

Barwon Downs Township Master Plan Report

Prepared for the Colac Otway Shire
on behalf of the Barwon Downs Community

June 2006

Administered by:



Prepared by:



Prepared by:



202 Grant Street
BALLARAT VIC 3350

Phone (03) 5333 5942
Fax (03) 5333 5488
Email: office@thala.com.au

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1.0 Background

In May 2005, the Colac Otway Shire engaged THA Landscape Architects Pty. Ltd. to prepare a Township Master Plan for the township of Barwon Downs.

Design proposals and development strategies prepared for the township are based on the project brief prepared by the Colac Otway Shire, combined with community meetings, discussions with community members, a comprehensive township site analysis, a review of available literature, use of aerial photography for analysis purposes and our professional response to the visual character and community needs of the township.

This report and associated plans have been prepared as a basis for:

- identifying the existing character of the township;
- establishing a framework for the future urban design development in the township; and
- recommended design concepts and actions to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term.

The Township Master Plan has been developed to provide short, medium and long term development opportunities for Barwon Downs and is an important tool for sourcing funding for the implementation of specific actions. The level of design detailing provided at this stage is low – with concepts and development strategies proposed in a generalised manner only. Further detailing & documentation of design concepts is required to more accurately estimate the cost of works and enable tendering and construction.

1.1 Project Scope

The following points provide a list of key issues that the Colac Otway Shire required to be considered as part of the project:

- Provision of a clear strategic direction for the development of the town in respect to streetscape and public land issues;
- Consideration of the physical and natural environment of the town;
- Recognition and appropriate treatment of heritage assets / heritage character throughout the town;
- Initiative to improve the township environment.

The outcomes of the project for the Barwon Downs Township Master Plan should provide and identify:

- A plan indicating the concepts to be developed and actions to be taken; and
- A series of cost effective and sustainable options for action by the community and Council.

2.0 Community Consultation

To achieve a clear understanding of the specific needs of the community, the project brief required a high level of community consultation from the commencement of the project and in particular during the analysis stage of the project and the community design assessment and review stage.

A summary of the community consultation methodology undertaken for Barwon Downs is follows:

- Placement of advertisements in the local news paper (by Colac Otway Shire) advising of the master planning process etc.
- An initial site inspection / analysis to gain a preliminary understanding of the town prior to attending the public meeting.
- Attendance at a public meeting (February 21, 2006) held at the Barwon Downs hall. The primary aim of the initial public meetings was to receive feedback from the community with regard to the way the community felt about their community, the community aims for the future development of their township, likes and dislikes about the township, visions for the future development of the township and specific local issues relating to the community / township development plans. This meeting was attended by Joel Kimber (Colac Otway Shire Economic Development and Grants Officer) and chaired by Cr. Peter Mercer on behalf of the Colac Otway Shire.
- The secondary aim of the initial public meeting was to explain the project to the community, and present an outline of the design and consultation process and timelines for the project.
- Display of the preliminary Township Concept Plans for a minimum period of 14 days to enable the community to become fully familiar with all recommendations.
- The second public meeting was held at the Barwon Downs hall on May 2, 2006. The format of this meeting included an introduction by Cr. Peter Mercer, a short presentation by the consultants to outline the key features of the Township Concept Plan, with the majority of the meeting dedicated to feedback from the community and associated discussion. This approach enabled direct discussion of key issues by the community in the forum of a public meeting. Project resolution and outcomes for the development of public land throughout Barwon Downs were discussed in association with the community.
- A community survey sheet was developed to obtain specific feedback regarding the preliminary Township Concept Plan. Survey sheets were made available at the start of the concept plan review stage to enable the consultants to obtain a clear indication of the community's perceptions in relation to the Township Concept Plan. The survey response sheets also provided an opportunity for individuals to respond to the township master plan by a method other than a public meeting. The feedback obtained from the survey response sheets and the public meetings was considered and assessed by the consultants, in association with the steering committee. This feedback formed the basis for all modifications / developments made to the Township Master Plan (June 2006). The community response sheets and associated results prepared for Barwon Downs are tabled later in this report.
- Based on the survey results, the key projects proposed for Barwon Downs were rated based on community feedback to determine the highest to lowest priority.
- Rating of each project into an order of priority provides important information for the Colac Otway Shire for long-term capital works budgeting, and sourcing of funds from external organisations.

