



# WARRAGUL CIVIC PARK MASTERPLAN

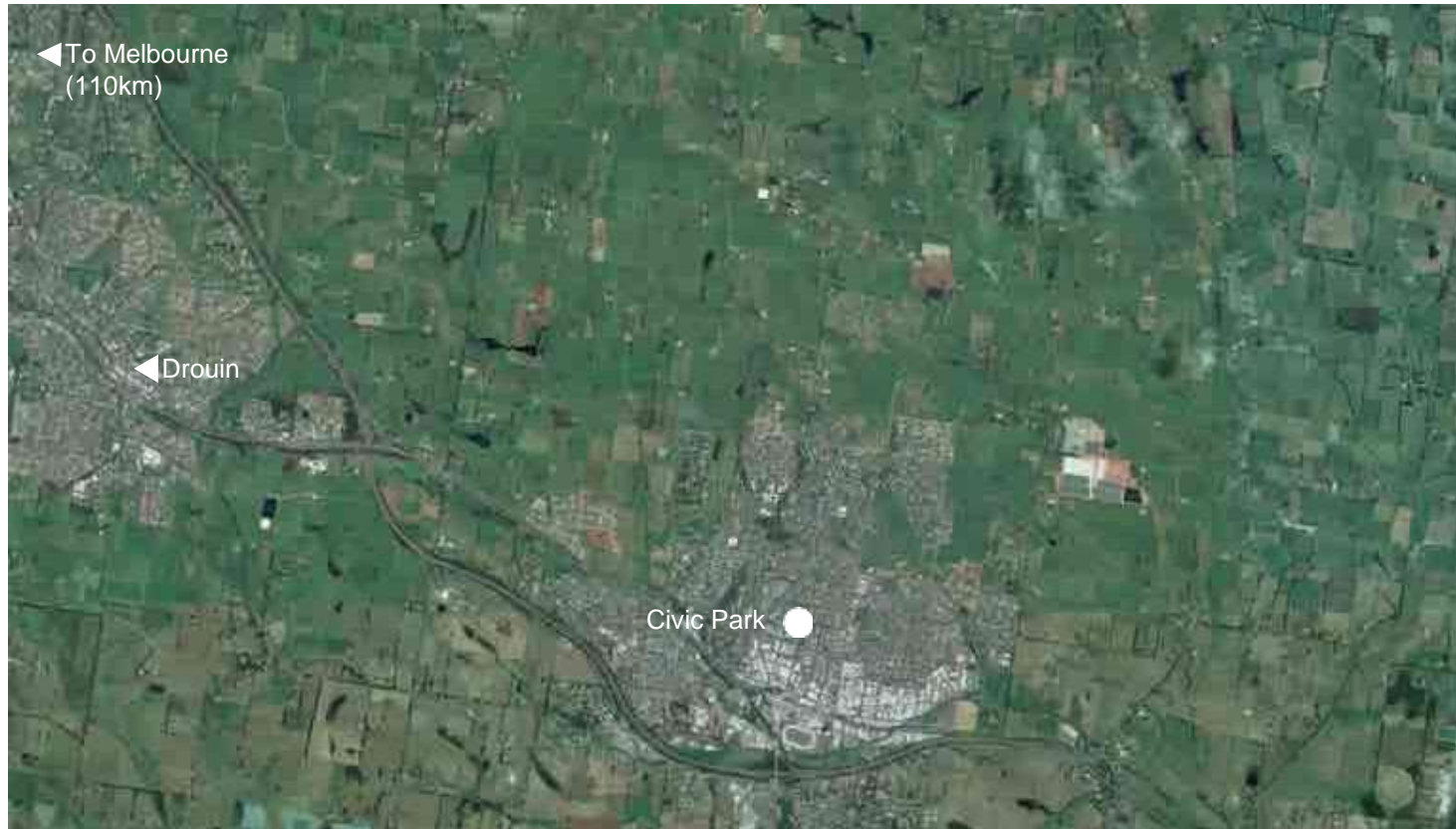
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# 1. Context

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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 herbfields 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.<sup>3</sup>

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).<sup>4</sup> The Shire's youth (0-15 year olds) make up 20% of the population whilst the senior demographic (65+ years) make up almost 17%.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup>

1 [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://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](http://www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw)  
 5 [www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw](http://www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw)  
 6 [www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw](http://www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw)

## 1.2 Warragul

Warragul is located between Drouin and Yarragon. It is the largest town and commercial centre in Baw Baw Shire with a population of 14,074 (as at 30th June 2011).<sup>1</sup>

Warragul is home to some of Victoria's richest agricultural land as well as being a major supplier of milk for Melbourne.<sup>2</sup> A number of festivals and events are centred around the town's agricultural and dairying industry.

The town features a number of historical buildings with grand facades referencing the towns history and origins. A number of attractive gardens and parks can also be found in Warragul, including Civic Park.

Overlooking Civic Park is the West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC), a popular venue for performance and visual arts within the Shire. In 2012, Baw Baw Shire undertook a masterplanning exercise to determine the future development of the WGAC. A proposed upgrade has since been designed and the Shire is currently awaiting funding.<sup>3</sup> The proposed upgrade works should be taken into consideration during the Civic Park masterplanning process and any future development of the Park.

The Civic park in Warragul is also home to two markets, The Warragul Farmers Market and The Baw Baw Arts Market.

