



DROUIN CIVIC PARK MASTER PLAN

March 2017



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1. Context

1.1 Baw Baw Shire

Baw Baw Shire has an area of over 4,000 square kilometres and is located within West Gippsland, approximately 100 kilometres east of Melbourne.¹ The Shire is named after the major geographical feature in the region, Mount Baw Baw.

The municipality was formed in 1994 when Buln Buln and Narracan Shires, the Rural City of Warragul and some parts of the Shire of Upper Yarra amalgamated.²

The Shire is bordered by the Strzelecki Ranges in the south and the Great Dividing Range to the north. Amongst the lush rolling hills and agricultural setting, sits the majority of the compact population centers, most being located close to the Princes Highway and the railway line.

Baw Baw Shire has a distinctive and picturesque landscape, which is comprised of several major landforms. Three distinct landscape character regions are identifiable in the Shire:

- High alpine environments and herb fields of the Great Dividing Range and the wet forest slopes and foothills of the Great Dividing Range, which form part of the Northern uplands
- Extensive rolling to flat pastures surrounding the Princes Highway corridor, which are part of the Moe River plains extending to low flats that adjoin with the Koo Wee Rup swamps to the south-west that are part of the Central lowlands
- The Strzelecki Ranges, which are part of the Southern uplands.³

Baw Baw Shire has an estimated population of over 46,500 (as of 2015) and is currently experiencing rapid residential growth with a 2.89 per cent annual growth rate between 2006 and 2011 (which equates to 5,806 people).⁴ The Shire's youth (0-15 year olds) make up 20% of the population whilst the senior demographic (65+ years) make up almost 17%.⁵

Population modelling has predicted the shire will continue growing at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent to reach 60,452 by 2026 and over 71,000 residents by 2036.⁶

1 www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
 2 Baw Baw Shire Heritage Study Volume 1: Thematic Environmental History
 3 Baw Baw Shire Heritage Study Volume 1: Thematic Environmental History
 4 www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw
 5 www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw
 6 www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw

1.2 Drouin

Drouin is located approximately 100 kilometres from Melbourne between Longwarry and Warragul. It is the second largest town within Shire with a population of 9,686 (as at 30 June 2011) that is set to increase with the acceleration of housing developments in the area.¹

Drouin is situated amongst rich agricultural land and undulating hills allowing for scenic views. During the summer months, the gum trees (*Corymbia ficifolia*) that line the major street of Drouin come into flower, filling the town with colour. The town hosts an annual Ficidad Festival in February that celebrates the street trees.²

The commercial centre is located around Princes Highway and the Drouin Railway Station. The Civic Park adjoins the northern end of the town's commercial centre and is set in a picturesque valley, complete with a lake, rotunda and recreational facilities.

The Civic Park is also home to The Drouin Craft and Produce Market.

1 www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw
 2 www.travelvictoria.com.au/drouin



13 Historical Context*

Baw Baw Shire lands belongs to the Brayakoloong Kurnai people. Baw Baw is the Kurnai language word meaning Southern Boobook owl. Buln Buln is the Kurnai language used for a Lyrebird.

During the 1830s and 1850s explorers, such as McMillan and Strzelecki, opened up Gippsland but the difficult terrain and dense forest prevented any significant settlement occurring. It wasn't until the 1850s that satisfactory stock routes were found, paving the way for land selection in the current Baw Baw Shire.

After the railway opened in 1878, a township was surveyed at Drouin Junction, soon known as Drouin.¹ What was a dense forest within the Gippsland Hills became an important resource as timber was milled and transported by train to Melbourne to supply the capital with building materials.

As much of the landscape was cleared of trees due to forestry, dairying became the main industry of the town which remains the major agricultural pursuit in the Shire of Baw Baw today.

In 1878, the Buln Buln Shire was formed with the administrative centre located in Drouin.

The following is an excerpt from the *Australian handbook* in 1887 giving an insight into the township of Drouin after settlement:

“Drouin, a township 444 feet above sea level in the county of Buln Buln, 56 miles E. from Melbourne and a railway station on the Gippsland line, fares 9s. 3d. and 6s. 3d. It has a money-order, savings bank and telegraph office. The Buln Buln Shire offices, a police station, court of petty sessions, a State school (No. 1,951), branches of the Australiasia, Commercial and Federal Banks, and a large mechanic;s hall with a library of 750 vols. are here. The hotels are numerous and good - Hardware’s, Sutcliffe’s, Daws’, Royal, and Mrs Cooke’s Temperance, among others. The Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Scotch bodies have churches. Drouin is the centre of a vast population, who from the nature of the county have to make it their market town and their railway station. Timber is great quantities are sent to Melbourne, both as firewood and sawn. Numerous saw mills are at work in the vicinity. There is little doubt that if the proposed tramway is made it will pay, for the supply of first-class timber of every description is unlimited, and as the old forests of the Plenty and Bullarook show signs of a decreasing supply, Jindivick, Poowong and Neerim will take their place. The Gippsland Independent is published at Drouin. Population 418 (Census 1881).”

