

MARIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL HERNE BAY

10 YEAR LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

MAY 2017



Boffa Miskell

Document Quality Assurance

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Cover photograph: Marist Catholic School Herne Bay Admin Entry, © Boffa Miskell, 2017

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1. DESIGN PRINCIPLES



1.1 Introduction

This sets out the proposed 10 year Masterplan for Marist Catholic School Herne Bay, with design principles that reflect the School's vision while allowing for future growth.

This masterplan is represented through a high level concept design, precedent images and text that look to communicate the principles of the design.

The masterplan has been separated into smaller isolated areas that they can be categorized in terms of importance and cost, and a framework set up to prioritise works into the future.

Design Principles

The overarching objectives for the Masterplan are to:

- Create a connected open space network that works with the site topography and existing building positions. Establish an east-west cross-site linkage
- Provide a welcoming entry to the school that reflects values and teaching
- Retain established site amenities where areas are performing well
- Reinvigorate left-over spaces to enhance diverse opportunities for play and connecting with nature.
- Provide a shaded yet open multi-use central courtyard with a higher amenity value to welcome and connect the school community.
- Design interventions that are low cost, low maintenance and robust to reduce life cost and maintenance requirements

The design seeks to create open spaces that will be enjoyed, frequently used and well-loved by the school community. The spaces are to be legible, multi-functional, interconnected while promoting student engagement and enrichment across the site.

The School is not large in size and any future buildings should look to be designed to maximise vertical space so as to not jeopardise the school courtyard or open field spaces.

The fields and surrounding play areas serve as a focal point for the school and offer the opportunity for more active types of play. A playground and hard courtyard area also exist. The Masterplan focuses on leftover spaces that allow for informal "wild play" and educational learning spaces such as orchards and children's planting areas.

Selected plant species are a mix of native and exotic for their preferable forms, colour and hardiness.

1. DRIVEWAY

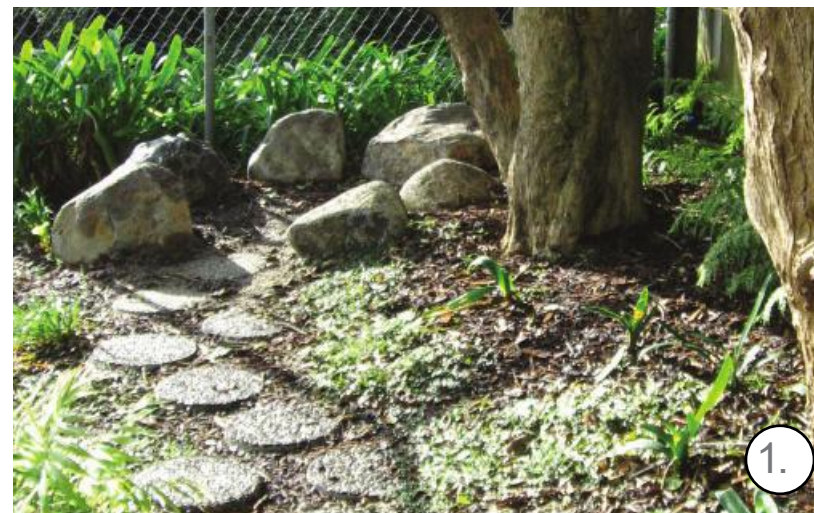
Further enhancement of children's existing wild play in this area is encouraged. Small interventions like log or stone seating areas could be incorporated into existing worn areas, with stepping stones and deliberate planting located to encourage a route along this space.

2. GRASSED BANK

An amphitheatre type seating area is proposed in two spots along the bank, where the slope can be utilised for seating or outdoor teaching spaces. This will also help to provide a safe access between the driveway and field.

3. NATURAL PLAY AREA

This area is currently working well and provides a different option for play within the school. Additional equipment can be incorporated to further extend the challenge and interest in this area.