3.0 Summary of Barwon Downs Township Master Plan Recommendations

The following points provide a summary of the key Township Master Plan recommendations for Barwon Downs. Refer to the attached plan (Drawing No. 05109 – M01& M02) for full framework details.

The following recommendations have been based on community feedback, detailed site analysis and the professional response to Barwon Downs by THA Landscape Architects. The consultation process has provided a review opportunity for the Barwon Downs community with community responses reflected in the final master plan.

Barwon Downs Public Hall

Ensure regular ongoing maintenance of the Hall is undertaken to preserve this valuable community asset.

Proposed development works around the Hall to include:

- *Construction of pedestrian crossing with kerbed outstand to provide a safe crossing point to the General Store.*
- *Installation of a child-safe fence with vehicle and pedestrian access.*
- *Replace existing timber picnic table and seating with new furniture.*
- *Additional planting & plaques in the 'back yard' to commemorate important community members.*

Barwon Downs Former School Grounds

Develop the small area of public land being the former school grounds for community & tourist related activities. Reserve improvements to include:

- *Removal of asphalt surface of old netball court. Reinstated with topsoil and lawn to provide a larger open space for passive recreation.*
- *Subject to arboreal assessment, retention of existing Pencil Pines related to the former School entry.*
- *Proposed replica of 'Australia's smallest bank' to house the town's visitor & historical information.*
- *Proposed public toilets to be constructed in association with the visitor and historical information building.*
- *Upgrade of existing playground to include childproof fencing, seating and shade sails.*
- *Proposed indigenous planting within the reserve to provide a 'Taste of the Otways' through a selection of all strata of indigenous Otways vegetation.*
- *Proposed bollard and cable fencing around reserve.*
- *Proposed 1.5 metre wide gravel access pathway across reserve to provide a short cut across the reserve.*

Barwon Downs Tennis Courts

- Liaise with the Colac Otway Shire, with assistance from the Barwon Downs community, to undertake regular maintenance to the tennis courts and fences to preserve this important community asset.
- Replace existing tennis shelter shed with a new lockable, weather & vermin proof structure with kitchenette. Building to be designed to replicate the shelter shed (form, materials & colour) to maintain a historical link with the former school use.
- Colac Otway Shire to undertake regular risk assessments on the tennis courts and associated facilities as recommended by the Colac Otway 2006-2010 Tennis Facilities Program.

Barwon Downs CFA

Relocate new CFA shed within the former school grounds as determined by the Colac Otway Shire Council and shown on the plan. Provide adequate parking and hardstand to meet all CFA requirements.

Entry Signage

Subject to the Colac Otway Shire signage policy, develop entry signs for installation at either end of the township. The form and materials selection should reflect the development, (and potential further development) of public artistic expression throughout Barwon Downs, including a reflection of the community's view of the town (i.e. clean, green, trees, water source etc.).

Existing Streetscape Planting

Retain the existing indigenous tree and understorey vegetation within the road reserves at either ends of the town to preserve the natural, informal vegetated character of Barwon Downs.

Establish clumps of indigenous vegetation along the Birregurra – Forrest Road, as indicated on the Master Plan to compliment the existing remnant vegetation and to extend the 'Taste of the Otways' planting theme from the former school reserve throughout the township.

Management of natural regeneration to ensure the preservation of vegetation on roadsides to include:

- *regular trimming and maintenance to maintain visibility for pedestrian and vehicle safety throughout the town.*
- *management for fire control.*

Traffic Issues

Liaise with VICROADS to improve the sharp corner on the Birregurra – Forrest Road adjacent to the former school grounds with improved lighting and road widening (i.e. on the road shoulders to allow safe passing distances between trucks).

