

GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST COMMITTEE

TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN



TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land and its natural resources referred to in this document have long been cared for by the Traditional Owners - the Wadawurrung People. The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee acknowledge this relationship and pay respect to their Elders past and present for nurturing this land. Taylor Park is known by the Wadawurrung people as 'Djirnap - place of the white cockatoo'.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee also recognises and is thankful for the invaluable ongoing support and contributions made by community groups and volunteers in caring for and managing Taylor Park.



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
TAYLOR PARK: DJIRNAP – PLACE OF THE WHITE COCKATOO	9
VISION	9
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	9
ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY	12
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN	14
CLIMATE CHANGE	16
HERITAGE	17
ACCESS	19
FACILITIES	21
TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN: IMPROVEMENTS	23
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	24



INTRODUCTION

Great Ocean Road Coast Committee

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is responsible for the management of 37 kilometres of coastal Crown land on Victoria's Great Ocean Road, from the rolling waves of Point Impossible to the dramatic Otways at Cumberland River.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is a Committee of Management formed by the Victorian Government in 2004 under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. The Committee is made up of 12 appointed members who are selected through a public, skills-based process and appointed by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Our Vision

World-leading environmental protection and coastal experiences for all.

Our Mission

In partnership with our community, recreation, tourism and local economy, we enhance and effectively manage the Great Ocean Road coastal and marine environment.

We do this by reinvesting the income generated through our caravan parks, leases, permits and licences back into conservation, facilities, assets and infrastructure and education and engagement programs.



Our Guiding Principles

1. Protecting and enhancing our natural environment and cultural heritage is of the highest priority.
2. Our coastal reserves have strong health, wellbeing, community, economic, and heritage benefits which support recreational and community enjoyment.
3. We provide the opportunity to enjoy our world-leading coastal experiences that are affordable, inclusive and welcoming.
4. We foster partnerships and volunteerism by improving access and understanding, education and engagement.
5. Our activities and partnerships are built on mutual trust, open communication, collaboration and transparency.
6. We use information and data and make evidence-based decisions.
7. We engage and consult with our communities and stakeholders to inform our planning.
8. We think long term, use strategic business planning tools and innovation to make the best use of our financial, human and physical resources.
9. Good governance is core to everything we do and who we are.

Transition to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

A new authority, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCPA), is due to commence in December 2020, replacing the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and other land managers along the Great Ocean Road. GORCPA will become the land manager of Taylor Park and therefore be responsible for the delivery of this master plan.

INTRODUCTION

Master plan purpose and process

This master plan will guide the improvement of Taylor Park over the next 10-15 years. The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) use master plans to identify the long-term strategic direction and priorities for the use and development of GORCC managed Crown land.

Community consultation

This master plan was developed in close consultation with the local community and key stakeholders, including Wadawurrung, Surf Coast Shire, Torquay Bowls Club, Torquay Returned and Services League (RSL) and Friends of Taylor Park.

Initial consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken in July and November 2018.

Broader community consultation on the issues and opportunities was undertaken in January and February 2019.

A second round of community consultation on the draft master plan was undertaken in April 2019.

Consultation reinforced the strong natural bushland character of the park. Key themes arising from all rounds of consultation included:

- Importance of natural environment and wildlife
- Support for planting indigenous species
- Protection from development
- Opportunity for education about the native flora and fauna and heritage values
- Improved facilities including additional lighting, seating, grassed areas, barbeques, drinking fountains, car parking and upgraded paths.

The vision, guiding principles, objectives and actions detailed in this master plan were developed as a direct response to community feedback received during consultation.



INTRODUCTION

Guiding documents

Coastal Management Plan 2013 and draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan

The 2013-18 GORCC Coastal Management Plan and draft GORCC Coastal and Marine Management Plan (in preparation) establish an integrated and coordinated approach to protecting and managing Crown land and the adjacent marine environment over a five-year timeframe.

Action 22 in the 2013-18 Coastal Management Plan provided the strategic framework for the implementation of the former Taylor Park Master Plan from 2000.

The current draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan will include the community vision for Taylor Park, and clearly set improvements and actions to be delivered by GORCC and GORCPA between 2020 to 2025.

Native Vegetation and Weed Action Plan 2015 – 2020

The Native Vegetation and Weed Action Plan (NVWAP) provides detailed information on vegetation and ecological values within GORCC managed land, including Taylor Park. The plan outlines priorities for improving the condition of indigenous vegetation, managing weeds and monitoring changes over time.

Taylor Park values and objectives:

- Level of Service: Maintain and Monitor.
- Ecological Vegetation Class: Grassy Woodland [EVC 175, Otway Plain Bioregion, Endangered].
- Vegetation Quality: Degraded. While the site supports some ecological values, mostly understorey species with affinities to Grassy Woodland, weeds dominate Taylor Park.
- Significant Ecological Values: Potential habitat for Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* [Commonwealth: Endangered, Victoria: Endangered].

Five-year objectives:

- Woody Weeds: Eliminate all mature Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum*, Sallow Wattle *Acacia Longifolia* var. *longifolia*, Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*, and Italian Buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus*.
- Grassy Weeds: Serrated Tussock *Nasella neesiana* and Chilean Needle Grass *Nasella trichotoma*. Control annually. Reduce infestations by 50%.



INTRODUCTION

Guiding documents

Tree Management Guidelines and Policy 2019

GORCC values the benefits of our tree population and recognises that trees are fundamental and intrinsic elements in the coastal environment. Trees provide shade, they improve the look, feel and liveability of townships, they have a positive influence on community health, and they are critical for the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Tree Management Guidelines and Policy provide a strategic framework to ensure an efficient, transparent and consistent approach to the management of trees located on GORCC managed land, including Taylor Park.

