

BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ART SITES AND THEMES PLAN 2014 – 2024



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INTRODUCTION

Public Art has the ability to enhance the experience of a place, representing a community's connections to place through their collective stories of specific places and events. Potentially, some artworks have the power to become a local icon and draw travellers and visitors, known as cultural tourists to experience more than a just fleeting impression, but be informed of deeper connections and grow in understanding and appreciation of a place and its people.

Art in Public Places attract people to the Shire, promoting cultural tourism and increasing business activity and in particular creates an environment where creative people choose to live and work in the region, thus increasing the capacity of innovation and development of skills critical to industries.

The Public Art Sites and Themes Plan is designed to expand on the Strategy for Art in Public Places adopted in 2005 in line with the Council Plan and the Art & Culture Policy vision and objectives. The Plan is designed to set a direction for the Bass Coast in the planning of public art projects over the next five to ten years. Future development of these themes and commissioning processes will consider how the communities will be kept involved or informed about development of these public art projects.

Council Plan's Vision and Mission

Bass Coast Shire will be recognised as a unique place of environmental significance where our quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth.

The mission is to take a leading role in partnership with other levels of government, businesses, community groups and individuals to make our community's vision a reality.

Council Art & Culture Policy - Strategic Key Objectives

- Key Objective 1: Promote the importance of arts and cultural activities in improving the health and wellbeing of communities
- Key Objective 2: Strengthen Council's leadership and commitment to the value of arts and culture to building community capacity.
- Key Objective 3: Recognise the value of providing appropriate art and cultural infrastructure as a demonstration of the value of life-long learning and to enhance the attractiveness of the area.
- Key Objective 4: Demonstrate the importance of cultural and heritage identity to community connectedness.
- Key Objective 5: Recognise the contribution of art and culture to the creation of economic prosperity.
- Key Objective 6: Recognise the importance of the relationship between art and our natural environment.

Public Art Reference Committee (PARC)

The Public Art Reference Committee (PARC) is a special committee of Council appointed under the Local Government Act Section 86 and is now in its third term.

Members provide a broad range of advice on proposed artists and artists' concept proposals; inform the selection of possible sites and recommendations for public art in Bass Coast and identify opportunities for further Public Art funding.

Guiding Principles

The Public Art Reference Committee determined the following guiding principles for the selection or commissioning of public artworks:

The Artwork shall:

1. Make a contribution to the cultural life and identity of the area.
2. Support and create opportunities for artists.
3. Contribute a creative element to the built and natural environment.
4. Enhance the visual quality of a development or place.
5. Consider the historical and cultural significance of the site.
6. Be sensitive to community values and expectations.
7. Stimulate social interaction and community celebration.
8. Consider access for all.
9. Respond to the site and location
10. Be of suitable materials and construction to be in a public space for the duration of the artwork.
11. The proposal must meet all statutory and implied requirements including meeting appropriate health and safety standards.

Existing Bass Coast Public Artworks

ARTWORK	ARTIST	PLACEMENT	DATE
Today and the Future	Victoria Nelson	Grantville and District Park	October 2008
Shaft	Shane Cargill	Wonthaggi Centennial Centre	May 2012
Seam	Shane Cargill	Wonthaggi Centennial Centre	May 2012
Harmony Bells	Dr Anton Hasell	Cowes Town Square	September 2012
Wave and Wind Sculptured Seat	David Fincher	Cowes Town Square	September 2012
Maregold Sculptured Seat	David Fincher	Cowes Town Square	September 2012
Bronzed Yarns	David Murphy	Coronet Bay Foreshore Reserve	December 2013 – March 2014

Community Consultation Methodology – Memories, Markers and Mapping - *In[SITE]ful Conversations*

Council have identified the need for a Public Art Sites and Themes Plan that will identify through community consultations the exact location and themes for a public artwork project in readiness for the expression of interest for the artist brief and the expenditure of the capital funding in the budgeted year.

Community consultations **'In[SITE]ful Conversations'** engaged with residents from each Bass Coast township in a two way discussion about the suitable placement of future public artworks [*permanent or temporary*] and explore their potential themes.

The conversation begins with how public art is viewed from differing perspectives:

- Travellers - Fleeting impressions
- Visitors - Compelling impressions
- Residents - Collective memories/imprints

Acknowledging that residents have a deeper connection to place and it is this inherent knowledge and their collective memories that are imprints of their community and township, as opposed to travellers and visitors experiencing varying degrees of impressions according to how long they spend time in places.

