



Lotherton
Hall

REDEVELOPMENT
PLAN



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REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Significant opportunities exist at Lotherton Hall to replicate the business approach applied at Tropical World. Substantial investment in the current Bird Garden attraction will transform the area into a modern, engaging and exciting visitor attraction that will facilitate the presentation of a much more diverse collection of animals.

COST BREAKDOWN



The development plan for Lotherton Hall has been cost and broken down into a series of phases designed to manage delivery on site and also provide a programme of activity over the next 3 years on which to build and develop a programme of marketing and publicity.

- The first stage of redevelopment will encompass the Coastal Area, the Entry Works to the Forest Enclosure, & Retail.
- The second stage will look into the development of play & picnic areas, the African Zone, & children's zoo.
- The third and final stage will redevelop the remainder of the Forest enclosure, the South American zone, the Asia zone, & the Waterfowl Walkway.



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COASTAL



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COASTAL ZONE

- The coastal zone will be the new centrepiece for the park:
 - Creation of a new set of enclosures
 - Penguins
 - Flamingos
 - Wading birds
 - Free flying birds

FLAMINGO ENCLOSURE

- The current enclosure will be completely remodelled to represent a shallow lake fringe with muddy substrates, and nesting colony space.
- Additional species such as Avocets (wading birds) will also share the pool.
- Improved indoor space will be provided for the animals within this enclosure in order adhere to modern husbandry standards.
- This enclosure will be adjacent to the penguin enclosure but will be separated by a curtain wall.



PENGUIN POOL

- Constructed within the lawn area adjacent to the current flamingo enclosure.
- Two separate pools, overarched by a new netting structure.
 - Upper area: shallow pool divided from the main pool with a rocky wall & waterfall running down into the two main pools.
 - Upper pool: provides nursery facilities, and the opportunity to facilitate “keeper feeding” talks.
 - Lower pool: substantial concrete pool with both above and below water viewing.
- Theming will try to present a naturalistic exhibit, avoiding the look of “swimming pool” style basin.
- Nesting boxes will be built into the rockwork of the enclosure, with surrounding beach areas for use by both penguins and staff.
- There is the potential to include other species within the enclosure, making it feel more naturalistic, eg: Eider Ducks or Free-flying terns.



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS ZONE

- **Water quality:**
 - Management will be handled by a gravity fed filtration system, housed within a new building in the forest zone.
 - The system will minimise water use and staff maintenance requirements.
 - Low energy systems, providing excellent water quality which is tailored to the specific demands of the birds in this zone.

AFRICA



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AFRICA

- This zone will feature some of the most iconic theming within the whole Lotherton redevelopment.
- It is hoped that this area will provide a truly immersive visitor experiences.

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS ZONE

- **Water quality:**
 - Installation of a water filtration system within the back of the house compound, behind the current waterfall.
 - Waterfall feature will be improved.
- **Serval Enclosure:**
 - Enclosure found upon exiting the aviary.
 - Current fence line revamped to improve visitor viewing.
 - Internal theming improved.

MONGOOSE EXHIBIT

- The transition into this zone will be through this newly created exhibit, using the heavily modified structure of the current hornbill aviary.
- Internal holding dens, viewable via porthole windows.
- **Theming:**
 - Distinctive sandy, buff coloured rocks
 - Natural substrates
- **Visitor Experience:**
 - Child-friendly viewing windows
 - Pop-up bubble windows



MAIN AFRICAN AVIARY

- **Entrance:**
 - A masai style hut will be created around the entrance gates to completely remodel this walkway.
 - Theming: traditional artefacts will be distributed along the internal and external walls.
- **Inner enclosure:**
 - Hollow central baobab tree opposite the entrance, adjacent to the pool will allow viewing from inside the tree, up close experience with birds resting around the pool.
 - Another tree structure directly across the pool from the baobab will encourage nesting behaviours. It's overhanging branches will be used by a flock of active weaver birds.
- **Exit:**
 - Exit house will mirror the masai hut of the entrance.
 - A flat screen monitor display will be linked to remote nesting cameras which will allow viewing in this area.

- **Visitor Experience:**
 - One of the key provisions which is lacking within the existing facilities of the whole attraction is a central display area.
 - Such an area could facilitate displays, events and performances.
 - It is proposed that a new seating area, contained and themed as if within a Masai village compound within thorn scrub and brushwood fencing, on the exit of the main aviary. This area will have visitor seating and performance area.

ASIA



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ASIA

- Moving on from the Africa zone, the visitor path will take on a wooded and riverine, Asian habitat theme.
- A change in planting style from scrub and grasslands to bamboo to signify the transition of zones.
- There will be variety of new exhibits & features:
 - Red panda
 - Asian short-clawed otter
 - Re-themed waterfall feature



SHORT-CLAWED OTTER EXHIBIT

- This exhibit will utilise the current waterfall and pool area.
- There will be substantial modifications to both planting and theming.
- A new indoor area will be viewable from the visitor bridge to allow protected nesting for the animals.
- A re-themed waterfall will form the backdrop to the enclosure



RED PANDA EXHIBIT

- Central tree feature within the enclosure.
- No requirement for indoor den space however refuges and sleeping space will be created within the tree structure and at its base.
- External work to reduce the height of the perimeter trees in this area to let more light into this area.



WATERFOWL WALKWAY



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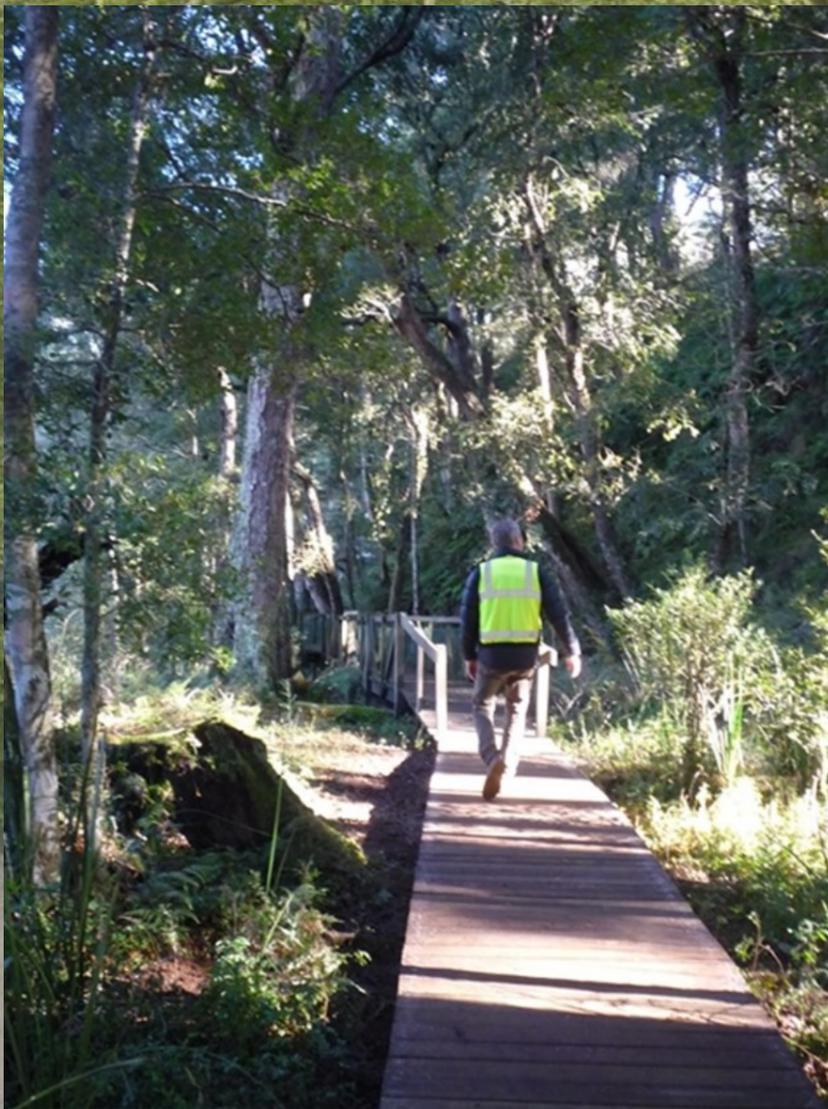
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WATERFOWL WALKWAY

- One of the more challenging areas in the park to redevelop; it is heavily planted & has several pools & enclosures.
- **Option 1:** Completely Remove all the trees and existing structures to create a completely new space.
- **Option 2:** Work with the current layout and look to find a way to best display and improved diversity of water birds in a more immersive experience.

