

Newcastle Voice Blackbutt Reserve



December 2010



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Executive Summary

Consultation was conducted with the community, on behalf of Place Management Services, as part of the public exhibition process for the Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan. This report summarises the results of the Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan survey which was conducted within the Newcastle LGA, through the Newcastle Voice community reference panel and the wider community.

A short, 2-question survey was sent to 2240 Newcastle Voice members and was distributed at public locations. The survey was open from 15 November to 13 December 2010. A total number of 955 responses were received.

Respondents were asked to identify their top 10 priorities for Blackbutt Reserve. The top ten improvement proposals gaining most community support, as received during the consultation were as follows:

Blackbutt Overall

1. A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area (71.73%)
2. Signage (69.01%)
3. A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road) (64.40%)
4. New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area (62.20%)
5. Develop new bushwalking trails (56.86%)

High Usage Areas

1. Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area) (50.58%)
2. A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area (43.56%)
3. A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area (42.93%)
4. Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (41.57%)
5. Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals (35.71%)

Most support was received for improvements which increase people's enjoyment of the Reserve. Signage (both directional and interpretive), new trails and boardwalks, kiosks and picnic facilities gain higher support than the moving of the administration centre from Richley to Carnley, the introduction of formal Reserve entries, or the introduction of traffic lights.

This consultation report will help assist the Councillors to determine what areas of Blackbutt Reserve should be focused on first in 2011 for the long-term enhancement of the reserve.

Introduction

Blackbutt Reserve is a 182 hectare bushland reserve which provides nature trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds and recreational facilities. It has a range of captive native wildlife exhibits including koalas, wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, emus and native birds. Blackbutt Reserve also offers a range of native wildlife experiences through the "Spotlight Adventures", daily animal encounters and the sponsored Junior and Cadet Ranger Program.

Under the Local Government Act a new Plan of Management for Blackbutt Reserve is required to guide future development of the reserve. The Plan of Management must address State Government and The City of Newcastle's strategic goals for bushland reserves and will incorporate the goals of the *Newcastle Recreation Plan 2006-2016*. The new Plan of Management for Blackbutt Reserve will be based on extensive community consultation and will inform a Landscape Master Plan which will guide the spatial arrangement of permitted future development.

This report contains the final component of the community consultation program. Extensive public consultation has occurred, as follows:

1. Broad community consultation including field studies, online and print surveys and two community workshops (October to December 2009) {refer to *Newcastle Voice Blackbutt Reserve consultation report October 2009-January 2010*}
2. Meetings with key stakeholder groups (as needed throughout the year)
3. Two community workshops to preview the new draft Masterplan (20 October 2010) {refer to *Appendix V for transcripts*}
4. A period of public exhibition including displays in key locations and a short survey - 955 responses - to supplement the opportunity of written submissions - 9 received. (November to December 2010).

Report Purpose

As part of the public exhibition process (15 November to 13 December 2010), undertaken by the City of Newcastle for the Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan, Council engaged in a community consultation program, the purpose of which was to:

- determine the top 10 priority proposals in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan from the community (out of 37 improvement options)

The Newcastle Voice survey was supplemented by a call for written submissions. The content of these submissions is being analysed by Place Management Services. These will be included in a separate report to Council.

The input will help assist the Councillors to determine what areas of Blackbutt Reserve should be focused on first.

Scope of Consultation

A number of communication tools and engagement methods were used as part of this consultation. Council aims to consult in a transparent, broad-based way. The principle objective was to reinforce Council's commitment to a community-oriented planning process by inviting the community to prioritise areas of Blackbutt Reserve that should be focused on first.

Information Distribution

Large folios, which comprise the Blackbutt Masterplan, were displayed prominently in major libraries and in Council's administration building. They were displayed along with hard copies of the survey and a submission box. The completed surveys were returned to staff in the community consultation unit for data entry and analysis



(Above: Public Exhibition of Draft Blackbutt Masterplan, Wallsend Library, November 2010)

Media

Throughout the consultation program, local media was used to inform the public and promote ways to participate, through the weekly 'Next Week in Council' bulletin.

Paid Advertising

Advertising to invite community contribution towards this public consultation was run in *The Newcastle Herald* on Saturday, 13 November, 2010.

Methodology

Data Collection

Data collection took place to coincide with the period of public exhibition, from 15 November to 13 December 2010.

A two-question survey capturing the key recommendations of the draft Masterplan was created and distributed in a number of ways. To control order bias, the question responses were randomised as they were delivered to on-line respondents. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix I.

The survey was sent to all active Newcastle Voice members, in print or online, depending on their selected preference. A survey invitation and link to the on-line survey was sent on 6 December 2010, with electronic reminders to those who had not yet completed the survey sent on 10 and 15 December 2010. The survey closed at midnight on 13 December 2010.

In addition, the survey was printed and distributed in key locations, so that people could view the documents on exhibition, complete the survey and drop it into the submission box provided.

Consultation Area

The consultation encompassed the whole City of Newcastle local government area (LGA). The entire Newcastle Voice panel was invited and promotional activities were aimed at both the residents and ratepayers in the immediate vicinity as well as the entire LGA.

The breakdown of the demographics of Newcastle Voice respondents is provided in Appendix II. No demographics were captured from respondents from the broad community, as they completed the survey as an anonymous community member.

It should be noted that being a Newcastle Voice member is voluntary, and therefore participation in its activities is also voluntary.

Data Handling and Analysis

The data handling and analysis was carried out by Council staff from the Customer Service, Communication and Consultation Service unit. The survey results from the Newcastle Voice community reference panel and from anonymous community members are being reported in combined form. Combined results may allow the findings to be actioned more directly and provide the most integrated picture of current community expectation.

Participants

The breakdown of the demographics by gender, age and employment status is provided for the Newcastle Voice respondents in Appendix II. There were a total of 955 participants and the following key demographics were collected from Newcastle Voice respondents.

- Respondents live in: Lambton, New Lambton, and New Lambton Heights (12%), Merewether (9.45%), Wallsend (6%); and Mayfield, Mayfield East and Mayfield West (8 %).
- 22.63% live in Ward 3
- 68.91 are employed full or part-time, and 20.73% are retired
- 67.72% have lived in Newcastle for more than ten years.
- 20.42% are aged 40-54 and 22.20% are aged 55-69
- The gender split was 50% females and 50% males.
- 1.26% live outside of Newcastle in one of the four Lower Hunter Council areas

Please note that demographic information was not captured for anonymous community members (251 out of 955).

Representation

The views collected in this report can not be said to be statistically valid of the population of Newcastle, however they do represent a broad cross-section of views from across the city.

Although sampling 2240 Newcastle Voice panel members represents over 1.5% of the Newcastle LGA population, the sampling frame for this survey was not statistically representative of the population.

Furthermore, there is a possibility that anonymous community members completed the survey multiple times. The panel management system cannot detect duplicate entries from anonymous respondents, deterring individuals who may have wished to 'stack' the survey results.

Response Rate

The survey had 955 responses from two groups:

- 704 out of 2240 from Newcastle Voice (31% response rate)
 - 600 from on-line Newcastle Voice
 - 104 from off-line Newcastle Voice
- 251 from anonymous community respondents

Although 955 residents completed the survey, 1034 participated. That means that 79 individuals started the survey but chose not to complete it. Having 7.6% of respondents drop out during the survey may be attributed to the time of the year and respondent fatigue.

Findings

Top Priorities for Blackbutt Overall

Respondents were asked to identify the top five priorities that Council should focus on first at Blackbutt Reserve from a possible nine improvements:

- A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area
- A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road
- A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area
- A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road)
- Create formal entries at Blackbutt's main gateways
- Develop new bushwalking trails
- New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve
- New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area
- Signage:
 - Directional signage and maps assisting navigation through Blackbutt
 - Interpretive signage explaining Aboriginal, European and natural history

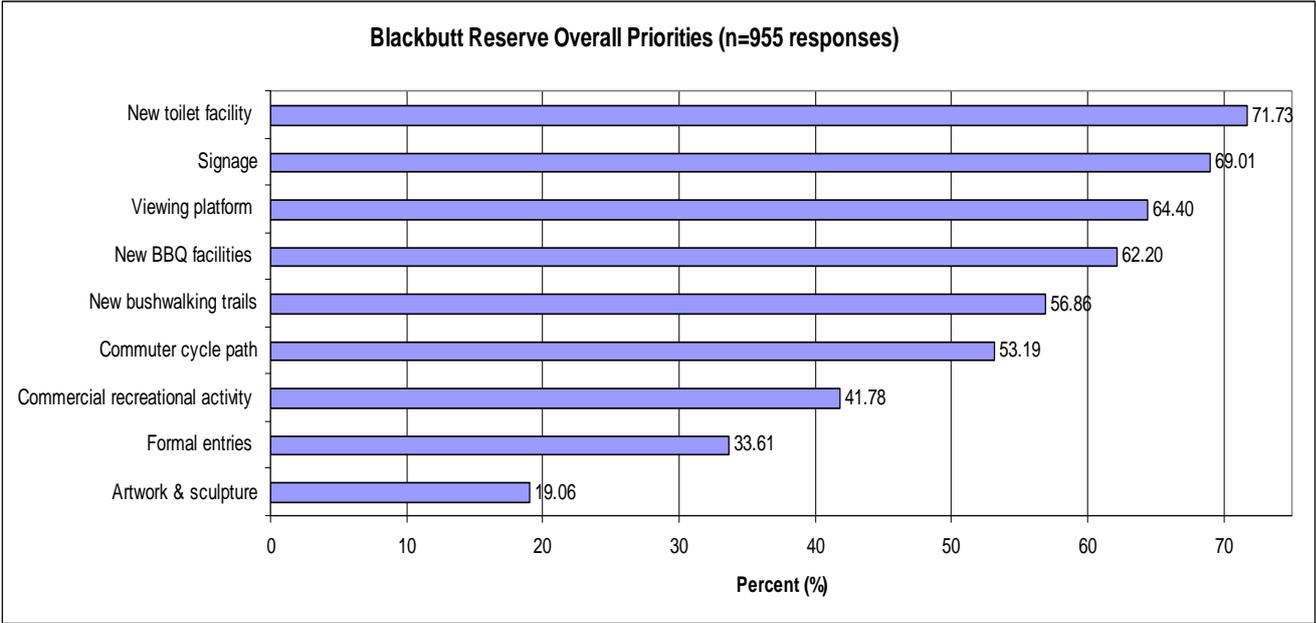
When looking at the combined results from Newcastle Voice and the anonymous community respondents, the top five priorities are as follows:

1. A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area (71.73%)
2. Signage (69.01%)
3. A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road) (64.40%)
4. New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area (62.20%)
5. Develop new bushwalking trails (56.86%)

A new toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area received 71.73% of responses, followed by increased and improved signage throughout the Reserve (69.01%) and the construction of a viewing platform off Lookout Road (64.40%). A new information brochure/map was created in July 2010 to better inform visitors about the facilities available at the Reserve. Respondents indicate that there is support to expand this to include interpretive signage as well as additional on-site directional signage.

The graph below represents the findings from the 955 responses to the survey, which includes combined responses from the community reference panel and other anonymous community members. The overall results add up to more than 100% as survey respondents were able to select five responses.

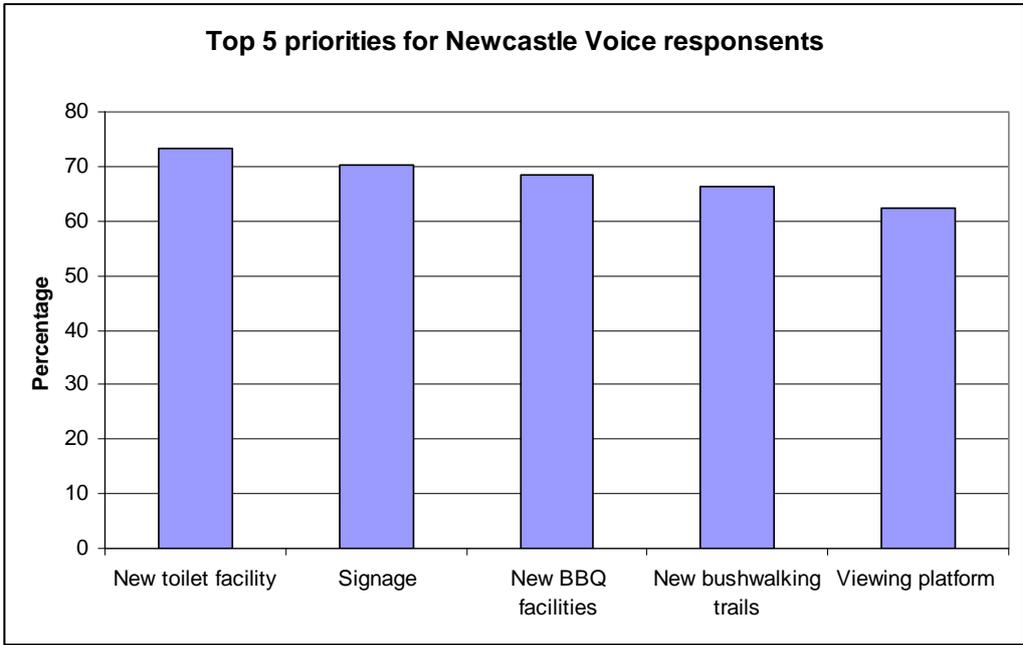
Graph 1: Blackbutt Overall Priorities (n=955)



Comparison

There were a few marked differences when comparing the responses from Newcastle Voice and the anonymous respondents. This may be due to a substantial amount of anonymous responses representing a particular community interest group. The graphs and table below highlight key similarities and differences. Differences between the two groups of respondents of ten or more are highlighted in red in table 1.

Graph 2: Top 5 priorities for Newcastle Voice respondents (n=704)



Graph 3: Top 5 priorities for anonymous community respondents (n= 251)

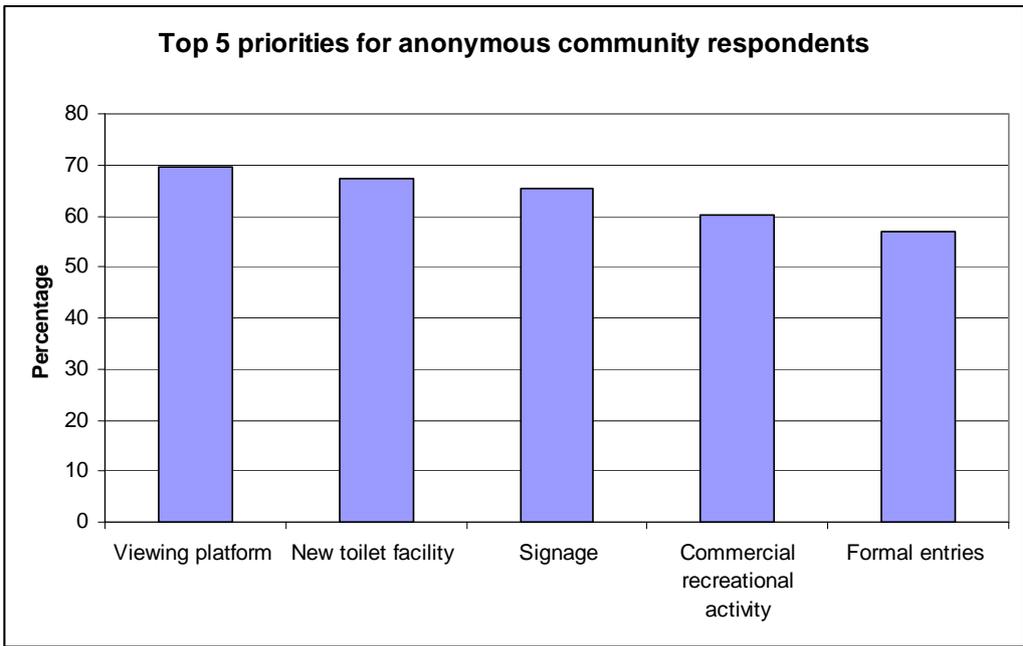


Table 1: Proposed Improvements – Blackbutt Reserve Overall

Proposed Improvements	Newcastle Voice (n= 704)	Anonymous respondents (n=251)
A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area	35.23%	60.16%
A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road	60.65%	32.27%
A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area	73.30%	67.33%
A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road)	62.50%	69.72%
Create formal entries at Blackbutt’s main gateways	25.28%	56.97%
Develop new bushwalking trails	66.34%	30.28%
New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve	19.60%	17.53%
New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area	68.32%	45.02%
Signage	70.31%	65.34%

The commercial recreational facility was ranked seventh by Newcastle Voice respondents (receiving 41.78% of votes). In comparison, anonymous community members ranked it fourth (60.18%) in terms of Council priorities.

Ranked as sixth, there is support from Newcastle Voice respondents (60.65%) for the construction of a commuter cycle way link between Orchardtown Road and Lookout Road, using the existing unformed roads and tunnel under Lookout Road. Comparatively, the anonymous respondents ranked this proposed improvement as seventh – allocating a mere 32.27% of votes to this initiative.

Formal entries and new artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve receive the least support (25.28% and 19.60% respectively) from Newcastle Voice respondents, reflecting the community’s expectation that enhancements should improve people’s use and enjoyment of the Reserve. Comparatively, the anonymous community members indicated the least support towards the development of new bushwalking trails and new artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve (30.28% and 17.53% respectively).

New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area was ranked third by Newcastle Voice respondents and sixth by the anonymous community respondents (68.32% and 45.02% respectively).

Top Priorities for High Usage Areas

Respondents were asked to identify their five highest priorities for the high-usage areas of Blackbutt Reserve, out of a possible 16 improvements:

- A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area
- A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area
- A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area
- Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings
- Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area
- New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area
- Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals
- Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area
- Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
- Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area)
- Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users

When looking at the combined results from Newcastle Voice and the anonymous respondents, the top five priorities are as follows:

1. Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area) (50.58%)
2. A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area (43.56%)
3. A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area (42.93%)
4. Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (41.57%)
5. Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals (35.71%)

The improvement of pond access and habitat management, as well as improved water quality at the Carnley recreation area received the most support from the respondents (50.58%). The improvement of facilities at Richley Reserve for immediate priorities being given to a new kiosk and toilets (43.56%) and new paths and trails around the pond (42.93%) received second and third place.

