

Welcome to Ouyen!

A Handbook to Knowing Your Community



Ouyen



A warm welcome to Ouyen!

We hope that the information contained in this handbook will help you to settle into your new home and the community. Your neighbours will no doubt be welcoming and assist you as needed, but this handbook aims to help you find your way around local services and activities to enable you to connect with your new community when you first arrive.

The guide contains up-to-date and relevant information about the area. Other handy sources of information include:

- **Our website** - <https://ouyen.vic.au>
- **Our Facebook page** - <https://www.facebook.com/ouyen3490>
- **Ouyen Service Centre** (a division of Mildura Rural City Council), *79 Oke St, Ouyen*
- **Neighborhood House** (the community and social services division of Mallee Track Health and Community Service, local Hospital), *46 Oke St, Ouyen*
- **Ouyen and District Community Group (Facebook)**

We strive to be always improving and refining our resources to assist new residents to enjoy our community and really feel welcome as soon as possible. If you have any additional suggestions, or if you find anything that is no longer current or missing from this handbook, please reach out to us.

Welcome to your new home and community,

The Ouyen Inc. Committee



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Ouyen Inc. is our town's progress society. Some of our recent major projects and achievements include:

1. Building Ouyen Lake -

In 2013, the community identified an opportunity to improve the liveability and vibrancy of our town. The idea was to develop a disused dam, to create a new man-made recreational lake for community use.

Since then, approximately \$4 Million dollars of in-kind work has been donated, co-ordinated by Ouyen Inc, to create what we enjoy today.

Ouyen Lake is a favourite spot in town to:

- Enjoy a stroll, run or cycle around the Lake walking track.
- Try your luck at angling (with a reserve of fish topped up regularly), including from our floating pontoons.
- Enjoy the thrill of water sports including wakeboarding, canoeing, kayaking & water skiing
- Take a refreshing swim or dip in the water.
- Bird watching
- Attend events and festivals like, Mother's Day Classic fun run, Mallee Root Festival, Wake board championships, just to name a few.
- BBQ Facilities, toilets, and playground, ideal for any celebration, day or night



2. Establishing Ouyen Community Gym

Back in 2016 the Ouyen community identified a need to create more livable spaces to exercise, and socialist. Ouyen Inc purchased a disused grocery building.

Thousands of hours of volunteer working bees, and donated tradesperson hours to create a community run, and community owned non-for-profit 24-7 access gym (including group fitness classes).

Ouyen Inc. strives to progress and improve Ouyen via the following objectives:

- To provide opportunities for all Ouyen residents and visitors.
- To encourage economic and social growth for Ouyen's future.
- To provide an enviable lifestyle in Ouyen.
- To provide representation for the Ouyen Community to Local Government (Mildura Rural City Council) and other regulatory bodies.
- To encourage visitors through the integrated development of tourism possibilities and special events
- To create incentives for community leadership and cohesion
- To preserve and promote local heritage and environmental assets.

You do **not** need to be a business owner to contribute and join!

Joining Ouyen Inc. or other local community groups is a great way to meet new friends, and to really appreciate the charming culture of comradery that we cherish in Ouyen.

Our Ouyen Inc. meetings are held:

Where: At The Ouyen Service Centre (Division of Mildura Rural City Council), 79 Oke St, Ouyen

When: 7PM on the first Monday of each month

The Ouyen Inc committee are contactable via:

1. Email: ouyeninc@ouyen.vic.au
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ouyen3490>
3. Website: <https://ouyen.vic.au>
4. At our monthly committee meetings as per above.

What our residents say about living in Ouyen:

What our residents say:

- *Ouyen is so incredibly special because of its tightknit community. It is easy to make friends. You can easily be booked out every evening with social engagements and committees. If this is not for you, it is just as easily to simply enjoy the tranquillity that comes with life in a small town. The choice is entirely yours!*

What our residents say:

- *I have never felt so safe. Everyone looks after each other. There is so little crime.*

What our residents say:

