

Submission to the public exhibition of Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan

The following is a submission from [REDACTED], a volunteer of Maslen Arboretum, Heritage Park and member of Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc working in Landcare on Mullumbimby Creek and Brunswick River since 1995.

The Masterplan is a very suitable document for park and landscape design, but the vision and objectives (p33) appear to completely omit the botanical and educational strengths of the Maslen Arboretum. While protecting fauna and riparian habitats is essential, this would not be possible without the established botanical structure provided by the native trees and established plants all along the Palm Park, the Heritage Park, and Maslen Arboretum areas. There is great opportunity to build the vision of a connected botanical garden landscape between Palm Park (a botanical paradise for palm enthusiasts), Maslen Arboretum and the established trees and other plants of the Heritage Park. This botanical area is unique in the region and a great attraction for Mullumbimby and Byron Shire.

Other important points – Ecology

- It is crucial to restore riparian vegetation and provide reconnection with the river for all.
- However, there is a need to understand the ecology of mangroves, often destroyed by boat wash causing bank erosion. Reduction of boats causing wash is crucial.

Other points related to ecology.

- Threatened species protection is crucial. There are several species along the river that don't exist in other places. These are documented for protection.
- Research opportunities exist in the management of the river and the establishment of new riparian vegetation.
- A major strength of the area is the Maslen arboretum – the theme of native flora can be echoed throughout the area as it is now.
- The planting done by [REDACTED] designs at Federation Bridge for riverbank restoration with native species is a demonstration site for riparian restoration.
- Plan riparian planting done by [REDACTED] at Heritage Park has been successful.
- Recognition of the history of the 3 park areas over time.

The plan omits much of the values of the Maslen Arboretum.

- The value of the arboretum for local education about native plants and forests is exceptional in the region, but surprisingly this arboretum is not well known in the region. This shows a lack of recognition within the council.
- The arboretum is a great botanical attraction for visitors from overseas to see Australian subtropical vegetation.
- The Maslen Arboretum, Palm Park and Heritage Park could be considered one botanical attraction for Mullumbimby. Perhaps the Byron Shire subtropical gardens (Lismore has Rainforest Botanical Gardens and Coffs Harbour has Botanical Gardens).
- It has been suggested that BVL volunteers could become a Friends of Heritage Park and Maslen Arboretum to provide the recognition that is deserved. A friends of Maslen Arboretum Heritage Park could be a vehicle for attracting ongoing funding. BVL has an MOU with council and volunteers manage the arboretum using local knowledge and best practice under this arrangement.

- Funding is required or updated plans of management for the Arboretum to maintain the current values over time.

Other points

Walkway and paving

- Overall consider best practice for walkways and pathways in the arboretum.

NB: consider materials that aren't dark – e.g., lighter granite of similar may be more inviting and lighten shaded areas of the park.

Plan Chapter 3.3.

1. Point 13. Appropriate paving of the front entrance is essential for safety and parking – this point is not mentioned in the plan.
2. Point 6- The concrete pathway is narrow. Consider replacement with wider pathway 1.5 m, keep any heritage value if it exists.
3. Point 9 – Historic access track – DO NOT PAVE
4. Point 9 – The river edge path should be lengthened, and a boardwalk built over existing track connecting to Palm Grove at end with consideration of the Saltmarsh and Swamp Oak, Mangrove communities colonising the riparian zone.
5. Point 8 - Shelter Picnic Structure Heritage Value Important – provided by local community volunteers (tidy towns, apex) AND MUST BE MAINTAINED.
6. View Lines Arboretum – Improve CPTED and Safety P27.
I disagree with the need to provide view lines that could result in the removal of vegetation (rainforest species) that are essential to the arboretum. Landcare members will prune and manage vegetation as they currently do.
7. Point 11: the current general park management by council with larger zero turn mowers don't work in the arboretum where large areas of grass are shaded and disappearing as the planted trees mature. Grass areas are too much maintenance, and these should be removed and replaced by pathways and gardens following the original intentions as identified by the Maslen's and currently being further developed by the volunteers.
8. An updated management plan covering the development of the open areas into plant communities, plus tree management into the future for the Arboretum is required.
9. Dogs are not mentioned in the plan – But if dogs are to be in the Arboretum, then all dogs should be on a lead, definitely not allowed to run freely in the park.
10. Neighbours – awareness of the boundaries of crown land area to be reinforced by council to prevent encroachment.
11. Volunteers – acknowledgment of the work is essential. Consider a Friends of Heritage Park group, with Brunswick Valley Landcare with some funding support from council.

Comment (draft) Heritage Park Master Plan

Creative Mullumbimby Inc has devoted considerable resources towards public art and cultural events in Mullumbimby over a ten-year period. Having made the original DA for Palm Park and Brunswick Terrace that has resulted in the installation of numerous permanent and medium-term works including two major sculptural installations which book end the Mullumbimby Sculpture Walk. It is with great sincerity that I make the following comments on the Draft Masterplan for Heritage Park which include Brunswick Terrace and Palm Park.

The Draft Plan has considerable merit and is a well-considered design for addressing the unresolved qualities of the designated parklands. However, there is much more required, that an articulate plan would include. With regard to the **Development Application No. 10.2014.248.1** there are further opportunities to 'celebrate sculpture' especially with respect to permanent works. Creative Mullumbimby Inc (CM) has a record of successful commissioning of major and small works which are currently installed and nominate to partner with Council for future sculpture commissioning for the site.

Having endorsed the comments submitted by a consortium of local interest groups I offer further specific points of elaboration:

1. **Palm Park** historically was designed and planted by community effort in the 1980's led by botanist Margaret Cox who is still a local resident. Out of respect for this, any improvements to the Palm Park Arboretum, including replacing lost name plaques, Ms. Cox should be **mentioned as a consultant**.
2. Also, the maintenance factor in dealing with fallen palm fronds requires review as the current 'storm drain' approach is aesthetically lacking, especially considering Council's green waste resources. (see image)
3. **Heritage Park** entrance statement would ideally have indigenous input, as would the site 13 sculptural work and the front space adjacent to site 1 of the above DA. These are three prominent sites with a potentially strong indigenous statement. **The masterplan should recognize and state this.** (see images)
4. **All park furniture** should be installed by a commissioning of local artisans and designers. This includes all seating and structures including shelters. Generic acquisitions of this infrastructure will not set

the parkland apart and give it the identity well suited to this town and what is already slowly developing as an expression of regional creativity. **The masterplan should recognize and state this.**







5. **Sandstone block plinths.** Creative Mullum were the contractors responsible for the production of the sandstone 'resting points' installed on Burringbar St (to widespread acclaim). The Draft plan mentions a continuation of this and a survey of suitable sites will yield installation points - again Creative Mullum Inc nominates to survey and report. **The masterplan should recognize and state this.**
6. **Footbridges;** there are two small bridges currently on the path marked for consideration. If either of those come for upgrade, a process of commissioning should be undertaken so that the construction is result of a locally led design process and once again not a generic purchase. The bridges are an opportunity to embed local creativity into the infrastructure. **The masterplan should recognize and state this.** (see images)

With regard to recognition of the viability partnering with Creative Mullum INC I draw attention to pages of the proposed Draft Arts and Cultural Plan currently on exhibition. Creative Mullum is well suited to partner and collaborate with Council in the development of the Heritage Park Masterplan.

“Council aims to foster cultural activity that best reflects our community by empowering and enabling local creatives and organisations to create.

Council has direct and indirect involvement which includes enabling arts activities, commissioning partnering or funding projects; regulating events and filming, supporting spaces where arts and cultural activity can flourish; planning for cultural infrastructure and public art; and embedding creativity across planning, place-making, development and public spaces. “

Council is at times an enabler, commissioner, custodian, regulator, collaborator, or advocate.

					
Enabler: create an environment for arts, culture and heritage to flourish through clear processes, capacity building, cultural facilities, and supporting community-led initiatives and networks.	Commissioner: directly engage artists and creative businesses to deliver creative projects, events or activate public spaces.	Custodian: caretaker of significant arts and heritage assets.	Regulator: monitor compliance of events through planning controls, building regulation, licensing, waste management, occupational health and safety, traffic management, food safety and public safety.	Collaborator: partner and collaborate with the community, arts organisations and businesses to support arts and cultural activity.	Advocate: leverage Council's position to generate new opportunities and resourcing, and reduce barriers to creative activity.



Footbridge with palm fronds ill-disposed



DA site 1 -potential for indigenous art statement



Heritage Park entrance – potential for indigenous art statement



DA site 13 - potential for indigenous art statement



Footbridge - potential commission for an original work

Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan Submission

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Secretary of the Australian Plant Society, Coffs Harbour Group and I am also a member of the Friends of the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour. I have been asked by [REDACTED], a Committee member of the APS, to comment upon the Draft Master Plan and I shall do so keeping both these hats in mind.

Let me initially congratulate those who have put this Master Plan Draft together. It is beautifully done with a great deal of sensitivity to the enhancement of an area of Mullumbimby that the community must already greatly enjoy but has also such great potential. I maintain a roster of volunteers that keep the Information Counter/Shop of the Coffs Harbour Botanic Garden open and have done so for some years. Our Garden has gates and we are open every day of the year from 9.00am to 5.00pm. The Information Counter/Shop is open every day of the year from 9.00 to 4.00pm. In March 2020, the local Council decided that the Garden would remain open notwithstanding that some of our enterprises had to shut because of the Covid virus. However, the people of Coffs Harbour flocked to the Garden and the donation box that previously had \$10-\$20 daily suddenly was ten times that. Office workers took to walking and our 19 hectare site about 1.5km from the CBD became the walk of choice.

While things have settled down from that peak we still find that office workers still come, together with the mums with bubs and carers with their charges now also much increased in numbers. The one other thing that might be relevant is that entry into the Coffs Botanic Garden is free and we have a work force of between 160-180 volunteers that run the Information Counter/Shop, a room rental of 2 substantial rooms, two electric buggies that are used when there are weddings in the Garden as well as taking every Sunday visitors around the Garden. And we recently opened a Glass House which the Commonwealth helped finance with Covid funds. I appreciate the difference in size between the Coffs Garden and your Gardens in Mullumbimby. However, one of the key issues I think will be for you to utilize those members of your community who have a love of Australian native flora, native fauna and also gardening generally in an organization like the Friends.

I apologise for this long-winding introduction but I hope you will see that it colours my observation of your plans. **First** what you must always remember is that many of your visitors are not there to experience a nice park. Many have a deep wish to learn more about our native flora (and fauna) and the botanic garden is the ideal place to teach without preaching. Ensure that you have good plant identification and that you try and do what all regional botanic gardens do and have as many of the local trees, shrubs and ground huggers as you can with suitable labels. Use your experts to show off their knowledge whenever possible. 300 local species in your Arboretum is a good start but there are a lot missing that people would love to see. Use all your garden – Heritage Park, Heritage Park West and the Palm Park – to collect as many natives as you can and label them. And make sure there are people who can ensure their health.