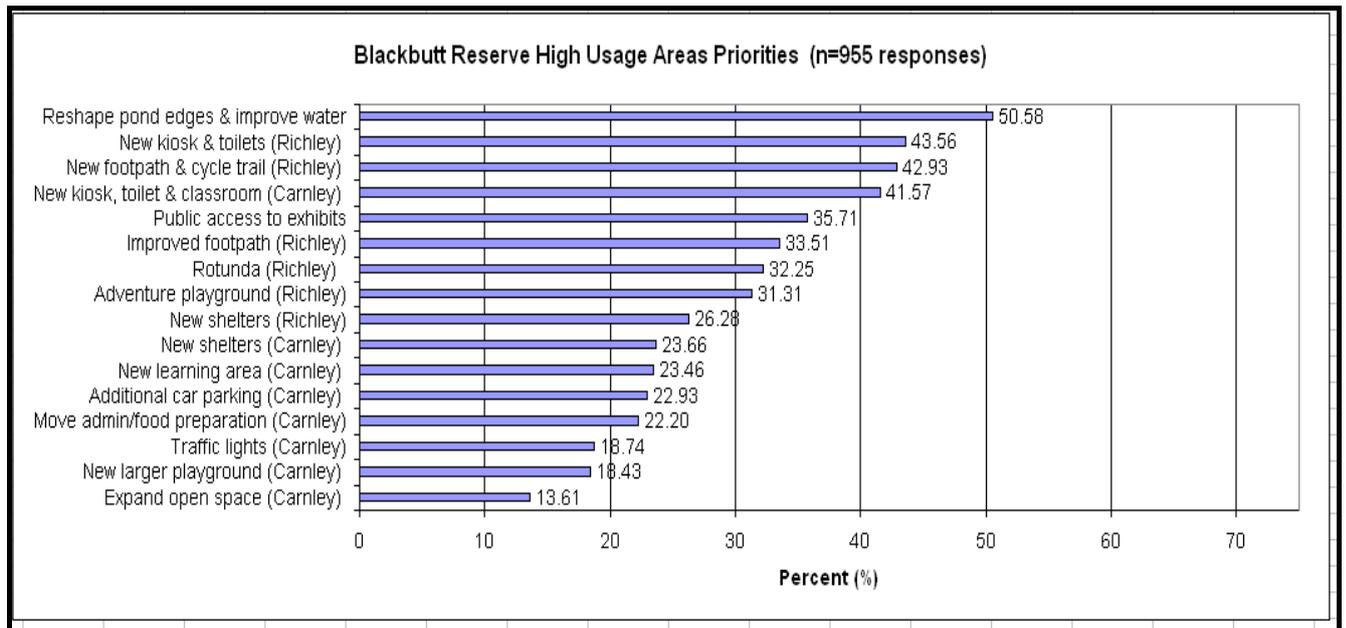
The graph below represents the findings from the 955 responses to the survey, which includes combined responses from the community reference panel and other anonymous community members.

The three improvement options which received the lowest ranked scores for the combined results are all proposed improvements at the Carnley Avenue recreation area:

14. Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users (18.74%)
15. A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (18.43%)
16. Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (13.61%)

The graph below represents the findings from the 955 responses to the survey, which includes combined responses from the community reference panel and other anonymous community members. The overall results add up to more than 100% as survey respondents were able to select five responses.

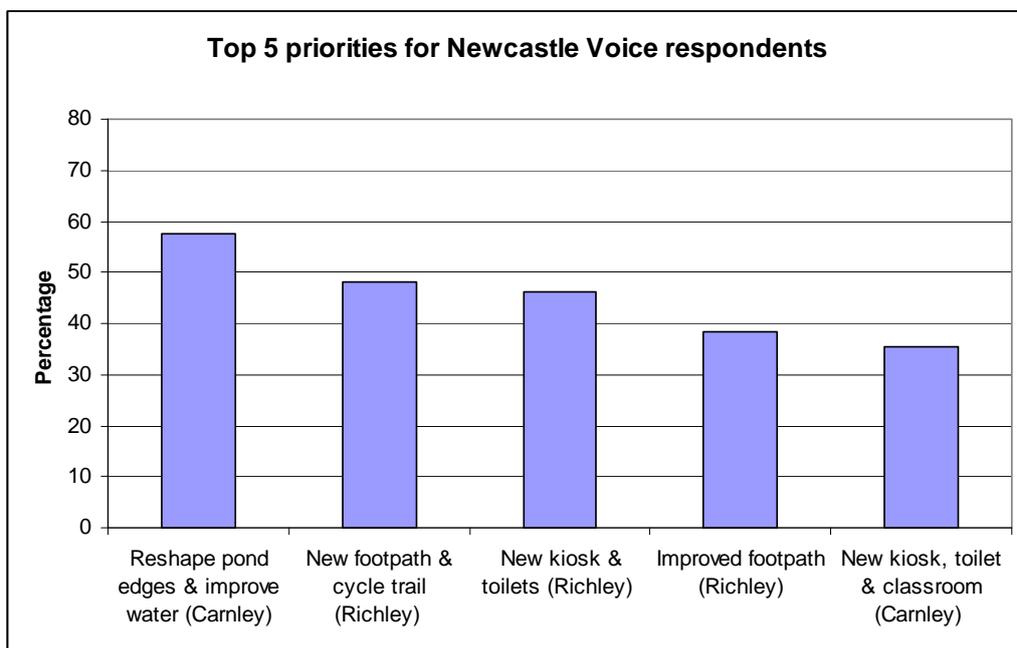
Graph 4: Blackbutt Reserve High Usage areas Priorities (n=955 responses)



Comparison

There were a few marked differences when comparing the responses from Newcastle Voice and the anonymous community respondents. This may be due to a substantial amount of anonymous responses representing a particular community interest group. The graphs and table below highlight key similarities and differences. Differences between the two groups of respondents of ten or more are highlighted in red in table 2.

Graph 5: Top 5 priorities for Newcastle Voice respondents (n=704)



Graph 6: Top 5 priorities for anonymous community respondents (n= 251)

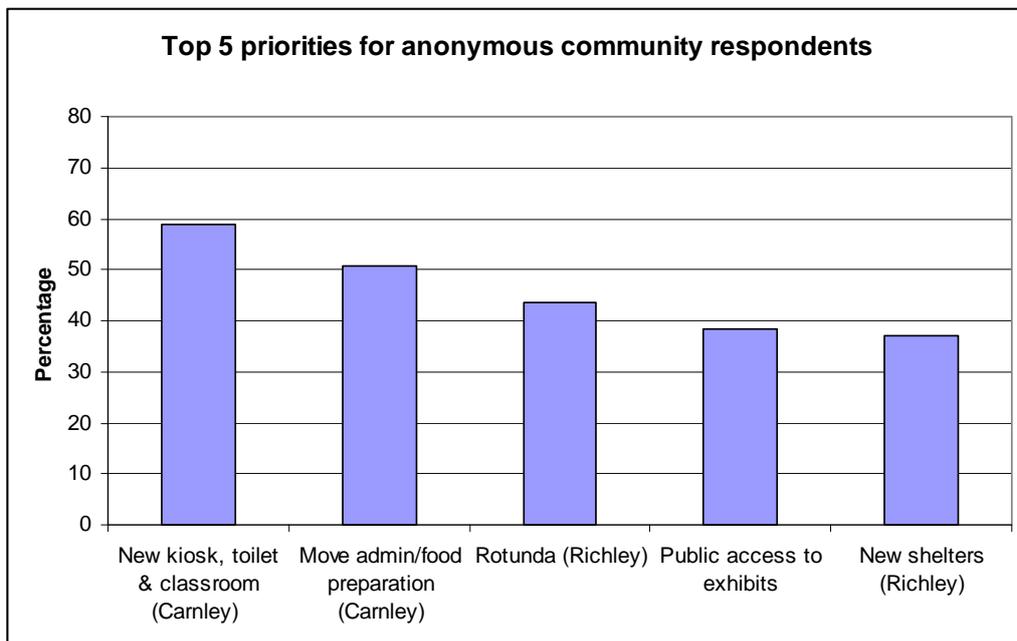


Table 2: Proposed Improvements – High Usage Areas

Proposed Improvements	Newcastle Voice (n= 704)	Anonymous respondents (n=251)
A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	21.59%	28.69%
A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area	48.15%	28.29%
A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area	46.02%	36.65%
A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	20.60%	12.35%
Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	28.84%	6.37%
An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area	33.24%	25.90%
Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings	28.27%	43.43%
Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	15.77%	7.57%
Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area	38.35%	19.92%
New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	19.60%	35.06%
New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area	22.44%	37.05%
Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals	34.80%	38.25%
Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area	12.07%	50.60%
Replace the Pioneer’s Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	35.37%	58.96%
Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area)	57.67%	30.68%
Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users	21.88%	9.96%

Ranked as second out of a possible sixteen improvement possibilities, there is strong support from Newcastle Voice respondents (48.15%) for a new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area. Comparatively, the anonymous respondents ranked this proposed improvement as tenth – allocating 28.29% of votes to this initiative.

Although Newcastle Voice respondents support additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area more than the anonymous respondents (ranked eighth verses sixteenth respectively), On balance, this improvement option is one of the least favoured by both groups.

When asked to rank the option to construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings, Newcastle Voice panel members ranked it as ninth. Comparatively the anonymous community members positioned this improvement proposal much higher on their list of priorities, ranking it third.

Improving footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area, made the top four for Newcastle Voice respondents. Alternatively, it ranked twelfth for the anonymous community respondents.