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4. ENTRY

Welcoming entry area. Due to the steep topography of the site, a cluttered and imposing entry has developed, so this design seeks to open up the area, providing a beautiful and welcoming face to the school community. This area should have a more connected and pedestrian friendly focus. The proposed design removes one side of the ramp and uses a new longer ramp to create a seating area. The removed ramp area is returned to lawn, providing less visual clutter and creating a focus to the repositioned statue of Mary. Colour entry planting is proposed to help hide many of the height changes and provided a welcoming and sensory approach into the admin building. Existing stairs have been left to keep costs down.



5. PRAYER GARDEN

A new prayer garden under the existing tree is proposed in this quiet location, surrounded by sensory planting and focused on the realigned statue of Mary.

6. PARENT SEATING

The ramp realignment provides a lower courtyard where the school community can gather and meet.

7. FOOTPATH PARKING

Pedestrian priority is created by extending the existing footpath through to the entry steps. This is achieved by turning all carparks into parallel parking (reduces number).



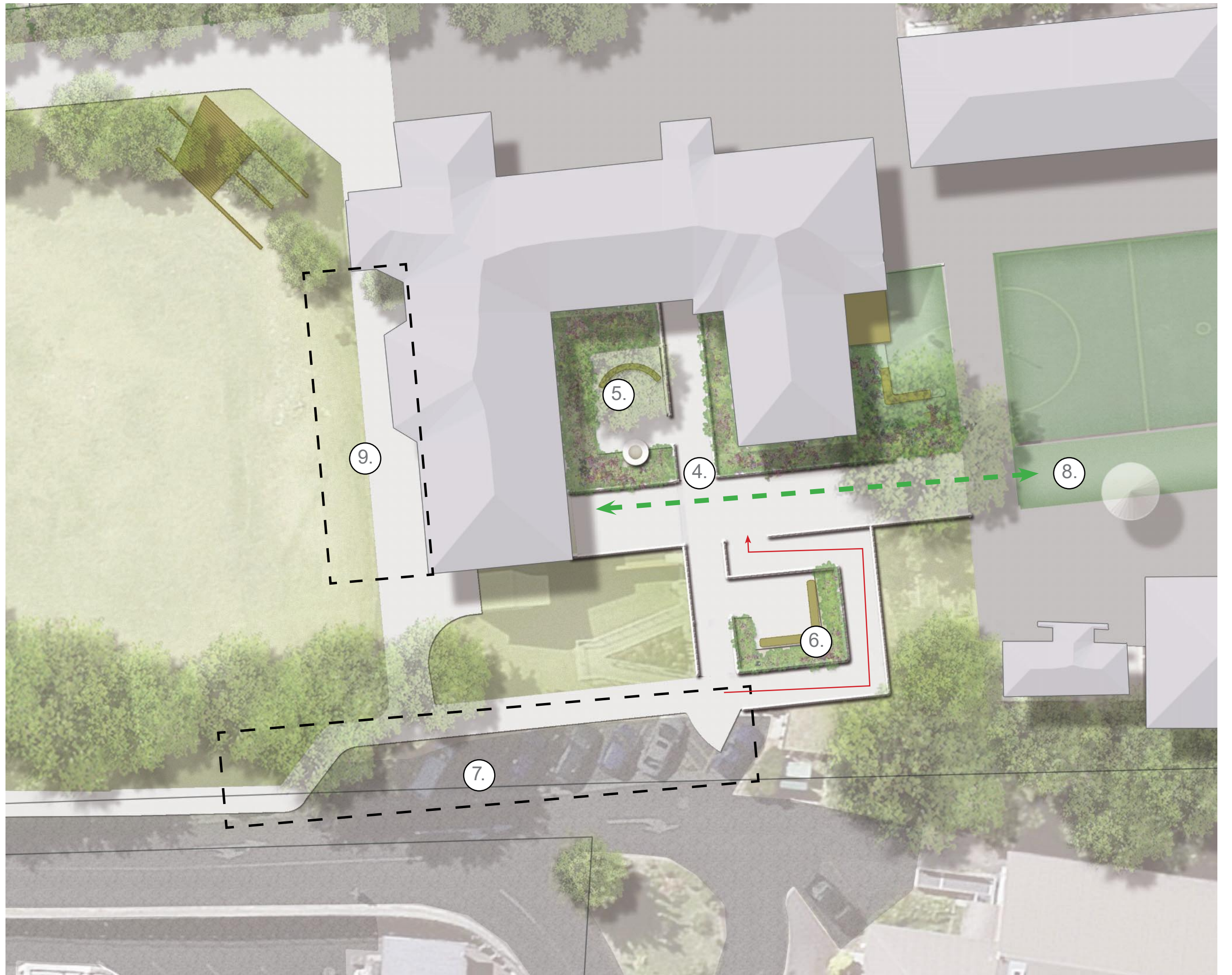
8. CONNECTIONS

The new entry area and school hall are better connected to the class courtyard via a path widening and realignment. By removing the stairs parents with prams will be able to access the classrooms through a more direct route.

9. HALL EXTENSION

If and when the hall is extended, a covered deck area is recommended to provide a multiuse area and increase the capacity of the hall as well as the connection between the entry/hall and fields





10. GROUND GAMES

This area currently has existing ground games but could be improved at low cost to provide more options, colours and create a livelier space behind the building. The area needs to remain as a hard flat surface for disabled parking and access.

11. CHILDREN'S GARDEN

This area could be developed into a sensory/children's garden where art works by students could be displayed and rotated throughout the year. The design and creation of this space could be included as classroom learning opportunities.

12. PLAYGROUND

The existing playground is currently located in a good place and we would suggest looking at replacing this towards the end of the ten years. When a new playground is needed, we would suggest using a wetpour rubber surface and designing playable topography that would better connect the playground to surrounding levels without requiring a retaining border.

