



'Goorimahbah - Place of Stories'

ABOVE LEFT : Existing entry from Coral Street with Significant Coastal Tuckaroo to be retained and enhanced with additional trees.

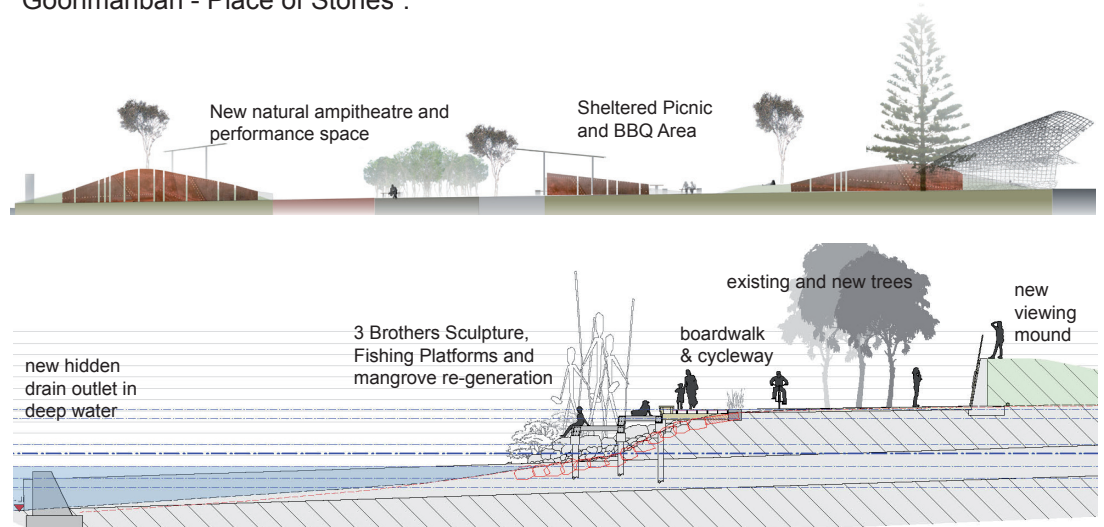
ABOVE RIGHT : Proposed new Parkland entry with the first Story Wall wrapping around the existing Tuckaroo and new trees.

"Goorimahbah – Place of Stories" is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Botanic and Artwork Garden and contemporary meeting place on the northern section of the former Border Caravan Park. The landscape framework for the implementation of "Goorimahbah" will be constructed as part of the Stage 1 works and includes the initial demolition of the former caravan park landscape, extensive grading and land forming, re-grassing, tree planting and the development of the BBQ and picnic Area. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Council see this part of the harbour as a place of significant cultural heritage which provides a space of recreation for all people to enjoy.

The City of the Arts 'Indigenous Public Place-making Project' (IPPP) through which 'Goorimahbah - Place of Stories' was designed and named, was initiated in 2002 by the Tweed Shire Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee and was intended to create a high profile community cultural site. The idea was incorporated into the City of the Arts and formed an integral component of the Tweed Heads Town Centre Masterplan, as a feature of the Jack Evans Boat Harbour Precinct.

The Indigenous Public Place-making Project was officially launched in September 2005 with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community barbecue. It was followed by a mapping workshop at Minjungbal Cultural Museum. The workshop was a real milestone in the project's evolution. The local community came together to map and define the initial thematic concepts to be included in the artistic brief. From this meeting a steering committee was convened and expressions of interest were invited from local artists to work as part the design team.

In December 2005 three local artists were commissioned to work in a team with Council's Project Officer to produce concept designs, which were integrated into the landscape for the Jack Evans Boat Harbour parklands. The area of former Border Caravan Park site in which the designs have been developed has since been officially renamed as "Goorimahbah - Place of Stories".



RIGHT ABOVE : 2006 Concept Design Section illustrates a series of proposed story walls which cut through large open areas of grass along the connecting path between Hill and Boundary Streets. These walls can't be seen from the waters edge and provide shelter to the botanic collection to their north.

RIGHT BELOW : 2009 Detailed Design for the first Story Wall at Goorimahbah & the new drainage outlet, hidden in deep water.

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Existing harbour edge with unsightly drains and revetment



Proposed Story Wall with open parklands behind and boardwalk and fishing platforms on harbour edge

'Goorimahbah - Place of Stories' - Themes & Concepts

The Fishing Net Gateway Structure

The idea of the fishing net gateway originated from the local fishing community who wanted to see the expression of the maritime within the site. The artists considered the form of woven fishing nets and baskets as a distinctive way to explore fishing culture in the region. The placement of the artwork as a welcoming gesture or gateway to the meeting and story sharing place reinforces the indigenous desire to reconcile aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities within the design form of the park.

Regional Story Sharing

The central meeting place of the park refers to the shaping of the region's landscape in the form of the Goanna, with the texture of its scales and its imprint translated into the ground-plane. The insertion of local dialect into the pavement and its translation will increase the experiential and educational value of this component.

Middens and Dolphin Story

This story narrates the shifting sands and the significant middens nearby. The 'Meebing' Story belongs to the culture of the adjacent beach and the sands and tides that move along it. This location within the park marks the edge of the land that used to be broken by the ocean at Coolangatta through to the Tweed River in high seas. Like the Fishing Net this story reconciles mutual experiences of communities.

Eagle Picnic Shelter

The translation of eagle feathers as skeletal elements in the proposed shelter emphasises the 'Meebing' story incorporated in the 'story wall' adjacent to the BBQ area.

Saltwater Culture, 3 Brothers Sculpture and Mangroves

This theme reflects the significance of the coastline for the community. These places of culture and sustenance before European colonisation are tangible remnants in this site. The proposed '3 brothers' sculptures, by local artist Garth Lena, in the mangroves are intended to explore the story of the shaping of the coastline and focus vertical markers south towards the Fingal Lighthouse. The adjacent story wall, the structure of which will be constructed in stage 1, incorporates artwork and text describing the culture of the 'saltwater people', their ties to the land and more recent history.



The 'Goorimahbah - Place of Stories' Concept Plan from the 2006 Public Consultation Display.