New shelters at both the Carnley Avenue and Richley Reserve recreation areas, ranked quite low for Newcastle Voice respondents (fourteenth and tenth respectively). Anonymous community respondents ranked these improvements much higher, with Richley Reserve attaining fifth spot on the list of top five priorities for this group of respondents.

The improvement proposal garnering the least support from Newcastle Voice respondents was the replacement of the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area. However, the anonymous community ranked this as a top priority, at number two.

Both groups agree that replacing the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area is a top priority (ranked as fifth by Newcastle Voice and first by the anonymous community respondents).

Reshaping the pond edges, installing boardwalks and improving water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area) is the number one priority for Newcastle Voice respondents. Comparatively, anonymous community respondents ranked this improvement option eighth.

Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users did not gain great support from either group of respondents, being ranked eleventh and fourteen by Newcastle voice and the anonymous community respondents respectively.



Appendix I – Questionnaire

Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan Survey

About twelve months ago, council began a series of conversations with the community about the future of Blackbutt Reserve. Now that the resulting draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan is on public exhibition, it is time to focus on the **top 10 priorities** for the reserve. Your input will assist the Councillors to determine which areas of Blackbutt should form the focus of immediate activities – reserve maintenance, grant applications or the development of private investment opportunities.

We encourage you to take 5 minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Please send the completed survey back to Newcastle City Council in the postage-paid envelope provided (there's no need to put a stamp on the envelope) by **Monday 13 December 2010**. We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Blackbutt Reserve Overall

Q1. What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Blackbutt Reserve, from the list of 9 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan? **Please select only 5 improvement options.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road
<input type="checkbox"/>	A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create formal entries at Blackbutt's main gateways
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop new bushwalking trails
<input type="checkbox"/>	New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve
<input type="checkbox"/>	New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directional signage and maps assisting navigation through Blackbutt - Interpretive signage explaining Aboriginal, European and natural history

High Usage Areas

Q2. What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Richley Reserve and/or Carnley Avenue, from the list of 16 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan? **Please select only 5 improvement options.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users



Appendix II – Demographics

General Characteristics of Newcastle Voice Sample

Length of Time Lived in Newcastle, LGA

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Less than a year	77	3.55 %
O2	1 - 3 years	216	9.96 %
O3	4 - 10 years	466	21.49 %
O4	11 - 25 years	531	24.49 %
O5	More than 25 years	878	40.50 %

Employment Status

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Employed full time	1105	53.05 %
O2	Employed part time	416	19.97 %
O3	Looking for work	63	3.02 %
O4	Studying	188	9.03 %
O5	Domestic activities/caring	140	6.72 %
O6	Retired	400	19.20 %
O7	Other [specify]	136	6.53 %
O8	Prefer not to answer	28	1.34 %

Gender

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Male	1090	48.66 %
O2	Female	1150	51.34 %

Age

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	16-24	111	4.96 %
O2	25-39	663	29.60 %
O3	40-54	709	31.65 %
O4	55-69	604	26.96 %
O5	70+	153	6.83 %

Suburb of Residence

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Adamstown	61	2.84 %
O2	Adamstown Heights	42	1.96 %
O3	Bar Beach	37	1.72 %
O4	Beresfield	21	0.98 %
O5	Birmingham Gardens	22	1.03 %
O6	Blackhill/ Lenaghan	1	0.05 %
O7	Broadmeadow	29	1.35 %
O8	Callaghan	4	0.19 %
O9	Carrington	33	1.54 %
O10	Cooks Hill	94	4.38 %
O11	Elermore Vale	36	1.68 %
O12	Fletcher	32	1.49 %
O13	Georgetown	26	1.21 %
O14	Hamilton	77	3.59 %
O15	Hamilton East	14	0.65 %
O16	Hamilton North	9	0.42 %
O17	Hamilton South	50	2.33 %
O18	Hexham	0	0.00 %
O19	Islington	60	2.80 %
O20	Jesmond	25	1.16 %
O21	Kooragang	0	0.00 %
O22	Kotara	62	2.89 %
O23	Lambton	78	3.63 %
O24	Maryland	58	2.70 %
O25	Maryville	54	2.52 %
O26	Mayfield	122	5.68 %
O27	Mayfield East	23	1.07 %
O28	Mayfield West	21	0.98 %
O29	Merewether	221	10.30 %
O30	Merewether Heights	24	1.12 %
O31	Minmi	11	0.51 %

O32	New Lambton	103	4.80 %
O33	New Lambton Heights	19	0.89 %
O34	Newcastle (CBD)	103	4.80 %
O35	Newcastle East	38	1.77 %
O36	Newcastle West	14	0.65 %
O37	North Lambton	30	1.40 %
O38	Rankin Park	14	0.65 %
O39	Sandgate	0	0.00 %
O40	Shortland	33	1.54 %
O41	Stockton	54	2.52 %
O42	Tarro	16	0.75 %
O43	The Hill	53	2.47 %
O44	The Junction	36	1.68 %
O45	Tighes Hill	45	2.10 %
O46	Wallsend	123	5.73 %
O47	Warabrook	12	0.56 %
O48	Waratah	47	2.19 %
O49	Waratah West	10	0.47 %
O50	Wickham	21	0.98 %
O51	I don't live in the Newcastle area.	28	1.30 %

Wards

	Ward as % of LGA	Survey sample %
Ward 1 (Carrington, Cooks Hill, Islington, Kooragang, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Newcastle (CBD), Newcastle East, Newcastle West, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham)	25.00	33.33
Ward 2 (Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Bar Beach, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton North, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction)	25.00	28.80
Ward 3 (Georgetown, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West)	25.00	19.20
Ward 4 (Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Blackhill / Lenaghan, Callaghan, Elernmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Rankin Park, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro, Wallsend)	25.00	17.78

Planning District

	PD as % LGA	Survey sample %
Inner City South	15.8	28.35
Inner City North	8	11.59
Hamilton	18	17.20
Mayfield	10.1	7.90
Lambton	19.5	15.16
Jesmond	6.2	3.81
Wallsend	13.5	7.79
Blue Gum Hills	7.2	5.35
North West	3.4	1.96

General Characteristics of Newcastle Voice Respondents

Length of Time Lived in Newcastle, LGA

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Less than a year	21	3.66 %
O2	1 - 3 years	58	10.12 %
O3	4 - 10 years	106	18.50 %
O4	11 - 25 years	150	26.18 %
O5	More than 25 years	238	41.54 %

Age

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	16-24	10	1.05 %
O2	25-39	146	15.29 %
O3	40-54	195	20.42 %
O4	55-69	212	22.20 %
O5	70+	37	3.87 %

Gender

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Male	302	50.33 %
O2	Female	298	49.67 %

Employment Status

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Employed full time	300	51.81 %
O2	Employed part time	99	17.10 %
O3	Looking for work	14	2.42 %
O4	Studying	39	6.74 %
O5	Domestic activities/caring	32	5.53 %
O6	Retired	120	20.73 %
O7	Other [specify]	46	7.94 %
O8	Prefer not to answer	8	1.38 %

Suburb of Residence

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Adamstown	15	2.67 %
O2	Adamstown Heights	14	2.50 %
O3	Bar Beach	9	1.60 %
O4	Beresfield	4	0.71 %
O5	Birmingham Gardens	3	0.53 %
O6	Blackhill/ Lenaghan	1	0.18 %
O7	Broadmeadow	9	1.60 %
O8	Callaghan	1	0.18 %
O9	Carrington	6	1.07 %
O10	Cooks Hill	24	4.28 %
O11	Elermore Vale	6	1.07 %
O12	Fletcher	9	1.60 %
O13	Georgetown	9	1.60 %
O14	Hamilton	19	3.39 %
O15	Hamilton East	1	0.18 %
O16	Hamilton North	1	0.18 %
O17	Hamilton South	10	1.78 %
O18	Hexham	0	0.00 %
O19	Islington	22	3.92 %
O20	Jesmond	10	1.78 %
O21	Kooragang	0	0.00 %
O22	Kotara	25	4.46 %
O23	Lambton	15	2.67 %
O24	Maryland	12	2.14 %
O25	Maryville	13	2.32 %
O26	Mayfield	34	6.06 %
O27	Mayfield East	5	0.89 %
O28	Mayfield West	6	1.07 %
O29	Merewether	53	9.45 %
O30	Merewether Heights	7	1.25 %
O31	Minmi	2	0.36 %



O32	New Lambton	41	7.31 %
O33	New Lambton Heights	10	1.78 %
O34	Newcastle (CBD)	27	4.81 %
O35	Newcastle East	16	2.85 %
O36	Newcastle West	1	0.18 %
O37	North Lambton	5	0.89 %
O38	Rankin Park	5	0.89 %
O39	Sandgate	0	0.00 %
O40	Shortland	6	1.07 %
O41	Stockton	18	3.21 %
O42	Tarro	3	0.53 %
O43	The Hill	7	1.25 %
O44	The Junction	8	1.43 %
O45	Tighes Hill	8	1.43 %
O46	Wallsend	31	5.53 %
O47	Warabrook	2	0.36 %
O48	Waratah	10	1.78 %
O49	Waratah West	2	0.36 %
O50	Wickham	6	1.07 %
O51	I don't live in the Newcastle area.	10	1.78 %