A history of Civic Park was prepared by Judy Farmer and the Committee for Drouin and is included in Appendix A.



* Council has been made aware of an anomaly in the Historical data which will be reviewed separately and adjusted as required.
1 www.victorianplaces.com.au/drouin

14 Strategic Context

Baw Baw 2050 Community Vision

Baw Baw 2050 is an optimistic and aspirational community developed vision of the Shire's future. The document outlines the future directions the Shire must take in order to achieve their vision, such as:

- Managing growth: managing significant population growth without threatening the Shire's natural resources, landscapes and vistas and taking into consideration the agricultural and biological productivity of the municipality.
- Lifelong learning, education, skills development and knowledge: providing information and communication technology and developing collaborative partnerships between education providers to provide an accessible, high quality and varied range of learning opportunities.
- Vibrant community living: providing a vibrant community spaces and programs that enables social connections and opportunities between all ages and cultures in Baw Baw Shire.
- Valuing the Environment: Preserving the quality, productivity and beauty of the landscape that is fundamental to the municipality's quality of life, business, income and food.
- Building responsible leadership: establishing a culture of conversation and a common vision in collaboration between leaders and the community.
- Building prosperity: Continue encourage creativity, innovation, research and technology advancements, the key drivers of local employment and prosperity.

During the consultation, respondents ranked health and wellbeing as the most important issue affecting the shire and cited parks and community facilities important assets for the community in terms of health and wellbeing.

Being Healthy in Baw Baw: Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

This plan provides a guideline for Council and community action in Baw Baw over the next four year in regards to public health and wellbeing. It also presents strategies that demonstrate how proposed actions will be implemented with other community partners.

Some of the key objectives of the plan include:

- Develop a more inclusive community
- Improve social connections
- Support community members through all life stages
- Lead initiatives that build a local healthy, accessible food system
- Increase physical activity
- Create healthier environments

Council Plan 2013-2017

The Council Plan represents a guideline for the Council, and describes the key priorities that Council will focus on between 2013 and 2017 as identified by the Council and as expressed by the community representatives who participated in Baw Baw 2050.

The main principles for the plan include:

- Be financially sustainable and live within the means of the community.
- Equitably address community needs, considering all sections and areas of the community.
- Effectively communicate and engage with the community.
- Advocate to and form partnerships with other authorities and the community, to achieve outcomes for the community.
- Be transparent and accountable.

Proposed actions of the plan include renewing and upgrading shire public toilets and amenities.

Drouin Town Centre Strategy, 2010

The objectives of this strategy are to develop a vision for the future of the Drouin Town Centre for the next 15-20 years. The strategy will guide the development and change in land use, built form public space and transport management to create a sustainable town centre.

In terms of the relevance to Civic Park, the following actions were recommended:

- Upgrading toilet facilities to improve safety and aesthetics
- Provide key pedestrian links to and from the park.
- Provide bicycle hoops to encourage cycling to, from and within the park.
- Continue to maintain Civic Park as a regional and local recreation space.
- Maintain the variety of open space experiences
- Upgrade the soundshell to encourage its use as a performance space.
- Consider providing playground facilities for children on the Young Street side of the park.
- Provide additional tree planting and seating along the Two Towns Trail.

The Public Open Space Strategy 2014

The Public Open Space Strategy 2014 was prepared for the entire Baw Baw municipality, with particular emphasis on the major and main towns of the municipality, including Drouin. In relation to both existing and new development, the strategy identifies the needs of the community, how much and where public open space is needed and how it should be designed and developed.

The strategy contains three key principles for planning public open space:

- Provide adequate public open space in the right places,
- To use high quality land that will be suitable for the intended public recreation use, and
- To design and develop the public open space in a way that maximises community benefit from the place.

The strategy also discusses designing and developing public open space, stating that parks must be designed to be fit for its intended purpose, to be functional and attractive and ultimately it must be designed for people.

General principles are that public open space must:

- Provide for a range of different community recreational needs and activities and multi-use spaces and contribute to a sense of place.
- Be designed and developed so that it can be used for its intended purpose, including facilities and infrastructure.
- Be sustainably and economically designed and managed with good orientation and respond to site characteristics.
- Be safe with good surveillance and provide opportunities for all community members in accordance with Universal Design principles.
- Include appropriate facilities and infrastructure.
- Take account of and appropriately respond to cultural heritage values.
- Respond to biodiversity conservation values and needs providing habitat and encouragement of native flora and fauna.

The community open space needs assessment which was conducted for the Public Open Space Strategy identified some key open space facilities that are of a high priority, but are currently considered to be in a generally poor condition. The top five priorities as identified by the community comprise: public toilets, recycling bins, lighting, seating, shelters.

Community feedback indicated a range of open space improvements that would increase usage rates of public open space. The top five priorities as identified by the community comprise: walking and cycling paths, toilets, more facilities generally, dog friendly areas, and maintenance.