1 [www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw](http://www.communityprofile.com.au/bawbaw)  
 2 [www.travelvictoria.com.au/warragul](http://www.travelvictoria.com.au/warragul)  
 3 [www.wgac.com.au](http://www.wgac.com.au)



Swimming pool, 1920-1954



Smith Street, 1920-1954



Victoria Street, 1920-1954

### 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.

In 1878, a railway link was established and the township of Warragul began to thrive.<sup>1</sup> What was a dense forest within the Gippsland Hills because 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.

From the 1880s the town began to grow rapidly as more buildings were erected and the population increased. In 1881 the Shire of Warragul was established.<sup>2</sup>

The following is an excerpt from the *Australian handbook* in 1903 giving an insight into the progress of the township of Warragul:

*“Warragul, a shire with post town, money-order, savings bank, and telegraph offices, county of Buln Buln, electoral district of Gippsland West, 367 feet above the sea-level, on Hazel Creek, 61 and a quarter miles E. from Melbourne. It is a station of the Gippsland railway; fares 11s and 7s. 3d. The Neerim railway line branches from Warragul. The streets of the town is well lighted gas. There are several first-class hotels, amongst them are the Royal, the Club, the Railway, Orient, and the Commercial. The public offices are most substantially built two-storey brick edifices and consist of a court-house with all necessary rooms attached, and a post and telegraph office and sub-treasury, all beautifully and conveniently designed. The police-station is also a well-designed one-storey brick building. Court of petty sessions is held once a week, and the County Court every three months, also the Court of General Sessions. Banks: Commercial, London, Australasia, and Bank of New South Wales. A very fine Athenaeum has been put up, with reading rooms, and about 1,640 vols. in the library; municipal chambers have recently been erected. Masonic, Druids, A.N.A., Oddfellows', Rechabite, and Foresters' lodges. Several saw-mills are in full work. Weekly sales of cattle are conducted. There are Anglican, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches, a State school, (No. 2, 104) and Roman Catholic school. In Warragul shire 27,991 acres are under cultivation. Several gold mines and reefs are being worked in the vicinity. The Warragul shire occupies 123 square miles, has 3,900 population and property of the annual value of 36,000, 950 dwellings, 1,257 ratepayers 1s. rate. The local newspaper is the Warragul Guardian, published on Tuesday and Friday. Population 1,634.”*

\* 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/warragul](http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/warragul)

2 [www.victorianplaces.com.au/warragul](http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/warragul)

## 14 Strategic Context

### **BawBaw 2050 Community Vision**

BawBaw 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 sited parks and the more important community facility 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 BawBaw 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

- Continuing to work towards the redevelopment of the West Gippsland Arts Regional Centre.
- Renewing and upgrading shire public toilets and amenities.

### **Warragul Town Centre Urban Design Framework and Station Precinct Masterplan, 2010**

The Warragul Town Centre urban design framework and Station Precinct masterplan are key guiding documents designed to shape the future development of both the commercial core of Warragul. The following is the vision for Warragul: "Warragul will develop a compact Town Centre that supports a thriving mix of business and residential activity whilst at all times respecting its rural origins and notable heritage assets. The centre will showcase a series of high amenity pedestrian areas and regenerate its traditional link with an enhanced Station Precinct. It will also support a series of emerging educational, recreational and commercial facilities that will help to define the town's 'green spine' and centralised community spaces."

One key action is to establish 'green links' through the town centre which includes connecting Civic park with other open spaces in the town by providing pedestrian links through the park. The document also recommends retaining the land east of Civic Place as public open space to create an extension of Civic Park.

### **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 Warragul. 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 May 2015



- |  |  |
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| <p>1. <b>Aleppo Pine Tree (<i>Pinus brutia</i>)</b><br/>Size: 19m tall, 10m wide, 97cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>2. <b>Pin Oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)</b><br/>24m tall, 19m wide, 81cm DBH, 70+ years old<br/>Health condition: Good to average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>3. <b>Pin Oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)</b><br/>Size: 22m tall, 18m wide, 71cm DBH, 70+ years old<br/>Health condition: Good to average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>4. <b>Silky Oak (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>)</b><br/>20m tall, 9m wide, 67cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>5. <b>Silky Oak (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>)</b><br/>18m tall, 13m wide, 96cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>6. <b>Liquidamber (<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>)</b> 19m tall, 9m wide, 54cm DBH, 40+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>7. <b>Pin Oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)</b><br/>Size: 24m tall, 22m wide, 92cm DBH, 70+ years old<br/>Health condition: Good to average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>8. <b>Liquidamber (<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>)</b> 20m tall, 7m wide, 44cm DBH, 30+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>9. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>17m tall, 16m wide, 88cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: <b>High - to be removed</b></p> <p>10. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>16m tall, 14m wide, 70cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: <b>High - to be removed</b></p> <p>11. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>16m tall, 16m wide, 74cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>12. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>19m tall, 17m wide, 64cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> | <p>13. <b>Pin Oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)</b><br/>Size: 26m tall, 25m wide, 82cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Good to average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>14. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>23m tall, 18m wide, 83cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>15. <b>Golden Elm (<i>Ulmus glabra 'Lutescens'</i>)</b><br/>16m tall, 20m wide, 102cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>16. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>22m tall, 19m wide, 109cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>17. <b>Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinusoxycarpa</i>)</b><br/>21m tall, 26m wide, 90cm DBH, 60+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>18. <b>Lombardy Poplar (<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>)</b><br/>21m tall, 7m wide, 62cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>19. <b>Lombardy Poplar (<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>)</b><br/>20m tall, 7m wide, 73cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>20. <b>Camphor Laurel (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>)</b><br/>14m tall, 10m wide, 64cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>21. <b>Irish Strawberry Tree (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>)</b><br/>10m tall, 12m wide, 58cm DBH, 50+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> <p>22. <b>Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)</b><br/>9m tall, 5m wide, 42cm DBH, 40+ years old<br/>Health condition: Poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Low</p> <p>23. <b>English Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)</b><br/>9m tall, 9m wide, 49cm DBH, 40+ years old<br/>Health condition: Average to poor<br/>Risk Categorisation: Moderate</p> |
|--|--|



## 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 that 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 of plants. It was noted that proposed trees should provide shade, maintain views across the park and encourage local fauna.