Wards

	Ward as % of LGA	Survey respondents %
Ward 1 (Carrington, Cooks Hill, Islington, Kooragang, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Newcastle (CBD), Newcastle East, Newcastle West, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham)	25.00	34.77
Ward 2 (Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Bar Beach, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton North, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction)	25.00	25.85%
Ward 3 (Georgetown, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West)	25.00	22.63
Ward 4 (Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Blackhill / Lenaghan, Callaghan, Elernmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Rankin Park, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro, Wallsend)	25.00	14.79

Planning District

	PD as % LGA	Survey respondent %
Inner City South	15.8	25.67
Inner City North	8	13.02
Hamilton	18	16.76
Mayfield	10.1	8.38
Lambton	19.5	16.39
Jesmond	6.2	3.56
Wallsend	13.5	7.49
Blue Gum Hills	7.2	4.10
North West	3.4	1.42



Appendix III – Topline

(Combined responses: Newcastle Voice and anonymous community)

Q1. What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Blackbutt Reserve, from the list of 9 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan? **Please select only 5 improvement options.**

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area	399	41.78 %
O2	A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road	508	53.19 %
O3	A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area	685	71.73 %
O4	A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road)	615	64.40 %
O5	Create formal entries at Blackbutt's main gateways	321	33.61 %
O6	Develop new bushwalking trails	543	56.86 %
O7	New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve	182	19.06 %
O8	New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area	594	62.20 %
O9	Signage (directional signage and maps assisting navigation through Blackbutt & interpretive signage explaining Aboriginal, European and natural history)	659	69.01 %

Q2. What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Richley Reserve and/or Carnley Avenue, from the list of 16 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan? **Please select only 5 improvement options.**

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	224	23.46 %
O2	A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area	410	42.93 %
O3	A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area	416	43.56 %
O4	A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	176	18.43 %
O5	Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	219	22.93 %
O6	An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area	299	31.31 %
O7	Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings	308	32.25 %
O8	Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	130	13.61 %
O9	Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area	320	33.51 %
O10	New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	226	23.66 %
O11	New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area	251	26.28 %
O12	Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals	341	35.71 %
O13	Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area	212	22.20 %
O14	Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area	397	41.57 %
O15	Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area)	483	50.58 %
O16	Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users	179	18.74 %



Appendix IV – Comparison Analysis

Question 1: What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Blackbutt Reserve, from the list of 9 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan?

Newcastle Voice respondents (ranked ordered responses)

1. A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area (73.30%)
2. Signage (directional & interpretive) (70.31%)
3. New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area (68.32%)
4. Develop new bushwalking trails (66.34%)
5. A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road) (62.50%)
6. A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road (60.65%)
7. A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area (35.23%)
8. Create formal entries at Blackbutt's main gateways (25.28%)
9. New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve (19.60%)

Anonymous community respondents (ranked ordered responses)

1. A viewing platform at the clifftop (off Lookout Road) (69.72%)
2. A toilet facility at the Main Ridge recreation area (67.33%)
3. Signage (directional & interpretive) (65.34%)
4. A commercial recreational activity such as a tree top assault course at Lookout Road recreation area (60.16%)
5. Create formal entries at Blackbutt's main gateways (56.97%)
6. New BBQ shelters and seating at the Main Ridge recreation area (45.02%)
7. A commuter cycle path connecting Lookout Road and Orchardtown Road (32.27%)
8. Develop new bushwalking trails (30.28%)
9. New artwork and sculpture throughout the Reserve (17.53%)

Question 2: What are the top 5 priorities that Council should focus on FIRST at Richley Reserve and/or Carnley Avenue, from the list of 16 proposed improvements in the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan?

Newcastle Voice respondents (ranked ordered responses)

1. Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area) (57.67%)
2. A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area (48.15%)
3. A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area (46.02%)
4. Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area (38.35%)
5. Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (35.37%)
6. Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals (34.80%)
7. An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area (33.24%)
8. Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (28.84%)
9. Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings (28.27%)
10. New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area (22.44%)
11. Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users (21.88%)
12. A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (21.59%)
13. A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (20.60%)
14. New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (19.60%)
15. Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (15.77%)
16. Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area (12.07%)

Anonymous community respondents (ranked ordered responses)

1. Replace the Pioneer's Cottage with a new kiosk, toilet and environmental education classroom at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (58.96%)
2. Replace the existing administration and animal food preparation centre at Richley Reserve with a new facility at Carnley Avenue recreation area (50.60%)
3. Construct a rotunda at the Richley Reserve recreation area for events such as weddings (43.43%)
4. Provide public access into the kangaroo and emu exhibit to allow interaction with the animals (38.25%)
5. New shelters at the Richley Reserve recreation area (37.05%)
6. A new kiosk and toilets at the Richley Reserve recreation area (36.65%)
7. New shelters at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (35.06%)
8. Reshape pond edges, install boardwalks and improve water quality at Black Duck Pond (Carnley Avenue Recreation Area) (30.68%)
9. A new covered outdoor learning area at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (28.69%)
10. A new footpath and boardwalk circuit/ kids cycle trail around ponds at the Richley Reserve recreation area (28.29%)
11. An adventure playground at the Richley Reserve recreation area (25.90%)
12. Improved footpath connections, including improved grades for equal access at the Richley Reserve recreation area (19.92%)
13. A new larger playground at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (12.35%)
14. Traffic lights at the Carnley Avenue entry to provide safer access for cars, pedestrians and public transport users (9.96%)
15. Expand the grassed open space at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (7.57%)
16. Additional car parking at the Carnley Avenue recreation area (6.37%)



Appendix V – Promotional Materials

Paid Advertising

The Newcastle Herald, 13 November, 2010



Consulting with our community

Draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan

Following consultation with the community, The City of Newcastle has developed a draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan. The draft document provides a community-based vision for this regional reserve. You are invited to comment on the draft Masterplan during the public exhibition from Monday 15 November until Monday 13 December 2010. Copies of the draft Blackbutt Reserve Masterplan are available for viewing at:

- The City of Newcastle Customer Enquiry Centre, 282 King Street, Newcastle
- New Lambton library
- WallSEND Library
- Blackbutt Reserve
- Central Library
- www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

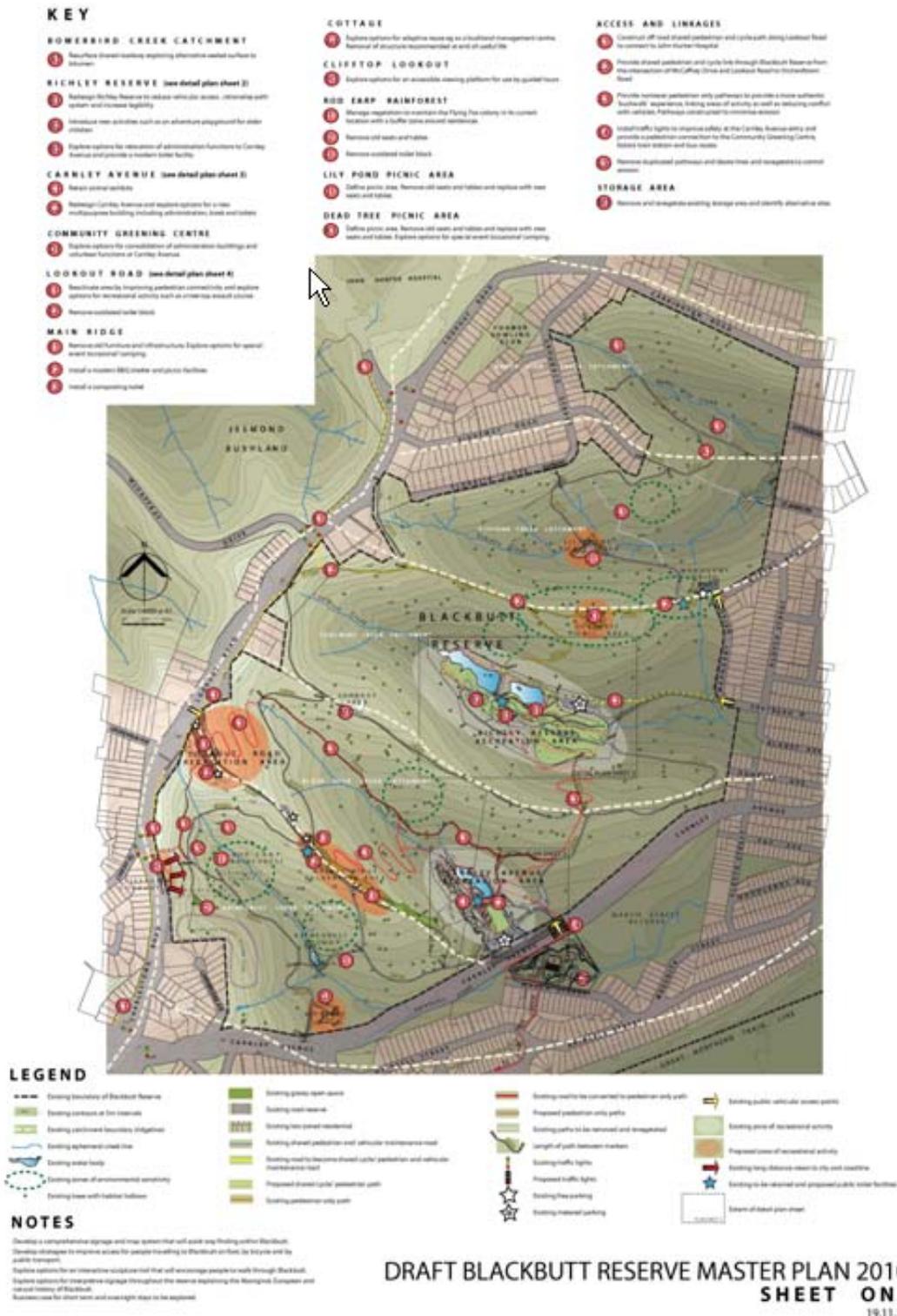
Have your say By Survey
Provide your feedback on the top 10 priorities for the reserve via the Newcastle Voice online survey at:
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au and go to Blackbutt Reserve

