



# Bushman's Hill Reserve Parkes NSW Landscape Masterplan

# Prepared for Parkes Shire Council by

Somewhere.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS AND DREAMERS

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# 1.0 Project Overview

#### Brief for Landscape consultancy for Bushman's Hill Reserve Master plan:

Parkes Shire Council secured funding for a Master Plan of Bushman's Hill, a large reserve at the northern end of Parkes township which is largely under utilised at present.

Council has been working with the Aboriginal Community who are advocating for an Indigenous Cultural Precinct developed on the site which would include an amphitheatre, walking tracks, native gardens and a BBQ area. The Indigenous Cultural Precinct would be the main focus of the study, however, the broader area of the reserve also needs to be planned to ensure all components will work together well into the future thus meeting the needs of the wider community.

#### Project components included:

- Meet with council and Aboriginal Elders and their communities, community members and adjoining landholders to discuss their requirements and hopes for the reserve.
- Meet with council staff to clarify and discuss requirements and understand budget requirements and likely implementation scenarios. Gain an understanding into likely maintenance, if water is available, soil type and existing endemic vegetation.
- Research past plans and reports regarding the site.
- Research the history of the site.
- Research current DCP and environmental planning instruments and or legislative constraints that refer to the site.
- Research funding possibilities.
- Provide an analysis map which notes all elements on site and highlights any maintenance/ management issues that the plan should address. Also include is the context of the site within a residential area, possible linkages and connections.
- Prepare draft plans of the site including the positioning of the elements described above. Include sketches and images of elements to be included.
- Meet with council staff to present and gain initial feedback. Undertake community consultation with the draft plan to discuss and take minutes.
- Prepare draft document which includes: A brief history of the current site Current use and development Inclusion of planning information
- Provide more detailed plan of stage one works (Amphitheatre, walking trails and native garden areas)
- Finalise document including macro costings for the first stage and consultation minutes and notes and confirmation of staging map layer 1.1 History of the site including reference to past plans and reports

#### History of the current site

In 2012, the Parkes Shire Council secured funding for a Master Plan of Bushman's Hill, a large reserve at the northern end of Parkes which is largely under-utilised at present. Council has been working with the local Aboriginal Community who are advocating for an Indigenous Cultural Precinct to be developed on the site which would include an amphitheatre, walking tracks, native gardens and a BBQ area. The Indigenous Cultural Precinct would be the main focus, however the broader area of the reserve also needs to be planned to ensure all components will work together well into the future, thus meeting the needs of the wider community.

The Parkes Shire has an Aboriginal population of 8.3%. It is one of the fastest growing populations of Aboriginal people in NSW, growing from a base of 763 people in 2001, to 1026 in 2006 – a growth rate of 34.5%. The township of Parkes currently has no cultural site that recognises the Indigenous community or the history of Aboriginal people in the Parkes area. The Bushman's Hill reserve has been recognised as a site of significance by the Indigenous community of Parkes and is the preferred location for a cultural precinct.

A small shed and covered area has been erected on the Southern end of the reserve. This is the same area that has been earmarked for the development of the Indigenous Cultural Precinct. Due to its natural slope it is also the preferred location for the amphitheatre and associated facilities.

In 1985 consultants Douglas Sanger Pty Ltd prepared a Master Plan for Bushman's Hill to facilitate development under the National Bi-Centennial Project. Over the years however, priorities for the community have changed and part of the reserve have been sold off for residential development. This alone necessitates a revised plan for the reserve.

### Concept

In the short term, the Aboriginal community would like to develop an amphitheatre, walking tracks, native gardens and a BBQ area to the southern end of Bushman's Hill reserve (adjacent to Wentworth Street). The gardens would include Wiradjuri artwork, carvings and stone work. The amphitheatre would be used as a corroboree area and used as a venue for outdoor events for the whole community.

Longer term, Council will also need to consider the future use of the reserve including the potential site for a Cultural Centre and associated facilities. It is for this reason that Council would like a modular plan for the site allowing for future and long term development of the reserve. Stages of the plan could then be undertaken once funding and resources become available.

As this site is significant to both the Aboriginal and European history of Parkes, preservation and even promotion of this history should be considered in any development proposals.

### **Community Consultation**

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A major component of the plan was to consult with the Aboriginal elders, the Aboriginal community through the Aboriginal working party, neighbours to the Bushman's Hill Reserve, ratepayers, Parkes Shire Council and any other identified stakeholders.

Meetings were held with Council staff, members of the Aboriginal working party and the local Aboriginal community.