Secondly, keep your Garden dynamic. One of the best ways is to have a group of people who propagate and make plant items available both for your own needs, to swap with other botanic gardens or sell to visitors. I feel sure that you will have locals who would love to come together to propagate via cuttings or seed collection. And once others see how much fun it can be you will have your workers. The 'Friends' system works well and they are networking and sharing ideas.

Thirdly, as would become clear from what I wrote above, it is not only the power walkers who need good paths through a Garden. It is also a principal requirement for those who have bubs in strollers, the elderly and those with physical disabilities. Indeed, one of most interesting groups of visitors are the elderly who can drive to our Garden and then use a self-propelled walker to get around. They usually come as a small group and they are usually delightfully happy people. A good path makes that possible. The Master Plan I note differentiates between the 2m concrete path in the Heritage Park area, from the concrete path and asphalt path in the Arboretum area. That is a good idea. The pathway is close to trees in the Arboretum and to put a 2m concrete path through it, instead of an asphalt one is inviting trouble from root damage. It is true that we periodically have trouble with roots pushing up the asphalt pathway but it would be a shame to badly damage tree roots with a concrete pathway.

Fourthly, could I raise the vexed question of cycling through the whole park area. Coffs Council has taken the decision some time ago that adult bicycles and skateboards should be banned throughout the Botanic Garden. Children are allowed to use kids bikes and scooters. This has been done to protect our older visitors. Maybe there may be room for you to think about the concrete paths to be bike paths and the asphalt being 'no-bike' areas? You may then be able to landscape the area with the disabled in mind.

Fifth, what I have written in the 4th paragraph probably has to be qualified by a general observation that it would be probably beneficial to view the various areas: Heritage Park, Heritage Park West and the Palm Park as integral components of the Heritage Park site. In the general scheme of things it is not a large site and fragmentation is probably not in either Council nor the group that may be involved in working in it, to have separate rules. It would be in your interest to have the largest site possible to showcase the rare and endangered rainforest trees of the area. Keep as accurate stats as you can of people using the area and you will be in a great position after a short period to argue for more resources before a Council or even other governmental bodies.

Sixth, never underestimate the value of an organisation like the Friends or the voluntary workers generally in a public area like this. Besides being a voluntary group usually of knowledgeable and willing workers, they are a formidable asset that will spread the word about Heritage Park generally but the Maslen Arboretum's rare trees specifically. And they usually work well with Council and Council employees in popularizing the Garden generally. You will find that there is a world out there of groups of interested people who are willing, even now, to travel to Mullumbimby to see a Garden like yours. That number can only increase as your work in creating a Master Plan becomes known. We have interstate visitors who roam the country, usually in caravans, visiting botanic gardens. And once known the numbers can only grow. I would repeat that the moral for Council is to recognize what they

do, and value these voluntary workers. Just because they will do it for free doesn't make it valueless!

Finally, in a way I was pleased to see your (final) comment on Heritage Park West that the Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) was slated to be removed because of poor condition. It is good that you have looked at the health of the trees within the area although I confess that I am a little surprised that a Bunya had reached the end of its life so soon. [Although I confess I have limited knowledge of the *Araucaria* spp when growing adjacent to a river]. But what an opportunity to replace that Bunya with one of the many species that grow well on our east coast. But there are so many more natives that need to be showcased as well.

Once again, my most heartfelt thanks for allowing me to comment upon your plan and I wish you all the best in getting it generally accepted when it goes before the Council.

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAWTELL NSW 2452
22nd June 2023

Response to Draft Heritage Park Masterplan

June 21, 2023

From: [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

Mullumbimby

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding to the recent Masterplan as a neighbour of the Arboretum, and as a long-time BVL volunteer in it. I understand BVL will also be submitting their own recommendations.

I would have liked to have seen more emphasis on the history of the Park's location, and on the vision of, and establishment by, the original proponents. However, I understand this information may be included in the Mullumbimby Story Trail when that particular concept is adopted.

* Tyagarah Street entrance and Path. The untidy grassy area between the road and welcome shelter needs to have an asphalt surface of at least 4 m width. Possibly a garden bed lining this area might be appropriate. The roofed entrance construction is in good condition and includes a 'notice board' which is an important source of relevant information. The exotic bauhinia tree should be replaced with native tree. This is an important WELCOME to a Mullumbimby attraction.

* Path through Arboretum should be light coloured, wide enough for wheelchairs, but discourages sports bike riders from using it. Maybe a request for them to alight and walk through. It is after all a sanctuary. Educational opportunity.

* Picnic shed, due to frequent graffiti attack, should be regularly re-painted by council, rather than replaced. An acknowledgement of its volunteer build in the 1980s should be provided.

* Rough track to lower level has historic significance and needs to be treated in a sympathetic manner - not formal.

- * Vegetation management along Arboretum path should be left to the Volunteers who have empirical knowledge, however a professional audit of trees in this area is necessary. Possibly some vegetation needs to be managed.
- * The Arboretum is a Fauna and flora sanctuary, and as such only dogs on lease are acceptable (or not). New Signs should indicate this. Old signs ignored. Educational opportunity. Ditto bike riders.
- * Riparian zone. Needs to be addressed urgently. Boat speeds on river to be controlled. Educational opportunity.
- * Secondary path from Western boat ramp, along riparian edge, below Arboretum, to join top level will require either a ramp or steps to access Park proper. Incorrectly indicated on map.
- * Gardening and park maintenance. Insufficient at the present time requiring BVL volunteers to do council work. Cooperation between BVL and BSC sought in this respect.
- * Palm Park would benefit from a community volunteer group. Tree labels required and removal of palm fronds on a regular basis needs to happen. Publicity about this asset would assist. Educational opportunity
- Palm fronds from both the Arboretum and Palm Park need to be regularly removed. They are not habitat - they are untidy and unwelcome.

Thank You.



6th July 2023

Byron Shire Council
70 Station Street
MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

Dear Byron Shire Council

Re: Heritage Park Draft Landscape Masterplan

The purpose of this letter is to voice my objection to a component of the Heritage Park Draft Landscape Masterplan, namely the proposed changes to the intersection of Brunswick Terrace and Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road.

I have been a resident of Brunswick Terrace for over 60 years and I do not support the Council's proposed changes to prevent vehicles from turning right off Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road into Brunswick Terrace. Overtime, Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road has seen a significant increase in the amount of traffic travelling to and from Mullumbimby town centre on a daily basis with many of these vehicles travelling in excess of the 50kph speed limit. One of my concerns is that the installation of a barricade to prevent vehicles turning into Brunswick Terrace will only increase the speed of vehicles as they no longer have to steady for turning vehicles.

I would like to bring to Council's attention that there are no line markings on the road to indicate which side of the road vehicles should drive on. These road markings in particular lines indicating the middle of the road have been absent since the road was resealed a number of years ago and I believe putting line markings back on the road would increase the safety of the intersection as vehicles would have a guide for where to drive.

If the Brunswick Terrace, Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road intersection is changed then in order for me to access my property I would need to detour via Gordon Street and Tyagarah Street. Apart from being an inconvenience for me, Tyagarah Street is not suitable for the level of traffic the change would result in. Tyagarah Street is too narrow, passing cars are forced onto the grass nature strip to allow other vehicles to pass and avoid collisions. Further, the state of Tyagarah Street is in disrepair and as a person with back injuries, the road is not too rough for me to travel on. There is also no footpath on Tyagarah Street meaning pedestrians would be sharing the road with the increased traffic flow which is a dangerous combination.

The Draft Masterplan mentions community consultation has occurred and lead to the proposed changes. However myself and others in the street have not been consulted on the proposed changes. Given the residents of Brunswick Terrace stand to be the most impacted by these changes, consulting these residents should have been a priority.

Whilst I agree the pedestrian safety using the current unmarked crossing is an issue, this issue is independent of vehicles making right hand turns into Brunswick Terrace. Since I have resided in Brunswick Terrace there have been no more than a handful of minor accidents, none of which were caused by the safety of the intersection but rather the driver not obeying road rules (speeding, driving under the influence).

I believe the installation of a zebra pedestrian crossing where the current informal crossing is on Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road would be a great way to connect the already popular walking paths and highly improve pedestrian safety. Additionally the speed limit along Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road should be reduced from 50kmph as cars currently fly along the road doing the legal speed limit or sometimes more.

I have thoroughly reviewed the other changes proposed in the Draft Masterplan and I believe these will improve the appearance of Heritage Park and the Mullumbimby area in general and encourage people to visit and enjoy the area as it once was.

I strongly implore the Council to reconsider the proposed changes to the intersection of Brunswick Terrace and Tincogan Street/Murwillumbah Road as in their current form the changes will not improve the safety of this intersection, rather they may make the intersection more unsafe. There are various other options available to the Council as I have detailed in my letter which I believe are more suitable.

Please reach out to me if you would like me to elaborate further on any of the points I have made.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

[REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]



Byron Bird Buddies Submission

Draft Landscape Masterplan for Heritage Park

Byron Bird Buddies (BBB) is a local community group involved with bird conservation, education, and bird population monitoring throughout the Byron Shire.

The group is a not-for-profit organization and a locality group of Brunswick Valley Landcare Incorporated.

BBB has been monitoring bird populations in the Byron Shire since 2004 and undertakes community avifauna education and conservation activities within the Byron Shire, extending the education program into surrounding shires as required.

BBB has also produced avifauna educational materials such as pamphlets, brochures, and signage for distribution throughout the Northern Rivers on various topics related to birds and nature.

Brochures include information on the ecology of the three estuaries in the Shire (Brunswick River, Belongil, and Tallow Creek) as well as Birdwatching Guides for five Northern Rivers local government areas: Byron, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Lismore, and Kyogle.