##### • Improved safety

Improving 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. Upgrades could include new equipment for all age groups, additional shade, additional seating, protection from nearby pond and roads.

##### • Improved facilities

Many respondents stated that the parks facilities such as seating, shade, shelter, drinking fountains and toilets needed to be upgraded.

##### • 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 features

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

#### 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:

- Upgrade the park to a Botanic Garden
- Removal of house on Albert Street
- Facilities such as shade, shelter and toilets, bins, water refill stations and drinking fountains
- Additional accessible, all weather paths for walking and riding, particularly to park facilities
- New playground including more swings and nature and adventure play
- Interpretive signage that could include historical and aboriginal stories
- Wayfinding, including directions to park facilities
- Local art including sculptures and mosaics
- Improved access 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
- Boundary path





## 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 Warragul Civic Park Master Plan. In addition, a total of 89 responses were received via the online survey. Refer to Appendix A for a summary of the responses.

An additional consultation meeting was held with former members of the Baw Baw Shire Early Years Advisory Committee.

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:

- **Trail network**

The proposed expansion to the trail network within the park was strongly supported. Respondents supported the use of concrete to avoid washout on slopes. It was noted that a number of existing paths required restoration. Respondents also suggested including additional paths around both ponds and from the rotunda to the eastern boundary path.

- **Playground**

Respondents strongly supported the consolidation of the two existing playgrounds into one new accessible, all ages playground. The proposed playground concept was also supported. A number of respondents also requested that the existing train be retained within proposed playspace. It was also suggested that a flying fox, an enclosed slide, a half-court, fencing, picnic areas, increased nature play, an edible garden and a rotating seesaw could be included in the playground. A significant number of respondents also suggested the inclusion of water play. Retaining some play equipment to the proposed picnic area was also raised.

- **Albert Street**

The proposed removal of the house on Albert Street and the creation of an entry plaza was supported by respondents. There were queries relating to loss of car parks that may occur and the possibility of extending the proposed pavement treatment across to road. It was also suggested that the house be retained and converted into an art gallery.

- **Fitness equipment**

A respondent suggested including fitness equipment for adults within the park.

- **Archaeology of Time sculpture**

The proposed planting to the perimeter of the Archaeology of Time sculpture was supported by respondents. It was also suggested that interpretive signage be added to the sculpture.

- **Tree plantings**

The community suggested that additional trees of varying species should be planted throughout the park to retain the current character (mainly exotic with a few natives) with no net loss of trees. Respondents expressed the desire to keep the planting not too dense to retain the views whilst keeping a soft visual appearance to the perimeter of the park. Suggested trees could be planted with the purpose of children to climb.

- **Handrails to steps and paths**

A few respondents requested that handrails be provided beside existing and proposed steps and steep parts of path.

- **North east lane way**

It was noted that maintenance is required to the north east lane way to improve safety.

- **Vegetation to pond edge**

Vegetation to the pond edge was strongly supported, as a number of respondents raised issues of safety, particularly in association with the playground.

- **Rotunda**

A few respondents raised concerns about the rotunda suggesting it should be repaired/replaced with a similar looking structure to improve function and to remove ramps and stairs. Aboriginal art should be reused or used to create a new art installation.

- **Signage**

Respondents support the idea of including signage throughout that celebrates the history and botanic nature of Civic Park.

- **Drainage**

The proposed upgrade to drainage on Kent Street was strongly supported. It was noted that any works should be done to minimise disturbance to surrounding residents.

- **Furniture**

Respondents suggested that frequent seating and rest stops be provided along the path networks. It was also suggested that additional water fountains/refill stations, lighting, BBQs and shelters be included within the plan.

- **Labyrinth**

A respondent suggested the implementation of a 'labyrinth' to east side of the park.

- **Events**

It was suggested that temporary structures could be used to cater for events such as carols and weddings. It was also suggested a permanent multi-purpose structure be considered.

- **Indigenous culture**

Kurnai elders suggested the use of Kurnai language and rich culture is included in the Botanical gardens in incorporating the local environmental and its significance fauna and flora.

