



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Ash Wednesday Park Master Plan

Adopted 1 May 2020



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Introduction

The Ash Wednesday Park master plan has been developed by Council with the Macedon community in 2019 and 2020.

The master plan is to provide guidance for future development of the park, and, as best practice, takes a holistic view of the public open space in this area that is managed by Council. As a result the master plan considers both the actual parcel of land Ash Wednesday Park sits on and the public open space towards Jubilee Hall.

The master plan considers the preservation of the natural environmental attributes, capturing and showcasing the history of the park which encompasses Indigenous heritage/culture, Ash Wednesday fires, and the connectivity between points of interest (train station, public toilets, Jubilee Hall, primary school, Macedon township and Mount Players Theatre etc.) and the park.

A copy of the master plan is included as an appendix to this report, along with supporting documents such as costed, staged implementation plan, planting schedule and materials palette.

Vision

The master plan lays out an approach to the improvement of Ash Wednesday Park over the next 10 to 20 years. The intention is to preserve and regenerate the ecological value of the park, while improving visitor facilities in a considered and appropriate way. This plan aims to pay respect to the history of the park, including its purpose as a place of memorial.

Background

Ash Wednesday Park is a small yet important park located on Smith Street in Macedon with adjoining Council managed open space towards Jubilee Hall also used by the community albeit as a bush land area. Council is the land owner and manager of the park with adjacent land ownership shared with VicTrack, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and private residents.

The park is classified as a district level playground in Council's Playground Strategy 2009-2014 and is well used by local residents and visitors due to the natural shade, serenity and close proximity to the township, train station, Jubilee Hall and Mount Players Theatre.

Current facilities include a barbecue shelter, playground, drinking fountain and multiple picnic settings and park benches. The closest public toilets are located 125m away, further along Smith Street opposite the Macedon Railway Hotel. Jubilee Hall is also located within the Park and is managed by the Macedon Ranges Community Halls Inc.

Council's Open Space Strategy 2013 outlines a priority project for Macedon/Mount Macedon to 'prepare a master plan for Ash Wednesday Park.

Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2018-2028 outlines a key direction of the Macedon/Mount Macedon district to 'continue to work with the local community to explore opportunities to establish a significant play space/community hub (e.g. multipurpose stage, amphitheatre, picnic areas and play space). The strategy also includes action 1.1.2 'implement priority recommendations from the Shire's Open Space Strategy including... preparing a master plan for Ash Wednesday Park in Macedon.'

In 2018, the Macedon and Mt Macedon Business and Tourism Association ('MMMBATA') made a submission to Council's budget process and were successful in securing funding towards the development of a master plan to guide future development for the park.

Pollen Studio were engaged to develop both a master plan and a costed, staged implementation plan.

Consultation

Pollen Studio and Council have worked closely with the local community throughout the consultation process, to develop a master plan which reflects many views and priorities amongst the local residents.

Brainstorming session

An initial brainstorming session was facilitated by Pollen Studio and provided an opportunity for residents to create their wish list for Ash Wednesday Park and to help inform the draft master plan.

Overall, a high level of priority was placed on retaining the natural bush setting of the park, improving existing conditions and use. Suggestions included:

- Park etiquette signage (pick up after your dog, no heat bead barbecues, take rubbish home etc.)
- Signage to inform ecology of the park (species of trees, wildlife in park)
- Infrastructure upgrades to include bike rack, bike repair station, outdoor fitness equipment, a stage with electricity, skate park, playground improvements, extension of shelter and barbecue facilities, inclusion of a public toilet
- Monument to reflect Ash Wednesday fires memorial
- Changes to parking to create accessible and minibus parking, installation of bollards
- Improved drainage and formalization of water way, including upgrade of bridge crossing
- Improved weed management and revegetation areas, including potential bush tucker planting
- Improved connectivity between train station/viaduct and Jubilee Hall/primary school. Including internal walking paths between regeneration areas.

Walk-shop

After consideration from internal Council departments, the ideas and suggestions discussed at the brainstorming session were collated to inform a first draft master plan, which was subsequently presented to local residents at an onsite 'walk-shop' facilitated by Pollen Studio.

