



HARCOURT Landscape Master Plan

Prepared for: Mount Alexander Shire Council





This report has been prepared by Spiire for Mount Alexander Shire Council



16 Bridge Street Bendigo Victoria 3550

Acknowledgements

Spiire acknowledges the Mount Alexander Shire Council staff and a range of stakeholders who contributed to this document.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Council engaged Spiire Australia Pty Ltd to prepare a Landscape Master Plan for the township of Harcourt.

The 'Harcourt: After the Bypass' Report (2009) and the Harcourt Town Centre Master Plan by SJB (2011) form the basis of the strategic framework for this project. This report also aligns with several objectives outlined in the Harcourt Community Plan developed by the Harcourt Community in 2013.

A Landscape Master Plan is a strategic document that sets the overall landscape vision for the town centre and outlines a series of opportunities and recommendations to improve the presentation, aesthetic amenity and liveability of the town as well as provide direction for the development of open spaces, parks and reserves.

Following endorsement of the Master Plan, the identified works packages can be implemented on a stage-by-stage basis by Council as funding becomes available. As part of the subsequent implementation of each works package there will need to be a process of detailed design, contract documentation and the engagement of a contractor to undertake the identified works.

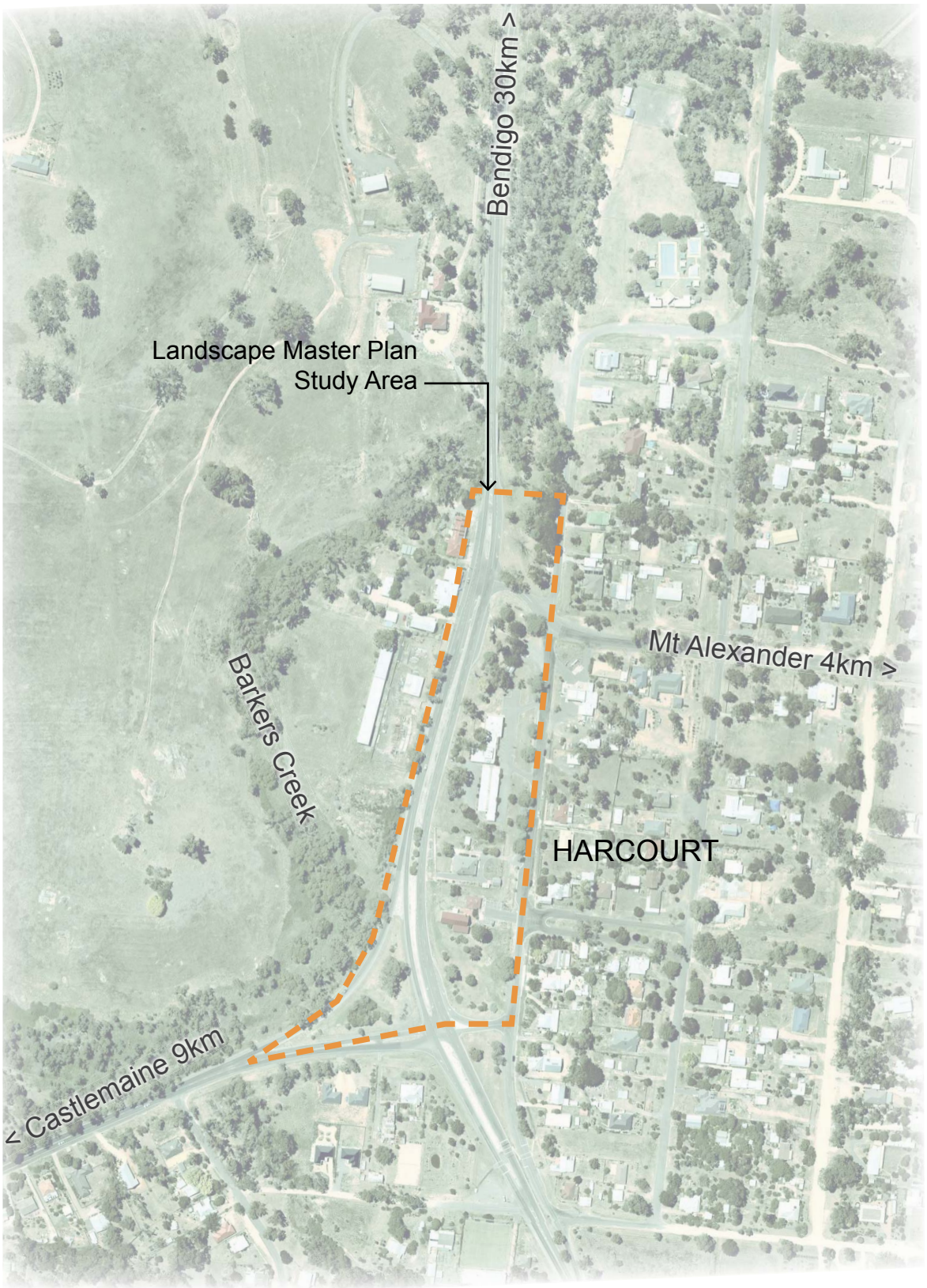
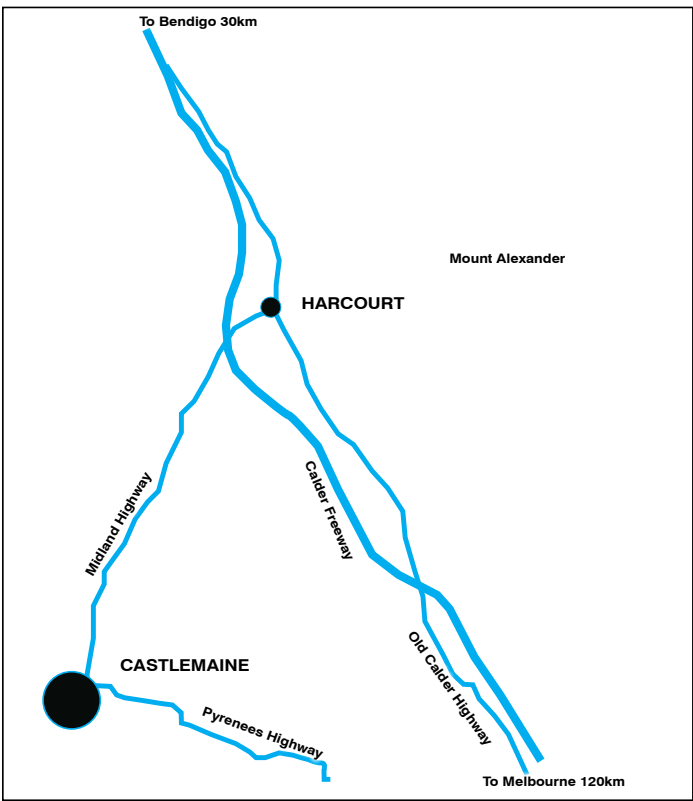
The implementation plan in Section 9 prioritises each works package and provides an order of magnitude costing to assist in budgeting and scheduling of works.