The objectives for the first community meeting was to establish the initial selection of sites and preliminary links of key concept themes for their public artwork/s.

A workshop was held at the second meeting designed to provide a hands-on experience of working and thinking creatively through drawing and expressing their sense of place and belonging. During this creative activity the conversations were guided to firming up their selection of the most suitable future public art placement and linking key themes. Their collective written and creative expressions will further inform the Public Art Artist Brief document pertaining specifically to each township.

Recommended Public Artworks for Kilcunda

Major Artwork – 'VIADUCTS' Connecting Rail, Mining, Farming + Sea

A Major Artwork is proposed for the Old Railway Station site located on the ocean side of the main road through Kilcunda opposite the CFA and Community Hall.

The key themes relate to Kilcunda being a three aspect town, which draws its life from the beautiful yet rugged environment; its varied coal mining history and generations of the farming community. This is supported and underpinned by the community's access to railways and via the bridges and viaducts to the greater world, the means by which supplies came in and coal product and farming produce were taken out. The beach has always been a meeting place for the families and the community through all generations.

Temporary Artwork – 'SOUTHERN ROCK LOBSTER'

A temporary artwork referencing the structural elements of nets and lobster being caught in abundance along the coast below the Car Park where the Lobster Festival is held annually in February i.e. Flag poles and Banners designed with the Southern Rock Lobster theme.

Integrating Artworks – TIMBER SEATS

Five carved wooden seats with site specific themes reflecting the community's collective memories and imprints providing a thematic approach that wraps Kilcunda's Foreshore.

1. **'Mining & Train' Seat** at the site of Railway Station at the junction of the Rail Trail and George Bass Walk.
2. **'Winds of Kilcunda' Seat** on the George Bass Walk on the way to Shelley Beach where the view of Kilcunda coastline is magnificent.
3. **'Marine & Bird Life' Seat** referencing skeletal forms of local marine life found on the beach [cuttlefish, sea urchins, kelp pods] and birds [shearwaters] at the entry site of the Caravan Park.
4. **'Learn to Float, Swim & Surf' Seat** referencing the rock pool, lagoon and surf where children through the generations learnt how to float, swim and surf below the Foreshore Reserve Park.
5. **'Trestle Bridge' Seat** referencing the architectural elements of the Trestle Bridge.

Recommended Public Artworks for Inverloch

Major Artwork – 'COOLAMON'

A Coolamon was found at Cape Paterson and is on exhibition in the Bunurong Environment Centre.

A Coolamon is an Aboriginal term for 'carrying vessel'. It is a multi-purpose shallow vessel, or dish with curved sides, ranging in length from 30-70cm, and is similar in shape to a canoe. Coolamons were traditionally used by Aboriginal women to carry water, fruits, nuts, as well as to cradle babies. Coolamons were often ornately decorated on their exterior. (*Wikipedia*)

The placement of the 'Coolamon' themed artwork is proposed for a site along Inverloch's Waterfront in view of Townsend Bluff and Eagles Nest.

Major Artwork – 'DRIFTING SANDS'

A Major Artwork is proposed for the Rotary Park site located at the junction of Pymble Avenue and the Esplanade, overlooking Inverloch Inlet towards Point Smythe.

The key themes relate to Inverloch's ever changing views of the Inlet and the appreciation of the beauty and meeting of the waters – two way flow of inlet and ocean waters, creating a site of quiet repose and reflection.

The drifting sands have impacted the foreshores on both sides of the inlet – Inverloch and Venus Bay. The inlet is in constant movement with the tides and the shifting sandbars and channels, which has created the need to build sea walls in the past and in more recent times the extension of the present jetty so as to access the water for fishing, sailing and boating.

Soft lighting of the sculpture with small LEDs will enhance the night time experience along the Esplanade.

Temporary Artwork – ‘WALKING WITH THE ANCIENTS’

Site specific Digital Projection [showcase as part of a community arts festival on the Inlet]

A temporary digital projection artwork is proposed with a theme of ‘Walking with the Ancients’ referencing the Dinosaur Dig, Ancient land formation, Indigenous hunting and gathering, shipwrecks and the community’s connection to place on the Bass Coast from Townsend Bluff to Eagles Nest.