While we mostly support the 'Vision and Objectives' and the 'Design Strategies and Outcomes,' we make the following comments:

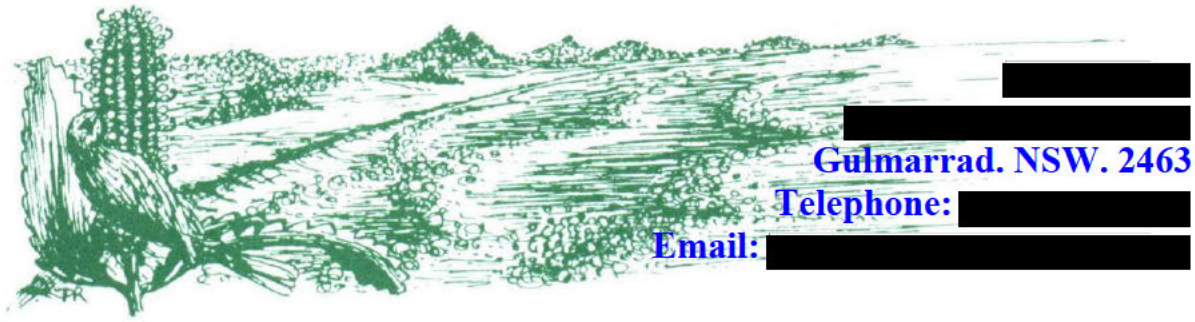
1. The Byron Shire brochure, produced by BBB in 2018, provides information on 25 birding sites in Byron Shires, including No.19 Mullumbimby Heritage Park and River Walk. There was limited space in the brochure to include all the birds seen in the site but there were many more interesting birds recorded along the river and riparian vegetation as well as the trees, shrubs and grasses.
2. Parks can play host to many species if planned in the right way – so designing the park for bird species as well as humans is an important consideration when planning or redesigning a park. Seeing birds in nature can lift the human spirit, as many studies have shown.
3. The Masterplan lacks any mention of improving vegetation for avian species, so we think there needs to be a vision statement and strategies to improve the site for this group of species. Keep in mind that you will have species that are sedentary and will be seen all year round, other species are migratory and may only be seen as they migrate through the area, and others are nomadic and may only come when trees, shrubs and grasses produce nectar, fruit or seed or when a particular insect may hatch.

4. It is important to have structure in the park. If its park like, with all under-storey removed, then you are at risk of creating for a single species like the Noisy Miner and large predators that predate smaller birds. Low vegetation and middle story scrubs is a very important feature if you are attempting to improve biodiversity.
 - a. In, 2.3 Design Strategies & Outcomes, the statement such as management of foliage encroaching on the path and ongoing vegetation management to ensure the under story is kept open, increasing visual permeability throughout the arboretum, needs careful consideration in how this is to be achieved so it does not destroy habitat for small birds and other species.
 - b. Also important to provide leaf litter and fallen logs/branches for insects and grubs – fallen branches should not be removed but left in place.
 - c. Some of the drainage lines could also be designed to support rocks and shallow pools as water for drinking and bathing areas for small birds.
5. We fully support “Strengthening of the riparian zones will be undertaken by implementing planting strategies to reinforce the existing riparian corridors and removal of weed species. In areas where the riparian vegetation has been impacted, planting areas will be widened. Vehicle access to riparian areas will be managed and/or removed.”
6. Master Plan does not address the issue of dogs - BBB would support a NO DOG policy for the section of Mullumbimby covered by this Master Plan. A number of bird species rest and feed along the river edge and are disturbed by dogs, especially if off-lead. However if dogs are being allowed then an on-lead policy needs to be in place and enforced if this park is going to be used by all citizens and also aiming to improve biodiversity.
7. BBB offers to provide an updated list of birds seen in the area covered by the Master Plan.

Sincerely



Byron Bird Buddies Coordinator



17th June 2023

Byron Shire Council
PO Box 219
MULUMBIMBY NSW 2482

Dear Sir,

SUBJECT: HERITAGE PARK LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

In making this submission, I am hoping my comments will assist in fine tuning the plan in particular for the arboretum area, by adding an historical perspective dating back to the time when Byron Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (BFFCS) proposed an alternative to a caravan park to replace the agistment paddock, in what is now Maslen Arboretum. The arboretum area is recognised in the Australian Botanical Gardens register. This supported by decades of personal experience in planning, enhancement and management of recreational and ecological valuable parklands, hopefully will benefit the final plan. I realise this is a landscape plan and not a



management plan which will be required for Byron Shire Council (BSC) to competently ensure the landscape plan continues to be adhered to. The original management plan for the Brunswick Valley Heritage Park was developed by my father, Rus Maslen and myself with the objective of transitioning from rainforest in one end of the arboretum, through eucalypt woodland to heathland at the other end with educational signage. There has long been a need for a council management plan for the total area especially for the arboretum area which has suffered at times, due to lack of understanding and direction within council. The actual sound management of the arboretum area has been left up to the community, most recently by the Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) team.

The BFFCS and my parents would be flattered that the whole park has been labelled Heritage Park when the original concept of what is now labelled Maslen Arboretum, was called Brunswick Valley Heritage Park with the express purpose of exhibiting and protecting examples of the flora of the Tweed, Brunswick and Richmond River valleys including some threatened species, some of which only exists as individual plants in roadside verges. The draft landscape plan has been prepared by landscape architects which traditionally design attractive and functional public parks, gardens, playgrounds, residential areas, college campuses and public spaces. Most landscape plans struggle with blending parklands for people with botanical gardens and natural areas. This is



evident in the draft plan where the architects, either had not found the original objectives of the arboretum area or do not have the expertise to blend these features together. It would appear that the consultants did not have access to the full historical background of the arboretum area. This submission concentrates on the arboretum area from the Tyagarah Street entrance to the bridges over the Gordon Street drainage swale.

While a good start addressing the amenity from a view of servicing people, the draft has short falls from an environmental perspective, especially with regard to achieving the original objectives of the arboretum showing examples of the flora of the region, as well as creating an area to assist in the protection of specific rare or endangered species. Most interpret arboretums as a place for trees, but a more accurate definition is *a place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes*. The original plan was never fully implemented as BFFCS members aged, passed away and ultimately my mother left Mullumbimby. The northern area of the arboretum was to be an area of heath and where possible some wetlands. There is still an opportunity for BSC working with BVL to complete this objective.

Comments on specific sections follow:

1.1 Context

The reference to *rainforest trees* is inaccurate and should read *trees, shrubs and groundcovers of rainforest, forest, woodland and heath*. The arboretum was always intended to include all ecosystems of the relevant valleys and not restricted to the more emotive rainforest. This failing of understanding of the full purpose of the arboretum, is reflected throughout the draft.

Reference to *visitors from surrounding areas* is restrictive as the arboretum has much wider attraction. Over the years, the arboretum section has existed, it has gained a reputation for the examples of local flora attracting visitors from all over Australia and in some cases the world. Bus tours would visit the park from around Australia organising educational tours through BFFCS. The arboretum has an important status far beyond the Byron Shire and environs.



1.2 THE SITE

Once again, the reference to *tree* is restrictive implying that the only plants of importance are trees continuing the lack of understanding of the arboretum in particular. This needs to be expanded even in this introductory section.

2.1 Community Insights / Desires

The language in this section concentrates on people and has limited emphasis on the environmental insights and desires of the community. The links should include reference to the environmental links of the riparian zone and the arboretum. The heritage aspect of the arboretum which has given the area its name, must be highlighted in a stronger manner.

The reference to *celebrate Indigenous culture, provide cultural content, representation, and opportunity* is interesting in that the BFFSC made attempts to incorporate aspects of indigenous culture into the arboretum area. A set of culturally significant stones (see photograph below) were rescued from a construction site and following research arranged in their original format with inclusion of educational signage at the entrance of the arboretum.

These were subsequently removed by persons representing the indigenous people and



reputedly stored under a house, lost to the indigenous and general community.

Section 2.2 Vision & Objectives

The words of the nine circles have completely ignored the reason for the existence of the arboretum which was to display and protect the flora of the valleys. The only reference to environmental values is that referring to fauna and riparian protection. Protection of fauna habitat does not necessarily protect specific flora. There is no existence or diversity of fauna without the flora.

2.3 DESIGN STRATEGIES & OUTCOMES

IMPROVE LIMITED & AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure in the arboretum area was installed by various community funded works. While much of this is 40 years old, it is still in reasonable condition except for the negative impacts of graffiti and the removal of informative signage. The retention of items such as the shelter shed constructed by the APEX Club, has a historical and cultural significance and must be retained and maintained.



IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

While the comment makes positive intent for the likes of riparian zones which do need significant attention, it does little to define the approach to the arboretum section. One of the issues that have negatively impacted on the arboretum section, is the changes in community input to the enhancement and management of this section from the BFFCS to BSC to the current BVL group. The community groups have not only established the arboretum section,

but continually enhanced and maintained the plant assets. Council has repeatedly caused degradation due to staff not having a clear understanding as to the values of different aspects of the arboretum section with areas and plants being destroyed due to an apparent ignorance of BSC staff or a lack of BSC to adhere to the plan of this section. Education of BSC staff, especially those with any involvement in the daily management and maintenance of the arboretum section and new to the park, must be carried out on a regular basis to ensure the values of the arboretum and any future plantings, to achieve the original plan for the arboretum section, are maintained and not destroyed as has occurred in the past.

ENHANCE ECOLOGY AND HABITAT

Once again, the reference to only the riparian zone with only reference to nest boxes in the arboretum is a lost opportunity. There is considerable opportunity to enhance the arboretum section with the reestablishment of the under storey, completion of the northern area and incorporation of wetland species in the drainage from Gordon Street (discussed below). The completion of the heath section will enhance the area and achieve the completion of the demonstration of the flora of the region. BVL has the desire and ability to ensure the completion of the arboretum can be achieved with the support of BSC and education of its staff not to negatively impact on the work of BVL. Education of the neighbours is also required to ensure past negative impacts do not occur.

ADDRESS HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

In the northern area of the arboretum section there is existing drainage features that could be enhanced both from an ecological and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) perspectives. BVL has attempted to start this by the plantings in the swale from Gordon Street. The area of the palm grove has overland flow during rain events and remains wet for an extended period following such events. With appropriate planning these areas can achieve both ecological and WSUD objectives. This treatment will enhance the arboretum section, meeting ecological, educational, water quality and drainage needs.

A SAFE PLACE

The statement of *Management strategies within the arboretum can improve safety- such as management of foliage encroaching on the path and ongoing vegetation management to ensure the under story is kept open, increasing visual permeability throughout the arboretum* demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge and understanding of the purpose of the arboretum section.

BSC mismanagement of this section of the park from 2003 when the maintenance of the arboretum changed with my mother, Beryl Maslen moved following my father's passing. BFFCS purchased a large self-propelled mower to maintain the grassed areas as they did not trust the shire maintenance crews to respect the lower plants of the arboretum area. The council maintenance staff completely destroyed significant examples of rare and in some cases endangered under storey plants, that existed around the shelter shed. The continued reference of only trees in the arboretum ignores the full value of this section of the proposed Heritage Park. While Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are fully appreciated, council must assess if it wishes to truly value the fullness of the flora of the arboretum and its significance to the region, or if it is looking for a what is primarily a recreation park for people with reduced value for the original objectives of the arboretum area in demonstrating and in some cases



Lost under storey destroyed by poor understanding of the arboretum objectives

protecting the flora of the region. A direct comparison can be made with the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens where CPTED principles are not adhered to on a much greater scale.