Proposed Streetscape Improvements

Pedestrian Footpath:

- *Proposed 1.50 metre wide concrete (or asphalt) pathway for shared pedestrian / bicycle use between the existing Barwon Downs CFA shed and the proposed visitor and historical information building in the former school grounds.*
- *Install a gravel surfaced footpath along the Birregurra – Forrest Road between the proposed CFA shed and the Flora and Fauna Reserve on the south side of the township.*

Kerb & Guttering

- *Construct new concrete kerb and guttering along the Birregurra – Forrest Road between the existing CFA shed and the western most house opposite former school grounds. Extend asphalt road seal to new kerbing to allow parallel car parking along the Birregurra – Forrest Road.*
- *Install new traffic signage to legalise parking for both sides of the Birregurra – Forrest Road.*

Lighting:

- *Liaise with the Colac Otway Shire to install additional street lights mounted to existing poles where required to meet pedestrian and vehicle safety requirements (in particular between the Hall and the proposed CFA shed, where the formalised car parking is proposed).*

Maintenance

In association with the Barwon Downs Community Group and the Colac Otway Shire Council, prepare a maintenance program for the town to address mowing regimes / public rubbish collection / treatment of stormwater drains / toilet cleaning and general township maintenance.

4.0 Barwon Downs Community Development Priorities

The following table provides a summary of the Barwon Downs township development priorities (ranked in order from highest to lowest priority) based on feedback from the community response sheets (18 survey sheets returned) completed by the Barwon Downs community during the public consultation and review stage of the Township Master Plan.

The ranking of projects was based on the priority scores provided by individual community members. The highest priority (ranking 1) was scored with 18 points (the number of key projects identified by the consultants on the survey form) and the lowest priority was scored with 1 point. Projects ranking 2 to 17 were scored using the same scoring system. Total scores for each project were tallied and ranked in order from highest to lowest score – therefore reflecting the order shown below.

The prioritised project list will assist the Colac Otway Shire in understanding the Barwon Downs community's expectations for the implementation of the streetscape works, assist in budgeting for capital works and for applying for capital works funding to assist in the implementation of the streetscape plan.

Ranking	Key Master Plan Element
1	Develop the Old School Grounds to allow this public open space to become a community 'activity hub' and better cater for a range of groups including family, tourists, community and club gatherings. Improvements include additional picnic furniture & BBQ, fire pit, playground shade, additional play equipment & child-safe fencing and additional indigenous planting for shade and landscape amenity. Improvements also include bollard and cable fencing to better define the Old School Grounds whilst still providing vehicle access to grounds and a gravel path through the park.
2	Barwon Downs Hall facilities to be developed to include 'child-safe' fencing with restricted vehicle access, new furniture, improved access for CFA to the water tank & additional tree planting.
3	Improvements to the road drainage throughout the town – including construction of concrete kerb along both sides of Birregurra - Forrest Road generally between the existing CFA shed and the public telephone.
4	Liaise with VicRoads to reduce the existing double line marking along Birregurra – Forrest Road between the existing CFA shed and the public telephone to a single broken line. This modification will allow parallel parking to be legal on both sides of the road and accommodate community events at the Hall. Note: subject to VicRoads negotiation and approval.
5	Improvements to Tennis Club facilities including new lockable building and resurfacing of existing tennis courts.
6	Construct new public toilets within the Old School Grounds behind the proposed tourist information building (Bank replica).
7	Proposed pedestrian crossing between the General Store and the Barwon Downs Hall. Crossing to include kerbed pedestrian outstand to provide a safer pedestrian crossing point.
8	Improved lighting throughout the town, in particular at the corner of the Birregurra – Forrest Road / Wickhams Lane / Callahans Lane intersection and between the Old School Ground and the Hall.
9	Construct a replica of 'Australia's Smallest Bank' to house Barwon Downs historical and tourist information within the Old School Grounds.
10	Develop a footpath network throughout the town that links the Old School Grounds, the General Store and Barwon Downs Hall with a 1.5 metre wide pathway of a consistent material (eg. concrete). Additional footpaths to link the proposed Flora and Fauna Reserve to be 1.5 metre wide gravel pathway – exact alignment to be confirmed on site.
11	Develop entry signs for installation at both entries into Barwon Downs that evoke an image of Barwon Downs (in compliance with Colac Otway Shire's signage policy).
12	Develop the Barwon Downs Flora and Fauna Reserve for increased community use including access tracks for pedestrians / horse riders and interpretive signage.
13	Retain and develop the existing indigenous tree cover on road reserves on the approaches to the town to enhance the 'Otway Feel'. Manage natural regeneration of indigenous tree, shrub and understorey species to preserve the natural, informal character of the town.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve shoulders on main road.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liaise with VicRoads re dangerous corner

5.0 Implementation - The 'Next Step' in the Project

Whilst community interest in the township master plan has been strong, implementation works should commence as soon as possible to harness this community interest / enthusiasm including labour, materials and equipment resources.