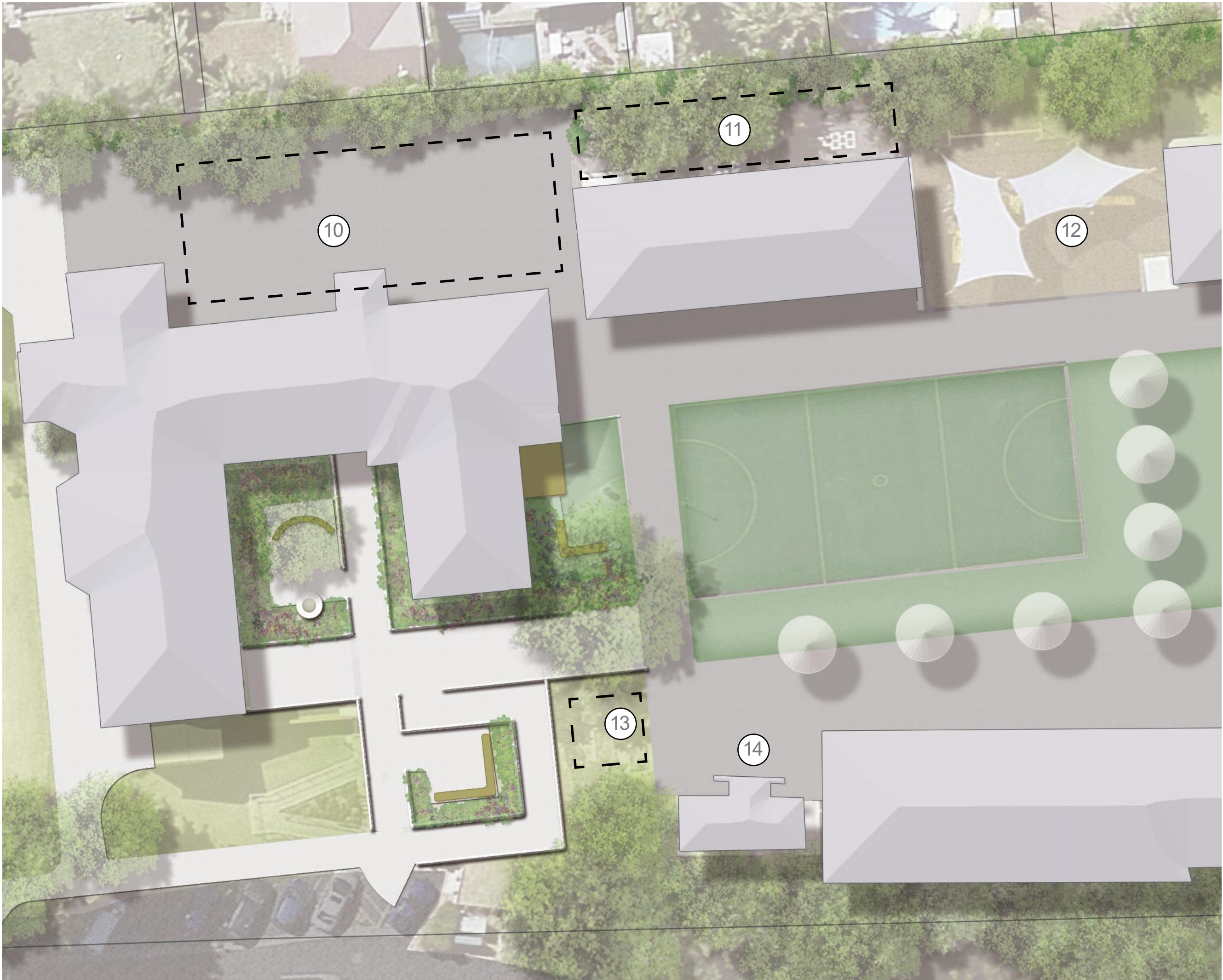
13. SANDPIT/GARDEN AREA

This sunny entry spot could be developed as a garden maze or sandpit area providing more diverse play options within the school.

14. BALL WALL

Always popular and currently working we have allowed for the wall to continue being used in the new design.





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15. COURTYARD

The courtyard area is a central connecting space for all the school classrooms.

We have designed this area to retain the visual connections through the space, while at the same time proposing a surface change to decrease the heat within the courtyard and improve the amenity and useability of the space with a central artificial grass area. This can include a court area if desired.

Fixed umbrellas are proposed as shade options for the area that can be lowered or raised as required. Alternatively these could be replaced with trees if desired if required.

The location of these vertical elements are not only to give much needed shade, but also help define the spaces within the courtyard area.





16. CHILDREN'S GARDENING

This area could be utilised to teach children about growing food and gardening. A series of classroom gardens, a small shed, potting and compost area could be developed.

17. ORCHARD

This area is hard to supervise and will be looked down upon from classrooms above. A school orchard could be set up here and fenced off if required.

18. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The level change from the upper courtyard to the lower grass area could be used to provide all classes with a terraced outdoor teaching area that could also be utilised for eating lunch during break times.