## 4. Issues and Opportunities



- 1 Opportunity to enhance existing plantings with additional shady trees and understory planting continuing the existing landscape character of predominantly exotic plants.
- 2 Opportunity to enhanced pedestrian connections by linking existing paths adding a few new paths to align where people want to walk as well as connecting to surrounding pedestrian links and destinations like the town centre.
- 3 Opportunity to upgrade park facilities such seating, picnic sets, barbecues, drinking fountains and shelters.
- 4 Opportunity to provide additional tree plantings for shade and enhanced facilities (such as service connections) to better to cater for markets and events.
- 5 Opportunity to refurbish existing waterfall including path repairs.
- 6 Opportunity to integrate pond into park through additional planting around perimeter.
- 7 Opportunity to tell the story of the cultural and natural history of the township through design features and interpretative signage.
- 8 Opportunity to upgrade existing toilet facilities in conjunction with West Gippsland Arts Centre upgrade.
- 9 Opportunity consolidate two playgrounds into one improved playspace. This could include play elements for all abilities and ages, nature play and sculptural elements.
- 10 Opportunity to remove existing house and car park in Albert Street and return land to the park.
- 11 Opportunity to implement a consistent palette of furniture through the upgrading of existing facilities and proposal of new facilities to create a cohesive park setting.
- 12 Opportunity to upgrade the park to a Botanic Garden status.
- 13 Opportunity to remove trees that are of high risk to the park facilities and visitors (refer to existing tree assessment). Two trees to be removed as part of play space upgrade.

# 5. Draft Masterplan



- 1 Paths:** Construct accessible, all weather paths that connect to existing paths and facilities. Provide handrails to existing and proposed steps and steep sections of path. Path network should also provide a loop for recreation opportunities and seating approximately every 100 metres.
- 2 Playground:** Create a single playspace that includes equipment to cater for children of all ages and abilities. Include elements of nature play, sculpture, shelters, shade, seating and accessible paths. Ensure existing trees that are of high risk are removed around playground area to improve safety. Continue to assess existing trees and potential risks.
- 3 Public toilets:** Implement an upgrade to toilet facilities in current location in conjunction with West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC) upgrade.
- 4 Picnic area:** Provide picnic tables, water fountain/refill stations, shelters, BBQs that can be used in association with events and markets. Consider sculptural, play elements and interpretive features to this area that the public can engage with and children can climb over.
- 5 Drainage:** Improve drainage to Kent Street entrance to ensure that the area is more usable.
- 6 Archeology of Time:** Provide garden beds to the perimeter of sculpture 'Archeology of Time' to create a safer space. Provide interpretive signage to artwork. Layout of garden beds and signage to be installed in consultation with artist.
- 7 Albert Street:** Remove existing car park and house on Albert Street frontage to allow and provide an entry plaza to Albert Street that engages with the market area and proposed forecourt to WGAC.
- 8 Terracing:** Provide terraced style seating to the proposed forecourt that engages with the market area and other events.
- 9 Ponds:** Provide additional vegetation to edge of ponds to create a safer approach to the water bodies (particularly from the playground) and to soften pond edges. Explore options for additional planting to assist water quality improvement.
- 10 Rotunda and formal pond interface:** Provide a formal interface between the rotunda and pond that engages with water and provides a viewing area. Replace/repair rotunda. In the case of replacing the rotunda, relocate aboriginal artwork to elsewhere within the park.
- 11 Path restoration:** Repair existing paved paths and replace arched bridge to provide safer access around waterfall.
- 12 Parking:** Provide car parking to proposed plaza and forecourt. Reinstate as many car parks as possible.

**Maintenance and operational items:**  
**Botanic Gardens:** Investigate the naming of Civic Park to a Botanic Garden. This may require an assessment of existing tree and plant collections, the addition of new collections within the park and interpretive signage to collections.

**Furniture:** Replace furniture with a consistent palette of furniture throughout the park as required. Remove/relocate any furniture adjacent to existing trees that provide a moderate to high risk.

**Signage:** Install wayfinding and interpretive signage that highlights the parks features and contemporary and indigenous history.

## 5.1 Draft Masterplan Key Recommendations



### Albert Street Forecourt

With the proposed removal of the car park and house on Albert Street, this frontage provides the opportunity to create an entrance plaza to Albert Street that engages with the market area and proposed forecourt to WGAC. This could include paved areas, seating and garden beds. Terraced seating/mounded grass could also be created to allow for the level changes in this area and provide seating for the market and other events.