The Colac Otway Shire should be fully informed of all intended projects to maximise potential greater outcomes from funds contributed by the Shire or external funding organisations.

The implementation of each project will need to be 'driven' by the community. Council should not force communities to implement projects, however they will provide significant support to communities who demonstrate they want, and are willing to contribute to streetscape projects.

The level of detail provided in the Township Master Plan is not suitable for construction purposes. As part of the planning for the project an allowance should be made for further design development and project documentation to ensure suitable detail is available for contractors to quote and build from.

6.0 Funding Opportunities

The proposed recommendations for the development of the Township Master Plan for Barwon Downs are diverse and will require a diverse range of skills to complete.

The advantages of having a diverse range of implementation strategies include:

- Allowing a greater number of people with a broader range of skills to be involved in the project;
- The opportunity of funding the project from a broader funding base;
- Allowing separate community groups the opportunity of working on quite separate projects with the common aim of implementing the plan – thus creating a greater sense of community ownership of both the plan and the on-ground works.

It is important that community understands that the successful implementation of the Master Plan will be based on a partnership between:

- The community including individuals and community groups;
- The Colac Otway Shire;
- External funding organisations including State and Federal Government Departments; and
- LandCare and Catchment Management Authorities.

Organisations that may fund parts of the Urban Design Framework Plans include:

- Natural Heritage Trust
- Greening Australia
- Colac Otway Shire
- VICROADS
- Corporate sponsorship
- Sports and Recreation Victoria
- Business Victoria – Small Towns Development Fund
- Business Victoria – Regional Infrastructure Development Fund
- Regional Partnerships – administered through the Geelong Area Consultative Committee

For LandCare related funding applications the Colac Otway Shire should contact the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to ensure the proposed projects are linked to projects with regional priorities, thus ensuring a higher project priority and improving funding opportunity.

Appendix One – Barwon Downs Township Master Plan

LEGEND

- Existing building.
- Property title boundary.
- Existing powerlines.
- Existing vegetation.
- Proposed indigenous tree & shrub planting.
- Proposed pathway (varied surfaces and widths).
- Proposed seating.
- Proposed picnic table & seating.
- Proposed BBQ.

PROPOSED FLORA / FAUNA RESERVE
 Develop reserve for educational purposes with well marked track signage. Allow horse riding access to reserve. Connect reserve to town with gravel path and clear signage. Provide educational / interpretive signage highlighting local flora & fauna species.

Path alignment subject to on site inspection.

MAINTENANCE

In association with the Barwon Downs community and the Colac Otway Shire Council, prepare a maintenance program for the town to address mowing regimes / public rubbish collection / treatment of stormwater drains / toilet cleaning and general township maintenance.

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT - TOWNSHIP
 Plan - Scale 1:2,500

NOTES:
 Base information derived from
 - aerial photograph
 - site visits
 - Colac Otway Shire cadastral information

Due to possible photographic distortions the location of all existing features is approximate only. The location of existing features in the vicinity of proposed development works should be confirmed on site prior to the commencement of works.



Date: June 2006
 Scale: As shown @ A1 sheet size
 Designed: DH / JK
 Drawing No:05109 - M01



Liaise with VICROADS to improve lighting at corner and approaches to corner. Investigate minor road widening options to improve turning / manoeuvring safety at the corner for B-Double trucks to avoid crossing onto inside lane.



PROPOSED STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Pedestrian Footpath:
 Proposed 1.50 metre wide concrete pathway for shared pedestrian / bicycle use on both sides of road extending from the public telephone and existing CFA shed, with a gravel path link to the Barwon Downs Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Streetscape Planting:
 Retain the existing indigenous tree and understorey vegetation within the road reserves to preserve the natural, informal vegetated character of Barwon Downs.

Provide additional indigenous planting (where shown) along the Birregurra - Forrest Road at either end of the township.

Management of natural regeneration to ensure the preservation of vegetation on roadsides to include:
 - regular trimming and maintenance to maintain visibility for pedestrian and vehicle safety throughout the town.
 - management for fire control.

