

SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN  
FINAL - JUNE 2016

NAREMBEEN CIVIC PRECINCT  
INTERPRETATION PLAN

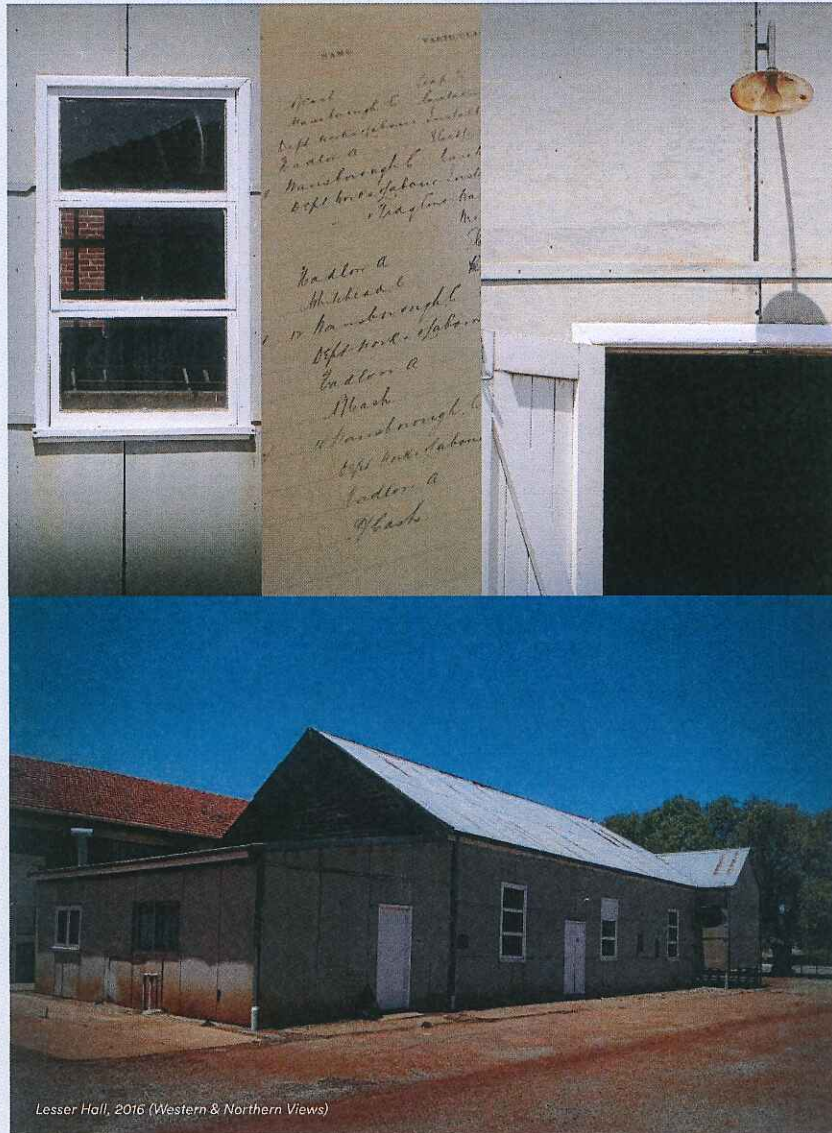
PREPARED FOR  
SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN  
BY:



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Lesser Hall, 2016 (Western & Northern Views)

### BACKGROUND

This Interpretation Plan for the Narembeen Civic Precinct has been prepared by Stephen Carrick Architects and Zebra Creative for the Shire of Narembeen.

The Civic Precinct is on the State Register of Heritage Places (Place No. 3629) and includes the Lesser Hall, built in 1923, the Narembeen Roads Board Building (1927) and the Narembeen Public Hall (1940).

With the construction of the new Public Hall in 1940, the original Hall (since known as the Lesser Hall) became secondary and was used to complement functions held in the Public Hall by providing kitchen facilities. In the 1990s the use of the Lesser Hall declined and in 2015 the building was not being used. The Shire reached the point where it no longer had a viable use for the building. This is due to the physical condition of the building, the lack of facilities the building provides for users and a significant decline in the Shire's population over the last couple of decades.

This Interpretation Plan was prepared as a result of an application by the Shire of Narembeen to the Heritage Council of Western Australia to demolish the Lesser Hall. The Lesser Hall was the subject of a 2015 Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) that concluded that the place is not rare, its integrity and authenticity were low and the physical condition of the place was assessed as poor. The HIS determined that the Lesser Hall did not display important cultural heritage value as an individual place.

The HIS stated that the proposed demolition of the Lesser Hall, coupled with appropriate interpretation, will not detract from the cultural heritage significance of the Public Hall and the former Roads Board building. It was found that these buildings would still demonstrate the heritage values described in the Civic Precinct's Statement of Significance.

The Heritage Council supported the demolition of the Lesser Hall based on the requirement to prepare an Archival Record and an Interpretation Plan.

This Interpretation Plan will assist in providing a recording of the social and historical values of the Narembeen Lesser Hall and will also provide a broad scope of interpretive elements that could be implemented in and surrounding the footprint of the Hall once it has been demolished.

### INTERPRETATION PLAN DOCUMENT

This plan comprises of three distinct sections:

1. Background – Sets the scene for the interpretation concepts plan, defining terms, identifying significance and providing an overview of previous studies undertaken.
2. Interpretation – Discusses what interpretation is and introduces the interpretive vision, principles and themes for the site.
3. Concept and Designs – Identifies interpretation zones, interpretive elements and presents an interpretation design concept for the Narembeen Civic Precinct as a whole with emphasis placed on the Narembeen Lesser Hall.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTERPRETATION DESIGN CONCEPT

The interpretation design concept has six interpretive zones:

- A. **Entry Statement** – Major identifier for the Narembeen Civic Precinct in the form of a public art statement, located on Longhurst Street.
- B. **Peppermint Trees** – Statement seating designed specifically to provide a place to dwell under the large Peppermint Trees that already exist on the site.
- C. **The Site** – The proposed interpretation of the Lesser Hall site to provide a new community meeting place.

The site specific design concept has the following elements:

- *C.1 Seating with interpretation media*
  - *C.2 Signage with interpretation media*
  - *C.3 Open Doors and retention of the covered walkway that connected the Public Hall to the Lesser Hall with interpretation media*
  - *C.4 Silhouette and Stage - Steel columns and beams and stage paving treatment with interpretation media*
  - *Landscape – Hard and Soft Landscape*
- D. **Heritage Walk Link** – A connection point on the site to direct pedestrians between the Main Street, the Lesser Hall carpark and Longhurst Street.
  - E. **Roads Building** – Proposed sustainable garden design and landscaping to area of site surrounding Roads Board Building to create a destination point.
  - F. **Public Hall** – Opportunity to interpret and connect the Public Hall to the greater sites interpretation scheme.

### BUDGET ESTIMATE

The budget estimate for the implementation of the project is \$164,000.00 (ex GST). The project is defined as items A, B and C listed above. It does not include items D, E and F. The budget estimate allows for the design development, documentation and specification of the works for the interpretation design concept, the supply and installation of the interpretation elements and the administration of a building contract for the completion of the works.

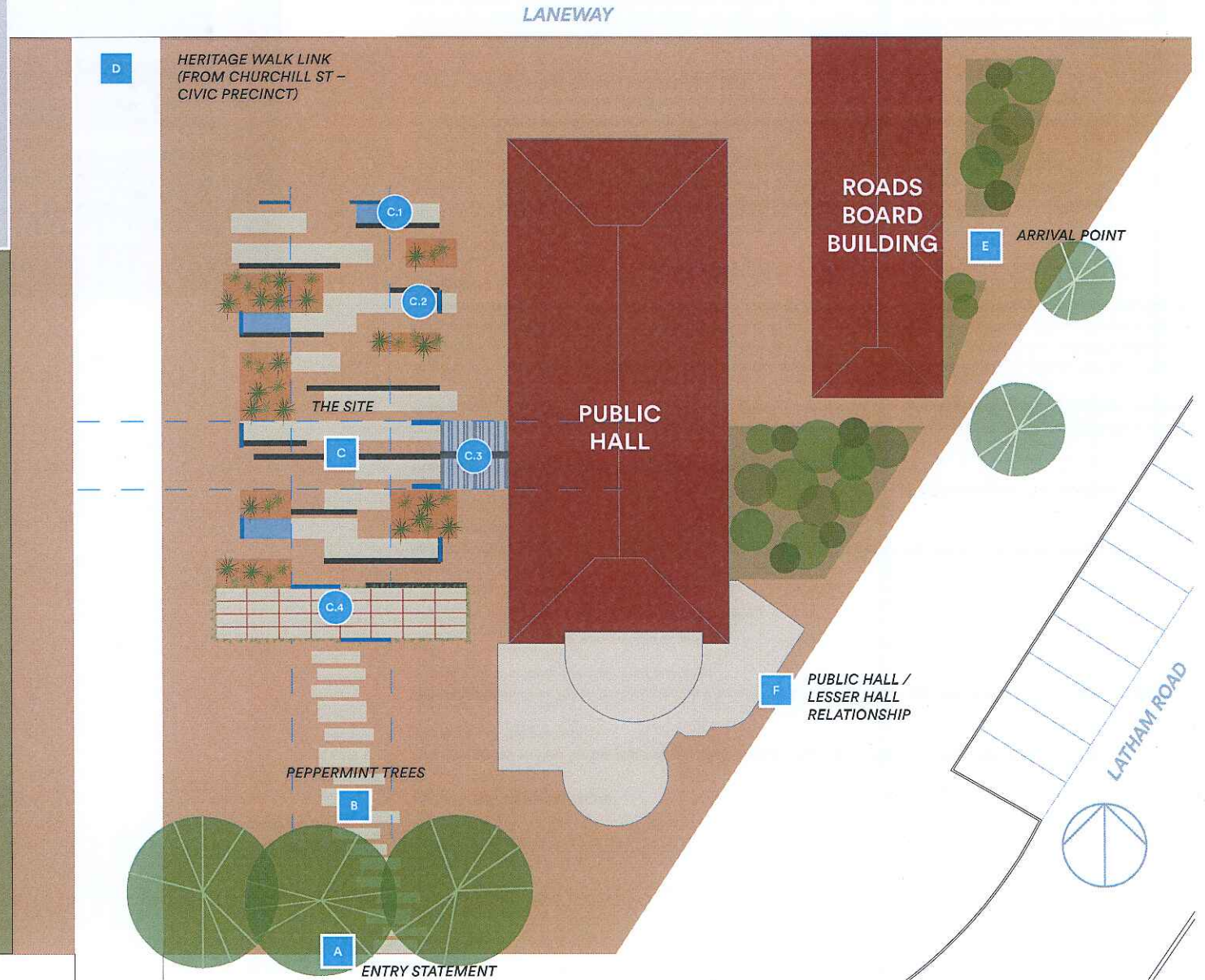
### TIMEFRAME

The estimated time frame for the design development, documentation and specification of the works and the construction is eighteen (18) months from the time of confirmation of appointment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Proposed Interpretive Locations within Narembeen Civic Precinct*

- A. ENTRY STATEMENT
- B. PEPPERMINT TREES
- C. THE SITE
  - C.1 Seating
  - C.2 Signage
  - C.3 Open Doors
  - C.4 Silhouette & Stage
- D. HERITAGE ZONE LINK
- E. ROADS BOARD BUILDING
- F. PUBLIC HALL



## 1.0 BACKGROUND

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Interpretation Plan for the Narembeen Civic Precinct was commissioned by the Shire of Narembeen, the owners of the precinct.

The Narembeen Civic Precinct is located on the corner of Longhurst Street and Latham Road, Narembeen, Western Australia, and includes the following buildings:

- Narembeen Lesser Hall [Built 1923]
- Narembeen Roads Building [Built 1927]
- Narembeen Public Hall [Built 1940]

An Interpretation Plan has been prepared to fulfill the requirements advised by the State Heritage Office prior to the proposed demolition of the Narembeen Lesser Hall.

The Lesser Hall is included in the State Register of Heritage Places as part of the Narembeen Civic Precinct. The Lesser Hall is not included as an individual place in the State Register.

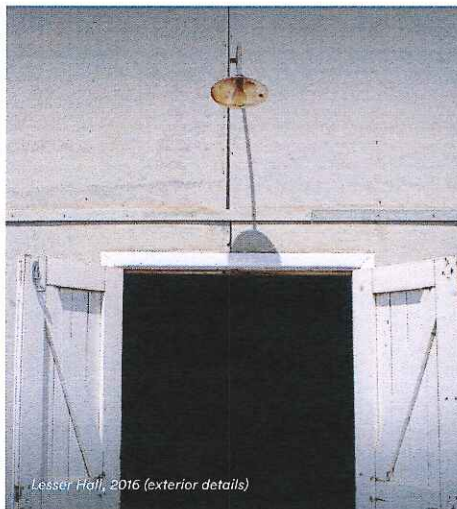
As part of the brief for the project the consultant team was asked to prepare an overall Interpretation Plan for the site, reviewing and consolidating previous studies and existing interpretive measures and then providing a design concept.

Interpretation is a way of engaging people in the stories and cultural heritage significance of a place. An Interpretation Plan identifies ways to tell the stories of a place, and ensure that the social, historic, aesthetic and scientific values of a place remain embedded and continue to resonate through future developments and changes of use. The philosophy for interpretation at the Narembeen Civic Precinct is to ensure that every opportunity is taken to embed interpretation throughout the site.

This plan comprises of three distinct sections:

1. **Background** – Sets the scene for the interpretation concepts plan, defining terms, identifying significance and providing an overview of previous studies undertaken.
2. **Interpretation** – Discusses what interpretation is and introduces the interpretive vision, principles and themes for the site.
3. **Concept and Designs** – Identifies interpretation zones, interpretive elements and presents an interpretation design concept for the Narembeen Civic Precinct as a whole with emphasis placed on the Narembeen Lesser Hall.

