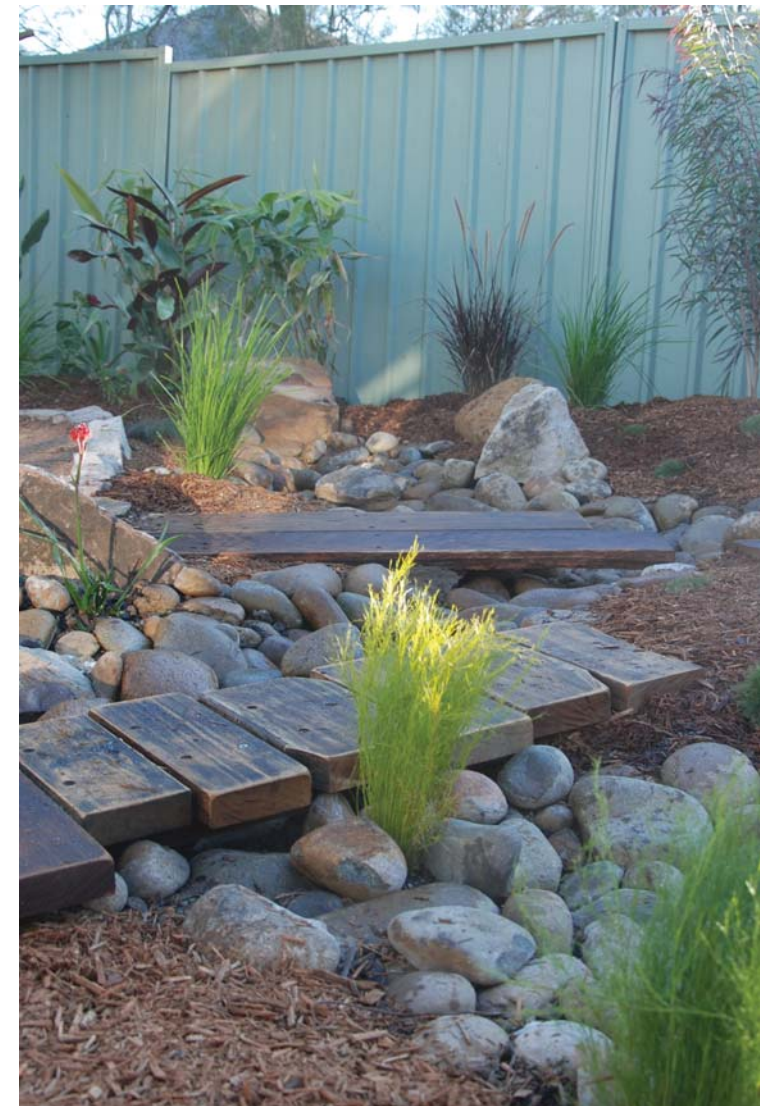


# CROYDON PUBLIC SCHOOL MASTER PLAN

*Creating fun, imaginative and therapeutic play spaces*





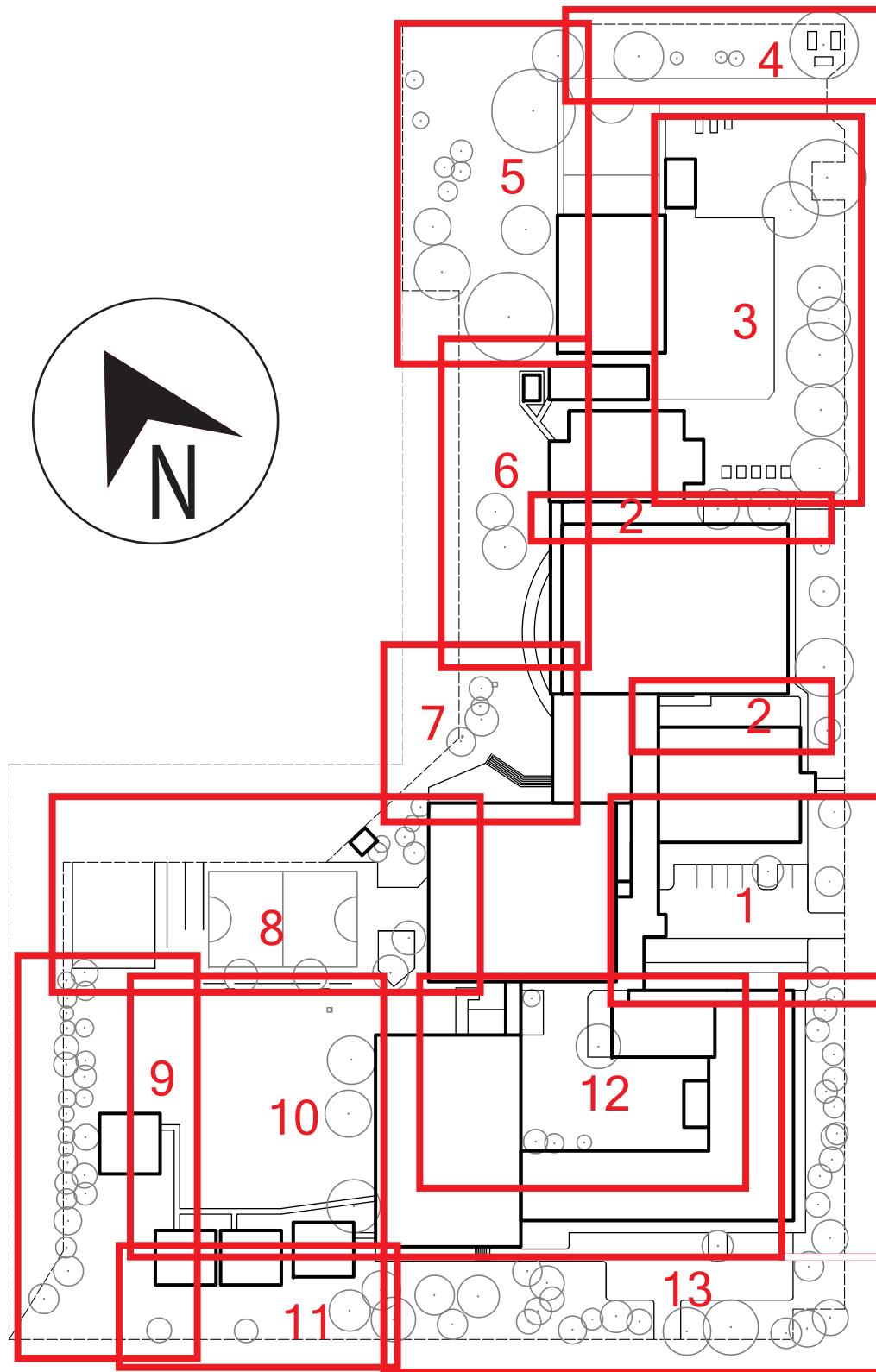
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## APPENDIX A - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

COMPILATION OF ALL SUBMISSIONS



# CROYDON PUBLIC SCHOOL MASTER PLAN

## DESIGN RATIONALE

This Master Plan presents a vision for the grounds of Croydon Public School.

All significant areas have been considered. A series of concept plans are presented, as denoted on the key plan opposite. Notes are provided with each plan to explain the specific proposal.

