



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

SUBMISSION BY MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC ON THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS DRAFT MASTER PLAN 2019

Commendation

Congratulations on the work done putting together this Plan that is so essential to maintaining and enhancing this significant Melbourne asset.

We can all be confident the RBG is in good hands.

National Herbarium

1. Removing the “skirt” added to the back of the building will restore its classic 1930’s architecture and heritage value.
2. The addition of glassed in or other areas at the back of the building should be resisted or kept to a minimum.
3. Putting the working building underground with very limited impact on the gardens is an excellent solution .

New main entrance.

1. While beside the Herbarium is an obvious place, how will it work when the Metro Rail project is finished when a number changes to traffic and otherwise may occur.
 - (a) Dallas Brooks Drive may get more use depending on traffic in Toorak Road and Domain Road.
 - (b) if council closes to through traffic Birdwood Avenue between Domain Road and the Herbarium.
 - (c) If council does more to enhance access to Latrobe’s cottage.and an Observatory museum becomes a reality.
2. How is parking for cars and buses to be addressed keeping in mind the significant visitor attractions in this area?

Boyd Tapestry

When the new entrance and visitor centre have been completed we urge the RBG to return the magnificent Boyd tapestry that was moved to Cranbourne where it is wasted.

Observatory Museum

1. The observatory, its buildings, equipment and role are an essential part of Melbourne’s history that must be preserved and restored.
2. This has been recognised by the Observatory being included in the National Heritage Register in 2017.
3. This invaluable asset and responsibility for its protection and use must be in the hands of an organisation with the necessary heritage and museum qualifications and skills.

4. The draft Masterplan contains no reference to or plan for the use of the heritage Observatory assets except to open it up as public space and create the “premier events space”. This fails to recognise and plan the use of this important part of Melbourne’s history.
5. While not detracting from the marvellous work done by the RBG in the gardens, does the RBG possess all of the qualifications and skills necessary for the Observatory?
6. The importance of the Observatory museum must be understood and its management reviewed by government and the relevant heritage authorities.

New Alexandra Avenue entrance

While this is an obvious place to have an entrance, particularly because this is where the buses stop, the construction of a new wharf to accommodate a ferry should not be undertaken without great care.

There are already a number of existing wharves close by which should be used.. Other river users objected to this proposal when it was included in the Domain Master Plan.

Amphitheatre

The RBG already accommodates a number of performing spaces and we do not support the addition of the amphitheatre unless it is replacing another entertainment space.

Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

14 April 2019.