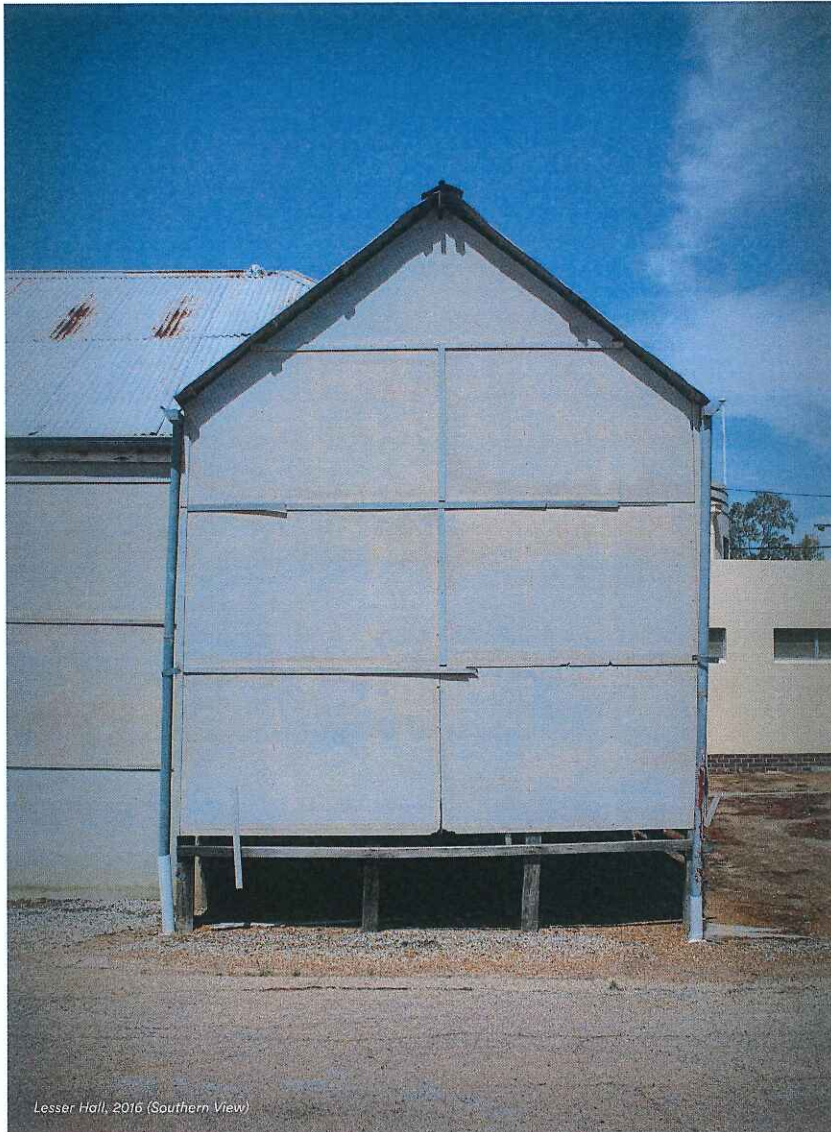
Due to the decline in use of the Narembeen Lesser Hall by the 1990s the Shire of Narembeen commissioned an initial Concept Design for the Narembeen Civic Precinct. The Concept Design was produced in 2008 to devise a plan to advance the adaption of the Lesser Hall building for new uses and better incorporate the place in the broader precinct. The implementation of the 2008 Concept Design was estimated to cost \$1.8m. Viable funding sources and projected costs of the project were deemed unfeasible by the Shire of Narembeen and the project did not progress.



Lesser Hall, 2016 (exterior details)



## 1.0 BACKGROUND



Lesser Hall, 2016 (Southern View)

Consequently, the Shire approached the State Heritage Office to discuss options for the building and an acceptable process that they could follow to consider and evaluate the various issues associated with the building.

The State Heritage Office advised that the preparation of a Heritage Impact Statement would enable the Heritage Council of Western Australia to understand the basis of a formal request for demolition.

A Heritage Impact Statement was prepared by Stephen Carrick Architects in 2015. The HIS concluded that the proposed demolition of the Lesser Hall, coupled with appropriate interpretation, will not detract from the cultural heritage significance of the Public Hall, former Roads Board building and the overall Precinct. These buildings would still demonstrate the heritage values described in the Civic Precinct's Statement of Significance. Further recommendations were made by Stephen Carrick Architects to provide an Interpretation Concept Plan for the Narembeen Civic Precinct in accordance with the State Heritage Office's 'Interpretation – A Guide to Making Interpretation Easy to Understand, Plan and Deliver.'

#### The vision for the interpretation of the Lesser Hall is:

*To keep alive the stories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall through a range of innovative and sustainable techniques to ensure that future generations appreciate the role the Lesser Hall played in the lives of the Community and the Civic Precinct of Narembeen.*

#### The central theme for the interpretation of the Civic Precinct is:

*Narembeen Civic Precinct is a significant social and historical site reminiscent of the developing civic presence in a rural community.*

#### The sub themes for the interpretation of the Civic Precinct are:

*The People, the Place and the Functions of Lesser Hall within the Narembeen Civic Precinct.*

Interpretation principles are established for the Civic Precinct site, with a specific focus on the Lesser Hall building and site.

Storytelling is a key component to interpreting places. Some of the stories that are available to be told through the interpretative signage are:

- Events: WW2, Great Depression, Diamond Jubilee [Social – the People]
- Founding families / pioneers [Social – the People]
- Users of the Lesser Hall: Buffalo Lodge, Apex, CWA, High School, Churches, Progress Association, Hospital Pictures etc [Social – the People]
- Uses of the Lesser Hall: Weddings, Parties, Suppers, Dances, Funerals, Sports, Rehearsal, Hospital, Pictures, etc [the Functions, the People]
- Arrival of Public Hall and relationship [the Place]
- Architecture of the Lesser Hall [the Place]
- Opening of Lesser Hall and first night fight [the Functions, the People]

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

### 1.2 THE PLACE

'Place' is used in the heritage industry as a term for everything that falls within the curtilage or boundaries of a site being discussed.

The Narembeen Civic Precinct is comprised of Lots 17, 18 and 19 Longhurst Street, Narembeen. It addresses the north side of Longhurst Street near the intersection of Latham Road and is located in a predominately single storey residential area.

Narembeen Lesser Hall is located on Lot 19 on Plan 4651, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 822 Folio 135. Opposite the Lesser Hall (south) is the Ambulance Station, Police Station and the Shire Council Offices and Library. The place is adjacent to the Narembeen Public Hall, linked by a covered walkway on its east elevation. Also to the east of the place within close proximity is the Narembeen Roads Board which addresses Latham Road. The Narembeen Lesser Hall shares its site with the Narembeen Public Hall and Narembeen Roads Board buildings. The three buildings are included on the State Register of Heritage Places as the Narembeen Civic Precinct.

In the context of this document we refer to the following as:

"the place"	Narembeen Civic Precinct	Lots 17/18/19
"the site"	Lesser Hall	Lot 19

### 1.3 METHODOLOGY

The following team of professionals worked together on this plan:

<b>Stephen Carrick Architects</b>	<b>Zebra Creative</b>
Stephen Carrick <i>Lead Consultant, Conservation Architect</i>	Megan Patterson <i>Interpretation and Design Consultant</i>
Tayla Bezant <i>Graduate Architect</i>	Travis Black <i>Interpretation and Design Consultant</i>

Stephen Carrick coordinated the project team and managed consultation with the Shire of Narembeen. Site inspections and meetings with stakeholders have been held on 16th and 17th December 2015, and 18th and 19th May 2016.

Meetings have been held in Narembeen with:

- Shire of Narembeen Councillors
- Shire of Narembeen Officers
- Narembeen Historical Society
- Jordan Sprigg, *Local Artist*

An initial survey of previous reports was undertaken to identify existing interpretive frameworks, themes and guidelines. These reports were taken into consideration in the development of interpretive principles, concepts and designs.

Based on knowledge of the site, professional experience and the information from previous reports, the team together drafted an overarching interpretive vision for the Lesser Hall within the greater Narembeen Civic Precinct. This phase of the project also identified specific proposals for the place and a series of graphics to illustrate recommended concepts was produced. A list of salvageable items from the Lesser Hall was provided to the Shire. These items can be used directly or as reference material in the implementation of the interpretation design concept. The report also examines some of the practical and management issues associated with developing interpretation at the Narembeen Civic Precinct. Indicative costs have been provided for budget purposes; however, each project element will need to be properly costed at the time of development.

### 1.4 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors of this plan wish to acknowledge the following people and organizations for their contributions to the preparation of the report:

- Councillors, *Shire of Narembeen*
- Christopher Jackson, *Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Narembeen*
- Garry Gregan, *Executive Manager Corporate Services – Shire of Narembeen*
- Joan Gregan, *Records Officer – Shire of Narembeen*
- Historical Society of Narembeen
- Graeme Gammie, *Executive Director – State Heritage Office*
- Harriett Wyatt, *Acting Director Development & Incentives – State Heritage Office*



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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

### 1.5 CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

**Stephen Carrick** is a registered architect with extensive experience and expertise having worked in private practice in Sydney from 1985 to 1992, for the Western Australian Government from 1992 to 2009 and from 2009 in private practice specialising in all aspects of heritage conservation work.

**Tayla Bezzant** is a graduate architect with Stephen Carrick Architects and the project team.

**Megan Patterson** is a graphic designer who founded Zebra Creative with the sole goal to deliver outstanding creative and bespoke service without the layers and structure of a large agency. Megan's project and strategic direction is guided by her innate curiosity and belief that each project Zebra Creative undertakes should be given the same attention and scrutiny regardless of size. She believes the solution must be an experience and tell a story regardless of the medium, it should stand out, connect and relate to the audience.

**Travis Black** is a graphic designer who has led many projects ranging in scale over his 10 years of experience. These projects vary from the rebranding a West Australian sporting icon, the WACA, to a significant signage and way finding project for the same client through to destination branding the new waterfront development, Elizabeth Quay. It is the depth and breadth of these projects that has seen Travis develop ability to partner with clients and lead a team through to outcomes that have been awarded locally and nationally.

### 1.6 KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The key aims and objectives of this report are:

- To review previous reports and documentation to identify the vision, themes and storylines that can be developed into a design concept for the precinct;
- To respond to the conditions included in the State Heritage Office's 21 August 2015 letter conditionally supporting demolition of the Narembeen Lesser Hall;
- To consider the existing interpretive initiatives already present within the precinct and the Narembeen township;
- To provide an overarching interpretive vision for the Narembeen Civic Precinct that embraces and acknowledges: the heritage values attributed to the existing interpretation of the place;
- To allow for flexibility in the interpretation design concept;
- To recommend a design concept with a suite of interpretive devices that supports the vision. Illustrate the design concept and include notional or indicative costings for the implementation;
- To produce a document that will be clearly understood and referenced by all key stakeholders of the Narembeen Civic Precinct now and into the future; and,
- To work in a collaborative way with the Shire of Narembeen as part of achieving the aims and objectives of this Interpretation Plan.

### 1.7 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to develop an overall Interpretation Plan for the Narembeen Civic Precinct. As part of the approval from the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the demolition of the Lesser Hall an Archival Record for the Lesser Hall and a Civic Interpretation Plan were required. The Shire of Narembeen understand the importance of celebrating their history and have commissioned this Interpretation Plan to assist them in developing an interpretation outcome for the precinct.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

### 1.8 STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following statements of significance have been developed for the Narembeen Civic Precinct and Lesser Hall. For completeness they have all been included for a full understanding of the heritage values of the place and site.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – HERITAGE COUNCIL STATE REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES, 1998

The following extract has been taken from the HCWA's State Register of Heritage Places, dated April 1998. The Lesser Hall is included in the State Register as part of the Narembeen Civic Precinct, Place No. 3629.

Narembeen Civic Precinct, comprising of Lesser Hall (1923), a timber framed structure clad with fibrous cement sheeting and roofed with corrugated iron, Narembeen Roads Board Building (1927), a brick and tile structure in the Federation style, and the Public Hall (1940), a brick and tile structure in the Inter-War Functionalist style, has cultural significance for the following reasons:

- *The place is a representative demonstration of the sequential development of the civic and social life of a rural community in the eastern wheatbelt region of Western Australia during the first half of the twentieth century;*
- *Narembeen Public Hall is a fine, and relatively rare, example of an Inter-War Functionalist town hall constructed in a Western Australian country town;*
- *The resolution of the three buildings on an irregular site, in particular the alignment of the entry of the Public Hall to address the street corner, demonstrates creative design; and, The precinct contributes to the local community's sense of place.*

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – CONSERVATION PLAN, 1995

The following Statement of Significance extract has been taken from the Narembeen Lesser Hall Conservation Plan, prepared for the Shire of Narembeen by Laura Gray, November 1995, p. 33:

The Narembeen Hall, now known as the Lesser Hall is of significance to the community of Narembeen, the eastern wheatbelt region, and the state of Western Australia for the following reasons:

- *Its integral role within the initial developing phase of the town and region of Narembeen;*
- *A close association with the pioneers of Narembeen;*
- *It demonstrates the principle characteristics of the social life and community development of a wheatbelt town established in the 1920s;*
- *It was the first of three civic buildings that developed on the site, demonstrating a sequence of civic progress in Narembeen;*
- *The religious significance of the multi denominational function of the place;*
- *An aesthetic demonstrating the evolution of priorities of the social activities of the place;*
- *The social importance during the depression years;*
- *A way of life that is no longer practiced, and;*
- *The sense of place created by the memories of the events that have occurred in the place, and varying degrees of historic importance to individuals, community groups and the town of Narembeen.*

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY, 1995

The following Statement of Significance extract has been taken from the Shire of Narembeen's Municipal Heritage Inventory list of Heritage Places, dated November 1995. The Place Record Form refers to the social historical significance of the Narembeen Lesser Hall within the town and the region of Narembeen.

- *The Narembeen Hall is significant for its integral role within the initial developing phase of the town and region of Narembeen. It demonstrates way of life no longer practiced.*
- *The hall evokes a sense of place created by the memories of the events that have occurred in the place, and varying degrees of historic importance to individuals, community groups and the town of Narembeen.*
- *The Narembeen Hall is significant for the close association with the pioneers of Narembeen.*
- *The Narembeen Hall was the first of three civic buildings that developed on the site, demonstrating a sequence of civic progress in Narembeen.*
- *The hall is the oldest public building in Narembeen and represents the beginning of the community of Narembeen.*

The MHI further comments on the significance of the Civic Precinct in Narembeen in the following extract:

- *The Precinct demonstrates significant associations with the pioneers of Narembeen, and the development of the town and district.*
- *It demonstrates associations with the beginnings of the civic administration, social, community and religious activities in Narembeen.*
- *Each place is unique for its associations, architecture, and period of development, and contributes to the precinct character.*
- *The Precinct is an integral element and identifiable in the landscape of Narembeen.*

### 1.9 PREVIOUS STUDIES

A number of studies and reports to guide the conservation, interpretation and development of the Hall and the Civic Precinct have been completed. These reports were reviewed to provide the context for this plan.