Baw Baw Shire Municipal Early Years Plan, 2015-2018

The Municipal Early Years Plan articulates Council's roles in service and infrastructure provision, planning, advocacy and community capacity building for children aged 0-8 years and their families. This enables Council to make informed decisions, and develop and evaluate the early years services, activities and facilities delivered by different Council departments.

The plan has relevant strategies that cover:

- Engaging families in the planning for social infrastructure, such as parks, playgrounds and pools, so that the needs of children are considered.
- Provision of safe, accessible play spaces that are appropriate for children aged 0 – 8 years.

Baw Baw Shire Council Disability Action Plan 2013-2017

Baw Baw Council has legal and community obligations under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) (1992) to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the same opportunities to become active and engaged citizens. Council has a range of roles in delivering services to its local community, and must ensure the needs of people with disabilities are considered at all levels. The Disability Action Plan consists of four key objectives each supported by a series of objectives that will turn each objective into reality:

- Accessible Community - Reduce barriers to people with disabilities accessing goods, services and facilities
- Inclusive Community - Ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities to participate in lifestyle choices across the Shire.
- Informed Community - Ensure communication works two ways to empower all.
- Equitable Community - Ensure that all people are able to gain equitable access to appropriate and responsive services

NOTE: Baw Baw Shire is a child safe organisation. This masterplan has been developed with several child safety standards in mind.

2 Existing Conditions

21 Observations



22 Existing Tree Assessment

An arboricultural assessment of the following trees was completed by JR's Tremendous Landscapes in September



1. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 20m tall, 8m wide, 47cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
2. **Lemon Scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*)**
Size: 17m tall, 10m wide, 55cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
3. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 23m tall, 15m wide, 81cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
4. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 24m tall, 15m wide, 85cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
5. **Lemon Scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*)**
Size: 17m tall, 9m wide, 57cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average-poor, Risk Categorisation: Low
6. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 24m tall, 17m wide, 79cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
7. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 24m tall, 15m wide, 81cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
8. **Liquidamber (*Liquidamber styraciflua*)**
Size: 18m tall, 10m wide, 58cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average
Risk Categorisation: Moderate
9. **Pink Oak (*Quercus palustris*)**
Size: 12m tall, 10m wide, 46cm DBH, 30+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
10. **Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)**
Size: 15m tall, 19m wide, 74cm DBH, 45+ years old
Health condition: Good, Risk Categorisation: Low
11. **Queensland Box Brush (*Lophostemon confertus*)**
Size: 12m tall, 12m wide, 56 cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
12. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 17m tall, 12m wide, 71cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
13. **Golden Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Lutescens')**
Size: 16m tall, 22m wide, 66cm DBH, 30+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Moderate
14. **Pink Oak (*Quercus palustris*)**
Size: 17m tall, 18m wide, 59cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
15. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 22m tall, 14m wide, 73cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
16. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 22m tall, 16m wide, 67cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
17. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 24m tall, 12m wide, 54cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
18. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 28m tall, 13m wide, 82cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
19. **Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)**
Size: 25m tall, 11m wide, 56cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
20. **Liquidamber (*Liquidamber styraciflua*)**
Size: 19m tall, 17m wide, 69cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Moderate
21. **Liquidamber (*Liquidamber styraciflua*)**
Size: 17m tall, 15m wide, 59cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
22. **Smooth-barked Apple Gum (*Angophora costata*)**
Size: 17m tall, 10m wide, 47cm DBH, 30+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
23. **Smooth-barked Apple Gum (*Angophora costata*)**
Size: 19m tall, 10m wide, 46cm DBH, 30+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
24. **Smooth-barked Apple Gum (*Angophora costata*)**
Size: 14m tall, 13m wide, 50cm DBH, 30+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
25. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 16m tall, 13m wide, 57cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average-Poor
Risk Categorization: **High - to be removed**
26. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 23m tall, 12m wide, 61cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average-Poor
Risk Categorization: Low
27. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 15m tall, 7m wide, 45cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average-Poor
Risk Categorization: **High - to be removed**
28. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 17m tall, 9m wide, 48cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average-Poor, Risk Categorisation: Low
29. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 16m tall, 16m wide, 66cm DBH, 35+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low
30. **River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*)**
Size: 21m tall, 10m wide, 61cm DBH, 25+ years old
Health condition: Average, Risk Categorisation: Low



3. Community Consultation

3.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1

The following activities have been completed in the development of the Master Plan.

- Meeting with Council staff to discuss site and operational issues and opportunities
- Initial meeting the community and stakeholders to discuss the key issues and opportunities.
- Community survey and feedback form.
- Community 'drop in' event including a walking tour of the park and to share their opinions

The following is a summary of the responses received in the community survey and feedback form along with issues raised during the 'drop in' event.

What activities do you currently use the parks for?

• Fitness and recreation

A number of respondents stated that they used Civic Park for fitness and recreation including walking, walking the dog and group fitness activities.

• Social activities

Numerous respondents discussed using the park for social gathering and events such as BBQs, picnics and meeting up with family and friends.