By mail The City of Newcastle
PO Box 489
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
By fax: 4974 2222

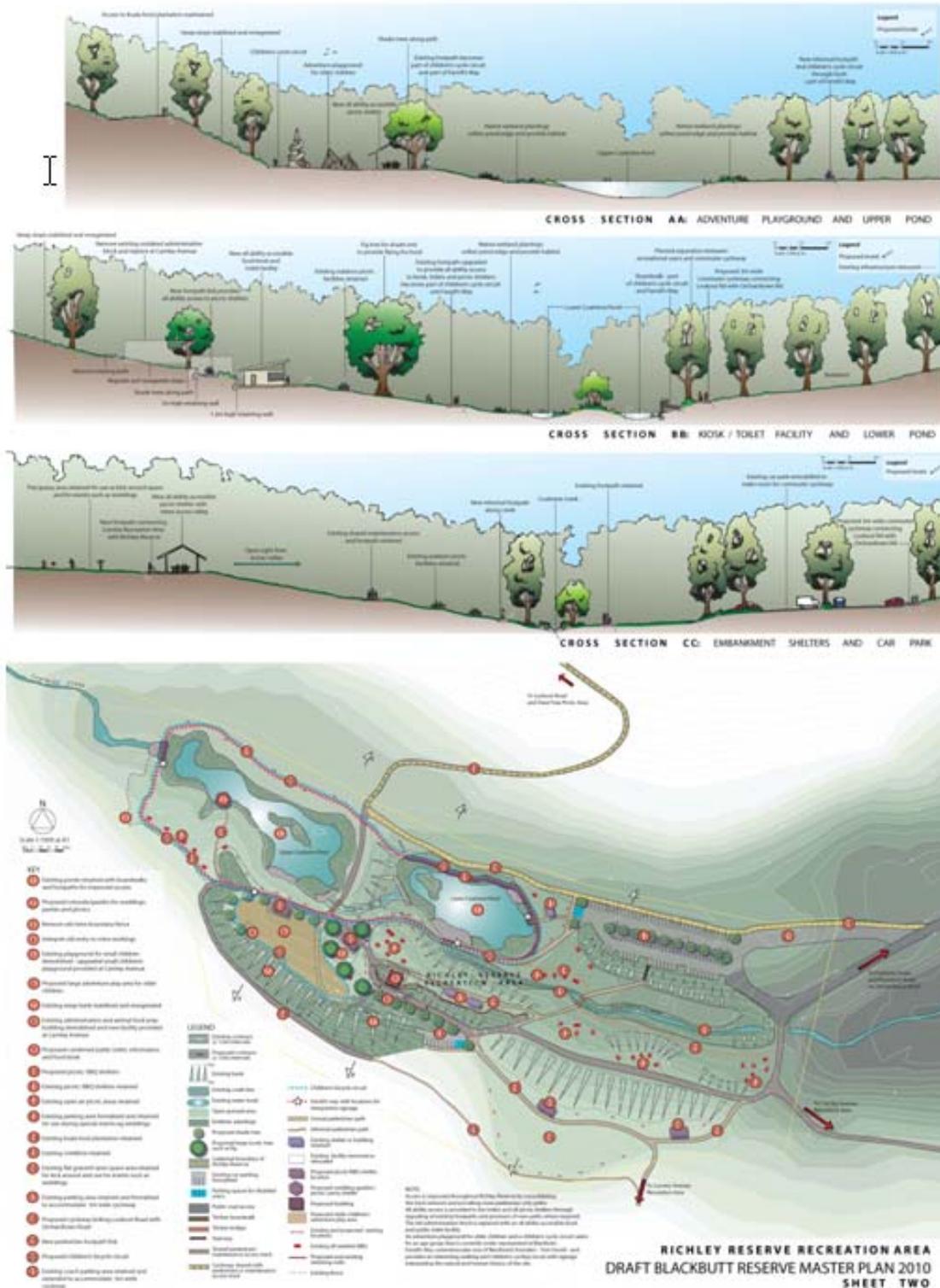


Signage: On location during public exhibition

Blackbutt Reserve Overall (Sheet One)



Draft Master Plan – Richley Detail (Sheet Two)





Appendix VI – Community Information Session ~ Materials and Outputs

Draft Blackbutt Reserve Master Plan Community Information Session 20 October 2010 Agenda: 2 hours

Welcome and Introductions	5 mins
Newcastle Voice and Project Officer	
Consultation to date	15 mins
Newcastle Voice	
Issues and Opportunities Identified	15 mins
Landscape Architects	
Break	10 mins
Blackbutt Master Plan	45 mins
Landscape Architects present Plan 1(overall), Plan 2 (Richley detail) and Plan 3 (Carnley detail)	
Discussion of Plans	30 mins
Questions and priorities for implementation	
Conclusion and Next Steps	5 mins
Project Officer	

Ground Rules

- Today is about presenting you with a volume of information about the proposals for Blackbutt Reserve – please hold questions until after the presentations.
- A range of views, perhaps divergent from your own, may emerge today: that's fine. Not every idea will be discussed; it's about gathering information which will be used to finetune this final document.
- Photographs may be taken and used on the Council's website and to promote future Newcastle Voice events. Please let us know if you would **not** like to be photographed.
- Thank you for your participation today.

Feedback Form

Your feedback is important to us - thank you for taking the time to complete this sheet and provide us with your comments.

1. What did you particularly like about this workshop?

2. Please suggest any improvements that could be made.

3. Any other comments?

4. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the workshop.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Completely dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> 2- Somewhat dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> 3- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> 4- Somewhat satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> 5- Completely satisfied
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5. Would you attend another group like this– on a different subject?
YES / NO

NAME: (optional) _____

Participant information

- Two sessions were held on 20 October: 10-12 noon and 6-8pm at the New Lambton Community Centre, Alma Road, and New Lambton.
- 48 participants, of whom 23 are women, 25 are men
- Residents from the following suburbs: New Lambton Heights, New Lambton, Lambton, Adamstown, Birmingham Gardens, Carrington, Mayfield, Cardiff, Warners Bay, Waratah, Kotara and Rankin Park.
- Stakeholder representation from: business, secondary schools, Blackbutt Support Group, Tom Farrell Institute, University of Newcastle

Workshops Transcript

NB: All comments are transcribed verbatim to maintain the integrity of the speaker; and combined here by subject area to preserve confidentiality and simplify the use of this information.

Observations to Sheet One – overall design, Blackbutt Reserve

- Sculptures are out of place in the bush
- We need areas to be left inaccessible in the reserve to preserve the wildlife and bushland
- All the ideas are great!
- Lookout Road developments are a good idea, that's a good new theme for the reserve
- Support the idea of the cycleway, but I'm concerned that it's too steep for bikes. I designed cycleways for 20 years.
- The commuters who are likely to use the cycleway will cover about 60kms/week and they'll do those tracks easy.
- Support the idea of tractor rides across the whole reserve so that people can access all areas – which is hard because older folks can't get up the steep hills
- Could the cycleway also connect to Jesmond?
- From the education sector: there is a huge demand for hands-on school excursions, the environmental education centre proposed is great! Can you work with the Key Learning Areas for the curriculum (primary and secondary schools) and work with Awabakal and the Hunter Wetlands to design a one-day excursion to all three places – each place to complement the other's area of coverage?

- Subjects which could use Blackbutt Reserve: physical education (ropes assault course at Lookout); biology (animal husbandry), geology (coal seam), urban design (weeds infringing into bushland from urban plots).
- Love the kiosk! So adults can buy coffee and tourists can buy souvenirs!
- I'd like to second and third that!
- We're delighted with the ideas and at some point consider that you might need a resident caretaker again – I'll volunteer.
- Could the building be a multi-function space for weddings and functions, whatever people want, not just a little kiosk? The buildings like this in Centennial Park in Sydney are booked out year round. It's about time we had something like that here.
- They have a good handle on what's to do there.
- You've listened and taken notes.
- We support more use at Richley.
- You must close the staff access gate which runs up thru the middle – it is unsafe.
- There are cyclists using the old tarmac roads now – it would be good to make that activity safer for everyone.
- You need more promotion of the facilities – there's a lot there already.
- I see a conflict being created between cyclists and pedestrians.
- Resist the pressure for more and more tracks – I don't support that.
- Consider whether the people in motorised scooters will be allowed on the cycleway – definitely no motorbikes!
- Support that wider connection between Richley and Carnley reserves!
- The Newcastle Lake Macquarie Bike Plan does not include cycling tracks through Blackbutt – they all run around the outside.
- The original Blackbutt Reserve Special Committee, formed with people like Tom Farrell and so on, did not support bicycles through Blackbutt Reserve.
- Public transport access to Blackbutt is poor – maybe bus stop outside entrance to Carnley or loop bus through car park like J.H.H
- Drawing on my own experience with environmental education I feel folk would benefit from an Environmental Impact expert briefing in the plan and presentation. I've seen real horrors where everyone gets a slice of what's really a small limited resource
- More space for cars. Tracks not only for bikes but for motorised wheelchairs and scooters
- Make walking tracks and connections link so there is a round trip circuit. Not out and back single route, please.
- Concerned about cost of project. Council may not be able to fund the ideas