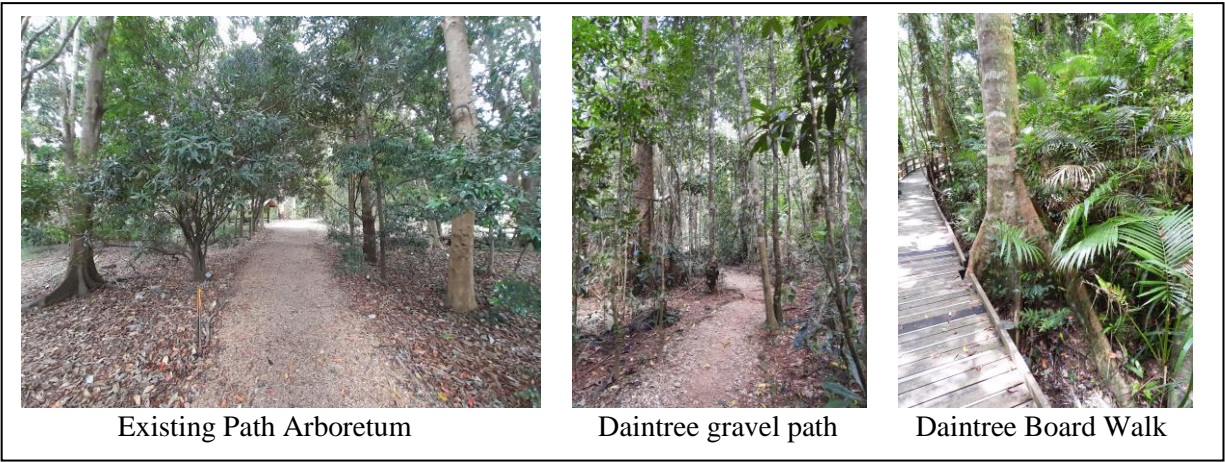
In order to maintain existing pathway safety asphalt paths should not be constructed in the arboretum section as these are prone to become uneven with the growth of root system which have a history of buckling pathways. The existing mulched treatment tolerates this growth while having minimal restrictions for the majority of potential users.

3.3 Maslen Arboretum

As a general comments relative to the arboretum area, vegetation enhancement is needed to fulfill the original objective of the arboretum with additional shrubs, groundcover, heath and potentially wetland plants. Any proposed works must not negatively impact on existing arboretum vegetation.

Point 1 *Concrete pathway nominal 2m wide* has the following comment.

Paths through the arboretum must not be of any hard stand design. The proposed asphalt path must not be considered. The existing construction has proven a practical solution for over 30 years with periodic addition of mulch as required. It is accessible by most modes of travel including wheelchairs both manual and powered (My paraplegic wheelchair bound son has proven this in his manual wheelchair) and modern strollers seen in use on the existing path. The following pictures show the existing pathway and two examples of those in the Daintree, with all photographs taken in 2022. Only the existing design or the Daintree board walk options are considered acceptable. The potential for damage to root systems of the existing vegetation is highly probable with any hardstand or asphalt construction. The high potential for damage and the loss of infiltration into the soils will reduce the health and viability of the existing vegetation. Asphalt paths have a likelihood of becoming uneven in time with the continued growth of root systems resulting in additional safety issues. Decomposed granite and compressed gravel are also considered inappropriate in the



Existing Path Arboretum

Daintree gravel path

Daintree Board Walk

arboretum as they generally prove to not sustain under heavy rainfall and commonly become messy in areas that have a potential for not drying out. This is not likely to occur with my recommended alternatives.

The existing concrete path in the arboretum northern section was constructed from a grant obtained by members of the community who were not part of the BFFCS. There was no consultation with BFFCS or local First Nations people. The result was a path that did not meet to standards employed by BFFCS and offended First Nations people due to the use of symbols not relevant to the local community. Any widening of this path to 2m to meet the

standards alluded to in this draft plan, would probably require complete reconstruction. While this may have less potential to negatively impact existing vegetation in this area, the construction is problematic.

Point 2 *Existing arbour/ entry to arboretum upgraded* is vague. While the existing arbour may need some level of maintenance, any significant change in the concept and design must not detract from the historical value of the structure.

Point 3 *Connections to street footpath* is recommended with care taken is selecting the route to ensure no negative impact to existing vegetation and located so as not be subject to stormwater flows.

Point 4 *Improved drainage swale* can be implemented while using WSUD principles and local plant species respecting the principles of the arboretum. This will not only comply with both principles but assist with another objective of the arboretum by educating the public WU with associated educational signage. The exact location of the proposed swale is vague as there



are two potential locations, namely, that near the arbour and where the existing small bridge exists. When selecting the plant species, it is recommended that alternatives to *Lomandra* species are used, as this species has almost become a weed due to its over use in stormwater quality improvement devices (SQIDs). By selecting alternative species, the value of the arboretum will be enhanced.

Point 5 *Bridge over the drainage swale* needs clarification due to the comment in Point 3. The location of the swale must be determined so as not to conflict with the existing arboretum design or create additional flow path ways. It would appear to be a more suitable solution to incorporate and drainage to take advantage of existing infrastructure.

Point 6 *Asphalt path through arboretum* is opposed and has been commented on above.

Point 7 *Existing arboretum* requires vegetation enhancement with the re-establishment of the under storey and the completion of the northern heath section and a potential wetland section. The reference to the need to comply with an interpretation of CPTED has been commented on above. It is not unusual for natural areas not to fully comply with CPTED. By continuing with the council's mismanagement of the original under storey of the arboretum area, the full potential and value of the arboretum cannot be achieved. The view lines along the path are adequate. View from the Gordon Street neighbours is limited and if full views through the arboretum were insisted upon then significant degradation of the arboretum values would occur. The area north of the arbour is less than ideal due to topography and vegetation along Gordon Street, so an inconsistent interpretation is inappropriate. It is not possible for CPTED principles to be applied everywhere and if the objectives of the

arboretum are to be respected, then this is one situation where the principles can be relaxed slightly.

Point 8 *Existing shelter upgraded* could be undertaken but to expand the area around the shelter would have negative impacts on the arboretum and hence should not be considered. The problem of graffiti and other inappropriate signage such as the pictures of inappropriate body parts I removed on my last visit, need to be continually removed. There are other areas within the planned Heritage Park where small community gatherings can be catered for. The shelter area can accommodate gatherings of less than 20 people successfully as my family have experienced. The opening up this area to larger gatherings is opposed.

Point 9 *Secondary path nominal 1.5m wide, running along river connecting to arboretum path* has merit with the following qualification.

The proposal to construct a formal path through the existing historic cutting, south of the arboretum shelter shed should not be considered. This cutting is the remnant of the river crossing ford that existed prior to a bridge over the river. Prior to the river silting up over the last half century, this was the most shallow section of the river with a wide gravel shoal. Any formal path with the associated earthworks would degrade the historical value of the cutting.

The path along the lower section of the arboretum could be a concrete path which would have a greater durability as this area floods easily. The path up the embankment at the northern end depicted as one of the secondary paths could come up through the palm grove area with care taken not to be in an overland flow path linking with the existing concrete path. Grades suitable for wheelchair access may not be possible without negatively impacting on existing arboretum vegetation.

Point 11 *Existing grass areas retained and improved* is not supported. This area was originally proposed to be planed with heath plant species following the eucalypt woodland section. This concept should be developed to the full extent of the historical plan. There are a number of other areas in the overall park outside the arboretum for community gatherings. Coupled with the planned drainage swales to the north and south this area will be a completion of the arboretum section.

Point 12 *Existing trees retained* is supported although not part of the arboretum.

Point 13 *Arboretum entry node* retention is supported being the original entry to the arboretum, the labelling of the arboretum and has a personal value to my family.

Points 14 Car parking formalised to front of arboretum entry is not opposed but must be constructed in a manner that does not negatively impact on the vegetation especially the tree root zones of the plants in the arboretum.

Points 15, 16 and 17 are supported although are not part of the arboretum.

While no comment has been made in the plan, the interface between the arboretum and the private properties must be addressed. Historically there has been unauthorised use of the area that was road reserve prior of 1984 when the classification was revoked. There have also been actions over many years that have destroyed vegetation within the arboretum. Access to this area must be prohibited for all vehicular traffic other than or maintenance purposes or by pedestrians. Residents backing on the arboretum must be advised and educated as to the purpose and values of the area and the corresponding repercussions of



not respecting these. Council must be prepared to take appropriate compliance actions if this does not occur.

3.12 Plant Palette should be expanded especially in the enhancement of the arboretum. There is opportunity to complete the original plan for the arboretum with support of BVL for BSC.

The riparian zone along the length of the whole length of the proposed park has significant value from ecological, water quality and bank stability aspects. There were attempts to use a number of methodologies to remove pest species such as camphor laurels during the time BFFCS managed the arboretum. One of these was to plant strangler figs in the trees. There had been growth of these but having a slow growth rate it is not a short term solution. Other methods with planting of trees that would ultimately replace the pest species also proved to be slow as the competition between existing trees and new plantings was significant preventing a timely solution. Monitoring of the effectiveness of these methods ceased on the passing of my father.

Moving the boat launching ramp from near the tennis courts is supported especially given the shallow condition of the river immediately downstream.

Future works must not negatively impact on the values of the arboretum section as detailed above.

In summary, the overall plan will further enhance the community amenity. The plan must be amended in the arboretum area to reflect the full objective of the arboretum and ensure the values of the arboretum are not further degraded. Council must decide if the arboretum is to be retained as originally intended or become a compromise with that usually connected with a general public park.

I look forward to feedback on council's assessment of this application with amendment of the plan to reflect my submission.

Yours faithfully,



 BE BSc (Botany/Ecology) FIE (retired)

July 6 2023



Mullumbimby Residents Association

Submission on the Draft Heritage Park Master Plan

Introduction

Mullumbimby Residents Association advocates on behalf of the residents of the town. The aim of this submission is to assist BSC to align Heritage Park facilities with the needs and expectations of the community. With this in mind MRA conducted a survey to establish the feeling of the residents concerning the key features proposed in the Draft Master Plan. It was disseminated via our email contact list and our Facebook page. We hope the results of the survey contained in this submission will be taken into account when the Master Plan is finalised. We feel it is important for the residents to provide input into the design of such major projects for them to have confidence in the decision-making process and to be satisfied their needs are being met.

The redevelopment of Heritage Park has the potential to significantly enhance the amenity of Mullumbimby by incorporating a variety of features. There is the potential to meet the needs of residents of all ages. We hope our submission will assist in that objective.

1. Off-leash Dog Area

We all acknowledge that there are a large number of dog owners in Mullumbimby and at present there are few areas where it is safe or legal that allow off-leash exercise. At the same time it is understood public safety is of the utmost importance and every effort should be made to ensure this. Convenience is another important consideration. While Lot 22 would be welcomed as the location of an off-leash dog area, many residents see no reason why a second area could not be incorporated within Heritage Park. The official Council off-leash dog area has been located in Heritage Park for some time and its proximity to town (where the majority of dog owners reside), is something a large proportion of residents would like to see retained.

Survey results:

66% of respondents would prefer an off-leash area within Heritage Park, the preferred option being the far eastern end of Heritage Park.