• Events

Visiting the park for events, performances, markets and festivals was a key theme raised during the consultation.

• Children's play

Many respondents mentioned visiting the parks with children and using the open space and playgrounds.

• Open space

A number of respondents stated that they visited the park to take advantage of the open space, flora and fauna.

What do you like about the park?

• Open space and natural elements

Access to open space, flora and fauna, shade, water, fresh air, trees, changes in topography were popular answers as to what the community liked about the park.

• Recreation opportunities.

Many respondents stated that they like that open space provides for unstructured recreational and physical activity. The walking paths are also a popular feature of the park.

• Park facilities and amenities

The park's facilities and features such as BBQs, public art, gardens and playgrounds are well liked by the community. Respondents also commented positively on the park providing amenity for events, markets, weddings, gatherings with family and friends

• Clean and well maintained civic space

Many respondents commented on enjoying visiting the park as it is always cleaned and well maintained.

What would you like to see improved?

• Additional planting and trees

Many respondents commented on the desire for more plantings in keeping with the current palette and for trees that provide shade, maintain views and encourage local fauna.

• Improved safety

The desire to improve the level of comfort and perceived safety within the park was raised by a number of respondents.

• Improved playspace

Improving and upgrading the playspace was mentioned by a large number of respondents. This could include new equipment for all age groups, additional shade, seating and protection from nearby pond and roads.

• Improved facilities

Many respondents stated that park facilities such as seating, shade, shelter, fountains and toilets needed upgrading.

• Improved drainage

Drainage issues were raised by many respondents who stated that many areas within the park became inaccessible due to poor drainage, particularly in winter.

• Improved path connections and accessibility

Providing additional connections to park facilities and features and ensuring paths were accessible and usable in all weather was raised by a number of respondents.

• Improved water feature

Many respondents commented on the requirement to improve the pond through additional planting and path connections.

• Dog off leash zones

The issue of dogs off leash was raised by respondents. Many stated the desire to see the park exclude dogs whilst others would like to see the whole park become a dog off leash zone.

Are there any features that should be added?

The following list provides a summary of the additional features that could be included in the park:

- Facilities such as shade, shelters, toilets, bins, fountains
- Planting and trees
- Additional accessible, all weather paths for walking and riding, particularly to park facilities
- New playground including more swings, nature and adventure play
- Interpretive signs including historical and aboriginal stories
- Wayfinding, including directions to park facilities
- Exercise stations
- Dog off leash zone
- Local art including sculptures and mosaics
- Improved access to electricity for markets and events
- Sensory and edible plantings
- Improved car parking, especially for market days
- Space for outdoor learning
- Sensory paths, paths for contemplation
- Terrace seating for events at the Soundshell



3.2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Phase 2

Activities during the second phase of consultation included a drop-in event, stakeholder engagement an online survey and written submissions. The objectives of this phase of consultation was to allow the community the opportunity to provide feedback and contribute to the Draft Master Plan.

Baw Baw Shire Council hosted a well attended consultation day providing the community the opportunity to discuss the development of the Drouin Civic Park Master Plan. In addition, a total of 92 responses were received via the online survey. Refer to Appendix B for a summary of the responses.

This phase of the community and stakeholder engagement provided the project team with a number of recommendations in the development of the Master Plan.

Responses to the Draft Masterplan

The following key themes emerged during this phase of consultation:

- **Playground**

Respondents strongly supported the proposal of a new playground that catered to a range of ages and abilities. There was however concern that a new playground would be constructed in Warragul first when Drouin needed the playground upgrade more. A couple of residents noted that there are safety issues between kids in the playground and bikes on the trail and that consideration of fencing or other buffers should be considered in any upgrade. Provision of shade was also raised as an important consideration. The potential for including water play or a splash pad within the playspace was also raised by a significant number of respondents.

- **Trail network**

There was strong support for the expansion of the trail network within the park. It was suggested that additional paths be added behind the soundshell from the rotunda to the path, around the edge of the Centenary wall and from the deck area at the Shire offices to the car park. It was also suggested that different materials, colours or textures could be used for different paths (such as recycled plastic or rubber).

- **Furniture**

The inclusion of additional seating with back rests and arms, bike racks, BBQs, shelters, bins and water fountains, particularly under shelters and trees was raised by a number of respondents. Respondents also suggested that proposed furniture could be made of recycled materials (such as recycled plastic).

- **Car parking**

The proposed upgrades to car parking was strongly supported by respondents. It was noted that the existing trees to the Edward St car park be taken into consideration in any upgrade works. Respondents also raised concerns about the car park encroaching too far into the park.

- **Cascades**

The cascades were strongly supported by the community however there are concerns about how they would be implemented and the cost implications. It was suggested that long terraces be cut into the hill in alongside the cascades.

- **Event lawn**

The establishment of an event lawn was supported by respondents. It was suggested that tree planting is required for shade and that tiered seating could be added.

- **Friends of Drouin**

Respondents suggested that a Friends of Drouin group should be started.