All reports used are listed below:

- Heritage Impact Statement for Narembeen Lesser Hall
- Archival Record for Narembeen Lesser Hall
- Conservation Plan for Narembeen Lesser Hall
- Conservation Plan for Roads Board Building
- Conservation Plan for Narembeen Public Hall
- State Register Entry & Assessment Documentation for P3629 NCP
- Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places
- *Civic Precinct*
  - *Narembeen Lesser Hall*
  - *Narembeen Roads Board Building*
  - *Narembeen Public Hall*

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

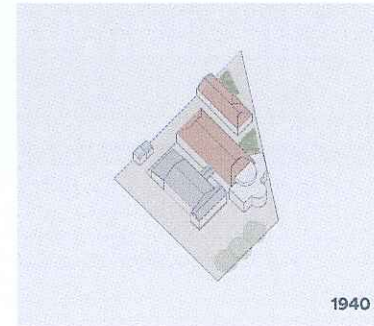
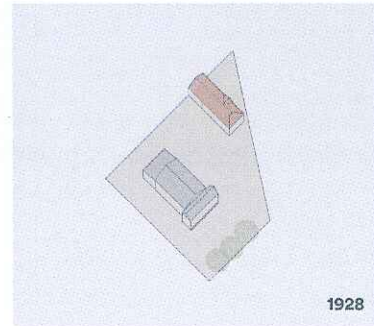
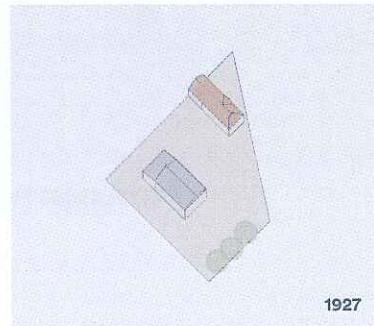
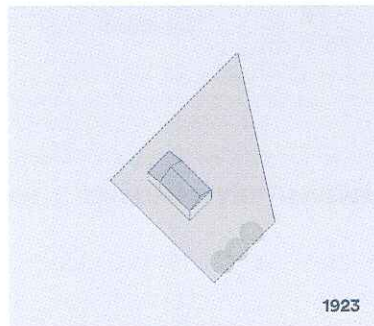


### 1.10 DEVELOPMENT OF SITE

The Narembeen Civic Precinct has undergone development since 1923, when the Lesser Hall was constructed. The central theme of this report revolves around the civic development of Narembeen Civic Precinct and historical evidence illustrates the site's growth. Site development diagrams illustrate the changes to the precinct over time.

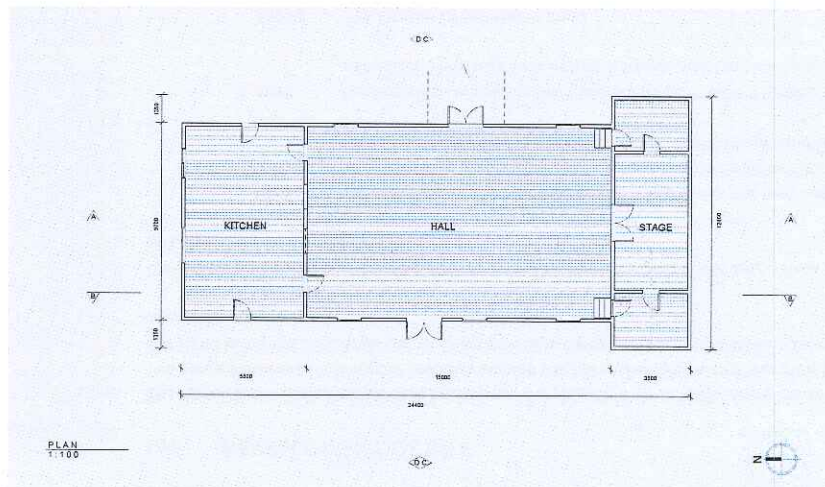
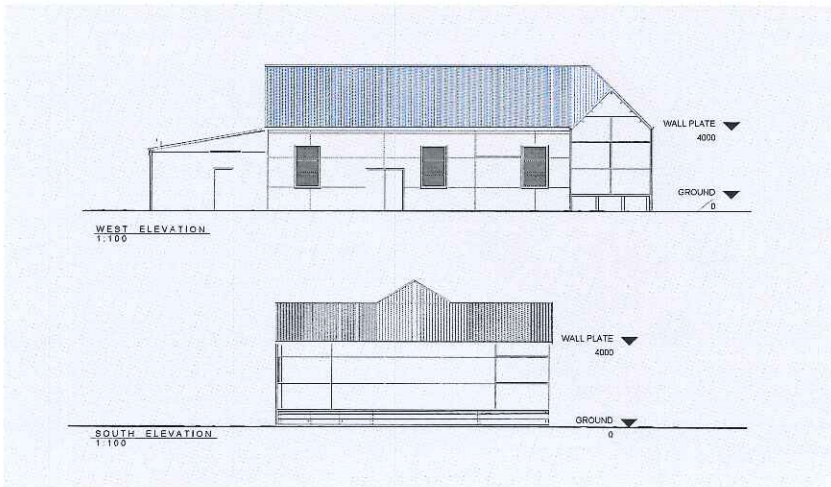
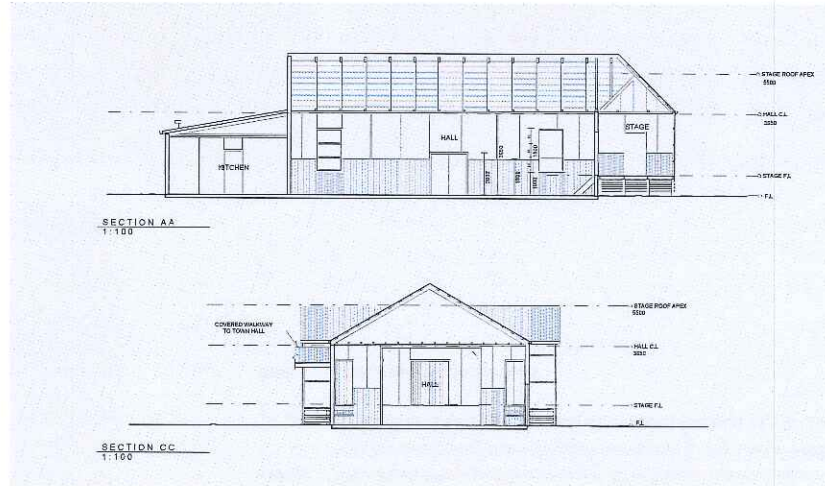
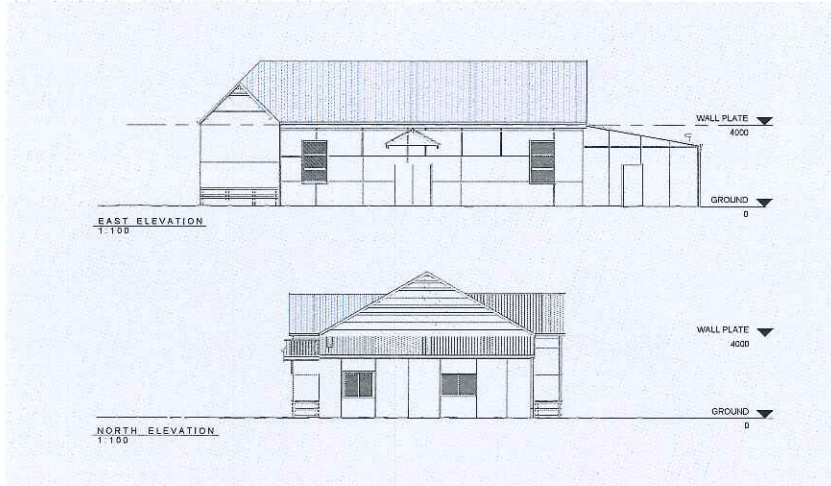
The following extract of a timeline of events for the Civic Precinct site is taken from the Conservation Plan by Laura Gray (November 1995):

- 1923** Construction of the hall proper and a kitchen at the rear (north). The timber framed and weatherboard clad building was unlined on the interior. The roof was corrugated iron sheeting. The timber stumped floor was above the ground level.
- 1927** Construction of the Roads Board Building. Prior to 1928 the stage wing of the hall is added on. The stage was timber framed, weatherboard and iron clad.
- c1928** The interior of the Hall is lined.
- c1940** The Public Hall was constructed. The 'Lesser Hall' was connected to the Public Hall by a covered walkway from the east exit doors of the Lesser Hall. Ladies and Gents separate brick toilet buildings were constructed at the rear of the Lesser Hall site.
- 1995** Brick toilets demolished



# 1.0 BACKGROUND

## 1.11 EXISTING PLANS - NAREMBEEN LESSER HALL



Narembeen Lesser Hall – Building Elevations

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## 2.0 INTERPRETATION

### 2.1 WHAT IS INTERPRETATION?

Interpretation can be defined in a number of ways but essentially it aims to record and communicate the significance of a place. Interpretation is a highly personal experience and can be achieved in a number of ways. The real test of the success of interpretation is whether the visitor leaves the site with thoughts and ideas about the place.

Professor David Dolan remarked in 2006 that, *“there is really no defined edge to or end to interpretation; it merges into advertising and marketing, and into the way places are conserved: a paint colour scheme or indeed the way a space is used may be an important interpretive device”*.

One of the earliest proponents of interpretation was Freeman Tilden who identified six main principles:

1. Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.
2. Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information, but they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.
3. Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.
4. The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.
5. Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole person rather than any phase.
6. Interpretation addressed to children (say up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

The interpretation of significant heritage sites is governed by a number of national and international charters. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has produced two guiding documents:

- The Burra Charter (1999): Article 25 Interpretation

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

- The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (2007) also known as the Ename Charter.

From the vast range of surviving material remains and intangible values of past communities and civilisations, the choice of what to preserve, how to preserve it, and how it is to be presented to the public are all elements of site interpretation. They represent every generations vision of what is significant, what is important, and why material remains from the past should be a passed on to generations yet to come.

### 2.2 INTERPRETATIVE MEDIA

There is a vast number of ways in that sites can be interpreted, ranging from traditional didactic signage to high tech smart phone applications with sound, images and film footage to enhance the experience. All interpretation requires some level of upkeep and maintenance and this needs to be borne in mind when media are being chosen. Some interpretation methods are intrusive and detract from the heritage value of a site or artifact and this must also be considered when selecting appropriate media.

The following list is adapted from the NSW Heritage Office Interpretation Heritage Places and Items Guidelines document:

**The Item** *The place, building, work, relic, movable object or precinct.*

Interpretation may include:

- Treatment of fabric (eg. the retention of evidence of former use such as signs or marks from machinery now removed).
- Use of the item as a whole (eg. for a building this might mean use of rooms or other spaces, and the retention of garden as gardens).
- Furnishings and other objects (both existing and introduced).
- Objects (existing or introduced).
- Signs (eg. permanent, fixed, movable and temporary).
- Mixed media associated with conservation activities (such as recording or works); and interpretation associated with management activities (such as staff training).

**The Setting** *The area around the item which may include the visual catchment.*

Interpretation may include:

- Protection of significant characteristics of setting by heritage or planning controls (e.g. height controls to protect amenity)
- Management of vegetation to retain views
- Signs and viewing places, public artworks and activities related to an area or theme.

**Publications/Publicity/Souvenirs** *Printed materials which include references to the site and the place.*

Interpretation may include:

- Posters, pamphlets, books, internet web sites and social media, interactive search programs, videos audio and tapes/CD ROMs, school project material, souvenirs, postcards, models, tea towels, etc.

**Events and Access**

Interpretation may include:

- Oral histories, video recordings, providing opportunities for people to assist with maintenance, commemorative events, swap meets and pop-up markets, events during works (e.g. donation of local material for sculpture artist)

**Activities Away from the Item**

Interpretation may include:

- Events and activities related to place, exhibitions, other media (radio, TV, internet, etc.)

## 2.0 INTERPRETATION

### 2.3 EXISTING INTERPRETATION

Existing interpretive measures have already been implemented in the greater Narembeen Civic Precinct. These are key to understanding how past interpretive concepts have been applied, demonstrate what material is available for future interpretation and have influenced the concepts and designs presented in this plan.

As such, brief descriptions of past or existing interpretive measures are presented below:

#### Existing Signage and Plaques

There are a number of signs/plaques that exist throughout the main street in the Town. These are presented in a variety of ways from standard signage through to plaques located on pavers or embedded in rocks/boulders and fence structures.

#### Roads Board Building

This building is currently used by the Historical Society. Opportunity exists to utilise this space as a starting point/visitors centre for the Town's history. It would be complementary to the Grain Discovery Centre which focuses only on a specific aspect of the Town's history and future.

#### Grain Discovery Centre

This modern interpretive centre tells the story of WA's grain industry from the paddock to the plate. It features visual and interpretive displays, interactive televisions and touch screens. The centre focuses on the story of grain relative to the Town and the region.

### 2.4 INTERPRETATION ANALYSIS

The following has been taken from the State Heritage Office Assessment Criteria for Cultural Heritage Significance (March 2012) and will be adapted to categorise various significant aspects of the Narembeen Civic Precinct for suggested Interpretation.

The Cultural Heritage Significance of a place is assessed by considering various values. Each place is unique and has its own combination of values, which together show its cultural heritage significance.

Nature of Significance

- Aesthetic Value:** Significance in exhibiting particular aesthetic requirements.
- Historical Value:** Significance in the evolution or pattern of the history of Western Australia.
- Scientific Value:** Demonstrable potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the natural or cultural history of Western Australia.
- Social Value:** Significance through association with a community or cultural group in Western Australia for social, cultural, educational or spiritual lessons.

#### Aesthetic Value

1. The Precinct is an integral element and identifiable in the landscape of Narembeen.
2. Each place is unique for its associations, architecture and period of development, and contributes to the precinct character.

Reference should be made to the form, proportion and scale of the Lesser Hall. The Hall is a single storey compressed fibre cement cladd building with a corrugated iron gable and hip roof construction indicative of the era and place it was built.

Existing elements of Lesser Hall, namely recovered construction materials, Peppermint Trees and found objects, are utilised and incorporated into an Interpretation Concept. It is imperative that a concept remains identifiable in the style and aesthetic of the Civic Precinct.