58% of respondents consider it is important an off-leash should be fenced.

28% of respondents would welcome an off-leash dog area at Lot 22, but not necessarily at the exclusion of one at Heritage Park.

MRA does not consider Lot 22 and Heritage Park mutually exclusive locations for an off-leash dog area. Mullumbimby is a large enough town to warrant two Council-managed dog areas. Having to drive their dog to Lot 22 is a significant impediment for older residents and this should be taken into consideration before finalising the Heritage Park Master Plan.

MRA suggests serious consideration should be given to the far eastern end of Heritage Park for location of the off-leash area.

2. Motor Boat Launch Site

MRA acknowledges the difficulties associated with the current boat ramps in Mullumbimby. The removal of the both ramps, expecting motor boat users to utilise the one at Brunswick Heads, is not considered acceptable by Mullumbimby residents. The predominant reasons for this are (a) It is quite often crowded and therefore difficult to access. (b) It is too far away from Mullumbimby and waiting time on arrival can mean the tide has receded to such an extent that launching is not possible.

Overwhelmingly, residents who have a motor boat wish to have access close to Mullumbimby. To remove the ability to launch motor boats from either of the Heritage Park ramps before an alternative is in operation would be unpopular.

We didn't canvass the feeling of residents with respect to a launching site for canoes/kayaks as these needs will be met according to the Draft Master Plan.

Survey results

96% of respondents would like to see a new Motor Boat Launch Site close to Mullumbimby
37.%% would prefer to retain and enhance the existing boat ramps within Heritage Park.

3. Exercise Equipment

Exercise equipment encourages a healthy lifestyle and is a common feature in public spaces and parks around the country. MRA feels there is no evidence the residents of Mullumbimby are any different to the rest of the Australian population that they should be deprived of such facilities. Heritage Park is adequate in size to incorporate exercise equipment at several locations along its length.

Survey results

68% of respondents would favour the installation of exercise equipment.

MRA acknowledges exercise equipment does not have to be elaborate. It does however have the ability to appeal to a range of ages. Such a feature would enhance the use of the park for a significant portion of the community. Encouraging individuals to lead a healthy lifestyle is something we should all embrace.

4. Sustainable Materials for Paths/New Installations

Budget constraints are difficult to manage and must always be at the forefront of design decisions. MRA would welcome a sustainable approach to design and construction in any project but acknowledges the difficulty in achieving this. We have high proportion of residents who are more mindful of the dangers of failing to embark on a more sustainable path.

Survey results

72% would prefer sustainable products to be used in the redevelopment of Heritage Park.
50% of respondents would prefer sustainable products to be used even if it costs more.

5. Assistance for Pedestrians Crossing the Road at Federation Bridge/Brunswick Terrace

Crossing the road at the eastern end of Federation Bridge has been fraught with danger for a while. In the interests of integrating the sections of Heritage Park either side of Tincogan Street pedestrian safety needs to be enhanced.

Survey results

96% of respondents see a need to enhance the safety for pedestrians crossing Tincogan Street at the eastern end Federation Bridge.

39% of respondents would welcome a safety refuge to be installed.

58% of respondents would welcome the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

31% of respondents would welcome a reduction in the speed limit to 30Km/h either side of the crossing point.

6. Accessibility (PAMP)

MRA believes the aim of the Heritage Park development should meet the needs of as large a proportion of the population as possible. The needs of the infirm, disabled and aged are all too often neglected in design features. The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan is (PAMP) to designed to ensure groups such as these are not forgotten. It is essential the PAMP guidelines are adhered to during the design process and incorporated in the final plan.

Survey results

63% of respondents consider ease of access of high importance

30% of respondents consider ease of access to be of moderate importance.

4% of respondents consider ease of access a low priority.

It is clear residents wish to see a high priority given to features that allow easy access for all individuals, indeed it is incumbent on Council to ensure no group is disadvantaged when it comes to accessing and enjoying Heritage Park.

The MRA Team

Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan

To the General Manager
The Lord Mayor & Councillors
Byron Shire Council

5 July 2023

Re: HERITAGE PARKLANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN 2023
3.5 PALM PARK

Feedback from residents of Brunswick Terrace (south of Tincogan St) Mullumbimby

In the Byron Shire Council document, *Our Mullumbimby Masterplan* E2019/85870, that was accepted by council in **2019**, Item #16 on page 40 mentions the following points:

'Investigate the potential for Brunswick Terrace to become a cul-de-sac where it meets Tincogan Street and Federation Bridge.

- Make crossing Tincogan Street safer for pedestrians
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists to encourage active transport
- Undertake a traffic study to test the feasibility of this action
- Consult with local community to understand the long-term implications of any such action

In the current **2023 Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan (HPLMP)** prepared by Plummer and Smith Pty Ltd

The only points regarding Brunswick Tce that seem to be being addressed to make it a safer environment is the pedestrian/bike crossing upgrade near Federation Bridge to improve pedestrian and cycle activity.

Our principal concerns are

- That there has been no consultation with the immediate residents or a feasibility study undertaken before or during when this Heritage Park Master Plan was produced
- Few measures have been addressed to create a safer park and a residential street environment; there is a urgent need to change the traffic flow to slow down the amount and speed of traffic in the street towards the dangerous intersection heading north into Tincogan St.
- On Street parking 'formalised' 3.5 - #12.
It is not clear what formalise parking means not sure actually whether that means a gravel section or line markings? The road is too narrow for angled parking with plantings, as recently created in Stuart St, due to large Royal Palms planted along the edge of the park.
- Large SUV's and campervans are driving across the lawns and public footpath daily to put household rubbish in the bins and set up camp near the picnic table area. See images # 5, 6 & 7.

'On Street parking formalised' (Page 40.3.5 Palm Park #12)

- We would like details and clarification of what this actually means and what the council planners propose? Creating a bitumen parking area with white lines and gutter along the roadway is suitable for the CBD areas and the end of Burringbar St, particularly near the Community college, but our little stretch of road is a residential street and the edge of a natural riverside park. More bitumen could create more drainage issues along an already flood prone area. Grass and gravel have a greater ability to absorb water and slow water flow.
- This southern end of the Brunswick Tce stretch of road (between Burringbar St and Tincogan St) is narrow and the space presently used for informal parking is barely wide enough for a car let alone a campervan, bus or 4 wheel Drive. The space between the large palm trees to the edge of the bitumen is only 2.1 metres, hence people parking on the grass area in the park. See image 1.



1.

- The main issue for parking in the localised area is during the week around the Community College. Formalised car parking along the road in Burringbar St and Gordon St makes more sense as it is in daily use by students and Gordon St is considerably wider and one side is already commercial zoning.
- Formalised parking (if that refers to line markings) along the Terrace would spoil the natural aesthetics of the park and the river frontage (especially along the stretch where the permanent sculptures are placed) especially if it is proposed to add curb and gutter. The street and park scape would be compromised. The beauty of the park area and most residential streets in the heritage section of Mullumbimby is the gentle gradation between grass, gravel and roadway. Also the roadway is not wide enough to cut into unless it is made one way only.

Tincogan St & Brunswick Tce Intersection

Page 47.

3.8 Tincogan St Intersection

Also see page 73.

5.3 Appendix C – pedestrian island detail

- This would have been the ideal time to investigate and implement the **cul-de-sac idea**, as was accepted by council in the 2019 Mullumbimby Masterplan, to make this area safer for pedestrians and cyclists along this ever popular stretch of parkland particularly since the Mullumbimby Sculpture Walk was initiated and sculptures installed.
- This proposal was suggested in order to create a safer and more user friendly area for pedestrians and residents. There has been a number of accidents and near misses over the years at the intersection near the bridge and this idea is aimed at avoiding a **fatal accident in the future**. See images 2, 3,



2.



3.

- Brunswick Tce splays out widely near the intersection of Tincogan St giving ample room for a turning circle to be constructed. See image 4.



4.

- The volume of traffic has also increased over the years and the speed that some cars travel down the road is very concerning. The sculpture walk and improved parkland will also increase the volume of children, pedestrians bike riders and visitors.
- The suggestions in the HPLMP is for the traffic heading north to only be able to turn left, not right into Tincogan St from Brunswick Tce so none of the street residents will be able to go out of town that way. **So the only benefit is only for through traffic** that is trying to avoid congestion of other roads in town.
- No right turn into Brunswick Tce (south) from Tincogan St is one aspect of making the intersection less dangerous but there is nothing mentioned about the possibility of someone going straight ahead into northern end of Brunswick Tce.
- There are some changes to placement of pedestrian access (no actual pedestrian crossing but a refuge island) with some street widening, narrowing (Brunswick Tce. end) and realignment which is supposed to slow down traffic....but the concern still is that people crossing this way from the Bridge side still cannot get a good view of cars coming along Tincogan St (heading west) because of the sharp corner.

Our concerns are based on SAFETY at this very dangerous intersection; and that people will continue to speed along Brunswick Tce to turn left into Tincogan St straight into the crossing, even with a stop sign people are only going to be looking right for oncoming traffic clearance rather than left at the crossing.

- Crossing Tincogan St heading east just past the abridge towards town with only an island will still be incredibly dangerous as it's a blind corner and it is not possible to see cars heading west along Tincogan St.
- No mention has been made if traffic is allowed to go straight over the Tincogan St intersection heading north even though its suggested no one is to turn right?

Some thoughts on ACTIONS that could help alleviate the problem;

- 1. **Ideally a cul-de- sac implemented.** If not a stop sign will help but the addition of devices to slow down traffic should definitely be installed in Brunswick Tce (south) and in Tincogan St before or a pedestrian/ bike crossing.
- An actual **Pedestrian and bike crossing** be installed not just a pedestrian refuge which prioritises cars at the risk of pedestrians and bike riders who are just going to be dodging the constant stream of traffic. The proposed island **is not wide** enough for someone on a bike to safely stop in the middle and even worse for a family walking together or on bikes. It should be the same type of pedestrian crossing as the other one that has been recently installed on the other side of Federation Bridge near St Johns.
- **Improve the signage** to warn traffic turning left that there is an actual pedestrian bike crossing directly around the corner. The sign below is what is currently is the only indication but for bike traffic only?



New Picnic table & shelters

3.5 This is a positive move but on the plan there is listed that there are two picnic tables but there is only one. One of marked spots in the HPLMP is the sculptural drinking fountain commissioned by Mullumbimby Creative.

Driving into park and over footpath

Rubbish Bins

Concerns

- The bins near the picnic table are in daily use not so much by park users but by people living out of town who dump their household rubbish. The bins are emptied daily but the concern is the traffic driving onto the park and over the footpath. See images 5, 6, 7

Maybe a solution is to place stone or wood bollards or plant between the palms to stop traffic use over the park area and footpath.



5.



6.



7.



23 June 2023
Byron Shire Council
Sent via email only council@byron.nsw.gov.au

Re Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan

Dear General Manager,

The Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) Health Promotion unit welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan (“the plan”).