- **Art and sculpture**

It was suggested that a mural or other artwork be incorporated into the wall of the soundshell to improve its appearance. The idea of commissioning quality art sculptures for the park was also raised. It was also suggested that the sports ball sculptures be moved to the shuttlecock to create a more meaningful sculpture area.

- **Signage**

It was suggested that signage be added throughout the park that highlight the park's assets and history including the Path of Achievement Discovery Trail and the significance of the snake.

- **Drainage**

There was strong support for improving the drainage, particularly the area near Fuhrmann Court.

- **Tree planting**

It was noted that the Civic Park requires a lot more trees, both native and exotic and a significant amount of canopy cover is needed throughout the park. It was also suggested that Spotted Gums along Brynwood Avenue to be replaced to complement newly planted Crepe Myrtles and that more Corymbia ficifolias be planted within the park. Suggested trees could be planted with the purpose of children to climb.

- **Plant collections**

The 'outdoor room' plant collections were strongly supported by the community. It was also suggested that the area along the fence line could be cleaned up and vegetated.

- **Public toilets**

Upgrading the existing toilets was strongly supported by the community. It was also suggested that planting to the rear of the toilets be added when the toilets to soften its appearance.

- **Froggy Hollow/ Tiddle Wink Hollow**

It was suggested that Froggy Hollow is in need of significant maintenance and upgrade. It was also suggested that this could be done in conjunction with the neighbouring school.

- **Vegetation**

Respondents suggested that additional planting be provided to the pond to soften edges and rocks, to the front of the Shire offices and to the west side of the shelter on Young St.

- **Indigenous culture**

Kurnai elders ask that all culturally significant features like the snake head and path stay. The walk of fame is also significant.

4. Issues and Opportunities

This plan has been prepared to provide a summary of issues and opportunities identified during site analysis and initial community and stakeholder consultation.



- 1** Opportunity to enhance existing vegetation with additional shady trees and understorey planting throughout the park.
- 2** Opportunity to expand existing trail network by implementation of new, accessible, all weather shared paths and connections to surrounding pedestrian links.
- 3** Opportunity to provide screening planting to soften interface with adjoining buildings.
- 4** Opportunity to provide additional facilities such as seating shade, BBQs, drinking fountains and shelters.
- 5** Opportunity to upgrade public toilets with enhanced facilities (such as baby change facilities) to better cater for demand for these facilities during markets and events.
- 6** Opportunity to enhance the event space associated with the Soundshell through additional paths and plantings.
- 7** Opportunity for additional planting around the pond and to expand garden beds to visually connect the pond with the bandstand, path and existing art installation area.
- 8** Opportunity to install interpretative signage and art installations to share the cultural and natural history of the township.
- 9** Opportunity to upgrade existing play equipment This could include play elements for all abilities and ages, nature play and sculptural elements.
- 10** Opportunity to provide fitness equipment catering for all ages, including equipment specifically designed for older age groups.
- 11** Opportunity to upgrade existing furniture to create a cohesive park setting.
- 12** Opportunity to explore enhancing existing overland drainage pathway to upgrade and expand existing wetland which might also provide water quality benefits for urban stormwater runoff.
- 13** Protect significant established trees within the park and enhance the surrounding setting.
- 14** Opportunity to upgrade existing car park
- 15** Opportunity to make the 'Grandfather' tree a feature of the park.

5. Draft Master Plan



- 1 Paths:** Construct accessible, all weather paths that link existing paths and facilities including car parking, playground, BBQs, skate park and toilets. Expanded path network will create a loop walk for park users. Consider using a range of colours and textures.
 - 2 Plant collections:** Implement 'outdoor rooms' that showcase a different collection of plants in each room. Interpretive signage to be installed to provide information on the plant collection which might also be linked to the history of the region (for example local tree species used in timber production or edible plant species). A mixture of exotic and native tree species should be used.
 - 3 Playground:** Upgrade the existing playspace to include equipment that caters for younger and older children. Include elements of nature play, shade, a buffer to the trail, accessible paths and a BBQ area/picnic shelter.
 - 4 Car parking:** Construct a new car park that improves circulation and better caters for long vehicles. Provide plantings to screen the car park from adjoining residences and barrier to prevent cars entering the park. Consider the installation of lighting.
 - 5 Cascades:** Construct a cascading water feature that includes planting, rockwork and a walkway. Consider cutting long terraces into slope alongside the cascades.
 - 6 Public toilets:** Upgrade existing toilets near the playground and provide directional signs to toilet. Toilets should include disability and baby change facilities. Provide additional planting to rear of toilet to soften appearance.
 - 7 Tree avenue:** Provide an avenue of trees along the Two Town Trails. Species to match existing plantings.
 - 8 Skate park:** Implement proposed skate park upgrade including tree planting, seating, accessible paths and a drinking fountain.
 - 9 Fitness park:** Provide fitness stations that cater for all, including equipment specifically designed for seniors.
 - 10 Event Lawn:** Establish an event lawn that caters for events at the Soundshell including additional tree planting for shade, partial removal of existing melaleucas and vehicular access.
 - 11 Ponds:** Provide additional planting and access paths to existing ponds and the interface between ponds and trail. Consider using elements from the L G Boeyen garden to when vegetating.
 - 12 Centenary Wall:** Provide seating to centenary wall to provide a place of contemplation.
 - 13 Drainage:** Improve drainage throughout the park including northeast area of the Two Towns trail. This could include a treatment area such as a wetland with a boardwalk incorporating Froggy Hollow.
 - 14 Young Street car park:** Investigate a redesign of car park to improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation including improved links between the park and commercial areas.
 - 15 BBQ:** Provide new shelters, BBQs, bins and water fountains in association with Edward Street car park that interacts with The Two Towns Trail and proposed playground.
- Maintenance and operational items:**
- Furniture:** Replace furniture with consistent palette of furniture throughout the park. Install furniture in conjunction with park facilities such as skate park, playground and picnic areas.
 - Signage:** Install wayfinding and interpretive signage that highlights the parks features and contemporary and indigenous history.