Lighting:
 Liaise with the Colac Otway Shire to install additional street light(s) mounted to existing poles where required to meet pedestrian and vehicle safety requirements.

Signage:
 Subject to the Colac Otway Shire signage policy, develop entry signs for installation at either end of the township. The form could include the Barwon Downs logo which represents key elements of the town ie. hills, trees, the sun and the Barwon River.

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT - BARWON DOWNS HALL GROUNDS & BIRREGURRA - FORREST ROAD STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS
 Detail Plan - Scale 1:500



NOTE:
 The Barwon Downs Township Concept Plan and associated urban design development strategies have been prepared based on feedback from the public meetings held on February 21, 2006 and May 2, 2006, community response sheets and direction / discussion with the project steering committee.

BARWON DOWNS TOWNSHIP

Master Plan
 URBAN DESIGN ADVICE - JUNE 2006



LEGEND

- Existing building.
- Property title boundary.
- Existing powerlines.
- Existing vegetation.
- Proposed indigenous tree & shrub planting.
- Proposed pathway (varied surfaces and widths).
- Proposed seating.
- Proposed picnic table & seating.
- Proposed BBQ.

Liaise with VICROADS to improve lighting at corner and approaches to corner. Investigate minor road widening options to improve turning / manoeuvring safety at the corner for B-Double trucks to avoid crossing onto inside lane.

Proposed bollard and cable fencing to define Old School Grounds and restrict vehicle access to Birregurra - Forrest Road.



LANDSCAPE CONCEPT - OLD SCHOOL GROUNDS
Detail Plan - Scale 1:500

Subject to arborial assessment, retain existing Pencil Pines and suitable trees within clump.

Proposed location for visitor information and historical interpretation signage. Building to be designed to be an exact replica of the original Barwon Downs bank which was the smallest of its type in Australia.

Building to be sited adjoining the footpath - with the verandah over the footpath to 'complete' the streetscape. Refer to floor plan and elevations.

Proposed location for public toilets. Existing toilets in the reserve to be decommissioned and new toilets to connect into existing septic infrastructure.

Existing playground to be assessed for current and future needs in keeping with the regular Council Playground Audits that take place. Proposed improvements include a child safe fence, seating and shade sails.

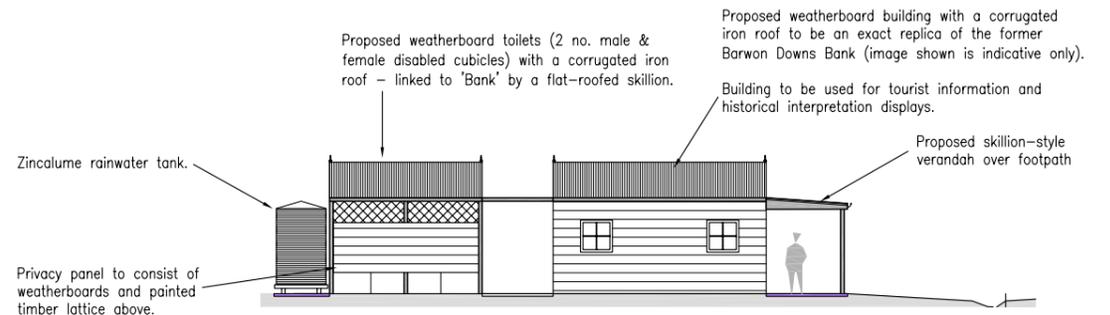
TENNIS COURTS

Barwon Downs Tennis Courts have been identified within the Colac Otway Shire 2004 Tennis Facilities Audit as 'active'.

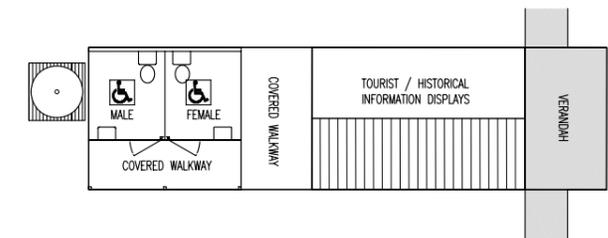
Liaise with the Colac Otway Shire, with assistance from the Barwon Downs Tennis club & community, to undertake regular maintenance to the tennis courts and fences to preserve this important community asset. Refer as well to the Colac Otway 2006-2010 Tennis Facilities Program.