We make this submission using an evidence-based approach based on NSW Health’s *Healthy Built Environment Checklist* (HBEC).¹ The *North Coast Regional Plan 2016-2036* includes Direction 15 to “Develop healthy, safe, socially engaged and well-connected Communities”.² Our response is also informed by other healthy built environment best-practice guides including:

- Healthy Planning Expert Working Group’s healthy planning action resources³
- Government Architect NSW’s *Better Placed*,⁴ *Greener Places*⁵ and *Urban Design for Regional NSW*⁶
- (the former) Premier’s Council of Active Living’s *Planning and Design Guidelines*⁷
- Heart Foundation’s *Healthy Active by Design*⁸
- University of NSW’s *Healthy Built Environment Indicators*⁹

Health context

By way of background, evidence shows that people have high overweight and obesity rates (57.3% of NNSW adults and 24% of NSW children are overweight or obese. Less than half (42.7%) of NNSW adults and almost three quarters (72.9%) of NNSW children had inadequate physical activity levels. As health professionals, we recognise the importance of the built environment in directly affecting people’s health and the central role that planners play in providing environments which support healthy behaviour.¹⁰ The improvements and upgrades to ageing infrastructure including the playground, pathways and river access, and improving accessibility and connectivity within the park supports bettering these health outcomes.

Council can influence health and wellbeing outcomes through the planning system. Although ‘health’ is not a specific object in section 1.3 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, objective (g) is: “to promote good design and amenity of the built environment.” Good design necessarily includes health and wellbeing. The COVID-19 pandemic has particularly highlighted health and the importance of physical activity, mental health, social

1 <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/urbanhealth/Publications/healthy-built-enviro-check.pdf>

2 <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/North-Coast-Regional-Plan/Vibrant-and-engaged-communities>

3 <https://www.activelivingnsw.com.au/resources/>

4 <http://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/thinking/integrated-design-policy>

5 <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places>

6 <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/draft-urban-design-guide-for-regional-nsw-2018-10-02.pdf>

7 http://www.pcal.nsw.gov.au/planning_and_design_guidelines

8 <http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com/>

9 <https://cityfutures.be.unsw.edu.au/research/city-wellbeing/>

¹⁰ Thompson S, McCue P. The CHES Principles for Health Environments: A holistic and strategic game plan for inter-sectoral policy and action. Sydney: NSW Premier’s Council on Active Living; 2008

http://www.pcal.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/file/0003/27651/chess.pdf in

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/urbanhealth/Publications/healthy-urban-dev-check.pdf>, p 8 [hardcopy page numbers]

connection, and access to green spaces, all of which councils have an influence over. Fundamentally people want healthy lifestyles and councils are key to delivering this.

The Plan

We support the proposed change to “soft” river access from within the park for use by kayaks and canoes only and moving boat access facilities to river areas outside of the town centre. We also support improved pedestrian accessibility and safety.

Bubblers and drinking fountains

Installing water fountains or bubblers is a strategy that counters obesogenic environments, such as sugary drinks. Providing access to drinking water, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, people who are homeless and people living with dementia or other disabilities, will assist in reducing the risk of overheating during the hot humid subtropical weather. Choosing water as a drink is supported by strong evidence of the benefits associated with replacing sugary beverages with water.

- Almost one in eleven (9.1%) adults and one in fourteen (7.1%) children (aged 2-17 years) consume sugar sweetened drinks daily.¹¹
- Men were almost twice as likely as women to usually consume sugar sweetened drinks daily (11.8% compared with 6.4% respectively). Men who were daily consumers also drink more per day, averaging 3.3 cups (825 ml or 2.2 cans) per day compared with women who consume 2.5 cups per day.
- 14% of adolescents drink more than 4 cups of sugar sweetened beverages per week¹².
- We know that community members consider water fountains in public spaces important¹³ and they report using them¹⁴.
- Having public water fountains available in public spaces such as parks and playgrounds increases accessibility and consumption of water¹⁵
- Having public drinking fountains also provides benefits for the environment, as increased water consumption from fountains reduces the impact of packaged drink containers.¹⁶
- Water is the preferred drink for all Australians as stated in the Australian Dietary Guidelines¹⁷

We recommend the installation of water fountains that meet community expectation – adequate and visible signage, appealing design, bottle refilling capacity and pet bowl and tap at ground level be included in Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017-18), National Health Survey: First results, ABS Website, accessed 5 July 2023.

¹² Scully, M., Morley, B., Niven, P., Crawford, D., Pratt, I., & Wakefield, M. (2017). Factors associated with high consumption of soft drinks among Australian secondary-school students. *Public Health Nutrition*, 20(12), 23402348. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1368980017000118>

¹³ Guerin, G., A model resolution for municipalities: Access to free drinking water in public places, A.p.l.s.p.d. Québec, Editor. n.d.

¹⁴ Park, S., Sherry, B., Wethington, H., Pan, L., Use of parks or playgrounds: reported access to drinking water fountains among US adults, 2009. *Journal of Public Health*, 2009. 34(1): p. 65-72.

¹⁵ Patel, A., Hampton, K.E., Encouraging Consumption of Water in School and Child Care Settings: Access, Challenges, and Strategies for Improvement. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2011. 101(8): p. 1370-1379.

¹⁶ Vic Health, Provision of drinking water fountains in public areas: A local government action guide. 2016, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation: Carlton South: Australia.

¹⁷ National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Dietary Guidelines. 2013, National Health and Medical Research Council: Canberra, Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iris Ritt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Iris' and the last name 'Ritt' clearly distinguishable.

Iris Ritt

Health Promotion Officer | Healthy Environments
Health Promotion, Northern NSW Local Health District

The People's Place

For people past, the river was vital for life, commerce and recreation. At the end of Dalley St, a beach and netted pool with diving tower was very popular.

In 1980, the Maslen family imagined and created BVHP on Council land with help from the community and later Brunswick Valley Landcare.

Now, people continue to enjoy the park and all it has to offer. From an exposed cleared site to a cool treed haven, it is one of Mullumbimby's best kept secrets.

Volunteers who would like to help maintain the park may do so by joining our locality group via Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc. (contact on back).



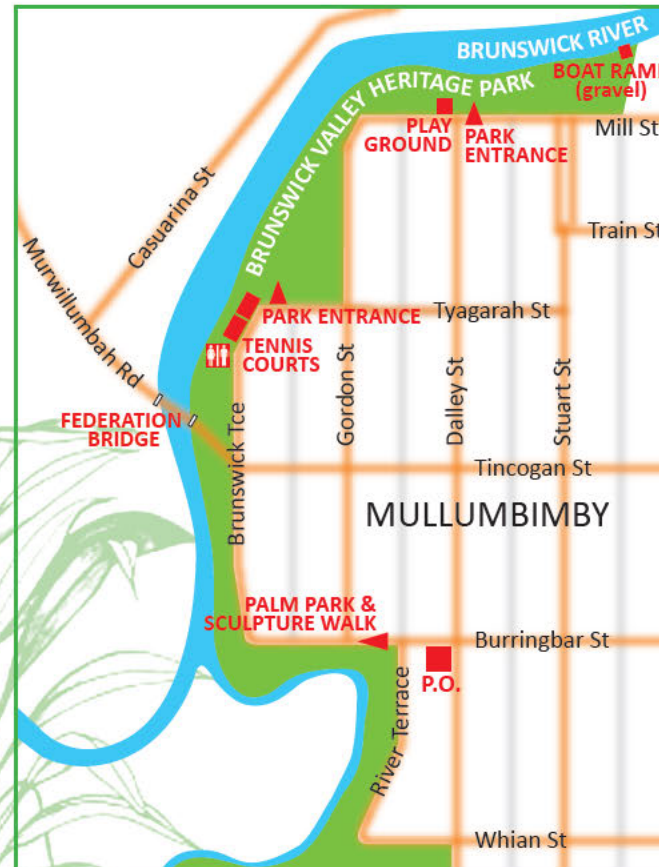
Volunteers gardening in the park

**“Brunswick Valley Heritage Park
– a restful place offering tranquility”**

Of interest to cabinet tree enthusiasts, property owners engaged in revegetation, townspeople, gardeners, school groups, students of horticulture and bush regeneration, bird watchers and all nature lovers.

BVHP Location

Brunswick Valley Heritage Park in Mullumbimby borders the Brunswick River near the Federation Bridge. It's 5 acres of parklands and facilities can easily be accessed from many points close to the town CBD.



Contact / Connect

Web: brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Tel: Landcare Support Officer: 02 6626 7028

Facebook: Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.



Produced by Diana Hughes & Lucinda Cox for Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.
All photos ©Diana Hughes 2016. Botanic illustrations – outer: *Cordyline petiolaris*
©Hannah Bunkers, inside: *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* ©Andy Erskine.

Brunswick Valley Heritage Park Mullumbimby



A place to grow

Offering opportunities for relaxation, participation and learning to locals and visitors alike.

There are rainforest walks, picnic facilities, public amenities, children's playground, dog exercise area, boat ramp and tennis courts. The Park can also be hired as a venue for events.

Park info:

Arboretum: Several hundred local native rainforest and other trees line the paths and river. Most are labeled and include the date planted.

Plants from additional plant communities are being added with an aim to showcase local plants suitable for home gardeners in conjunction with the “My Local Native Garden” publication available from Byron Shire Council.

A list of plants in the park and other info is located on the Notice Board at the Tennis Court Entrance to the Park.

Picnic facilities: The park offers 2 open and 2 covered picnic tables with seating, and benches in scenic spots for resting.

Children’s playground: Located at the Dalley St entrance with close proximity to picnic facilities this is a popular feature for families with young children.

Tennis courts: There are 2 courts available for hire, a tennis club operates and tuition is available. Contact details for hire, membership and tuition can be found on signage at the courts.

Public amenities:

There is one set of public toilets near the tennis courts.

Dog exercise:

The dog walking area is from the foot of Gordon St to the boat ramp and many a happy hound may be seen romping in the large open area. Dog waste bags dispenser is at the end of Gordon St and rubbish bins are on site.

Boat ramp: A single gravel ramp provides access for small watercraft eg canoes, kayaks and “tinnies”.

Venue for events: BVHP is a possible venue for your outdoor event. To make a booking, obtain and submit an application to Byron Shire Council for your wedding, funeral or other ceremony.



Willie Wag Tail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)

What an asset for Mullumbimby!

A walk in the park...

The tree-fringed river attracts local and migratory birds yearly, while possums and gliders inhabit the upper storey. The trees are mostly rainforest species from Richmond, Brunswick and Tweed River catchments of NE NSW and SE QLD, part of the diverse area described as the Macleay/McPherson Overlap. In the wild, most of the old rainforests have been heavily logged, so some trees may be rare, endangered or extinct.

By seeing these trees today, in our Park, is it still possible to wonder at their beauty and diversity.