Neighbours, ratepayers and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the plans during the public exhibition period.

# 1.2 Current use and development

Based on the Douglas and Sangers Pty Ltd Bushman's Hill Bi-Centennial Project report commissioned by Parkes Shire Council, there appears to be huge potential for the development of Bushman's Hill which is currently subject to vandalism and other anti-social activities. According to the findings in the Douglas and Sangers report the hill is 'a wasteland, considered by most residents as an eyesore, a dangerous place because of unsafe mineshafts, an annual fire hazard and a haven for snakes and other vermin. There is also concern about cyanide in remaining tailings".

The hilltop provides the best look out for Parkes, with unimpeded 360 degree views southward across the town centre and almost toward the township of Forbes. The hill currently consists of a walking path, seats and tree plantings with memorial plaques in the 'History Through Trees' project.

# **1.3 Funding possibilities.**

#### Potential funding opportunities for this project include:

- ICC Australia <u>http://www.iccaustralia.com.au/</u>
- Arts out West http://www.artsoutwest.org.au/
- CMA http://cw.cma.nsw.gov.au/WorkingWithUs/externalfunding.html
- Aboriginal Working Party http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/ACHworkingparty.htm
- Aboriginal Cultural Grants http://arts.gov.au/sites/default/files/indigenous/indigenous-funding-guidelines.pdf

Cultural Grants Heritage Program - <u>http://www.datsima.qld.gov.au/atsis/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-peoples/indigenous-cultural-heritage/cultural-heritage-grants-program</u>

### Other opportunities for local involvement in this project include:

- TAFE NSW Western students in horticultural and construction works
- Participation from local high schools with painting of murals.
- Middleton Public school have expressed interest in planting projects within the reserve
- Garden club and/or landcare participation in planting projects

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# **Costings for Indigenous Cultural Precinct**

TOTAL including contingency (Excludes GST)

#### Tree removal and earthworks

Item		Description	Unit	Rate	Qty
1	Existing trees/shrubs to be underpruned and 2 trees to be removed	ALLOW		20-30	Amount
2	Survey and Civil engineer design fees for amphitheatre	ESTIMATE			\$3,000
3					\$5,000
	Amphitheatre earthworks	ALLOW			
	TOTAL				\$8,000
	Hard landscape,Infrastructure and furniture			•	\$16 000
Item	Description	Unit	Rate	Qty	Amount
1	Proposed carpark - Compacted road base 2 coat seal	M2	\$75.00	163	\$12,225
2	Footpaths 2.5m wide- Stabilised granite footpath material	M2	\$35.00	1001	\$35,035
3	Concrete ramps with integral oxide and saw cut joint. Colour equivalent to 'Terracotta' by Abilox	M2	\$160.00	85	\$13,600
4	Proposed fixed bollards to carpark	Nos	\$320.00	15	\$4,800
5	Concrete floor to BBQ area	M2	\$85.00	157	\$13 345
6	Repaint Picnic tables to BBQ area	Nos	\$400.00	4	\$1,600
7	BBQ (Double stainless steel landmark pro installed)	Nos	\$9,000.00	1	\$9,000
8	Timber bench seats - Recycled material	Nos	\$2,500.00	4	\$10,000
9	Bins	Nos	\$1,500.00	1	\$1,500
10	Sculpture	ALLOW			\$10 000
11	Entry Signage	ALLOW			\$5,000
12	Interpetive signage	ALLOW			\$8,000
13	Flagpole (Abel 9m banner pole)	Nos	\$ 1600.00	1	\$1,600
14	Masonry retaining walls to Amphitheatre 450mm high	LM	\$180	126	\$22 680
15	Brick edging to Amphitheatre stage	LM	\$45	48	\$2 160
	TOTAL				\$150 545
	Soft landscape				
Item	Description	Unit	Rate	Qty	Amount
1	Infill Planting to all areas - Targeted chemical use and or mechanical removal of weeds. Cultivate soil to a depth of 300mm where required. Improve individual planting holes with 50mm compost, Allow for 1 tube/m2	M2	\$25.00	2000	\$50,000.00
2	Trees - Into soft landscape areas	Nos	\$300.00	25	\$7,500.00
3	Proposed grass area to amphitheatre - turf	M2	\$12.00	247	\$2,964.00
4	Make good existing grassed areas seed	ALLOW	\$2.50	100	\$250.00
5	Irrigation	ALLOW			\$10,000
	TOTAL				\$70,714
	SUMMARY		1		
Item	Description	Amount			
1	Demolition, tree removal and earthworks	\$16 000			
2	Hard landscape, infrastructure and furniture	\$150 545	1		
3	Soft landscape	\$70,714			
	TOTAL	\$237 259			
	Contingency 10%	\$23 726			
		<u>⊢ .</u>	1		