2.0 STUDY AREA

Harcourt has a population of approximately 870 people and is situated along the Calder Highway corridor, 120km north of Melbourne, 30km south of Bendigo and 8km north of Castlemaine. The local landscape is characterised by rich granitic soils that have long supported a strong horticultural industry. Made famous for apple production in the 19th Century, the region has recently diversified and now produces many different varieties of fruit and has become well known for wine and cider production.

Mount Alexander is a prominent landmark to the east of the town, rising 774m above sea level the Mount is a significant recreational destination for both locals and tourists. Harcourt is also famous for the granite that has been extracted from quarries on the lower slopes of Mount Alexander since the 1860s.



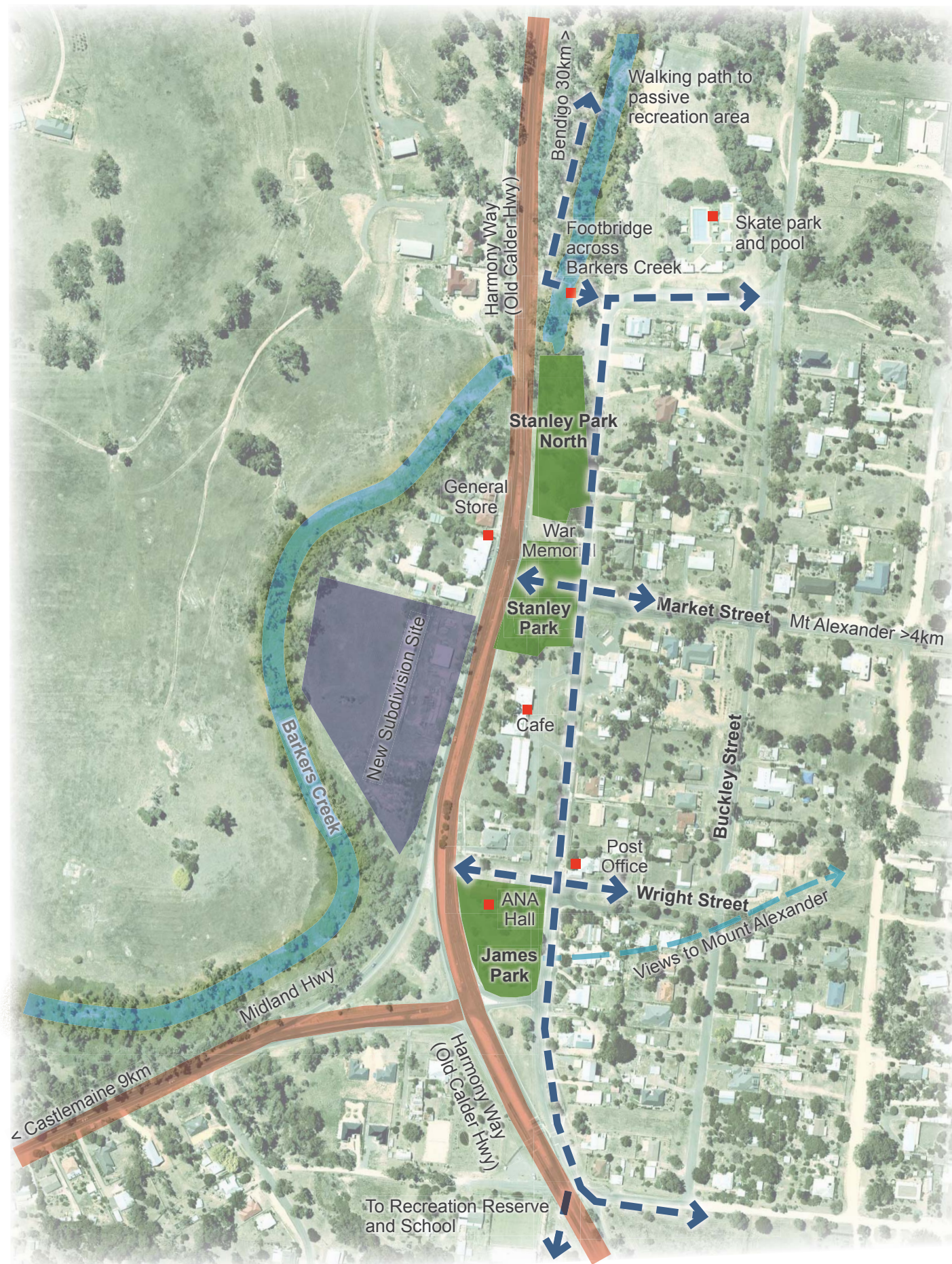


3.0 ANALYSIS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Upon commencement of the project, an initial period of investigation and analysis was undertaken that included site investigation by the Spiire project team and meetings with identified stakeholders including Council staff and community organisations in Harcourt.

The results of the site visits and the stakeholder meetings were synthesised to inform the Analysis and Opportunities Plans, identifying a number of opportunities for the development of the Harcourt town centre. These plans were then tabled at two consultation events.





