

# Harcourt town centre

## Vision

Working together for a healthy, connected shire



# Harcourt Town Centre Vision

## Recommendations for key focus areas to inform an overarching vision for Harcourt's town centre.

Harcourt town centre is dominated by the former Calder Highway, now Harmony Way. The old highway has led to town centre development that caters primarily to motor vehicles. Urban design characteristics like deep frontages, lack of footpaths, and prominent car parks are markers of a town centre designed for higher speeds.

The town centre can be difficult for visitors to recognise as it lacks the typical features of a small town such as a single main road and buildings that define the street.

The town centre is characterised by an abundance of public open space including James Park, Stanley Park and the curtilage around the café and motel buildings, as well as vacant or underdeveloped sites.

This spaciousness creates an open relaxed atmosphere that meshes well with the surrounding landscape, but also results in a large amount of space being given over to roadways and undermines the coherence of the town.

Through Plan Harcourt, the direction of growth for the town builds on place attributes. The plan emphasises landscape stories and local assets to reinforce Harcourt's character and social and economic wellbeing.

The Action Plan will be used by council to prioritise projects, allocate developer contributions and seek funding opportunities.

The vision celebrates Harcourt's beautiful features and conceives a town that is liveable and connected.

The future development of the town centre is encouraged through zoning.

Plan Harcourt proposes commercial zoning for both sides of High Street between Market Street and Wright Street.

The proposed Design Development Overlay makes recommendations for future development that will change and activate the interface between these commercial blocks and High Street and Harmony Way.



### Active commercial centre

Future development in the proposed Commercial 1 Zone will change the interface with the street. Encourage development that addresses and activates the street.



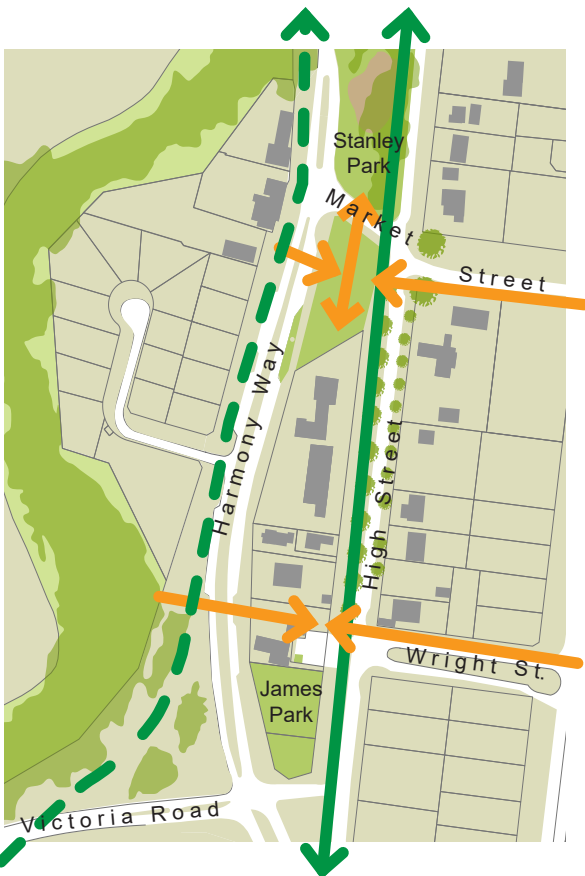
### Celebrate the space

Celebrate and enhance the spaciousness and relaxed atmosphere by further defining each open space and linking them together.



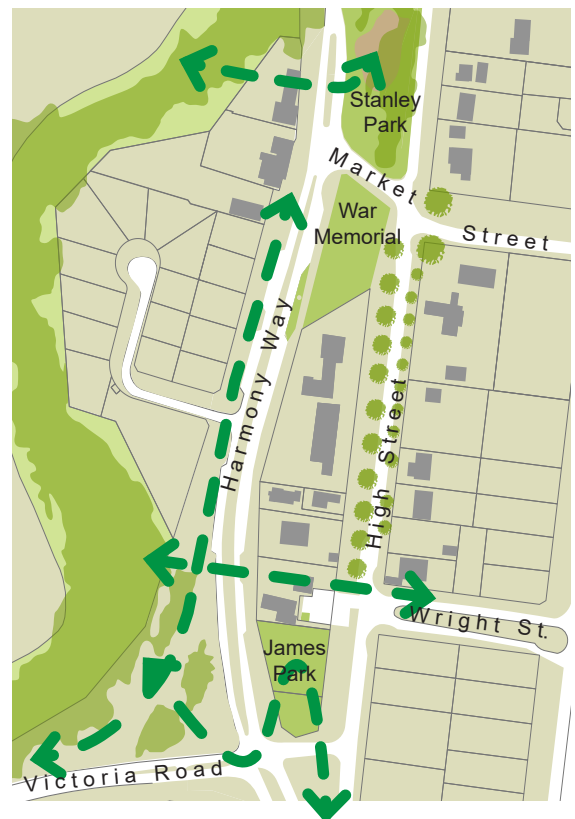
### Less road

Make roads safe and desirable to cross. Slow the traffic in the town centre by modifying the width and turn radius at key intersections. Formalise on road parking.



### Safe and logical connections

Create walking and cycle paths to connect key destinations throughout the town. Define the commercial centre with landscape treatments that take advantage of established parks and trees.



### Creek focus

Enhance the connection to and along Barker's Creek. Use landscaping, water sensitive urban design and view lines to draw this natural asset into the town.



# Context



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## Vision



Mitchem Library and Brown Hill Creek - Aspect Studios

### Support and enhance the relationship with Country

Highlight the relationship with Barkers Creek and Leanganook (Mount Alexander) and Harcourt's agricultural history. Improve physical and visual connections between the creek and the mountain. Use landscaping and water sensitive urban design that supports biodiversity, celebrates native plants, herbs and fruits, and local materials throughout the town centre.



Redfern Park, Sydney - JMD Design

### Make James Park Harcourt's civic heart

Formalise the role the park and Hall play within Harcourt's town centre.

Alterations or additions to the hall and landscaping to the park could increase its civic offering; community hall and flexible outdoor event space, community facilities, museum, tourist information point. Use integrated solutions to manage existing drainage and improve the presentation of the park.

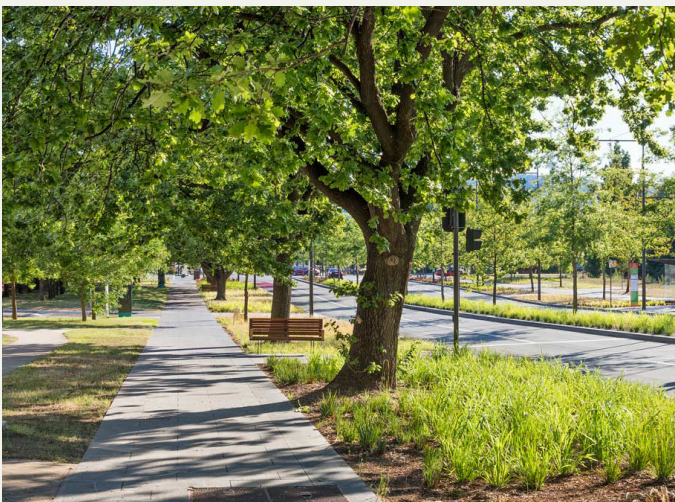




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Constitution Avenue - Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture



Kensington Ponds Bridge - Sam Crawford Architects

### Promote and support active transport

Integrate pathways for connections from north to south, east to west. Focus on getting people on foot, bikes, mobility aids, and scooters safely from home to the shops, school and kindy, the bowling club, the train station and the reserve, playground and the pool. Make a safe connection to a future Harcourt - Castlemaine bike trail.

### Define town entrances

Highlight existing landmarks such as road and rail bridges, with art or design elements to define town entries. Use landscape, road narrowing and road treatments to define the town centre.



# Context

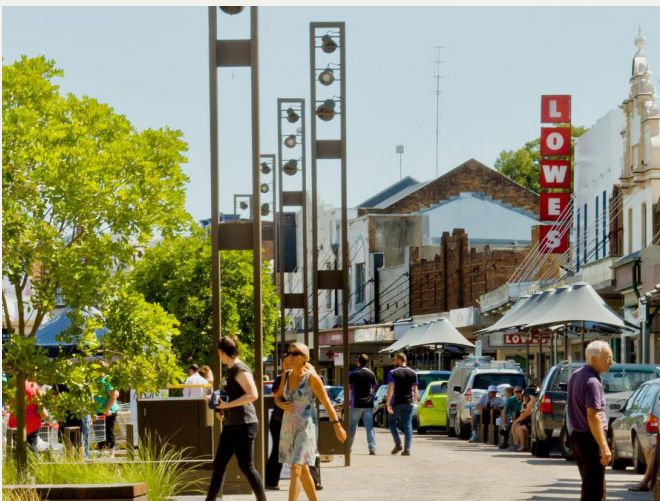


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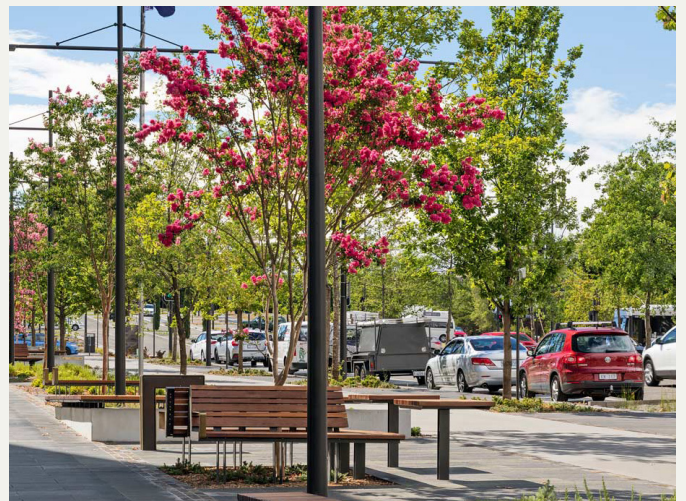
## Vision



Maitland Levee Project - McGregor Coxall

### Make High Street a high street

Plan Harcourt proposes commercial zoning for both sides of High Street between Market Street and Wright Street. The proposed Design Development Overlay will change the interface with the street for future development. Infrastructure such as footpaths, formalised parking, street furniture will seek to make High Street the main street and the centre of town, while retaining the sense of openness.



Constitution Avenue - Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture

### Reclaim road space on Harmony Way

Make Harmony Way an appropriate scale. Redesign the road to consider existing and future residential and commercial development. Improve the function of the street using road treatments such as road narrowing, active transport lanes and footways, formalised parking. Use landscaping, lighting and wayfinding signage to improve the presentation and enjoyment of the street.

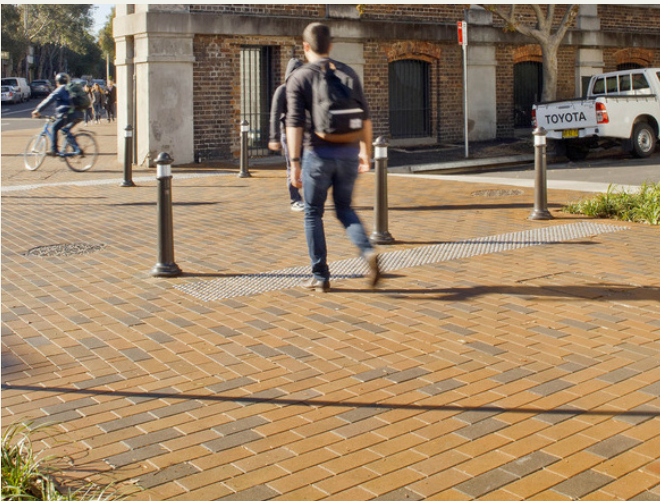




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Abercrombie Street, Redfern - Group GSA

### Safe crossing between Stanley Park north and south

Rework this intersection to prioritise pedestrian movement and safety on Market Street between High Street and Harmony Way.



Wheaton Town Centre - Oculas

### Improve the intersection of Victoria Road, Harmony Way and High Street

Redesign the intersection to slow traffic, improve navigation, facilitate active transport and safe pedestrian crossings. Consider the connection between Harmony and the southern end of High Street.