Proposed improvements to include:
- resurfacing the tennis courts;
- replacing the existing tennis shelter shed with a new lockable, weather and vermin proof structure.

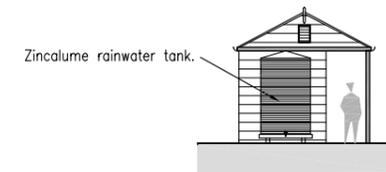
Colac Otway Shire to undertake regular risk assessments on the tennis courts and associated facilities.



PROPOSED 'OLD BANK' REPLICA & PUBLIC TOILETS
Side Elevation (East) - Scale 1:100



PROPOSED 'OLD BANK' REPLICA & PUBLIC TOILETS
Plan - Scale 1:100



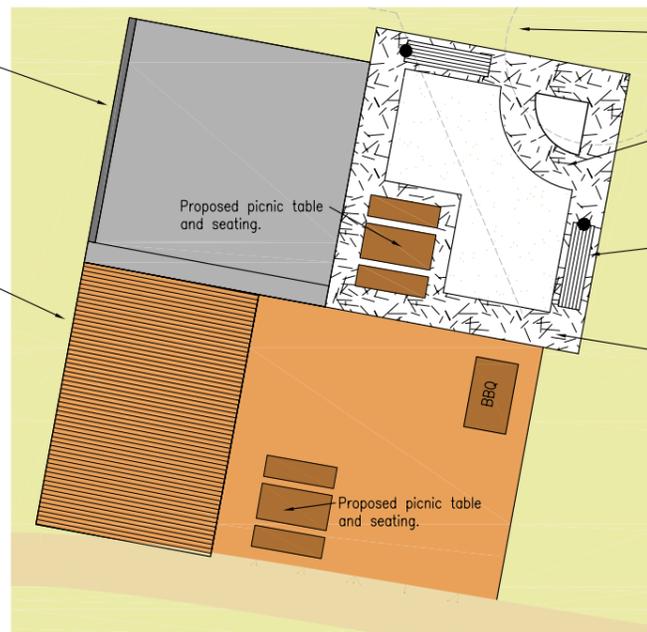
PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILETS
Rear Elevation - Scale 1:100



PROPOSED 'OLD BANK' REPLICA
Front Elevation - Scale 1:100

Existing 'hit-up' wall provides opportunity for passive recreation as well as being part of the memory of the existing school infrastructure. Remove graffiti and repaint or restore to existing state. Consider opportunity to display an enamel / weatherproof sign relating some of the school's history.

Existing tennis shed to be demolished and replaced with a new lockable, weatherproof and animal free shed with kitchenette. The new shed to be designed to replicate the size and character of the existing shelter shed, to retain a visual link to the former school use. The new shed and associated facilities will give the Barwon Downs Tennis Club the opportunity to hire out the facilities for small gatherings.



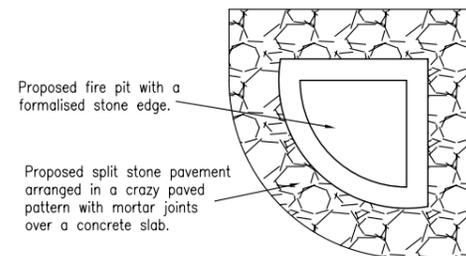
LANDSCAPE CONCEPT - TENNIS SHED
Detail Plan - Scale 1:100

Existing Callistemon shrub to be removed to improve visual access and safety.

Proposed fire pit. Refer to Detail.

Proposed feature bench seat provides an opportunity for local artist or crafts person to sculpt from local timber to create a unique seating style.

Edge with split stone pavement arranged in a crazy paved pattern to contain gravel surface.

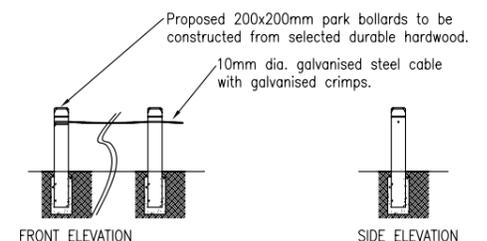


PROPOSED FIRE PIT
Detail Plan - Scale 1:50

Proposed seating to consist of a polished local tree stump as the supporting 'leg' to the seat. Install selected local hardwood timber slats for the seat.



