



## Consultation Outcomes 2013

### Background

The City of Melbourne has been collaborating with the community to develop an urban forest precinct plan to guide greening in East Melbourne for the next decade. Feedback to date has come from:

1. Community workshop at the East Melbourne Library, April 6
2. Intercept survey of 176 people on East Melbourne streets, March
3. Online conversation at [melbourneurbanforest.com](http://melbourneurbanforest.com)

These workshop consultation and intercept survey have involved approximately 220 people in East Melbourne, including residents, visitors and workers. The online consultation website received 4,371 separate visits over the consultation period.

### What We Were Told: Community Workshop, 6 April

#### Important Landscapes

- Treasury Gardens
- Fitzroy Gardens
- Yarra Park
- Powlett Street
- Simpson Street
- Hotham Street
- Albert Street (specific tree)
- Clarendon Street
- East Melbourne Library
- George Street
- Bishops Court
- Powlett Reserve
- Treasury Place
- Darling Square



## **Hopes for the Workshop**

- Increase knowledge of urban forest.
- What can we do about lack of water?
- Increase/double the amount of green canopy.
- Retain nature strips (do not turn into parking).
- Replace old trees.
- More help and advice about appropriate trees for residential gardens.
- Place of edible landscapes.
- Have more trees in children's playgrounds.
- Put pressure to get cars out of Yarra Park to save the trees.
- Relationship of the current workshop to other workshops and to broader strategies beyond City of Melbourne.
- Support a new median strip in Gipps Street.
- Extend central planting in Hotham Street.
- Build multipurpose urban forest for all.



## **Locations for More Greening**

The map below shows the streets that workshop participants identified as important locations for more greening. The following notes were made to accompany those locations:

- Albert Street: Better support for existing trees
- Along Yarra River (from Federation Square to Batman Avenue): More trees
- Around MCG: Green walls on buildings e.g. hospitals and public buildings. Green roofs on hospitals and businesses. Family parks and gardens surrounding
- Batman Avenue: Plant in green lawn, space for more root space, heat island – more trees
- Between Wellington Parade and Wellington Parade South and Flinders Street: Council should reassume this land from VicRail and convert to park. P.S. It has some established trees. Garden!
- Brunton Avenue back along Brunton Avenue: Get some tree planting space, improve rail reservation
- Cathedral Place
- Clarendon Street
- Darling Square: Supplementary green
- Fitzroy Gardens: Interplant edibles on the grassy parts – any spaces where we can put raised beds. Food forest.
- Fitzroy Gardens, Powlett Reserve and Darling Square: Possum and rat control
- Fitzroy Gardens: Food forest. Replace our mature elms. Branch drop is dangerous and suckers invade.
- From Punt Road to Flinders Street: Roof garden along railway line.
- George Street (between Clarendon Street and Powlett Street): Rain gardens/swales, native grasses in between trees.
- George Street and Gipps Street: Replicate No Left Turn to George and Gipps as per Grey Street.
- George Street: Canopy trees along medians in all these streets where possible (or roadside), replace the street tree in front of the library.
- Grey Street: Roundabout trees need more attention.
- Hoddle Street
- Hotham Street: I would like more bulbs planted here
- Lansdowne Street: Lots of footpath – so lots of space for planting.

- More levels of greenery: e.g. understorey, middle storey and canopy; shrubs; groundcovers; herbs/grasses; food forest
- More trees around childcare centre
- More trees over dining tables
- Old police station
- Olympic Boulevard: Path is too hot to walk on.
- On and between stadiums
- Park area adjacent to Birrarung Marr Tall spreading shade trees asap.
- Powlett Reserve: More trees around the playground.
- Powlett Street Bitumen paths – work towards replacing with permeable materials. Edible roundabout.
- Punt Road: Soil quality for medians, on Hoddle more trees with opportunity to succeed. Remove and replace street trees in footpath pushing up pavement.
- Simpson Street: Edible roundabout
- Trinity Place: Green wall? Currently white wall – intense heat. This big wall could be a green wall.
- Vale Avenue: Deceased palm
- Victoria Parade: Median opportunities
- Wellington Parade South: Garden here. Large canopy avenue. South side of Wellington Parade – trees. Shade trees for pedestrians and public transport users in middle of road where tram stop is. heat while waiting for public transport is dangerous (particularly younger and older users)
- St Patrick's Cathedral Are we using the water from this space – big water catchment





# Streets Identified as a Priority by the Community



**Legend**

- East Melbourne & Jolimont Precinct Boundary
- Streets highlighted as priorities by the community