5.1 Draft Masterplan Key Recommendations



Two Towns Trail Tree Avenue

As recommended in the Drouin Town Centre Strategy, an avenue of trees along the Two Town Trails has been proposed. It is recommended that the species of the proposed trees match existing plantings alongside the path.



Cascades

One of the key recommendations of this Masterplan is to construct a cascading water feature down the embankment within Civic Park. This water feature could include planting and rockwork similar to that shown above. The cascades are proposed to begin at the 'Grandfather' tree with a stepped walkway up the side to allow the community to engage with the water feature.



Outdoor room plant collections

There are a number of existing plant collections to the north of Civic Park. A key recommendation of this plan is to implement 'outdoor rooms' that showcase a different collection of plants in each room, expanding on the existing vegetation. Interpretive signage could be installed along the proposed path to provide information on the plant collection which could also be linked to the history of the region (for example local tree species used in timber production or edible plant species). A mixture of exotic and native tree species should be used.



North East Wetland

Drainage to the northeast area around the Two Towns Trail is of significant concern. A recommendation of this plan is to address the drainage issue through the implementation of water treatment. This could include establishing a wetland with indigenous planting and a boardwalk, which could be a great feature on the Two Towns Trail, as explored in the image above.

5.1 Draft Masterplan Key Recommendations



Paths as play



Shade trees



Natural elements



Sculpture



Play equipment



Plants as play



Playspace

Nature play is often a blend of natural materials, features, vegetation and landforms that stimulates interactions between play and nature. Plants can provide a multi-sensory experience by engaging children through use of colour, form, scent and texture. A nature play playspace encourages children to explore, play and be imaginative within an unstructured environment. Traditional and accessible play equipment, such as swings and slides, can also be incorporated into nature play to provide for a range of ages and abilities by providing multiple opportunities for different types of play.

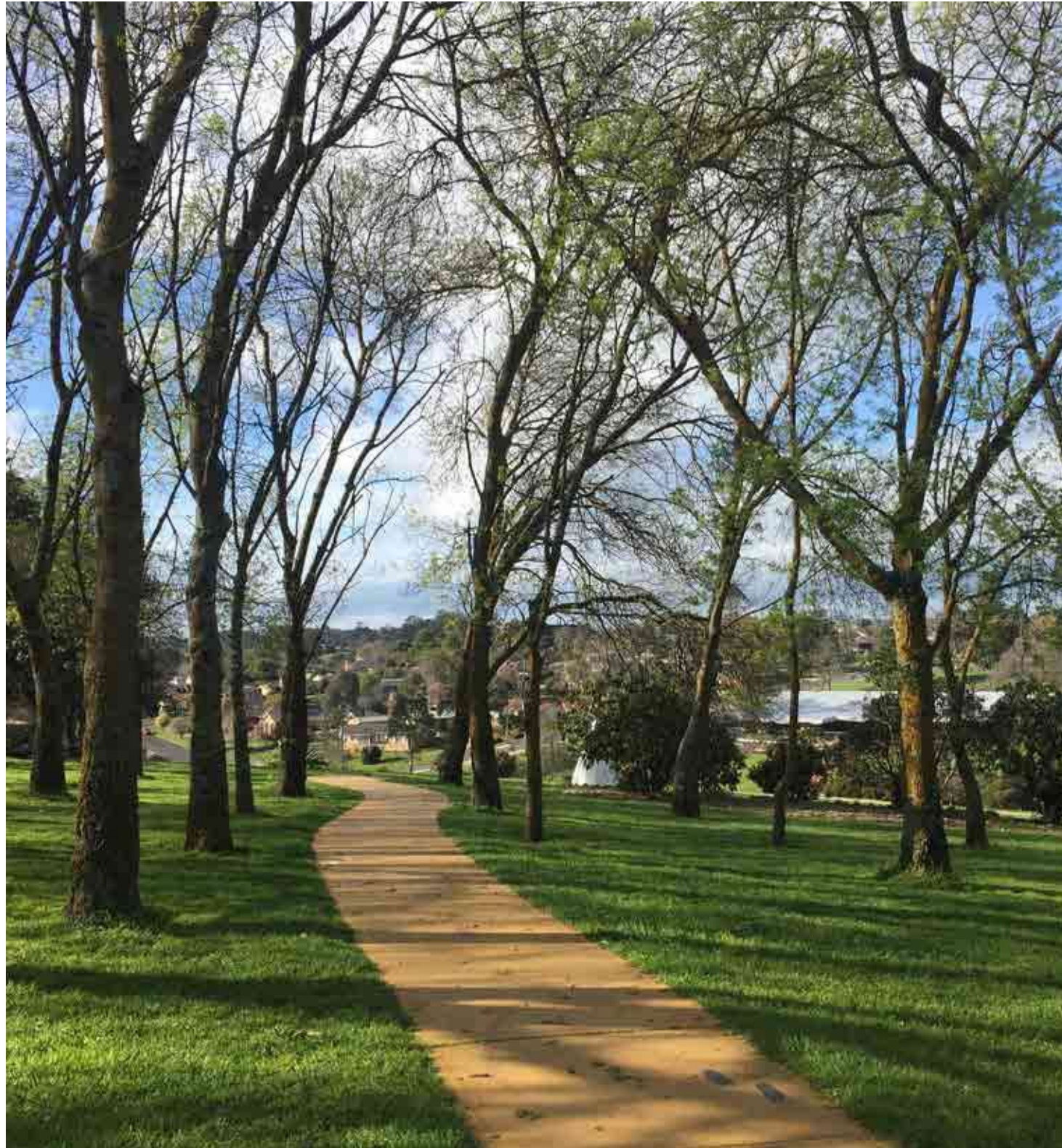
The topography of Civic Park presents a number of play opportunities. For example the steep slope allows for equipment such as embankment slides.

