
LEURA VILLAGE ASSOCIATION'S CHARTER

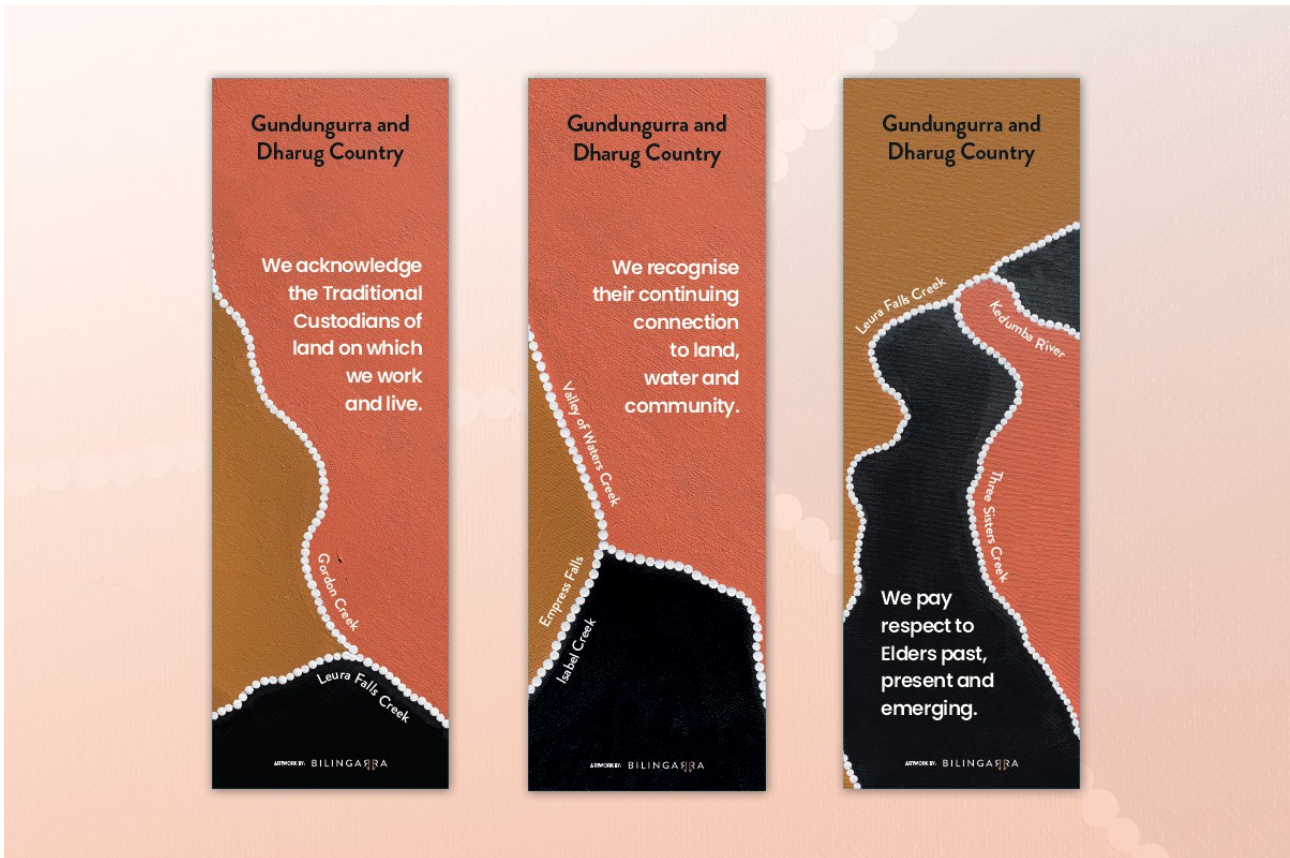
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Acknowledgement of Country

The Association acknowledges that Leura is on the traditional lands of the Gundungurra and Dharug people and pays its respects to elders past, present and emerging.



These designs have been created by Brett Groves for the Association for its Acknowledgement of Country. Brett has generously donated their use to the Association. Brett is a Wiradjuri born man with ties to the Dharug and Gundungurra country.

About the Leura Village Association

The Leura Village Association (Association) was established in 1980, initially structured around a business chamber of commerce model. Over the years it has expanded to include individual resident members. Together the business and community members work to:

encourage and maintain a vibrant and sustainable commercial community, which recognises the unique historic value of the Leura Village precinct.

What the LVA does

- Provides a unified voice for the local business community,
- Lobbies Council on matters pertaining to our village and its businesses,
- Researches and implements ways to promote our village and services,
- Funds the cost of the LVA Website and Social Media channels,
- Funds promotional media content and generates editorials about the village,
- Promotes Leura Village through our own two high profile annual events the Leura Harvest Festival and Leura Village Fair,
- Works with external organisations to host their events in Leura,
- Advocates on issues that may affect Leura,
- Provides a pleasant garden environment for locals and visitors to enjoy,
- Funds a horticulturalist to work with volunteers to maintain the gardens in Leura Mall,
- Promotes and organises the special late-night Christmas Shopping and funding Christmas decorations.

This Charter

This Charter was commenced in March 2022, in order to record and publicise:

- the Association's current involvement and activities in the Leura Village and its community,
- record the many key milestones achieved during more than 40 years of service.,

This document is a living document and will be updated and modified as and when needed to reflect changing circumstances. All changes must be in writing and approved by the Association at a Committee or General Meeting.