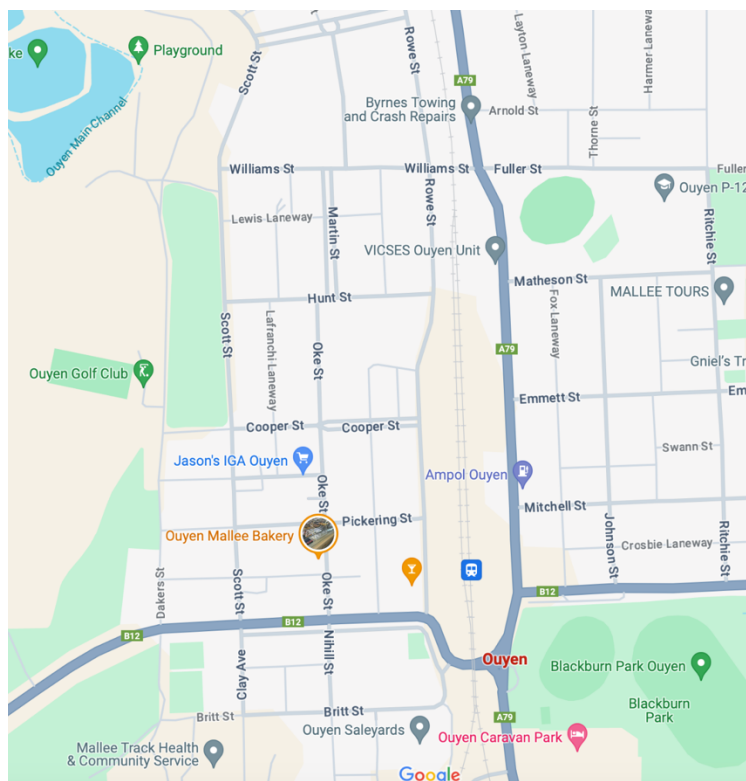
- *Ouyen is really a place of huge opportunity. It is a great place to set up a business.*

Where we live.

Ouyen (pronounced "ohh yen") is a small country town located in rural Victoria (population ~1,000).

We are situated 441km North-West of Melbourne, at the crossroads of the Calder Highway (Melbourne-Mildura) and the Mallee Highway (Sydney-Adelaide). The closest regional centres are Mildura, 110km to the North, and Swan Hill, 150km to the East.

Map – Ouyen, Vic



An initiative of **OUYEN Inc.** (progress society)
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Town History

The township of Ouyen was established in 1906. The construction of a railway station saw Ouyen grow, particularly attracting farms tending sheep, wheat, barley and oats. To today, sheep and wheat remain the town's largest industry.

The Mallee Root is a symbol of our town as it represents the hardiness, tenacity, and spirit of our people. The populous Mallee root (eucalypt lignotuber) is known as a hardy plant that is difficult and stubborn to uproot, even when exposed to prolonged drought conditions. Like the Mallee Root, our community withstands and prospers even in the face of diversity.



There is even a tribute to the Mallee Root at Ouyen Blackburn Park, where Australia's largest Mallee stump sits on display.

Modern day life

These days, Ouyen's main industries include:

1. **Dry land agriculture** (farming of wheat, barley) and sheep grazing
2. **Health** (due to the local Mallee Track Health and Community Service Hospital which services the broader region)
3. **Education** (due to the local P-12 College that services the broader region)

Ouyen is also famous for its "Mallee Prime Lamb", renowned for its tenderness and flavour. Local Ouyen farmers come to the Ouyen Livestock Exchange to sell >250,000 head of sheep and lambs every year for distribution nationwide, and export internationally.

Ouyen's community culture is renowned for being warm, friendly and proactive at creating a better town. Some examples of the Ouyen's enviable community spirit include the ability to co-ordinate the construction of the **Ouyen Lake** and the **Ouyen Community Gym**. Both are real Mallee success stories; project instigated and driven by the community to improve our town's liveability, and vibrancy!

Local community representatives (Government electorates and Councils)

Local council: Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC)

Victorian State voting electorate: State electorate of Mildura

Federal voting electorate: Mallee









Community activities, clubs and events






As a newcomer, getting involved in committees and clubs is a fantastic way to meet new friends and really experience the Ouyen culture of comradery. Below is a list of some clubs and committees available to join in Ouyen.

There are additionally many other clubs to join in nearby towns of Walpeup, Underbool, Pachewollock, Tempy, Speed and Manangatang. These clubs in these nearby towns are not included in this guide.