Stunning display of Mount Warning Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*) arching in front of a Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*)

Two **Red Cedars** (*Toona ciliata*) arch over the entrance – symbolic of the thousands in the surrounding hills that were felled for their valuable timber. Close by are the **Coolamons** (*Syzygium moorei*); Mullumbimby’s tree emblem, whose limbs are clothed in pink blossoms during Spring flowering, **Blue Quandongs** (*Elaeocarpus grandis*), and varieties of **Davidson’s Plums** (*Davidsonia* sp.) whose purple edible fruits grow on their trunks. A curiosity is the **Red Bopple Nut** (*Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia*) with its large pinnate leaves and racemes of pink blossom cascading from its trunk in Spring. Nearby is the **Bush Nut** (*Macadamia tetraphylla*), from which our local macadamia nut industry evolved.

A number of rare and threatened trees were planted in the park. One of them is the **Onion Cedar** (*Owenia cepiodra*) often substituted for the timber of the valuable Red Cedar once their odour was removed by soaking the tree in the river. **Small-leaved Tamarinds** (*Diploglottis campbellii*) are found in several locations as are **Crystal Creek Walnuts** (*Endiandra floydii*). *Fontainea* sp. and even an **Antarctic Beech** (*Nothofagus moorei*) surprisingly survive. The tall familiar pines are **Hoop Pines** (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), one of the main timber trees in dairying days. It had many uses, including in the construction of butter boxes, thousands of which were shipped to the cities.

A cement path through the grass features **Bangalow Palms** (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) and **Cabbage Palms** (*Livistonia australis*) and leads to a pergola covered by two splendid vines; a **Native Wisteria** (*Callerya megasperma*) and a **Wonga Vine** (*Pandorea pandorana*).

The (non-native) **Poinciana** (*Delonix regia*) planted by an early mayor in 1935 displays a colourful red canopy in Summer, and like the palms is very attractive to parrots. Fine-foliaged ferns clothe the forest floor, epiphytes and native orchids adorn the trees.

Come and enjoy Brunswick Valley Heritage Park.

Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan

Submission from Brunswick Valley Landcare

23 June 2023

Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) are pleased Byron Shire Council are turning their attention to managing what is a significant green space and park within easy walking distance to Mullumbimby town and a significant proportion of Mullumbimby residents.

Brunswick Valley Landcare support the Maslen Arboretum, Palm Park and Heritage Park being considered as integral components of one botanical attraction for Mullumbimby. The whole site in the general scheme of things is not a large site and fragmentation is not in the best interests of the site from a Council or any voluntary groups point of view. Separate rules in a site like this would be problematic.

BVL would welcome an expansion of the Maslen Arboretum principles throughout the site where local indigenous plants and ecological communities are showcased. This would provide the largest site possible to showcase the rare and endangered rainforest trees and plants of the area. A kind of Botanic Gardens for the three river valleys of Tweed, Brunswick and Richmond Rivers where people can enjoy recreation, and be educated and supported in scientific observation/ citizen science projects.

Brunswick Valley Landcare have had an interest in the park over the years, particularly Maslen Arboretum for the past 10 years where we have had a locality group, made up of enthusiastic volunteers maintaining the Arboretum. The volunteers' meet every week to plant new plants (only indigenous species to the three river valleys – Tweed, Brunswick and Richmond), observe the health of the plants, remove environmental weeds and maintain the space for visitors including putting new seats in, regularly mulching the main pathway, etc.

The arboretum provides a significant education environment and the volunteers have an ongoing program of labelling trees, installing interpretive signage and during their working bees, often talk to people informally about the plants in the arboretum.

The current group of volunteers are very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and dedicated – holding working bees every Saturday morning. They have invested significant time and energy into building relationships with neighbours, liaising with the Maslen family around the original intent and purpose of the Arboretum and staying true to that vision. The volunteers hold knowledge about the history, including historical documents and are personally dedicated to the health of the Arboretum. Some of the volunteers have significant botanical knowledge.

In the past, Brunswick Valley Landcare have applied for Council and other grants to support the group in managing the Arboretum. A permanent improvement fund for the park would be beneficial so that regular grant applications to Council could be reduced. BVL also

recognise that an updated Plan of Management would be beneficial and would require funding.

Brunswick Valley Landcare understand that the Maslen family, and the BVL locality group volunteers have provided their own submissions to the Draft Heritage Park Landscape Master Plan.

Please find attached to this submission a leaflet developed by BVL and the volunteers about Heritage Park.

Master Plan Comments

Below are comments provided against the Draft Master Plan sections

1.1 Context – this section mentions the strong community value of the park, and that it is used for education, amongst other purposes. BVL would like to emphasise the education aspects of the park. BVL hold workshops in the park including plant ID and bush tucker workshops. We recently subsidised workshops conducted by Explore Byron Bay where Delta Kay walked through the Arboretum pointing out many bush tucker and native plant species and their uses, followed by a bush tucker tasting. These were so successful they sold out within an hour of sending out emails to our database.

Brunswick Valley Landcare would like to add an additional purpose or use of the park and that is for scientific purposes. The Arboretum provides a space for scientific observation and research. As the *Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan Biodiversity Assessment* outlines, there are several threatened flora species within the Arboretum. Recently, the locality volunteer group agreed to participate in a scientific experiment by planting some Myrtaceae species that were bred to be more resistant to Myrtle Rust. Other Citizen Science projects could be encouraged in the park.

In addition, Brunswick Valley Landcare, in working with Council, have planted some sample Climate Resilient gardens towards the north end of the Arboretum area which provide living examples of the types of plants likely to resist changing climate conditions and outlined in our publication *Climate Resilient Landscapes: A Planting Guide for the Northern Rivers Region*. We are in the process of developing signage to label these plants and gardens.

The *Climate Resilient Landscapes: A Planting Guide for the Northern Rivers Region* has been extremely well received and we provide a link to the climate guide case study on the Adapt NSW website [Growing resilience: Planting for a changing climate | AdaptNSW](#)

We also know that the Byron Community College use the park for education of their Horticulture Course students.

1.3 Existing Conditions and Opportunities – this section mentions CPTED and Safety concerns specifically around the lower forest floor plants and understory plants. These layers of the forest are as significant as the canopy in the forest eco-system and any ‘trimming’ for site lines is fraught with risk of damage to the rainforest in the Arboretum.

The Plan goes on to say, and we would like to emphasise, “The identified flora species and communities [in the *Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan Biodiversity Assessment*] should be protected with no works impacting them.” p16

In fact, there is a case for an arborist to assess the health of the trees in the Arboretum to identify any damaged or diseased limbs for public safety.

The Fauna section under this heading refers to habitat for fauna. BVL have worked with Wildbnb to install nest boxes in and around the Arboretum. BVL would be happy to work further with Wildbnb on installing more nest boxes and to set up a regular monitoring program. These are a further example of how community education can be built on in the park. (See recent pictures below following nest box monitoring in Heritage Park on 17 June.)



2.1 Community Insights/ Desires – BVL welcome improved park maintenance and promoting, celebrating and encouraging community care for the place. We feel cautious about the park maintenance though and encourage Byron Shire Council to only allow qualified horticulturists to manage the maintenance in the Arboretum area. There have been past instances of plants being damaged by Council maintenance staff. In addition, Council’s ride-on-mowers are not suitable for maintaining around the garden beds and plant areas near the Arboretum, these need to be maintained with push/ manual mowers. We welcome Council staff to actively liaise with the BVL volunteer locality group that have put so much love and energy into the Maslen Arboretum to ensure a good working relationship is established and no drastic changes are made without proper consultation.

BVL also welcome the goal of celebrating Indigenous culture, providing cultural content, representation and opportunity. As referred to above, Explore Byron Bay, Delta Kay, uses the park as an excellent example of a place with access to bush tucker and other native plants.

2.3 Design Strategies and Outcomes – BVL concur that ‘existing infrastructure should be retained where possible’. Much of the infrastructure in and around the Maslen Arboretum has been built or paid for by community members over the years and holds significant emotional and local cultural value. More recently Byron Shire Council has funded seats working with the locality group of volunteers.

Re improving accessibility, further comments will be made below regarding paths through the Arboretum.

Re improving the environment and ecology, BVL is well placed to support these activities and has worked with Council previously in assisting with community plantings and educational workshops. We concur that the riparian zone is an important area for regeneration. This area has been the vision of BVL (and many grants) to rebuild the riparian zone along the riverbank with local native species since early 1990s. It is now a beautiful walk along the river and a natural asset to the community and over time will improve with more regeneration. The work of the council bush regenerators along the riparian zone is acknowledged.

Similarly with enhancing the ecology and habitat, BVL are supportive and willing to help Council with installation of nest-boxes (with our partner Wildbnb) and helping to protect existing habitat.

Re Hydrology and Drainage, BVL’s locality group of volunteers have established in the last 12-18 months an experimental/ sample drain/swale planting in the north of the Arboretum area which provided information post-flood on plants that survived and worked in these type of conditions. It survived the February 2022 floods and is now flourishing.

Re improving CPTED and Safety in the Arboretum, as mentioned above we do not support ‘management of the foliage encroaching on the path and ongoing vegetation management to ensure the understory is kept open’. As previously mentioned, these layers of the forest are as significant as the canopy in the forest eco-system and any ‘trimming’ for site lines is fraught with risk of damage to the rainforest in the Arboretum.

3.3 Proposal – Maslen Arboretum

- BVL does not support an asphalt path or any hard surface path through the Arboretum. A permeable path material is supported. We support research into best practice pathways in forest areas for pathways in the Arboretum. We also support a light-coloured material to help bring light under the canopy.
- BVL does not support selective pruning and vegetation management through the Arboretum near the path due to the potential to negatively affect the rainforest eco-system.
- BVL hope the existing shelter erected by passionate community members some years ago can be restored, rather than upgraded. We do not support the surrounding areas

made usable for small community gatherings as this would impact on the rainforest eco-system.

- The proposed secondary path running along the river connecting to the Arboretum path is also not supported as a hard surface path. Note this path has historical value and significance. Perhaps a boardwalk needs to be considered in this area and could extend towards the end of the Arboretum area in the north.
- Tidy ups of the two Arboretum entrances is supported with consideration to the historical community involvement in establishing these.

Finally, on p58 the Plan outlines that wayfinding and interpretation signage could be improved. BVL agree and we have installed some interpretation signage and tree labelling in the Arboretum through grant funding. We would be happy to work with Council on further interpretive signage.

Additional Comments

There is a definite need for 'dogs on leash only' signage. If Council support the idea that the whole park area could see an expansion of the Maslen Arboretum principles throughout the site where local indigenous plants and ecological communities are showcased, a kind of Botanic Gardens, BVL would support the whole park be a dog prohibited zone.

There are bicycles that occasionally speed through the Arboretum. It would be better to not have cyclists on the Arboretum path at all, but if they must go through the Arboretum they should dismount. When the path along the outside of the Arboretum is constructed this should provide an alternative path for cyclists.