Park Furniture

The furniture elements shown above are as recommended in the Drouin Town Centre Strategy. The strategy suggests using a coordinated approach to the town palette by building on existing features such as creams, browns and reds which complement natural stone and timber elements. The seating elements shown above are the common style of street furniture in the township used for street and park use. A consistent timber type and finish with a charcoal coloured steel frame are recommended. It is recommended that proposed shelters tie in with the existing and proposed town palette by using timber and neutral colours with a form that compliments the town heritage as shown in the image above.

Additional facilities such as bins, water fountains and bike hoops are to be provided in conjunction with the parks key areas such as the playground, toilets, skate park and the Two Towns Trail. Facilities should be incorporated into any upgrade works. Consider the installation of lighting to key areas, such as the Two Towns Trail, car parking and toilets.

6. Staging and implementation



The following table outlines the priorities for implementation of the key recommendations contained within the Master Plan. Priority time frames are defined in the table below.

Priority	Time frame
Short term	To be completed in 1-3 years
Medium term	To be completed in 3-5 years
Long term	To be completed in 5+ years

	Items
Short term	
S2	Playground: Upgrade the existing playspace to include equipment that caters for younger and older children. Include elements of nature play, shade trees and accessible paths.
S3	Public toilets: Upgrade existing toilets near the playground and provide directional signs to toilet. Toilets should include disability and baby change facilities.
Medium term	
M1	Plant collections: Implement 'outdoor rooms' that showcase a different collection of plants in each room. Interpretive signage should be installed to provide information on the plant collection which might also be linked to the history of the region (for example local tree species used in timber production or edible plant species). A mixture of exotic and native tree species should be used.
M2	Car parking: Construct a new car park that improves circulation and better caters for long vehicles with plantings to screen the car park from adjoining residences.
M3	Skate park: Implement proposed skate park upgrade including tree planting, seating, accessible paths and a drinking fountain.
M4	Event Lawn: Establish an event lawn that caters for events at the Soundshell including additional planting, partial removal of existing melaleucas and vehicular access to rear of Soundshell
M5	Centenary Wall: Provide seating to centenary wall to provide a place of contemplation.
Long term	
L1	Cascades: Construct a cascading water feature that includes planting, rockwork and a walkway with the 'Grandfather' tree at the top of the view up the cascades.
L2	Fitness park: Provide fitness stations that cater for all, including equipment specifically designed for seniors.
L3	Drainage: Improve drainage throughout the park including northeast area of the Two Towns trail, which could include establishing a water treatment area such as a wetland with a boardwalk
Ongoing	
	Paths: Construct accessible, all weather paths that link existing paths and facilities including car parking, playground BBQs, skate park, ponds and toilets. Provide tree planting to path edges
	Tree avenue: Provide an avenue of trees along the Two Town Trails. Species to match existing plantings.
	Ponds: Provide additional planting and access paths to interface between ponds and trail.
	Furniture: Replace furniture with a consistent palette of furniture throughout the park as required.
	Existing trees: Continue to assess existing trees and remove any trees that pose a potential high-moderate risk
	Proposed trees: Provide trees of a range of species throughout the park to provide shade and visual interest. Consider including <i>Corymbia ficifolias</i> where appropriate.