Members of the community engaged in a walking tour and open discussions/debate on the elements included in the updated plan. It also provided an opportunity for both Pollen Studio and Council officers to engage in discussions regarding the rationale behind why certain elements and facilities were included/excluded from the first draft master plan.

Discussion topics and feedback included:

- Effects of redevelopment and increasing capacity of the park
- Inclusion of skate friendly elements (e.g. Steel rimmed curbs or bollards) within the park, rather than a skate park facility
- General consensus on location of the stage, with an emphasis on a multipurpose structure
- Regeneration boundaries and maintaining open grassy areas
- Dispersing facilities around the shelter to avoid congestion and reduce risk with high pedestrian and car traffic
- Removable bollards to reduce vehicle access to inner road, creating flat space for bike/scooters etc. yet ability to open in busy periods
- Some support for the inclusion of a public toilet.

Each person in attendance was provided the opportunity to vote on their priorities for the park which has helped inform the staged implementation plan.

Public Exhibition of Draft Master Plan

Council resolved at its meeting on 23 October 2019 to approve the draft master plan for a four week period of community consultation in November 2019.

The draft master plan underwent a period of community consultation over a four week period from 4 November to 30 November 2019, which included:

- Comments sought on Council's 'Have Your Say' web page
- Comment sought directly from those on the established stakeholder contact list including previous submitters
- Promotion via Council's social media.

All feedback received has been considered by Council's environment, parks and recreation officers and the consultants in terms of guiding the final master plan, with the following key changes made to the document:

- Inclusion of car park upgrade works into the master plan implementation plan as item 1.10
- Inclusion of weed management as part of the project description for items 1.02 and 1.09 in the master plan implementation plan so as to re-emphasise the importance of this work
- Revision of the master plan plant list and indicate that these are guidelines and subject to final approval by the relevant authorities at implementation
- Clarification on the need to undertake further investigations and seek approvals when determining the final precise location of the proposed multi-purpose stage
- Clarification on the ongoing annual maintenance cost for assets developed through the master plan, noting more accurate assessment of future maintenance costs should be undertaken as part of future detailed design and implementation
- Various formatting updates required to finalise the master plan.

Implementation

Pollen Studio have provided a draft staged and costed implementation plan to inform the execution of the master plan. A materials palette and planting guidelines also accompanies the master plan to provide visual guidance at the detailed design stage.

It is important to note that once items are funded the detailed design process is to include:

1. Any authority guidelines, approvals and consultation as required and amending the works in regards to these. As examples, the advice of Melbourne Water in terms of details relating to treatment and plantings near the creek areas through the park. The advice of the gas supply authority in terms of the proposed stage and proximity to the gas supply line.
2. The approval of Council's environmental and parks teams and Melbourne Water of the details of any plantings at the implementation stage prior to the sourcing of plants. The planting guidelines provide initial guidance.

Stage one

Council's 2019/2020 budget includes an allowance of \$50,000 to commence the implementation of stage one works as identified in the draft implementation plan, which has been developed in consideration of the priorities outlined by the community at the walk-shop.

Based on the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken so far, this includes improvements to the entertainment area, being the construction of a multipurpose stage/platform and drainage and other improvements to the open grassy area.

Once the final draft master plan has been considered by Council, detailed design for stage one works will commence in 2020.

Ongoing

Based on the estimates provided in the draft implementation plan the development of all stages would cost in excess of \$200,000. The master plan has been developed to provide guidance for the development of the park over the next decade and will require a range of funding sources to support full implementation.

The annual maintenance cost of assets developed through the master plan should be calculated at industry levels which is currently 2 per cent of total investment cost. An accurate assessment of future maintenance costs should be undertaken as part of future detailed design and implementation.

Once finalised, Council officers will encourage the community to use the master plan to apply for different funding streams available through Council, State and Federal Governments or other funding programs.

Community groups will also be encouraged to take ownership in progressing the plan i.e. Landcare hosting community planting days to implement the revegetation phases of the master plan.