Existing road edge treatment



Existing median strip planting



Monument



Stanley Park facilities



Stanley Park and canoe tree



War memorial



ANA hall



James Park



'Tread' Cafe and carpark



General store



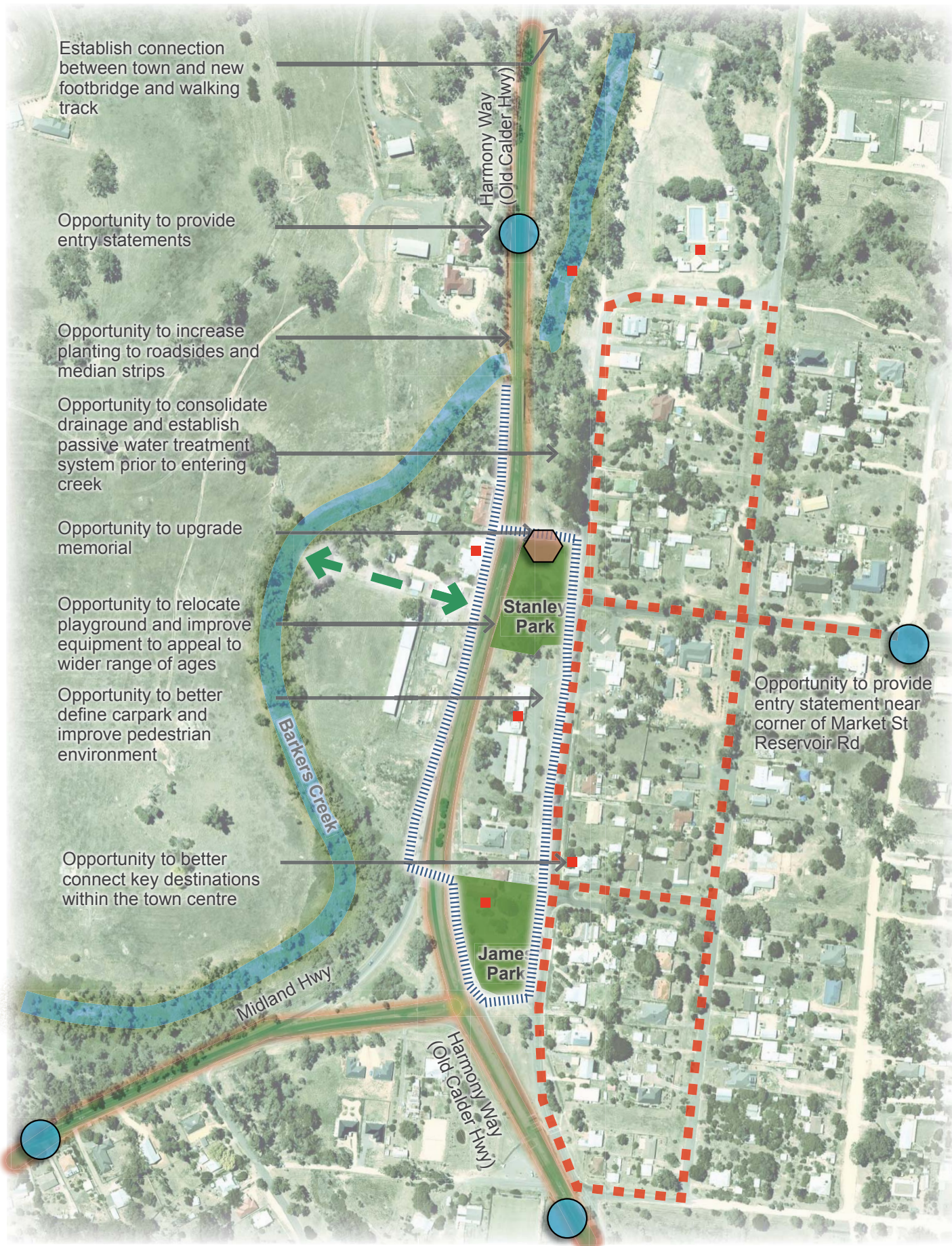
Town entrance from the South



Avenue of Honour

Legend

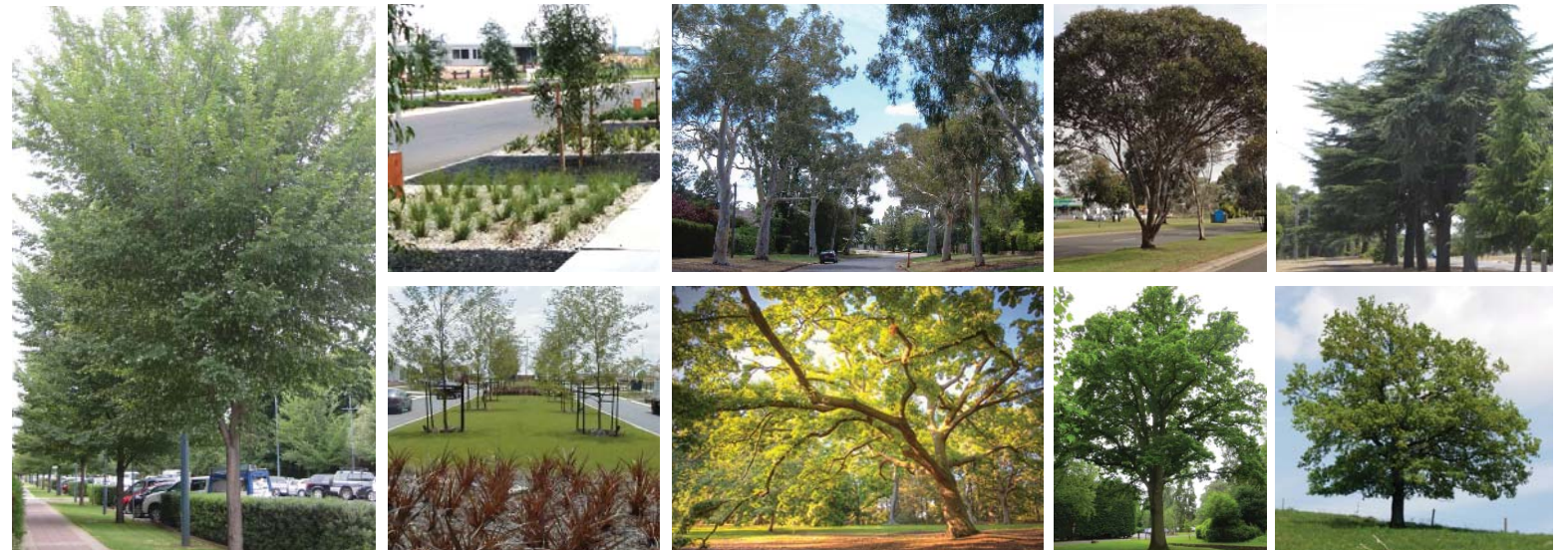
- Key pedestrian spine
- Key destinations within town centre
- Major roads
- Existing parks
- Proposed new development



“Create a visual statement at the freeway exits and in the town centre to draw people into Harcourt through trees, landscape, sculpture. Something that says “Welcome to Harcourt” and uniquely identifies our town” Harcourt Community Plan 2013

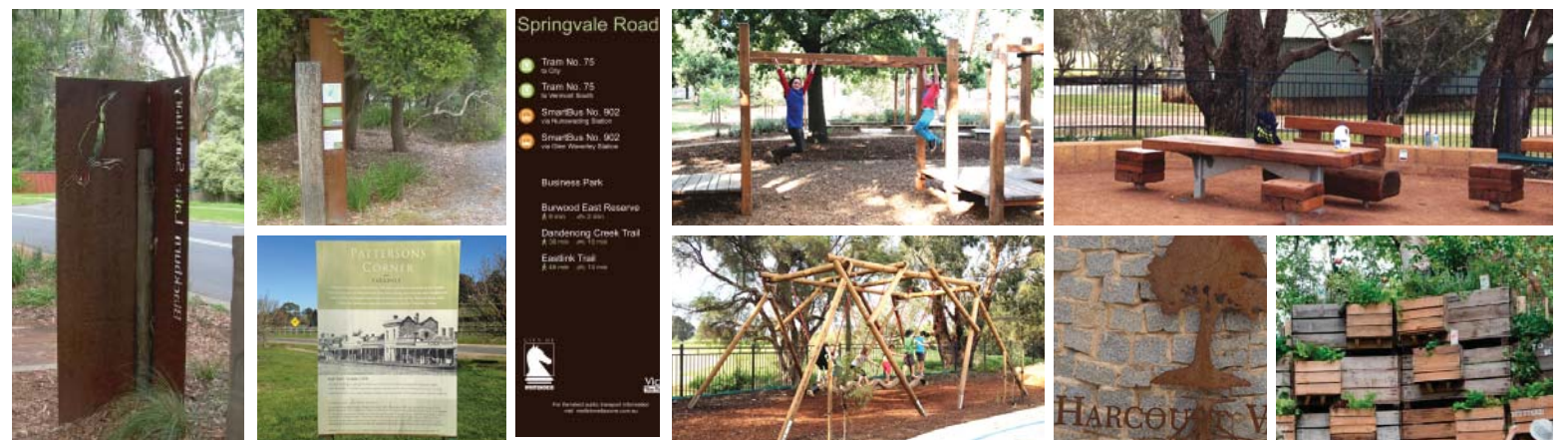


Precedent town entrance treatments



Median and streetscape planting

Trees species chosen for historical, environmental or climatic suitability to Harcourt