Appendix A



CIVIC PARK DROUIN TIMELINE

1878 Forest purchased by JC Smith for 8 pound per acre.

1880 Purchased by AC Lyons of the Railway Hotel and he converted the land into grass paddocks.

1889 W S Tong, fruit merchant of Fitzroy became the owner and leased the paddocks to John Sutcliffe who owned a rival hotel, the Family Hotel.

<1908 J Hayes had purchased the grass paddocks and also the Family Hotel.

1931 Land purchased by Joseph Gleeson for paddocks for his cattle. Joseph Gleeson was a hotel owner and his family ran The Family Hotel or 'Gleesons Hotel' for three generations. The hotel was sold only a few years ago.

1972 Civic Park was just paddocks with some natives, with a long open drain, swamp at the east end, holding dam and froggy hollow. Some remnant eucalypts; Mountain Greys and Messmates.

1973 Buln Buln Shire purchased 10.5 acres of land for 9,500 pounds from the Gleeson family. They were using the land for grazing and they had cattle yards at the corner of Brynwood Ave and Young St. The land was to be used as the site of the new Shire offices and a community or civic parkland. At the time there was an open drain from the Hope St end through to Hopetoun Road (see Significant Tree Register(STR) NE12).

1974 Civic Park commenced construction while new Buln Buln Shire offices under construction. Leo Boeyen (Superintendent of Parks and Gardens) was the designer and developer. He drew his designs in a book and his wife says he was scribbling and drawing most days and nights! The Shire Offices were 'settled deep down in the hollow of the land'.

John Grubb owned the land at the east end of the Gleeson land. John Grubb was a local resident and businessman (undertaker and hardware owner). At the time of the shire office building the land was an undeveloped subdivision. Dan Monaghan, the developer, donated this east end to the Shire on the condition that it be known as JD Grubb Park. A tree which JD Grubb had planted previously was given a plaque.

Although the parks are in fact two separate entities they are now incorporated together to form Civic Park.

J D Grubb's tree is now dead and its plaque is sitting at start of Two Towns trail....see separate info from STR NE14 and NE57.

Dry stone walls built by aboriginal workers under a RED or Regional Employment Development scheme under Leo's direction and supervised by Jack Noske. The workers used hand held hatchets to chip the rocks to fit accurately. The workers also completed works around the ponds areas. There were 8 aboriginal workers., seven of whom Leo was able to place in employment after the program ended. One of the men stayed working in Leo's department. When the first rock wall was done Leo said "It

isn't a good wall, but it is a bloody masterpiece that you have done!" and all the workers danced!

80 % trees which were planted were grown in BBS council nursery by Leo's team as money was always very short.

Pond area and gardens established by Leo and his team some time during these years (late 1970s). The map of Australia, a rock which looked like the outline of Australia, was installed by Phil Mullet one of the aboriginal guys. A horse shoe nail was put in to show where Drouin was! The ponds and waterfall were designed by Leo to reflect a bush stream with water flowing through the two ponds and among a rocky stream under the bridge. Indigenous workers were employed to do all of the stonework, flagged paths and construction around the ponds. Slate stones for paths came from Bacchus Marsh quarry, Brisbane Ranges. The rocks which form the waterfall came from the Toorongo River. One of these is very big....big effort to move it! The motor which made the pump work for the water fall came from Jenny Boeyen's (Leo's wife) old washing machine!

Leo established garden of grafted weeping silver birches. Leo grafter these himself in the council nursery. Now also has the Jack Cuthbertson Memorial.

Nov 1975 New Buln Buln Shire offices occupied
 March 1976 New Buln Buln Shire offices opened

1978 Ficus planted by Sir Henry Winneke (Governor of Victoria) with Leo Boeyen, to north of new Council offices, on the occasion of the first centenary of the Buln Buln Shire

1980 Buln Buln Shire received a Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation Award for the planning and development of Civic Park....designed and built by Leo and his team

1986 Leo Boeyen retires after 27 years because of ill health
 Pond areas and garden named in his honour, the L G Boeyen gardens

Gardens used by all the wedding couples in Drouin for their photos; many taken standing on the bridge.

1990 Keith Pretty retires and donates painting which he and Pam commissioned to the Shire on behalf of the Pretty and Petschack families. The painting shows the LG Boeyen gardens and the council offices 14.07.1990
 Picnic shelter, toilet block, BBQ, playground and rotunda added over time

1993 First stage of the Sound Shell built ie floor and walls
 1995 Second stage ie canopy of the K A Pretty Sound Shell installed. Named in honour of Keith Pretty who worked for the BBS 40 years and was the Shire Secretary/CEO of the Shire from 1956 to 1990

Dec 1994 Buln Buln Shire amalgamated with Warragul and Narracan to become Baw Baw Shire. Civic Park receives only general maintenance.

Prepared by Judy Farmer (Committee for Drouin) 26th August 2016

Appendix B

Community and Stakeholder Engagement - Phase 2 survey results