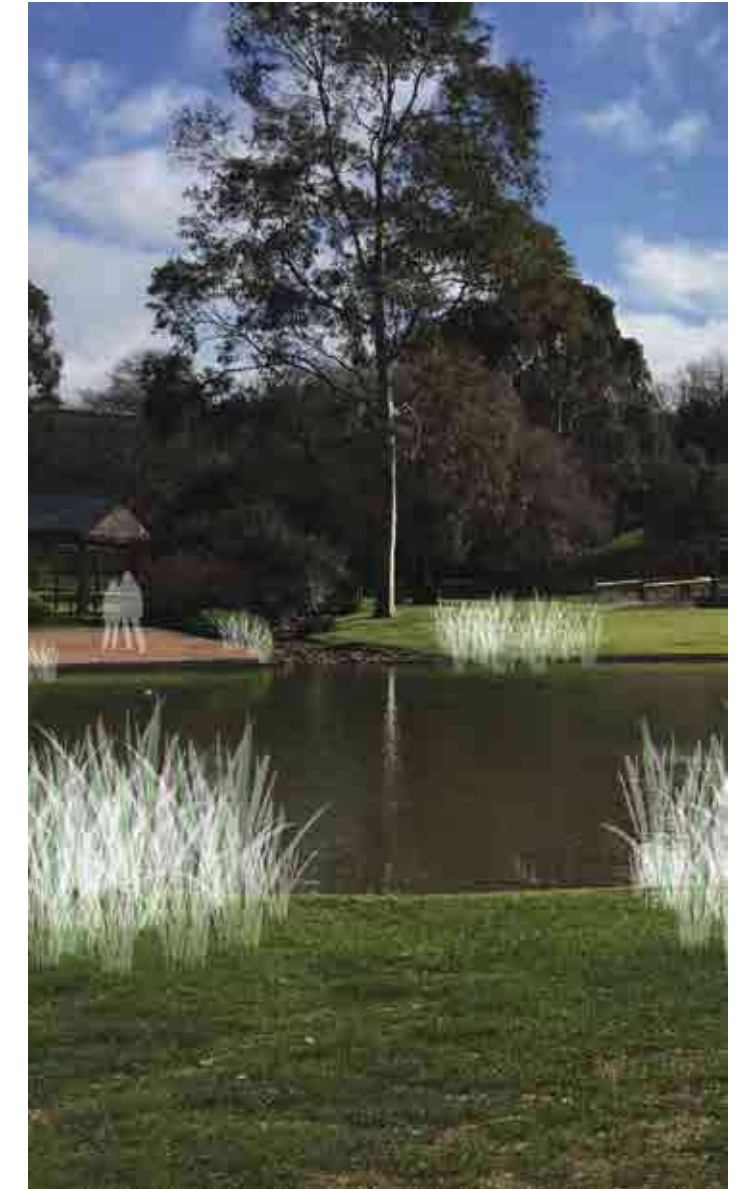
### Picnic area

Provide a picnic area central to the park that can be used in association with events and markets. This could include picnic tables, shelters, BBQs, drinking fountains and even play elements. This picnic area should be easily accessible from nearby paths and include a strong linkage (i.e. through wayfinding or paths) to public toilets.



### Archeology of time

In order to create a safer approach to the sculpture 'Archeology of Time', additional planting around the artwork has been recommended. The additional planting would establish a transition between the park and the sculpture with clearly defined entry points, reducing the likelihood of people accidentally falling in.



### Pond plantings

Additional planting to pond edges could serve two functions. Firstly, planting established a barrier to the pond creating a designated entry points to the point, improving safety. Additional planting should consider the proposed playground and create a strong barrier between the pond and playspace. It may also be possible for additional planting to assist water quality improvements.



**Park Furniture**

A number of different furnishings exist within Civic Park. The above images are highlighting the palette of furniture that should be implemented across the entire site in order to provide a consistent approach. The furniture should build on existing colours and tones such as creams, greens and reds which complement existing furniture, timber elements and the current landscape character.

### The Garden Playground

The Garden Playground is inspired by park conservatories, garden green houses and botanic gardens (see inspiration images below). The playground is designed to stimulate interactions between play and nature.

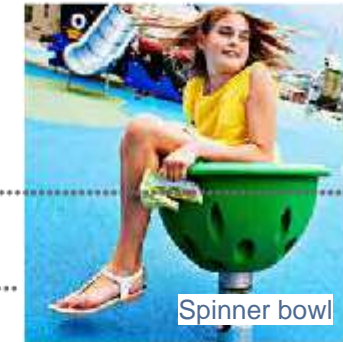
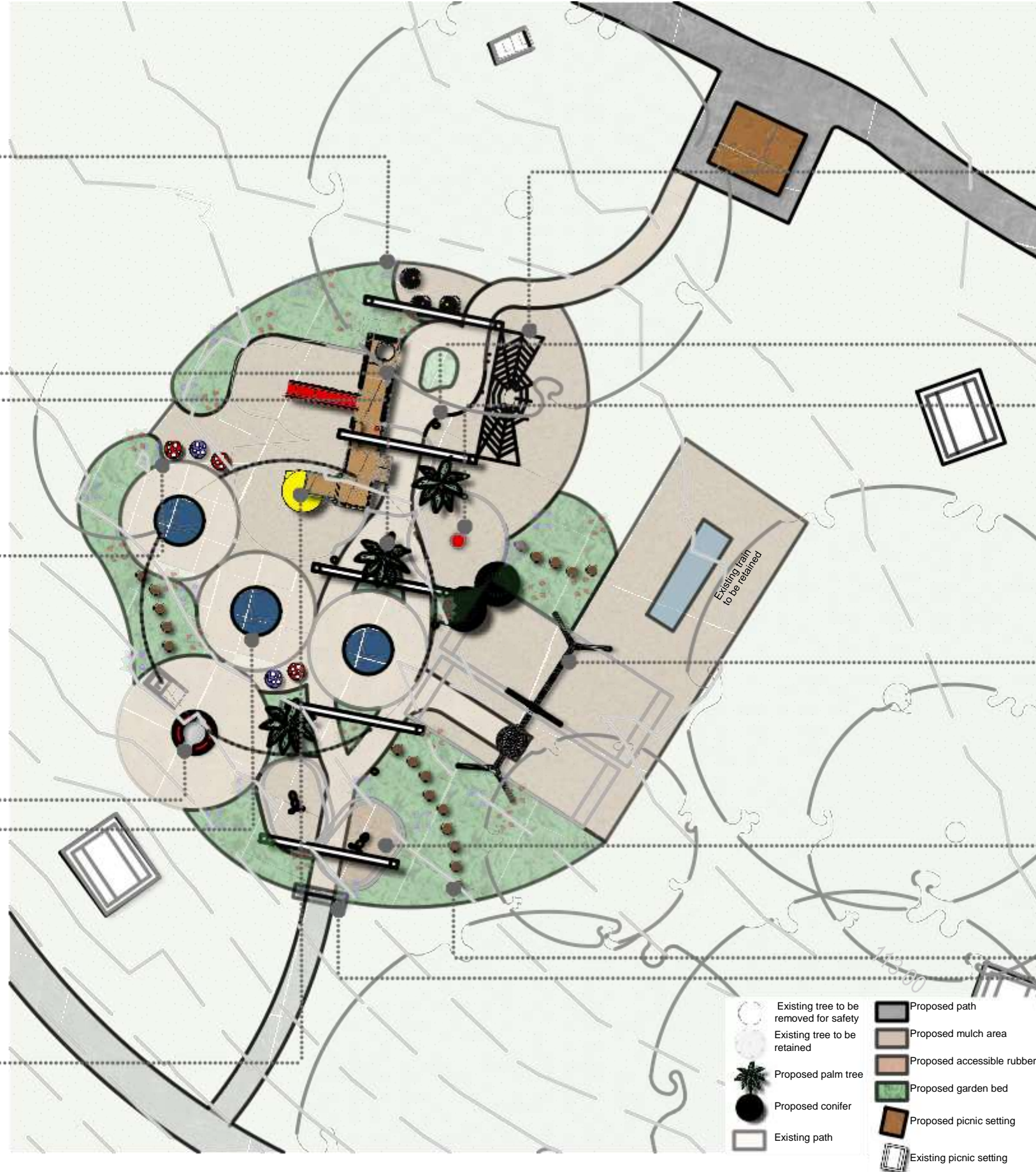
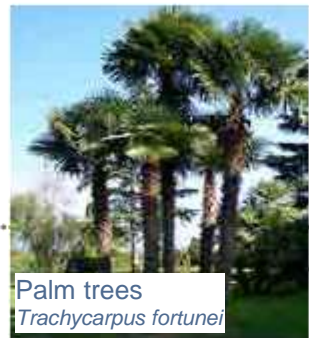
The planting is proposed to be unique and luscious, consistent with a botanic garden and should provide a multi-sensory experience by engaging children through use of colour, form, taste, scent and texture. The white frame is designed to reflect the form of a glasshouse where discoveries can be made within and beyond the structure.

