**LOUISA HINSBY PARK – LANDSCAPE PLAN – FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Public comment period ends ~~30th April 2021 2~~~~nd~~ May 2nd 2012**

**Project Background**

The Taroona Community Association (TCA) has been coordinating with Kingborough Council to improve Louisa Hinsby Park in Jenkins Street, Taroona and is now entering the final stages of planning. The park is presently an undeveloped and underutilised vacant lot. Former local resident, Louisa Hinsby, bequeathed it to Council to develop and manage on behalf of the community in 1950.

In October 2018, some members of the community began discussions around the ownership and use of the land, as many residents were unaware it was a public reserve. This prompted the TCA to organise a public meeting onsite in July 2019.

In November 2019, the TCA led more discussion with the community at the Taroona Seaside Festival where residents were invited to suggest options for its development.

During 2018 and 2019, Kingborough Council undertook work to develop a strategy for public open space across the municipality. The ‘Kingborough Open Space Strategy 2019’ was subsequently finalised in March 2019. Action 24 of the Strategy recommended Council give further consideration to the need to retain 19 Jenkins Street (the site of Louisa Hinsby Park) as public open space. Council subsequently began a process of exploring options for the sale of this parcel of land.

In early February 2020, the TCA requested Council review their archives to establish the original intent behind Louisa’s donation of this land to the community. At this point, it was discovered that Louisa Hinsby had bequeathed the land (in 1950) to be used specifically as a playground for the children of Taroona.

With this knowledge, Council was left with only one option: to retain and embellish the land as per Louisa’s wishes.

Not unsurprisingly, the ‘Kingborough Play Space and Playground Audit 2020’ has ranked Louisa Hinsby Park as the worst performing play space in the municipality, given that it is currently only an undeveloped grassed area.

In September 2020, the Mayor, Councillor Dean Winter, made a commitment to upgrade several playgrounds using funds from the Public Open Space Fund, including Louisa Hinsby Park, due to its new high priority status.

The TCA is pleased to present our Landscape Plan for this park, which responds to Louisa’s wishes and also considers the responses gathered during our community consultation sessions.

**The proposed Landscape Plan**

The adjacent Landscape Plan includes the following components:

*- A large central grassed open space, bordered by a compacted gravel path. Retaining a good amount of grassed open space was a common request from residents.*

*- A few pieces of simple timber-framed play equipment and other natural play elements, including boulders, logs, small mounds for beginner trike/bike riders.*

*- A perimeter planting of Taroona native tree, shrub and ground cover species. The 25 species selected were used by the muwinina for food, shelter, medicine and/or tools.*

*- Interpretive plant labels for each species, describing their value to the muwinina, designed with help from Taroona Primary School students and Aboriginal consultants, Nita Education.*

*- Several timber seats.*

*- A simple timber shelter with a timber picnic table.*

*- A story panel on Louisa Hinsby at the entrance to the reserve. Louisa’s husband Joseph Hinsby was renowned in Tasmania in the early 1900s for propagating award-winning daffodils. The story panel will be surrounded by ‘Heather Hinsby Jenkins’ daffodils, which a descendant has given us. The daffodil was named for Joseph and Louisa’s great niece, Heather Hinsby Jenkins.*

**We invite your feedback**

**We invite you to review this Landscape Plan and provide your feedback directly to Kingborough Council by e-mailing:** [**kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au**](mailto:kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au)

**Be sure to include a reference to ‘Louisa Hinsby Park’ in the subject line of your email.**

Responses will then be collated and the Landscape Plan may be modified to suit the majority of public opinion, noting that Louisa’s wishes for a children’s playground must be upheld under the conditions of her donation. Taroona residents will be notified of the final Landscape Plan via the Taroona News and primary school newsletter. Immediate residents (Jenkins and Hinsby streets) will also be letterboxed.

The Landscape Plan will then be presented to Council for implementation in accordance with the results of our community consultation and the conditions of Louisa’s donation. The elected Council will then consider the proposal and vote on the matter at an Ordinary Council Meeting.