECBaT	Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee
EFHG	Eudunda Family Heritage Gallery
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
PIRSA	Department of Primary and Industries SA
RCG	Regional Council of Goyder
RDCMC	Robertstown & Districts Community Management
RSL	Committee Returned and Services League of Australia
SACWA	South Australian Country Women's Association
SALA	South Australian Living Arts
SART	South Australian Recreation Trails Inc
YAC	Youth Advisory Committee
YMNRDA	Yorke Mid North RDA







Eudunda

SOUTH AUSTRALIA