Integrating Artworks – Collective stories on Inverloch Inlet Walkway

A number of the community’s collective memories and stories imprinted on existing concrete paths and later incorporated in the design of future walkway projects. ‘People Places’ sites focus on themes related to inter-generational activities such as family picnics, sailing, enjoying ice cream from the old kiosk and children swimming and playing in the rock pools.

Quiet places of reflection have themes that focus on the unique coastal environment and connections to place – poetic language in text/titles and/or symbolic motifs of ‘*Indigenous long connection to Inverloch – Hunting & Gathering*’, ‘*Meeting of the Waters*’, ‘*Wyeth Gates*’, ‘*Wind and Wave*’, ‘*Ripple and Port Transport*’, ‘*Shipwrecks*’, ‘*Ancient Rock Strata*’, and ‘*Flora & Fauna*’

Recommended Public Artworks for San Remo

Major Artwork – ‘ PESCATORI- FISHERMEN’ / ‘BARCA da PESCA – FISHING BOAT’

A Major Artwork is proposed for a site within the Jetty Precinct located with a view of the foreshore and the wharfs.

The key themes relate to San Remo’s fishing industry with particular focus on the unloading of the shark fish catch on the wharfs – a dramatic scene played out on the squid ink stained wharf.

Artwork placement in the water is a consideration that will add to this drama of changing tides, hard-working fishermen bringing in their daily catch and feeding of the pelicans and stingrays during the day.

Lighting of the sculpture will enhance San Remo the night time life/activities and events on the foreshore.

Integrating Artworks – Ceramic Mural Story Tiles – Foreshore Toilet Block

Ceramic Mural Story Tiles relating to early history of San Remo, the port’s development into a fishing village together with inscribed keywords/phrases and maritime motifs of sea life – namely Pelicans, King George Whiting, Stingrays and Squid.

Suggested Public Artworks for Corinella

Major Artwork 'BELOW THE WATERLINE'

A Major Artwork is proposed for Corinella with an environmental theme focus on the unique mangroves and birdlife.

Recommended Public Artworks for Bass Valley & Hinterland Region

Major Artwork 'ABOVE THE WATERLINE'

A Major Artwork is proposed for Bass with a rural village theme with the focus on the importance of available water and the agricultural farming life.

Major Artwork –THREE SCULPTURAL SEATS

Three Sculptural Metal Seats with designs reflecting the rolling hills and farms, trees and dams is proposed for the Bass Hinterland towns of Glen Alvie, Glen Forbes and Kernot. The Seats to be placed near community halls and parks and where possible facing landscape vistas for both residents and travellers to enjoy.

Bass Coast Shire Council Public Art Sites and Themes Plan & Action Framework

The Bass Coast Shire Council Public Art Sites and Themes Plan is a planning and action framework, designed to achieve Council's vision for public art for the next 5 – 10 years.

The Public Art Reference Committee have listed the following Bass Coast townships as priority areas for consideration of future sites of public artworks in five year 2014 - 2019:

- Kilcunda
- Inverloch
- San Remo
- Corinella
- Bass Valley and Hinterland
-

Public Art Funding

Council has a commitment to public art and provides funds each year through a lump sum allocation of \$50,000 and where possible a percentage contribution from major capital works projects. Other options for further public art funding may include such sources as benefactors, grants and donations.

Bass Coast Shire Council Public Art Sites and Themes Action Plan

Major and Temporary Artworks 2014 – 2019

BASS COAST TOWNSHIP	PUBLIC ARTWORK THEME	SITE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
KILCUNDA	VIADUCTS' Connecting Rail, Mining, Farming + Sea	Kilcunda Old Railway Site located on Ocean side of the main road	X	X				
	'LOBSTER'	Kilcunda Foreshore Reserve Park	X	X				
INVERLOCH	'COOLAMON'	Inverloch Waterfront		X	X			
	'DRIFTING SANDS'	Inverloch Rotary Park		X	X			
	'WALKING WITH THE ANCIENTS'	Inverloch Waterfront		X	X			
SAN REMO	PESCATORI- FISHERMEN' / 'BARCA da PESCA – FISHING BOAT'	San Remo Jetty Precinct			X	X		
CORINELLA	'BELOW WATERLINE'	Waterfront Jetty Area				X	X	
BASS	'ABOVE WATERLINE'	Bass Memorial Park					X	X
BASS VALLEY & HINTERLAND	THREE SCULPTURAL SEATS Themes – Rolling Hills, Dams and Rural village farming life.	Community Halls/ Parks in Glen Alvie, Glen Forbes & Kernot					X	X