The policy documents management practices required to retain, maintain and enhance the GORCC tree population via three core actions: 1) Tree Risk Management, 2) Tree Maintenance, and 3) Tree Replacement and Planting of New Trees.

Key principles relevant to Taylor Park:

- Avoid tree removal where practicable.
- Planting, including replacement planting, will occur on a proactive basis to ensure no long-term net loss of trees.
- Trees, particularly native vegetation, will be managed in accordance with relevant Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, policy and guidelines.
- All risk management, maintenance, replacement and planting will be undertaken in accordance with best practice tree management.
- GORCC will consult and inform the community about tree removal(s) unless a tree presents an immediate risk to personal injury or damage to property or is identified in the

NVWAP or another endorsed plan.

- GORCC will pursue a planned, consistent and coordinated approach to the planting and replacement of trees.

Taylor Park Master Plan 2000

The previous Taylor Park Master Plan was developed by the Torquay Public Reserves Committee in April 2000. Key actions include revitalisation of the former duck pond to establish the current chain of wetlands, rationalisation and upgrade of the path network and ongoing weed removal and revegetation.

A review of consultation undertaken during the development of the 2000 master plan indicates that many in the community hold similar views to those expressed in recent consultation:

- Importance of protecting the natural bushland character and retaining a mix of mature native and indigenous trees.
- Priorities included removing weeds and Bushy Yate Eucalyptus lehmannii to improve indigenous ground layer biodiversity values including the orchid population.
- Maintaining areas of open grass for recreation as well as areas of dense bushland as habitat for small birds.
- Improving community awareness and understanding of the environmental and cultural heritage values of the park.
- Historical development of the park as provided by the Torquay Historical Society (unpublished).



INTRODUCTION

Guiding documents

Torquay Town Centre Project 2017

The Surf Coast Shire Torquay Town Centre Project (2017) was designed to shape the future development and provide guidance on key public and private spaces. Taylor Park forms the northern boundary of the Torquay town centre.

Identified values of Taylor Park:

- Beautiful and underutilised space.
- The line of canopy vegetation at the edge of Taylor Park makes a significant contribution to the experience of the Town Centre.

Recommendations:

- Establish small paved plaza areas at pedestrian entries from Walker and Cliff Street, including wayfinding and bicycle racks.
- Protect and strengthen canopy interface along the Zeally Bay Road frontage.
- Sealing and line marking of existing informal car parking areas along Fischer Street and Zeally Bay Road.
- Establish new round about with improved pedestrian crossings and kerb outstands at the corner of Zeally Bay Road and the Esplanade.
- Establish a new bus stop between Walker and Cliff Street.
- Investigate long bay parking areas along Fischer Street.
- Upgrade existing picnic facilities. Consider relocating existing facilities closer to the Zeally Bay Road frontage, and provide public toilet facilities to support events and the new bus stop.



Taylor Park Incorporated Plan – June 2009

Planning scheme amendment C50, incorporated the Taylor Park Incorporated Plan into the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme in July 2010. The amendment protects heritage places within the Surf Coast Shire identified as part of the 2007 Surf Coast Places of Cultural Significance Study.

The study and incorporated plan recognise Taylor Park is of local significance for its post-settlement historical, aesthetic and social values. The park symbolises initial aspirations from the early 20th century including those of the Torquay Improvement Association and early residents. These qualities are displayed in the layout of the gravel paths and clearings, the large number of native and exotic trees, the constructed lake and bowling green. The bluestone gate piers with cast iron gates also contribute to the aesthetic significance of the place.

The park is recognised and valued by the Torquay community as a historic place for public recreation. It is also recognised for its commemorative value, being named in memory of well-known local identity John William Taylor who contributed much to community life of the town.

The following elements within Taylor Park are of post-settlement significance, and are protected by schedule 128 of the Heritage Overlay within the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme:

- The established vegetation of exotic and native trees.
- The layout of the paths, vegetation and clearings reflecting the original design.
- The constructed lake in the southern portion of the park.
- The two formal entrance gates at the north-east and south-east corners of the park.
- The bowling green[s].

TAYLOR PARK: DJIRNAP – PLACE OF THE WHITE COCKATOO

Taylor Park is situated in the centre of Torquay and is managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee.

The 11.1-hectare park is valued by the local community for its natural bushland, native habitat and wetlands within an increasingly urban and modified environment.

The network of unsealed walking tracks and sheltered and shady picnic areas are also highly valued as they provide important public open space and connection to and from the town centre and foreshore.

Taylor Park provides an important opportunity to future-proof Torquay and the nearby urban environment from the potential effects of climate change, population growth and increased tourism by:

- Providing important habitat for native flora and fauna within an increasingly modified and fragmented landscape
- Ensuring the wetlands improve the health of the receiving marine environment, water security, habitat and liveability.
- Providing cool, green relief during extreme weather events to ensure a liveable and habitable community.
- Telling the history and stories of the Wadawurrung people.
- Connecting future generations with post-settlement stories and history.
- Encouraging active and sustainable travel between the foreshore, town centre and residential areas.
- Continuing to be a great place for small gatherings and sustainable events.

Vision

A natural community place that honours its rich environmental values, cultural heritage and history, and central location.



Guiding Principles

- Protect and enhance the existing bushland character and wetlands.
- Strengthen heritage values.
- Interface the park with the foreshore and town centre.
- Improve existing facilities and open-space areas with sustainable and best practice infrastructure.
- Foster community participation and support volunteerism.
- Improve pedestrian access and connectivity.

FUTURE PROOFING:
Taylor Park will enable the Torquay urban landscape to be more resilient in the future

TAYLOR PARK: DJIRNAP – PLACE OF THE WHITE COCKATOO

Current use and development

The natural bushland character and wetlands provide relief from the increasing urbanisation of Torquay, as well as habitat for native flora and fauna.

