

Winchelsea Arboretum Trail



Concept Plan 2024



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All works will need further investigation and approvals by Council and other relevant authorities and owners prior to activation and final pathway and arboreta locations are TBC.

Cover image: Winchelsea Common,
Rebecca Hosking

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and the Gulidjan people of the Eastern Maar, as the traditional owners and protectors of the land we now call Winchelsea. We acknowledge their ancestors who cared for the land and waters for thousands of generations. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and future.

Winchelsea Arboretum Trail



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Executive summary

This advocacy plan clearly articulates the vision of Growing Winchelsea and the broader community to transform Winchelsea into an exemplary tree town in which a shared walking / cycling path connects mini arboreta (treed parks), significant trees and important historical and cultural sites around town. It seeks to provide potential partners with detail about the scope of the proposed Winchelsea Arboretum Trail, with a view to attracting funding to undertake more detailed design work and ultimately develop this unique trail in Winchelsea.

Initially the community wanted to construct an arboretum (a garden filled with a variety of different species of trees) however, due to lack of sufficient space, decided instead to link the important trees throughout the town to a trail and to plant up parks, avenues, streets, and other public places with additional trees.

The concept for the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail is essentially a trail that criss-crosses Winchelsea township. The town is made up of four quadrants, with the outer edge of each quadrant not more than 2.5 km from the centre of town. Parts of the trail already exist, such as the Winchelsea River Loop Walk, but other parts are yet to be constructed. Some of the key features that will be connected through the Arboretum Trail include natural features such as the Barwon River; historical buildings such as Barwon Park Mansion and Winchelsea Railway Station; various reserves and sports facilities such as Winchelsea Golf Club; and Winchelsea Cemetery.

It is envisaged that the Arboretum Trail will become a major tourist attraction for Winchelsea, thereby helping to create additional jobs and support local businesses to grow and prosper. It may even encourage more people to move to the town. The trail will also provide quality recreational opportunities for local residents and will encourage more people to use active transport to get to key destinations within the town. Choosing the trail instead of the car will reduce carbon gas emissions.

Other environmental benefits of the trail include the beautification of Winchelsea and the creation of cooler, more shady streets by increasing the tree canopy. Trees that are part of the trail will absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen and will help to purify the air by absorbing pollutant gases. These trees will also provide valuable habitat for local wildlife. Specific species of trees will be preserved and protected through their inclusion in the Arboretum Trail. This project will also assist in delivering the objectives of the five portfolios outlined in the Winchelsea Integrated Water Management Plan (2019).

The trail will be enhanced through interpretive signage to inform people of Winchelsea's connection to traditional owners, its history and its flora and fauna. The sharing of information and celebrating what is unique about Winchelsea contributes to a sense of community belonging and pride.

Growing Winchelsea Inc. fully supports the notion that each tree planted is an investment in our environment, our wellbeing, our connection to the outdoors and our community, and is driving this unique community project. It is keen to partner with numerous community-based organisations, funding organisations and government authorities to help deliver the various components of the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail.

Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to inspire potential partners with the vision and scope of the proposed Winchelsea Arboretum Trail, to attract funding and invest in target projects to develop this transformative and unique project which will attract tourists, provide educational opportunities, create a beautiful, treed environment and help to address climate change.

This plan includes

1. Identification of Mini Arboreta projects
2. Identification of the route of the Arboretum Trail
3. Identification of treed Avenues
4. Benefits of investing in the Trail



Watch the video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8Dwk2FF4tI>

Our vision for the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail

Each tree planted is an investment in our environment, our wellbeing, our connection to the outdoors and our community.

Naida C Hutton and Michelle Stocks, 2020

What is an Arboretum?

An arboretum is “a garden where many different types of trees are grown for people to look at or for scientific study”¹.

The National Arboretum, based in Canberra is a well-known Australian arboretum. It incorporates 44,000 rare and endangered trees across a site of 250 hectares, and more than 20km of walking and cycling trails. In Winchelsea, the trees will not be confined to one large area but spread across the town in smaller reserves to create mini arboreta and treed avenues and streets. Residents and visitors will be able to walk, run, ride or drive to visit these areas. A good example of the positive impact of strategic tree planting can be seen in towns such as Camperdown, Bright and Beechworth to name a few.



Finlay Avenue was planted in Manifold Street on 12 July 1876. A total of 290 trees were planted by school children and residents of Camperdown and since this initial planting, there have been further planting of Elms along Manifold Street, notably in 1952



National Arboretum, Canberra



R.J. Hamer Arboretum, Dandenong Ranges

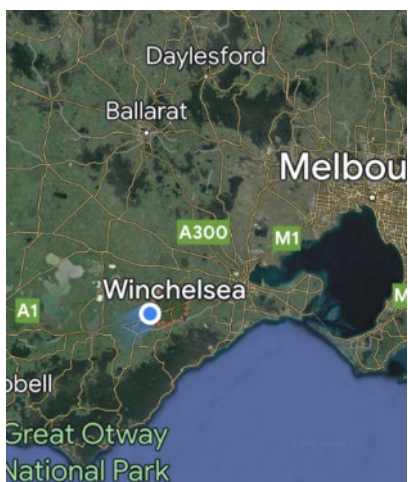
¹Oxford Dictionary

Background

The town of Winchelsea, Pop. approx. 2500 in 2022, and estimated population growth to 18,500 before 2050, settled by Europeans in 1851, is situated 100 kms to the southwest of Melbourne, nestled on the banks of the Barwon River on the Princes Highway. It is in the northern part of the Surf Coast Shire, the Federal electorate of Wannon and State electorate of Polwarth. The town is an important service centre for nearby agricultural enterprises.



Given its location on the Princes Highway, Winchelsea is a logical and very popular place for visitors and those travelling from the Surf Coast, the world-famous Great Ocean Road, and nearby Otway Forest Hinterland area to stop over for a break, to enjoy a meal, to refuel or to stay awhile and enjoy the village-like atmosphere of the town and its neighbouring landscapes and waterways. Winchelsea over time has developed into four quadrants due to the position of the river and the highway through the town. The traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung occupied the east bank of the river and the Eastern Maar the west bank of the river.²



During community planning exercises in 2020, residents of Winchelsea identified projects that would help to beautify the town for the benefit of the community and to attract more visitors to the region. Two separate projects put forward by residents included the development of an arboretum and the construction of walking and cycling trails to link key services, trees, and attractions.

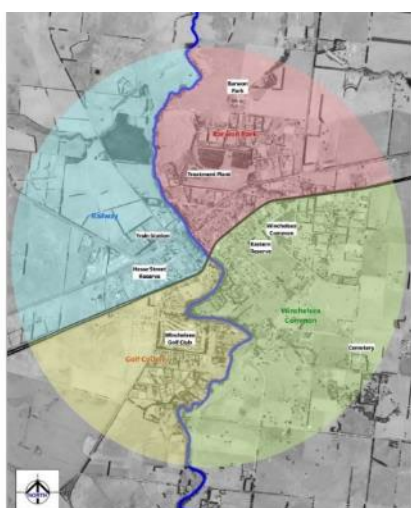
Due to insufficient space in the town to develop a large arboretum, it was recognised that the significant remarkable indigenous, native and exotic trees that exist around the town would be enhanced by further planting on suitable vacant sites. These plantings envisioned a series of 'mini arboreta' would be linked by beautiful 'treed' avenues and roadsides and a series of walking and cycling trails.

The concept was presented by Growing Winchelsea Inc. to the Surf Coast Shire who gave their support, hence the Arboretum Trail was born.

Growing Winchelsea established the Arboretum Trail sub-committee to advance the concept.

The Arboretum Trail sub-committee has:

- Identified the economic, environmental, health and social benefits of developing an arboretum trail in Winchelsea
- Collated information on existing significant trees and trails throughout the town
- Identified existing access and future links between current and proposed tree sites
- Identified sites for further tree planting and development of mini arboreta
- Collected historical information related to tree plantings
- Prepared maps outlining the location of significant trees, existing and proposed mini paths and key attractions
- Identified criteria for future tree selection
- Considered management and maintenance considerations
- Identified supporting infrastructure required to maximise usage in the future.



² Surf Coast Shire (2019) Rural Hinterland Futures Strategy, pg 12

A priority for the sub-committee has been to build strong relationships, through consultation and collaboration with organisations recognized as key to the success of the project. These include:

- Barwon Water
- Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- Community Bank Winchelsea and District Bendigo Bank
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Geelong Cemeteries Trust
- Hesse Rural Health
- National Trust (Barwon Park Mansion)
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Tertiary institutions
- Upper Barwon Landcare Network
- Winchelsea Golf Club
- Winchelsea Land and River Care
- Winchelsea Lions Club

and the Winchelsea community.

Achievements to Date

1. Strong community, organisational and stakeholder support
2. Successful grant application to the Australian Government for funding under the Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee Program
3. Extension of an existing avenue of Lemon Scented Gums (*Corymbia Citriodora*) in Barkly and Mercer Streets has been completed with the support of the Surf Coast Shire, with funding being made available by the Australian Government.
4. Completion of Stronger Communities Grant project comprising tree planting, creation of pathways and installation of seating at the reserve on the corner of Barkly and Mercer Streets..



Stronger Communities project.

QEII project.

Surf Coast Shire Council

2 December at 17:00 · it

It's official! 🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳🌳

It was celebration time today as members of the Winchelsea community officially opened an avenue of 60 lemon scented gum trees, planted to honour the life and reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Marking Her Majesty's 70 years of service, members of Growing Winchelsea, the Arboretum Trail Committee, Winchelsea Primary School and Surf Coast Shire Council, were joined by many other community groups to gather on the corner of Mercer and Barkly Streets, where the saplings have been recently planted.

