

# BUSINESS AS Unusual

student ideas  
competition

imagining a future Australian city

## Tell us about your future city.

### 1. What is the name of your city?

Wariga Molla, in Gunai this means 'Listen Deeply'

### 2. Where is your city located?

Kalimna, Lakes Entrance. The location of the 1x1 km POD (pedestrian oriented district) was allocated to me as part of an RMIT Bachelor of Landscape Architecture design studio. Coordinates are: -37.863301, 147.972058

### 3. What is the ideal population of your city?

130000

### 4. What is the impetus behind your city?

Wariga Molla lays the foundation for a new Australian Dream to form through a 1x1 km high density future satellite city bringing Australians back-to-local. Set in Kalimna, Lakes Entrance, connected to Melbourne by a coastal fast train, the city is formed on the basis of Australian Indigenous values and the insight of a post covid-19 Aussie lifestyle. The old Australian dream is dead. The ideal of a 2 storey house with a big garage, neat lawn, and a Holden parked in the driveway, has begun to dissolve. Although the ease of remote working and a newfound false comfortability in social isolation has for most Melbournians increased the allure of a large suburban home, the orientation toward suburban living is swayed by a dying Australian ideal that has near eradicated the keystone community aspect of Australian culture and the Australian identity. With an influx of 28 million new Australians by the year 2100, majority of which will be immigrants, second and third generation Australians, the retainment of community culture is fundamental for the bond and unification of diverse individuals in a new Australian community.

The true Australian dream is less about where you live, but how you live, and through the blending of public and private space, Wariga Molla sets the scene for a strong community oriented city. For the Gunai people of Lakes Entrance, Corroboree is a time to interact with the dreamtime through sacred ceremony. Most Corroborees combine dance, song, and rituals in ceremonial form to pass aspects of lore of their people, spiritual belief, and survival skills. Connection of individuals in this way creates a strong community bond within the mob. This community oriented city design sets the scene for a version of this community value to be twisted back into the mainstream Australian culture, to entice Australian's back-to-local through high density urban living.

### 5. Describe the design of the city.

Using the Brearley Architects and Urbanists Network Cities zoning methodology, four major connected and walkable community open spaces have been formed. Overlap of four major zoning types; residential, commercial, green zones, and clean industry, forms four connected open spaces, with each surrounded by a healthy border of hybrid zoning. Public transport and bicycle networks enhance the connectedness of these open spaces. The major PT line runs longitudinally along the existing Hunters Road that has been retained for cultural significance in its coastal synonymity and its connection to major caravan parks that are a major economy driver for Kalimna and Lakes Entrance. Calculation of the average azimuth and altitude of Kalimna during summer and winter solstices has informed building height to grant light into open spaces and selected streets according to city programming. The overlap of zoning has created 60% hybrid zoning with a supporting population density of 130,000 residents. With so many zoning types brings many different programmes, stores, local businesses, for people to interact with, and the more programmes there are dispersed throughout the city the more diverse the spread of people will be. Zoning in this way does well to hinder gated communities from forming.

