The design for Van Cleef Reserve draws on the natural environment and the reserve’s 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 landscape. The master plan is drawn to respect the surrounding environment and reflect its values, including a sense of place for the natural environment, a strong holiday community and a thriving local arts scene.

Van Cleef Reserve Master Plan takes the park natural beauty of the place and gently times it to create a park which is suitable to the area. The concept is rooted in the plan for the indigenous landscape. It aims to take the best of the rural character while blending a number of functional issues which currently the reserve. The key aim of the master plan is to make the reserve more inviting by creating dedicated, indicates entry points off the surrounding area. These entrances draw on local habitats which are abundant with flowers and wildlife. Each entrance will be a portal to low indigenous plants, laid out in defined patterns. Dedicated signage will guide the entrance, designed by local artists and possibly including sculptural elements. Points 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 reserve’s permeability and encourage natural circulation. These paths will be gently meandering, being the same material as the existing paths but laid out with more consideration for natural desire lines and circulation. These will be natural topiary or wildflower and will encourage the visitor to escape while making wayfinding easier and having an artistic way to the natural beauty of the site. A secondary layer of paths will be much more through the bushland area, providing an alternative way to explore the Reserve.

Also assisting with wayfinding will be the reserve’s principal trail card, a new viewing tower in the reserve, which will be one of the key features designed to sit gracefully within the coastal landscape. The tower will be a draw card for the reserve, providing both views across the reserve, and to the Bunker Bay and Venus Bay Viewpoint. From ground level the 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 natural play element. This will include climbing logs, rocks for climbing and strengths between and native planting suitable for a play space. The ground plane will be sods providing a strong and appropriate corner for the reserve.

The garden is to be central gathering area, with picnic tables and platforms for gatherings. The garden is designed to allow for gathering thymes, appropriate to the coastal location, while the art pieces will come from local artists and be gradually installed 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 corner inland looking, sculptural heart. This site is the centre of the site and will be a gently shaded place with large shifting rocks and sculpturally formed grass mounds surrounding the indigenous plants. This will be a quiet contemplative space and an artistic, sculptural element in its own light.

The design for Van Cleef Reserve was developed working with, and in the integration 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**

**Van Cleef Reserve, Venus Bay**

**Master Plan Final Draft**

Scale 1:200