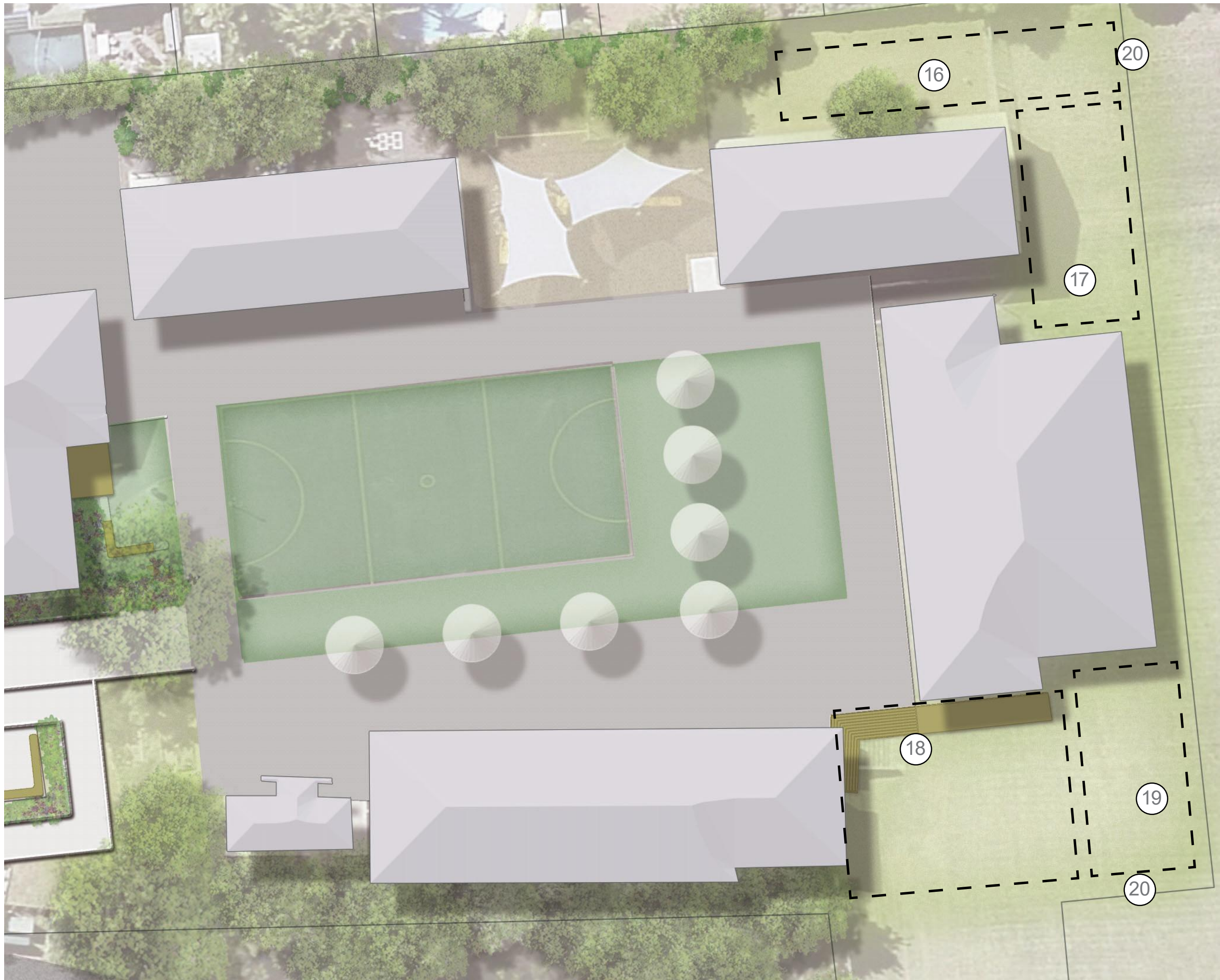
19. BEES/HENS

This back section of the school could explore food production further with bees or hens etc. The area could also be fenced off if required.

20. ENTRY GATE

We have noted that some areas are hard to get to for maintenance. If the new haul road is to remain past the building of the new classroom block, it could be utilised to provide occasional wheeled maintenance access. This would need permission of adjacent field owners, and then require double entry gates in two locations.





Planting examples



Phormium "Dazzler"+



Star Jasmine



wharariki



rengarenga



Hebe "Wiri Mist"



panakenake



Coprosma repens prostrata



Dietes bicolor



nikau



creeping pohuehue



Chionochloa flavicans



horopito



wharawhara



Phormium "Platt's Black"



mikoikoi



Abutilon



Dwarf Acer



Calendula



Daphne



Dietes grandiflora



Carpet roses



Cistus



Clivia miniata



Lavender



Daylilies