The Garden Playground encourages children to explore, play and be imaginative within the 'glasshouse'. Traditional play sets, such as swings and slides, are also incorporated to provide for a range of ages, abilities and multiple opportunities for different types of play. In order to cater for children with disabilities, it is important to ensure that there are play opportunities available, including accessible equipment and the ability to experience all areas of the playground through accessible paths.



Proposed playground location

The Garden Playground - Concept Plan



## 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 to the right.

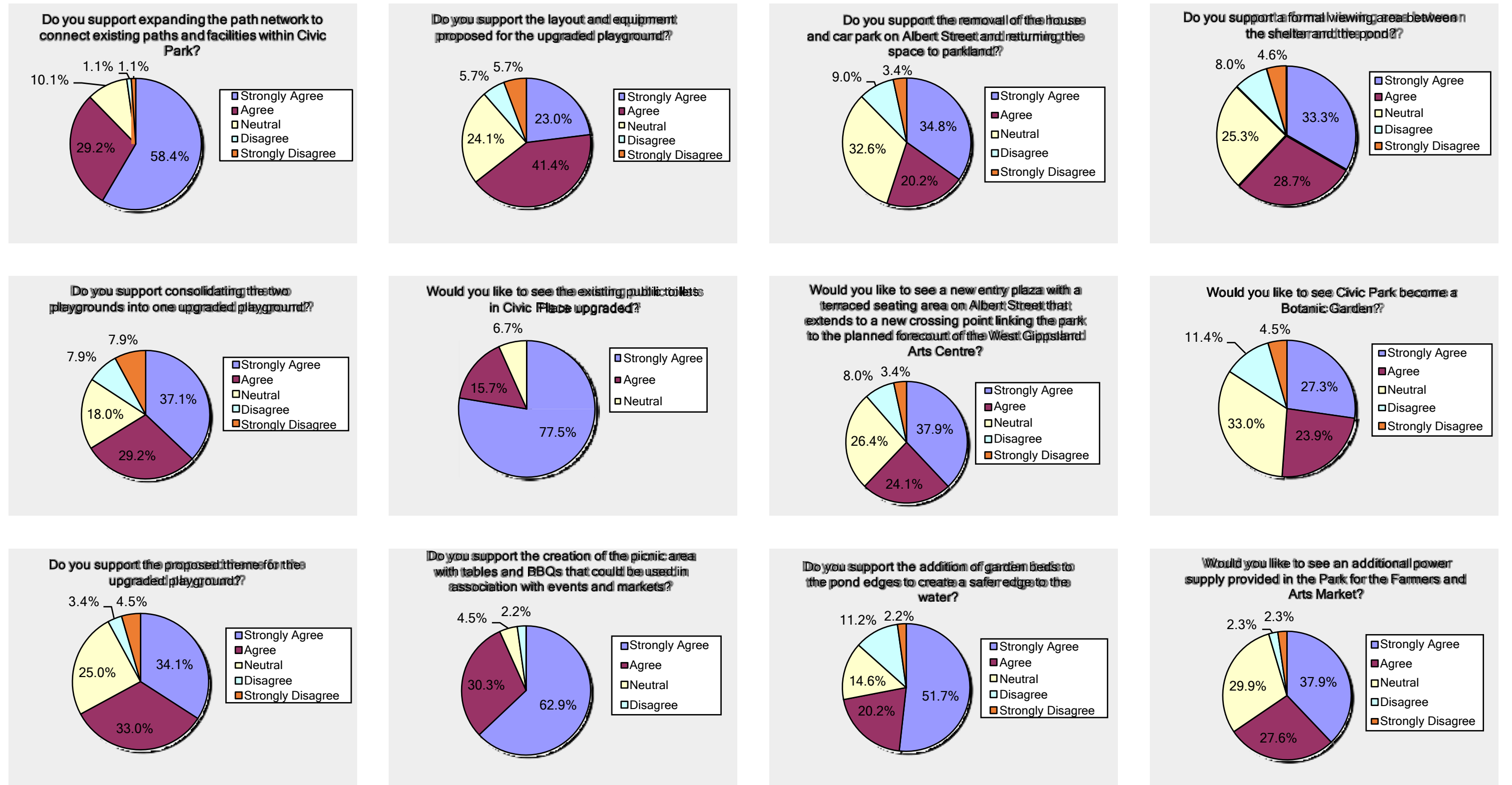
Priority	Time frame
Short term	To be completed in 1-3 years
Medium term	To be completed in 3-5 years
Long term	To be completed in 5+ years