The design approach was to work with spaces and their current or potential functionality. Existing uses were taken into account and enhanced. Where areas of the school appeared underutilised or perhaps not even used at all, new ideas are proposed.

Each area has an emphasis as to its purpose. It may be directly educational, as in the Outdoor Education Area. It may be for active play that develops physical coordination, or it may be a space that encourages observation and exploration. The overall result is that students, teachers, parents and visitors experience purposeful, pleasant and artistic surrounds. Through the improvement and increased accessibility of the school's outdoor environments, it is anticipated that the educational experience of students will be enhanced in wide ranging, imaginative and unforeseen ways!

## IMPLEMENTATION

By the current standards of school grounds, this plan is ambitious. Indeed the need for it, and the benefits that could flow may not be completely understood. We hope this Master Plan will both support and promote awareness in the School of the value of the grounds and what could be achieved with them.

It is not the purpose of this document to give costing details, however it can be broadly estimated that to implement these proposals and then maintain them would cost about 2% of the current school budget. The cost of maintenance is actually larger than the cost of construction over the

longer term. Specifically, the School would need a gardener/horticulturalist (who may also have some teaching role) as well as the traditional GA if the proposals were to be maintained to their full potential. The value of better grounds has a flow on effect in terms of children's awareness of their surrounds, learning ability and encouragement of positive behaviour. This helps achieve better value from the other 98% of expenditure.

It is hoped that the Croydon Public School Masterplan will be of assistance to the School in achieving both recognition of the opportunities offered by its outdoor environment and in achieving these opportunities.

## MANAGEMENT OF GRASSED AREAS

The desire for more grassed areas was a major theme from the survey results.

Natural turf is clearly not currently working on the Primary sports area. As well as being unsightly, children are prone to injuring themselves on the hard dusty surface.

Something needs to be done to better manage this area. It may be that artificial turf is the best option if current usage patterns are to be maintained. The area appears to be used at every play period and after school as well. Even if everything possible were done to make the grass grow, it may still be unfeasible for it to survive this level of traffic. 'Everything possible' would include resurfacing the area with a less compactable (ie sandy) growing medium, laying fresh turf and ensuring regular irrigation.

If it was desired to install new natural turf then some management of play activities would be necessary. For example, soccer games could be held on alternate days. On the off days children could practise ball skills or goal shooting in some designated artificial surface area, such as the undercover area at the back of the sports hall. This would serve as training for game day, and instill in the children the idea that practise is necessary to improve their skills.

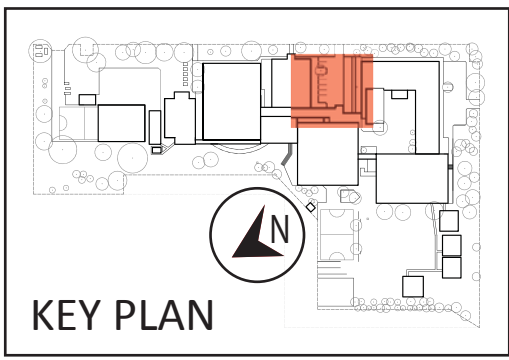
Another option to look at is occasional use of the parkland next door. Also to consider is the large bitumen area in the Infants playground. It could be grassed and fenced, thus providing an alternative venue for Primary soccer games (the infants will have sufficient other, more pleasant, areas to play).

By providing the additional active play facilities in the Primary playground proposed in the Masterplan, children would have an alternative to soccer as active play. It is an intentional theme of the Masterplan to utilise areas under trees, where grass doesn't grow, as active play areas. The shade is perfect for vigorous activity, and the trunks of the trees are incorporated as features. Mulch is the only practical surface in areas of high leaf fall, reduces soil compaction and is soft to fall on. Grass can be grown on ground intended for lunchtime sitting and outdoor education spaces, as heavy traffic is directed elsewhere.



A multifaceted approach to considering the outdoor spaces of a school





# HERITAGE WALK & TROPICAL CORRIDOR

## FRUIT GARDEN PALETTE



## NATIVE GARDEN PLANT PALETTE



## HERITAGE WALK

This area builds on the existing plants and elements where possible to provide both an edible and attractive landscaped facade to the heritage school building balcony and a more formal native walk that will tie in with the Gondwana Rainforest Walk around the original school buildings.

The formality of the garden beds enhances the heritage building while also providing the juxtaposition of a traditional style fruit garden and a native forest walk to enhance variety and interest.

## TROPICAL CORRIDOR

The Tropical Corridor provides a focal point that highly enhances a currently dead zone. A natural style water feature is set into an atrium style tropical garden with a mural painted as the backdrop. The mural can depict tropical plants, birds or water falls to tie in with the plant palette.

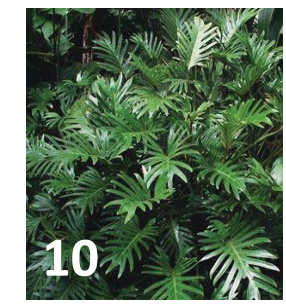
All these areas provide ample evidence of different microclimates and planting themes that will be excellent to help teach children of different garden styles and provide varied visual interest for children and adults.

It is important to note the suggested removal of one (or all) of the planted traffic islands to allow for more parking spots. This will address the requirement for more disabled parking access and also the delivery of hired gym equipment to the school hall. The proposed gardens and fencing around the sports fields block vehicular access to school hall for deliveries as currently used. However this parking proposal resolves this by allowing more direct acces for deliveries to the hall.