Renowned landscape architect Andrew Laidlaw and students from Winchelsea Primary School helped cut the ribbon, unveiling a plaque to commemorate the QEII community planting project.

The project forms the first part of a much larger council-supported community vision to create an arboretum - an extensive heritage tree trail in Winchelsea.

Pictured left to right: Jenny Mathison, Rod Taylor, Michelle Stocks, Surf Coast Shire Councillor Heather Wellington, Member for Polwarth Richard Riordan, Naida Hutton, Surf Coast Shire Mayor Liz Pattison, CEO Robyn Seymour, Kerry Butcher, Andrew Laidlaw, Surf Coast Shire Cr Adrian Schonfelder.

Like Comment Share

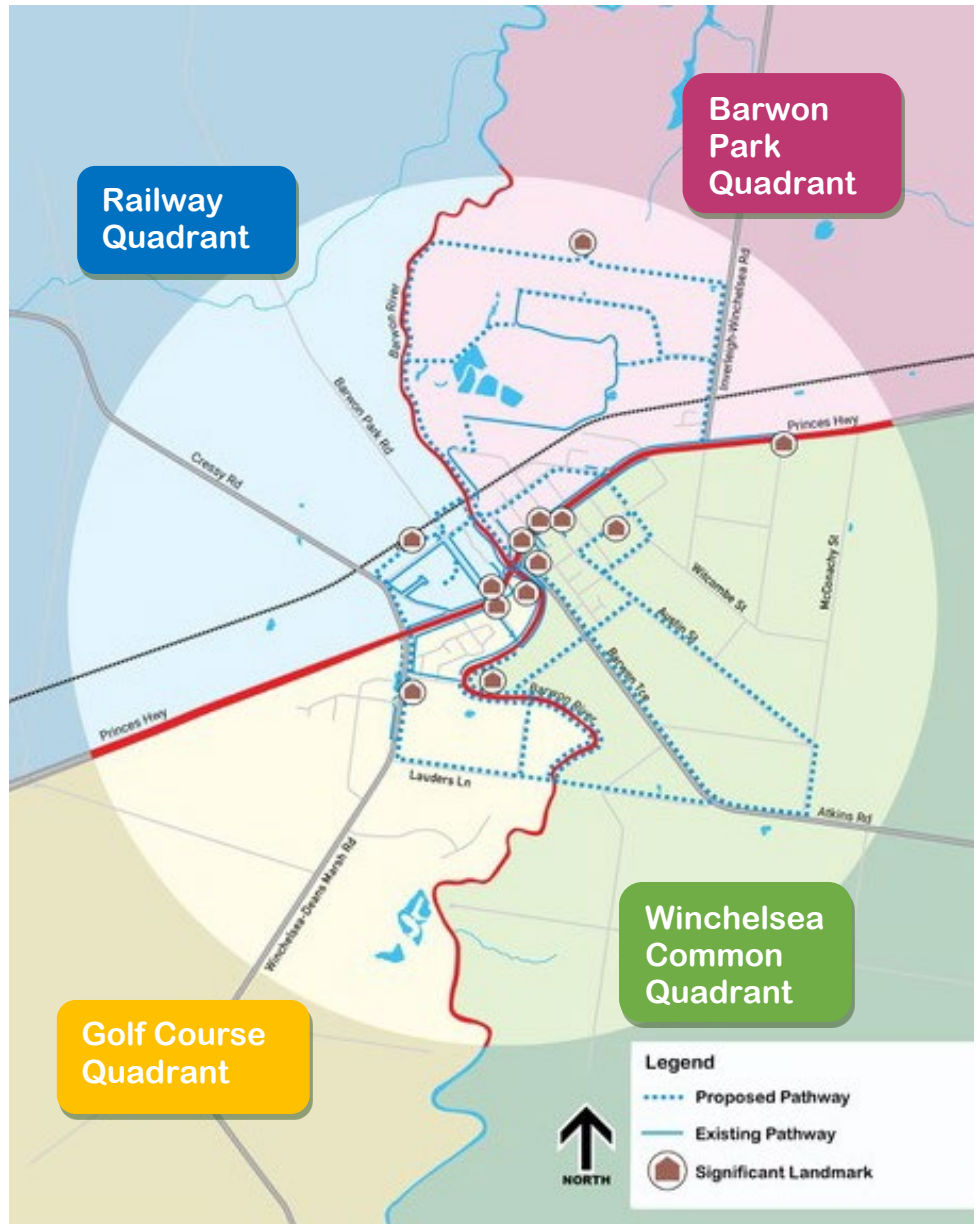
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Where is the Arboretum Trail located?

The Arboretum Trail is designed to be an integral part of the Winchelsea environs, within a 2.5km of the town centre. Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy and experience the benefits of trees and nature everywhere they go. The trail will connect a number of mini arboreta, significant trees, and sites throughout the town. Parts of the trail already exist, and other parts are yet to be constructed. Proposed pathways are subject to further investigation and approvals by Council and other relevant authorities and owners.

Existing and future links to be developed to create the trail



The river trail loop linking all four quadrants will provide easy access and connections along beautifully treed streets, pathways and trails, enhancing health and wellbeing for all.

The four quadrants

Railway quadrant

- Extend current pathway along Gosney Street and Cressy Road, then turning to the right into VicTrack land to access the railway station. This would link the new Riverview Estate to the railway station.
- Link Deans Marsh Road to Cressy Road with a path to access the railway station via VicTrack land (as above). This would link the Golf Course quadrant, incorporating the new Green Estate and future planned adjacent housing estates, and the Primary School, to the railway station.
- A link with Barwon Park Quadrant and the eastern side of the river will be possible with the new pedestrian bridge which is planned to replace Earl's Crossing enabling access across the river all year.

Barwon Park quadrant

- The primary goal is the creation of a link to historic National Trust property Barwon Park Mansion, Barwon Park from the River Loop Trail, which access is currently restricted (see map.)
- Extension of the existing river trail with a path along Cooper Street and east into Sussex Street to link the existing walk, which terminates at Trebeck Court.
- Pathway along Mercer Street and Barkly Street to link with the Winchelsea Common via Witcombe Street.

Golf Course quadrant

- Continuation and extension of the trail along the eastern and western banks of the river is desirable and on the west side of the river there are two existing pathways, that could be linked. However, this link is not currently possible due to title restrictions of a few private properties.
- Installation of a pedestrian bridge over the Barwon River linking Richmonds Lane to Batson Street would extend the River Loop walk and allow residents of the Green Estate and other developments on the west side of Dean's Marsh Road access to the sporting facilities and Winchelsea Common in the east. This would complete a link between the Golf Course and Winchelsea Common quadrants.
- Installation of a path along the northern side of Lauders Lane between Deans Marsh Road and Richmonds Lane is required to provide safe passage for walkers and cyclists.
- Long term, further extension of the Barwon River loop could be achieved with a second pedestrian bridge linking Lauders Lane and Orchards Road.

Winchelsea Common quadrant

- An existing path runs beside the remnants of the Winchelsea Botanic Gardens to ES Guye Reserve.
- A pedestrian bridge linking Batson Street to Richmonds Lane would complete the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail loop, thus linking all four quadrants.
- A path on Witcombe Street would provide a link from Eastern Reserve and Winchelsea Common to the Cemetery via Stephenson and Austin Streets in addition to links to the Barwon Park and Railway Quadrants.

Some of the pathway's described are community-initiated aspirations that are not currently captured in any Council strategic planning documents and would be subject to further investigation and approvals by Council and other relevant authorities and owners.

Where will the mini arboreta be located?

Listed and described below are the key locations around Winchelsea that can be developed into mini arboreta. There are many other opportunities for planting which will be considered for inclusion as the project evolves. In future, it is critical that Growing Winchelsea Inc. work with Surf Coast Shire during the planning phase of all proposed property developments, to ensure sufficient park space is provided for residents of every new development. In addition, the Mini Arboreta should be planned to provide trees, spaces and infrastructure that will attract and engage residents and visitors.

Examples of planned and potential mini arboreta sites



1. Corner Reserve - Mercer and Barkly Streets

Adjacent to the recently planted avenue of trees, funded by the Australian Government under the Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee Program Enhance current planting with local community consultation. *This project was delivered in November 2023 with funding provided by a Stronger Communities Grant, funded by the Australian Government.*



2. Bennett Reserve

Located along the walk to Barwon Park Mansion. Potential to develop into a shady gathering place.



3. Barwon Park

Work with the National Trust to enhance current planting with significant species in harmony with the period of the mansion.



4. Vacant land adjacent to Willis Street

Restore and plant out.



5. Winchelsea Botanic Garden

Research and restoration project- currently run down. Prominent position in central location.



6. ES Guye Reserve

A small reserve that needs enhanced planting.

Planted over sixty years ago.

Opportunity to increase the shade cover of this reserve and to open up the view to the beautiful River Red Gums lining Barwon River.



7. Winchelsea Common

Celebrate and promote the preservation of this natural environment in an urban setting.



8. Winchelsea Cemetery

Work with Geelong Cemeteries Trust.

Revitalising borders and enabling provision of shade.



9. Celebration Tree

Plant a significant tree in the triangle to the north of the area of Pines and Auricarias beside the bluestone bridge. This is near the entry point to what was the original Botanic Garden.



10. Industrial Estate

Opportunity to integrate tree planting as part of the planned expansion of the Winchelsea Industrial Estate, including a treed avenue along Mousley Road, from the eastern entry at Cressy Road and southern entry at Princes Hwy.