There is a need to educate neighbours backing onto the Arboretum that the area behind their parcels of land is not an extension of their back yard or a parking area, but is public land.

Heritage Park is a significant asset to this region and has had, and can continue to have, significant care by volunteers but needs proper funding and a maintenance plan made in consultation with them.

12.05.23

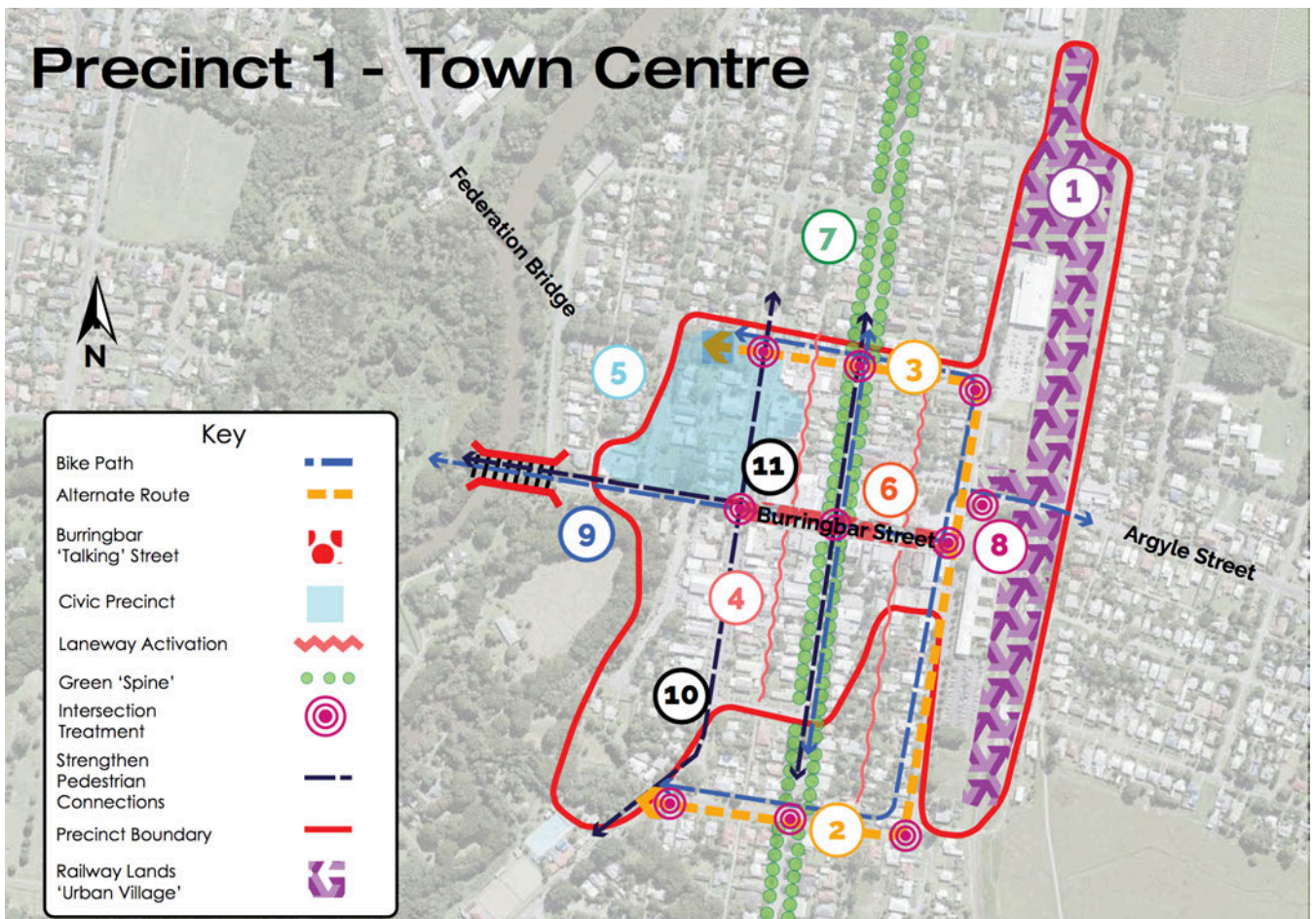
To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to support the Draft Landscape Masterplan for Heritage Park in Mullumbimby.

Plummer & Smith's masterplan is an excellent guiding document with many brilliant concept design proposals to improve this important parkland. The new boardwalk ramps, river access, kayak launch, and riverbank protection works in particular will create a much improved sense of civic place making that enhances both the user experience and protects the natural environment.

That said, we believe the masterplan omits one important component of the Mullumbimby Masterplan that should be included in the final Landscape Masterplan for Heritage Park. **This is the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Brunswick river linking to the Pine Ave residential precinct.**

The Pine Ave Precinct houses almost 1/3 of Mullumbimby's urban population, and presently is only connected via Federation Bridge, making for a very long and indirect trip between Pine Ave and the CBD. The proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge would reduce a trip from the intersection of Pine Ave/Riverside Dr by a kilometre. It would incentivise more trips to be made on foot or by bicycle, reducing the number of car trips generated to the CBD. This would have significant place-making and traffic calming outcomes.



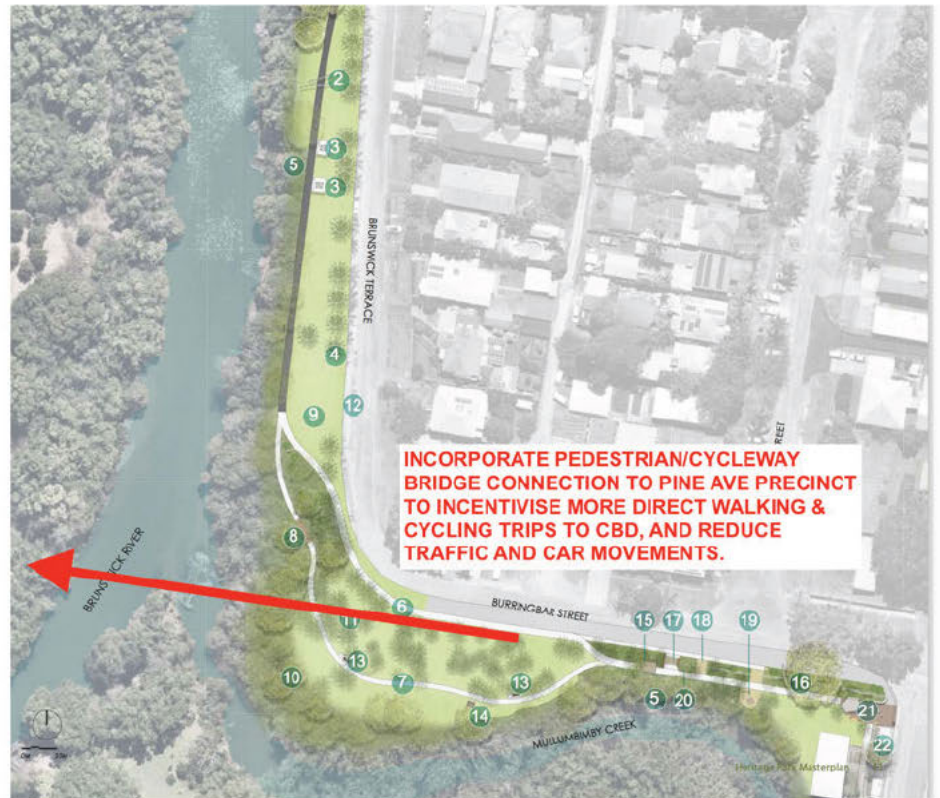
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Prioritise cyclists through Burringbar Street as a part of the 'Talking Street' and connect to a foot/cycle bridge at the western end of Burringbar Street that traverses the river and connects Pine Avenue Area.

- **Incorporate cycling amenity into any shared space treatment to encourage Burringbar Street to be the dominant east-west cycle route.**
- **Provide adequate bike facilities such as racks, repair stations and water fountains as a part of any street treatment.**

1. Existing asphalt path retained
2. Existing sculpture trail retained and celebrated
3. New shelter with picnic table to replace existing tables and associated concrete slabs
4. Existing trees retained
5. Supported riparian vegetation near river
6. Concrete pathway nominal 2m wide
7. New concrete pathway nominal 1.5m wide-existing paver path in this area removed. New concrete path moved out of open space gully line to avoid ponding across path in wet times
8. Upgraded bridge over existing drainage path
9. Retain existing grass areas and permanent sculpture trail pieces
10. Low lying areas adjacent to creek to be vegetated with native riparian plants-improving biodiversity and managing maintenance
11. Selected vegetation management to ensure adequate visibility of the park from the street
12. On street parking formalised
13. Seating bench
14. Picnic table
15. Upgraded bridge / deck over drainage line
16. Constructed drainage swale with batter planting
17. Gathering deck over swale with seating
18. Cross overs to swale lining footpaths and street to main footpath
19. Seating nodes with views along Mullumbimby Creek
20. Existing heritage water trough retained
21. Entry plaza to Palm Park and sculpture walk. Refer to section 3.9
22. Existing bus shelter

40 Heritage Park Masterplan



While we acknowledge the bridge to the Pine Ave Precinct would be a large and expensive undertaking, we believe it should still be allowed for and incorporated into the Heritage Park Masterplan, in case the funding were to become available in the future.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted Signature]

Member, Place Planning Collective

Burringbar Street			
	9. Prioritise cyclists through Burringbar Street as part of the 'Talking Street' and	Council, Stakeholders	-Formalise alternate routes \$ - Council with possible

66

Precinct	Action	Who	Enabling Projects	Funding
	<p>connect to a foot/cycle bridge at the western end of Burringbar Street that traverses the river and connects Pine Avenue Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate cycling amenity into any shared space treatment to encourage Burringbar Street to be the dominant east-west cycle route Provide adequate bike facilities such as racks, repair stations and water fountains as a part of any street treatment. 		<p>-Stuart Street Green Spine</p> <p>-Urban Village in the rail lands.</p>	partnership with stakeholders and grant funding

5	30. Improve the pedestrian and cycle connections in and to Tallwood estate and Pine Ave areas.	Council	- Finalise Bike Plan	\$\$ - Council with opportunities for grant funding
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Precinct	Action	Who	Enabling Projects	Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate improvements with the Bike Plan and PAMP 			
	<p>31. Investigate the possibility of pedestrian bridges or river crossings to better connect the different residential pockets of Mullumbimby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of constructing the bridges 	Council, Stakeholders	<p>-Liaise with community about their need</p> <p>-Seek low cost solutions</p>	\$\$ - Council and stakeholders with opportunities for grant funding
	32. Review Council's 'Planting and Landscaping on Footpaths and Nature Strips within Road Reserves and Drainage Easements' Policy to facilitate a more street-based urban agriculture and street greening.	Council		\$ - Council