8 WATER FEATURE

## TROPICAL PLANT PALETTE

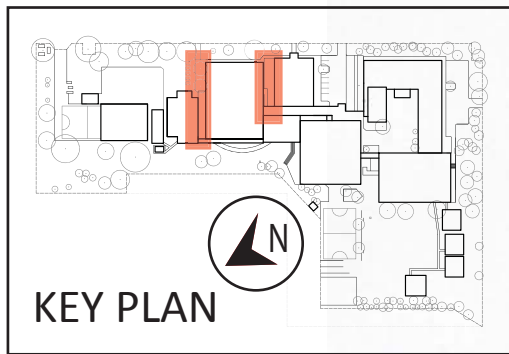


PAINTED MURAL



WATER FEATURE





### INSPIRATIONAL IMAGES



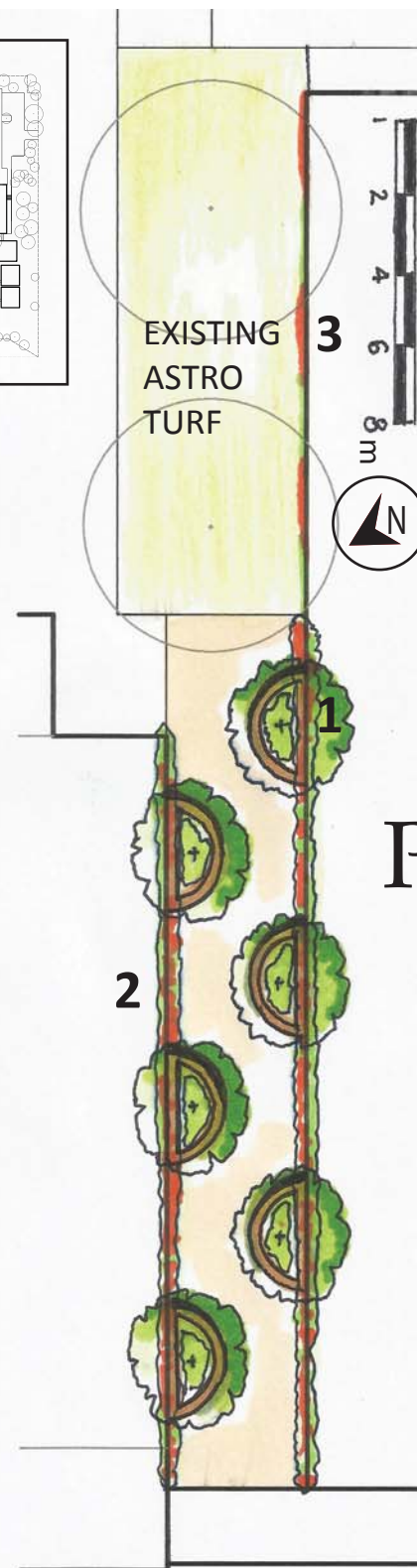
JAPANESE MAPLE



ORANGE CLIMBER ON BALCONY



ABSTRACT MURAL OF ORANGE CLIMBER



### PARENT DROP OFF AREA

This area is highly used and currently unappealing. Removal of the metal seats and provision of more natural seating and ornamental trees will provide an aesthetically pleasing area for parent drop off and pick up.

Astro turf can be retained in the area under the two existing large trees, however other areas are to have the turf removed, the area levelled out and curved raised planter beds to be constructed at intervals as shown, with decomposed gravel paths between.

Orange flowered climbers are used where there is adequate solar access and an abstract mural with similar colours is to be painted on the balconies in full shade. All these simple changes will create a dynamic and vibrant space that serves as a major corridor through the school and a pleasant waiting area.

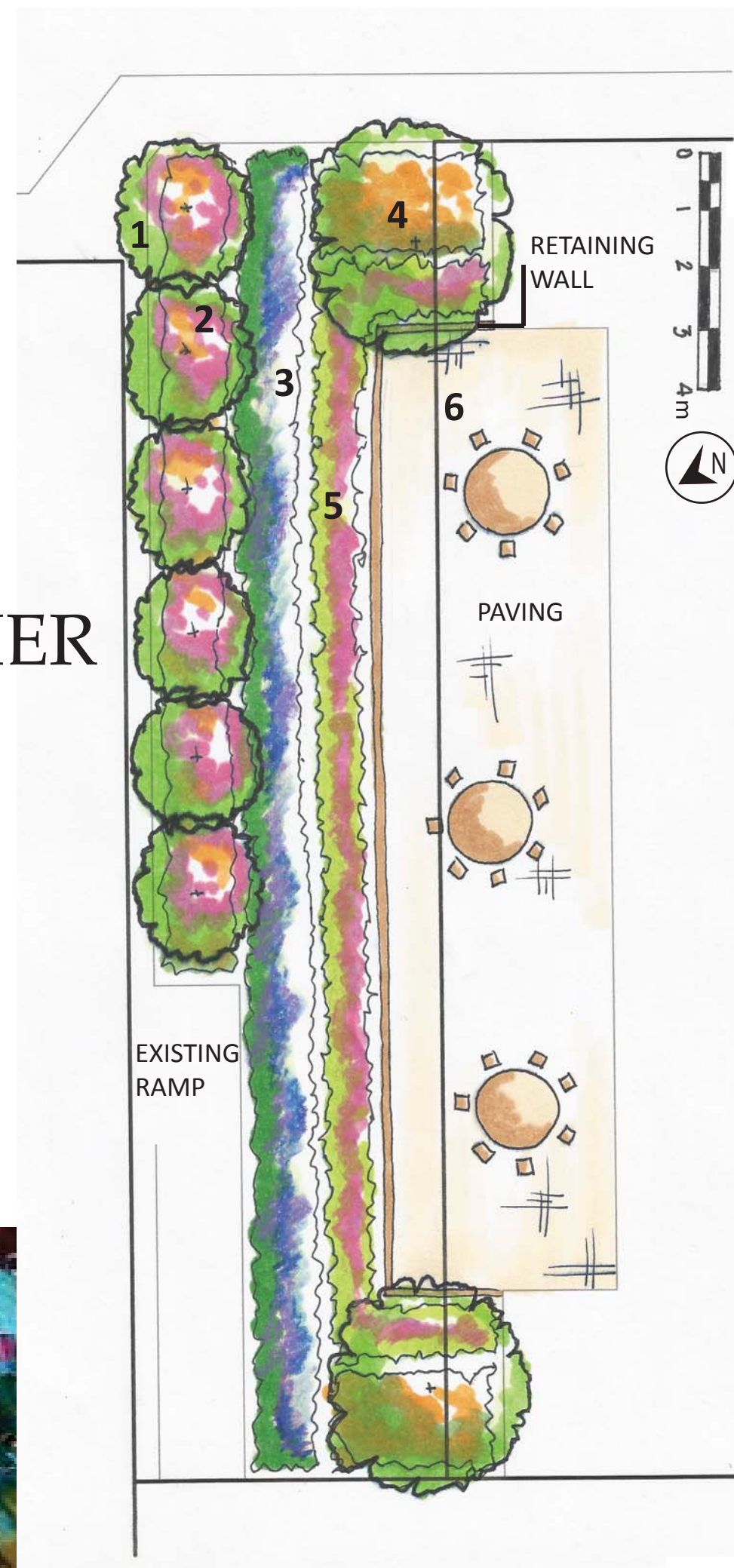
## PARENT & TEACHER ZONES

### TEACHER'S RETREAT

By providing a door from the print room and creating a private courtyard with colourful planting this area will be transformed into an oasis for teachers to rest and socialise.

A retaining wall will create a level paved area where tables and chairs can be used.

The garden serves both to partially enclose the area and also provide an amazing colour display for the corridors and paths that pass through this area.