#### Historical Value

3. The Narembeen Hall is significant for its integral role within the initial developing phase of the town and region of Narembeen. It demonstrates a way of life no longer practiced.
4. The Hall evokes a sense of place created by the memories of the events that have occurred in the place, and varying degrees of historic importance to individuals, community groups and the town of Narembeen.

Anecdotal stories, written, visual and verbal evidence pertaining to the functions, uses and memories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct are represented through various media.

#### Social Value

5. Meeting place for community organisations such as CWA (Country Women's Association), Scouts, various religious denominations
6. The place is a representative demonstration of the sequential development of the civic and social life of a rural community in the eastern wheatbelt region of Western Australia during the first half of the twentieth century.

The site of the Lesser Hall should remain a place to meet and hold activities for the local Community reminiscent of the sorts of organisations and activities that previously occupied the Hall.

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## 2.0 INTERPRETATION

### 2.5 INTERPRETATION VISION

As the Civic Precinct enters its next phase of life through the ongoing development of alternative uses and tenants it is important that the stories and history associated with the place are not lost. The vision for the interpretation of the Civic Precinct is:

*To keep alive the stories of the Narembeen Civic Precinct through a range of innovative and sustainable techniques to ensure that future generations appreciate the role the Lesser Hall played in the lives of the Community and the Civic Precinct of Narembeen.*

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## 3.0 CONCEPTS AND DESIGNS

In line with section two, and in consideration of existing interpretive measures, this section provides a strategic vision for future interpretation of the Lesser Hall, as well as identifying key stories that should be addressed and possible media.

This concept plan is designed to be specific enough to provide guidance to future developers and managers, whilst allowing flexibility to include future developments in interpretation techniques. In addition, the plan ensures that ongoing management and maintenance issues are kept to a minimum.

This report provides suggestions, but is prescriptive about the media that can be used to present the stories.

### 3.1 AUDIENCE IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

The target audiences are divided into two categories, namely Community and Visitor. These two distinct groupings of audience have been differentiated for the purposes of this plan.

They will be identified as:

#### **The Community**

Live in town or in surrounding farming property. Visit the town centre for groceries, post office, pharmacy and the bank. Engage with friends at the hotel on a Friday night. At school during the week with sports after school or on the weekend. Like to play with their friends in the park or purchase consumables at the IGA.

#### **The Visitor**

Driving through Narembeen to visit Wave Rock at Hyden or Merredin. Stop at the service station to buy petrol and a meal or snack. Wander through the town to stretch their legs and have a break before recommencing their journey. Might stay locally overnight before continuing on in the morning.

The appeal of the interpretation must be wide to cater for all ages as well as meet all accessibility as outlined in the Australian Standards. The age demographic of the local community is broad with the oldest member of the community being 100 years old and the youngest member newly born. From our research and observation we have determined that Narembeen is an ageing population where we seek to design the interpretation so that it may also trigger and engage young members of the community.

We are aiming to include the community in as many ways as possible by engaging local organisations such as the Men's Shed, the High School, Historical Society and local art groups and artists.

#### **The Audience and their Relationship with The Site**

The proposed site of the Lesser Hall needs to consider how the hall was used and utilised in the past, as well as what new opportunities exist through the development of the interpretative plan.

The proposed plan uses different interpretive media, such as signage, seating and art installations, as well as landscaping to shape the Lesser Hall's physical and historic footprint. Media will create physical markers within the site to tell historical and emotional stories while still allowing the audience to use the space for celebration and play.

The footprint of Lesser Hall must be used for a multitude functions. An Interpretation scheme should celebrate the stories, artwork and history of Narembeen. The site will also collaborate with the other interpretive and historical destinations that exist within the Narembeen Civic Precinct and broader area to help bridge a stronger connection between them all.

These multiple functions include, but are not limited to:

CELEBRATION - Ceremonies, Theatre, Presentations, Community events

TOURISM - History, Stories, Interactive Art

PLAY - Interactive, Children, Leisure, Relaxing



## 3.1 CONCEPTS AND DESIGNS

### 3.2 THEMES

The themes for this plan are identified in the Interpretive Principles in Section Two; however the central theme for the interpretation of the Civic Precinct is:

*Narembeen Civic Precinct is a significant social and historical site reminiscent of the developing civic presence in a rural community.*

The sub themes for the interpretation of the Civic Precinct are:

The **People**, the **Place** and the **Functions** of Lesser Hall within the Narembeen Civic Precinct.

Interpretation principles are established for the Civic Precinct site, with a focus on the Lesser Hall building are established for the site, buildings, kept and donated objects and materials.

### 3.3 STORIES

A review of previous reports, further research and communications surrounding the town of Narembeen reveals a wealth of stories that could be told throughout the site. A number of stories have been identified that reinforce the central and sub themes. The identification of these stories does not preclude the future inclusion of other stories and rather encourages a new phase of life for the Lesser Hall site whilst maintaining a remembrance of the past.

Storytelling as a key component to interpreting this site. The themes we are focusing on include:

- Events: WW2, Great Depression, Diamond Jubilee [Social – the People]
- Founding families / pioneers [Social – the People]
- Users of the Lesser Hall: Buffalo Lodge, Apex, CWA, High School, Churches, Progress Association, Hospital Pictures etc [Social – the People]
- Uses of the Lesser Hall: Weddings, Parties, Suppers, Dances, Funerals, Sports, Rehearsal, Hospital, Pictures, etc [the Functions, the People]
- Arrival of Public Hall and relationship [the Place]
- Architecture of the Lesser Hall [the Place]
- Opening of Lesser Hall and first night fight [the Functions, the People]

### 3.4 INTERPRETATION ZONES

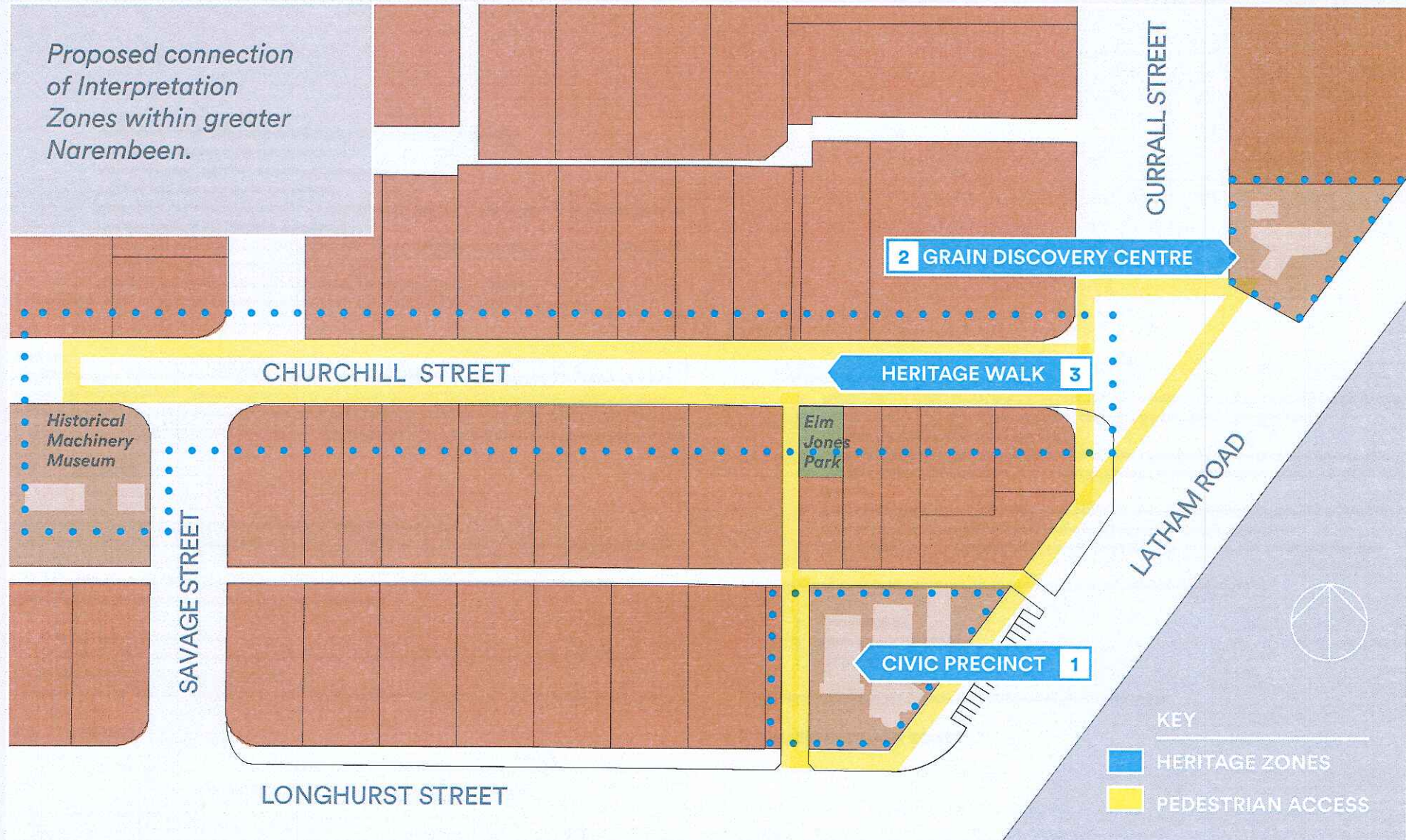
Interpretation Zones within Greater Narembeen have been identified as:

1. Narembeen Civic Precinct
2. Grain Discovery Centre
3. Heritage Walk

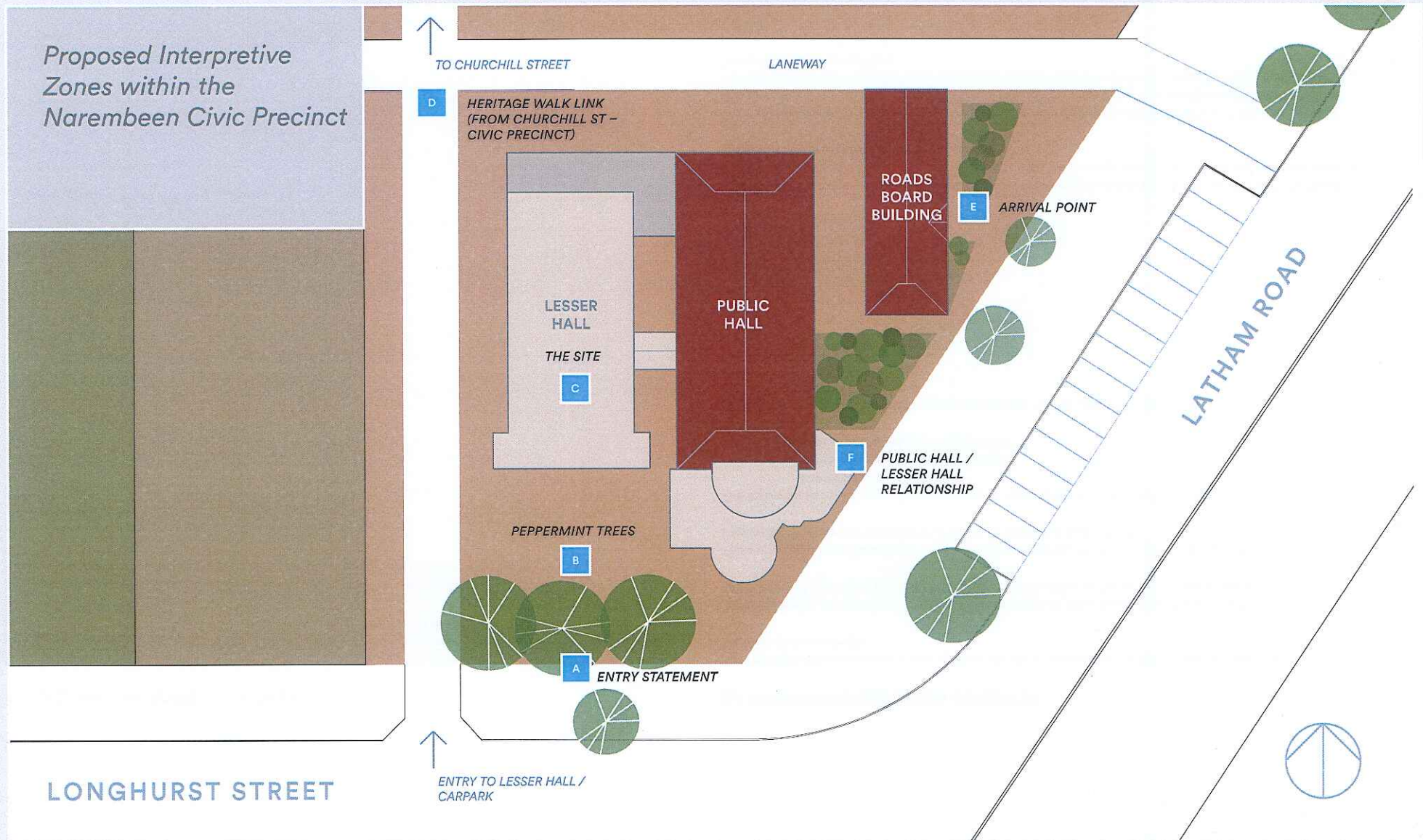
Key locations for interpretation in the Narembeen Civic Precinct have been identified as:

- A. Entry Statement – The Narembeen Civic Precinct's location on Longhurst Street provides the opportunity for an attention grabbing art statement when entering Narembeen.
- B. Peppermint Trees – The Peppermint Trees canopies provide a shady area for taking a moment out of the sun.
- C. The Site – The removal of Lesser Hall, leaving it's footprint to be represented without the building itself.
- D. Heritage Walk Link – The existing history signage on Churchill St can be accessed directly from site with the adjoining laneway and park.
- E. Roads Building – A major arrival point in accessing the Narembeen Civic Precinct.
- F. Public Hall – A minor arrival point to access the Narembeen Civic Precinct and direct connection to The Site.

### 3.4 INTERPRETIVE ZONES - GREATER NAREMBEEN



### 3.4 INTERPRETIVE ZONES - NAREMBEEN CIVIC PRECINCT



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## 3.0 CONCEPTS AND DESIGNS

### 3.5 DESIGN OF INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS

It is important to ensure that there is a high degree of continuity so that any future interpretation fits seamlessly into the site. Interpretation should fit the current aesthetic of the greater Narembeen Civic Precinct and, where possible, items such as the Peppermint Trees and other significant items should be interpreted in situ.

Conservation of the Public Hall and Roads Board Building and their surroundings should be seen as a means of interpreting the site. The principles in Section One should guide any future interpretation.