Signage examples

Furniture and equipment utilising natural local materials

Legend

- Town Entrance Treatments
- Establish connection to Bakers Creek
- Footpath connecting key social and commercial destinations
- Planting of street trees in residential streets
- Planting to roadsides and median strips

Further Opportunities

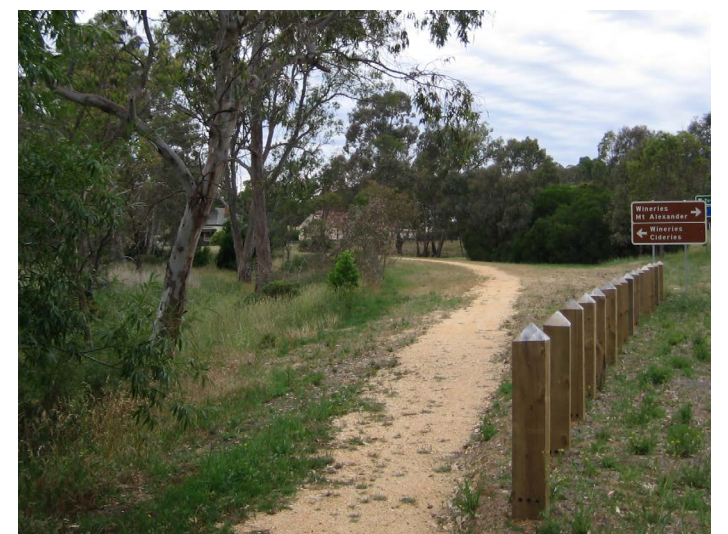
- Upgrade James Park to host shelter, BBQ, play space and community events
- Develop a consistent and comprehensive system of signs for wayfinding and interpretation to link the town centre with key locations and destinations
- Develop furniture palette for town precinct to unify town centre appearance
- Opportunity to develop bike track to proposed Mountain Bike Park

4.0 CONSULTATION

Two community consultation sessions were held in September 2014. Session 1 was held on the 17th September at the ANA Hall and Session 2 was held on 18th September at the Harcourt Bowling Club. Representatives from Spiire and Council were present. The sessions sought to introduce and explain the opportunities identified in the Opportunities and Analysis Plans and give community members a chance to voice their opinions and raise any other issues, ideas or possibilities for consideration in the Landscape Master Plan.

In addition to the two consultation events an online community survey was also conducted and hardcopies were made available at local businesses in Harcourt, for people without access to a computer. The intention of the survey was to gather information from the local community on how they would like to see the environmental and visual amenity of Harcourt enhanced, and what the local community believe defines the identity of Harcourt. The survey provided free text boxes for additional comments.

The survey received a total of 90 responses when it closed in early November 2014. This represents approximately 10% of the population and the responses provide an insight into the varying views and attitudes in the community. Refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of the responses to the online survey.





5.0 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The following table is a summary of the issues presented by the community through both consultation sessions and online survey responses. The table also identifies potential opportunities to be addressed in the Landscape Master Plan.

Key Theme	Issues	Opportunity
Town appearance	Lack of greenery and vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to plant more trees to increase shade and overall appeal of town• Opportunity to provide feature garden beds at key locations, entrances and major intersections• Investigate potential to access water from Coliban Water 'Modernisation' pipeline
	Highway dissects the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to install kerb outstands to narrow the road width• Plant trees with broad canopy to create boulevard effect along Highway• Plant street trees either side of Harmony Way• Re-landscape median strip to improve appearance
	Nature strips untidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to improve nature strips with trees, grassing and feature planting at key locations
	Parks are unattractive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to develop James Park, prominent location will attract people and encourage visitors to stop• Opportunity to de-clutter and improve landscape of Stanley Park• Opportunity to formalise carpark, install kerb and channel to edges and improve aesthetics with planting
	General Store is unsightly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to improve appearance of general store; consolidate signage, improve access and soften built form with planting
Town entry	Nothing to signal arrival into town	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to provide town entry statements located at key entry points to signal arrival and welcome people into town• Opportunity to involve local artists and utilise local materials to convey the character of Harcourt
	Roundabout on Midland Highway not maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with VicRoads regarding transferring maintenance responsibilities to Council• Investigate the feasibility of creating a feature in the roundabout, sculpture, signage and planting
Street trees	Lack of street trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plant more street trees to create a boulevard and enhance arrival into town
	Existing trees in median strip are unattractive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to review species selection and replace trees with drought and frost tolerant species that will contribute to the creation of a boulevard
	Lack of shade in town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to plant deciduous trees with spreading canopies along footpaths and nature strips
	Lack of colour in autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider deciduous species that will display good autumn colour
Pedestrian environment	Lack of sealed footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to provide footpaths along primary pedestrian routes linking key locations in town centre• Opportunity to connect proposed footpaths with existing and provide rest points and furniture at key locations along footpath to approve pedestrian environment

Key Theme	Issues	Opportunity
Pedestrian environment (cont'd)	Harmony Way is difficult and dangerous to cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with VicRoads to reduce the speed limit along Harmony Way in the town centre to 50km/hr as per residential areas of town • Provide designated crossing points and install kerb outstands to reduce crossing distance and improve pedestrian safety
	Path in old slip road area doesn't go anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to extend path along Barker's Creek and connect into proposed pedestrian footpath network
	Crossing Market Street is dangerous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with VicRoads to reduce the speed limit along Market Street in the town centre to 50km/hr as per residential areas of town • Provide designated crossing points and install kerb outstands to reduce crossing distance and improve pedestrian safety
Barker's Creek	Under utilised natural asset, Creek disconnected from town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to establish a path along Barker's Creek that connects existing gravel path in old slip road area and town centre footpath network
	Creek over grown with weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to eradicate weeds and rehabilitate waterway • Opportunity to empower local Landcare groups to continue to champion revegetation of Barker's Creek
Recreation	Lack of good recreational facilities in town centre and existing facilities disconnected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to consolidate one site, in a prominent central location as a community, social and recreational hub. Provide facilities for a range of visitor experiences, children and adults
	Memorial needs improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to re-landscape Stanley Park, improve memorial and highlight rich history of the park
	James Park is under utilised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to develop James park as community, social and recreational hub with play space, BBQ and picnic facilities and exploiting tourism potential of the ANA Hall/Historical Museum
	Lack of community gathering space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to develop James park, ANA Hall area as community hub, optimising opportunities for a range of different user groups • Opportunity to consolidate drainage and level ground at Stanley Park North to provide a 'village green' for larger events and festivals such as the 'Applefest'
	Lack of walking/cycling paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to investigate the potential to develop walking/cycling trails connecting into existing trail network within the Shire • Opportunity to investigate the potential to develop walking/cycling trails to local attractions such as Reservoir, Mount Alexander and Oak Forest • Opportunity to consider outdoor fitness stations along walking tracks such as proposed track along Barker's Creek
	Lack of good playground for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to develop district level play space as per Council's Play Space Strategy, in prominent location with appropriate facilities • Opportunity to consider inclusion of equipment for all ages, such as outdoor gym equipment