Picnic facilities are located within two key areas:

- Fronting Fishermans Beach on The Esplanade.
- Fronting the Torquay town centre on Zeally Bay Road.

The Torquay Bowls Club is in the centre of the park, and both the greens and the bistro have elevated views over The Esplanade across to Fishermans Beach. The club also houses the Torquay Returned and Services League (RSL) sub branch.

Public parking areas along Zeally Bay Road, Beach Road and Fischer Street provide overflow parking for the town centre, foreshore and residents over the busy summer and during foreshore events.

Taylor Park is located within the dog time share zone where dogs are allowed on paths only and must be on leash between 9am – 7pm, 1 December – 28 February and Easter. At all other times dogs can be off leash within the park, under effective control.

Torquay Town Centre

Taylor Park provides an important vegetated border and green interface for the Torquay town centre. The Surf Coast Shire Torquay Town Centre Project (2017) recognises the canopy vegetation at the edge of Taylor Park makes a significant contribution to the experience of the town centre.



Torquay Foreshore Reserve

Taylor Park also fronts the Torquay Foreshore Reserve which contains popular community assets including:

- Fishermans Beach (dog beach, boat ramp, surf break, amenity block) and commercial precinct (Bomboras Roof Top Bar, Salty Dog Café, Angling Club, Marine Rescue).
- Yellow Bluff playground and amenity block and Elephant Walk open lawn area and event space.

Many nearby residents utilise the existing path network and grassy areas within Taylor Park to access the foreshore.

TAYLOR PARK: DJIRNAP – PLACE OF THE WHITE COCKATOO

Ownership and management

The Wadawurrung People are the Tradition Owners of Taylor Park, which is known as 'Djirnap' - place of the white cockatoo.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee

Taylor Park is reserved Crown land within Torquay and Jan Juc Foreshore Reserve. The park was temporarily reserved in 1917 for the purposes of park and recreation under the Land Act 1915 (Gaz. 1917, page 2031).

In 2003, the Torquay Bowls Club lease area was reserved for public purposes under Part 2 of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 (Gaz. 2003 page 3179).

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is the appointed committee of management of reserved Crown land within the Torquay and Jan Juc Foreshore Reserve in accordance with the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

In August 2018, during the review and reform of the Coastal Management Act 1995 (now Marine and Coastal Act 2018) Taylor Park was removed from coastal Crown land, which is consistent with the original reservation purpose of park and recreation, rather than for the protection of the coastline.

All actions and improvements detailed within this master plan require consent from the relevant Minister and Department administering the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

Surf Coast Shire

The land is zoned as Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and is covered by schedule 128 of the Heritage Overlay under the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme.

Adjoining roads, including unsealed parking along Zeally Bay Road and Fischer Street and the concrete footpath along The Esplanade are managed by Surf Coast Shire. The Shire also manage stormwater drains through the park, however the wetlands are managed by GORCC.

Community

The Friends of Taylor Park assist GORCC with weed removal and native vegetation management.

The Torquay Bowls Club has a Crown land lease issued under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 which includes the two bowling greens, restaurant and car park. The club also houses the Torquay RSL sub branch, and an RSL Memorial is located within the lease area which is managed directly by volunteers from the Torquay RSL.



ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

The bushland character of Taylor Park is highly valued by the local community however this is based on landscape value rather than indigenous biodiversity values.

Indigenous vegetation and habitat

Previous native vegetation assessments identify areas of Taylor Park support an indigenous understory representative of the Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC 175, Endangered within the Otway Plain bioregion).

Vegetation provides potential habitat for the Swift Parrot, a native species protected under both Commonwealth and Victorian environmental legislation.

Friends of Taylor Park have identified over 40 bird species while noting a recent decline in species diversity and numbers.

Attempting to return the park to a pre-1750 European settlement state is unlikely to be achievable or supported by the local community.

Planted trees

Taylor Park supports an overstorey of large mature planted native (not indigenous) trees dominated by Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*. These are planted in rows around three sides of the park and in a large arc through the southern half of the park. The trees are now over mature and require ongoing assessment to monitor structural health and stability. There is a need for regular pruning and removal where decline is in proximity to

paths and frequently used areas.

Other native trees include Flowering Gum *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Brush Box *Lophostomon confertus*, Bushy Yate *Eucalyptus lehmannii* and Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis*. The park also contains planted Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* and Yellow Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*. Both of these species are indigenous however as the seed source is unknown these trees pose a potential genetic pollution threat to nearby state significant Bellarine Yellow-gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *bellarinensis*.

Mature cypress and pine are also located along Zeally Bay Road and The Esplanade. These trees are in poor condition, and regular pruning is required to manage risk. New tree planting undertaken since 2000 has struggled due to competition from established trees for light and nutrients, especially in periods of extended drought.



ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Friends of Taylor Park

Friends of Taylor Park seek to improve visitor appreciation of the landscape and historical values with a 'botanical gardens' focus in certain areas. They have indicated they would prefer some form of ecological fire management however this would be very difficult to manage in a built-up urban environment and risks widespread loss of mature trees as many species found in the park are not suited to an ecological burning regime.

Weeds

The regrowth of native and indigenous shrubs including Coast Tea-tree, Sallow Wattle, Sweet Pittosporum and Italian Buckthorn along with other ground layer weeds impacts the extent and diversity of indigenous ground layer vegetation. Clearing of woody weeds is undertaken by the Friends of Taylor Park while GORCC resources focus on containing high threat weeds such as Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass.