11. Hesse Street Reserve Precinct

Currently an underutilised sports reserve which is the second oldest cricket ground in Victoria.

Extend the current oak tree plantings to encircle the reserve.

Install a picket fence to connect with its history.

Establish pathways from the Hesse Rural Health facility to Hesse Street.



12. 25 Armytage Street - vacant land

Former Shire depot.

Adjacent to existing reserve, tennis courts and play equipment.
Ideal location for a mini arboretum.



13. School/Leisuretime Centre Precinct

Work with Winchelsea Primary School to investigate supporting the Valonia Oak (Quercus Ithaburensis) Global Restoration Project.



14. Land at the Winchelsea Railway Station

Opportunity to collaborate with the Winchelsea Station Precinct Group on land currently managed by VicTrack.



15. Hesse Street

Plant green coloured trees to complement the existing cherry plums on Hesse Street between Main Street and Railway Station



16. VicTrack land

Collaborate with the Station Precinct project team to undertake widespread tree planting across all VicTrack land at the Winchelsea Station Precinct

Street tree projects to support the overall concept of Winchelsea as a ‘Tree Town’

The following entry roads have been identified as future treed avenues:

- 1) Eastern Access Princes Highway - Barwon Park and Winchelsea Common Quadrants
- 2) Inverleigh Road - Barwon Park Quadrant
- 3) Barwon Terrace to the cemetery – Winchelsea Common Quadrant
- 4) Western Access Princes Highway - Golf Course and Railway Quadrants
- 5) Deans Marsh Road - Golf Course Quadrant
- 6) Barwon Park Road - Railway Quadrant
- 7) Cressy Road - Railway Quadrant

Princes Highway

The median strips of the Princes Highway in Winchelsea provide an opportunity to significantly enhance the ambience of the town with appropriate planting along the entries to town from the east and the west.



Many streets have been identified for future planting, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Cooper Street north of Bennett Reserve
- 2) Sussex Street between Cooper Street and the Link to the Trail walk
- 3) Witcombe Street
- 4) Stephenson Street -subject to plans for Eastern Reserve extension
- 5) Batson Steet
- 6) Barwon Terrace
- 7) Bennett Street
- 8) Austin and McConachy Streets leading to the Cemetery
- 9) Hesse Street from the highway south to the Barwon River and north to the Railway Station
- 10) Armytage Street

Our priority works

See Appendix 3 for a comprehensive list of projects which have been identified as priorities because they will be quickly achievable, are already funded or will deliver major benefits.

Key features along the Trail



Barwon Park Mansion National Trust of Australia

Barwon Park Mansion is a heritage listed majestic Italianate 42-room mansion, located at 105 Inverleigh Road on the northern outskirts of Winchelsea which is managed by the National Trust. Enhanced by a distinctive cast-iron verandah, an elaborate entry hallway, grand staircase and fine plaster decoration, the two-storey building on completion was the most celebrated mansion house in western Victoria. Built in 1871 by Thomas and Elizabeth Austin for a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh, the mansion grounds feature stables, vegetable gardens, orchards and formal gardens. The original interiors remain largely intact.



Barwon River

The Barwon River in Winchelsea is lined with River Red Gum trees and is bordered by unsealed walking / cycling paths and picnic tables. There is a 1.3 km River Loop walk including a pedestrian bridge at Hesse Street and a boardwalk under the Barwon River Bridge.



Eastern Reserve

Eastern Reserve, located at 70 Hopkins Street, comprises a sports oval with competition standard lighting and a synthetic cricket pitch, two netball courts, cricket practice nets, and a large sports change facility with kiosk and health club gymnasium and meeting rooms. A second oval to the south of the reserve is being planned. This Reserve is home to the Winchelsea football and netball club, cricket club, and the RSL. The Burley Griffin designed grandstand is a significant building on this site. This reserve is a pivotal meeting place in the town for families, sporting groups and community groups and organisations.



River Walk Trail

Extension of River Walk Trail towards Barwon Park Mansion.



Hesse Street Recreation Reserve

Hesse Street Recreation Reserve, located at 51 Hesse Street, features a sports field, lawn bowls, four tennis courts, bicycle / walking paths, picnic tables and a playground. This Reserve is adjacent to the Winchelsea Bowls Club which has one synthetic grass rink.



Winchelsea Cemetery

Located in McConachy Street, the Winchelsea Cemetery was established in 1861 and is managed by the Geelong Cemeteries Trust and features trees and manicured gardens. The Cemetery is positioned on a hill which affords beautiful views to the surrounding countryside.



Winchelsea Common

Located at 72 Willis Street, this nature reserve features passive open space with native plantings, a “natural bush mini-arboretum”. It provides a haven for birds and insects, and it is a high priority to preserve this significant asset in an urban setting. The Common was for years home to the Winchelsea Gun Club and following soil remediation work is now again open to the public with paths enabling a peaceful uplifting experience.



Winchelsea Golf Course

Located in Anderson Street, the Winchelsea Golf Club is a 9-hole course with the iconic “Quarry” hole, a 120 metre par 3 that plays blind over a row of trees into a sunken green in an old bluestone quarry. It features several significant trees, including some wonderful stone pines.



Winchelsea Railway Station

The Winchelsea Railway Station and gardens are currently managed by VicTrack.

Who will benefit from the Arboretum Trail?

Because of its proximity to the town centre the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail will appeal to a broad range of people.



Let's get physical

Walking, jogging / running, and cycling are all listed in the top four physical activities undertaken by adults over 15 years of age in Victoria in 2021 (along with fitness / gym at number two). Bushwalking was listed as the 6th most popular activity⁴.

Each of these activities will be more than adequately catered for on the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail and will provide a much safer and more connected experience to the one that is currently available.

The trail can be undertaken in small or large sections. Its visual appeal, its proximity to the Barwon River, its connection with First Nations Cultural heritage, and its relatively flat off-road walking, jogging / running, and cycling opportunities will encourage use by:

- Tree enthusiasts and nature lovers
- Walkers, joggers, runners, cyclists, and bushwalkers*
- Local dog walkers
- School children will utilise active transport to get to school and sporting facilities, rather than being driven
- Cross-country sport activities
- Local sports clubs who will use the trail to supplement their training
- People with disabilities to explore the 'all abilities' section of the trail
- Visitors to the area to enjoy the trail, the trees, the river, local attractions and to learn about the history of Winchelsea.

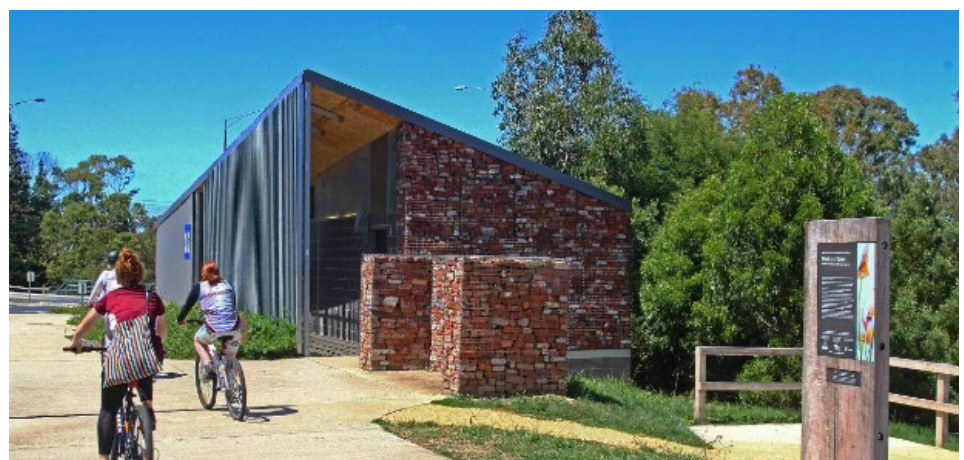
*It is estimated that approximately 4% of visitors to the Surf Coast visit the hinterlands where Winchelsea is located. This equates to approximately 71,300 visitors annually (pre-Covid). Of these, 72% are domestic day visitors (likely to spend around \$84 per person per day), 27% domestic overnight visitors (likely to spend around \$127 per person per day) and 1% international visitors (likely to spend \$111 per person per day).

Local economy

It is expected that the Arboretum Trail will become a major attraction for Winchelsea, increasing visitor numbers and spend, supporting local business and the local economy.

Improved health and wellbeing of the local community

Daily interaction with the treed environment located all around the township will play a part in increasing the health and wellness of the whole community.



⁴. www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au

Community consultation and interest

A comprehensive program of community engagement with key stakeholders has been undertaken, indicating strong community support.

Of the local residents we engaged with in Winchelsea whilst market testing the idea of an arboretum trail, all but one (99%) said that they fully support the development of an arboretum trail, and the majority of these people said that they would definitely use the trail on a regular basis. 100% of the visitors we engaged with also indicated a strong level of interest in walking and cycling the trail, particularly along the Barwon River and to Barwon Park Mansion on their next visit to Winchelsea. See Appendix 4 for more details

Benefits of investing in the Trail

An investment in this project is an investment in the future

Trees play a critical role for people and the planet. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the presence of trees and urban nature can improve people's mental and physical health, children's attention and test scores, the property values in a neighbourhood, and beyond.