Note: Cowes 150th Celebrations in 2018

Major Artworks for Cape Paterson, Newhaven, Wonthaggi and Cowes 2019 - 2024

BASS COAST								

TOWNSHIP	PUBLIC ARTWORK THEME	SITE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CAPE PATERSON	Major Entry Statement	Cape Paterson Main Entry	X	X				
NEWHAVEN	Major Entry Statement	Newhaven Main Road Entry		X	X			
WONTHAGGI	Two Major Artworks/ Entry Statements	East & West Entry points into Wonthaggi			X	X		
COWES	Major Entry Statement	Cowes Main Road Entry					X	X

Integrating Artworks 2014 – 2019

Bass Coast Integrating Artworks focuses on the creative element in site specific existing and future place designed community infrastructure. The table below references some themes raised by community members and examples of how these themes might be integrated. There are many examples of public art integrating with functional items such as i.e. bollards, street signs, toilet blocks, footpaths, boardwalks, bus stops/bus shelters, rubbish bins and park infrastructure such as BBQ and picnic shelters, playgroup equipment, drinking fountains, bike racks and skate parks.

Creating integrated public artworks will require consultation with other departments of Council responsible for open space planning such as Recreation Planning, Infrastructure and Community Planning to ensure that the provision of space, identification of suitable functional elements for public art, project time tabling, and collaborative design processes are a part of future open space design and functional street furniture procurement. Engagement with these other departments and processes to integrate public art should be part of the planning process where possible

BASS COAST TOWNSHIP	PUBLIC ARTWORK THEME	SITE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
KILCUNDA	Five carved wooden seats with site specific themes reflecting the community's collective memories	Kilcunda Foreshore Walkways	X	X				

	and imprints providing a thematic approach that wraps Kilcunda's Foreshore.							
INVERLOCH	Collective stories on Inverloch Inlet Walkway A number of the community's collective memories and stories imprinted on existing concrete paths and later incorporated in the design of future Walkway projects.	Inverloch Inlet Walkway		X	X			
SAN REMO	Ceramic Mural Story Tiles Mural Ceramic Mural Story Tiles relating to early history of San Remo, the port's development into a fishing village together with inscribed keywords/ phrases and maritime motifs of sea life – namely Pelicans, King George Whiting, Stringrays and Squid.	San Remo Foreshore Toilet Block			X	X		
BASS COAST	Footpaths and Boardwalks Commission Artists to design themed concepts for Footpaths and Boardwalks i.e. coloured aggregate waves and related text.	Bass Coast Footpaths and Boardwalks (Ongoing as opportunity arises)	X	X	X	X	X	X
BASS COAST	Sculptural Bike Racks, Drinking Fountains and Precinct Street Signs. Commission Artists to design precinct street signage and concept designs for sculptural Bike Racks and Drinking Fountains as part of the Shared Pathway infrastructure at key points of convergence and service centres.	Bass Coast Street Signs within specific precincts and Shared Pathways for Pedestrians and Cyclists. (Ongoing as opportunity arises)	X	X	X	X	X	X
BASS COAST	Rubbish Bins and Bus Stops/Bus Shelters Commission Artists to design metal panels promoting Cultural Tourism on Rubbish Bins. Design concepts <i>for example</i> for aluminium cut-out panels for new Bus Shelters and imprinted or sandblasted images on perspex panels for existing Bus Shelters	Bass Coast Rubbish Bins and Bus Stops/Bus Shelters (Ongoing as opportunity arises)	X	X	X	X	X	X

Some examples of general integrated art options are listed against Bass Coast

Future Public Art Opportunities, Partnerships Proposals & Community Engagement

From time to time, during the 10 year period of this Plan, there may arise opportunities to develop specific public artworks for significant community focused infrastructure projects, or community public art projects commemorating special occasions such as celebrating significant events, or the passing of an important public figure, or partnership proposals from community groups, community arts organisations, developers and other government agencies.

The Public Art Reference Committee in consideration of future public art opportunities and partnership proposals that fall outside of the priority areas of this Plan, may deem these appropriate and falling within the guiding principles for the selection or commissioning of public artworks.

There are several types of commissioning processes that may be used to create artwork based on these themes including commissioning, collaborative functional design processes or purchase of an existing artwork.