Ecology and biodiversity objectives

- Retain and protect bushland areas. Ensure no loss of habitat by managing the park as per the zones in the Vegetation Management Plan on page 14.
- Implement improvements and actions as shown in in the Vegetation Management Plan.
- Liaise with Friends of Taylor Park, the Torquay Historical Society and Wadawurrung to develop opportunities to enhance community education and appreciation of biodiversity.

- Establish indigenous eucalypt trees in existing avenues to increase biodiversity while maintaining landscape character, shade and amenity.
- Retain existing planted exotic specimen trees adjacent to grassy areas to avoid spread into bushland areas.
- Continue active weed control and bushland regeneration in partnership with Friends of Taylor Park and other interested community groups.

**FUTURE PROOFING TORQUAY:
Taylor Park continues to provide important
habitat for native flora and fauna within
an increasingly modified and fragmented
landscape**



TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

A natural community place that honours its rich cultural history, environmental values and central location.

HISTORY OF MODIFICATION AND USE

The Wadawurrung people know Taylor Park as 'Djirnap' - home of the white cockatoo.

The existing 'bushland' character of Taylor Park is highly valued by the local community and visitors. However, this is primarily based on landscape and amenity values rather than remnant biodiversity as the park has a long history of land modification and recreational use. Taylor Park was cleared and grazed by cattle in the late 1800s. In the early 1900s sections of the park were again cleared, ploughed, sown with grass and used as a golf course.

John William Taylor was responsible for planting the tree avenues and other vegetation in the 1920s and 30s, and by 1950 the 'habitat' within Taylor Park was proclaimed a sanctuary for native game. The ponds or wetlands were constructed in 1976 by the Torquay Improvement Association at the request of local bird lover Jack O'Mara and reconstructed in 2013 to capture and treat stormwater from adjacent residential areas.

CURRENT BIODIVERSITY AND VEGETATION

Taylor Park supports an overstorey of mature planted trees (non-indigenous) along the perimeter of the park dominated by Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, pine and cypress. These historically significant trees are now over-mature and require ongoing pruning, removal and replacement. Some areas of the park contain persistent indigenous species such as Bellarine Yellow-gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *bellarinensis*, Moonah *Melaleuca lanceolata*, Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* and wildflowers which are representative Grassy Woodland ecological vegetation class that would have once covered the wider Torquay area prior to clearing in the late 1800s. Bellarine Yellow-gum is protected tree species under the Victorian legislation. Vegetation within the park provides habitat for common native fauna species such as possums and birds, and 'fly-over and forage' habitat for Swift Parrot protected under Commonwealth and Victorian environmental legislation.

ZONE 1A AND 1B HISTORIC EUCALYPT AVENUES

Objective: Protect and strengthen historic eucalypt avenues

- Retain planted eucalypts for as long as possible.
- Remove remaining cypress and pine to enable infill and replacement with eucalypts.
- Plant indigenous Bellarine Yellow Gum and Coast Manna Gum. Early establishment of these trees will strengthen heritage tree avenues and maintain canopy cover.
- If adjacent road reserves are formalised, retain stormwater flows from Fischer Street and Zeally Bay Road into tree avenues.
- Restrict public access under high-risk trees, encourage pedestrians to use formal paths to minimise early removal of eucalypts.



ZONE 2 BUSHLAND AND CONSERVATION AREA

Objective: Protect and enhance important habitat for native flora and fauna within an increasingly urban environment.

- Stage the replacement of established non-native trees with indigenous tree species.
- Plant indigenous understorey species to reinstate Grassy Woodland or Coastal Alkaline Scrub/Coastal Moonah Woodland vegetation community.
- Remove weeds and exotic trees to enhance ground layer biodiversity.
- Remove dense shrub regrowth along paths to maintain clearances.
- Undertake flora and fauna surveys to record the number and diversity of indigenous and exotic species.

ZONE 3 CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

Objective: Ensure the wetlands effectively treat stormwater prior to discharge into the ocean at Fishermans Beach.

- Investigate if wetlands are treating stormwater to current best practice standards.
- Implement best-practice waster sensitive urban design management.
- Maintain existing overland flow paths.
- Remove trapped litter and pollutants.

ZONE 4 AND 5 INTERFACE AREAS

Objective: Strengthen interface areas with town centre and Fishermans Beach.

- Retain existing mature trees. If removal required replace with a species as per GORCC Tree Policy and Management Guidelines.
- Provide amenity planting and passive recreation structures including barbeques, tables, chairs, shelters.
- Remove cypress and pine to improve grass areas.
- Investigate irrigating grass areas with harvested stormwater.
- Sow drought resistant, non-invasive turf species to strengthen grass areas.

ZONE 6 TORQUAY BOWLS CLUB

Objective: Support the Torquay Bowls Club to deliver priorities within the current lease footprint.

- Vegetation management within the lease area is the responsibility of the Torquay Bowls Club.



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ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Constructed wetlands

The wetlands in Taylor Park are a key component of treating stormwater captured from the adjacent 72 hectare urban residential and commercial catchment before entering the ocean at Fishermans Beach.

The diverted flows enter the fenced primary pond before flowing down a series of cascading ponds and channels where flows return to the underground pipe under the Esplanade and out-falling.

The uppermost wetlands remove litter, organic debris, sharps, and coarse sediment particles (sands and fine gravels). Finer sediments and pollutants are progressively removed as water passes through the remaining wetlands. Water quality and appearance of the wetlands can vary for several days after significant rainfall events.

When stormwater runoff exceeds the capacity of the diversion bypass to the upper wetland, the excess flows continue to be transported along the underground pipe to the beach. When storm runoff exceeds the total capacity of the underground pipe the overland flows discharged from the pits pass through the park along the natural valley on the north side of the wetlands. The wetlands and Bowls Club are protected from these floodwaters by a series of low earth mounds.

The wetlands were designed and constructed before modern technology was available to assess their effectiveness in removal of suspended solids (TSS), Phosphorus (TP) and Nitrogen (TN) against current best practice bench marks.