Appendices

1. Ash Wednesday Park Master Plan







VISION

This master plan lays out an approach to the improvement of Ash Wednesday Park over the next 10 to 20 years. The intention is to preserve and regenerate the ecological value of the park, while improving visitor facilities in a considered and appropriate way. This plan aims to pay respect to the history of this park, including its purpose as a place of memorial.

KEY

- 01 Playground Upgrade
- 02 Carpark Upgrade
- 03 Open Lawn Area
- 04 Stage / Multipurpose Platform Area
- 05 Bush-tucker Planting
- 06 Picnic Area Upgrade
- 07 Bicycle Repair / Bicycle Parking
- 08 Regeneration Area
- 09 Memorial / Information Signage
- 10 Creek Restoration / Riparian Planting
- 11 Drainage Line Naturalisation / Nature Play
- 12 Native Feature Planting
- 13 Grassy Area / Regeneration
- 14 Creek Crossing Point / New Bridge
- 15 Drainage Fix / Shrub Removal
- 16 Shelter Extension / Potential Future Toilet
- 17 Grassy Creek Crossing
- 18 Bin Relocation

LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Native Tree |  Upgraded Carpark (Gravel) |  Grass (Seasonal Mowing) |
|  Exotic Tree |  Path (Granitic Sand) |  Mulch (Under Trees) |
|  Riparian Planting |  Bush Track |  Regeneration Area |
|  Bush Tucker Planting |  Bollards |  Gravel / Granitic Sand |
|  Native Feature Planting |  Lawn (Regular Mowing) |  Project Extent |
|  Existing Park Seat / Table | |  Regeneration Extent |



Ash Wednesday Park Master Plan

2. Materials Palette



NATURE PLAY (NATURAL EDGING)



NATURE PLAY (FALLEN TREE REUSE)



NATURE PLAY (LOG STEPPERS)



FLYING FOX (ADVENTURE PLUS)



PICNIC SETTING (FURPHY)



BICYCLE REPAIR STATION (SECURABIKE)



GRANITIC SAND PATH



RECYCLED PLASTIC BOLLARDS (REPLAS)



GRAVEL CARPARK



ACER RUBRUM 'OCTOBER GLORY'



CITRUS AUSTRALASICA (BUSH TUCKER PLANTING)



BANKSIA INTEGRIFOLIA



EUCALYPTUS MELLIODORA



POA LABILLARDIEREI (RIPARIAN PLANTING)



DILLWYNIA CINERASCENS (NATIVE FEATURE PLANTING)



HOVEA HETEROPHYLLA (NATIVE FEATURE PLANTING)



LOMANDRA FILIFORMIS (NATIVE FEATURE PLANTING)



DIANELLA REVOLUTA (NATIVE FEATURE PLANTING)

POLLEN
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PROJECT Ash Wednesday Park, Macedon	TITLE Materials Palette / Precedents / Planting		SCALE N/A	
	CLIENT Macedon Ranges Shire Council	DRAWING NUMBER MP-01	ISSUE DATE 19.03.2020	REV B

3. Implementation Plan

STAGED / COSTED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

CLIENT: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

POLLEN STUDIO

UPDATE: 18.03.2020

Ash Wednesday Park, Macedon

Item	Project	Master Plan Number	Quantity	Unit	Rate (xGST)	Estimate Cost (xGST)	Priority	PACKAGE
1.00	Stage: Small Permanent Stage / Multipurpose Structure	4	1	item	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	SHORT TERM	1
1.01	Open Lawn Area: Grassy Area Graded & Seeded / Seating Renewal / New Seating / Tree Planting / Creek Regeneration / Agg Drain	3	1	item	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	SHORT TERM	
1.02	Drainage Fix: Vegetation Removal / Drainage Works / Weed Management	15	1	item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	SHORT TERM	
1.03	Footpaths: Granitic Sand Path Network	.	280	m2	\$50.00	\$14,000.00	SHORT TERM	2
1.04	Partial Playground Upgrade: New Play Elements to form part of Existing Play Ground / Potential Nature Play / Potential Flying Fox	11	1	item	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	SHORT TERM	
1.05	Drainage Line Naturalisation: Rock Mulch / Planting / Crossing Log	11	140	m2	\$100.00	\$14,000.00	SHORT TERM	
1.06	Memorial: Signage about History of Park. Project to be Community Led	9	1	item	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	SHORT TERM	3
1.07	Bicycle Repair Station: Public Pump and Tools / Bicycle Hoops	7	1	item	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	SHORT TERM	4
1.08	Regeneration Area: Weed Management / EVC Plantings	8	10,500	m2	\$5.00	\$52,500.00	SHORT TERM	5
1.09	Riparian Planting: EVC Appropriate Planting / Weed Management	10	185	m2	\$50.00	\$9,250.00	SHORT TERM	
1.10	Car Park Upgrade: Resurface / Bollards / Renew	2	500	m2	\$80.00	\$40,000.00	SHORT TERM	6
Detailed Design, Project Management + Contingency (15%)						\$33,037.50		
TOTAL						\$293,287.50		

2.00	Playground Upgrade: Existing playground equipment upgraded at end of life.	1	1	Item	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.01	Information Signage: Signage about Etiquette in Park / Safety	9	2	item	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.02	Native Feature Planting: Mulch / Planting	12	380	m2	\$40.00	\$15,200.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.03	Creek Crossing Point: Bridge or Culvert / Bridge Relocation / Path works	13	1	item	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.04	Bridge: Bridge Upgrade / Bridge Relocation / Path works	14	1	item	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.05	Bin Relocation: Closer to Parking	18	1	item	\$500.00	\$500.00	MEDIUM TERM
2.06	Grassy Creek Crossing: Culvert Treatment	17	1	item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	MEDIUM TERM
Detailed Design, Project Management + Contingency (15%)						\$15,855.00	
TOTAL						\$121,555.00	

3.00	Bush Tucker Garden: Planting / Signage	5	80	m2	\$25.00	\$2,000.00	LONG TERM
3.01	Picnic Area Upgrade: Picnic Setting Renewal / Terracing of Slope / Tap	6	1	item	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	LONG TERM
3.02	Shelter Extension: Additional Future Shelter / Potential Public Toilet. Provision of toilet to be considered in conjunction with planning for Smith Street toilets.	16	1	item	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	LONG TERM
Detailed Design, Project Management + Contingency (15%)						\$28,800.00	
TOTAL						\$220,800.00	
GRAND TOTAL						\$635,642.50	

Note: Implementation order and timing is aspirational and dependent upon funding opportunities that may arise.

Indicative Timeframe	
SHORT TERM	1-7 Years
MEDIUM TERM	7-12 Years
LONG TERM	12+ Years

4. Planting Guidelines

Planting Guidelines - Ash Wednesday Park

ISSUE B

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

POLLEN STUDIO

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Exotic Trees - Planted around Open Grassy Area (3)	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'October Glory'	October Glory Maple
Native Trees - Planted Throughout Reserve	
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaf Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum
Native Feature Planting - Planted at Entry (12) and around Grassy Area (13)	
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia
<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Mountain clematis
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly currant-bush
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	Grey Parrot-pea
<i>Gahania sieberiana</i>	Red-Fruit Saw-sedge
<i>Goodenia lanata</i>	Trailing Goodenia
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral-pea
<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>	Common Hovea
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly tea-tree
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny -headed Mat-rush
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisy-bush
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower
<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	Large-leaf Bush Pea
<i>Rubus parvifolia</i>	Native raspberry
<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i>	White Elderberry
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	Large Kangaroo Apple
Native Waterway Planting - Planted in Creek Restoration (10) and Drainage Line Naturalisation (11)	
<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	Fishbone Water-fern
<i>Carex apressa</i>	Tall sedge
<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	Common Grass Sedge
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily
<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch saw-sedge
<i>Isolepis fluitans</i>	Floating club-sedge
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny -headed Mat-rush
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	Grey Tussock-grass
<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother Shield-fern
Bush Tucker Planting - Planted in Bush-tucker Planting (5)	
<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	Midyim Berry
<i>Citrus australasica</i>	Finger Lime
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
<i>Mentha australis</i>	River Mint
<i>Rubus parvifolia</i>	Native Raspberry
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	Warrigal greens

Note: This list forms an initial guideline **only** and will be open for further development and consultation during Detailed Design