6.0 LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

6.1 Key Themes

The Landscape Master Plan seeks to enhance the unique character of Harcourt and improve the environmental and visual amenity of the town centre. The Landscape Master Plan has been prepared around the issues and opportunities identified in the previous section which have been distilled into three key themes:

- Improve the appearance of the town centre
- Improve the recreation facilities
- Improve accessibility and connectivity

Improve the appearance of the town centre

A core component of the Landscape Master Plan is to improve the look and feel of the town centre. This will be achieved through the establishment of garden beds and feature planting at key locations such as entrance points and major intersections, improving the parks and extensive street tree planting to create a boulevard along Harmony Way.

Re-landscaping the median strip in Harmony Way that runs through the centre of town will improve the visual appeal and 'soften' the asphalt environment that currently dominates.

Providing entry statements in the form of sculptural signage and planting at appropriate locations will help to signal arrival into town and include an avenue of trees to welcome people to Harcourt. Entry statements should be a contemporary adaptation of Harcourt's unique character, referencing the agricultural production of the area, particularly apples and utilise local granite as a key material.

Improve the recreation facilities

The need for upgraded recreational facilities within the town centre came across strongly in the community survey. Harcourt has a number of designated parks and open spaces within the town centre including James

Park, Stanley Park and the area to the north of Market Street (unofficially referred to as Stanley Park North).

It is recommended that all three parks are re-developed in accordance with their intended uses.

Stanley Park is currently cluttered with tired furniture and outdated play equipment. It is recommended that this all be removed, and the emphasis of the park re-focused on the historical trees and the War Memorial. This should become a passive, reflective space.

James Park, is currently underutilised despite having the advantage of formal parking and toilet facilities. It is recommended that this area be developed as a play space and community park in line with recommendations in the Council's 'Investing in Play' Play Space Strategy which suggests consolidating the ANA Hall site as a community social and recreational hub. The strategy recognises the benefits of co-locating play spaces with other community infrastructure to optimise opportunities for a range of different user and visitor groups. The park, once developed, with extensive landscaping and feature planting will serve as a welcoming attraction at one of the primary town entry points

The area described as Stanley Park North was one of several areas nominated by the community as a preferred location for a play space however this area is a combination of land controlled by Vic Roads, DEPI and Council, whilst it is recommended that Council seek to acquire control from DEPI, until that occurs it would be remiss to make any major plans for the development of this area. However it is recommended that the drainage issues be addressed and the ground levelled to enable the community to utilise this space for large festivals and events such as the Applefest.



Improve accessibility and connectivity

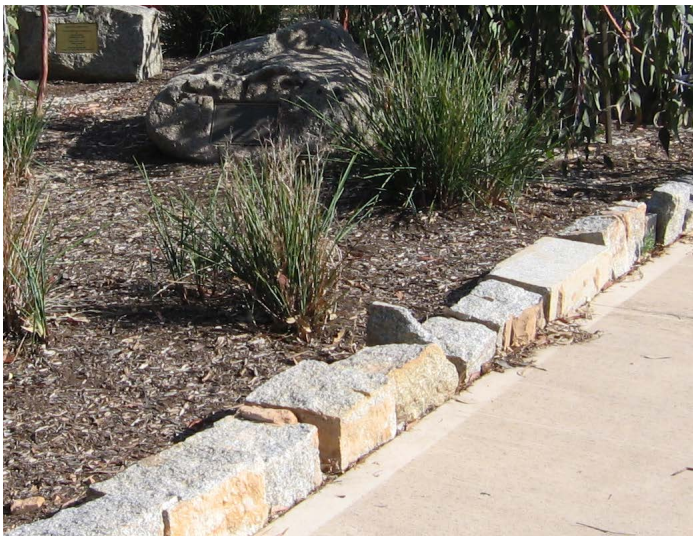
Harcourt lacks a safe connected pedestrian environment. The Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy recommends the provision of high quality footpaths to primary pedestrian routes and between key destinations within town centre zones to ensure towns are vibrant attractive and utilised. It is recommended footpaths be installed on the primary pedestrian routes through the town centre connecting the key destinations such as the post office, bus stop, café, and general store and ensure footpaths connect into existing paths such as the asphalt path to the primary school.

It is also suggested that the feasibility of a shared path along Barker's Creek be explored to better connect this significant natural asset with the town.

Walking and cycling are important transport options and popular recreational activities within the Mount Alexander Shire and there is strong community support for more cycling and walking tracks within and around the town. It is recommended that Council explore the feasibility of connecting Harcourt's pedestrian network with wider cycling and walking trails within the Shire.

Installation of directional, information and interpretive signage is also an important consideration to improve connectivity both within the town and the wider region.

The following table outlines the key issues and opportunities and how they have been addressed in the Landscape Master Plan.












6.2 Recommendations

Key Theme	Landscape Master Plan Recommendation
Improve appearance of town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission artist or designer to design feature entry statements to celebrate arrival, at four key town locations. Exact location to be determined with detailed design.• Plant avenue of trees from town entrances all the way into the town centre.• Improve aesthetic amenity of general store frontage, consider leveling ground improving access and installing planters to soften built form.• Upgrade memorial with hardscape and re-design garden beds to provide formal gathering space for memorial occasions.• Formalise car park at Stanley Park, install kerb and channel to edges and improve aesthetics with planting.• Improve nature strips throughout town centre with trees and planting at key locations.• Investigate the integrity and remaining life span of existing Avenue of Honour. Develop strategy for replacement and/or infill planting with simliar trees.• Install kerb outstands to narrow road width, reduce traffic speeds and provide designated crossing points• Re-landscape median strip: remove existing trees and replace with alternative species, replace gravel with feature paving and establish garden beds at ends of median and designated crossing points. Ensure trees and plants have suitable growing conditions with adequate soil, moisture and nutrients.• Provide feature planting to ends of median strip to create sense of arrival.• Provide feature planting to screen gas tanks and soften frontage of service station, also creates sense of arrival when entering town from Market Street.• Infill planting of trees in nature strip on either side of Harmony Way and High Street to augment existing trees and create consistent avenue.• Infill planting of street trees to residential areas to complement existing trees.• Establish garden beds and feature planting to front of ANA hall to soften built form, use low growing plants to retain view lines.• Consider Vegetation Management Plan for Barker’s Creek, addressing weed management and re-vegetation to re-habilitate this natural asset in line with Council’s Environment Strategy.• Empower local Landcare groups to continue to champion revegetation of Barker’s Creek