### PLANT PALETTE



CREPE MYRTLE



DAISY



DAISY



TIBOUCHINA



FRANGIPANI



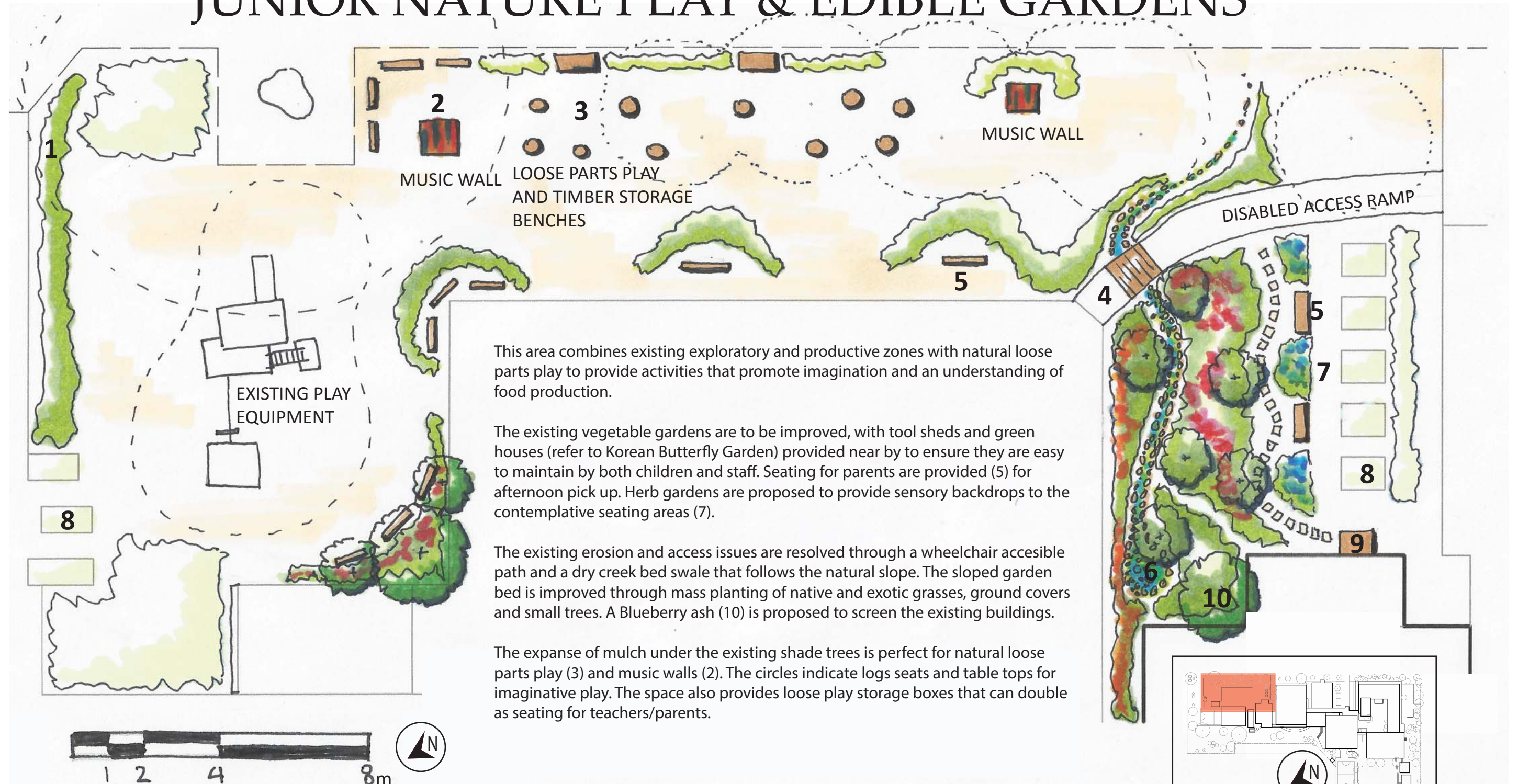
HIBISCUS



MANDEVILLA



# JUNIOR NATURE PLAY & EDIBLE GARDENS



**1**  
LOMANDRA



**3**  
LOOSE PLAY STORAGE



**3**  
LOOSE PARTS PLAY



**5**  
GARDEN SEAT



**7**  
HERB GARDEN



**2**  
MUSIC WALL



**3**  
LOOSE PLAY TABLE



**4**  
TIMBER BRIDGE



**6**  
DRY CREEK BED



**8**  
REVAMPED VEG

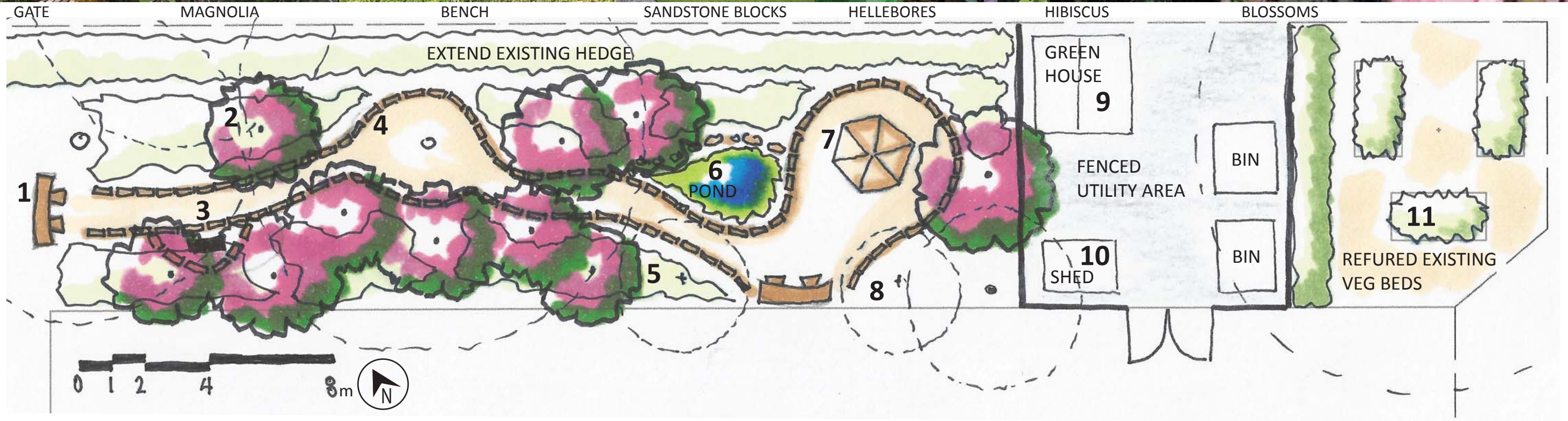


**9**  
GARDEN SHED



**10**  
BLUEBERRY ASH





# KOREAN BUTTERFLY GARDEN

## KOREAN BUTTERFLY GARDEN

This garden combines a Korean/oriental influence with the creation of a sensory, bird and butterfly attracting garden. The existing blossom trees will blend in well with the proposed Azaleas, Magnolias, Hellebores, Anemones and other flowering low shrubs. The prolificance of petals in flowering seasons also mimics the idea of masses of butterflies on the ground, and hanging from the trees/shrubs as in the visual impact of the magnolias. This garden is intended to provide a sensory delight to children and adults alike.

The Pagoda, Oriental Gates and Timber Bench are all to be handmade in a simplistic style from recycled materials wherever possible. The 'Pond' has a blue flowering ground cover to mimic water.

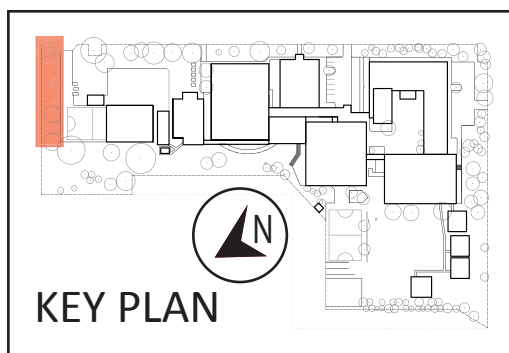
The level path is to be retained with a Sandstone block path edge.

## UTILITIES AND VEG GARDEN

The existing fences around the raised vegetable beds are to be removed to provide better access. The veg beds are to be improved and well maintained.

The new fenced off area indicated on the plan is to safely house all skip bins and to provide temporary storage for discarded furniture or any other objects for tip disposal. The area should be kept clean as it is adjacent to exploratory play areas and vegetable gardens.

The green house location has been chosen due to its proximity to a large number of the existing and proposed veg beds and herb gardens. It is also a good place for a shed for storage of maintenance equipment.