Social connections:

- develop friendships with other people they meet along the trail
- take part in voluntary activities to support the trail, thereby developing new social connections
- take part in events along the trail, thereby meeting other participants
- walk or ride along the trail with friends or family members, thereby extending these bonds through the shared experience
- create opportunities for local organisations such as the Cemetery and Barwon Park Mansion to better engage with community members

Health and wellbeing benefits:

- take part in healthy, outdoor physical activity which in turn will help to improve both physical and mental health
- safely take part in walking and cycling along a designated trail (mostly off-road)
- enjoy the positive wellbeing benefits that can be obtained from being immersed in nature
- provide areas for quiet contemplation
- be better connected physically to one another by active transport

Educational benefits:

- enjoy and learn about not only trees that are indigenous to Winchelsea, but also native trees and some of the exotic trees that have been planted throughout the town
- learn about the First Nations and post-settlement history of the Winchelsea area through interpretive signage
- undertake school assignments or university level research based on the Arboretum Trail from its inception, and into the future

Economic benefits:

- make Winchelsea even more appealing to new residents and businesses, thereby creating population growth in the town and encouraging investment
- attract visitors to the area to ride or walk along the trail, thereby bringing external revenue into the community
- create employment opportunities in the food and beverage and accommodation sector
- create trail-related employment, e.g., tour guiding, bicycle hire, bike repairs, etc.
- create temporary employment locally during construction of the trail
- create revenue related to events that are held along the completed trail

Environmental benefits:

- help to provide cooler streets by increasing the tree canopy
- provide opportunities for people to leave the car at home and travel to key destinations via the trail
- prevent erosion in some areas
- provide trees that will absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen for us to breathe
- provide trees which will provide habitat for local wildlife, including kangaroos, wallabies, possums, birds, bees, butterflies and insects
- help to instil in residents a greater love of trees, so that they go on to become environmental stewards for nature and the environment
- enable specific species of trees to be preserved and protected



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

contact us to find out more about the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail project: winchelseaarboretumtrail@gmail.com

Our partners

Who will help us develop, manage, and maintain the arboretum trail?

Numerous partner organisations will be responsible for managing and maintaining the trail, depending on whose jurisdiction each section of the trail falls within. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed to describe the roles and responsibilities of each partner, as well as to identify a consistent maintenance standard across the whole trail.

Organisations responsible for management and maintenance of the trail will be:

- **Growing Winchelsea** – responsible for seeking grants for various aspects of the trail including tree planting and advocating for new pathway links, establishing a friends’ group; working in partnership with organisations such as Winchelsea Land and River Care to plant up sections of the trail; and activating the trail through various events and initiatives.
- **Surf Coast Shire** – responsible for footpaths, off-road paths, on road bike lanes, land management, tree management and maintenance on Council owned or managed land.
- **National Trust Australia**– responsible for managing and maintaining the trails and tree management and maintenance within National Trust land
- **Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Winchelsea Cemetery** – responsible for maintenance within Geelong Cemeteries Trust land
- **Department of Transport** responsible for management and maintenance of some planting of roadsides in areas outside the 60km zone
- **Leaseholders of VicTrack** land to confirm trail development and tree planting within the station precinct.

Other key partners include:

- **Barwon Water**
- **Upper Barwon Landcare Network**
- **DEECA**
- **CCMA**

These groups have all met with Growing Winchelsea and have expressed support for the general principles related to the trail.

A staged approach

When will this Arboretum Trail be developed?

Development of the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail will be a long-term project and will, to some extent, be guided by the receipt of funds through grants and other sources. The trail will be developed in stages in conjunction with the Surf Coast Shire and as funding permits. Proposed pathways will be subject to further investigation and approvals by Council and other relevant authorities and owners.

Discrete projects have been identified to support strategic development of the trail and can be prioritised as funding becomes available. (Refer to the maps of mini-arboreta, streets/avenues). Each project is broken into development stages including specific design work, tree selection and construction permit approval. A good example of this is the completion of the Barkly and Mercer Streets QE II project described earlier.

Project funding

We have identified several sources of funding, including:

- Local government grants
- State government grants
- Federal government grants
- Philanthropic grants
- Environmental grants
- Corporate partnerships
- In-kind support

How will we succeed?

Based on our discussions with stakeholders and members of the community, key factors that will make this trail a success include:

Visual amenity	A visually attractive trail with shady trees and good views of the Barwon River and mini-arboreta
Connectedness	A trail that connects the town's key destinations and mini-arboreta through a continuous network of linked treed pathways, avenues and streets
Safety	A trail on which people feel safe and are separated from cars as much as possible
Key attractions	A trail that incorporates key attractions that visitors want to go to such as the Barwon River and Barwon Park Mansion
Supporting infrastructure	A trail that includes supporting infrastructure to enable an enjoyable experience, e.g. access to toilets, drinking water, shelter, seating, picnic locations, rest stops, bike parking
Surface / gradient	A relatively flat, well-maintained surface
Activation	A trail that encourages people to use through initiatives such as local based events, interpretive information to bring the history of the area alive, etc.
Promotion	A trail that is well promoted via signage, maps, brochures, social media, etc.
Signage	A trail that is well signed, i.e. trail head, directional, interpretive, etc.
Informed planning decisions	Growing Winchelsea will play an important role in supporting the Surf Coast Shire in making decisions relating to treed streets, mini arboreta and safe pathways as the town grows.



How to join us on our journey

If you are interested in helping us develop the detailed planning and costings work, or funding an aspect of the trail itself, please contact us as follows:

Naida C Hutton

Growing Winchelsea Inc.

Arboretum Trail Sub-Committee

Email: winchelseearboretumtrail@gmail.com

Appendices

1. Quadrant Maps:
 - i) Quadrant map – Barwon Park
 - ii) Quadrant map – Railway Station
 - iii) Quadrant map – Golf Course
 - iv) Quadrant map – Winchelsea Common
2. How the plan sits with the Surf Coast Shire's Strategic context
3. Table 1: Priorities
4. Table 2: Consultations undertaken
5. Examples of good wayfinding and signage

Quadrant maps

Barwon Park Quadrant

The northern quadrant, Barwon Park Quadrant, is bounded by the Barwon River to its west and by the Princes Highway to the south. Its northern most edge incorporates Barwon Park Mansion

Railway Quadrant

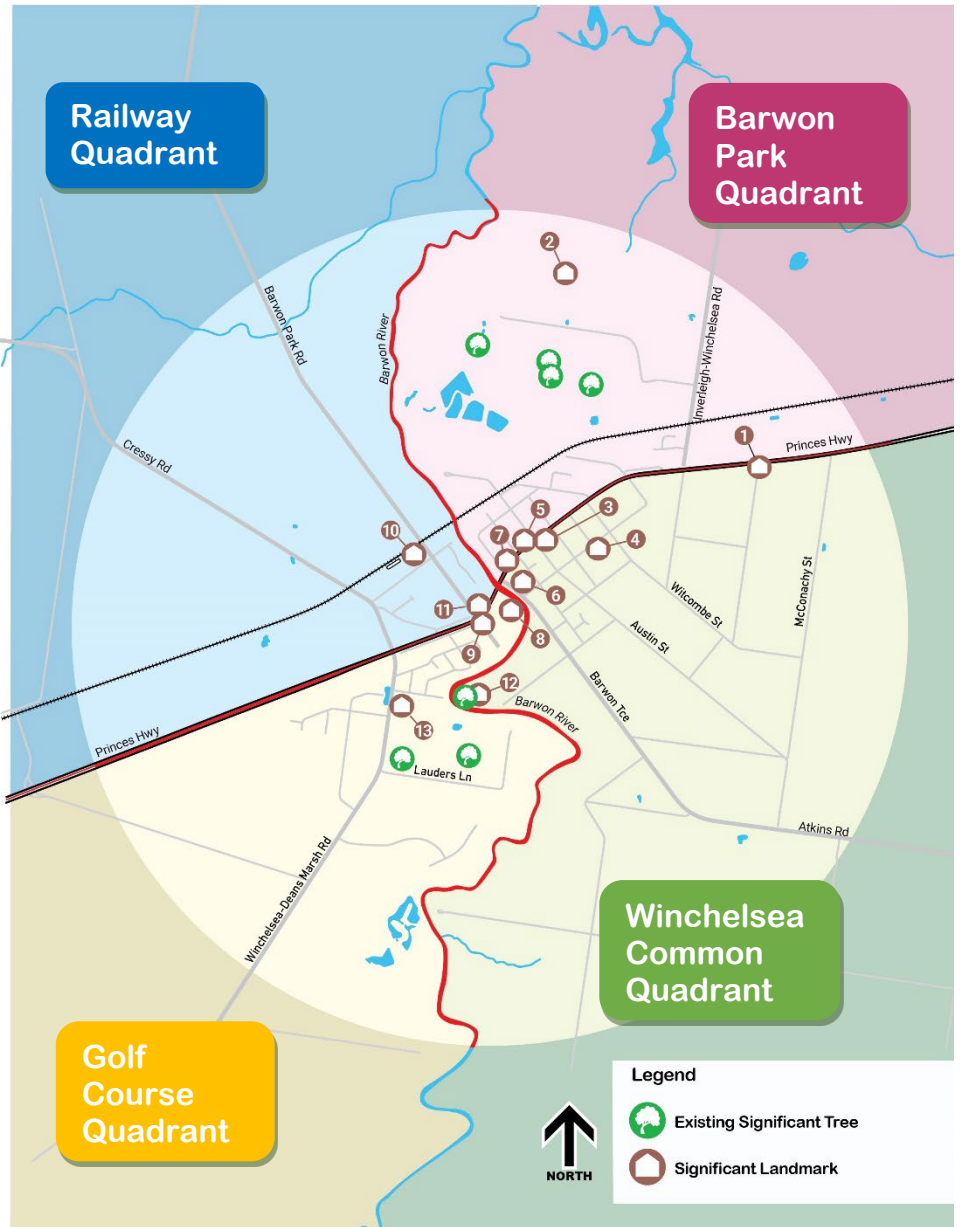
The western quadrant, Railway Quadrant, is bounded by the Barwon River in the east and the Princes Highway in the south. It incorporates the train station and Hesse Street Reserve.

Golf Course Quadrant

The southern quadrant, Golf Course Quadrant, is bounded by the Princes Highway in the north and Barwon River to the east. It features the Winchelsea Golf Club.

Winchelsea Common Quadrant

The eastern quadrant, Winchelsea Common Quadrant, is bounded by the Princes Highway to the north and the Barwon River to the west. It features the Winchelsea Common, Eastern Reserve and the Winchelsea Cemetery.







Significant Landmarks

- 1 300 Year Old Red Gum Tree
- 2 Barwon Park
- 3 Bluestone Shop -Austin Street
- 4 Grandstand
- 5 Globe Theatre
- 6 Winchelsea's First Church
- 7 Information Centre -Library
- 8 Barwon Hotel
- 9 First Bank Building
- 10 Railway Station
- 11 Shire Offices
- 12 Vicarage
- 13 Golf Course

Legend

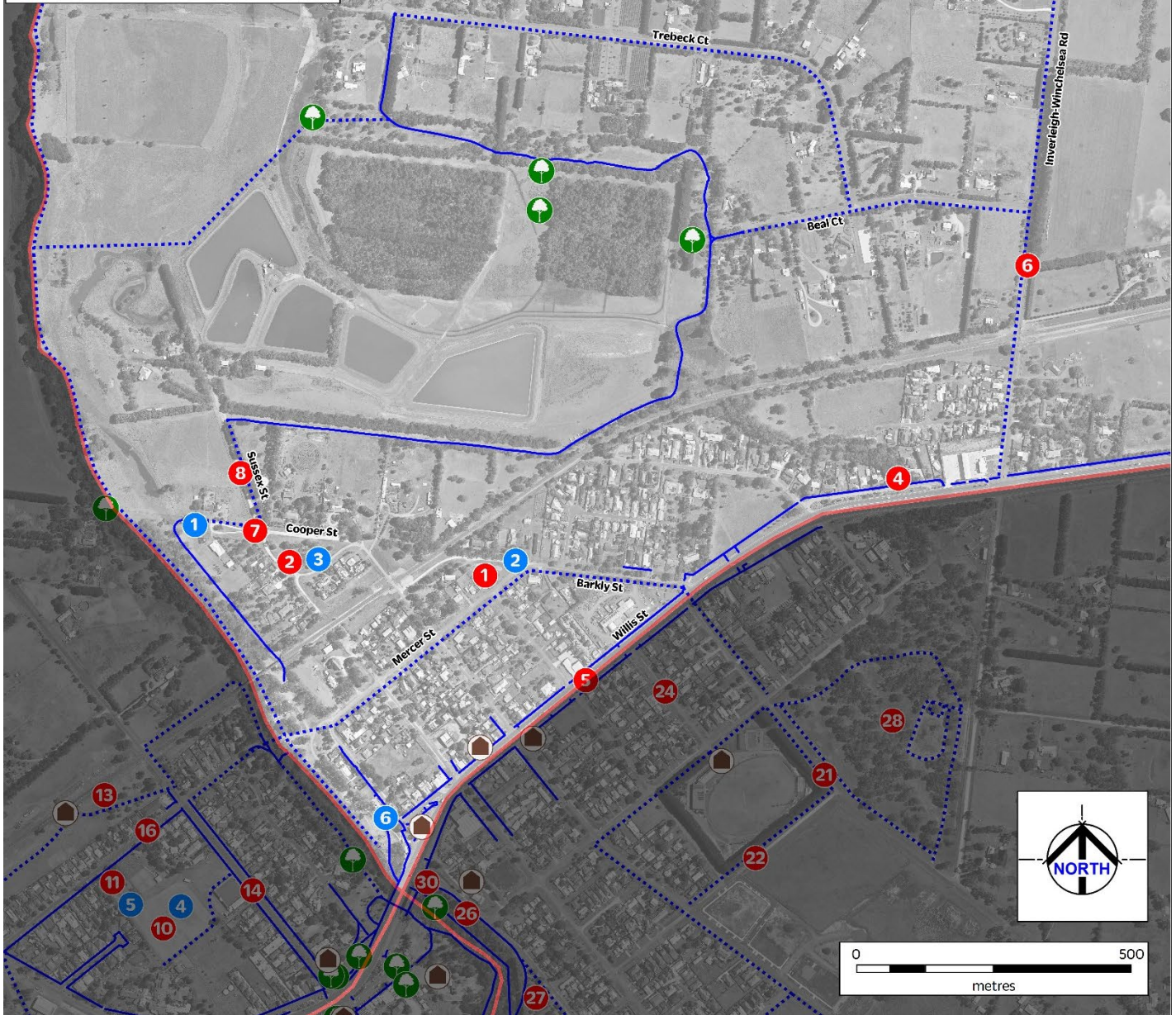
-  Existing Significant Tree
-  Significant Landmark

Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Barwon Park Quadrant

- Legend**
-  Existing Significant Trees
 -  Existing Significant Landmarks
 -  Proposed Pathways
 -  Existing Pathways





- Proposed Planting Sites**
- 1 Plant trees at the reserve on the corner of Mercer & Barkly Streets
Undertake some tree restoration, some tree removals & further planting at Bennett Reserve
 - 2 Work with the National Trust to enhance current planting with significant species in harmony with the period of the mansion
Vacant land adjacent to Willis Street, restore & plant out
 - 3 Princes Highway - Future treed avenue
 - 4 Inverleigh-Winchelsea Road - Future treed avenue
 - 5 Plant trees either side of Cooper Street north of Bennett Reserve
 - 6 Plant trees along the north side of Sussex Street

- Proposed Infrastructure Sites**
- 1 Install seating at the apex of Cooper Street
 - 2 Install seating & table in the park at the corner of Mercer & Barkly Streets
 - 3 Install seating & table in Bennett Reserve
 - 6 Trail Head signage near the Mud Hut



Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Railway Quadrant

Legend

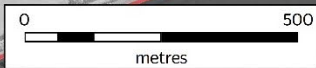
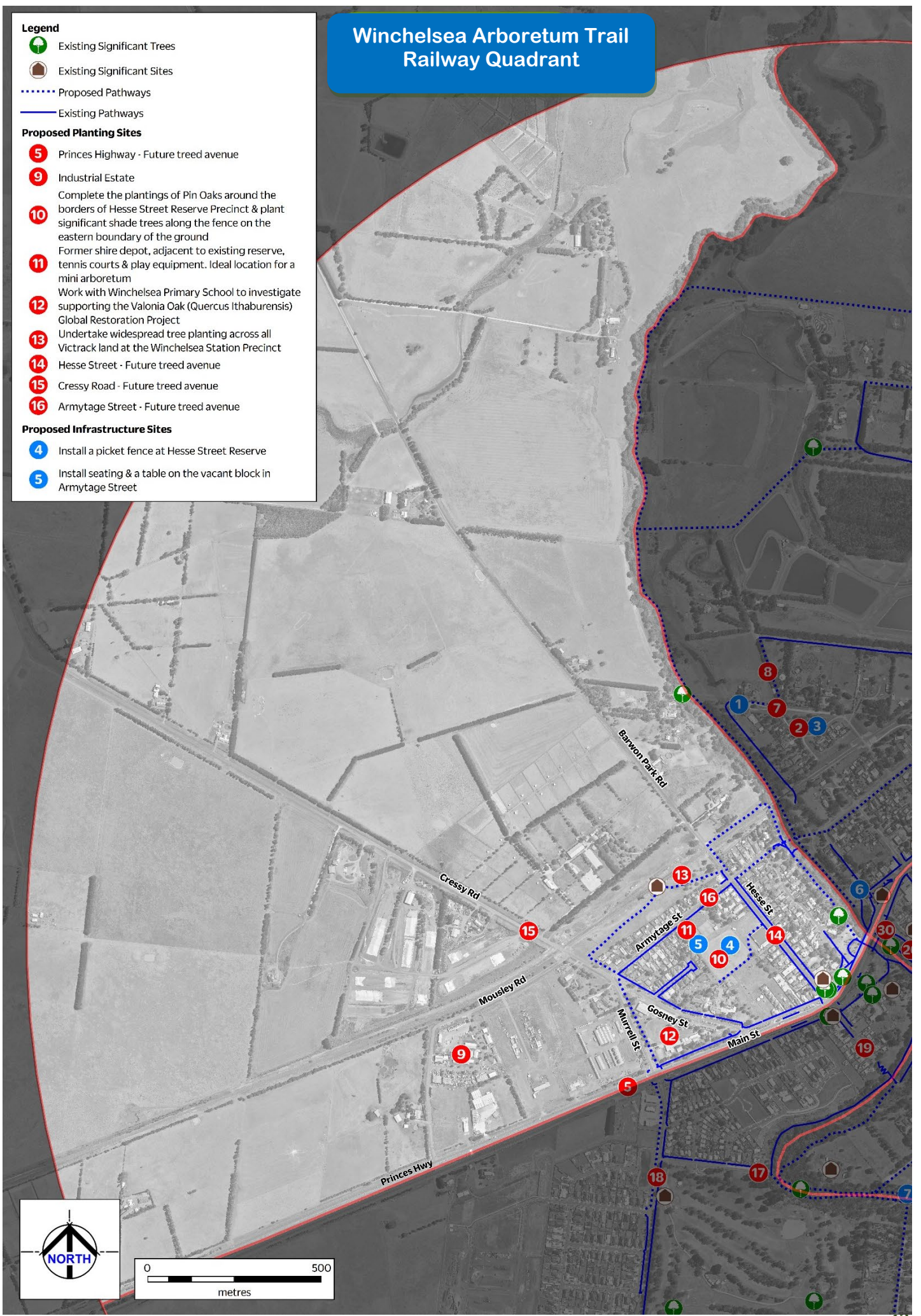
-  Existing Significant Trees
-  Existing Significant Sites
-  Proposed Pathways
-  Existing Pathways