Milestones

- In 1981, held the inaugural Leura Village Fair, the proceeds of which were used to fund the planting of the now iconic cherry trees,
- Overseeing and providing 50% of funding for the street paving and hard landscaping to establish garden beds down the Mall, including, installing garden taps at key points including the median strip,

About the Leura Village Association

- Successfully applied for a grant to install the CCTV system
- In 2015 implemented waste management for Association sponsored events
- Lighting of the plane tree in the Mall
- Initiated the addition of new public seating on the west side of the Mall and its installation by the BMCC
- Contributed \$20,000 towards the funding of the public amenities in the car park
- Funding designing and installing the banners for the flag poles at the northern end of the Mall,
- Supporting the Zero Waste Project as part of the Waste Strategy Policy
- In 2022 formulated this Charter

Incorporation

- The Association is a not for profit organisation, incorporated in NSW as an association, registration number Y0382631.
- Its Australian Business Number is 80 814 509 794.

Purpose

The purpose of the Garden Charter is to:

- Document the Association's vision for the *Gardens*,
- Guide the ongoing maintenance, creation and preservation of a unique public garden environment in the Leura town centre in particular, and the Upper Blue Blue Mountains generally,
- Protect the integrity of the *Gardens* in the Leura village centre by clearly defining the objectives for them,
- Record the heritage of the *Gardens* as part of the broader heritage of the village,
- Assist the promotion of the *Gardens* as a tourist destination by providing detailed information on its heritage and horticultural values,
- Provide a canvas for events such as the Fair, Harvest Festival and Christmas celebrations,
- Support the businesses that operate within the village by attracting visitors,
- Recognise the important role the Association has played over many decades, and continues to play.

Preamble

The *Gardens* were, and are created and maintained under the direction of the Association to support and enhance the Blue Mountains 'Garden Village' as a place of horticultural excellence, beauty and inspiration. It is intended that the commercial precinct of the Mall be a destination in its own right for visitors, and a place of pride and joy for residents.

Horticultural Objectives

The guiding principles of the streetscaping and its maintenance include:

- Creating four seasons of colour, texture, abundance and beauty,
- Planting diverse combinations of material that showcase popular cool climate trees and plants of historic Leura gardens as well as new cultivars from top breeders,
- Incorporating native plant species and cultivars including those that are endemic (local to our area)
- Educating by plantings that are appropriate to the conditions of light, temperature, water, soil and wind in their specific location,
- Removing noxious or invasive weed species,

Throughout this section words in italics have the meaning contained in the Definitions in the *BMCC/LVA Cooperation Agreement*

Garden Charter

- Implementing best practice regular maintenance including seasonal timeliness in pruning, feeding and weeding to ensure the health and high performance of plants,
- Integrating the maintenance and design to support the various festivals and other activities promoted by the Association in the village precinct,
- Maintaining the integrity of the space to optimise the horticultural experience,
- Creating an ambience that encourages residents and visitors to use the Mall as a place of relaxation and enjoyment, and be reflective of Leura village life.

Implementation

This will be achieved by:

- Integrating the maintenance and design to support the various festivals and other activities promoted by the Association in the village precinct,
- Contracting the services of the *LVA Gardener*,
- Facilitating *Volunteer* gardeners,
- Working in partnership with the *BMCC* under the *BMCC/LVA Cooperation Agreement*.
- Recording the history of the *Gardens* to ensure that its heritage and past is not lost.

Milestones

During the Association's stewardship many milestones have been created as the shape of the public gardens has been transformed. Some of these are:

- In 1982, the planting of the cherry trees down the median strip was funded by the first Leura Village Fair,
- Relocating sandstone kerb blocks for the edging of the gardens,
- Overseeing and providing 50% of the funding for the street paving and hard landscaping to establish garden beds down the Mall and installing garden taps in key points,
- In 1988, creating and funding the Leura garden village mural bed in the walkway to the car park, as a bicentenary project in partnership with the Fairmont Resort and NSW State Government,
- Contracting successive landscapers and horticulturists to plant out and regularly maintain the *Garden*,
- Recruiting local residents as *Volunteers* to assist the *LVA Gardener*,
- In 2019, initiated a renewed strategy for the *Gardens*. The newly appointed *LVA Gardener* and a group of some twelve newly recruited *Volunteers* engaged in extensive maintenance

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and re-landscaping to improve the presentation, increase the diversity of planting and provide more seasonal interest of the already well-established Gardens.

- In 2022, a Charter was developed based on the implemented strategy to document the aims and objectives with the public gardens and to formulate the Association's role,
- In 2022, an area was identified on public lands as a composting space.

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Waste Strategy

The Association is committed to facilitate the minimisation of waste by having waste reduction and recycling strategies for events that it organises, and by encouraging and supporting initiatives by businesses and residents alike.

Milestones

- In 2015 implemented a waste management system for its sponsored events to collect and correctly sort rubbish,
- In 2021 supported the BMCC's Zero Waste Food Project
- In 2022 established a composting area as a continuation of the Zero Food Waste Project. As well as recycling garden waste from the maintenance of the Gardens it reduced landfill, reduced carbon emissions from the transport that would have otherwise been required to dispose the rubbish.