### 3.6 DESIGN INTERPRETATION CONCEPTS

The following design concept drawings illustrate the suggested methods of interpretation for the Narembeen Lesser Hall.

The initial pages provide an overview of the inspiration we have drawn from the site itself (structure, architecture, fixtures and fittings) and from around the globe to inform the design concepts.

The subsequent page focuses on a mood board of materials, media and plantings that we have drawn inspiration from the site and the surrounding landscape of Narembeen.

The following pages illustrate the suggested Interpretation Zones for the Narembeen Civic Precinct:

- Interpretive Zones Plan
- Interpretive Zones Select Elevations
- Interpretive Elements' Descriptions

The following pages illustrate the suggested designs for the Interpretive Elements:

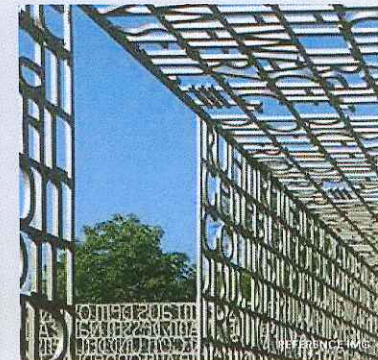
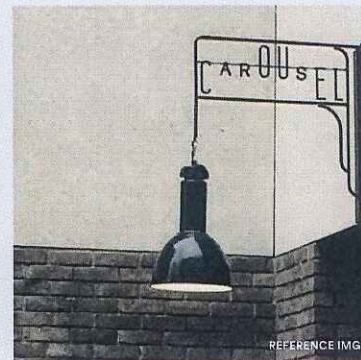
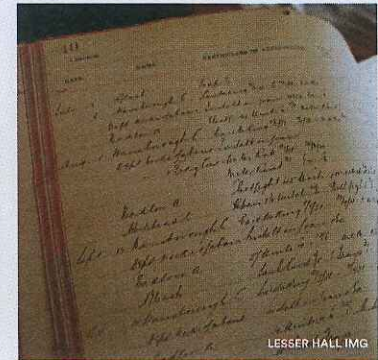
- A. Entry Statement
- B. Peppermint Trees
- C. The Site
  - *C.1 Seating*
  - *C.2 Signage*
  - *C.3 Open Doors*
  - *C.4 Silhouette and Stage*
- D. Heritage Walk Link
- E. Roads Building
- F. Public Hall

Please note that there were initial ideas to develop the interpretive signage plan to include both the Roads Board Building and the Public Hall as they demonstrate the heritage progression of the precinct and town. In doing so it will create a destination and arrival point.

The outcome needs to be complementary to the current roadhouse and Grain Discovery Centre. There is also the issue of the existing heritage walk trail through the main street that commences at the Public Hall, this will be factored in in order to tie the civic precinct, roadhouse and main street to create one seamless interpretive plan for the Town.

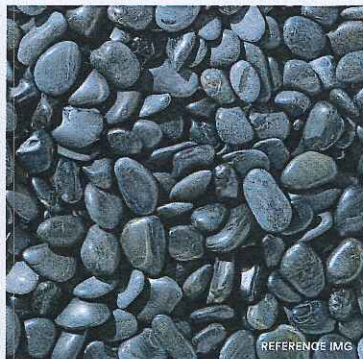
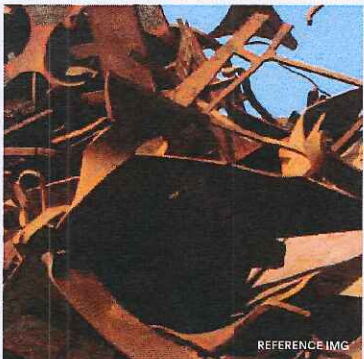
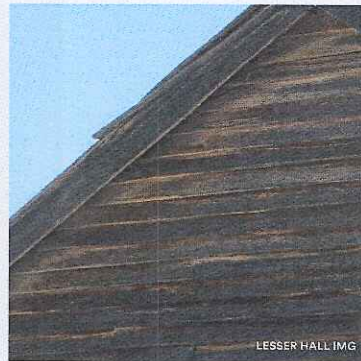
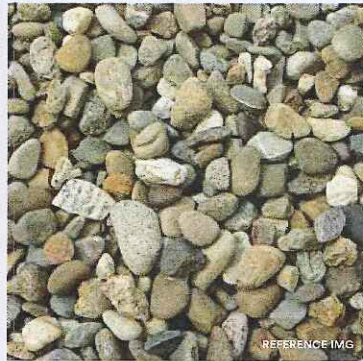
### 3.6 DESIGN CONCEPT SITE AND GLOBAL INSPIRATION

*To keep alive the stories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall through a range of innovative and sustainable techniques to ensure that future generations appreciate the role the Lesser Hall played in the lives of the Community and the Civic Precinct of Narembeen.*



### 3.6 DESIGN CONCEPT MATERIAL INSPIRATION

*Adaptive reuse of materials salvaged from Lesser Hall, complement by sustainable native plants and landscaping materials sourced from the greater Narembeen.*



## 3.6 INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS (VIEW IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAP ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

### A ENTRY STATEMENT

*Major identifier for the Narembeen Civic Precinct in the form of a public art statement, located on Longhurst Street.*

*'Red Thunder'* - Commission local artist Jordan Sprigg's to create a centerpiece statement of similar scale to *'Red Thunder'* work. This sculpture would be flanked by corten horse silhouettes forming a fence boundary to the Civic Precinct site.

### B PEPPERMINT TREES

*Statement seating designed specifically to provide a place to dwell under the three large Peppermint Trees shady canopies.*

The seating would provide a strong link between the entry statement (on Longhurst Street) and The Site (the adaption of the Lesser Hall Building). When seated, a sense of the Lesser Halls scale can be seen by the upright structures that frames the buildings gable roof form.

### C THE SITE

*The proposed adaptation of The Site creates an environment for people to discover the stories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall. Providing a new meeting place for future generations to enjoy.*

**C.1: Seating** - Functional seating incorporating reuse of Narembeen Lesser Hall materials. Seating provides a dual purpose: a place to sit and dwell while discovering anecdotal quotes, poems or stories from the past.

**C.2: Signage** - Freestanding signage forms derived from the original windows of Lesser Hall. Content covers stories about memories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct.

**C.3: Open Doors** - Large corten door structures supporting the connecting Public Hall's corrugated gable roof. A chronological snapshot of Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct.

**C.4: Silhouette & Stage** - An abstract representation of the Lesser Hall roof profile using a frame installation, with the hall's stage represented by a paved footprint.

### D HERITAGE ZONE LINK

*Creating a direct link for pedestrians to access the Narembeen Civic Precinct & The Site from the main street (Churchill Street & Elm Jones Park).*

A strong sightline exists between the main street, the Lesser Hall carpark and Longhurst Street. There is an opportunity to create a pedestrian thoroughfare between interpretive zones.

Consideration to providing dedicated pedestrian access through consistent sustainable garden design and landscaping, complementary to The Site's material scheme.

### E ROADS BOARD BUILDING

*A major arrival point in accessing the Narembeen Civic Precinct and commencement of the greater Narembeen interpretive (zones) trail.*

In our initial thinking we want to develop the interpretive signage plan to include both the Roads Board Building and the Public Hall as they demonstrate the heritage progression of the precinct and town. In doing so it will create a destination and arrival point.

The outcome needs to be complementary to the Grain Discovery Centre, current roadhouse. There is also the issue of the existing heritage trail through the Churchill Street that commences at the Public Hall. This will be considered in order to tie the civic precinct, roadhouse and main street to create one seamless interpretive plan for the town.

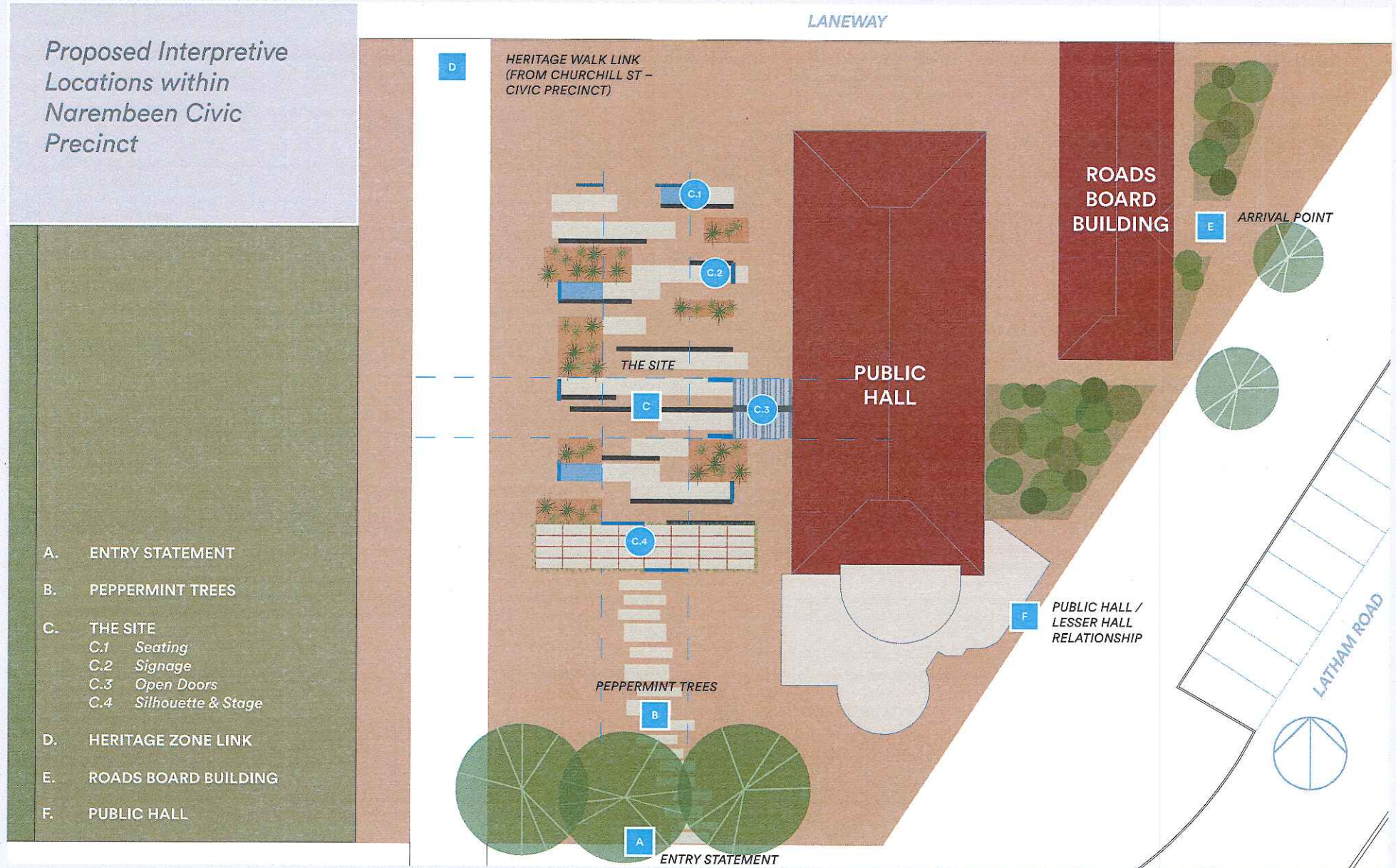
Consideration to creating a sustainable garden design and landscaping complementary to the proposed site materials scheme, unifying the Civic Precinct.

### F PUBLIC HALL

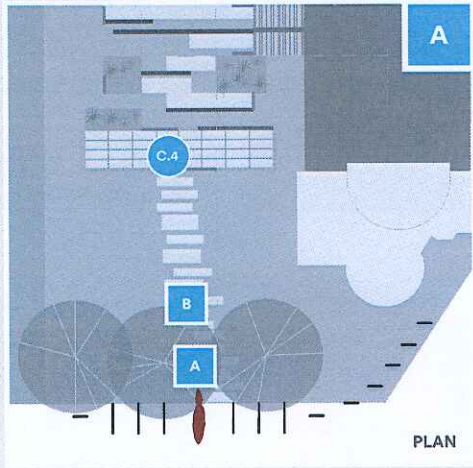
*A minor arrival point to access the Narembeen Civic Precinct and direct connection to The Site.*

As per the Roads Board Building. Narembeen Civic Precinct's boundary to be connected by entry statement and fencing on corner of Longhurst Street and Latham Road.

### 3.6 SITE INTERPRETATION PLAN







**ENTRY STATEMENT CONCEPT**  
**'RED THUNDER'**

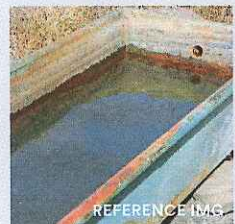


*Commission local artist  
Jordan Sprigg to create a  
hero statement piece similar to  
previous 'Red Thunder' work.*

The commissioned centre piece statement, of similar scale to 'Red Thunder' work, would be flanked corten horse silhouettes creating a fence boundary for the Civic Precinct. Seating under the Peppermint Trees could possibly recreate a scene from the past - a horse tied up at a water trough waiting for the farmer to leave the Lesser Hall.