**1**  
**LAWN FOR READING  
AND PASSIVE PLAY**



**2**  
**LOG AMPITHEATRE**



**3**  
**STAGE DECK**



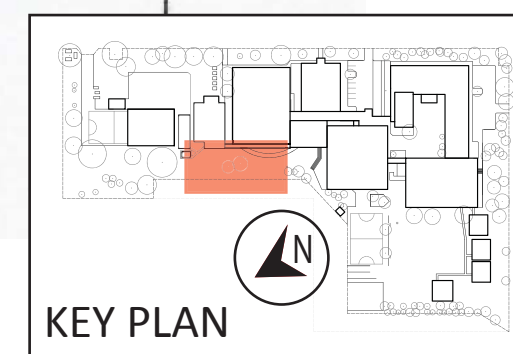
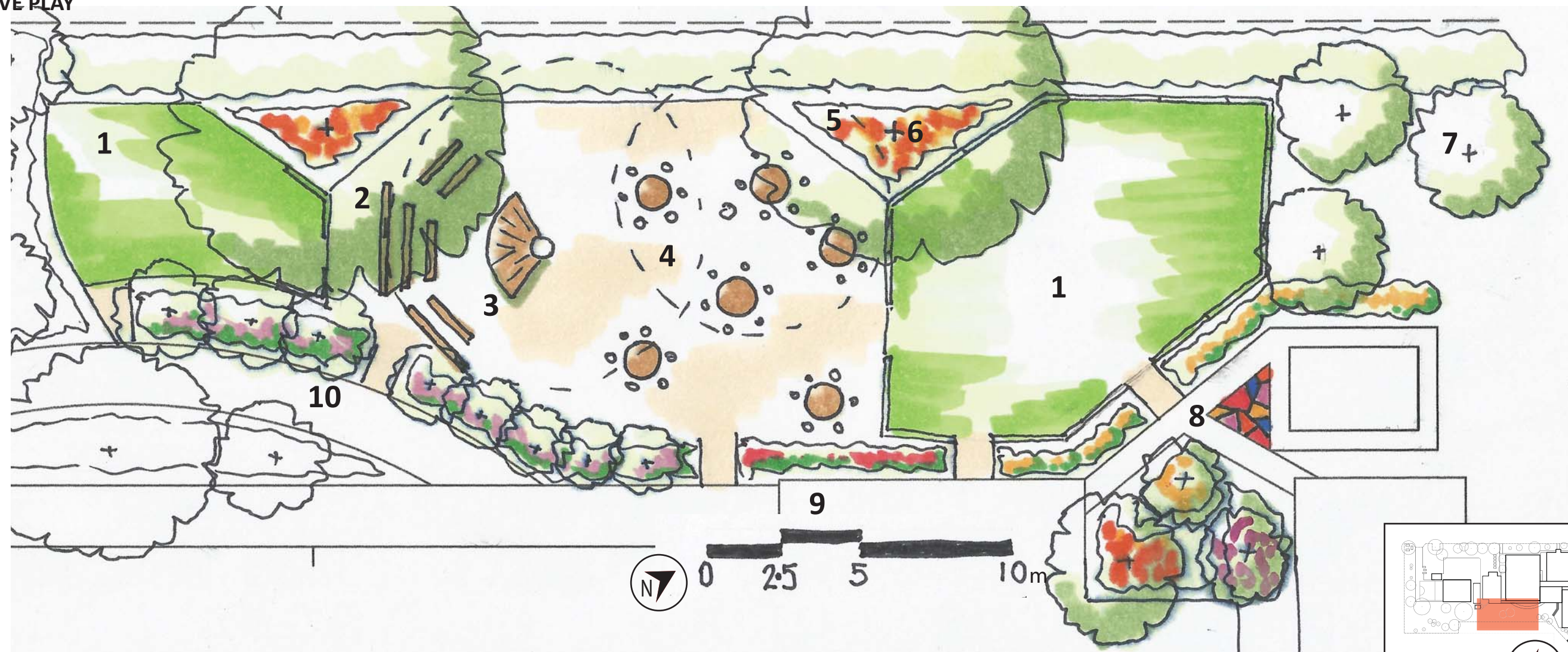
**4**  
**ACTIVITY HUBS**



**5**  
**CLIVIA**



**6**  
**NATIVE FRANGIPANI**



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION PRECINCT

This is an unused area that has a central position and is perfect for outdoor learning for both junior and primary classes. By providing appropriate seating under the existing trees (4) the area is transformed into a comfortable classroom.

The natural slope is perfect for amphitheatre seating and the existing large tree trunk lends itself to a stage area for performances and class discussions (2,3).

The lawn areas are for quite contemplation and seating, the northern lawn is levelled with retaining walls to provide a comfortable reading area (1), while the southern lawn can simply follow the natural slope and provide overflow seating for viewing the stage.

Additional trees and understorey planting (5,6) provide shade to the teaching areas. A grove of native trees links into the Junior Nature Adventure Zone (7).

The existing paths leading to the shed create a triangular void which suits the creation of a timber painted puzzle for the junior children (8).

Colour and visual interest is also provided through boundary planting along the paths (9,10).



**7**  
**CALLISTEMON**



**8**  
**TIMBER PUZZLE**



**9**  
**KANGAROO PAW**



**10**  
**HEBE**



# CEREMONIES AMPHITHEATRE

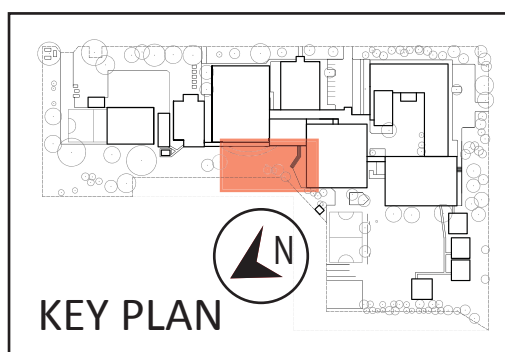
The area illustrated is intended as a venue for outdoor assemblies and ceremonies.

A focus to the space is provided by a pair of flagpoles, bordered by a garden of herbs and flowers.

The existing steps can serve as seats in an amphitheatre shape. Temporary seating can be placed either side of the poles, including under the Casuarina trees, and at the top of the steps, children can stand for short assemblies.