PROPOSED PARK SEATING
Elevation & Plan - Scale 1:50



PROPOSED BOLLARD DETAIL
Elevation - Scale 1:50



Date: June 2006
Scale: As shown @ A1 sheet size
Designed: DH / JK
Drawing No: 05109 - M02



Appendix Two – Barwon Downs Community Response Sheets:

Barwon Downs Draft Concept Plan

Community Response Sheet

Following two public meetings, the Barwon Downs Township Concept Plan is currently in the community review stage. The purpose of this stage is to obtain comment from the community in relation to the township concept plan and specific recommendations prepared for the township.

The questions below will assist Council and the consultants in understanding the community's feelings (both positive and negative) towards the plan. This response sheet also provides opportunity for additional comment including any issues / items that have not been addressed / considered or which may need further development.

Thank you for spending a few minutes considering the plan. Your comments are valuable and will greatly assist in the future development of Barwon Downs.

Positive Aspects of the Barwon Downs Township Concept Plan:

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Negative Aspects of the Barwon Downs Township Concept Plan:

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Any other Suggestions or Changes That Should be made to the Plan?

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Priorities for the Development of the Barwon Downs Township Concept Plan:

Please insert a number from highest (1) to lowest (13) priority to indicate your preference for the implementation of key elements of the plan. This information will assist Council in understanding the community priorities and enable funding to be sourced and allocated to specific projects.

- Improvements to the road drainage throughout the town – including construction of concrete kerb along both sides of Birregurra - Forrest Road generally between the existing CFA shed and the public telephone.
- Improved lighting throughout the town, in particular at the corner of the Birregurra – Forrest Road / Wickhams Lane / Callahans Lane intersection and between the Old School Ground and the Hall.
- Barwon Downs Hall facilities to be developed to include ‘child-safe’ fencing with restricted vehicle access, new furniture, improved access for CFA to the water tank & additional tree planting.
- Proposed pedestrian crossing between the General Store and the Barwon Downs Hall. Crossing to include kerbed pedestrian outstand to provide a safer pedestrian crossing point.
- Develop the Old School Grounds to allow this public open space to become a community ‘activity hub’ and better cater for a range of groups including family, tourists, community and club gatherings. Improvements include additional picnic furniture & BBQ, fire pit, playground shade, additional play equipment & child-safe fencing and additional indigenous planting for shade and landscape amenity. Improvements also include bollard and cable fencing to better define the Old School Grounds whilst still providing vehicle access to grounds and a gravel path through the park.
- Construct a replica of ‘Australia’s Smallest Bank’ to house Barwon Downs historical and tourist information within the Old School Grounds.
- Construct new public toilets within the Old School Grounds behind the proposed tourist information building (Bank replica).
- Improvements to Tennis Club facilities including new lockable building and resurfacing of existing tennis courts.
- Develop a footpath network throughout the town that links the Old School Grounds, the General Store and Barwon Downs Hall with a 1.5 metre wide pathway of a consistent material (eg. concrete). Additional footpaths to link the proposed Flora and Fauna Reserve to be 1.5 metre wide gravel pathway – exact alignment to be confirmed on site.
- Develop the Barwon Downs Flora and Fauna Reserve for increased community use including access tracks for pedestrians / horse riders and interpretive signage.
- Develop entry signs for installation at both entries into Barwon Downs that evoke an image of Barwon Downs (in compliance with Colac Otway Shire’s signage policy).
- Liaise with VicRoads to reduce the existing double line marking along Birregurra – Forrest Road between the existing CFA shed and the public telephone to a single broken line. This modification will allow parallel parking to be legal on both sides of the road and accommodate community events at the Hall. Note: subject to VicRoads negotiation and approval.
- Retain and develop the existing indigenous tree cover on road reserves on the approaches to the town to enhance the ‘Otway Feel’. Manage natural regeneration of indigenous tree, shrub and understorey species to preserve the natural, informal character of the town.
- (Other).....
- (Other).....

We thank you for your valued input in completing this form.