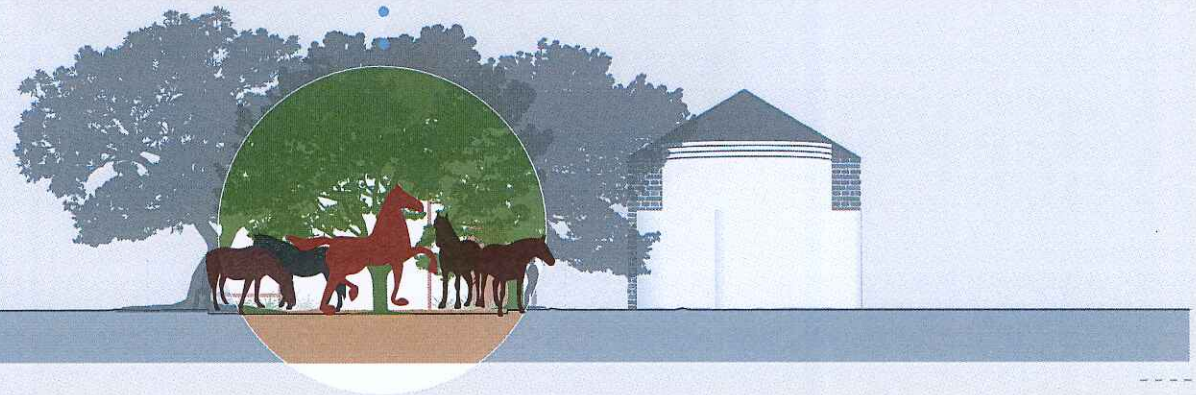
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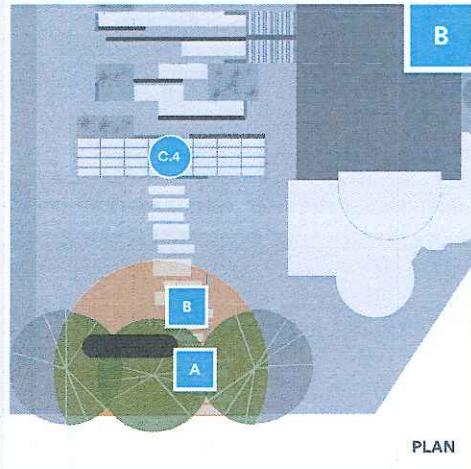
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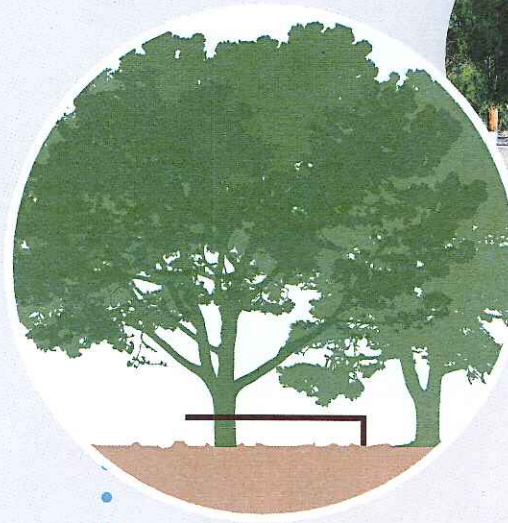
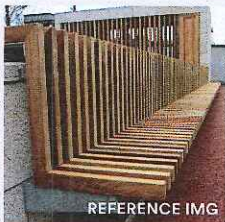
SITE IMG



SOUTH ELEVATION  
of the Peppermint Trees

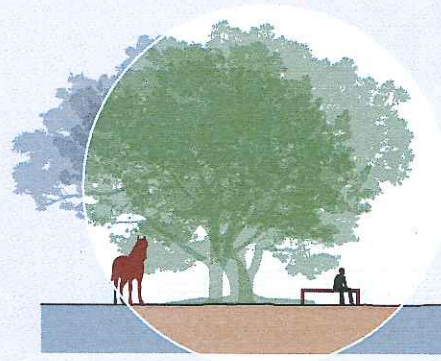


## ESTABLISHED PEPPERMINT TREES STREET FURNITURE FOR DWELLING

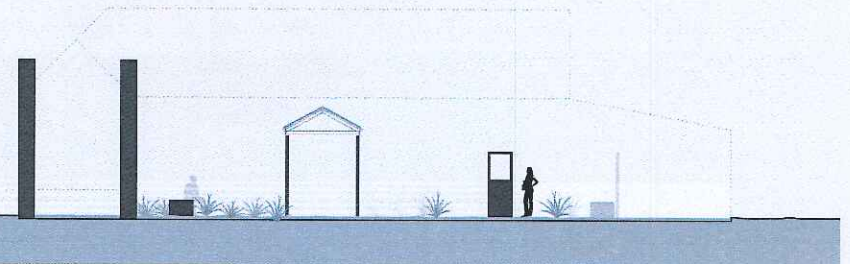


*Statement seating uniquely designed for site to provide a place to dwell under the three Peppermint Trees shady canopies.*

The seating would provide a strong link between the entry statement (on Longhurst Street) and The Site (the adaptation of the Lesser Hall Building). When seated, a sense of the Lesser Halls scale can be seen by the upright structures that frame the buildings gable roof form.



EAST ELEVATION



C

SITE INTERPRETATION  
OVERVIEW OF MEDIA

*Proposed Interpretation  
Media locations within  
the Site in plan*

*The proposed adaptation of The Site creates an environment for people to discover the stories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall. Providing a new meeting place for future generations to enjoy.*

**C.1 SEATING**

Functional seating incorporating reuse of Narembeen Lesser Hall materials. Seating provides a dual purpose: a place to sit and dwell while discovering anecdotal quotes, poems or stories from the past.

**C.2 SIGNAGE**

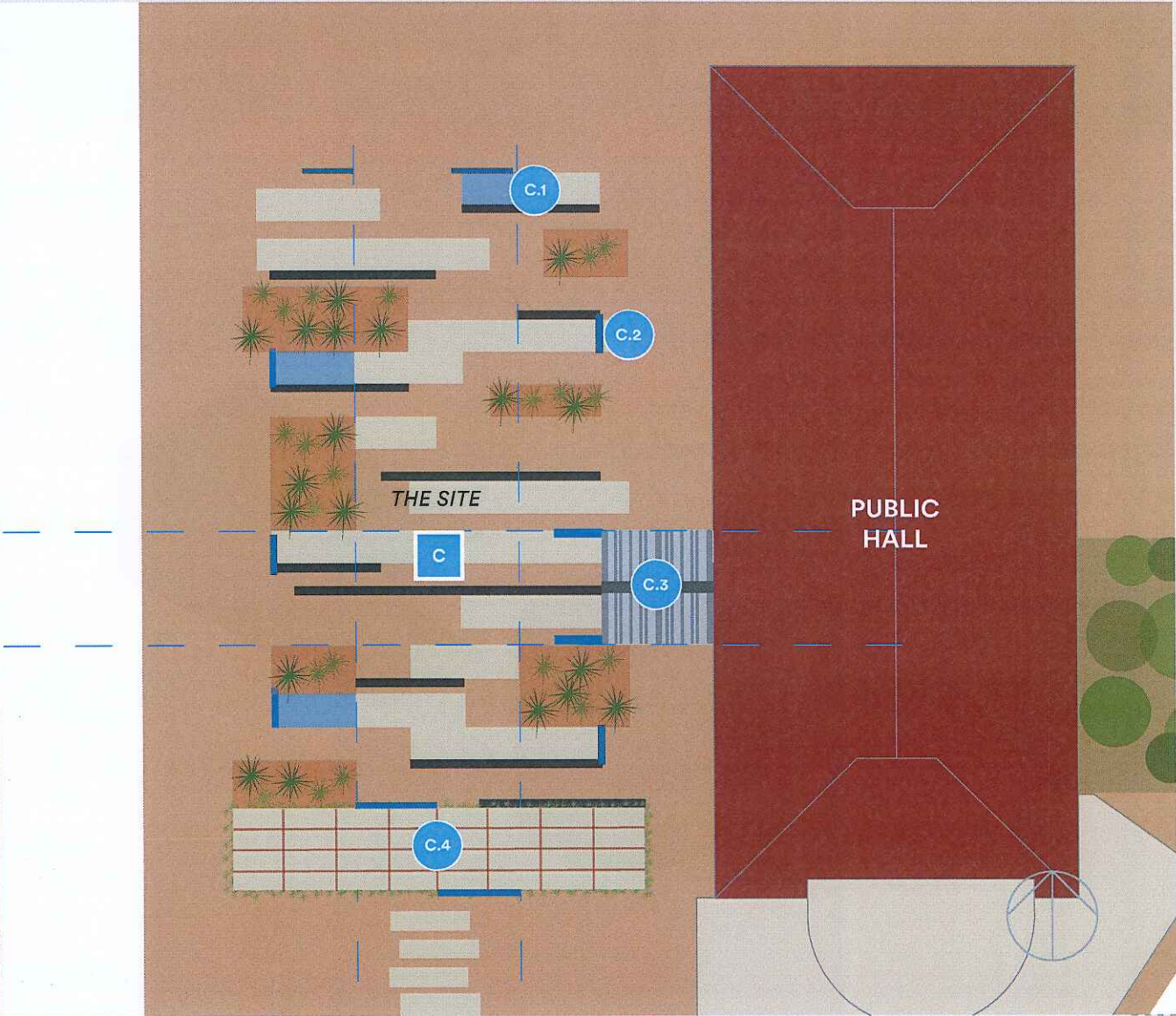
Freestanding signage forms derived from the original windows of Lesser Hall. Content covers stories about memories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct.

**C.3 OPEN DOORS**

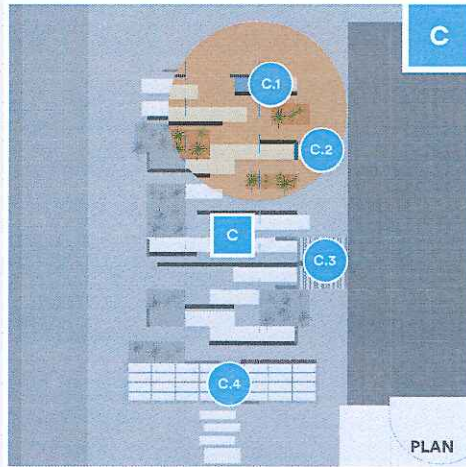
Large corten door structures supporting the connecting Public Hall's corrugated gable roof. A chronological snapshot of Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct.

**C.4 SILHOUETTE & STAGE**

An abstract representation of the Lesser Hall roof profile using a frame installation, with the hall's stage represented by a paved footprint.



## C.1 THE SEATING



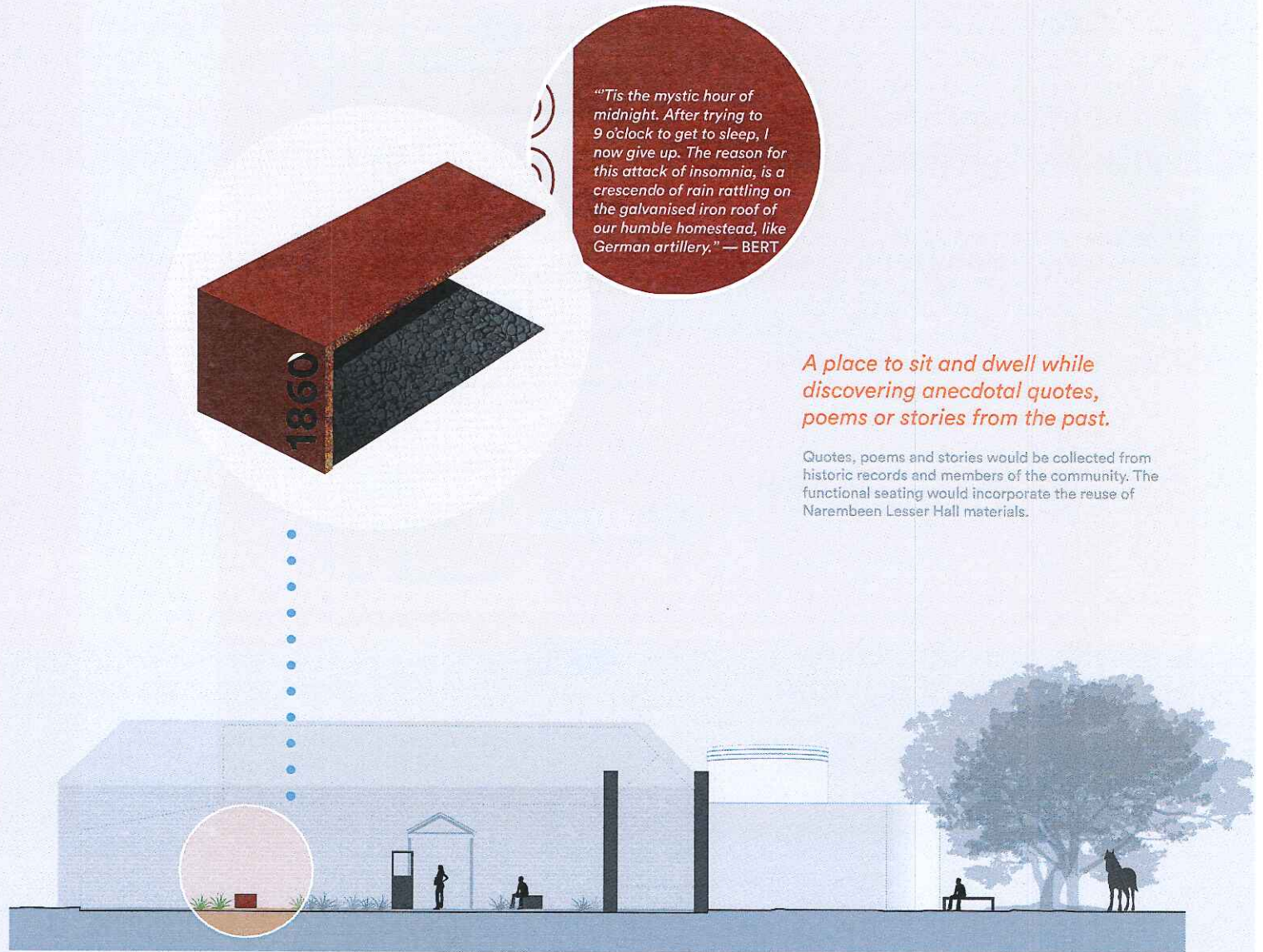
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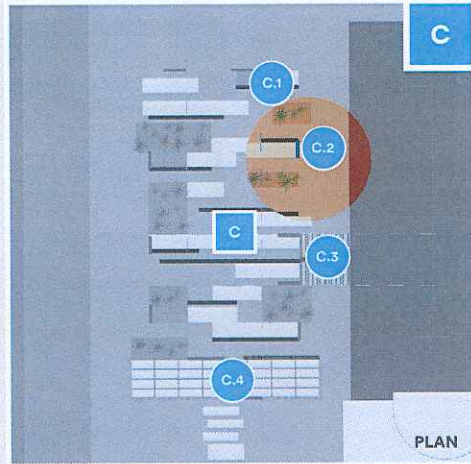


*"Tis the mystic hour of midnight. After trying to 9 o'clock to get to sleep, I now give up. The reason for this attack of insomnia, is a crescendo of rain rattling on the galvanised iron roof of our humble homestead, like German artillery." — BERT*