	Items
<b>Short term</b>	
S1	<b>Playground:</b> create a single playspace that includes equipment to cater for children of all ages and abilities. Include elements of nature play, sculpture, shelters, shade, seating and accessible paths.
<b>Medium term</b>	
M1	<b>Picnic area:</b> provide picnic tables, water fountain/refill stations, shelters, BBQs that can be used in association with events and markets. Consider sculptural, play elements and interpretive features to this area that the public can engage with and children can climb over.
M2	<b>Drainage:</b> improve drainage to Kent Street entrance to ensure that the area is more usable.
M3	<b>Archeology of Time:</b> provide garden beds to the perimeter of sculpture 'Archeology of Time' to create a safer space. Provide interpretive signage to artwork.
M4	<b>Botanic Gardens:</b> investigate the naming of Civic Park to a Botanic Garden. This may require an assessment of existing tree and plant collections, the addition of new collections within the park and interpretive signage.
<b>Long term</b>	
L1	<b>Albert Street:</b> remove existing car park and house on Albert Street frontage to allow and provide an entry plaza to Albert Street that engages with the market area and proposed forecourt to WGAC.
L2	<b>Vegetation and tree planting:</b> provide additional vegetation to edge of ponds to create a safer approach to the water bodies (particularly from the playground) and to soften pond edges. Explore options for additional planting to assist water quality improvement. Provide a range of new tree trees, both exotic and native, throughout the park
L3	<b>Rotunda and formal pond interface:</b> Provide a formal interface between the rotunda and pond that engages with water and provides a viewing area. Replace/repair rotunda. In the case of replacing the rotunda, relocate aboriginal artwork to elsewhere within the park.
<b>Ongoing</b>	
	<b>Paths:</b> construct accessible, all weather paths that connect to existing paths and facilities with seating approximately every 100m. Provide handrails to existing and proposed steps and steep sections of path.
	<b>Path restoration:</b> repair existing paved paths and replace arched bridge to provide safer access around waterfall.
	<b>Furniture:</b> Replace furniture with a consistent palette of furniture throughout the park as required. Remove/relocate any furniture adjacent to existing trees that provide a moderate to high risk
	<b>Public toilets:</b> Implement an upgrade to toilet facilities in current location in conjunction with West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC) upgrade.
	<b>Existing trees:</b> Continue to assess existing trees and remove any trees that pose a potential high-moderate risk



# Appendix A

## Community and Stakeholder Engagement - Phase 2 survey results



# Appendix B

## Timeline of Civic Park

### Civic Park news articles

#### Pre 1898

- Lardner's survey (1879) identifies park
- Shire sets aside 87 acres between Burke Street and Railway with Hazel Creek running through it.
- Planting of 60 ornamental trees western border.

#### Circa 1900

- Shire street tree planting commenced.

#### 1902

- Post and rail fence around 5 acres parcel of park

#### 1908

- Mr Catani presents "very artistic scheme" for park.

#### 1910

- Bowling Club request Council for site on park

#### 1911

- Park excavation works commenced.
- Government Grant offer accepted.
- Future of park site questioned in Council.

#### 1914

- ANA "Warragul Parliament" debate.
- Park site sold to Education Department (High School Committee).

#### 1916

- Mr Cronin (RBG) questions park suitability
- Alternative site at Albert Street purchased

#### 1920's – 30's

- McCullough's paddock - some tree planting, planning discussions but otherwise under-utilised

#### 1937

- Mr Hugh Linaker presents a plan for park

#### 1951

- Apex sponsors Christmas Carols in park.
- Generates awareness of park as a public asset

#### 1955

- Swimming Pool construction commenced. Opened 1957. Closed 2009.

#### 1964

- Apex Club Adventure Park constructed

#### 1965

- Council offices, Civic Place constructed

#### 1960+

- Perimeter stonewalls and paths erected through "work for the dole" program

#### 1969

- Garden ponds excavation commenced

#### 1975

- Princess Margaret plants tree in Civic Park

#### 1977

- Uncle Bob's Club Wishing Well

#### 1981

- Arts Centre construction commenced

#### 1980+

- Garden beds, paths, shrubbery and tree planting extended into upper region of park.

#### 1996

- Donation of Native shrubs for Garden beds by RBGM
- Chinese Garden opened

#### 2000 +

- Various memorials placed (Aleppo Pine 1965; Scarlet Oak 1986, others 1996, 2005, 2014, 2015)
- Central BBQ area
- Sporting Walk of Fame (2000)
- Rotunda (2005)
- Warragul farmers market
- Anzac Centenary Memorial
- Forest Giant Sculpture
- Civic Park Planning Scheme
- Beautiful park setting with a wonderful array of native and exotic trees, shrubs, flowers and plants. Rich variety of bird life, and a glorious setting for enjoying the delightful park atmosphere.



Content and Image Credit:  
Steph Wellard and the Warragul Historical Society

# Appendix C

## Civic Park news articles (West Gippsland Gazette)

### Mr. Catani's landscape design for Burke Street Park West Gippsland Gazette 7th July 1908

A very artistic scheme for the effective decoration of the Warragul Public Park has been submitted to the Warragul Shire Council by Mr Catani of the Public Works Department. The area contains some 87 acres, and the plan provides for the various winding paths and shrubbery incidental to all public pleasure grounds. Mr Catani has, moreover, utilised magnificent flow of clear water to the fullest advantage, and with the consummate skill of a trained landscape gardener has designed a circuitous stream whose pellucid waters will ripple over a rock strewn bottom as they flow "on forever" like Tennyson's immortal brook to join the Moe River. At the narrow end of the park a small lake is provided for, and toward the shire hall another and more expansive sheet of water of artistic configuration is designed to embellish the eastern end of the park. The two lakes are connected by the stream, which in its course flows over a beautiful little artificial cascade. In the centre of the larger lake is a smaller island, which is intended to meet the nesting proclivities of water fowl and swans, which always add to the life of our public garden.

The citizens of Warragul, in laying out their future pleasure ground, may well project their mind 20 or 30 years into the future, when this town on the mainline between Melbourne, Sydney and the federal capital at Bombala, will become one of the most important provincial centres in the state. The express train service which will then be a daily feature of our railway travelling as it is in England today, will bring Warragul within an hour and half from Melbourne while the evergreen nature and delightful freshness of our landscape scenery will make Warragul one of the favourite and most popular residential towns outside the metropolitan area. The council has now 119 pounds of government and shire money for this purpose of beautifying this public reserve and no small responsibility rests upon councillors from the commencement in seeing that this money is judiciously expended.

### Warragul Public Parks And Gardens Bill Warragul Parliament: Opening Session Last Tuesday West Gippsland Gazette 7th March 1914

The first session of the "Warragul Parliament" initiated by the local branch of the ANA at the shire hall on Tuesday evening last when a large number of members and friends (the general public) were present. As described in our last issue, the parliament is a revival of the institution organised by the ANA some years ago, and although the discussion on Tuesday evening last did not take the nature of a serious argument, yet some very good reasons for and against disposing of the present site of the Warragul park were put forward and discussed by both sides of the house. At the opening of the proceedings all present were made members of the parliament, and a number of pertinent questions were asked the various ministers on matters relating to local interests.

As Minister for Lands, Mr J.P. McLennan introduced the "Warragul Parks and Gardens" Bill which advocated that the present site be disposed of and a piece of land in Albert Street known as McCullough's be purchased for a park. In advocating the Bill the Minister drew attention to the awkward position of the present park and also to the fact it would cost approximately 800 pounds per annum for upkeep. It was 28 acres in area but 8 or 10 acres was large enough for the town, and the proposed site was not low lying and could be used all the year round whereas the other could not. The site in Albert Street was an ideal one for a park, being very central, having a gentle undulation, and with a stream in the centre where it would be possible to prepare a beautiful fernery. The present park was too distant from the residential part of the town for parents to allow their children to go down there, especially in the evening, whereas on the other hand, the proposed site was almost at their front door. With the vast advantages to be gained he hoped the members would support the Bill. Mr H.S. Wheeler, member of the opposition in speaking on the Bill said he wished to know who had first for it. The public did not seem to have moved in the matter. The present site was a good one and when some trees and shrubs were planted, paths formed, and the lake enlarged, the people of Warragul will be proud of their park and value it. The people did not want the park changed and it almost seemed that the government was playing into the High School Committee, who had longing eyes on the present fine piece of land.

The Attorney General (Mr. J.W. Clarke) in an enthusiastic speech advocating the change of site said the present park would bring about 60 or 70 pounds an acre and they could well purchase the site in Albert Street. It was an ideal spot and with no great expense would be made a beautiful park, where children could romp and play in perfect safety and it has the immense advantage of being central.

### ALBERT STREET PARK:A Civic Service West Gippsland Gazette May 1927

Those residents of Warragul who have visited the display of beautiful blooms, in what is usually termed "the mound" in the Warragul Park, Albert Street, were surprised as well as delighted to see such magnificent blooms. Gladioli, dahlias, zinnias, cosmos, etc., made a gigantic nosegay, and flower lovers vied with each other in their admiration of such choice specimens of nature's handiwork. Some more curious than others ask, "who did it?" – well, it was and is, the work of Doctor D. T. Jones, Warragul's popular veterinary surgeon. To greet "Doc" Jones on his returning from one of his excursions to a distant dairy herd, one would never suspect that he was a keen flower lover. In reality he is much more, for he is perhaps the most skilful flower gardener in Warragul, judging by the magnificent specimens which he is able to produce. Gladioli with a stem as thick as one's finger, and dahlias nearly six inches across are grown by Doc Jones apparently without any special effort, while the gorgeous colouring in these specimens is exquisite.

*Content Credit:*  
Steph Wellard and the Warragul Historical Society