- I hope that progress will be made – maybe building – can't be built because of cost but things like playgrounds/jungle gym could be put in place within the next 12 month. Also get private enterprise involved. There are shelters donated already so why not more
- Many families use this park frequently. An entrance fee would not be good for the majority of young families

Observations to Sheet Two – Richley Reserve detail

- Is the playground here free, or for a fee? Will there be enough supervision?
- Are you filling up too much of the grassed area – there are birds who feed on the grass there.
- I like the drawcard playground with the kids' cycleway circuit, that's great.
- Why move the administration building to Carnley which is already the busiest area – not sure about that idea?
- Through the week, the park has plenty of grandmas and toddlers, they do need better facilities
- With all these great ideas for grandmas and toddlers, you can't disengage youth – they have the least to do in town.
- Will the new carpark attract drinking – concern about anti-social behaviour
- Without animals, there would still be nothing in my view to draw children to Richley
- PLEASE ensure there are toilets at each major site
- I like the drawcard playground with the kids cycleway circuit, that's great
- I think you're making the most of what's there, without it costing a fortune, and not spoiling the natural values of the place
- Moving the road is a bad idea if it takes away from the banked children's play space.
- The car parking fee is not enforced; I walk there every day and notice that
- Shade the playgrounds please – the parents have lovely shade to sit in and the children are playing in the blazing sun!
- Very much support the disabled access for loos – I'm thinking of the special school I'm involved with and there are lots of kids in chairs who go there on excursions
- It's well-used now and beautiful
- It sounds wonderful!! When is it going to happen?
- Really like the open wild area to the north of Richley – that's good for bushland.
- Pedestrian safety on shared paths, supervision of public
- Sign posting to areas such as dead tree and Lilly pond for people who want more of a bush experience with fewer crowds.

Observations to Sheet Three – Carnley Reserve detail

- There are great things proposed here!
- Would you consider moving the kangaroos to Richley, then the admin building could stay over there
- Could the water quality be addressed sooner rather than later?
- What are the costs for all these great ideas? It's hard to react without proper budgets.
- If we start removing buildings, will we ever get anything done?
- Must allocate a maintenance budget to these new items – there's nothing worse than seeing new enclosures dilapidated a few years later, or new toilets looking as bad as the current ones do
- Carnley Avenue is a major thoroughfare – putting a pedestrian crossing with lights there is a bit much, are you serious?
- The building location is wrong – the admin building should be at the carpark at Carnley – then you can get all your information there, get your coffee, and buy souvenirs. If the kiosk is where the Pioneer Cottage is, people won't find it
- Need to be able to supervise the playground and the open play area when you bring a school excursion – will we be able to see through the plantings between them?
- In my view there's a large area to the left of the current pathway which could be better used
- How many trees will be removed to create a new carpark?
- If you build a new carpark, you consolidate car use for accessing Blackbutt
- The safe entry is a great idea
- You need the administration at the car park so that it creates an entry to the reserve - and it could help to generate income too.
- People wander around there now and can't find the animals
- Signage is needed!!!
- On steep inclines railings would be appreciated. The one I am considering is the slope up to the animal shelter from the children's playground at Carnley site after the wooden gate

Immediate Priorities for Action within 12-18 Months (one dot point is one person's priority)

- Toilets!
- Fix the aviaries!
- Well thought out! Improve Richley; Improve seating and toilets throughout; Tell people what's there and what's changed; Improve signage
- Traffic Lights for Carnley Avenue
- Lookout access to oversee Blackbutt/City/Surf
- Improve Water Quality; preserve natural habitats, keep it all free, good toilet facilities
- Viewing platform from top road needed – skywalk; ski-lift from Carnley to top car park; better train and bus access; kiosk and food outlets needed.
- Developments proposed for Lookout Road – this will reduce the load on Richley and Carnley
- Commercial operator to fund some of the great changes (Treetop's rope course and big kids playground)
- Commercial operator ropes course and café to fund part of project
- Areas set aside/left with current vegetation to provide for birds and other animals (eg echidna; safe cycleway for commuters; consideration for native animals before desires of human animals
- Agree strongly with overall update; water quality improvement first! Get residents involved in run-off management; ensure all improvements for humans allow space for flora and fauna regeneration
- Toilet facilities; move the kangaroo enclosures; NO to traffic lights, show some respect for people who need to travel Carnley Avenue
- Admin centre and café at entrance Carnley; tractor rides to open up tracks as most of BB is very steep; toilet facilities vastly improved; redevelop the sensory trail is ideal for education
- Better signage so people can access different areas better, know of what's on offer where
- Move kangaroos to Richley (less cost and greater draw); fix the exhibits; COLA is great – less cost for good result; traffic lights
- Safe access from Carnley Ave; improve pond water quality; improve roo enclosures; complete storm damage repairs
- Better signage on paths; new toilets; clean water in ponds; education kiosk
- Look at tourism potential; Blackbutt to remain a low cost facility; 1. administration building at Carnley; 2. develop Lookout Road area for new usage

- Develop Lookout to take pressure off Carnley Ave; keep Richley as natural as possible, keep grassed areas for birds – no KANGAROOS; improve information for visitors to Newcastle as to koala talks etc; improve signage to track system
- Fix animal enclosures; provide staff vehicle access; place admin building/kiosk/souvenir shop at entrance; DON'T demolish old buildings first; DON'T turn into circus type site
- Information/kiosk facilities at 3 sites; information about how to get to Dead Tree and Lily Pond reserves and lookout view; speed humps to slow traffic near Carnley entrance; signposting to indicate that Carnley entrance is x kms away; put a 40km/h zone; night-time walks; night-time walks with campfire singing
- Limit the uses for Blackbutt and see it as a reserve for the non-theme park bush and nature activities; locate other things around the city so the growing population has a variety of locations – we could only find 2 places to visit on short days for this kind of natural experience
- Information building; bus route; cycling access; building assessment – is the cottage heritage?
- Carnley Ave; improve water pond quality; better facilities for visitors – toilets, refreshments and information; better signage Richley; more BBQ facilities
- Sustainability – use of solar power; composting toilets; water treatment – and then use all that as an educator draw card
- Paths joining Lookout Road and Queens Road and Freyberg Street of similar standard as the Fernley Track; the track is used by many people now including recreational and commuter cyclists, walkers, parents with strollers and people in wheelchairs; it is important to recognise that many of the users are not walkers, and the paths should be engineered to cope; the proposed plan includes too much infrastructure to entertain people and these would be more appropriate elsewhere in Newcastle so that BB can be left as more of a natural area
- There is a considerable need to keep the captive animals in more ethical conditions, particularly the roos and emus
- Brad West doing excellent work! Ranger programs excellent and night walks; rainforest needs extensive weed removal under bat colony (has deteriorated over the years); who was surveyed, I live in Blackbutt and use it 5 days a week and was not surveyed; locals should have been surveyed; needs a resident caretaker; sustainable solar and water tanks; overall needs areas set aside for wildlife inaccessible to general public.
- Safe access with especially public transport; early information of what to see where; brochures at accommodation venues; DO NOT spoil the natural beauty of the place too much!!
- Aviaries fixed
- Educational facilities expanded with animals – include loos!
- Recruit more volunteers to Blackbutt to interact with the public
- Conduct an environmental study into the wildlife and trees

- Historic interpretation - eg the Scottish Mining Company activities in Richley Reserve
- Signs to find things – all sorts, in several locations
- Consolidate walking and low impact activities as the preferred uses for BB
- Path maintenance and better gradients– especially the link between Carnley and Richley
- Directional and interpretive signs – ME TOO!
- Council's sponsorship protocol to be revised so that the monies available in the private sector can flow to Blackbutt with a bit of the type of recognition they will need, such as naming rights. You need to get that private funding in there, so give them a bit of what they need.
- I can't see that we're going to avoid an entry fee in the next year or two
- Access for bikes – with kids, in a safe place
- Bike racks at the new carparks, to encourage that kind of access
- Connect BB to the train, and to cycle routes!
- The glam entrances at three locations, so first-time visitors know they've arrived!
- Signage to Blackbutt from the Kotara direction off the roundabout on Carnley

Final Comments

- All power behind Brad West! He is a major asset to Council
- Young teenagers get a great benefit from his mentoring on the Junior Rangers programme – my child is there at 7.30am every Saturday. There's not a lot of opportunity for this kind of mentoring between people of different ages in an informal way.
- We need to preserve the 'dead quiet and pitch black' and in the middle of the reserve – which we volunteers always do on the Spotlight Adventure – and people love it. Very important to our city.
- The Natural History Illustration course at the University of Newcastle is one of only 4 in the world – Blackbutt is a **very** important resource for that course, as we use it. Please preserve the animals and other wildlife there!! The Head of School has asked me to pass this on; I'm a student there.
- Can this go to Council with a timeline, a 10-year workplan? Otherwise how will it get done?
- Are we considering sustainability in the new toilets, solar electricity for kiosk, water use and so on – and then using that to extend the education opportunities of that.
- I'll volunteer as the resident caretaker!

Participant Feedback

1. What did you particularly like about this workshop?

- The short time – good effort with time available
- Friendly approach while professional
- Tight ship great pulled people back to focus good visuals
- List each person's words on a new line
- Opportunity to contribute
- Brisk, informative - hopes for future
- General coverage excellent – good speakers/facilitator
- Freedom to comment
- Well presented and informative sessions very professional
- Good presentation
- Professionally organised – tell when full plan is on web
- Extremely informative at least things are moving in the right direction
- The workshop gave me information what NCC plans are for Blackbutt Reserve. The girls and gentleman have done a wonderful presentation
- At least comments were allowed
- The proposed development of Blackbutt was clearly put forward and of great interest to me
- Good, clear briefing on progress to date
- Attempted to cover a range of key issues in relatively short space of time
- Workshop was well presented and worthwhile. Everyone was listened to thank you and well done
- Use of large plans that are easy to look at - thorough explanation of plan features and professionally run
- Really enjoyed the review of survey and analysis of current strengths and weaknesses of the park
- Encouragement of and willingness of a broad cross section of residents to actively participate in consultation process – extremely well organised – made all feel valued.
- All issues were covered – great ideas addressed - everything explained
- Moved along – well conducted – covered as much as possible – very informative

2. Please suggest any improvements that could be made.

- More time to debate issues
- Landscape architects obviously not used to projecting their voice – need more help
- Less break time for tea more time questions
- Small microphone system – many attendees and hard of hearing
- Consultation with old groups – Blackbutt support group – Blackbutt Reserve special committee
- Format good
- Need to avoid setting an information session as direct consultation and approval: there is a suggestion that there is an executive function and this should be avoided.
- Stop Councillors talking at the back of the room as it is very rude
- Discussion great - Thanks

3. Any other comments?

- Great work
- Nice food – not over the top but plenty
- Regret not surveyed as a local resident living on reserve
- Engage the attendees not just present listen
- Congratulations to you all for listening. When designing new things for Blackbutt Reserve you have to think about the people who can only walk on a straight walkway or path. Disability toilets must be level with a wheelchair it is very difficult to lift someone if the toilets are too low or too high
- Preparators seem a bit fixed on bike usage
- Shows that comments made at early workshops have been well interpreted. Further feedback is welcome on how all these proposals proceed or not
- Need to reconsider political implications of “passive” surveying as a decision making planning tool. More critically informed participation needed and must be more effectively facilitated by NCC
- Very pleased with the direction of the plan. Lots of good ideas to make the most of Blackbutt without spoiling it
- As a resident of Carisbrooke Avenue the findings and presentation very reflective of what we see day in and day out
- Pleased Council is keeping Blackbutt as is
- Potential of Blackbutt is massive!

4. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the workshop.

Completely dissatisfied	0
Somewhat dissatisfied	0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	11
Completely satisfied	9
TOTAL	21

5. Would you attend another group like this – on a different subject?

Yes 18
 No 3

NB: Not all participants completed a feedback sheet; not all questions were answered on each sheet received.

Promotion

Stakeholder Invitations

Schools, business and other community groups as well as previous participants in the Blackbutt Master Planning consultation were invited to attend by direct letter, phone call or email, as follows:

Organisation	Attended
Orchardtown Road traders	Yes
Primary Schools: public and Catholic schools across Newcastle	Yes
Blackbutt Support Group	Yes
Lions Club	No
Organisations interested in future developments outlined in the new Master Plan.	Yes



8 October 2010

The City of Newcastle
City Administration Centre
282 King St., Newcastle NSW 2300

<Organisation>
<Address>
<Suburb> <Postcode>

Dear < Name>

**INVITATION TO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:
BLACKBUTT RESERVE DRAFT MASTERPLAN INFORMATION SESSION**

The City of Newcastle would like to invite you and your staff/colleagues to attend one of the upcoming community information sessions on the draft Masterplan for Blackbutt Reserve.

Blackbutt Reserve offers a range of experiences, from animal encounters, bushwalking, Spotlight Adventures, Junior Ranger Program, to simply enjoying a day out with family and friends.

As a key stakeholder in the future of the reserve, your attendance to one of the sessions could provide valuable community input before the draft Masterplan goes to Council later in 2010. Each session will inform participants about the consultation to-date, about the issues and opportunities identified, include maps detailing future services and facilities and allow for questions, and community input.

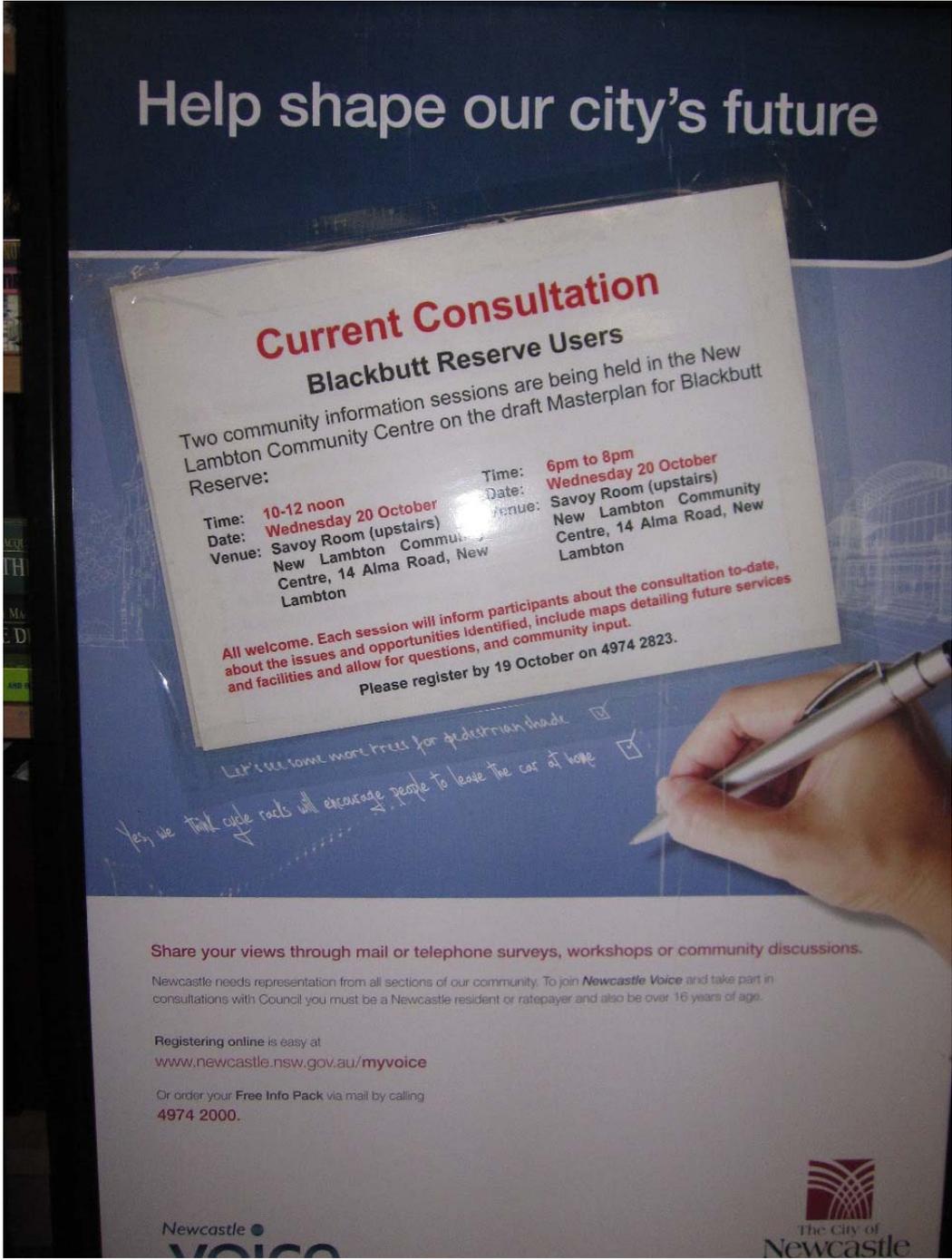
The session details are as follows:

<p>Date: Wednesday 20 October Time: 10-12 noon</p> <p>Venue: The Savoy Room (upstairs), New Lambton Community Centre, 14 Alma Road, New Lambton.</p>	<p>Date: Wednesday 20 October Time: 6-8pm</p> <p>Venue: The Savoy Room (upstairs), New Lambton Community Centre, 14 Alma Road, New Lambton.</p>
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Please register by 19 October by calling 4974 2823.

Yours sincerely,
Stephanie Prouse
Community Consultation Coordinator

Signage posted at Blackbutt, 2 locations



Advertising (*Newcastle Herald*, 16 October); Letterbox Materials

Consulting with our community

See Blackbutt's New Masterplan

Two community workshops are being held to provide a final opportunity for community input, before the new masterplan for Blackbutt Reserve's future goes to Council:

Time: 10 - 12 noon OR 6 - 8pm
Date: Wednesday 20 October
Venue: Savoy Room (upstairs), New Lambton Community Centre, 14 Alma Rd, New Lambton

Come along and discuss this community reserve's future with other key stakeholders.

All welcome.
Please register by Tuesday 19 October on 4974 2823 to secure your place.





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