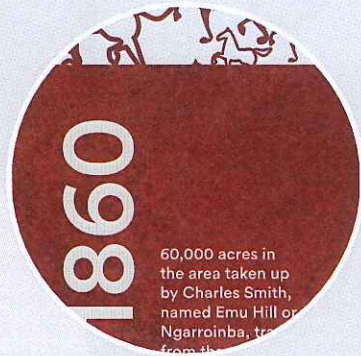
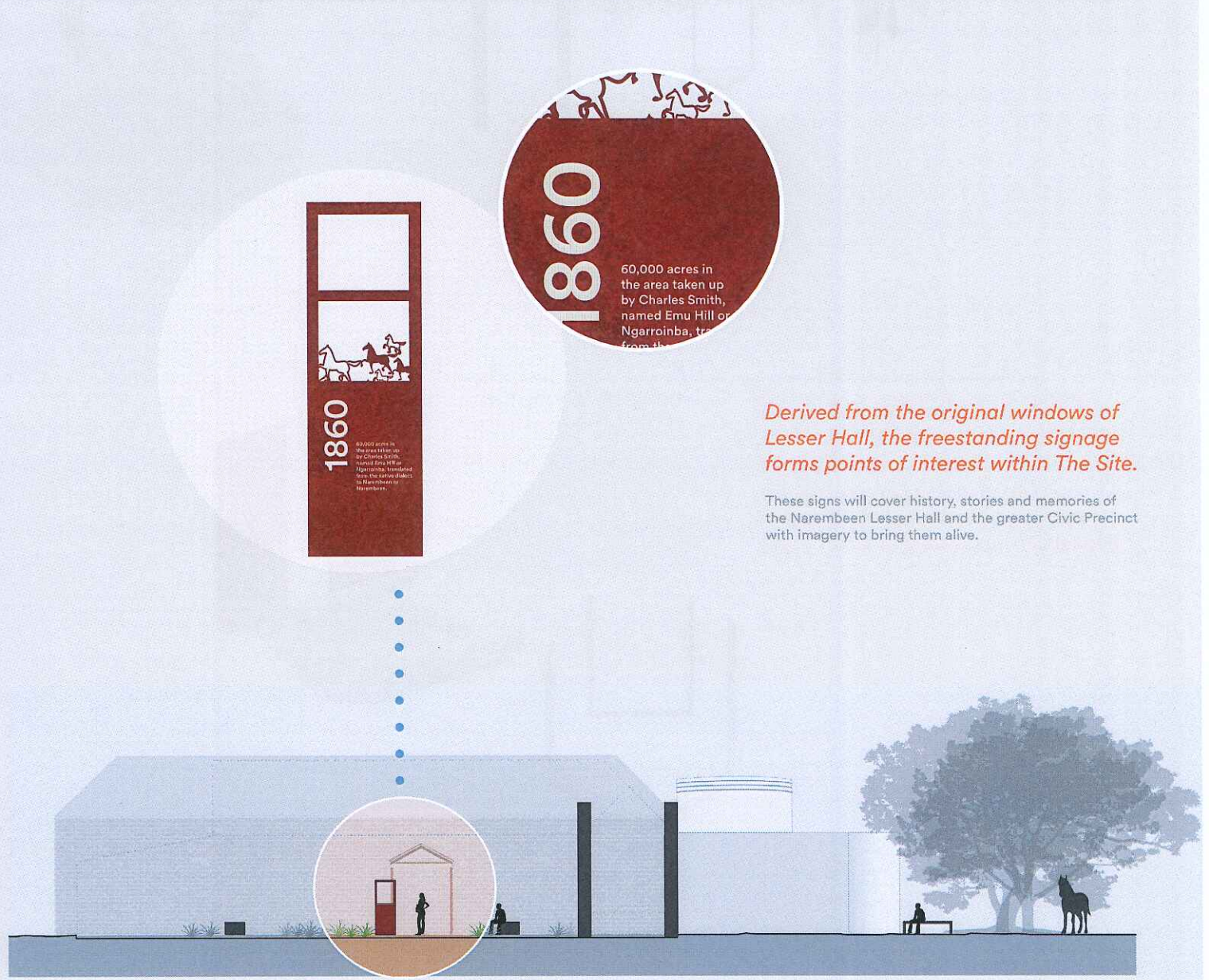
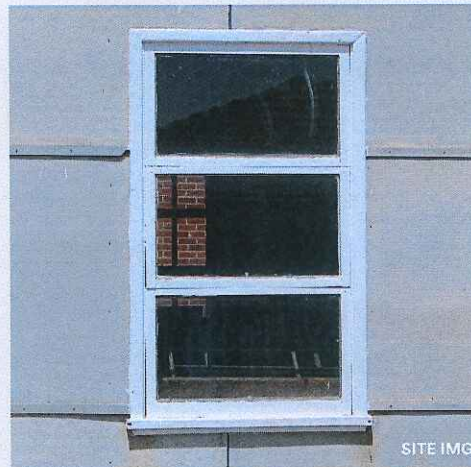
*A place to sit and dwell while discovering anecdotal quotes, poems or stories from the past.*

Quotes, poems and stories would be collected from historic records and members of the community. The functional seating would incorporate the reuse of Narembeen Lesser Hall materials.

WEST ELEVATION



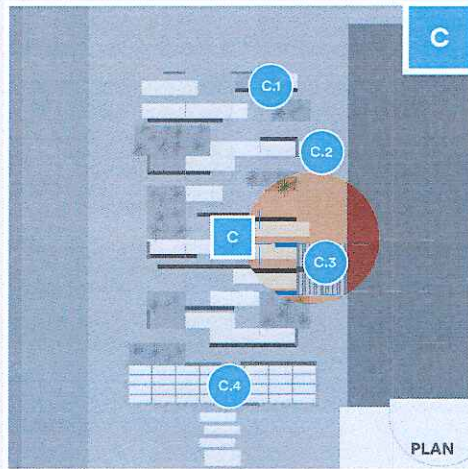
## C.2 THE SIGNAGE



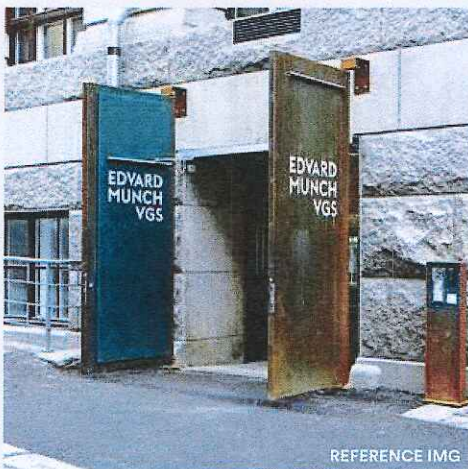
*Derived from the original windows of Lesser Hall, the freestanding signage forms points of interest within The Site.*

These signs will cover history, stories and memories of the Narembeen Lesser Hall and the greater Civic Precinct with imagery to bring them alive.

WEST ELEVATION



### C.3 THE DOORS



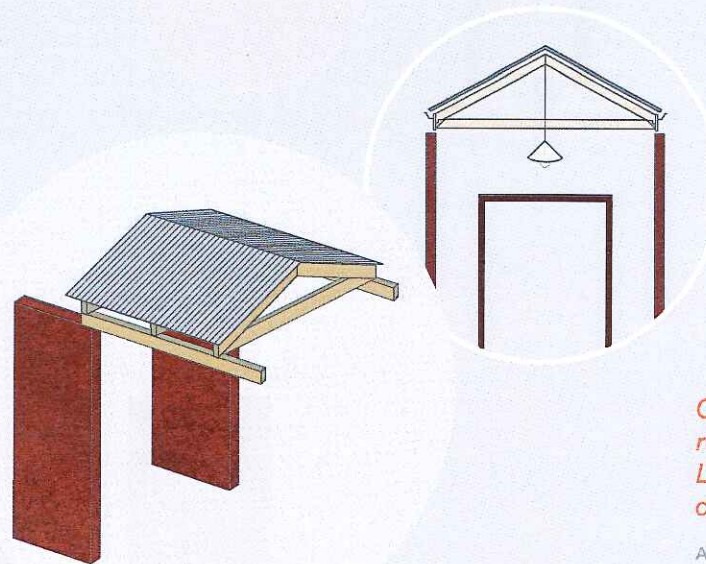
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SITE IMG

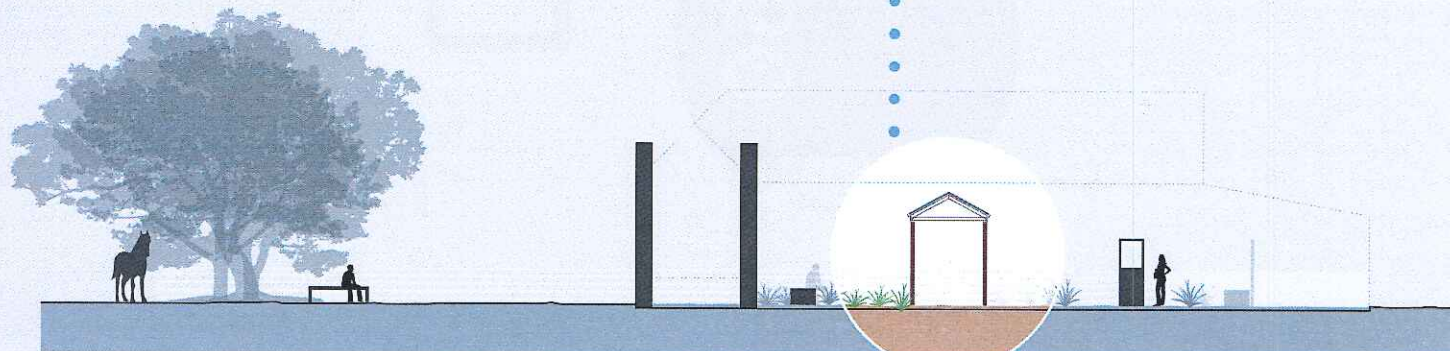


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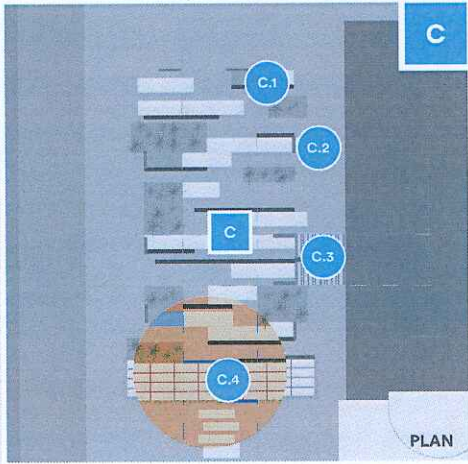


*Open Doors preserves the connecting roof structure between Public and Lesser Halls held up by dramatic corten doors.*

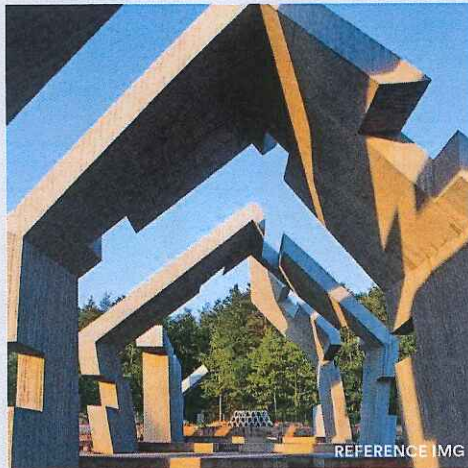
As well as being a literal representation of the connection between the two halls, the overall element would communicate the history of the site and town with a timeline displayed on the doors themselves.



EAST ELEVATION



## C.4 SILHOUETTE AND STAGE



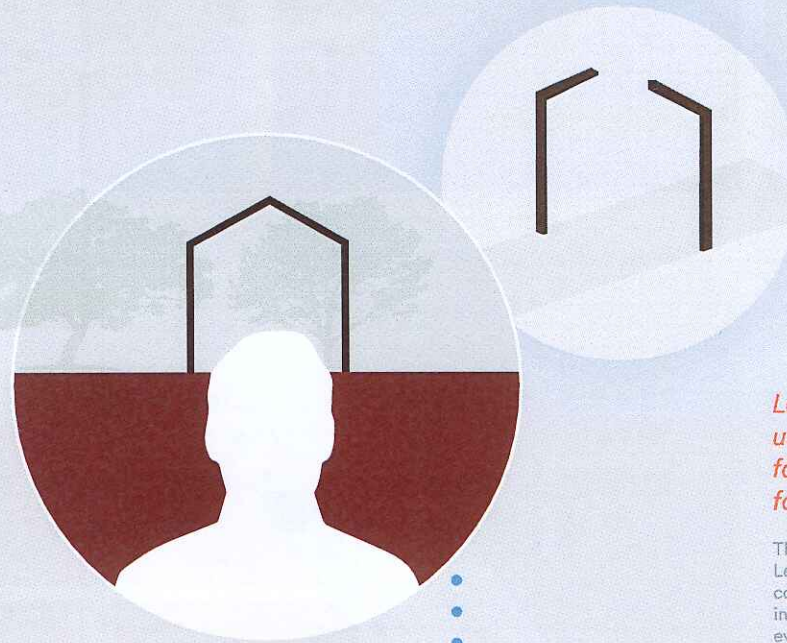
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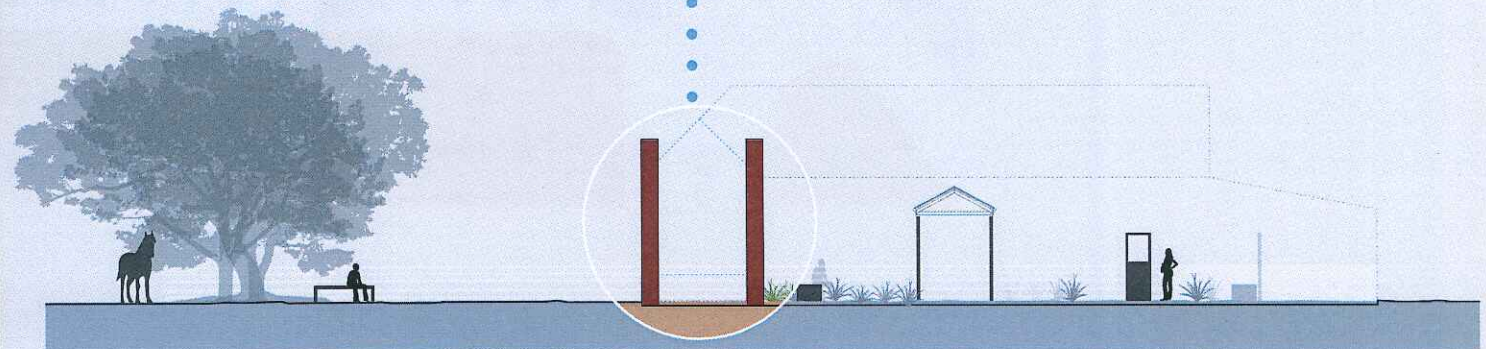


