

4 DESIGN

4. DESIGN

4.1 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The consultation process for the 1A Jaques Street site began with a key stakeholder session held on Wednesday, 20 September 2023. This session included community group members, a local student, and representatives of the local Member of Parliament. Attendees identified several aspirations for the space, including a park with benches, a shaded area, wheelchair-accessible toilets, heritage interpretation to honor the area's rich histories, and improved connections between the park and local shops.

From 25 September to 30 October 2023, wider public consultation was conducted through the Council's website, Your Voice Our Coast. This included an analysis document and an 11-question survey about the site's future use, which received 66 responses. Survey results showed strong community support for features such as toilets (79.37%), green space (66.67%), a shade structure (71.43%), and heritage interpretation (44.44%).

On 13 October 2023, a pop-up event was held, attracting approximately 50 attendees. Feedback from the event was varied, with some participants proposing a pool, formal sports facilities, or community gardening. However, there was a broad consensus on the need for a park, upgraded amenities, enhanced vegetation, and a shade structure. Additionally, all attendees emphasised the importance of incorporating Ourimbah's rich history into the masterplan and design of the site.



Oct 23 on site pop-up session

Throughout the consultation period, cultural input was sought from DLALC, and representatives from Guringai and Darkinoong. Tracey Howie (Guringai) and Renee Sales (Darkinoong) provided valuable contributions, which included cultural knowledge and insights which will continue to inform the ongoing development of the site's cultural narrative.



65%

visit Ourimbah Shops more than once a week

The below comments were collected during the public consultation:

'I feel there needs to be a connection between the park and the shops to lead people to use the area for lunch/snacks etc. footpaths installed leading there, maybe small pillars with local history facts on it. Some parking for the park can double as an overflow shop parking.'



50%

would like to have facilities for lunch

'Make the area show the history of the area from beginning to present'



80%

would like to have toilet facilities on site

'It would be nice for a park and play area. We have seen many people use this space as a place to kick a ball and play since the building was demolished. It would be a great use for the space.'

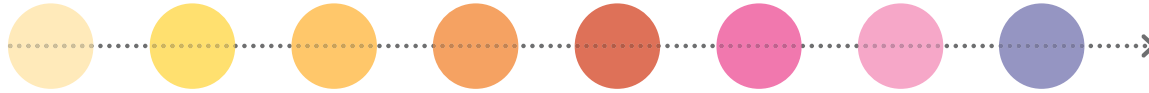


>70%

would like to have shade structure

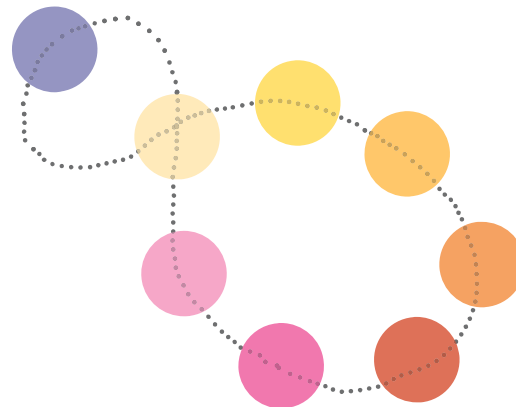
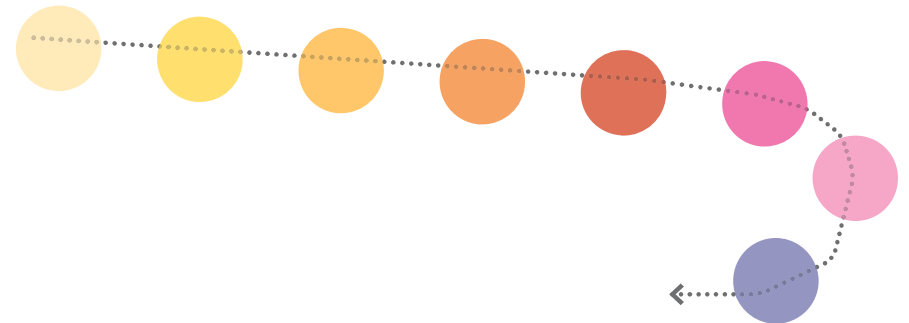
'I would like to see it as a space where people can grab lunch/snacks from the shops and go and eat in a green environment that has sound blockage from the Pacific Highway. A small swingset or other play equipment to keep young ones happy (great if it can be fenced). Also enough open space that community can use it to host small artisan markets for Christmas or Easter.'

4.2 DESIGN CONCEPT - INTERPRETATION AND STORIES



Time lines are generally considered as linear, a growing separation between past and future. They are marked as points or moments that we may be disassociated from.

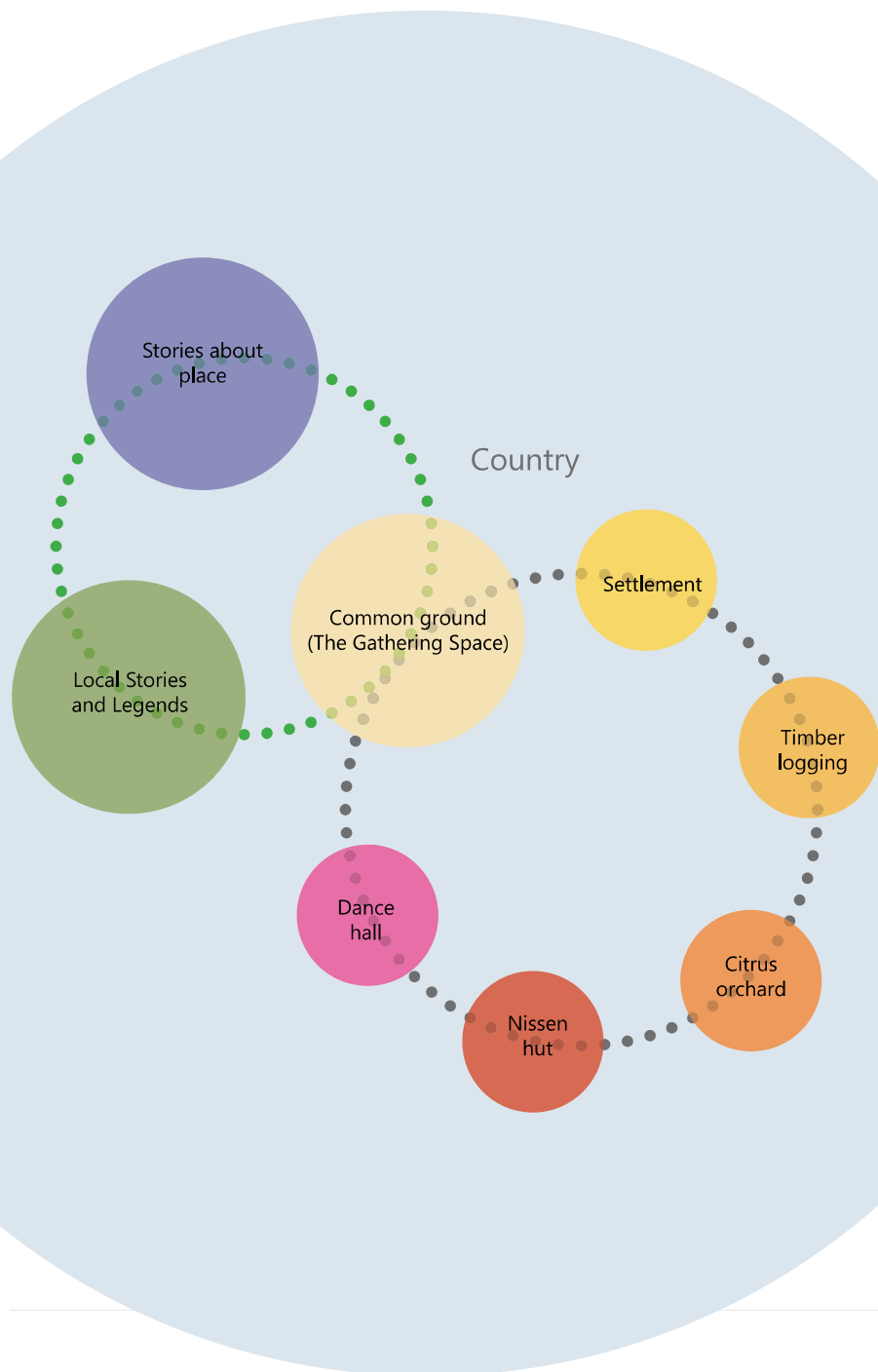
The reality is the land carries its enduring identity as Country. This connection to the past is expressed by curving the timeline to loop so that the past and present overlap.



The timeline is twisted and connected to form a continuum. There is still a connection to stories, history, the place and Country. The park is a place to connect Country and Community for perpetuity.

The spots on this diagram represent community, Country, past events and a chain that connects them. This is the basis of the public domain concept. This interpretive design and story of the place is expressed through the building, the landscape and a continuous chain of story telling and acknowledgment of the place, threads and connects.

The story is told in multiple planes, in the ground, on walls, and in the furniture and landscape features. The planting and material selections contribute to this making of place.



The diagram illustrates the main components of the story of the place. The characteristics and defining moments of this place are:

Country

Traditional Custodians have ancestral connections to Country spanning back thousands of years, evident in the landscape and cultural sites across the region. The traditional custodians of the Country include at least three peoples. The Darkinjung, Guringai and Awabakal are invited to share their stories and remind people of their connection. The master plan design creates opportunities for stories to be shared.

The Local Stories and Legends

There is a rich history of local stories of the people that have lived in the place. The locals, past and present. These stories are a record that resonates with the Ourimbah's Spirit of Place. These stories will be curated and narrated by local people to share their sense of belonging and to give visitors a deeper insight into the place. Stories can be added as new generations carry forward the life of this community.

Common ground

This site serves as Ourimbah's village green or common. The idea of a commons is familiar in traditional villages around the world as an open-air gathering place where local people come together for public celebrations, dances, and community meetings. The idea of a shared or common relationship to place resonates with the ideas of Country. Through the collective effort of volunteers, the community built and managed the site so it would always be central to the life of Ourimbah Village.

Settlement

European settlement of the region brought patterns of land use and ways of life that were profoundly different. Land corridors were surveyed to build roads and rail linking to towns and harbours. The land was cleared for timber and agriculture. The township and station were situated in a position to serve the area. Land subdivisions responded to the terrain and floodplain creating streets and lots for schools, churches, houses, mills, shops, and parks. The site is embedded within the subdivision close to the shops, but a comfortable distance from the busy highway and train line.

Timber

Ourimbah's tall timber was a valuable resource, especially for the growth of Sydney Town. While the old forests were logged, and the timber industry largely left the region, the Blue Gum harvesting still has a legacy in timbers of old warehouses and a few remaining mills. In recent decades on some of the ridges and slopes of the area, giant eucalypts are regrowing.

Citrus

Citrus orchards represented an important industry in the 20th century. These were mostly small family-run orchards planted on the good soils of the valley. Fruit was packed and transported by rail to the markets of Sydney and Newcastle.

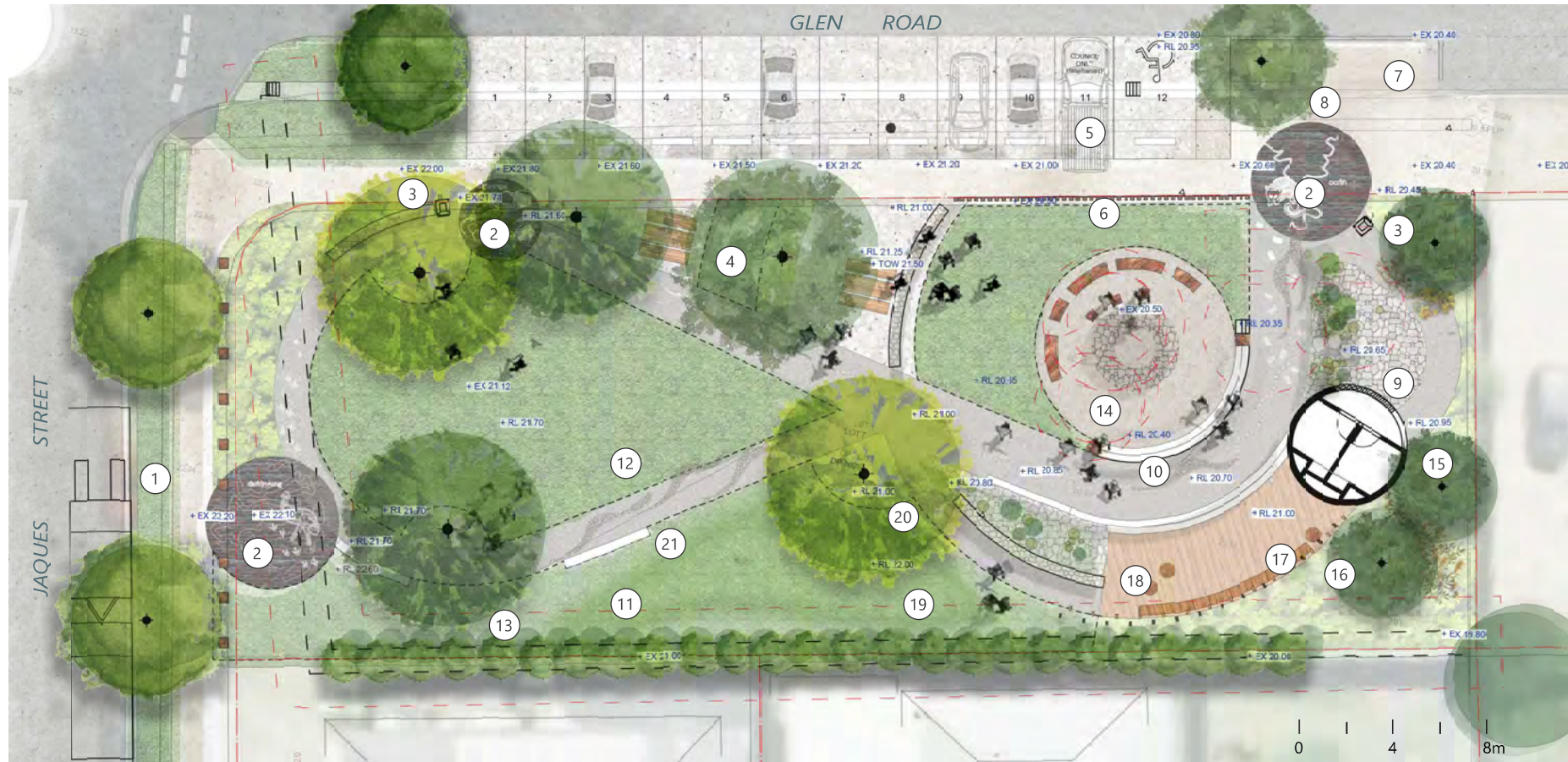
Nissen hut

After the Pacific War, the hut was secured with fundraising efforts and transported from Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. It was erected with volunteer labour and stood as a testament to the local ingenuity and initiative when very few resources were available post war. This is an important story of the park.

The Dance Hall and School of Arts

Prior to the Nissen hut, there had been two nearby community halls built of timber, both were lost to fire. Each of these buildings served as a dance hall and for social events, showing its importance for community cohesion. The School of Arts was the final use of the Nissen hut. It tied the site into the wider community with education.

4.3 MASTER PLAN



1. Provision for maintenance (mowing) vehicle and trailer (time restrictions to be determined).
2. Entry paving to the common, incorporating heritage interpretative elements within the ground design.
3. Bin locations.
4. Garden area with two tables and bench sets located adjacent to semi mature shade trees.
5. Formalisation of parking with 12 spaces, including one accessible parking spot provided and one short stay Council maintenance van

- (time restrictions to be determined). New path and flush gutter with central dish drain to minimise civil engineering.
6. Short timber barrier fence for additional child safety.
7. A proposed safer crossing point with extended kerb, leading to the shopping area.
8. A wide, paved area at the kerb extension, highlighting the site's civic nature and ensuring clear visibility from the shop. Opportunity here for heritage interpretation. New tree within

- extended footpath to help with new civil design and create streetscape greenery.
9. Front face of the toilet block will hold a wayfinding sign visible from the shops.
10. Steps descending from the building terrace.
11. Grassed mounds to provide privacy, overlook and frame the open spaces.
12. An open grassed area for smaller scale recreational and communal activities.
13. A planted boundary to add privacy and aesthetic

- appeal, using shrubs to avoid conflict with services.
14. Community focus, featuring a forum and a gathering space for communal gatherings and cultural exchange.
15. New Shade trees behind toilet and pavilion.
16. Strategic repositioning of the structure away from the South East corner to reduce overshadowing of neighbouring properties.
17. Use of curved structural elements as an interpretive reference to the former Nissen Hut

- that once occupied the site. This back wall will offer room for heritage interpretation.
18. Versatile pavilion space with a mixture of bench seats and informal timber round seating undercover and heritage imagery behind.
19. Grassed mound to maximise useable space and for easier management of maintenance.
20. Edges designed for mowing team (steel or concrete).
21. Linear plinth seating/low retaining walls.

- Distinct demarcation between the amenities and the covered pavilion for clear spatial organisation.
- Adoption of a circular design as a homage to the Nissen hut that previously occupied the space
- Roof design tapered at the rear to prevent overshadowing neighbouring houses.
- Reduced area behind toilet with dense foliage to minimise security risks



4.4 SITE STORIES, CULTURE AND COUNTRY - THE COMMON GATHERING SPACE

The circular space opposite the building serves as the key community area within the park. It acts as a connection between Country and The Common, functioning as a gathering space, forum, and stage.

This space is fringed with seating steps that are formal, informal, and playful. It is paved to accommodate concentrated activity and does not require additional narration, standing as an essential community space for everyone.

It is a place where cultural totems, local stories and legends, the history of industry, and the celebration of the Nissen Hut are represented together.

Interpretation incorporated into the building would include:

- Engravings and impressions into cement.
- Under-awning artistic lighting symbolising Aboriginal Astronomy and associated stories, such as the Emu or locally observed constellations.
- Under-awning artistic paintings featuring citrus fruit or packing crate labels.
- Engravings into timber or stone.
- Planting of bush food plants and native species, selected based on Council's requirements for public domain safety, maintenance, and suitability.



SITE STORIES, CULTURE AND COUNTRY- MATERIALS

Where possible, the materials used for the building and public domain should be of local provenance and/or historically linked to the area.

Particularly relevant examples include Hawkesbury sandstone and hardwoods native to the region, such as Blue Gum and Blackbutt. Ideally, these materials will be recycled, incorporating timber slabs, stone and concrete supplied locally.

There is also the possibility of verifying whether recycled timber originates from the district. Stone can be readily sourced from the Somersby quarries.

The Common should align with circular economy principles.

- Local materials;
- Local supply;
- Local labour;
- Recycled Materials.

'COMMUNITY' MATERIALS

Materials supplied or procured by the community are important and often underestimated in terms of their significance.

These can include tiles, engravings, impressions in wet concrete, stencil art, and murals. These elements can be applied at any time, provided that the space and its management is properly facilitated.

Community materials carry authenticity, are genuine, and offer an opportunity for deep connection with the place.

SANDSTONE

Hawkesbury sandstone is a common material used on the Central Coast. The quarries at Somersby are one of the principal suppliers of sandstone in Australia.

Different quarries have varying sandstone characteristics. Stone finishes can also differ and are typically completed at the quarry. Aged and recycled sandstone is another product that can be sourced

AUSTRALIAN HARDWOOD

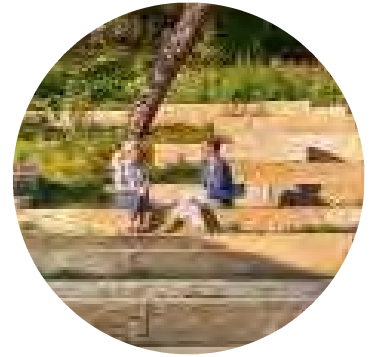
While concrete is not a recyclable material, it is durable and can be easily installed by local trades and Council. It is also highly effective at incorporating site stories and can merge seamlessly with other materials, such as stone and timber.

CONCRETE

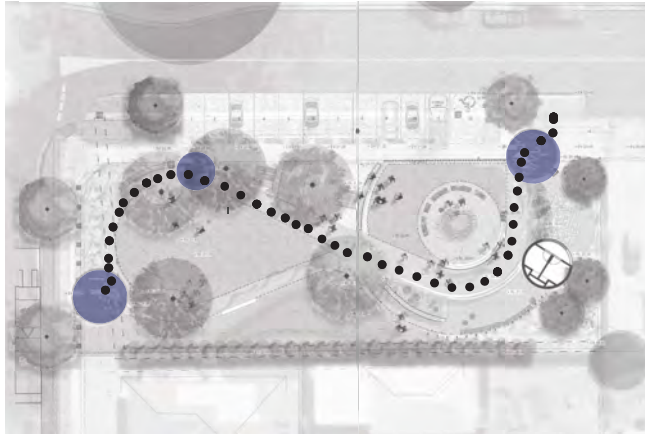
While concrete is not a recyclable material, it is durable and can be easily installed by local trades and Council. It is also highly effective at incorporating site stories and can merge seamlessly with other materials, such as stone and timber.

BRICK

Brick has historically been the most common and continues to be widely used today. This applies to municipal buildings, train stations, and residential structures. Bricks are recyclable and can also be fired to incorporate imprints or glazed artwork.



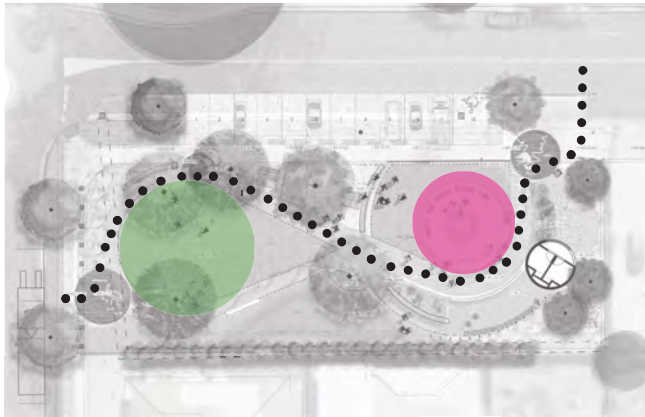
DESIGN OBJECTIVES - OPPORTUNITIES



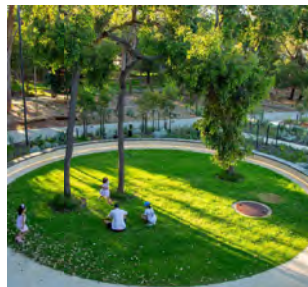
CONNECTIONS
Entrances and Doormats



- An integral component of this master plan involves making a better connection between the park and the shops. This is an important relationship as the shops need an attractive place to take food away or to use for the amenities.
- Revise the parking layout near the shops, while retaining all existing parking spaces, offers a practical solution. By introducing a narrower driveway and entry, the underutilised land can be re-purposed. This modification would facilitate the terracing of the land to align with the level of the shops, thus establishing a dedicated space for outdoor seating and tables.
- Establish a safer crossing zone on Glen Road to enhance the connection between the park and the shops. This initiative will also act as a traffic calming measure, effectively discouraging speeding in the area.
- Have multiple clear entry points that help define the landscape spaces as well as provide interpretation opportunities.



KEY SPACES
Village Green and Sitting Circle



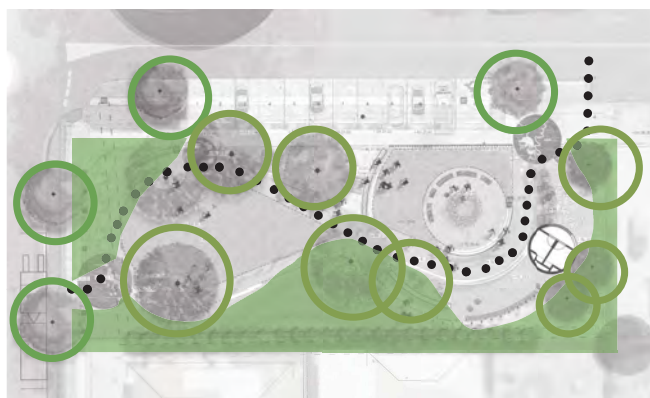
- A place for the community to come together for play and celebration with a selection of paved space with furniture and an open grassed zone.
- The key spaces: a village green and forum with the Gathering Place that together make up The Common.
- A high quality local community park with open spaces and shelter from wind and rain.
- A local space with community story telling and conversation where future events and stories can be collated.
- A place where locals belong, and visitors are welcome, where the shopping centre is a cultural centre for Ourimbah.



PLAYFULNESS



- The architecture and landscape has an inherent playfulness.
- While there is no formal playground, The Common is to have a play trail of storytelling, interactive obstacles and low structures for casual play or an informal nature play.
- The village green can be used for small free open space and the paths and walls can be used to form a loop.
- It is not prescribed as a formal playground and not required to comply with their particular standards and maintenance requirements.
- It is a place of playfulness for all ages and abilities.

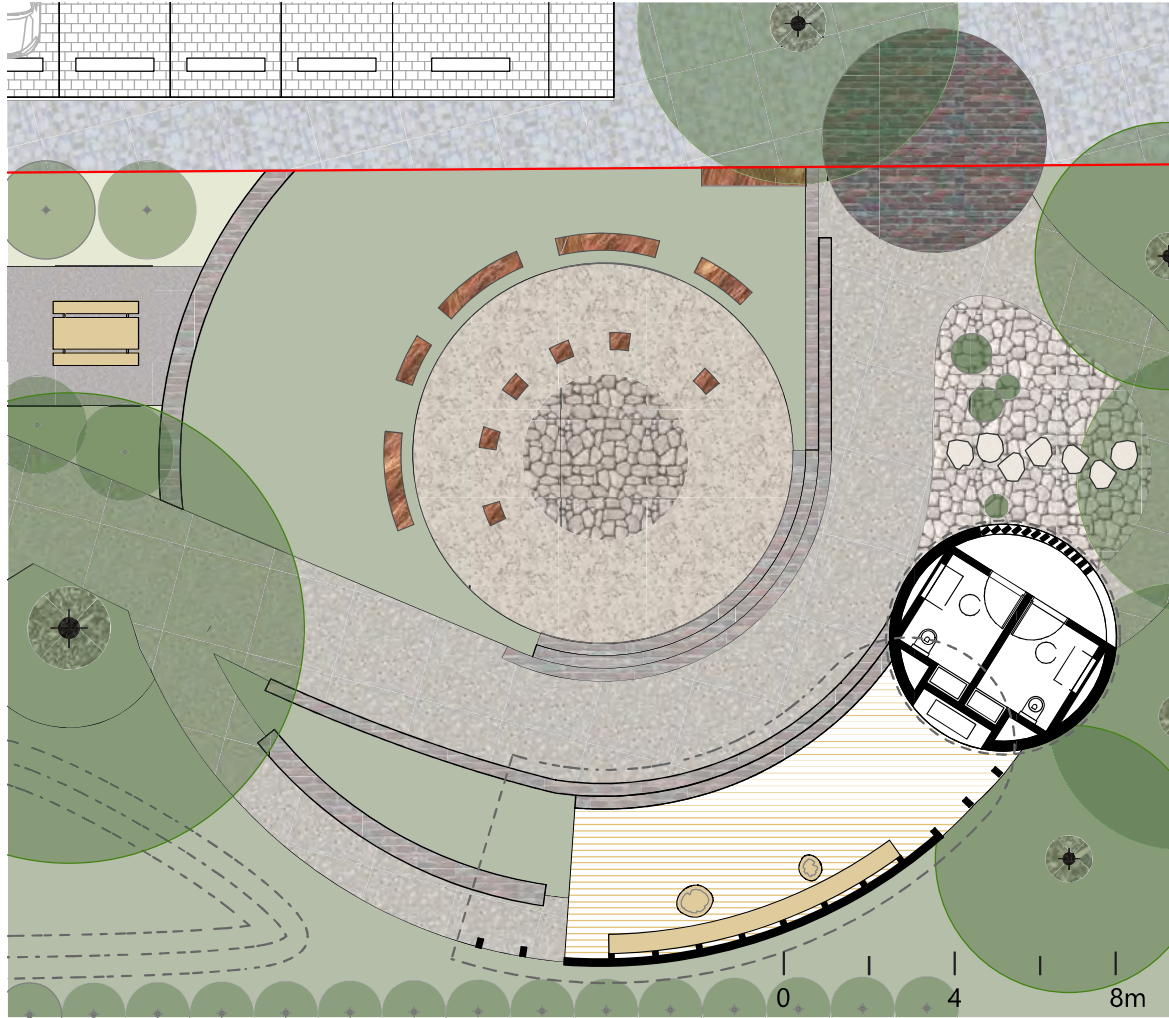


PLANTING CHARACTER
Trees and Massed Planting



- The planting character of the Common is a direct response to the interpretation and site story. It includes original forestry trees, indigenous habitat tree species and a citrus grove.
- The trees are to provide shade and shelter from the western sun as well as privacy from the neighbours and to create a sense of enclosure around the public space.
- Trees can be provided on the streetscape, however are under powerlines so need to be the right scale.

4.5 OURIMBAH COMMON BUILDING MASTER PLAN



Ourimbah Common building plan

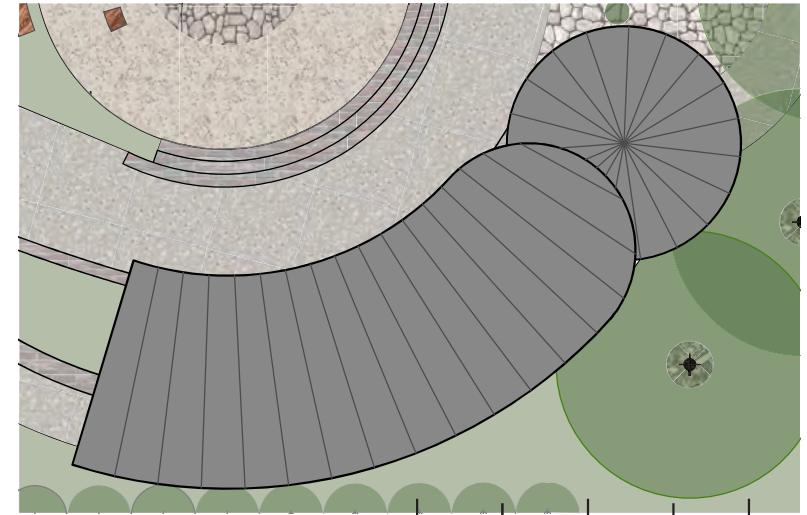
The design includes: two wheelchair-accessible public toilets, an open-air hand-washing area and a covered area with seating that may be used flexibly for community gatherings and other occasions.

The strategic positioning of the building away from the Southeast corner reduces the overshadowing of the park and neighbouring properties. The design of the curved structures enables a visual connection to the east while screening the homes to the south.

The use of curved structural elements also acts as an interpretive reference to the former Nissen Hut that once occupied the site.

A circular space serves as a small forum. This is edged with steps for informal seating and gathering.

The park includes a planting area that may be made available to a community group for planting a garden or fruit trees. Planted mounds frame the open spaces and provide privacy to the southern neighbours. An open grassed area forms the main part of the park, serving smaller-scale recreational and communal activities. A planted drainage swale will add privacy and aesthetic appeal.



Ourimbah Common building roof plan



4.6 PUBLIC DOMAIN DETAIL PLAN

Key features:

1. Existing pits retained with concrete dish drain on low point maintained across new car park.
2. Existing kerb extension formalised to include small tree planting adjacent to powerlines.
3. Flush carparks with wheelstops
4. New pit to pick up stormwater and kerb extension.
5. New concrete footpath and kerb extension as indicated. New tree in planted opening in kerb extension. Kerb extension formalised with kerb and gutter.
6. Powerlines above.
7. Existing stormwater easement. Note all structures and trees to minimise encroachment.
8. Low shrubs planted adjacent to turf swale (like existing) with existing pit upgraded at bottom corner of site.
9. Existing Privet and Bottlebrush removed.
10. New pit at bottom corner of The Gathering Space.
11. Existing falls generally maintained with gentle mounds and flattening of the main turfed area. Detail contour drawings to be provided at design development.
12. Two Aalto tables and benches on concrete pads located within grove for added shade.
13. Mown grass entry points between bands of mass planting.
14. Large shade trees in massed planting/ mulch surrounds with mowing edge.
15. Low timber barrier for pedestrian safety.



4.7 DESIGN FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

The Common provides a local space for the Ourimbah community and visitors from out of town. This multi-functional park will offer amenities for all and provide each user with an opportunity to connect with Ourimbah's rich history.

While The Common's form is unique, it has been designed to align with the capabilities of Central Coast Council's maintenance teams, comply with Australian Standards and regulations, ensure community and worker safety, and maintain budget efficiency for ongoing maintenance.

Partnerships should be fostered with the community to support the Council in these tasks. Successful examples of such partnerships exist within the LGA, such as the Runway upgrade in Umina. Further design development will require a detailed Maintenance Strategy to be included in subsequent design phases beyond the master plan.

The following is a list of principles to assist with managing the space, reflecting feedback received:

- Limit mass planting to key areas to align with the concept and help manage access where it is unnecessary.
- Mass planting should be low, hardy, and preferably indigenous to ensure self-sufficiency after the establishment period.
- The contractor should establish the contract periods to facilitate early maintenance programming and reduce the workload on Council resources, ensuring the quality of the public domain at handover.
- Turf specifications should be determined by the Council, with the design allowing sufficient space for ride-on mowers.
- Durable edges must be provided as mowing strips between turf areas, mass-planted areas, and all vertical surfaces or obstacles.
- Structural components must be durable and resistant to decay, corrosion, and insect attack.
- Materials used should maintain commonality with those already used within the LGA, such as pavement types for thoroughfares.
- Trees should be of an appropriate scale to provide effective shade, ecological benefits, and a lasting community asset and legacy. Careful planning of their locations will minimise conflicts with services, easements, and paving, ensuring the right tree is always planted in the right place.

This is a preliminary list of objectives informed by input received to date. The maintenance strategy and plan will further explore these objectives and guide future design development.

Good maintenance design ensures the longevity of high-quality public open spaces, such as The Common. Establishing agreed principles and objectives early in the process between design, engineering, management, and maintenance teams will ensure the Common serves its purpose for the community, remains durable over time, and avoids imposing maintenance challenges on the Council.