For further information regarding this plan please contact Joel Kimber at the Colac Otway Shire (Phone 5232 9523) or David Hay or Jennifer Kelynack at THA Landscape Architects – Ballarat (Phone 5333 5942).

Please return this sheet and any other comments by: June 9, 2006
To: The Barwon Downs General Store or the Colac Otway Shire offices.

**Appendix Three – Community Survey Responses
(Summary Responses)**

Barwon Downs Community Survey Responses

Number of response sheets returned: 18

The community response sheets were designed to provide THA Landscape Architects, the Colac Otway Shire and the Barwon Downs community with a summary of the opinions expressed by individuals in relation to the proposals developed for the Barwon Downs Township Master Plan. It is important to note that the following comments are reflective of individuals and do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire community or the Colac Otway Shire. All comments provided by the community on the response sheets are listed to provide an accurate record of community views in relation to the proposals.

Modifications to the plans have been made following community feedback at the public review meeting (May 2, 2006) and from feedback from the community response sheets. Modifications to the plans are based on community consensus, rather than individual responses.

The following provides a summary of the notes provided by the Barwon Downs community from the Barwon Downs Streetscape Concept Plan Community Response Sheet. Repetition of some notes occurs – this has intentionally been retained to provide an accurate indication of community responses. Community responses are generally tabled below as they have been submitted.

Positive Aspects of the Barwon Downs Township Master Plan

- Supportive – a much needed facelift
- Good community building opportunity
- Good move forward for community
- Tree planting
- Removal of hard surfaces to create more park
- Upgrade of tennis court and facilities
- Agrees with most of plan and the democratic process used to achieve outcome.
- Agrees with most suggestions and would like to see a bike track between Barwon Downs and Forrest
- Development of School site is welcome
- Very positive
- All matters appear to have been addressed
- Agrees with parking on both sides of Main st.

Negative Aspects of the Barwon Downs Master Plan

- Flora and fauna reserve not seen as necessary. Many things needed doing yesterday. Replica Bank not necessary.
- New CFA site not consulted with community and takes up too much of open community green space. All other green spaces are too close to the road. Consider another site more suitable for CFA.
- Doesn't want concrete footpath on hall side of road.
- Make clear link between Loves Track and Lorne with better signage
- No fire pit – bushfire risk and maintenance problem. No artist sculptured seat – costly and unnecessary. No Bank Structure – cost, maintenance and vandalism issues. No extra toilets – there are toilets at the Hall. Adequate CFA Shed – no need for new one.
- Everything apart from tennis court improvements including new CFA shed is a waste of money
- Concerned about public carparking doesn't want people parking across driveways or too close to corner if on main street. Would like to see clear signs to parking within reserve
- Where is the funding coming from?
- Funding?
- Questions the population compared to the cost of implementing the plan

Other suggestions or changes that should be made to the plan

- Improve shoulder of Main Road and get VIC Roads to look at corner
- Move entry sign closer to Forrest past Mahers Road
- No need for more street lighting except at dangerous corner
- Look at locating CFA Shed on another piece of land - not the only large green space the reserve has.
- Cost of maintenance must be considered. Tennis courts could be upgraded. Planting of vegetation and grassing some areas is a good idea. This is a farming community.
- Put carparking back into School ground – less obvious from road.
- Improve road drainage
- Wants road asphalt to be sealed to both gutters
- Would like to asphalt sealed to edge of road
- Widen road pavement
- Improve road seal to edges
- Would like to have branches cleared off road for track from CFA to old Uniting Church
- Erect flashing orange lights at corner

Barwon Downs Survey Response - Other Priorities

- Improve road shoulders on Main Road (4)
- VIC Roads to look at dangerous corner.
- Greater awareness of responsible cat ownership, particularly at night.
- Less cattle farming – too much methane and better weed control for Otway Forest. No herbicides and no Pine.
- We are a farming community, please use our rates with care. Log trucks and cattle trucks use the road and the footpath and parking is not a priority.
- Consider zebra stripes on road either side of right angle bend. Consider siting west entry and speed signage near bridge before bad curves. Also creek signage and catchment info.
- Develop a bike riding track between Barwon Downs and Forrest could be a tourist attraction.
- Establish a footpath / track from shop to former Uniting Church.

Comments re: priority list.

Suggestions for other areas