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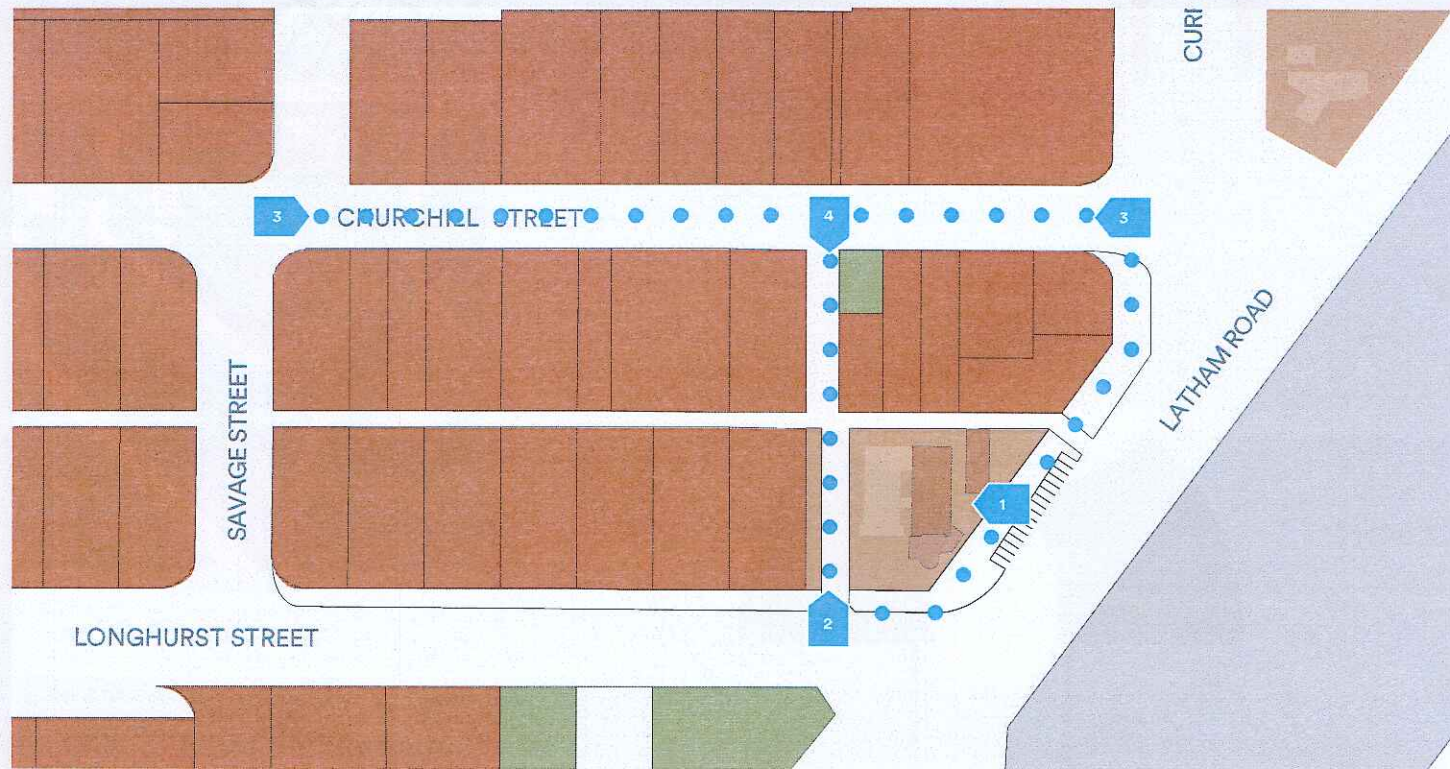
*Lesser Hall's profile is recreated using an abstract frame installation forming the roof with a paved footprint representing the stage.*

These abstract elements represent the footprint of the Lesser Hall and allow the functions of Lesser Hall to continue to play out within the Site. The frame and stage installations can be used for ceremonies and community events, with the frame providing lighting options and also opportunities for decoration.



EAST ELEVATION

**D** HERITAGE ZONE LINK OPPORTUNITY

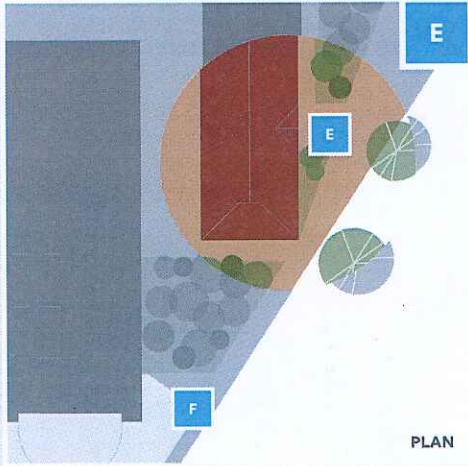


The new Interpretation Vision would incorporate the existing town signage placed down Churchill Street with information about the town's history, referencing buildings and stories about Narembeen.

This link between Churchill Street and the Narembeen Civic Precinct could create a "Heritage Walk" between the separate interpretation zones and bridge them together.







## ROADS BOARD BUILDING OPPORTUNITY



*The Roads Board Building would be the perfect first destination to uncover Narembeen's history, stories and Community spirit.*

A major arrival point in accessing the Civic Precinct and commencement of the greater Narembeen interpretive (zones) trail. The Roads Board Building would act as a starting point to learn about Narembeen's history. The museum of information would translate to the proposed heritage walk for visitors to learn more.



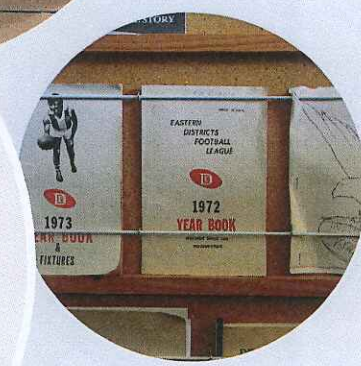
SITE IMG

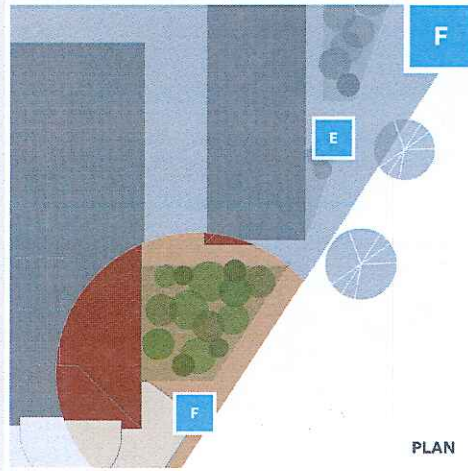


SITE IMG



SITE IMG





## PUBLIC HALL



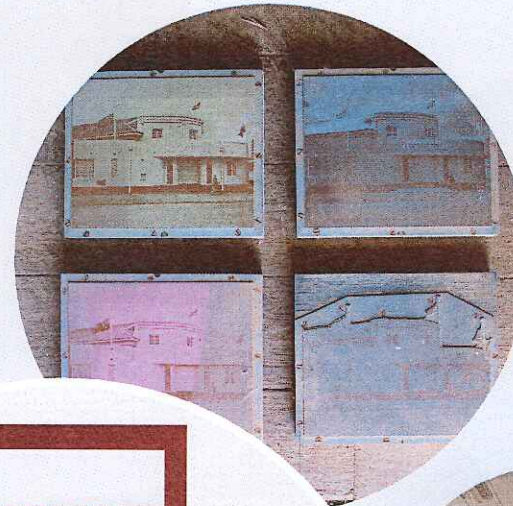
SITE IMG



SITE IMG



SITE IMG



*The relationship between the two halls would be addressed in a very literal manner by keeping the covered walkway structure.*

A minor arrival point to access the Civic Precinct and direct connection to The Site. The proposed signage for the Site and for the Heritage Walk would tell of the interactions between the two halls and their history. By keeping the existing covered walkway 'connection' there is also a visual cue for discussion about the spaces relationship.

### PUBLIC

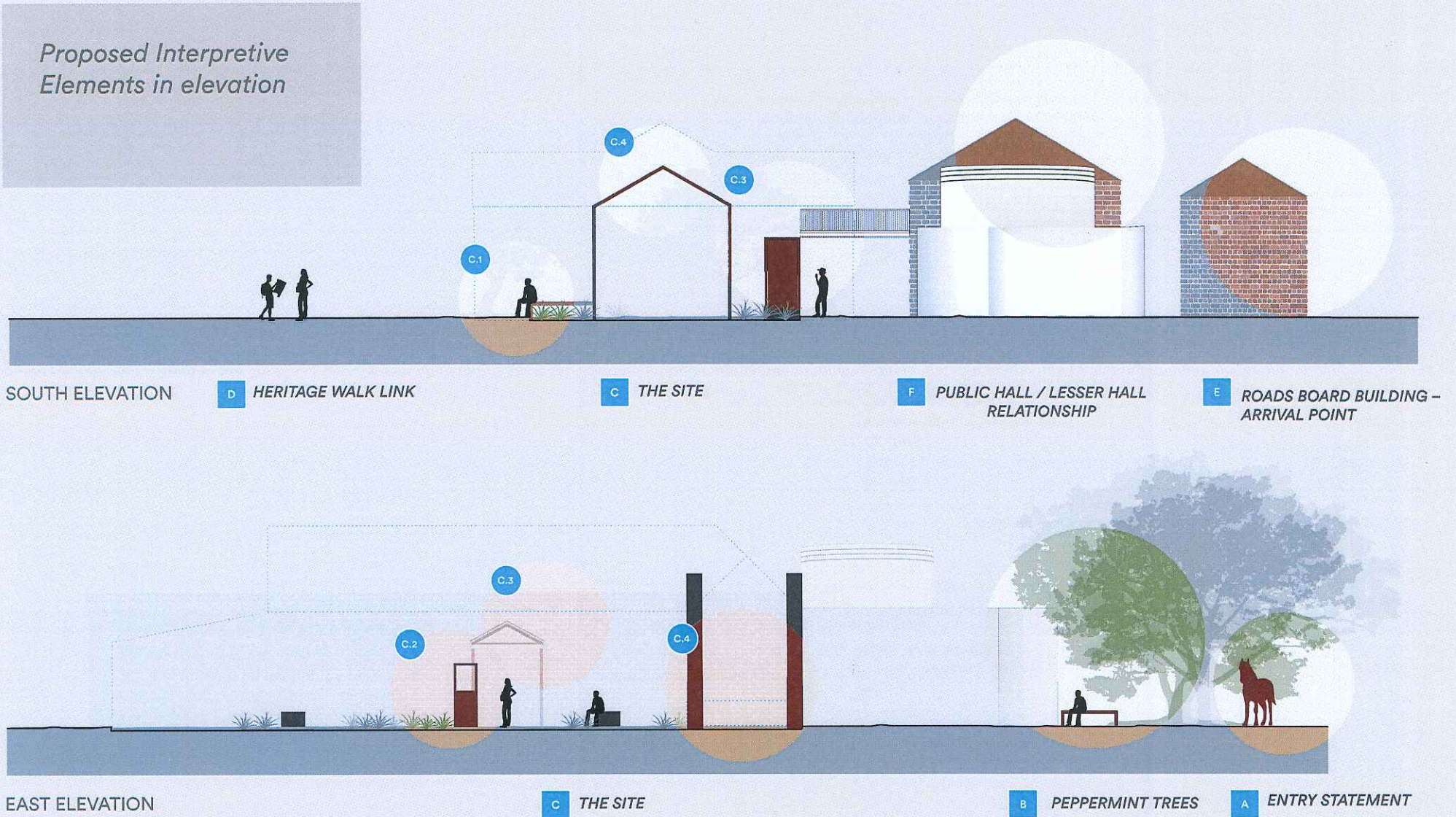
THE CONNECTION

Start of Great Depression  
Memorial Hospital opened  
under the guidance of the  
only medical officer who had  
been serving the community  
since 1927 – prior to that,  
Narembeen was served by  
the Bruce Rock Hospital since  
1925. The medical officer, Dr  
Bryant Bliden, was supported  
by the Hospital Board, the  
Women's Hospital Auxiliary  
and nursing staff. Golf Club  
held its first ball. The hotel  
in Narembeen opened –  
managed by J E Horwill Due  
to the large influx of clearers  
and railway workers, citizens  
became concerned about the  
hotel and its rowdy scenes at



### 3.6 SITE INTERPRETATION ELEVATIONS

*Proposed Interpretive Elements in elevation*



SOUTH ELEVATION

**D** HERITAGE WALK LINK

**C** THE SITE

**F** PUBLIC HALL / LESSER HALL RELATIONSHIP

**E** ROADS BOARD BUILDING – ARRIVAL POINT

EAST ELEVATION

**C** THE SITE

**B** PEPPERMINT TREES

**A** ENTRY STATEMENT

### 3.7 INDICATIVE COSTS

#### Narembeen Civic Precinct

<b>A. Entry Statement</b>	
Commissioned Art Piece by Local Artist – similar to previous Red Thunder <i>(TBC by Shire of Narembeen)</i>	\$35,000.00
<b>B. Peppermint Trees</b>	
Street Furniture – One set of bench and table <i>(Based on input assistance by Mens Shed)</i>	\$10,000.00
<b>C. The Site</b>	
– <b>C1 Seating</b>	
3 x seats (1400mm long) with interpretation media <i>(Based on input assistance by Mens Shed)</i>	\$9,000.00
– <b>C2 Signage</b>	
4 x signs (2400mm high) with interpretation media	\$36,000.00
– <b>C3 Open Doors</b>	
Structure with interpretation media	\$18,000.00*
– <b>C4 Silhouette &amp; Stage</b>	
Steel doorway structure & stage paving treatment	\$30,000.00
– <b>Landscape</b>	
Hard & Soft Landscape	\$6,000.00
<i>All above figures allow for supply &amp; installation</i>	
<b>Contingency</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Professional Fees for Design, Documentation &amp; Contract Administration</b>	\$15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$164,000.00</b>

**Please note:**

- \* Upgrade of structure to keep existing roof structure and structural sign off of this work to be undertaken by Council.
- \*\* Engineering and certification is additional to the above costs.
- \*\*\* Lighting is not included in this cost – this would be additional should it be required.

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PREPARED FOR  
SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN  
BY:

