



KURANDA COMMUNITY PRECINCT

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2021

Kuranda Community Precinct Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021

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1. Introduction

The Kuranda Community Precinct (KCP) is a council owned facility in the heart of the Kuranda township which has been established for community use and benefit.

The Precinct includes:

- Kuranda Library and Customer Service Centre
- Tennis court
- Public amenities block
- Community kitchen
- Undercover area
- Car parking
- Open space

The Kuranda Community Precinct Advisory Committee is appointed by Council to act as a conduit between Council and community, and to ensure that the Precinct is developed with input from the community. The Committee is an expert advisory committee appointed by Mareeba Shire Council, and consists of one Councillor and six community members from the Kuranda District.

The Committee provides two way communications between Council and the Kuranda community regarding the future of the Precinct with the aim of increasing community ownership of the facility. The Advisory Committee provides information and advice, and ensures that the community's aspirations for the site and facility are considered.

The Strategic Plan was developed by the Kuranda Community Precinct Advisory Committee. The Plan reflects community views and aspirations in setting the strategic direction for the future development of the Precinct.

The Advisory Committee and Council recognise that community needs and aspirations evolve over time, and is committed to the implementation of a strategic framework which supports a flexible response to changing priorities.

2. Vision

The Precinct is a well-used and flexible community space which is available for the long term enjoyment of all Kuranda residents for recreational, sporting, cultural and educational experiences and activities. The Precinct is integrated and connected with surrounding facilities and promotes the history of the site.

3. Principles

The aim of the Advisory Committee and Council is to develop a Precinct that:

- 1) Enhances social connection and sense of community;
- 2) Is developed as a community asset for the benefit of the Kuranda community and promotes community ownership and pride in the facility;
- 3) Is a multiple and shared use space that supports recreational, sporting, cultural and educational activities and experiences by all residents;

- 4) Is integrated with other surrounding facilities and services;
- 5) Has facilities and activities that complement and do not complete with existing not for profit organisations, venues and activities;
- 6) Aesthetic development is consistent with the existing character of the town and its buildings and preserves the historical and environmental aspects of the site;
- 7) Is self-sufficient, as far as possible, with resources available for future projects by way of grants, volunteers and donations;
- 8) Is a strategic asset, which is designed for future generations, and will evolve as community needs change.

4. Priority Projects

The seven (7) priority projects are:

1. Community Recreational Area
2. Walking Trail Signage
3. Potential Uses of Level 1, Main Building
4. Support of Local History And Culture
5. Support of Local Arts Scene
6. Activities for Young People
7. Learning Centre

Priority Project 1: Community Recreational area

A space which promotes an ambience that encourages public use, and may include:

- Children's playground
- Community BBQ Facilities
- Chairs and tables
- Trees and gardens including signed botanical plantings
- Grassed areas
- Shade cover

Priority Project 2: Walking Trail Signage

The Kuranda Community Precinct connects more than 3km of established walking trails, and with a project underway to join the trails, including Jum Rum Creek trail, the KCP signage will:

- Provide an overview of existing walking tracks and how they connect and assist walkers in accessing paths
- Support the development of walking trails linking the town centre to the Precinct, Amphitheatre & surrounding facilities
- Provide a framework for the assessment of the need for static exercise equipment along trail

Priority Project 3: Potential Uses of Level 1, Main Building

Council and the Advisory Committee recognise that Level 1 of the main building is underutilised, mainly due to the lack of all-abilities access. This project will involve investigation of potential uses for Level 1 of the main building, including:

- Options if a lift is installed
- Options if a lift is not installed
- A detailed analysis of the cost of works to improve accessibility, and consideration of whole of life costs for installation of a lift

Priority Project 4: Support of local history and culture

The Precinct is a resource which can be utilised to encourage community education, and support the promotion of Kuranda's rich history and cultural heritage. This project will:

- Continue with, and extend on, the work on historical signage which is underway
- Consider the development and installation of interpretive signage
- Gauge community interest on hosting a local history group

Priority Project 5: Support of Local Arts Scene

Kuranda's art scene is well-established, with artists working in a diverse range of mediums. The Advisory Committee recognises the need to engage with the art community to define this project; however, as a starting point the preliminary concepts have been identified:

- Provide space and facilities to support arts community e.g. as a venue for an Arts Fair in the lead up to popular gift-giving events
- Engage artists to paint the buildings of the Precinct
- Act as a conduit for promotion of the arts to the community
- Provide a space for installations for set periods of time including a sculpture garden

Priority Project 6: Activities for teenagers and young adults

The Advisory Committee and Council view the Precinct as a key element of enhancing positive engagement with young people in Kuranda, and this project will involve:

- Community engagement to identify community needs - including engagement with young people and key services working with youth
- Establishing the Precinct as a space where activities of interest to young people are held

Priority Project 7: Learning Centre

This project would involve the redesign of the space above the library, and renovations to support a Learning Centre, as an adjunct to the Library. The project will involve:

- Investigation of types of spaces to facilitate widespread community and business use
- Review of technology-based infrastructure including access to high speed internet services, video conferencing
- Ensuring that any proposed Learning Centre does not unfairly compete with not-for-profit venues.

5. Project Plans

The completion of the Priority Projects Assessment Matrix has resulted in the identification of priority projects and the Chair of the Advisory Committee and Council Officers will proceed with a high-level project plan for each project. The Project Plan will include project objectives, timeframes, resource requirements, stakeholders, project leader.

The Advisory Committee will oversee the implementation of the project plans, providing information, guidance and assistance, as appropriate.

Appendix 1: Methodology for the identification of the Priority Projects

The Kuranda Community Precinct Advisory Committee adopted a three-phase approach to the identification, assessment and prioritisation of future projects. This method included:

Phase 1 Community Engagement: An in-depth review of the results of the 'Kuranda Community Precinct - Community Engagement and Research Project' (September 2011).

Phase 2 Advisory Committee Review: Discussion at Advisory Committee meetings to identify priority projects and determine the process to develop the Strategic Plan.

Phase 3 Project Prioritisation: Development and completion of a detailed Priority Projects Assessment Matrix to review projects against the eight Precinct Principles detailed in the Strategic Plan.

The completion of the Priority Projects Assessment Matrix involved each member of the Advisory Committee individually allocating a score out of five for each project against the eight principles; resulting in a total score out of 40. The scores of the Committee members were added to a total score out of 320 and averaged. The projects were prioritised from the highest average score, to the lowest. The Priority Projects Assessment Matrix is available on request.

Throughout the process the Advisory Committee considered the relevance of projects to the community to encourage a high level of community utilisation, and translating into a sound return on investment.