### 6. How does your city embody an alternative Australian dream?

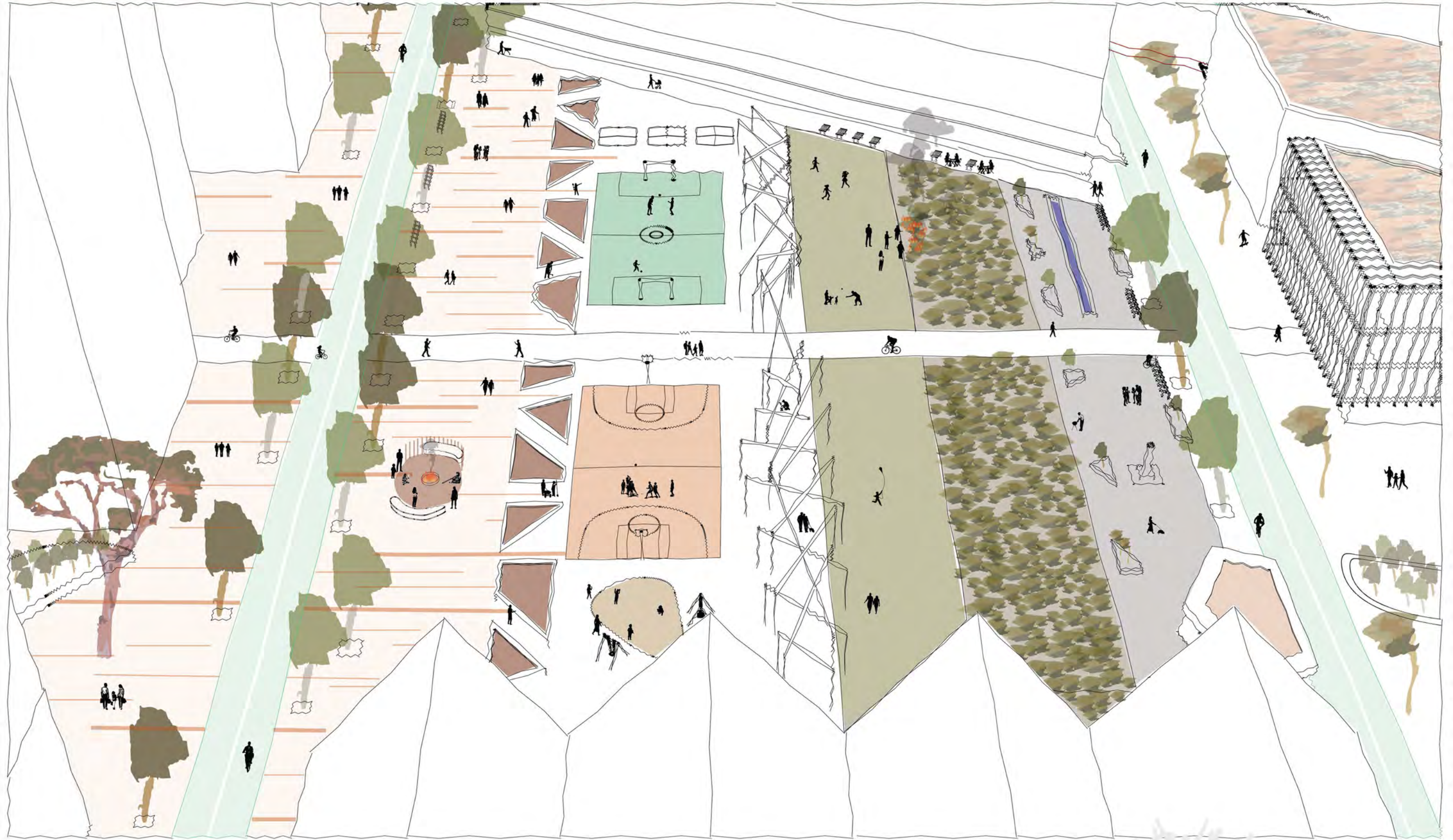
The keystone of community culture is further amplified within the community oriented open spaces. Each open space uses an adaptation of Koolhaas' Parc de la Villette strip programming model. Thin strips of programming within community open spaces scales up the propensity for interaction by scaling down the size of the programming. If one were to walk against the grain of the various community oriented programmes, the higher the likelihood of rubbing shoulders with many other community members. The city design as a whole reflects these aspects and the Australian ideal it is laying the foundation for. Take a look at the city plan and you will notice 2 sides to the city, with a strip of existing flora cutting through the centre. Each side of the city reflects opposing values, different communities that are woven together by the value found in existing Indigenous culture, physically and metaphorically. The bridge design through the existing flora sews together two different communities harmonised by the significance of the Indigenous value. To travel through the flora and over the creek to the other side of the city, travellers are met with bottleneck zones where interaction and close social proximity is inevitable, signifying that the only way to unify different cultures, different identities, different people, is to interact, and healthy interaction is the tinder that sparks community bond. Zoning, programming, and designing on these 3 scales enhances the threshold between public and private space which is where community forms.

The community open space at the north-eastern corner has been depicted as an example. Each community open space is surrounded by this same model of zoning. Clean industry allows white and blue collar workers to commingle to lessen class divide, commercial zoning with cafes, restaurants, retail, 'the local' pub, to attract consumer traffic and support local businesses. Residential housing opens up to the entire public open space on its doorstep for Frank and Sharren to say g'day to you on your morning coffee run on the way to work, and hybrid zones for flexible programming in response to community need, and pandemic and climate change measures.

For an increasingly cosmopolitan Australia to adapt and develop a new Australian identity, bringing Aussies back-to-local is the first step to combatting urban sprawl, to revive Australia's community culture, and to carry a united diverse Australian community into the year 2100 and beyond.