\$260 985

# **Bushman's Hill Parkes Meeting 1 Notes**

Tuesday September 11, 2012

In attendance-David Ramsay Ellie O'Donoghue Kent Boyd Brad Byrnes Ian Long (Aboriginal Working party Representative)

- Staged plan with Stage 1 being Indigenous Cultural precinct. This is to include a BBQ, amphitheatre, bush food garden, interpretive walk, future cultural centre location and possible toilet location. Art and sculpture to be included and this could incorporate murals on the existing bbq shelter and water reservoir.
- Ian Long from Parkes Tafe would like to take on some of the works as part of study in a Conservation and Land management course for Aboriginal students.
- It would be good to eventually link Bushman's Hill, the Henry Parkes centre and Hospital Hill (another Indigenous cultural site) with walking tracks. This could be called 'The Wiradjuri Welcome Walk'.
- There is a possibility of installing CCTV in the park to prevent vandalism of the new facilities
- Note a possible carpark near the cultural centre pad site.
- Propose informal granite angled parking area adjacent to Wentworth St
- Keep in mind the surrounding residents when locating facilities, particularly the noise from the amphitheatre.
- Install interpretive signage to area containing mining relics. Improve degraded paths in this area.
- Formalise the existing dirt road up to the water reservoir. There are great views from the top of the hill. The tank has been flagged to be incorporated into a recycled water system so is to remain.

### Funding opportunities-

1. Parkes are lucky enough to fall into 2 catchments which means access to 2 lots of funds!

Lachlan CMA-contact Larry Towney(Forbes)

Central West CMA -contact Will Burns(Dubbo)

- 2. Local Government specialist project officers-ongoing grants
- 3. ICC Australia-they funded the grant to get the masterplan done

Local artists- Lionel Lovett(indigenous artwork)

Elsie Mahon-metal sculpture

#### Other:

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- Local high schools could be involved with mural painting and Middleton Public school have expressed interest in planting projects in the reserve.
- Michael James is president of the Aboriginal Working Party
- Wayne Bloomfield wrote a report 2 years ago on Social needs for Parkes Aboriginal Community. Council are trying to get a copy.

# **Bushman's Hill Reserve Plan Review Meeting Notes**

Wednesday November 14, 2012

#### Meeting 1-Council Staff

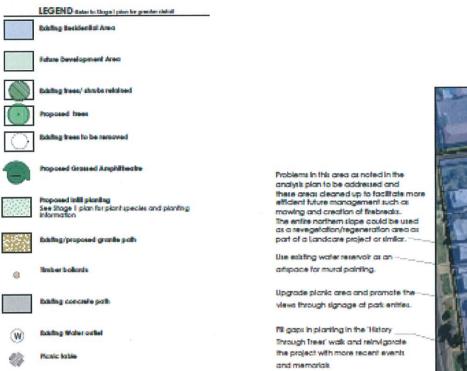
In attendance-David Ramsay Ellie O'Donoghue Kent Boyd Brad Byrnes

- Add note to masterplan in regards to design of new residential development and also drainage in this area.
- Keep flooding in mind
- Re-engineered detention basin
- Discussion of pros and cons of access road to reservoir. Keep existing open space near mining relics as an open area for functions etc
- Centacare have approached Council about using the project as work experience for their aboriginal workforce
- Suggestion that plan Stage names be changed from numbers to precinct names eg. Reservoir precinct, Indigenous Cultural Precinct so that Council is not restricted to a particular staging order.
- Redo granite paths through the mining relics as concrete. Possibly approach Mines for financial support.
- Do path costings for granite and concrete as options.
- Further discussion around linking Bushman's Hill, the Henry Parkes centre and Hospital Hill (another Indigenous cultural site) with walking tracks. Memorial Hill could also be included as part of Anzac Centenary celebrations. This walk could be called 'The Wiradjuri Welcome Walk'.
- Request for a map on an aerial image of Parkes showing the potential route of the walking track.
- Make paths 2.5m wide for use as shared walk/cycleways.
- Greencorps volunteers were suggested as a labour source.
- A flagpole was suggested for raising of the Aboriginal flag near the park entrance
- Include a map of the park on the Park entry signage

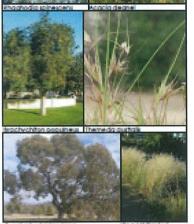
### Meeting 2-Aboriginal Working Party

In attendance-David Ramsay (Parkes Council) Ellie ODonoghue (Parkes Council) Michael James Julie Webb Amanda Corcoran

- Possibility of decorative paving to the floor of the BBQ shelter or entry paths.
- Aboriginal community members can suggest plant selection for the bush food/medicine garden.
- Request for disabled access pathways in the Indigenous Cultural precinct.
- A mural depicting the history of Parkes was suggested for the Reservoir. E.g. Aboriginal, Mining and current.
- Distribution of bird boxes throughout the garden.







Anu • Upgrade Butman's Hill Reserve to include an aborginal cultural precinct where natural attributes are the second and activation include an aborginal activation involves involved in the action of the action of the maintained and enhanced. Maximize the recreational and educational potential of the existing mining relics. and panoramic views.

#### Master plan objectives

- Improve and enhance the existing pathway system and incorporate interpretive signage and directions to other areas of the reserve, focusing on the local Abariginal heritage, mining history, panaramic views and locally occurring plant species
- + Identify future parking scenarios to maximise parking on the site without using road verges
- + Maintain open view/vistor through the park to improve safety and enable surveillance
- + Focus on use of local natural materials in the park
- + include low-level plantings underneafs the existing trees and in empty garden beds to improve the

#### aethetics of the reserve

STAGE 3 STAGE Proposed new picnic area to end. of Drummond St. Plant out bank and plant trees for shade. Drummond Street provides good vehicle access to the reserve and a potential carparking area to service the MQ shelfer. Existing path linking to reservoir. is in poor condition. Replace state and undeprune shubs and trees to give a safer feel to the walk. STAGE Existing well established garden with some boulders that have been use for Aboriginal rock pointings. There is space in this STAG planting area to integrate bush food plantings. Good existing Inkoce to the bbo shelter.

Repair eraded path and redirect so it --

links through existing garden to carpark.

Potential future pediettrian access to

Ink with the Henry Parkes Centre

Proposed future subdivision-

Disting 66Q shelter to be repainted. A 66Q --to be installed here where the previous one was located. A poved or concrete floor is required and the path to the park entrance needs to be reinstated. Clean off graffiti on the shed walk and repaint

with murait.

Exiting park entrance. Garden edging to be replaced and the empty garden beds to be planted out to improve the certhelics of the entrance. The overgrown gorden bed on the Battern side of the entry requires thinning out and underpruning of trees for greater visual surveillance through this cred.

New signage to include a map of the reserve showing planic/viewing areas interpretive walks etc.

Proposed location of informal granite or bitumen carpark adjacent to Wentworth Street. Define area with boliards to control cor movement

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- Degraded garden that could be used as educational native garden or to house endemic shrubs with integrative signage
- Detention basin which needs spraying for weeds and re-planting with endemic species.
- Bank needs lowering slightly (it possible) to allow greater visual access into reserve from surrounding properties and proposed development die.



Potential all-street carpark location.

Seci (or formalise with bitumen) existing access road to provide greater public access to the water reservair and viewing CORCEL.

Disting chimney. Paths in fair condition. Stain and seating need upgrading.

Interpretive signage explaining the history of the mine and what each relationship would be a valuable addition to the reserve.

Existing path in good condition. Plantings could be improved.

The land here is asile fat making it the perfect location for any future Cultural centre. There is plently of space for carparking and good access of Wentworth and High Sheets. It would be located dase to the proposed amphitheatre and only a short waik to the existing BBQ shelter.

Amphitheatre out into natural slope. Concrete relation to create teracoed section. Laws to terraces. Enhance existing planting to Wentworth Street

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Somewhere. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS AND DREAME

Disclaimer: This drawing has been generated from an aerial photograph not a su The locations shown of trees and features is approximate only phone 0263647333 fax 0263647366 email alex@somewho

**Bushman's Hill Reserve** Parkes NSW

terraces. Enhance existing planting to Wentworth

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# LEGEND

**Photograph locations** Refer to notes adjoining image.

# SITE ANALYSIS NOTES

- (1) Existing park entrance which was installed as part of bicentennial works. Garden edging needs replacement and the empty garden beds need to be planted out to improve the aesthetics of the entrance. The overgrown garden bed on the Eastern side of the entry requires thinning out and underpruning of trees for greater visual surveillance through this area.
- (2) Proposed location of informal carpark adjacent to Wentworth Street.
- 3 Natural slope here lends this area to be the location of the amphitheatre. Existing screen planting to Wentworth Street could be enhanced.
- The land here is quite flat making it the perfect location for any future Cultural centre. There is plenty of space for carparking and (4) good access of Wentworth and High Streets. It would be located close to the proposed amphitheatre and only a short walk to the existing BBQ shelter.
- 5 Existing BBQ shelter in need of refurbishment. A BBQ could be installed here where the previous one was located after being vandalised. A new floor is required and the path peeds to be rejected at 2 within the previous one was located after being
- vandalised. A new floor is required and the path needs to be reinstated. Graffiti is present on the shed walls.
- **6** Existing path is eroded and needs repairing to link to future bush food garden
- This is a well established garden with some boulders that have been use for Aboriginal rock paintings. There is plenty of free space in this bed to use for bush food plantings.
- (8) Existing path in good condition. Plantings could be improved.
- (9) Existing path in poor condition. Stairs need replacing and plantings need underpruning to give a safer feel to the walk.
- Drummond Street provides good vehicle access to the reserve and a potential carparking area to service the BBQ shelter.
- 1 Existing mining relics lend themselves to an interpretive walk explaining the mining history of the area. Paths are in fair condition
- (12) Existing chimney. Paths in fair condition. Stairs and seating need upgrading.
- (13) Existing water reservoir could be used as an artspace for mural painting.
- Picnic area at the top of the hill, alongside the water tank, is underutilised. The views are great but not well advertised. Facilities need upgrading.
- (15) The 'History Through Trees' walk is well maintained and has a peaceful feel. Gaps in planting need to be filled and an opportunity exists to reinvigorate the project with some more recent events and memorials.
- (16) Unused open space. Water points exist throughout this area.
- (17) Badly eroded path. Seems to lead nowhere.
- (18) Existing path needs to be repaired. Links to possible arid garden site
- (19) Existing access road that could be sealed to provide greater public access to the water reservoir and viewing areas.
- 20 Potential off-street carpark location.
- (21) Degraded garden that could be used by the arid garden club
- 22 Detention basin which needs spraying for weeds and re-planting with endemic species.
- 23 Bank needs lowering slightly (if possible) to allow greater visual access into reserve from surrounding properties and proposed development site.
- (24) Badly eroded path. Seems to lead nowhere.
- (25) Badly eroded path. Seems to lead nowhere.
- **26** Potential future pedestrian access to link with the Henry Parkes Centre
- 27 Proposed future subdivision

# BUSHMAN'S HILL RESERVE

Bushman's Hill Reserve has a peaceful, relaxed atmosphere but it is in need of upgrading and extensive maintenance work to improve public safety. There is a small amount of anti social behaviour evident in the park in the form of graffiti and damaged furniture. The only lighting is a floodlight near the BBQ shelter.

- Panoramic views from the reservoir which give a fantastic vista over Parkes to the south are are not promoted.
- The predominant winds appear to vary mainly between Southwest & Northeast
- Many areas are under-utilsed and have unrealised potential. It has the makings of a magnificent community space and cultural precinct.

## EXISTING VEGETATION

The vegetation on site is majority native plantings which include some endemic species. The majority of plantings are in good health. Some garden areas need thinning out to improve surveillance and some trees require crown uplift or formative pruning to improve tree health and public safety.

# The selection includes:

Eucalyptus spp Melia azederach Grevillea spp Geraldton Wax Acacia spp Melaleuca spp Thyrptomene spp Casuarina spp Brachychiton populneus Callistemon spp Exotic trees on site include:

Ulmus parvifolia(Chinese Elm) Morus nigra(Mulberry) Fraxinus spp(Ash) Schinus molle (Peppercorn trees) Jacaranda mimosaefolia(Jacaranda)



**Photo 1:** Existing park entry off Wentworth Street which needs maintenance and new plantings

ev Date Notes

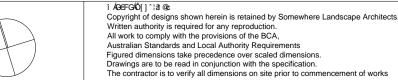
Project North: N

Photo 2: Existing BBQ shelter requires work and a new BBQ to replace the previous one.

Photo 3: Natural slope would suit an amphitheatre Photo 4: Picnic area atop the hill is underutilised

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Landscape Architect:



artspace. There are panoramic views but those to interpretive walk the south are superior

Project Name:

the arid garden club

Drawing Title:

Parkes Shire Council

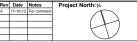
**Bushman's Hill Reserve** Parkes NSW

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#### LEGEND

Links





Drawing	Title
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Context Plan

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