Wetland objectives

- Ensure the wetlands effectively treat stormwater prior to discharge at Fishermans Beach. Liaise with Surf Coast Shire to improve treatment if required.
- Investigate opportunities for stormwater harvesting and reuse within the park.
- Formalise the main pond to reduce erosion and improve human interaction.
- Remove trapped sediment, litter and other pollutants from the wetland inlet zone as needed.

FUTURE PROOFING:
The Taylor Park wetlands continue to improve the health of the receiving marine environment, water security, habitat and liveability.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts and challenges of climate change are well documented. Within the south east Australia, the general climate is warming, rainfall is decreasing, and the length of extreme fire weather is increasing.

While impacts from typical coastal climate change scenarios such as sea level rise, storm surge and coastal erosion may have limited impact at Taylor Park, extreme weather events will exacerbate existing threats and introduce new ones.

These changes and flow on effects may impact native biodiversity and increase weed infestation. Potential climate change impacts and threats at Taylor Park include:

- Extreme rainfall events may increase the severity and frequency of flooding. Storm surge can also damage storm water infrastructure, requiring the replacement and upgrade of wetlands, pipes and the stormwater outfall at Fishermans Beach.
- Dry conditions may increase the flammability of vegetation and amount of litter material, thereby increasing risk of bushfire and impose a requirement to manage vegetation within the park for bushfire rather than biodiversity and amenity.
- Prolonged drought and lack of rainfall may decrease the ability to maintain grass areas or new plants / trees.
- Changes in rainfall and temperature may result in species distribution changes, enabling different high threat weeds to infest new areas.

Climate change objectives

- Strengthen the existing tree canopy with indigenous tree species to ensure a habitable environment.
- Monitor the impacts of climate change on native biodiversity by collecting data on species distribution and diversity. Implement adaptive and dynamic management when required.
- Prepare a Bushfire Management Plan for Taylor Park, in collaboration with Wadawurung, to inform vegetation management to protect key assets such as Torquay Bowls Club.
- Retain overland flow paths free from built infrastructure to allow for flood and extreme rainfall events.
- Investigate opportunities to harvest stormwater to irrigate lawn areas.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the outfall and over flow pipe with Surf Coast Shire. Replace and upgrade if required.

FUTURE PROOFING:
Taylor Park continues to provide cool, green relief during extreme weather events to ensure a liveable and habitable community in the future



HERITAGE

Aboriginal heritage

The Wadawurrung People are the Traditional Owners of the land and waters that run from the Great Dividing Range in the north to the Great Ocean Road coast in the South, from the Werribee River in the east to Painkalak Creek at Aireys inlet.

The Great Ocean Road – from Torquay to Painkalak Creek – is Wadawurrung Country.

For thousands of generations, the Wadawurrung People have cared for and protected the land and waters of Taylor Park, including its heritage, cultural values and traditions. Their history and connection to Taylor Park is rich in stories.

Bunjil, the Creator Spirit, created the landscape, the story of all things living, he protects the country and connects Wadawurrung with stories and cultural beliefs.

The Wadawurrung People know Taylor Park as 'Djirnap' which means place of the white cockatoo in Wadawurrung language.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee have a responsibility to, and commit to, protecting the stories, values and significant cultural sites of the Wadawurrung people to ensure their heritage and values are shared with respect, understanding and accountability.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Wadawurrung) are the Registered Aboriginal Party under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 for the land which Taylor Park is located.



While, there are no registered sites within Taylor Park the whole park remains within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

Aboriginal heritage objectives

- Investigate, retain and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values.
- Work in collaboration with the Wadawurrung People to investigate and implement options to promote further understanding and awareness of Aboriginal heritage and culture.
- Conduct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage induction for local volunteers working in the park.
- Work with Wadawurrung, key agencies, and the community to undertake an Aboriginal place naming process for Taylor Park.

**FUTURE PROOFING:
Taylor Park tells history and stories of the
Wadawurrung People**

HERITAGE

Non-Aboriginal heritage

Taylor Park was cleared for grazing in the early 1800's. The Torquay Improvement Association (TIA) formed in 1889 and early minutes of the TIA detail that John William Taylor advocated that the Crown Lands Department should retain the area as open space when sub-division plans were drawn up for Torquay. While the Taylor family did not own the land, the park is named after John William Taylor due to his foresight and diligence in liaising with the Government to retain the land as open space.

John William Taylor planted the parallel straight lines of Sugar Gums around the park, and the Pines were planted soon after.

Installation of barriers to increase the longevity and reduce compaction under healthier trees coupled with the staged replacement of others will likely provide the most effective method to strengthen the historic tree avenues along the edge of the park.

'A Sanctuary of Native Game' was gazetted by the Victorian Government. The pond that was originally constructed by Jack O'Mara in 1974 to entice bird life into the park was incorporated into the current park water quality treatment wetland system constructed in 2001.

The 'Friends of Taylor Park' were formed in July 1989 and remain actively involved in park management today.



John Spittle Centenary Memorial Garden

Located west of Torquay Bowls Club is the John Spittle Memorial Garden. Opened on 22 April 2015 by Sarah Henderson MP Federal Member for Corangamite, the John Spittle Centenary Memorial Garden commemorates those who have served in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Notable military memorabilia include a propeller, anchor, military tank and two sea mines. It also has an honour roll of residents who lost their lives in the war.

Non-Aboriginal heritage objectives

- Retain and protect the historic gates.
- Retain and strengthen the historic tree avenue planting associated with early development of the park.
- Undertake assessment confirming structural integrity of trees in high use areas. Complete all tree removal works in accordance with 2019 GORCC Tree Management Guidelines and Policy.
- Use low timber barriers and low-key signage to manage high risk trees within high use areas to enable retention and provide habitat and landscape value.
- Provide onsite opportunities to enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the park history and development at key entries.
- Retain current path layout consistent with the historical alignment.