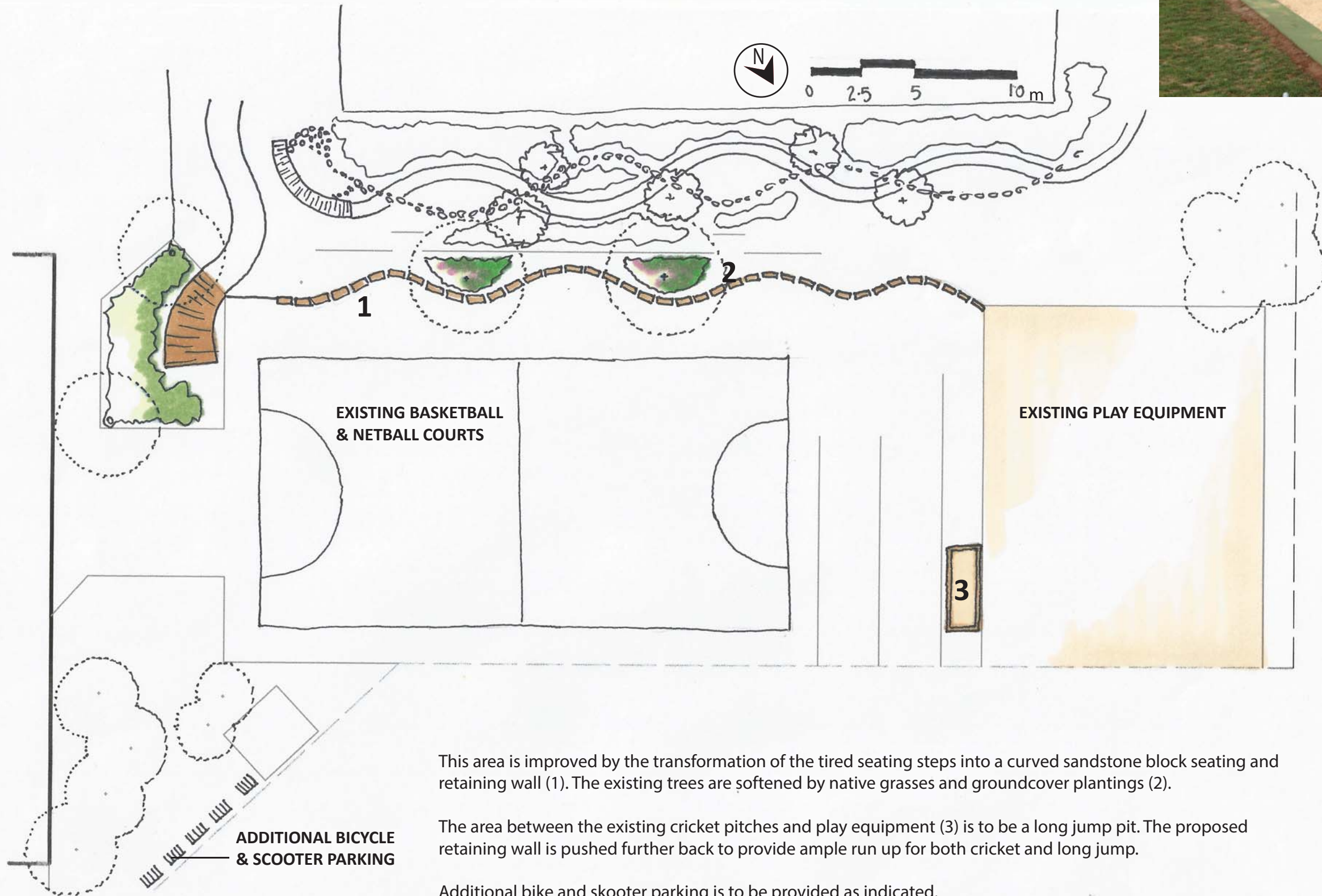
Key to the aesthetic of the area is the removal of the large shade structure. The rectangular shape clashes dreadfully with this multi angled space, and there is a clutter of posts. The school doesn't need its very own Cahill Expressway.

The Ceremonies Amphitheatre is intentionally open. The current shade structure only covers about one third of the space, which is largely pointless. Shade trees and their associated planter boxes would constrain the space and block views. Two planter boxes are proposed for the edge of the area, with shapes that meld with the existing angles. A grove of small trees and shrubs is to be planted, forming a border between the Amphitheatre and the Outdoor Education Precinct. It is suggested that except in winter, gatherings scheduled for the middle of the day should be held in the adjacent hall, and likewise in the event of rain.





# PRIMARY BALL COURTS



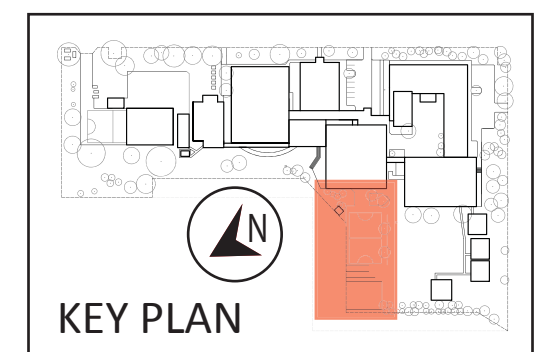
## LONG JUMP PIT



## SANDSTONE BLOCKS FOR CURVED RETAINING/SEATING WALL



## NATIVE GRASSES



## KEY PLAN



# PRIMARY NATURE PLAY & ADVENTURE



This is one of the most dynamic areas in the school where the existing activities and natural elements lends this space to active, explorative, adventure and passive activities.

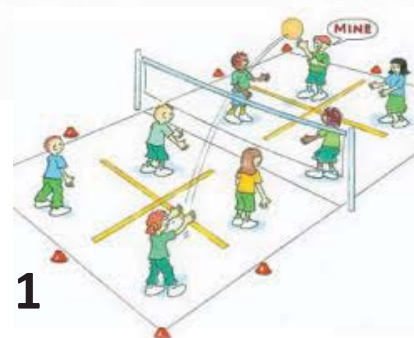
The existing grove of Casuarinas is perfect for a natural timber and rope obstacle course for the older kids. The activities are of higher difficulty than the junior nature adventure zone (2,3,4).

A Crepe Myrtle Lawn is created in the open space between the casuarina grove and the fenced off soccer fields for passive games, eating lunch and reading books.

The demountables are improved by the implementation of colourful cottage gardens. This plan also shows where small water tanks could be located.

A Newcombe ball court has been included in a currently unused space (8). This area will no longer be used as a vehicular thoroughfare as parking has been extended on the western side of the school to accommodate delivery of sports equipment to the school hall.

This area still retains access required in order to remove or install further demountables as the need arises.





# PRIMARY PLAYING FIELD

The new soccer/playing fields are to be fenced to allow for ornamental and water catchment gardens surrounding it. The fence will be approx. 3m in height (4) and allow for 2-3 simultaneous games.

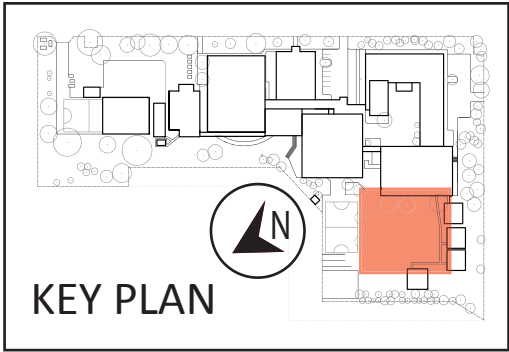
The entrances are not gated to provide safe access, and reduce the number of balls kicked out onto seating areas.

The existing drain is converted into a dry creek and pond (2) with plants tolerant of inundation in the main resevoir. The main pond has a timber viewing deck/path (1) that joins to a granite or mulch path that interlocks with the creek bed (3).

The demountables have cottage gardens to incorporate them more aesthetically into the space. Some lawn is to be retained where space allows (5) for quiet contemplative seating areas. The lawn areas also connect this space to the adjacent Birch Grove. Colourful perennial gardens (6) with herbs, fruit trees and vegetables are incorporated wherever possible.

The perenial gardens then flow into a dryland native area with native grasses and timber seating (7) under the existing eucalypts.

All the spaces around the playing fields connect through subtle similarities in texture and colour however the three spaces have their own unique microclimates and features that provide visual interest.