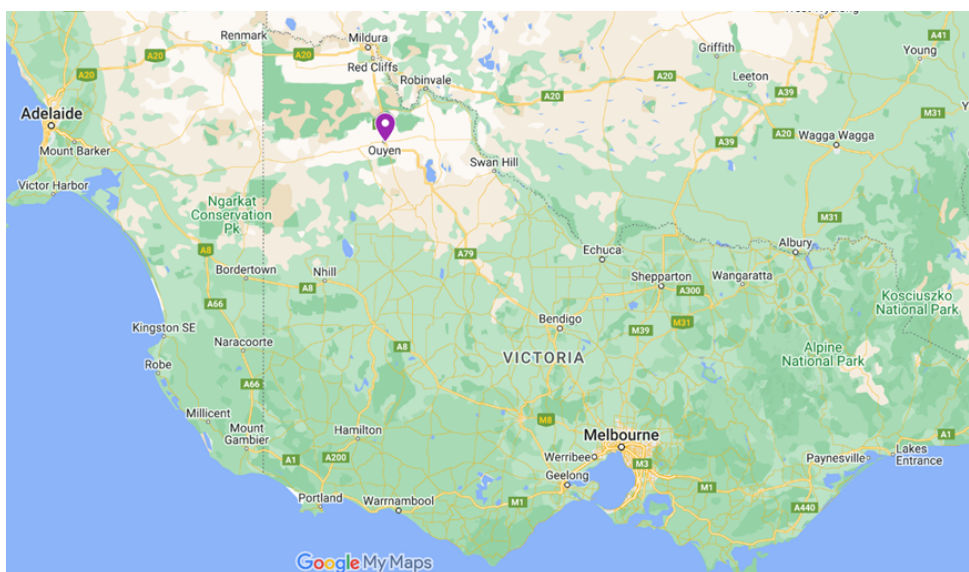
 Please join on Facebook **“Ouyen and District Community Events”** where many groups post their updates.

If you are having difficulties contacting the clubs directly, please contact Neighbourhood House, Mildura Rural City Council rooms or Ouyen Inc committee for assistance.

Parent/toddler playgroup	
Mallee Tree Playgroup	ouyen.vic.au
Sporting & Recreation	
Ouyen Anglers Club 	ouyen.vic.au
Ouyen District Basketball Association 	ouyenbasketball@gmail.com
Ouyen Bowls Club 	1 – 5 Farrell St Ouyen 03 50921402 ouyenbowlsclub@gmail.com
Ouyen Rams Cricket Club 	viney_5@hotmail.com dom.leach@gmail.com
Ouyen United Football Netball Club (AFL) – “Kangas” 	www.ouyenunitedfnc.com.au
Ouyen Golf Club 	0350921068 www.ouyengolfclub.com.au
Ouyen Community Gym 	ouyengym.com.au 0478 272 495
Ouyen Harness Racing Club	0407708987 ohrc@bigpond.com
Ouyen Lawn Tennis Club 	042856928 secretary@ouyentennis.com.au
Water Exercise Class	MTHCS - 0350921111
Hobby/Special interest	
Ouyen District Brass Band	ouyen.vic.au
Mallee Garden Club	ouyen.vic.au

Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre Inc	history@ouyen.vic.au PO Box 131 Ouyen Vic 3490 Open 9.30 am – 4.00 pm Fridays or by appointment
Mallee Landcare Group	itokawyle@bigpond.com
Mallee Mudlarks Community Singing	ouyen.vic.au
Ouyen Sew for Charity	ouyen.vic.au
Mallee Drifters Car Club	itokawyle@bigpond.com
Ouyen District Men's Shed	0408 121 934
Ouyen Mallee Motorcycle Club	0409 889 001
Community/Volunteer	
Country Fire Association (CFA)	ouyen.vic.au
Lions Club Ouyen 	PO Box 111, Ouyen, Vic 3490, Australia
Ouyen Inc. 	ouyeninc@ouyen.vic.au
SES	0429399049
Ouyen Neighborhood House 	0350922557
Roxy Theatre Ouyen 	ouyen.vic.au
60+	
Probus	ouyen.vic.au
Uniting Guild ladies	ouyen.vic.au
Community events	
Mallee Root Festival (family festival event) 	www.malleeroot.au
OMMC Trinita Enduro (motorbike racing)	ouyen.vic.au
Ouyen Pacing Cup (harness horse racing)	ouyen.vic.au
Mother's Day Classic (fun run at the Ouyen Lake)	ouyen.vic.au

Getting about



		Phone/Fax
Henty Highway Bus	Horsham-Ouyen-Mildura Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays	Phone: 5023 7500 Mobile: 0427865379
Bus Biz Swan Hill	Ouyen - Mildura Leaves from Community Park Oke St Tuesday & Friday	Phone: 03 50321068
V/Line	Sydney – Adelaide Daily Adelaide – Sydney Daily	www.vline.com.au Tickets Available Heenan's Ampol Roadhouse 03 50921340
V/Line	Bendigo-Swan Hill- Mildura Melbourne-Ballarat- Donald- Mildura Every day	www.vline.com.au Tickets Available Heenan's Ampol Roadhouse 03 50921340