Key Theme		Landscape Master Plan Recommendation
Improve recreational facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• De-cluter Stanley Park: remove shelter, BBQ and play equipment and re-landscape in sympathy with historic plan. Edge with garden beds to soften and provide defined entry points.• Develop James Park as a community park and picnic area in close proximity to toilets and ANA Hall/Museum.• Determine location for new playground. Provide play opportunities for a broad range of ages, BBQ facilities, shelter, furniture and feature planting in line with Council's 'Investing in Play' Play Space Strategy.• Confirm extent of Council and Vic Roads land in Stanley Park North and investigate possibility of acquiring control from DEPI.• Consolidate drainage and level ground at Stanley Park North to provide a 'village green' for larger events and festivals such as the 'Applefest'
Improve accessibility and connectivity		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install concrete footpath along primary pedestrian routes connecting key destinations with the town centre including post office, bus stop, newly developed recreational facilities, general store and cafe. Connect with existing footpath to Primary School.• Investigate potential to extend existing granitic sand path in old slip road area, along Barker's Creek to provide recreational opportunities and re-connect town centre with the natural landscape feature of the creek.• Investigate potential to develop walking track to Mount Alexander to better connect town with this significant land mark.• Establish connection between existing footbridge over Barkers Creek and proposed new walking tracks and paths.• Establish connection between town centre and new picnic area proposed by Landcare group to the north of town• Provide directional signage to key facilities and destinations within town and broader local area• Update historical and interpretive signage and install at key locations within town centre• Provide wayfinding signage to improve connectivity with local natural assets and key destinations• Consider working with VicRoads to provide a feature or signage to the Freeway to highlight the attractions in and around Harcourt



Legend

-  Proposed tree
-  Proposed feature planting
-  Proposed kerb outstands
-  Existing median strip
-  Proposed concrete footpath
-  Proposed granitic sand path
-  Boundary of land controlled by DEPI

IMPROVE APPEARANCE OF TOWN CENTRE



1. Commission artist or designer to design feature entry statements to celebrate arrival, at four key town entry locations. Exact location to be determined with detailed design.
2. Improve aesthetic amenity of general store frontage, consider leveling ground, improving access and installing planters
3. Upgrade memorial with hard scape and re-designed garden beds to provide formal gathering space for memorial occasions.
4. Improve nature strips throughout town centre with trees, grassing and feature planting at key locations.
5. Re-assess size of parking area at Stanley Park and formalise parking bays.
6. Investigate the integrity and remaining life span of the existing Avenue of Honor. Develop a strategy for replacement and/or infill planting with similar trees.
7. Install kerb outstands to make road appear narrower and calm traffic.
8. Landscape treatment to median strip, remove existing trees and replace with alternative species, consider feature paving or inorganic mulch to median, establish garden beds at ends and crossing points.
9. Feature planting to screen gas tanks and soften frontage of service station, also creates sense of arrival when entering town from Market Street.
10. Infill planting of trees in nature strip on either side of the road to augment existing trees and create consistent avenue.
11. Consider vegetation management plan for Barker's Creek, addressing weed management and re-vegetation to rehabilitate this natural asset.
12. Establish garden beds and feature planting to front of ANA Hall to soften built form, use low growing plants to retain view lines
13. Feature planting to ends of median creating sense of arrival.
14. Provide avenue of trees from town entries and infill planting of street trees in residential streets.

IMPROVE RECREATION FACILITIES

15. Confirm extent of Council and Vic Roads land and investigate possibility of claiming control from DEPI. Consolidate drainage and level ground at Stanley Park North to provide a 'village green' for larger events and festivals such as the 'Applefest'
16. Provide outdoor exercise stations along proposed walking track.
17. De-clutter park Stanley Park: remove shelter, BBQ and play equipment and re-landscape, in sympathy with historic plan. Edge with garden beds to soften and provide defined entry points.
18. Develop James Park once location of new playground has been determined.













IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

19. Install concrete footpath along primary pedestrian routes connecting key destinations with the town centre including post office, bus stop, newly developed recreational facilities, general store and cafe. Connect with existing footpath to Primary School.
20. Investigate potential to develop walking track to Mount Alexander to re-connect town centre with this significant local landmark.
21. Incorporate new foot bridge and walking track into proposed path along Barker's Creek.
22. Establish connection between town centre and new picnic area proposed by Landcare Group to the North of town.
23. Investigate potential to extend existing granitic sand path in old slip road area, along Barker's Creek to provide recreational opportunities and re-connect town centre with the natural landscape feature of the creek.
24. Update historical and interpretation signage and install at key locations within town centre.
25. Provide more wayfinding signage to improve connectivity with local natural assets and key destinations.
26. Provide directional signage to key facilities and destinations within town and broader local area.

Client	Mount Alexander Shire Council			Date	8.01.2015
Drawing No	300097 LMP01	Revision	Draft		
Drawn By	MS	Checked by	FS/SE	Approved by	FS
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7.0 MATERIALS PALETTE

The following palette is recommended as a guide. Materials and furniture selection should be confirmed with detailed design.

Footpaths	<p>Provide consistent and recognisable pedestrian paving style throughout the town centre.</p> <p>Footpath paving will be natural grey plain concrete with broom finish.</p> <p>Consider bands of feature local granite at key locations to add variety, provide contrast and mark arrival at key locations.</p>	  
Paving	<p>Feature paving to replace existing gravel in median strip</p> <p>Paver and laying specifications to be confirmed with detailed design specifying desired paver strength, thickness, colour and finish appropriate to expected pedestrian and vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Use local granite as a feature paving material.</p>	  
Furniture	<p>Elements commonly described as 'furniture' include seating, bins, bollards, bicycle racks and barriers.</p> <p>Select proprietary items in keeping with the Mount Alexander Shire standards and the character of Harcourt.</p> <p>Street furniture design and placement will be confirmed with detailed design</p>	  
Signage	<p>Signage should make use of local materials where possible to express the history and character of Harcourt.</p> <p>Installation of signage must be in accordance with detailed design plans that take into account most desirable positions, fixing and foundation aspects in relation to paving, power supply (where illumination is required), garden beds and tree planting.</p>	  



8.0 PLANT PALETTE

The following species are provided as a guide to enable long term consistency in the approach to the planting strategy for Harcourt. Detailed investigation of species and cultivars is recommended prior to implementation.

Plants should be considered in terms of climatic suitability, mature habit, location and long term maintenance.

