



2.1 Landscape Site Plan



The Atrium, Honeysuckle Drive is a significant urban link between the Cottage Creek District, foreshore frontage, and the railway station that will serve as a civic and cultural icon within Newcastle. The Atrium has several functions that are integral to the Honeysuckle district including being a premier civic space, a major pedestrian circulation link, and restoring a working ecology and flood management strategy to this particular part of Cottage Creek.

Cultural and Civic Icon:

The Atrium will serve as a signature piece of the urban fabric in Newcastle creating a venue for people to gather and enjoy art in the midst of a working estuarine ecology. The landscape is comprised of a series of terraces that spill down towards Cottage Creek and eventually open up as a green amphitheatre to the opposite creek side. These terraces help to visually frame the space and display artwork while acting as water cleansing devices that help to manage stormwater and tidal fluctuations.

The terraces provide a unique venue for permanent and temporary

art installations to be viewed from various aspects. Artwork can be displayed in a traditional manner on the hard-scape plaza areas or integrated into estuarine plantings associated with water quality terraces. The retail at ground floor helps to activate these spaces while ensuring a vital urban plaza throughout any given day of the week.

Pedestrian Circulation Link:

The Atrium is an essential link that directs flow of pedestrian traffic from the train station to foreshore frontage via various commercial/retail establishments along Honeysuckle Drive. With the expansion of the railway platforms and subsequent development along Honeysuckle foreshore this urban park and plaza is poised to become a very active space where people pass through and recreate in on a daily basis.

Ecological Restoration:

The architectural forms of The Atrium form a dialogue with the adjacent Cottage Creek opening up to form a civic space that embraces

the creek while responding to its tidal fluctuations through the terracing of the landscape and bridging across the creek. The stormwater from impervious surfaces on site will be directed into the stepping terraces that will act as temporary detention devices that clean and redistribute water back to Cottage Creek.

The creek edge will vary to respond to the adjacent surfaces, where the edge borders the urban plaza it will remain as is. When it is near planting areas and when feasible, the edge borders will be broken. These breaks will help restore stream bank dynamics while reintroducing sustainable estuarine plant communities that facilitate the removal of heavy pollutants while creating a habitat that is suitable for faunal communities.

The Atrium intends to become a benchmark for re-establishing a working urban ecology for estuarine flora and faunal communities. This integrated approach to ecological restoration and stormwater management validates its function as a working urban ecology that is as equally important as its aesthetic appeal.

THE ATRIUM

HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE