



VAN CLEEF RESERVE DESIGN STATEMENT

The design for Van Cleef Reserve draws on the natural environment and the reserves' strong sense of place. Design inspiration comes from the wild, untamed nature of the reserve and the indigenous landscape in all its forms, including the people, plants, animals and landform. The concept was developed in consultation with the community and reflects its values, including a respect and care for the natural environment, a strong holiday community and a thriving local arts scene.

The Van Cleef Reserve Master Plan takes the stark, natural beauty of the place and gently tames it to create a park which is useable by the local community and promotes respect and admiration for the indigenous landscape. It aims to take the best of the natural character while resolving a number of functional issues which currently limit the reserves' useability.

A key aim of the Master Plan is to make the reserve more inviting by creating dedicated, recognisable entry points off the surrounding streets, in particular Lees Road. The design of these entrances draws on the local diatom patterns, which at certain times of the year form on the Venus Bay sand. Planting at each entrance will be a palette of low, indigenous plants, laid out in defined patterns. Dedicated signage will mark the main entrances, designed by local artists and possibly including sculptural elements. Plants in these areas will be labelled, and any interpretative material would focus around the entry points.

Once within the reserve the current network of

paths will be rationalised to increase the reserves' permeability and encourage natural circulation. These paths will be gently meandering grass, being the same material as the existing paths but laid out with more consideration for natural desire lines and circulation. These will preserve Van Cleef Reserve's delightful sense of enclosure and escape while making wayfinding easier and bringing an artistic layer to the natural beauty of the site. A secondary layer of paths will be mulch tracks through the bushland area, providing an alternative way to explore the Reserve.

Also assisting with wayfinding will be the reserve's principal draw card, a new viewing tower in its north-east corner. This tower will be a striking, architect designed feature, designed to sit sensitively within the coastal landscape. This tower will be a draw card for the reserve, providing 360 degree views across the reserve, and to both the barrier dunes and Venus Bay inlet. From ground level this tower will assist with wayfinding by providing an orientation point which can be seen from across the reserve. Surrounding the tower will be natural log seats.

The existing playground is to be upgraded to include a nature play element. This will include clambering logs, rocks for jumping and running between and native planting suitable for a play space. The ground plane will be sand, providing a strong and appropriate context for the reserve.

Adjacent to the playground will be a central gathering lawn with picnic tables and platforms and local art pieces. Furnishings will be of large, greying timbers, appropriate to the coastal

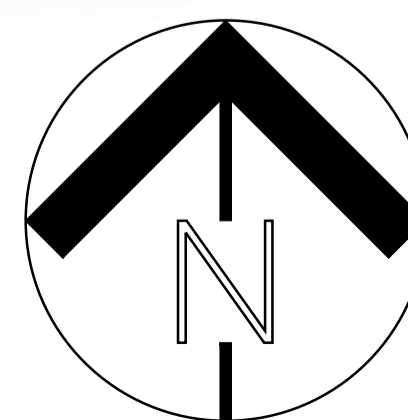
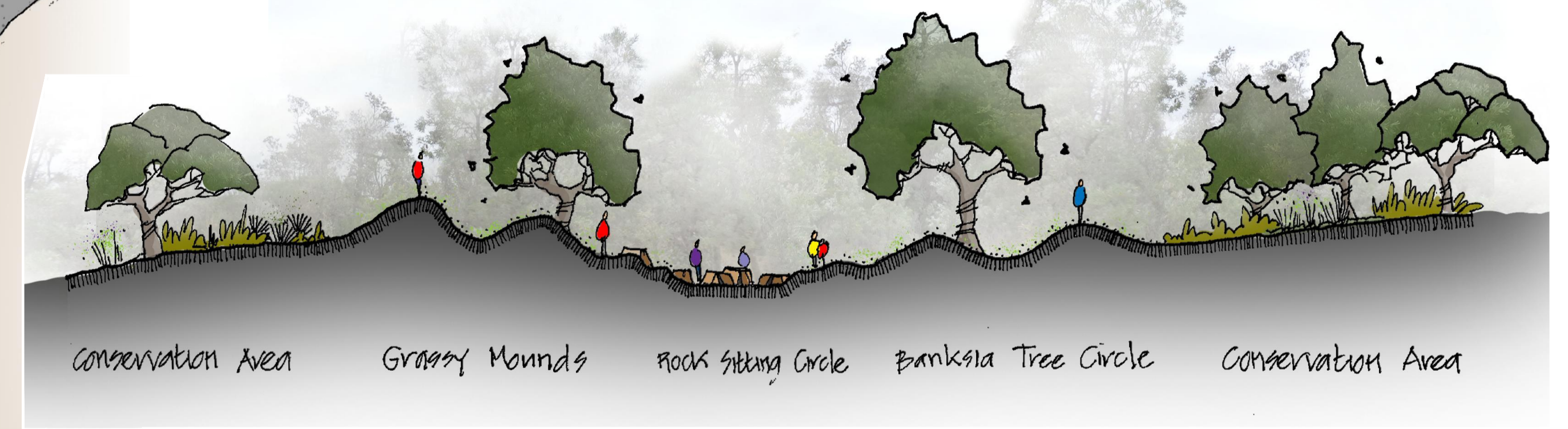
location, while the art pieces will come from local artists and be gradually added over time. All furniture and features will have a coastal feel appropriate to the site and local community.

As a contrast to the outward looking tower will be the Reserve's central, inward looking "sculptural heart". This sits in the centre of the site and will be a gently dish basin with large sitting rocks and sculpturally formed grass mounds surrounded by indigenous Banksias. This will be a quiet, contemplative space and an artistic, sculptural element in its own right.

The design for Van Cleef Reserve was developed working with, and at the instigation of, the local community. The resulting concept is drawing from the natural character of the reserve and the people of Venus Bay, and will take a loved, but little recognised reserve, and transform it into a central feature of the community.

SECTION: SCULPTURAL HEART

Scale 1:200



VAN CLEEF RESERVE, VENUS BAY

MASTER PLAN FINAL DRAFT Scale 1:500 @A1 / 1:1000 @A3