**FUTURE PROOFING:
Taylor Park connects future generations
with post-settlement stories and history**

ACCESS

Connectivity

The existing unsealed 2.0 - 2.5m wide paths within the centre of the park provide direct connection for walkers to both the foreshore and town centre. The flat unsealed surfaces provide all weather access and are consistent with the relaxed natural character of the park.

There are no pedestrian paths which circumnavigate the perimeter of the park – either within the park itself or within adjacent road reserves managed by Council.

There is no directional signage and routes and available facilities are not clear to first time visitors.

Low timber boardwalks without handrails provide all weather crossings at the wetland and overland flow path. These structures are over 15 years old and will likely require significant maintenance or replacement within the next five years.

The existing solar bollards provide low level lighting on the main east-west path however this lighting does not meet requirements as outlined in Australian Standard AS1158 lighting for roads and public spaces. Upgrade of lighting to meet this standard in Taylor Park requires electrical connection which will be expensive and may impact fauna behaviour and amenity of the park.

Cycling use within the park is low.

Vehicle access

Taylor Park has one small off-street carpark in the north east which is unmarked and asphalt. This car park accommodates approximately 6-7 spaces and is always open for public use (no gate). The entry into the car park from The Esplanade is narrow, often missed by visitors, and can be hazardous during peak period.

There are additional car parks within the road reserves of Zeally Bay Road, Fisher Street and Beach Road which are managed by Surf Coast Shire:

- Unsealed parking along Zeally Bay Road is popular on both weekdays and weekends as they service Taylor Park, the Torquay Town Centre, Yellow Bluff and Fishermans Beach. During peak summer season (November to January) this parking area is often at capacity.
- Beach Road and The Esplanade are sealed and have kerb and channel which provides on-street parallel parking.
- Fischer Street has an unsealed gravel verge which is less used and caters for long vehicles including boat trailers.

There is an additional sealed car park within Taylor Park which is located within the bowling club lease area and has signs / gate indicating the car park is strictly for members and patrons only. The bowling club carpark provides 86 sealed and lined spaces and is mainly used on the weekends. There is a designated accessible parking area which can accommodate approximately 2-3 cars.

Bicycle parking is also available within the bowls club lease area and is well utilised.



ACCESS

Access objectives

- Retain and enhance open grass areas and picnic facilities adjoining Zeally Bay Road and The Esplanade to accommodate increased demand of public open space.
- Ensure no loss of open space for additional car parking.
- Provide new bicycle parking at existing picnic areas.
- Provide designated accessible parking spaces in accordance with current standards.
- Improve directional signage to key facilities and points of interest.
- Review existing timber boardwalks and replace when required whilst maintaining existing design and appearance.
- Maintain lighting along main paths to minimise impacts on fauna behaviour. Ensure any future lighting upgrades meet requirements of AS1158.
- Actively maintain clearance of dense mid-storey vegetation within 1-2 metres of main paths and existing grass areas.
- Review dog regulations when required to reflect increasing use of the park by visitors and residents
- Improve wayfinding signage to the nearest existing public toilets.

Assist Surf Coast Shire to:

- Strengthen the interface of the park with town centre and Fishermans Beach via the installation of footpaths and pedestrian crossings within the road reserve.
- Improve function, efficiency and amenity of adjoining road reserves, while retaining or harvesting of stormwater flows to irrigate canopy trees and grassy areas.
- Improve pedestrian links to / from the Town Centre.
- Improve safety at crossings on The Esplanade between Taylor Park and the foreshore.
- Support continued activation at of the Zeally Bay Road end of Taylor Park as the Torquay Town Centre continues to develop.

FUTURE PROOFING:
Taylor Park encourages active and sustainable travel between the foreshore, town centre and residential areas.



FACILITIES

Increased use and visitation

Surf Coast Shire has experienced rapid population growth over the past 20 years with the Torquay-Jan Juc population expected to grow to around 30,000 people by 2040.

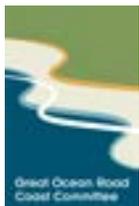
Torquay accounts for approximately 45% of the Surf Coast Shire population and is an identified growth node. Of the projected 14,500 new residents by 2036, approximately 10,900 will live in Torquay with 3,300 of these new residents aged 60 or above.

Taylor Park, as the closest and largest park to the Torquay Town Centre and foreshore will become increasingly important as open space and to provide relief from an increasingly urban environment. The pressure to accommodate new and additional uses places pressure on the health and character of the park. If not managed adequately, this may lead to conflict between users and loss of intrinsic values such as habitat and biodiversity.

Events and activation

The open space area at the southern end of Taylor park (between Zeally Bay Road and the wetlands) has extensive parking and access to public transport via the town centre.

The use of Zeally Bay Road end of Taylor Park for events could be considered however the existing grass is in poor condition and turns to dust over the summer limiting options for event use.



Picnic facilities

Taylor Park provides welcome shade during summer, relief from prevailing winds and is increasingly popular for picnics/ barbeques / lunchtime activities and gatherings.

The barbeque and picnic shelter, opposite Fishermans Beach, were constructed by the Rotary Club in the late 1990s to provide a sheltered and shady spot for visitors and residents. This north-eastern section of the park is over shadowed by mature cypress and pines which results in an inconsistent cover of grass.

A second picnic shelter and barbeque area were constructed in 2015 in the southern section of the park between Cliff Street and Walker Street for use by visitors from the town centre.

There is a wide range of picnic tables and seats located around the main wetland and scattered throughout the remainder of the park.