Household waste and recycling

Households within Mildura Rural City Council, including Ouyen, are serviced by a kerbside bin service. There is a 4-bin system designed to help manage waste by sorting materials and reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

Check your bin collection days here:

<https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Explore/My-Neighbourhood>

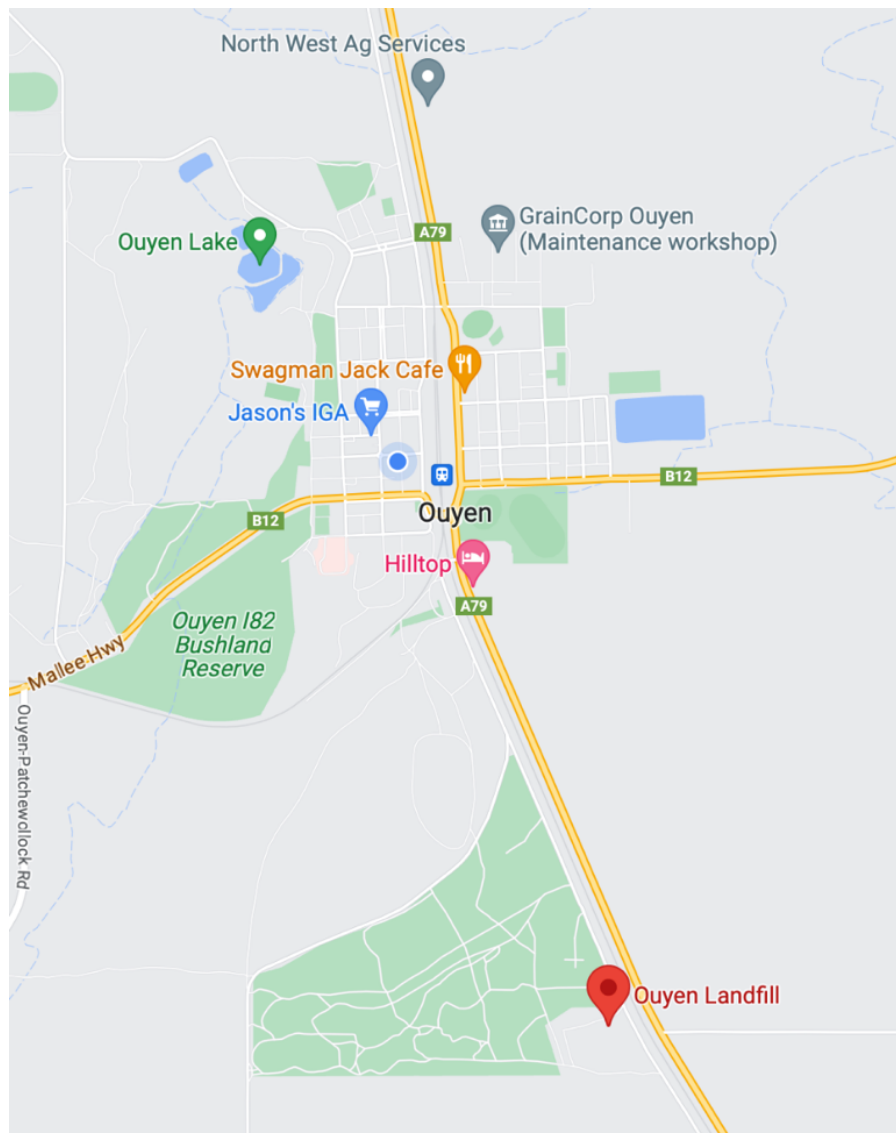


Thrift shops, and op-shops are a great way to recycle and reduce waste in our community. There are two op-shops that service Ouyen:

- Good as New Community Op Shop – Oke St Ouyen
- Salvation Army – Farrell St Ouyen (Calder Hwy)

Additionally, there is a local Ouyen Tip as per below. See the Ouyen Tip website to find out opening.