TREES

Botanical name	Common name	Mature Habit (Height x spread)	Location
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Jeffersred'	Red Maple	13m x 10m	Parks and nature strips
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Cimmaron'	Green Ash	13m x 8m	Nature strips and kerb outstands
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	Ornamental Pear	11m x 7m	Nature strips
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	11m x 30m	Centre of median
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	11m x 11m	Parks
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chinese Elm	10m x 11m	Parks and nature strips



Acer x freemanii 'Jeffersred'



Fraxinus pennsylvanica



Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'



Quercus cerris









Quercus robur



Ulmus parvifolia

SHRUBS AND GROUND COVERS

Botanical name	Common name	Image
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	
<i>Dianella admixta</i>	Black-anther Flax Lily	
<i>Dianella tarda</i>	Late-flower Flax Lily	
<i>Dietes bicolor</i>	Sth African Butterfly Iris	
<i>Erysimum 'Winter Joy'</i>	Wallflower	
<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	Rosemary Grevillea	

Botanical name	Common name	Image
<i>Hebe 'Inspiration'</i>	Inspiration Hebe	
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Tanika	
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobialla	
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Silver Sheen	
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Lily Pilly	
<i>Westringia eremicola</i>	Slender Westringia	



9.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Works and costs identified in this section have been sequenced in a recommended order of priorities. Works have been prioritised on immediate need against long term aspirations for the Council. Priorities may change and will be subject to available funding. Costing is order of magnitude only and will be confirmed with detailed design. Confirmed costings will also take into account whole of life cycle costs.

PRIORITY	TASK	COST ESTIMATE
High	Detailed design and documentation of Streetscapes in town centre, this should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• median strip landscape works• feature planting garden beds including location, size, placement and design• nature strip treatment and planting• street tree placement• indicative location of footpaths (to be confirmed by civil design)• locations for directional/wayfinding signage	\$25,000
High	Design, fabrication and installation of town entry statements	\$20,000 ea
High	Develop concept plan for James Park (once playground location is determined)	\$10,000
High	Develop concept design of Stanley Park including Memorial upgrade and car park	\$12,000
Medium	Drainage analysis and re-design to consolidate drainage in Stanley Park North	\$2,500
Medium	Demolition and removal of existing equipment in Stanley Park	\$10,000
Medium	Civil design and documentation of footpaths and kerb outstands	\$12,000
Medium	Installation of footpaths	\$180/m2
Medium	Installation of kerb outstands	\$100/lm
Medium	Vegetation management plan for Barker's Creek	\$8,000
Low	Arborist assessment of Avenue of Honour	\$1,500
Low	Feasibility study of footpath along Barker's Creek	\$5,000
Low	Feasibility study for new walking tracks connecting into existing trail routes	\$5,000
Low	Detailed design and documentation of historical and interpretive signage	\$6,000
Low	Fabrication and installation of interpretive signage	\$2,000 ea
Low	Infill planting of street trees in residential streets	\$300 ea

10.0 REFERENCES

Harcourt Community, *Harcourt Community Plan 2013*
Mount Alexander Shire Council, *Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2020*
Mount Alexander Shire Council, *Investing in Play 2014-2024 Draft Play Space Strategy*
SJB Urban, *Harcourt Town Centre Master Plan 2011*



APPENDIX 1 Summary of Survey Responses

Memo Harcourt Landscape Master Plan – Community Consultation Notes

To	Mt Alexander SC		
From	Marg Sangalli		
Date	4 December 2014		
Project Name	Harcourt LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN	Reference	300097
Subject	Online Community Survey Results Summary		

Online Survey Oct/Nov 2014

The following is a summary of the results of the Harcourt landscape master plan online survey. The intention of the survey was to gather information from the local community on how they would like to see the environmental and visual amenity of Harcourt enhanced, and what the local community believe should define the identity of Harcourt.

The survey was available both online and as hard copies, the combined total of responses was ninety three. Three of these responses were considered duplicates, entered from the same IP address, at the same time, to avoid an unfair bias the three responses have been excluded from the results analysis, leaving 90 responses in total.

All survey data is attached to this memo as in Appendix 1, below is a summary of the results relevant to the landscape master plan.

1 What do you think are the three best things about Harcourt?

The overwhelming majority of responses to this question referred to the rural, country location and associated benefits of that including peace and quiet, serenity and proximity to natural and agricultural features. Second to this was the people themselves and the community and the third most common response was the proximity of Harcourt to other major centres such as Castlemaine, Bendigo and Melbourne.

2 If you could change three things about Harcourt to make it a better place, what would they be?

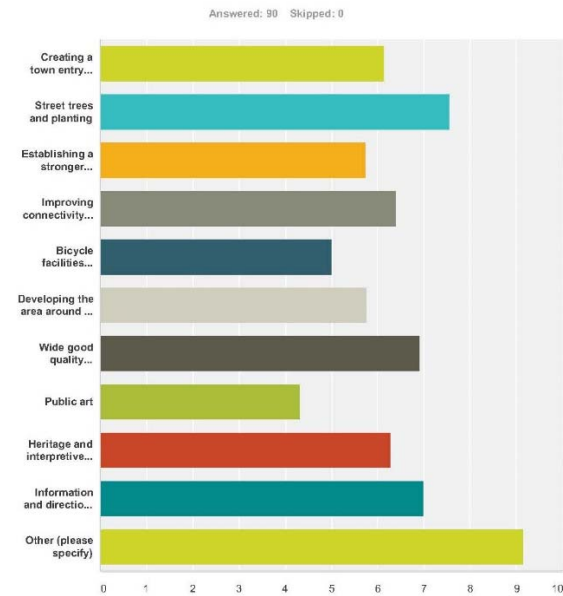
The majority of responses (40) to this question involve improving the appearance of the town centre and almost as popular, was encouraging more commercial enterprises to the town centre (35) (particularly a pub), although this is outside the scope of a landscape master plan, improving the appearance and better defining the town centre through implementation of the master plan could potentially encourage more business.

Another popular response was improving recreation facilities (29) both passive (community gardens) and active (sports, playground facilities). Opening the train station and improving public transport was the next common response (24) and Improving footpaths and accessibility also rated highly (24). Other issues relevant to the landscape master plan included: creating a community gathering space/music/outdoor venue.

A number of road related issues were also mentioned including better maintenance to the roundabout off the highway, amending the intersection and reducing the speed limit through town.

3 Below is a list of ideas and issues potentially related to Harcourt. Using a scale of one to five, where one is of no importance, and five is extremely important, please indicate how important each is to you.

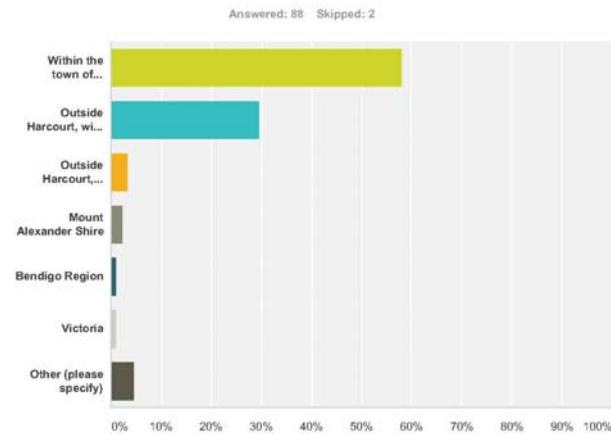
The following graph summarises the results to this question. Of the ‘other’ issues mentioned almost all fell into two main categories: improving the look of Harcourt including public/community spaces and the playground (19) and improving the streets and roads within the town (12).