There are no drinking fountains within the park.

Toilet facilities

Taylor Park does not provide public amenities such as showers, toilets or changing rooms. The closest public toilets to Taylor Park are located:

- Less than 100m from the north-east picnic and barbeque area within the Angling Club / Salty Dog Café building at Fishermans Beach
- Less than 200m from the southern picnic and BARBEQUE area within the Elephant Walk foreshore area adjacent to the Yellow Bluff playground.

Other public toilets are located at Gilbert Street Shopping Centre.

The Torquay Town Centre Project recommended the provision of new public facilities within the park to support both events and the establishment of a new bus stop on Zeally Bay Road. However, as most visitors arriving by bus will likely be heading to the town centre or foreshore, the establishment of additional public toilet at Taylor Park does not appear justified at this time.

FACILITIES

Torquay Bowls Club

The Torquay Bowls Club has operated within Taylor Park since 1921 through a Crown land lease. The club also supports the Torquay RSL sub branch.

The bowling club building was redeveloped in 2013 to upgrade the club rooms, RSL rooms and facilities, and the popular bistro area which overlooks Fishermans Beach.

Club membership has increased over the past five years, and to meet existing and future needs a master plan was prepared in 2017 which identified redevelopment aspirations and priorities such as a synthetic green, third green, indoor green and extension and redevelopment of the club house. The master plan also showed extension of the current lease area and additional car parking outside of the lease area.

Consultation during the development of this master plan identified strong mixed views regarding the proposal to expand the lease area.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee supports the Torquay Bowls Club in their current capacity and use and acknowledge their desire to expand the current lease area.

Recent conversations with the club reveal the 2017 master plan is currently under review due to lack of community support to extend the lease area.

Facilities objectives

- Encourage and support small scale use of open grassed areas such as social gatherings, picnics and barbeques.
- Upgrade picnic and barbeque facilities along The Esplanade to strengthen the interface with the foreshore (Fishermans Beach).
- Provide additional picnic and barbeque facilities along Zeally Bay Road to improve the interface with town centre.
- Investigate the provision of water and drinking fountains to barbeque and picnic areas.
- Undertake removal of cypress and pine to improve light penetration and assist open grassed areas.
- Consolidate and provide additional rubbish and recycling bins at picnic areas at main park entries.
- GORCC will support the Torquay Bowls Club in their current capacity and use and acknowledge their future aspirations and priorities such as a synthetic green, third green, indoor green and redevelopment of the club house.
- GORCC will support the Torquay Bowls Club to deliver priorities within the current lease footprint.

FUTURE PROOFING:
**Taylor Park continues to be a great place for
small gatherings and sustainable events**



TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

A natural community place that honours its rich cultural history, environmental values and central location.

OVERVIEW OF MASTER PLAN AND IMPROVEMENTS

This master plan was informed by community and stakeholder consultation conducted over 2018/19.

Consultation reinforced the strong bushland identity of the park.

Key themes include enhancing the natural bushland character, protection from development, additional and upgraded facilities including grassed areas, and environmental and heritage educational signage.

The park is Crown land managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) under the *Crown land (Reserves Act 1978)*.

The Wadawurrung name for Taylor Park is 'Djirnap' – the place of the white cockatoo.

The Torquay Bowls Club within Taylor Park is leased under a 21-year Crown land lease. Community consultation during the development of this master plan identified strong mixed views of a proposal from the club to extend the current lease area.

GORCC supports the Torquay Bowls Club in their current capacity and use and acknowledge future aspirations and priorities. GORCC will support the Torquay Bowls Club and continue to work closely with the club to deliver these priorities within the current lease area.

A new authority, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCPA), is due to commence in 2020, replacing GORCC and other land managers along the Great Ocean Road. GORCPA will become the Crown land manager and therefore be responsible for the management of the park, and implementation of the master plan.

This master plan sets the vision and guides the improvement of Taylor Park over the next 10-15 years in response to key challenges including climate change, increased visitation and population growth, and ageing infrastructure.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TIMELINE

Short term: 1-3 years

Medium term: 4-7 years

Long term: 8+ years



SHORT TERM

- Implement vegetation management plan.
- Formalise main pond to reduce erosion and improve interface with popular open grass area. Upgrade existing picnic facilities.
- Undertake arborist assessment where limb-drop and tree-failure risk is high.
- Develop educational signage with Wadawurrung, Friends of Taylor Park and Torquay Historical Society to assist understanding and appreciation of environmental and heritage values. Include wayfinding.
- Investigate provision of drinking fountains.
- Provide new bicycle parking.
- Identify and implement opportunities for on-site interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage.

MEDIUM TERM

- Improve grass cover in picnic areas.
- Investigate opportunities to harvest stormwater from wetlands to irrigate grass areas.
- Upgrade picnic facilities at Fishermans Beach and Zeally Bay Road.
- Upgrade lighting to meet best-practise sustainable standards.
- Work with Wadawurrung, key agencies, and the community to undertake an aboriginal place naming process for Taylor Park.

LONG TERM

- Provide additional picnic facilities along Zeally Bay Road.
- Investigate and implement with Surf Coast Shire opportunities to strengthen interfaces with town centre and Fishermans Beach.

ONGOING

- Strengthen heritage eucalypt avenues with indigenous eucalypt species.
- Remove high risk trees, including pine and cypress. Replace with indigenous eucalypt species if removal required.
- Remove sediment and other pollutants in wetland.
- Regenerate bushland areas in partnership with Friends of Taylor Park and other community groups.
- Protect and maintain existing historic gates and paths to honour the heritage of the park.
- Continue to work alongside Friends of Taylor Park and Wadawurrung, and other community groups to manage the park.



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TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Improvement	Theme	Partners / GORCC team	Estimated cost	Time
ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY				
1	Undertake arboricultural assessment where limb-drop risk is high (adjoining paths, picnic areas and parking).	Consultant Arborist	\$20,000	Short, Ongoing
2	Report all tree works in accordance with the GORCC Tree Management Guidelines 2019 and policy	Consultant Arborist, Coastal Reserves Team	GORCC	Short, Ongoing
3	Remove Cypress, Pine and other high-risk trees identified by arborist	Consultant Arborist	\$20,000	Short, Ongoing
4	Install low timber barriers and low-key signage around high risk and high value trees to manage risk, while providing landscape and habitat value.	Consultant Arborist, Coastal Reserves Team	\$13,000	Short, Ongoing
5	Undertake planting of semi-advanced Yellow Gum and Coast Manna Gum to infill historic avenues.	Consultant Arborist, Conservation Team	\$12,000	Short, Ongoing
6	Continue active management of bushland areas to remove woody weeds and noxious weeds	Conservation Team, Education Team, Friends of Taylor Park	GORCC	Ongoing
7	Undertake flora and fauna surveys to record and monitor the number and diversity of native and exotic species.	Conservation Team, Friends of Taylor Park	GORCC	Ongoing
8	Develop signage to assist community education and appreciation of ecological significance of the park. Include wayfinding.	Wadawurrung, Friends of Taylor Park, Torquay Historical Society	\$5,000	Short

Improvement	Theme	Partners / GORCC team	Estimated cost	Time
9	Support Friends of Taylor Park to manage vegetation.	Conservation Team, Torquay Historical Society	GORCC	Ongoing
10	Landscape main pond to reduce erosion and improve interface to the popular open grass area. AMF 2019 estimate (\$10,000 viewing platform).	Consultant Landscape Architect, Landscape Gardener	\$50,000	Short
11	Investigate whether the wetlands effectively treat stormwater prior to discharge at Fishermans Beach. Implement preferred option.	Water Sensitive Urban Design Consultant, Surf Coast Shire, Planning Team	TBC	Medium
12	Investigate opportunities to harvest stormwater from wetlands to irrigate grass areas. Implement preferred option.	Consultant Hydro Engineer	\$5,000	Medium
13	Remove trapped sediment, litter and other pollutants from the wetland as needed.	Coastal Reserves Team	GORCC	Ongoing
CLIMATE CHANGE				
14	Prepare a Bushfire Management Plan.	Wadawurrung, Consultant Bushfire and Ecologist	\$1,500	Short
15	Maintain clear overland flow paths to facilitate high intensity rainfall events and flooding.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	GORCC	Ongoing
16	Monitor the impacts of increasing variability rainfall on the constructed wetlands.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	GORCC	Ongoing

Improvement	Theme	Partners / GORCC team	Estimated cost	Time
HERITAGE				
17	Identify and implement opportunities for on-site interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage.	Wadawurrung, Planning Team	TBC	Short
18	Undertake regular inspection and preventative maintenance as needed to maintain the two historic gates.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	GORCC	Ongoing
19	Develop signage to assist community education and appreciation of heritage values of the park. Include Wayfinding.	Wadawurrung, Friends of Taylor Park, Torquay Historical Society	\$5,000	Medium
20	Work with Wadawurrung, key agencies, and the community to undertake an Aboriginal place naming process for Taylor Park.	Wadawurrung, Taylor Family, Torquay Historical Society, Planning Team	GORCC	Medium
ACCESS				
21	Replace existing pine log barriers in the car park, reseal car park, provide designated accessible car park. AMF 2019 (\$14,000 sealed car park surface).	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$20,000	Medium
22	Undertake ongoing clearance of dense understorey vegetation to maintain 1.0m clearance from edge of all main paths	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	GORCC	Ongoing
23	Replace and maintain existing design and appearance of timber boardwalk while using more durable material to increase the longevity of asset	Consultant Landscape Gardener, Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$8,000	Short

Improvement	Theme	Partners / GORCC team	Estimated cost	Time
24	Upgrade existing amenity solar lighting along main paths only AMF 2019 estimate (\$30,000).	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$30,000	Medium
25	Topdress existing main 2.5m wide network paths. AMF 2019 (\$58,000 pathways).	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$60,000	Medium
FACILITIES				
26	Investigate the provision of new drinking fountains at existing picnic areas. Implement preferred option.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$15,000	Medium
27	Provide new bicycle parking at existing picnic areas.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$4,200	Medium
28	Upgrade existing picnic facilities at the main wetland pond.	Coastal Reserves Team	\$20,000	Short
29	Upgrade existing rotunda picnic shelter and BBQ facilities opposite Fishermans Beach. AMF 2019 estimate (\$30,000 BBQs)	Coastal Reserves Team	\$50,000	Medium
30	Upgrade and provide second picnic shelter and BBQ opposite Zeally Bay Road. AMF 2019 estimate (\$60,000 shelter, \$14,000 tables, \$3000 seating bench, \$6000 seating sculptural)	Coastal Reserves Team	\$70,000	Long
31	Consolidate rubbish bins at picnic areas at main park entries. AMF 2019 estimate (\$15,000)	Coastal Reserves Team	\$15,000	Medium

Improvement	Theme	Partners / GORCC team	Estimated cost	Time
32	Sow Kikuyu or other drought resistant species at Fishermans Beach and Zeally Bay Road picnic and kick-about areas.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	\$48,000	Medium
33	Investigate irrigating lawn areas at Fishermans Beach and Zeally Bay Road with stormwater harvested from the wetlands. Implement preferred option.	Coastal Reserves Team, Conservation Team	TBC	Medium
		SUB TOTAL	\$471,700	
		Contingency (20%)	\$94,340.0	
		TOTAL	\$566,040.0	