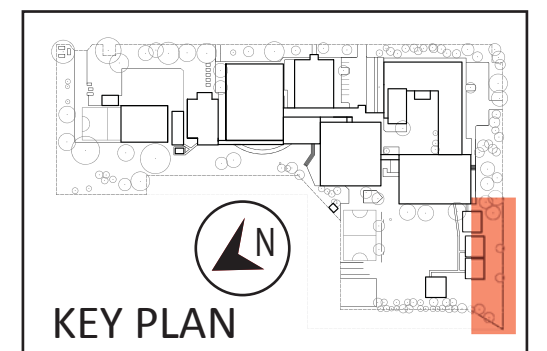




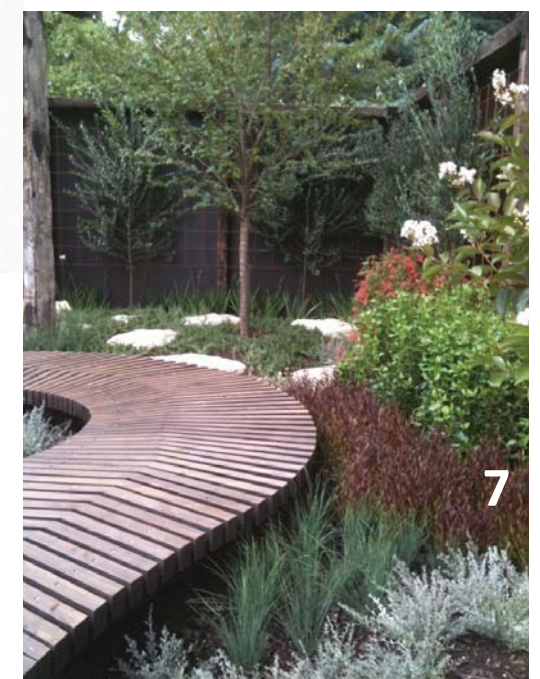
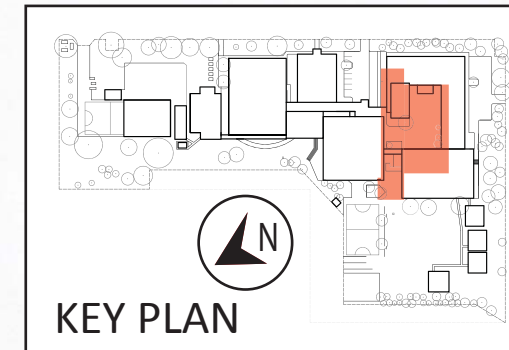


## BIRCH GROVE

This is a plan for the future of this unused corridor. The existing trees are all nearing the end of their life and should be removed to create a more congruous and useable space. This birch grove will be a beautiful and low maintenance area that children can use under supervision as it is hidden behind demountables. It also creates additional screening from the street. It will tie in well with the colourful cottage style gardens of the demountables and provide an attractive display of bulbs in spring. It provides a calming and inviting backdrop to the stark demountables. Where possible the blank walls of the demountables can be used for murals and artwork.







# GAMES COURT

The games courtyard has been improved to provide additional visual stimulation, a wider range of activities and some shade trees. The number of handball courts has been reduced to provide for other games that also stimulate hand-eye co-ordination and a chessboard has been added to the linkway to promote strategic thinking.

The courtyard and chessboard-link areas all form a games quarter that extends activities beyond the existing ball sports to provide stimulation to a wider variety of personality types.

Artwork or interactive puzzles/wall activities can be incorporated along the blank brick retaining wall (9) to provide an attractive link into the courtyard. A timber tree sculpture or similar can be used to provide interest on other blank walls such as area 1.

The existing vegetable garden (10) can be retained and improved to provide passive/exploratory recreation under the existing large palm. The fence is to be removed on the S/W boundary of this garden bed to allow for access. The garden bed opposite is to remain as is, with improved planting to provide an atrium like element to this largely paved space.

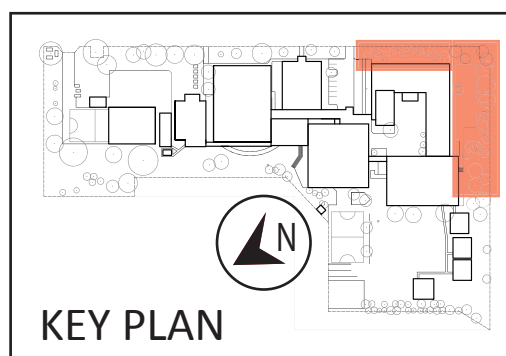
Bitchumen can be retained where the handball court markings are, while the rest can be converted to recycled brick paving to make the space more inviting and natural.

The Chessboard-link is shaded by tibouchinas (6) and the existing curved steps are to extend into a timber seating platform that provides a viewing deck for the ball courts and also a shaded lunch spot under the existing casuarinas and a mass planting of dieters. The fence around this garden bed is to be completely removed.





# GONDWANA RAINFOREST WALK



A selection of Australian rainforest plants is proposed for the south east border of the School, a natural aspect for this habitat. Existing trees provide shade to those species requiring it. The bitumen in front of the original school building would be removed.

The new gardens proposed for the school will benefit from irrigation, and that is particularly the case in this instance. The roof area of the school is quite sufficient to provide this. Relatively small tanks on each building would be highly useful. This rainforest walk gives the school a pleasant and interesting appearance from the street, provides a space that is distinctly different from other areas of the School, and of course allows students to view these plants in a garden that approximates their appearance in the wild.

The existing flag poles are to be removed and reused in the Ceremonies Amphitheatre if possible.



Illawara Flame Tree



Davidsons Plum



Cabbage Tree Palm



Birds Nest Fern



Bopple Nut



QLD Firewheel Tree



Native Frangipani



# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

## 1. What activities do students currently use the school grounds for?

Handball	7
Soccer / football	11
School sport	2
Netball	2
Running games/ tips	9
Sitting & talking/eating	64
Imaginative games	3
Exploring for creatures	1
Outdoor classrooms	4
Climbing equipment	10
Equipment in shed	1
Cricket	6
Gymnastics	1
Skiping	4
Hoola hoops	3
Basketball	5
Tri-skills	1
Walking	1
Gardening	54
Reading/quiet time	25
Drawing	2
Sandpit	1
Science	2
Play equipment	61
Learning spaces	43
P&C Events	48
Organised games	62
Netball	1

## 2. Do you have any concerns about the school's current physical environment?

Sand pit = unhealthy/ digging = dirty	2
Balls going under demountables/ over fences	2
Dust/ dirt/ mud / trip hazard	11
Not enough bins	3
Not enough soccer nets	1
Stilts = hazard	1
Cricket nets & other fences sharp/ dangerous	4
Holes in fences	1
Too many rules	1
Silver seats - hazard when jumping	1
Too many out of bounds areas	1
Hill = muddy / steep	2

Swinging on palm branches = hazard	1
Concrete/ asphalt = hurts	3
Synthetic turf, when rocks on it = hurt	1
Aesthetics = messy/ bare	3
Balls hitting other children	4
Boredom	3
Flying fox queues too long	1
Kids going behind demountables	1
Monkey bars too high/ scary	2
Splinters on logs	1
Kids fall off tree logs	1
Not enough handball courts	2
Not enough trees	3
Caterpillars in sports shed	1
Sand pit sand goes in kids' pockets / everywhere	3
Not enough teacher on duty	3
Not enough soft fall mulch under play equipment	1
Climbing wall missing a piece	2
Not enough natural elements	1
Not enough play equipment	24
Safety and supervision	27
Visual stimulation	32
Lack of cover when it rains	1
Variety of student interests	42
Aesthetics	41
Weedy grass	1
Not enough grass	2
Not enough seating	2
Not enough colour	1
Too many dead areas	1
Rubbish and old furniture in playground	1
Toilets need renovation	1
Walkways flooded and trip hazards	1
Sharp edges on fences	1
Cats soiling sand pits	1
Unsafe large trees	1
Neglected older heritage part of school	1

## 3. How would you like to see the school grounds transformed to maximise their potential for the enjoyment of the students and school community?