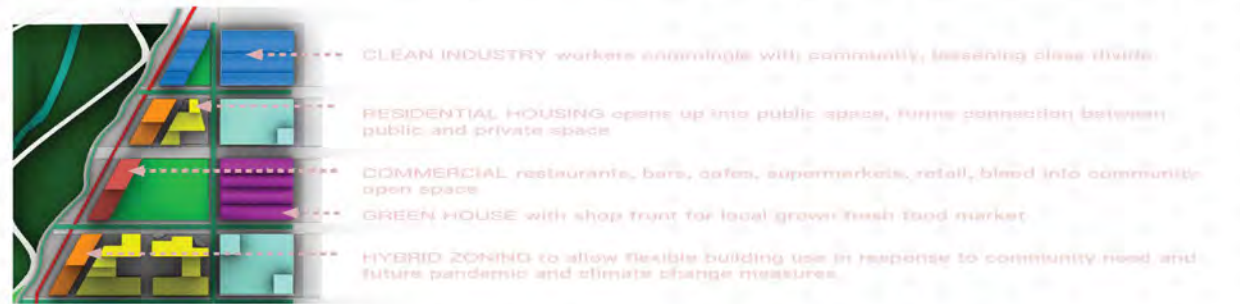
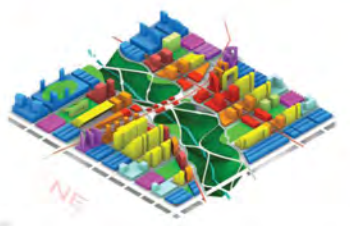
KOOLHAAS STRIP ZONING - LEFT-TO-RIGHT: PLAZA & CEREMONY | COMMUNITY GARDEN | SPORTS & REC | PERGOLA | OPEN LAWN | TERRAIN VAGUE (NATIVE ECOLOGY+INDIGENOUS BURNING) | COMMUNITY FACILITIES



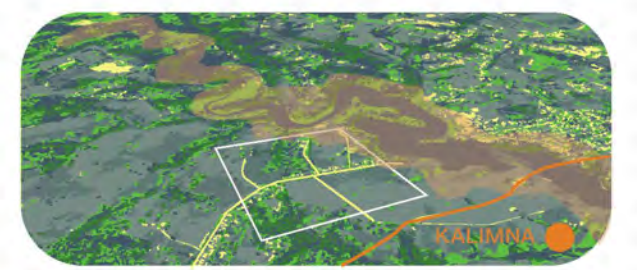
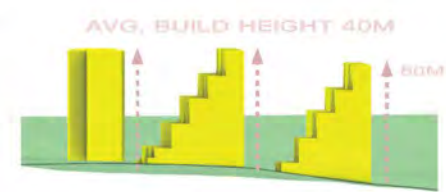
BLENDING PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPACE

NORTH-EAST VIEW | COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE



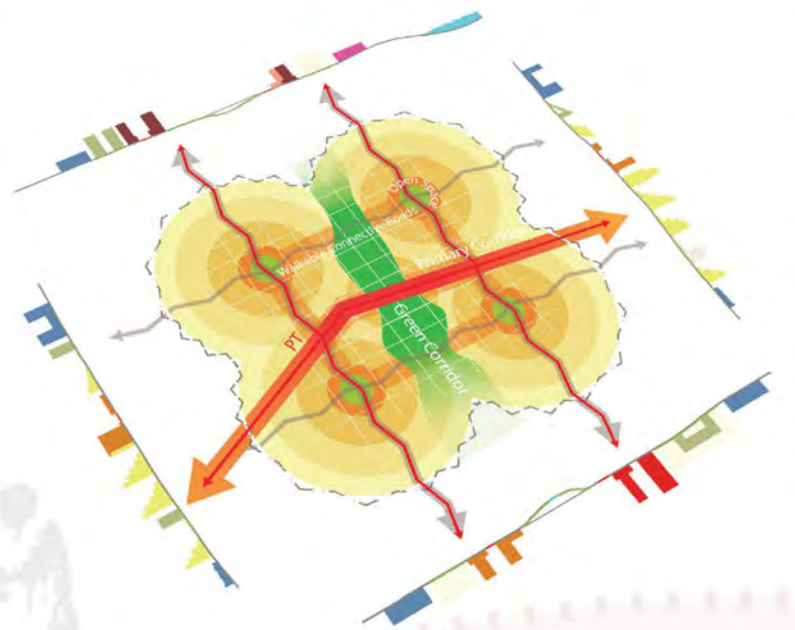


The overlap of commercial, residential, green, and clean industry zoning forms 4 community open spaces and a network of flexible hybrid zoning



SITE CONTEXT -37.853301, 147.972058

■ Indigenous protection zone  
■ Existing local network  
■ Existing built infrastructure







PERSPECTIVE VIEW | COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE





PRIVATE SPACE

COMMUNITY FORMS WITHIN THE THRESHOLD

PUBLIC SPACE

BACK-TO-LOCAL

CHARLES ZAGNON-DAVIES