# Context

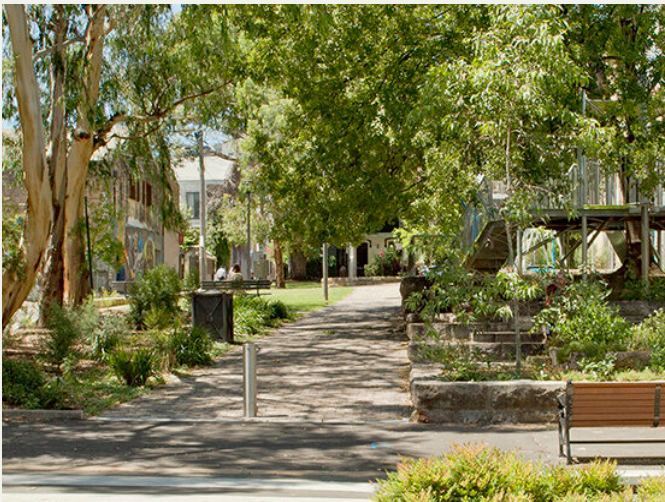


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## Vision



Reconciliation Park Redfern - Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture

### Connect High Street and Harmony Way

Find logical and desirable pedestrian connections between pathways and crossings to create a relationship between the streets and facilitate safe and enjoyable movement through the town. Use these east/west connections as opportunities to visually and physically draw the creek into the town centre. Consider safer and desirable connections to the south for the station, school, kindy and recreation reserve.



Campbells Creek Park Entry Gates - Anna Read and Tait Decorative Iron, Mount Alexander

### Town signage, way finding and public art

Add shire way finding and informative signage at strategic locations throughout the town centre such as parks, the Avenue of Honor and entry points.

Nominate sites and strategies for incorporating public art into the town centre.





# Where to now

Action	Key Units	
<b>1 Support and enhance the relationship with the natural environment and cultural heritage</b> Develop a detailed landscape plan for Barkers Creek, Stanley Park North, South and James Park, and High Street / Harmony Way Crossings	Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>2 Make James Park Harcourt's civic heart</b> Develop a master plan, detailed landscape plan for James Park and the ANA Hall. Develop a brief and architectural design for additions to the ANA Hall	Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>3 Promote and support active transport</b> Develop detailed design plans for cycle way and footpaths throughout the town centre	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>4 Define town entrances</b> Develop concept, detailed design and construction documentation for interventions at selected locations	Engineering	
<b>5 Make High Street a high street</b> Develop a detailed landscape plan for Street and intersections	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>6 Reclaim road space on Harmony Way</b> Develop a road design and detailed landscape plan for this street	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>7 Safe crossing between Stanley Park north and south</b> Develop a road design and detailed landscape plan for this key intersection	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>8 Improve the Victoria Road, Harmony Way and High Street intersections</b> Develop a road design and detailed landscape plan for this key intersection	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>9 Connect High Street and Harmony Way</b> Develop a detailed landscape plan to create or improve existing links and crossings	Engineering, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities	
<b>10 Town signage, way finding and public art</b> Develop detailed design for way finding and public art throughout the town centre	Communications, Parks Recreation and Community Facilities, Engineering, Economy and Culture	



## Further Work

	Landscape Architect and associated consultants Cultural Heritage Advice
	Landscape Architect and associated consultants for design of James Park Cultural Heritage Management Plan Architect for design of building Cultural Heritage Advice
	Landscape Architect and associated consultants or civil engineer for simple works
	Design/Artists engaged and coordinated possibly with Landscape Architect or Civil Consultant
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## General

**Work that could be undertaken now to provide more detail for the town centre concept or establish background documents may include:**

### **Traffic Consultant**

Identify missing links in walking and cycling routes; develop a plan for accessible walking and cycling paths; encourage walking and cycling as safe, viable transport modes; and increase safety of all road users by identifying and reducing risk at conflict points.

### **Survey**

Level and Features Survey - (add High Street to existing survey of Harmony Way)

### **Cultural Heritage**

Early conversations with Djaara to invite them to be involved throughout the design process and establish the requirements for Cultural Heritage management

**The town centre should be looked at as one project at a concept level and then more detailed designs could be commissioned for each of the action items when required.**

### **Landscape Architect and associated consultants**

Concept, design development documentation including relevant sub consultants, and including changes to the road reserve for the town centre including:

- James Park - including water sensitive urban design strategies and east west connection
- Stanley Park South (Memorial Park) - including the east west connection
- High Street - including kerb outstands, crossings, footpaths and cycle way
- Harmony Way - including median, kerb outstands, crossings, footpaths and cycle way
- Market Street - including continuous road treatment, and kerb outstands

Mount Alexander Shire Council  
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd streets  
Castlemaine VIC 3450

Phone: (03) 5471 1700  
Email: [info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