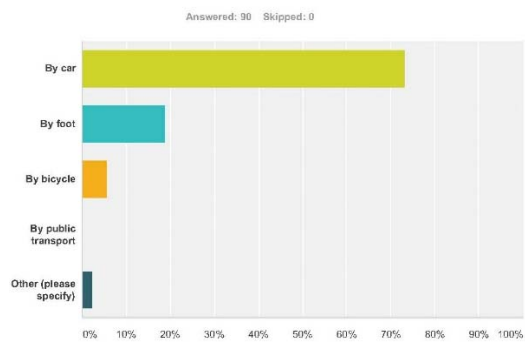
4 Do you think Harcourt has a special feature or character that is particularly important to you and/or the community, for example a visual theme, a unique setting, a cultural and/or historical presence? Please outline your thoughts here.

The responses to this question falls into three categories Apples (27), Mount Alexander (25) and granite (15).

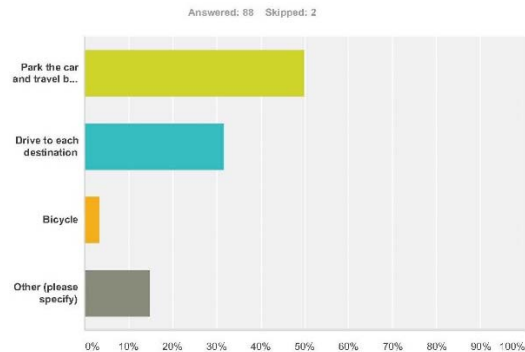
5 Which of these best describes where you live?



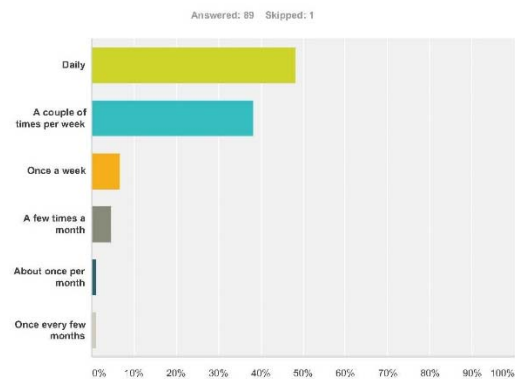
6 How do you most often travel to Harcourt town centre?



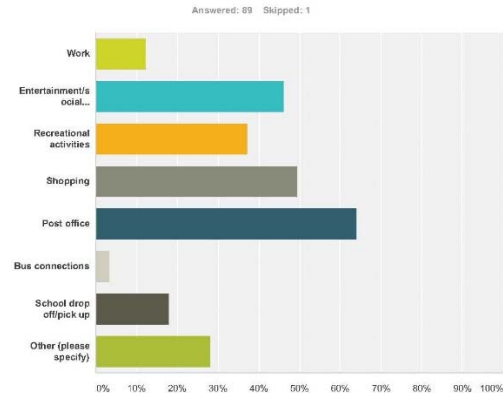
7 Once in the town how do you travel around?



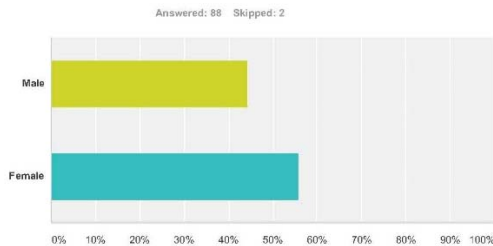
8 How often do you visit the town centre?



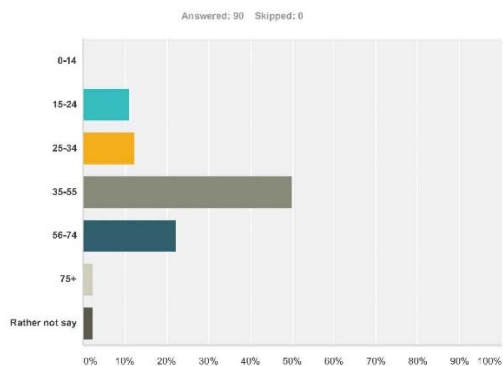
9 Why do you usually visit Harcourt town centre? (Select all that apply)



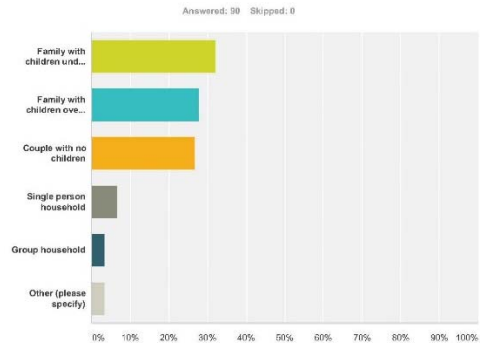
10 What is your gender?



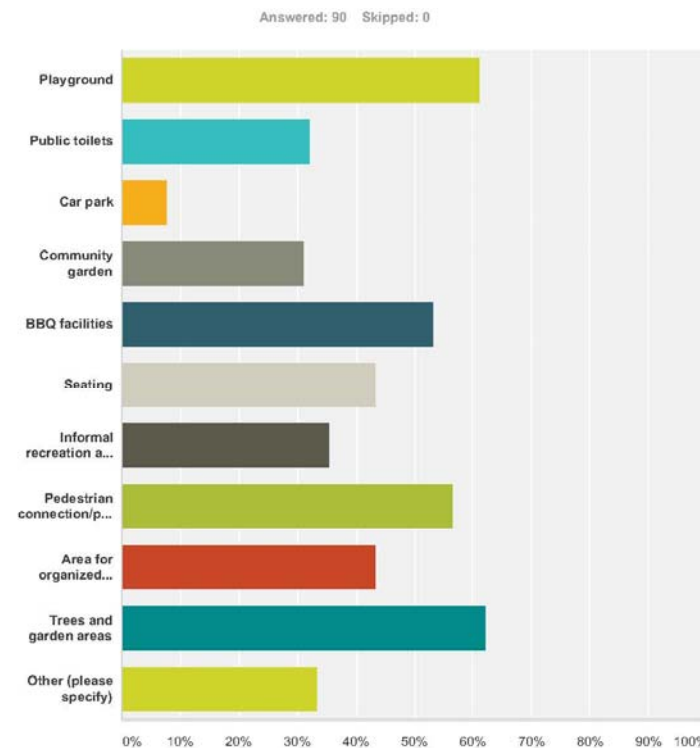
11 What is your age?



12 Which of the following best describes your household?



13 What facilities do you believe should be upgraded or provided in your town centre?(Please select all that apply)



Other relevant suggestions included: outdoor exercise stations/circuit, Improving Barkers Creek and upgrading the recreation reserve.

14 Where is your preferred location for the proposed new playground in Harcourt?

The results for this questions are attached and have been colour coded to provide quick analysis. The overwhelming majority would prefer to see the new playground at Stanley Park north (39). The next most popular option was to leave the playground at the existing location (13) followed by James Park (12).

15 If you have any other comments or ideas to share that will assist in the development of the Landscape Plan for Harcourt, please include them here.

Many of the 'further comments' involved more trees and planting in the town centre as well as improving central features such as bbq, play ground, more lighting and signage.