0 250 500 Meters





## East Melbourne Neighbourhood Character and Preferences for the Future

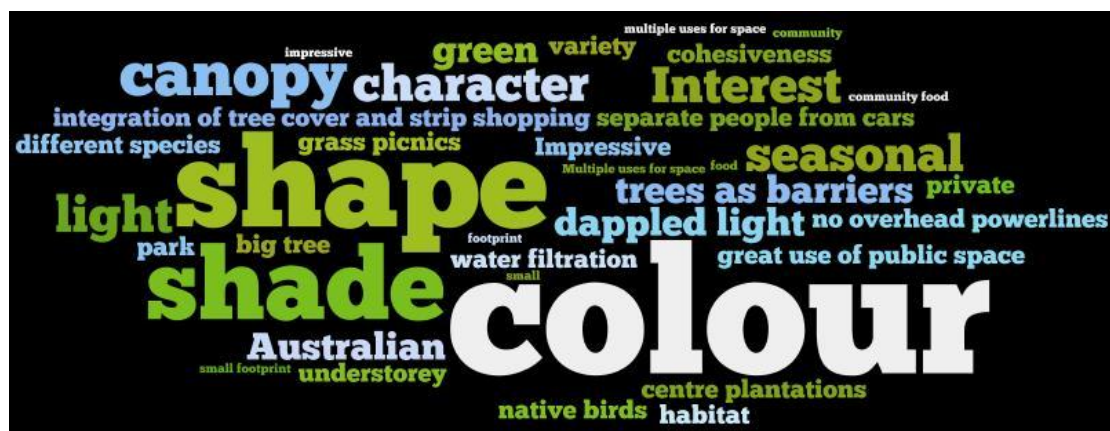
Each table was given a set of the same thirty three. The photos acted as prompts to convey ideas of a desired future. Each table was asked to divide the photos into three groups based upon the neighbourhood character they envisaged for East Melbourne. Photos were to be grouped into the following:

- Photos that best represent the future East Melbourne.
- Photos that represent the future you don't want.
- Photos you are unsure about or cannot agree upon.

The photos that were generally agreed (by 5 out of 6 tables) to best represent the future East Melbourne were:



Participants were then invited to add a word or phrase on a post it notes to describe their photo. A summary of these key words from all the tables has been combined into the following wordle:



Comments for photos that represented a future that was not wanted:

- Sparse cover/No canopy
- Wrong character
- Roots

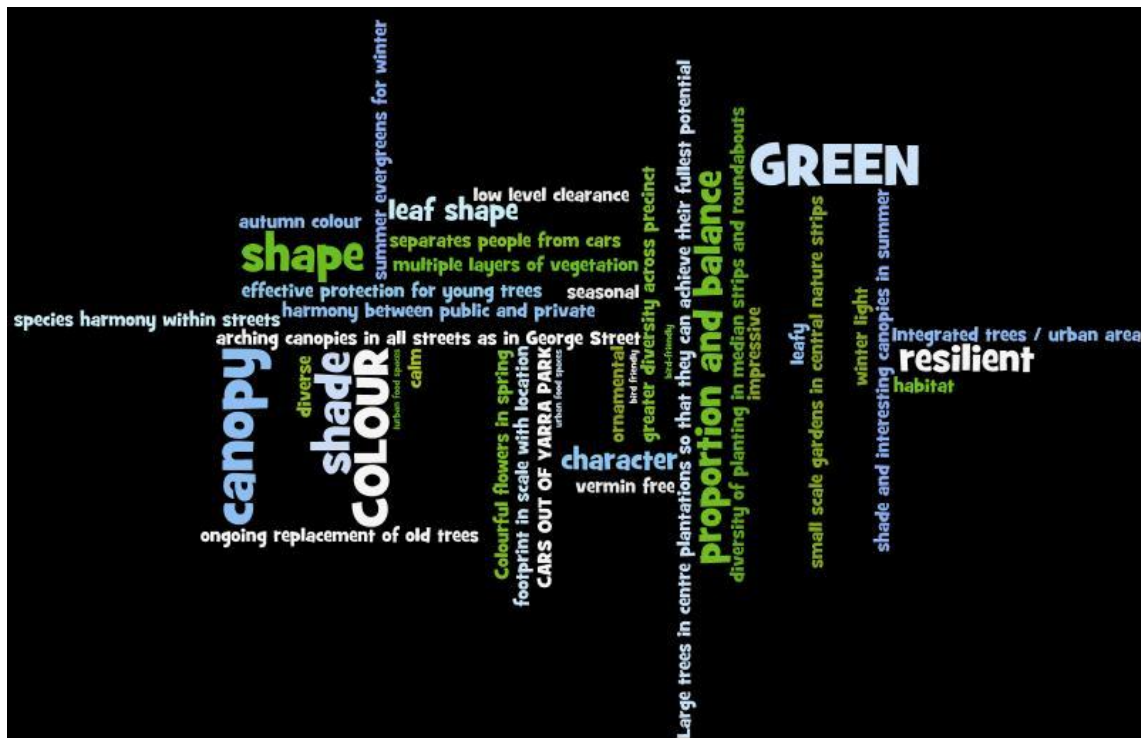
The photos that were generally agreed (by 5 out of 6 tables) to represent an unwanted future:



Using the photos they had selected, each group was asked to draft a character statement and the results were as follows:

1. We would like East Melbourne to be a place that:
  - a. Has colour in its trees
  - b. Separates people from cars
  - c. Has interesting tree shapes
  - d. Allows small scale gardens - grass in central nature strips
  - e. Is green, calm and vermin free
2. We would like East Melbourne to be:
  - a. Green, colourful with large canopies
  - b. Seasonal, diverse, impressive and interesting and resilient
  - c. Including urban food spaces, leafy dappled shade and multiple layers of vegetation
3. We would like East Melbourne to have:
  - a. Seasonal colour, canopy
  - b. GREEN
  - c. Integrated trees/urban area
4. We would like East Melbourne to have:
  - a. Low level clearance
  - b. Bird friendly (trees to attract native birds)
  - c. Shade
  - d. Shape
  - e. Colour
  - f. Character
  - g. Winter light
  - h. Footprint (in scale with location)
  - i. Leaf shape
  - j. Balance along street - select so that trees on one side only need pruning due to power lines
  - k. Ornamental
  - l. Large trees in centre plantations so that they can achieve their fullest potential
  - m. Trees which provide shade, character, aesthetic, habitat proportion and balance along the street
5. The canopy in East Melbourne will double and will include:
  - a. Greater diversity across precinct
  - b. Species harmony within streets
  - c. Arching canopies in all streets as in George Street
  - d. Cool/cooling/shaded streetscapes
  - e. Ongoing replacement of old trees
  - f. Diversity of planting in median strips and roundabouts
  - g. Effective protection for young trees
  - h. Resilient carefully maintained species
  - i. Maximum harmony between public and private
  - j. No cars in Yarra Park
6. We would like East Melbourne to be:
  - a. Colourful, flowers in spring
  - b. Shade and interesting
  - c. Canopies in summer
  - d. Autumn colour
  - e. Attractive shapes and summer evergreens for winter





## What We Were Told: Street Intercept Survey

The intercept survey was designed to explore how the community perceives the character of East Melbourne and to determine how people respond to questions about green spaces and character. The survey captured opinions of residents, visitors and workers across a range of ages. The key findings were:

- When asked to describe the look of East Melbourne for someone who had never been there, the following words were prevalent:



- Respondents valued trees more highly for the role they play in providing clean air and shade than for their role in aesthetics and cultural heritage
- The words that came to mind when people were asked to think about trees in East Melbourne were:





- When asked to review a set of nine images and rate them, people distinctly preferred images with heavy tree prominence, wide canopy and light coloured foliage. Mixed versus monoculture was not important where these criteria were met. Whether the trees were native or non-native was not a discriminator of choice. The highly preferred photos were:



The image not preferred at all was:



## What We Were Told: Online Conversation

The online conversation is continuing at [melbourneurbanforest.com](https://melbourneurbanforest.com). Comments to date support:

- Use of native trees to benefit wildlife, particularly birds
- Increased protection for trees in parking lanes and medians being damaged by cars
- Increased protection for trees in parks being damaged by fitness equipment
- More trees
- Edible food forest
- Bush tucker

## Summary of Key Messages from East Melbourne Consultation

The urban forest within East Melbourne's streets, parks and gardens is highly valued. East Melbourne is green and beautiful today but opportunities for enhancement exist throughout the precinct. Participants also identified opportunities for areas such as Yarra Park and the railway reserve that are not within the jurisdiction of the City of Melbourne.

### **Desired future states include:**

- Large canopies, arching canopies, dappled shade
- Visual diversity in terms of colour, shape, seasonal change and contrasts, and understory planting
- Urban food spaces
- Trees that are in scale with their location and are balanced along the street
- Maximum harmony between public and private
- Resilient, carefully maintained species
- Vermin free

### **Important services for the urban forest to provide:**

- Shade
- Biodiversity
- Winter light
- Pedestrian safety
- Food production
- Aesthetic beauty