<https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Waste-and-Recycling/Landfills-Transfer-Stations/Ouyen-Landfill>



Local services

- **Mildura Rural City Council Service Centre** (79 Oke St, Ouyen)– 03 5018 8600
 - **Library** – located at MRCC Service Centre – 8.30 am – 5.00pm
 - Visiting services:
 - **Accountant**
 - **Solicitors**
 - **Immunisations**
 - **Vic Roads**
 - **Pet registration**
- **Neighbourhood House** – 03 50922557
- **Hospital** (Mallee Track Health and Community Service) MTHCS –03 5092 1111
- **Medical Clinic** (Mallee Track Health and Community Service) – 03 5092 1168
- **Mildura Base Hospital** (MBPH) – 03 5022 3333
- **Dentist** – Tankards – 03 50 92 1121
- **Pharmacy** – 03 5092 2542
- **Bank – National Australia Bank (NAB)** - 50902297
- **Ouyen P – 12 College** – 03 50921182
- **Ouyen Pre-school** – 03 50921347
- **Mallee Minors Child Care** – 03 50921077
- **Vets** (visiting) – Mildura Veterinary Hospital – 03 50233838
 - Trotting Track, Hughes Street, Ouyen every fortnight
- **Police** – 03 50922502 - 000
- **Leisure Centre and sports facilities**
 - **Community Gym** – 0478 272495
 - **Public Pool** – 0350921508
- **Maternal & Child Health care** (run by Mildura Rural City Council) - 03 5092 1436
- **Newspaper** – Northwest Express, available for purchase each Wednesday
- **Social committee and clubs** - *see above.*
- **Local businesses** – *see below.*

Local faith groups

- **Catholic Church**, St Joseph's, 92 Oke Street, Ouyen, ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au
- **Assembly of God**, New Life Christian Church, 23 Oke S, Ouyen, (Kevin Beadle kevinfbeadle@bigpond.com)
- **Uniting and Anglican Churches**, Central Mallee Co-Operative, Cnr Hunt St & Martin Ave, malleemission@outlook.com
















Local business


We have all the essentials, and then some! Supermarket, hardware store, pharmacy, clothes and giftware shops and a few op-shops. We have places to eat, places to get take-away, places to get coffee, and places to have a beer.

We have basically all the trades you could ever need. Plumbing, electrical, building, welding, carpentry and more. And plenty of services too from cleaning to gardening, from to catering to embroidery and more.

Check out our **Ouyen & District Community Calendar** as it has contact details of many of the local and surrounding businesses.

Otherwise, connect with **Ouyen Inc** or **Neighbourhood House** to get pointed in the right direction as some businesses do not have a physical shop in town. A non-exhaustive list is below:

Grocery	
IGA supermarket	
Butcher	North West Butchers 
Bakery	Ouyen Mallee Bakery 
Health & beauty	
Pharmacy	Ouyen Pharmacy 
Hairdresser	Hair On Oke 
Beautician (nails, and cosmetic)	Beauty Dept. 
Cosmetic injectables (botox)	Bloom Skin Lab 
Food and Beverage	
Ouyen Mallee Bakery	Coffee, hot food, cakes 
Ouyen Community Club	Chinese and Western foods, bar service 
Victoria Hotel Ouyen Pub	Thai and Western, bar service 
The Taste Lab – Street Kitchen and Eatery	Coffee, burgers 
United Pie Face petrol station	Pies, coffee, Indian
Heenan's Ampol Roadhouse	Burgers, pizza, kebabs, coffee
Retail	
Clothing, florist, giftware	May's On Oke 
Pharmacy	Ouyen Pharmacy 
Hardware	Poole's House and Hardware 

Whitegoods	Gregg's Electrical
Post Office	
Op-Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good As New Community Op-Shop • Salvation Army Op Shop
Motor vehicle	
Tyres	Ouyen Tyre Centre
Mechanic	Ouyen Auto & Electrical
Car wash	Spic Span Carwash 
Trades	
Electrical	Gregg's Laser Electrical
Electrical	Pengelly Electrical (PENELEC)
Plumbing	Ouyen District Plumbing Services
Plumbing	Pengelly Plumbing
Handy Man	Henry Higgins
Upholstery	Ms Pat Higgins
Garden	Mark West
Garden	Henry Higgins
Builder	Ryan Vallance Construction
Carpenter	Braidan Pohlner
Concreting and earth works	Jason Morrish – Ouyen Mix & Hire
Welding	RTG Welding
Agricultural suppliers	
North West Ag	
Elders	
Nutrien Ag	
O'Connors	
Miscellaneous	
Tourism	Mallee Tours
Funeral director	Lorna Keam funerals
Post Office	
Bank	National Australia Bank

Emergency - Point of Last Resort

- **Point of Last Resort** – Blackburn Park, Farrell St, Ouyen
- **Emergency broadcaster** –
 - ABC Mildura / Swan Hill FM – 104.3
 - ABC Wimmera – AM 594