*List activities and types of spaces in which you would like to see students playing and learning.*

Cover for soccer field when raining	1
Learning Forest / outdoor classroom space(s)	1
Line markings for play areas & nets (soccer)	1
Toilets refurbished especially near yr 4 bathrooms	3

Laser skirmish area!	1
Bowling alley	1
Bubble soccer?	1
Comfortable seating to relax/ sit/chat	1
Handball court roster	1
Grass to grow back on field	2
Rotate/ limit use of field to allow grass to grow	2
(Bigger) soccer goals	5
Bigger/ more field(s) for soccer	6
Real grass not fake	2
Replace wooden tables with silver seats	1
Replace silver seats with tables and seats	2
More trees	4
Community garden/ vegetable garden	3
More handball courts	4
Patio near equipment area?	1
Spider net for climbing (year 2)	1
Mini flying fox (for year 2s)	1
Swings (for year 2s)	3
Designated skipping area	2
Quiet /reading area with cushions and puzzles	3
More benches & tables in garden areas (in shade)	5
Upgrade play equipment	1
Repair cricket nets	1
Upgrade/ flatten field	1
Water fountain or pond with fish & plants	2
Mini golf	1
Permanent netball/ basketball rings	2
More variety of sports (e.g. table tennis)	1
Garden maze	1
Use hall for ball games at lunchtimes (on rotation)	1
Reduce out of bounds areas	2
Use amphitheatre at playtime as quiet area	2
Area between Mrs Ruggs' & Mrs Pearson's rooms for Newcombe	1
More / better balls / equipment needed for lunchtime games	3
More hoops in Area B	1
Netball bibs at lunchtime	1
Use of computer room for children to do work	1
New seating arrangement for lunch time	1
Computers need to be updated	1
More play equipment	7
Veggie /herb garden (for year 1s/ 3s)	2
Outdoor classroom seating area	1
Gardening club (at lunch/ after school)	1
Worm farm	1
Long jump pit	1
Fence	1
Relocate sports shed	1



# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (cont.)

Walkway over to side of Young St	1	More green areas for variety of games	5	Outdoor classrooms	3
Water tap for ease of watering	1	Interactive play areas	1	Native garden	3
Plants on balconies	1	Better marking of lines next to hall under cover	1	More modern astro turf	1
Rock garden	1	Area west of kindy class upgraded, remove green shade cloth	1	Logs/ rocks / natural seating	1
More gardens/ natural elements	2	Path on bottom playground near toilets is not wheel chair friendly	1	Art works	1
Obstacle course	1	More monkey bars	1	More bike and scooter parking	2
Cubby house	2	Climbing spider	1	More vegetable gardens	1
Arts & craft at lunchtime	1	More seating around playgrounds	1	Equipment to help children with ADHD or special needs	1
Covered pathways to demountables	1	Return soccer field in primary playground	1	Use lawn between school and apartments	1
Exercise machines / fitness area	1	Imrpove lawns	1	Bird attracting gardens	1
Bike or scooter track	1	Maintain and imprpove veg gardens	1	Artificial lawn to replace mulch in K-2 play areas	1
Trampoline area	1	Contemporary play equipment	1	Address dangerous slope near silver seats in K-2 play areas	1
Racing / fitness / running track	3	Outdoor muscial instruments	1	New mini soccer area in infant play ground	1
Concept areas	1	More covered areas	1	Less out of bounds areas	1
Indigenous garden/ meeting space	1	Aesthetics - colours, tetures, plant types	1		
Historical area / time capsule	2	Chickens	3		
Softball for safety	1	Utilise all 'dead space' areas	3		
More crass in senior area near cricket nets	1	More challenging play equipment	1		
More grass areas in general	1	More shady areas for lunch	1		
Adventure discovery/ learning/ exploration area with rocks/ ropes/ natural elements	13	New toilet block that doesn't smell like a urinal	1		
Trampoline next to 5P	1	More bright colours	1		
Remove synthetic grass between kindergarten rooms	1	Replace trees that have been removed and establish a long term tree management plan	3		
Keep gate in from of office locked and install intercom	1	Buy unused space owned by apartment building next door	1		
Rubber flooring near all play equipment	1	Entry from Boundary St to have pedestrian path, maybe line marking or signage	1		
Plant shrub to screen front boundary fence	1	Widen concrete path from kindergarten to COLA to provide 2 way traffic	1		
Improve existing veggie gardens	1	Control number of demountables encroaching on soccer field	1		
Gardening club	1	Decent sound system for announcement in Stage 1 and 2 meeting areas under COLA	1		
Interactive play areas	1	Signage for toilets that can be used by parents	1		
Open up grounds once a weeks for a play group	1	Close Boundary St entrance.			
More playground markings for games	1	Parents drop student off unsafely	1		
Permanent netball field	2	More regular maintenance to law, mowing, weeding	1		
Swing ropes, climbing frames, flying fox, swings	1	Designated and sectioned off waste area to remove furniture thrown behind demountabes	1		
Watering cans and gardening tools for children to tend veg gardens on their own	1	More public arts projects	1		
Forest of trees	1	Map of school and classrooms	1		
Sensory garden	1	Bigger playground for lower primary	1		
Cover for sand pit	1	Level off dangerous areas near boundary	1		
Imrpove oval with artificial turf	3	Safe/Chill out areas/reading areas	4		
More picnic tables	2	Water feature	1		
Divide top grass area into 3-4, and 5-6th year playing areas	1	More comfortable seating for recess/ lunch	1		
Marked out games areas of bitchumen (handball, hopscotch, snakes and ladders)	2	Sensory garden	1		
Trees trimmed for safety	1				
Continuous flow of activities around school - better connections between spaces	2				
Fix paths	1				
QR code on school signage to link to history/infor/website	1				



# ABOUT EDIBLE KIDS' GARDENS

Since 2008 Edible Kids' Gardens (EKG) has offered landscape design for households and schools aimed at providing learning and therapeutic stimulation as part of children's experience of the natural world.

EKG specialises in creating unique outdoor spaces which engage the senses and stimulate the imagination in a safe, fun and inclusive way.

When approaching playground design, EKG embraces the vision of the Australian Standard, which states: 'The primary aim of a playground should be to stimulate a child's imagination, provide excitement and adventure in safe surroundings, and allow scope for children to develop their own ideas of play'.

(Foreword, 'Playground Equipment' - AS 4685.1-2004)



**Edible Kids' Gardens**  
**[www.ediblekidsgardens.com.au](http://www.ediblekidsgardens.com.au)**