Proposed Planting Sites

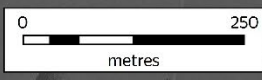
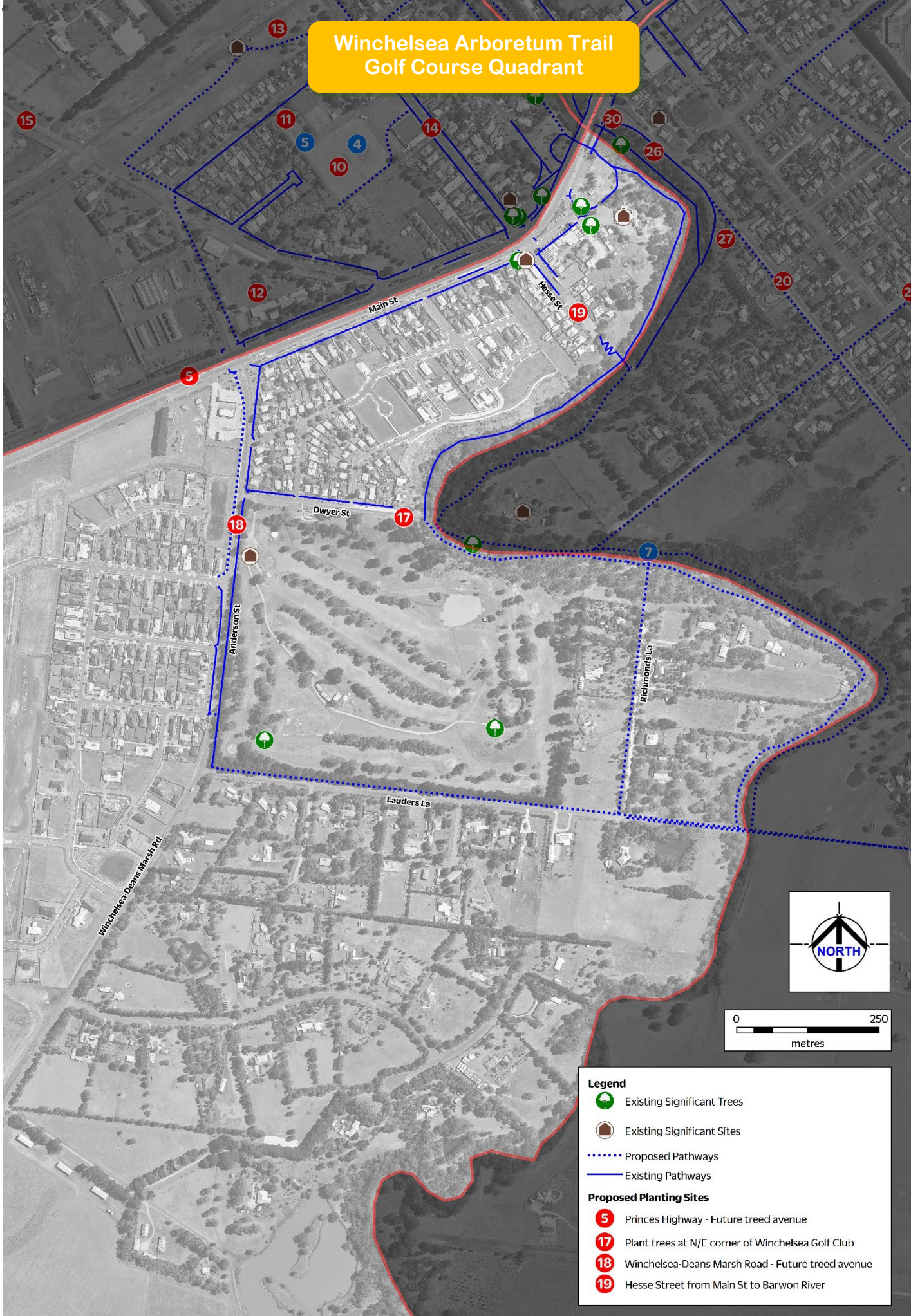
- 5** Princes Highway - Future treed avenue
- 9** Industrial Estate
Complete the plantings of Pin Oaks around the borders of Hesse Street Reserve Precinct & plant significant shade trees along the fence on the eastern boundary of the ground
- 10** Former shire depot, adjacent to existing reserve, tennis courts & play equipment. Ideal location for a mini arboretum
- 11** Work with Winchelsea Primary School to investigate supporting the Valonia Oak (*Quercus lthaburensis*) Global Restoration Project
- 13** Undertake widespread tree planting across all Victrack land at the Winchelsea Station Precinct
- 14** Hesse Street - Future treed avenue
- 15** Cressy Road - Future treed avenue
- 16** Armytage Street - Future treed avenue

Proposed Infrastructure Sites

- 4** Install a picket fence at Hesse Street Reserve
- 5** Install seating & a table on the vacant block in Armytage Street

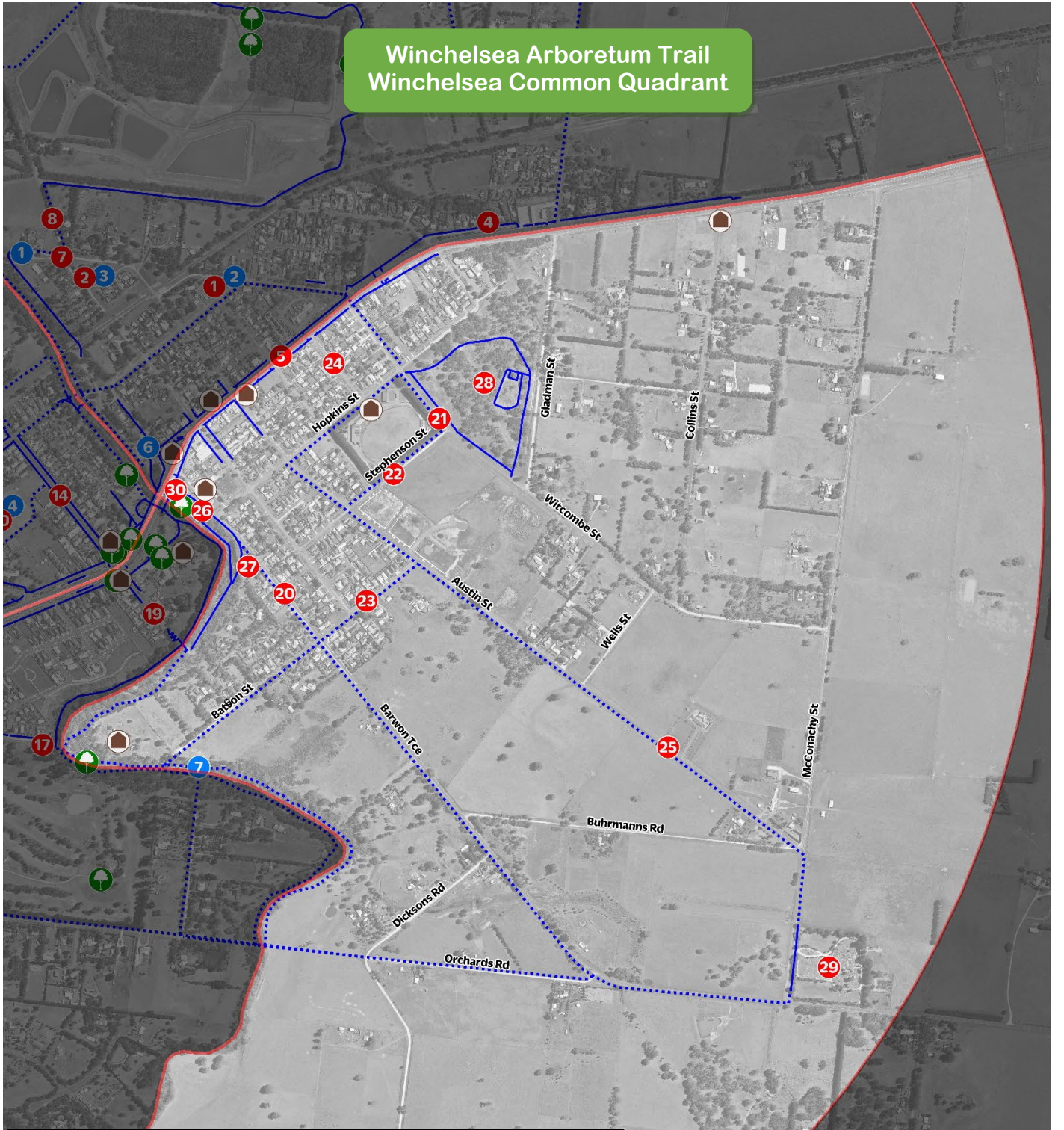


Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Golf Course Quadrant







- Legend**
- Existing Significant Trees
 - Existing Significant Sites
 - Proposed Pathways
 - Existing Pathways
- Proposed Planting Sites**
- 5** Princes Highway - Future treed avenue
 - 7** Plant trees at N/E corner of Winchelsea Golf Club
 - 18** Winchelsea-Deans Marsh Road - Future treed avenue
 - 19** Hesse Street from Main St to Barwon River

Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Winchelsea Common Quadrant



Legend

-  Existing Significant Trees
-  Existing Significant Sites
-  Proposed Pathways
-  Existing Pathways

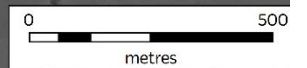
Proposed Planting Sites

- 5** Princes Highway - Future treed
- 20** Barwon Terrace to Cemetery - Future treed
- 21** Witcombe Street - Future planting site
- 22** Stephenson Street - Future planting site
- 23** Batson Street - Future planting site
- 24** Bennett Street - Future planting site
- 25** Austin Street - Future planting site

- 26** Research & restoration project - currently run down. Prominent position in central location. Remove the hedge of conifers at Guye Reserve to open up the views, undertake further tree plantings & contract an arborist to undertake necessary works
- 27** Remove the hedge of conifers at Guye Reserve to open up the views, undertake further tree plantings & contract an arborist to undertake necessary works
- 28** Winchelsea Common
- 29** Winchelsea Cemetery
- 30** Plant a significant tree in the triangle to the north of the area of Pines & Auricarias beside the bluestone bridge

Proposed Infrastructure Sites

- 7** Install Pedestrian & Cycling Bridge



2. Strategic context

How does this trail fit within Surf Coast Shire's strategy?

Surf Coast Shire has a number of strategic planning documents that support the development of the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail. The Surf Coast Shire Council Plan 2021-2025, which provides an overall vision for the municipality, incorporates six relevant strategies:

1. Facilitate the provision of social infrastructure and open space to enable healthy lifestyles
2. Make it easier for people to move around our towns and in nature without relying on cars
3. Protect significant habitats, landscapes, and biodiversity
4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the impacts of climate change
5. Protect heritage and township character
6. Support tourism and events that encourage people to stay longer and appreciate and care for this place

Other strategies of relevance include:

- Winchelsea Townscape Study 1995 – notes that in 1995 there was some provision of shared footways and cycle tracks and several ‘goat tracks’ along the river edge. It also notes the type of trees that have been planted in Winchelsea and recommendations for future plantings
- Winchelsea Structure Plan 2021 – recommends that a master plan be prepared for the Barwon River precinct within the town boundaries
- Surf Coast Shire Pathways Strategy 2012 – identifies potential new paths to be developed in Winchelsea which link to key destinations such as Barwon River, Barwon Park Mansion, Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea Common and Winchelsea Golf Course
- Growing Winchelsea 2015 – notes the vision for Winchelsea as: Winchelsea is a welcoming and thriving township with a rich cultural heritage and country village feel. The residents of Winchelsea benefit from a full range of activities and access to learning, employment, civic and cultural experiences, whilst living in a place that has a strong connection to the beautiful Barwon River and rural hinterland
- Streetscape and Landscape Policy of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme 2018 – notes the need to provide connected, safe, pleasant, and attractive walking and cycling networks that enable and promote walking and cycling as part of daily life
- Winchelsea Integrated Water Management Plan 2019 - notes that the development of the Barwon River Loop Walk, (part of the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail), is the top ranked community idea, and that to become a genuine loop, the existing gravel trail needs several key connections and enhancements, particularly under the bridge on the east bank, across the river at the river end of Hesse Street and at the low-level crossing at Armytage Street. Note that this this loop now has a bridge across the river at the end of Hesse St. It also has a boardwalk which permits walking under the bluestone bridge at the east end, connecting the walks on the north and south side of the bridge at that east end. It is anticipated that Council will develop a river crossing at Armytage Street, near the site of Earl’s crossing. This bridge will replace a much older bridge that was washed away. Another feature of this plan is the community interest in developing an Arboretum
- Rural Hinterland Futures Strategy 2019 – incorporates a recommendation about encouraging the development of tourism products in the hinterland (Winchelsea, Moriac and Deans Marsh) which provide low-impact outdoor recreation activities such as cycling. Regional significance - an arboretum trail also has great synergies with the G21 (Geelong Region Alliance) pillars – Arts Heritage & Culture, Economic Development, Environment, Health & Wellbeing, Sport & Recreation, Transport, Planning & Services, Education & Training.

3. Our priority works

Development of the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail will be a long-term project and will to some extent be guided by the receipt of funds through grants and other sources. The trail will be developed in stages in conjunction with the Surf Coast Shire and as funding permits.

Discrete projects have been identified to support strategic development of the trail and can be prioritised as funding becomes available. (Refer to the maps of mini-arboreta, streets/avenues). Each project is broken into development stages including specific design work, tree selection and construction permit approval. A good example of this is the completion of the Barkly and Mercer Streets QE II project described earlier.

Key:

Quadrant:

Golf Course	GC
Railway	RW
Barwon Park	BP
Winchelsea Common	WC

Timeframe

Quick win	1-12 months
Short term	1-3 years
Medium term	4-7 years
Long term	8+ years

The following tables identify the priority projects.

Trail	Planting	Infrastructure	Road crossing
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Trail project	Rationale	Partners	Priority	Q	Location	Timeframe
Pathway from the new Estates on Western side of Dean’s Marsh Road, (Anderson Street) along the northern side of Lauders Lane and Richmonds Lane, across a new foot and cycle bridge to link with Batson Street and then onto the Eastern Reserve, via Austin and Hopkins Streets.	To create a walking, cycling link for children and families to Eastern Reserve and the Winchelsea Common.	Surf Coast Shire	High	GC	Pg 26	Long term
Develop a Barwon River Trail link between Winchelsea and Barwon Park Mansion.	To create an important link for walkers, cyclists, key attraction to the town for visitors and an exercise trail for residents.	To be identified	High	BP	Pg 24	Medium term
Installation of a path along the northern side of Lauders Lane, between Deans Marsh Road and Richmonds Lane.	To provide safe passage for walkers and cyclists.	To be identified	Medium	GC	Pg 26	Medium term
Develop a footpath along the western side of Dean’s Marsh Road (Anderson Street) from the Housing Estates to Princes Highway.	To enable school children to get to school safely.	To be identified	Medium	GC	Pg 26	Short term
Develop a pathway from the Hesse Rural Health facility to Hesse Street via the boundary of Hesse Reserve.	To provide a tree lined walk with shade trees around an historic sports ground.	To be identified	Medium	RW	Pg 25	Short term
Construct a pathway along Stephenson Street between Witcombe and Austin Streets.	To link the Winchelsea Common Quadrant with the Golf Course Quadrant via Batson Street, a new foot bridge and onto Richmond and Lauders Lanes.	To be identified	Medium	BP	Pg 27	Medium term
Develop a link between the Winchelsea Railway Station and Mercer Street, via Armytage Street and the new foot and cycle bridge which will cross the Barwon River.	To link the Winchelsea Station Quadrant and the Common Quadrant via Mercer, Barkly and Whitcombe Streets, and Winchelsea Station Quadrant and Barwon Park Quadrant via the trail to Trebeck Court.	To be identified	Medium	RW	Pg 24/25	Medium term
Extend the pathway along Gosney Street to the Railway land.	To provide a safe walking and cycling path to and from Winchelsea Station.	To be identified	Medium	RW	Pg 25	Medium term
Develop a pathway offshoot from existing path between Winchelsea and Trebeck Court and across to the site at the top of the hill bordering the Barwon River flood plain.	To enable beautiful views of the Barwon River and its riverbank trees and the lagoon.	To be identified	Medium	BP	Pg 24	Medium term

Tree planting project	Rationale	Partners	Priority	Q	Location	Timeframe
Plant trees either side of Cooper Street north of Bennett Reserve, and extend the planting along the north side of Sussex Street between Cooper St and the pathway running along the western boundary of the Barwon Water Reclamation plant.	To provide a beautiful avenue which takes the eye to the Barwon River and riverbank trees beyond, and enhance wayfinding due to same species planting, and to continue the line of trees of Cooper Street, creating a link between Napthine Reserve and the remainder of the trail to Barwon Park Mansion.	To be identified	High	BP	Pg 24 #7 / #8	Completed
Plant trees at the reserve on the corner of Mercer and Barkly Streets.	To create a mini arboretum.	To be identified	High	BP	Pg 24 #1	Completed
Work with Winchelsea Primary School to investigate supporting the Valonia Oak (Quercus lthaburensis) Global Restoration Project.	To contribute to the project and raise the profile of Winchelsea as a Tree Town.	Dept of Education	High	RW	Pg 25 #12	In progress
Undertake some tree restoration, some tree removals and further planting at Bennett Reserve.	To enhance Bennett Reserve and provide connection with the trail by planting the same species as those in neighbouring streets .	To be identified	Medium	BP	Pg 24 #2	Short term
Complete the circumferential planting of Pin Oaks around the borders of Hesse Street Reserve Precinct and plant significant shade trees along the fence on the eastern boundary of the ground.	To provide shade, beauty, and protection from the sun on hot days.	To be identified	Medium	RW	Pg 25 #10	Short term
Remove the hedge of conifers at ES Guye Reserve to open up the views; undertake further tree plantings; and contract an arborist to undertake necessary works.	To enable a beautiful view of the River Red Gum trees on the Barwon River by removing the conifers that are in poor condition.	To be identified	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #27	Short term
Plant a significant tree in the vacant triangle of land to the north of the area of Pines and Auricarias, beside the bluestone bridge.	To provide both an interesting entry to the eastern side of town and double as the tree to commemorate festivities, such as Christmas.	To be identified	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #30	Short term
Convert the vacant block in Armytage Street, (previously a SCS council depot), into a mini arboretum.	To complement the Hesse Street Reserve by providing a beautiful, treed park adjacent to the playground and tennis courts.	To be identified	Medium	RS	Pg 25 #11	Short term
Restore the avenue planting in Bennett Street relating to the story of Winchelsea RSL.	To provide a beautiful avenue leading to the memorial Eastern Reserve gates.	To be identified	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #24	Completed
Undertake tree planting in Austin Street.	To enhance this wide street, which would benefit from avenue planting along its length.	To be identified	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #25	Short term
Retain, protect and restore the existing Canariensis Pines and the Auricarias on the Eastern side of the Barwon River, opposite St Thomas' Anglican Church and remove the Pinus Radiata in this vicinity.	To reflect the history of the town.	To be identified	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #26	Medium term
Replace trees on Hesse Street as part of the Winchelsea Greening and Stormwater Treatment project.	Consult with SCS project team about choice of suitable trees.	Surf Coast Shire	Medium	RW	Pg 25 #14	In progress
Plant trees at the north-eastern corner of the Winchelsea Golf Club land.	To enhance this existing tree plantings on this large area of vacant land.	Winchelsea Golf Club	Medium	GC	Pg 26 #17	Medium term
Create avenues on the eastern and western median strips in town.	To provide visual impact, and advance the concept of Winchelsea as a tree town.	To be identified	Medium	ALL	Pg 25 #5	Long term

Tree planting project	Rationale	Partners	Priority	Q	Location	Timeframe
Undertake wide-spread tree planting across all VicTrack land at the Winchelsea Station Precinct.	To provide a beautiful, treed area welcoming visitors to the town.	To be identified	Medium	RW	Pg 25 #13	Long term
Vacant land adjacent to Willis Street	To restore and plant out.	To be identified	Low	BP	Pg 24 #4	Long term
Work with National Trust	Enhance planting at Barwon Park Mansion	National Trust	Medium	BP	Pg 24 #3	Medium term
Inverleigh – Winchelsea Road - future treed avenue.	To provide a beautiful, treed area welcoming visitors to the town.	VicRoads	Low	BP	Pg 24 #6	Long term
Industrial Estate	Beautification of this industrial area to connect it visually to the township	SCS	High	RW	Pg 25 #9	Medium term
West Armytage Street – future treed avenue	Visual connection linking the Railway precinct to the Winchelsea Common across the river	SCS and DeEEC	High	RW	Pg 25 #16	Short term
Winchelsea – Deans Marsh Road – future treed avenue.	To provide a beautiful, treed area welcoming visitors to the town.	SCS And VicRoads	Low	GC	Pg 29 #18	Long term
Hesse Street from Main Street to Barwon River		DEECA and SCS	High	GC	Pg 26 #19	In progress
Barwon Terrace to cemetery.	To provide a beautiful, treed avenue welcoming visitors to the town and provision of shaded trail.	SCS and VicRoads	Medium	WC	Pg 27 #20	Long term
Witcombe Street	Visual connection linking the Railway precinct to the Winchelsea Common			WC	Pg 27 #21	
Stephenson Street	Subject to planning approvals and future use strategy.	SCS	Medium	WC	#22	Medium term
Batson Street	Connection between Eastern Reserve and housing estates on Deans Marsh Road.	SCS	High	WC	#23	Medium term
Winchelsea Common	Celebrate and promote the preservation of this natural environment in an urban setting.	DEECA	Ongoing	WC	#28	Ongoing
Winchelsea Cemetery	This is a bike ride destination. Work with Geelong Cemetery Trust revitalising borders and adding shade.	GCT	High	WC	#29	Short term
Infrastructure project	Rationale	Partners	Priority	Q	Location	Timeframe
Install trail head signage and interpretative signage at existing significant arborea sites.	To create awareness which can be updated as the trail develops.	Surf Coast Shire	High	ALL	TBD	Short term
Install seating at the apex of Cooper Street.	To enable views of the Barwon River.	To be identified	High	BP	Pg 24 #1	Short term
Install seating and table in the park at the corner of Mercer and Barkly Streets.	To provide a comfortable environment to enjoy the ambience of the reserve, encourage neighbouring property owners to come together/gather, enjoy the space, and strengthen community connectedness.	To be identified	High	BP	Pg 24 #2	Completed
Install suitable infrastructure for cyclists at strategic locations along the trail -eg Cemetery, Barwon Park Mansion, Railway Station.	To encourage cyclists to use the trail by providing secure bike storage and rest areas at key locations.	To be identified	High	ALL	All	Medium term
Install seating and a table in Bennett Reserve.	To entice walkers and others to sit and enjoy the ambience of the surroundings and to encourage neighbouring property owners to come together/gather, enjoy the space, and strengthen community connectedness.	To be identified	Medium		Pg 24 #3	Short term



Install seating and a table on the vacant block in Armytage Street.	To entice walkers and others to sit and enjoy the ambience of the surroundings, and to provide a shady spot for tennis players and residents.	To be identified	Medium	RS	Pg 25 #5	Short term
Install a picket fence at Hesse Reserve.	To reflect the history of the precinct.	To be identified	Low	RS	Pg 25 #4	Long term
Trail head signage at the Mud Hut	First installation point for signage system	SCS	High	BP	Pg 26 #6	Short term
Install a pedestrian and cycling bridge linking Batson Street with Richmonds Lane	Provide pedestrian and cycling connection between the western side of Deans Marsh Road and the sporting precinct at Eastern Reserve.			WC / GC	Pg 27 #7	Medium term
Road crossing project	Rationale	Partners	Priority	Q	Location	Timeframe
Develop a pedestrian crossing over Princes Highway from Barkly to Witcombe Streets.	To safely link the Barwon Park and Railway Station Quadrants with the Common.	To be identified	High	BP/RS	Pg 24 /27	Medium term
Develop a pedestrian crossing across Dean's Marsh Road (Anderson Street) to Lauders Lane.	To provide safe pathway to Eastern Reserve via a new foot and cycle bridge between Richmonds Lane and Batson Street.	To be identified	Medium	GC	Pg 29	Medium term

4. Key consultations 2021 - 2023

When	Organisation	Details
May 2021	Barwon Water, The National Trust, Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Landcare, Surf Coast Shire Councillors and Officers, Upper Barwon Landcare Management Authority, Corangamite Financial Services and Growing Winchelsea representatives	Meeting at Barwon Park with representatives from these groups to outline the purpose and goals of the Arboretum Trail, and to facilitate the sharing of information between the groups.
9 April 2022	Winchelsea Community and visitors	Street Pop up in Winchelsea main shopping precinct to gauge community interest in the Arboretum Trail on 9 April 2022.
23 April 2022	Residents of the new housing estate on Dean's Marsh Road	Pop-up displaying Arboretum Trail posters and fielding queries, positive response, 23 April.
20 June 2022	Geelong Cemeteries Trust	To discuss future collaboration with regard to tree planting. Masterplan of the Winchelsea cemetery will be sent.
July 2022 September 2022 November 2022	Winchelsea Primary School	To outline to Simon O'Brien, Principal of the Winchelsea Primary School, the Vision of the Arboretum Trail, to discuss ways in which the children might be involved in the overall Project and in the QEII Platinum Jubilee Project and to find other avenues for collaboration.
17 October 2022	Wadawurrung	To listen to the Indigenous stories about the importance of the river and the trees, and to explain the place making aspects of the Trail.
4 September 2022 2 October 2022 5 March 2023	Winchelsea Community and visitors	Poster presentations at the Winchelsea Market in 2022, 4 September, 2 October and 5 March 2023 and ongoing.
Throughout 2022	Landcare, Probus	Presentations of the purpose of the Arboretum Trail and its progress to date were made to Landcare and Probus and were well received.
14 June 2022	Surf Coast Shire	SCS Community Briefing meeting at SCS offices attended by Wendy Holland, Libby Russell and Naida Hutton. The Powerpoint presentation was well received. Surf Coast Shire councillors and Officers were in attendance. Feedback from this meeting was positive.
21 October 2022	Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Meeting between Tim Entwisle, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, and Libby Russell and Naida Hutton. This meeting was an opportunity to describe the Arboretum Trail, its goals and intentions, and to seek advice from Tim on his thoughts on the project. The meeting was well received, and Tim committed to visit Winchelsea at some point in the future.
2 December 2022	Winchelsea Community and Representatives of many Key local organisations and external partner organisations	Opening of QEII tree planting and rock unveiling by Andrew Laidlaw, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and afternoon tea celebration in the Shire Hall.
7 December 2022	Barwon Water	Meeting with Nicole Sexton, Manager Sustainability and Healthy Country, Barwon Water, to outline our needs in relation to gaining access across private land between Trebeck Court and Barwon Park Mansion and to determine if there are any ways in which Barwon Water might assist. Nicole agreed to follow up.
24 February 2023	Winchelsea Community and visitors	Hosted a stall in the Winchelsea EXPO in the Winchelsea Shire Hall.
15 February 2023	Wadawurrung	Meeting with Corinna Eccles from Wadawurrung -Traditional Owners of the land to the east of the Barwon River, attended by Nicky Angus, SCS, Naida Hutton and Libby Russell, Arboretum Trail. Purpose was deep listening -reflecting about the Wadawurrung connection to land, water and community and to understand their perspective on the importance of trees and the river and to hear some of their stories associated with the land. Also discussed were some proposed collaboration projects eg signage, artworks, plantings.
27 February 2023	Hesse Rural Health	Sue Ryan, Director Community Services and Hannah Walker, Health Promotions Officer, to explain the Vision of the Arboretum Trail and to discuss the possibility of HRH auspicing the WAT to fundraise as HRH has Deductible Gift Recipient Status.
1 March 2023	Men's Shed	Presentation of the purpose of the Arboretum Trail and its progress to date was made to the Men's Shed and was well received. Discussion with the Men's Shed - regarding partnering to build tables for the various locations around the trail.

5. Examples of good wayfinding and interpretive signage