Recommended Option:

- Newly created timber walkway which winds through the existing trees & encompasses looking bays over the current pools.
- Some felling of existing coniferous species will be required, but larger oak and willow trees will be left and incorporated into the walkway.
- An additional pond will be created on the right hand side of the pathway (when walking from the Asia zone) for improved numbers and diversity of waterfowl to be displayed.
- Crane & stalk species will also be rehomed in this zone from other zones in the attraction.



SOUTH AMERICA



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SOUTH AMERICA

- This will form one of the largest areas of the park, displaying a wide range of species reflecting the incredible diversity to be found in this region.
- New exhibits:
 - Woolly monkeys
 - Capybara and mara
 - Bush dogs
 - Marmosets, Tamarins and other small primates.

WOOLY MONKEYS EXHIBIT

- Created through remodelling the current condor aviary.
- Fence sections will be replaced with glass panels for improved visitor viewing.
- Improved planting, theming and rope work will transform this enclosure from a static, quiet area to one full of movement and three dimensional activity.
- The external tree line will allow for increased monkey activity high up in the enclosure. This will also be able to be viewed from outside the park.

MARMOSETS, TAMARINS & OTHER SMALL PRIMATES

- The circular aviary structure adjacent to the rhea & (to-be) capybara/mara exhibit provides the opportunity to house these small primates.
- The viewing of these primates will be encouraged through a central circular area surrounded by viewing windows.

CAPYBARA AND MARA EXHIBIT

- The existing large paddock area which houses the rhea, will have the addition of capybara and mara species.



South America

BUSH DOG EXHIBIT

- Created through remodelling the two large perimeter enclosures at the bottom end of the park.
- The fences in this area will be lowered and replaced.
- Internal theming of this enclosure will mirror a lowland forest habitat with dense planting.
- The existing building in this area will be retained with some improvements for animal holding facilities.

- A new pool will be created against the fence line to allow up close viewing of the bathing rodents.
- This area will require a small filtration system to maintain the cleanliness of the water.
- In the centre of the exhibit, a rocky structure will allow for basking spots and a refuge space for the animals.

FOREST



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WARTY PIGS & TAPIRS

- Two large enclosures in this zone will provide two new, charismatic and impressive species.
- Adjacent to the main visitor entrance a raised timber platform will enable an elevated view of a dried out forest riverbed.
- A rocky gorge will run down the middle of the enclosure, encouraging the group of vasayan warty pigs to display their natural behaviours of rooting and snuffling in the forest litter.
- Directly opposite this area will be a large paddock for Tapir with a new wallowing pool, waterfall, viewing areas, and isolation facilities.



FOREST

- This thematic zone runs along the perimeter of the site from the current owl enclosures through to the entrance to the park itself.
- Species mix in this zone will be a diverse range from temperate to tropical forest habitat.

OWL ENCLOSURES

- The current enclosures will be rationalised and redeveloped to better reflect the forest theme and to move away from the current "garden shed" theming.
- One of the enclosures will be removed to allow for a seating area with interactive educational materials and forest art to provide the educational hub for this zone.



TROPICAL



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TROPICAL

- This will be a new zone that will cover the area currently housing the small finch and turaco aviaries running between the African & Coastal zones.
- The zone will be completely transformed to provide an undercover area using an arching canopy structure, bridging the sloping run of exhibits.

MIXED SPECIES DISPLAY

- This will run opposite the tortoise enclosure and will encompass rocky, jungle-themed external viewing windows.
- Viewing of these exhibits will all be under cover.
- Species included:
 - Snake
 - Lizards
 - Featured Exhibitions—eg) megabugs, creepy-crawlies, etc.



Tropical



AFRICAN SPURRED TORTOISE

- Largest mainland species of tortoise in the world.
- There will be indoor and outdoor space allocated to this species, with the outdoor area running opposite the tropical walkthrough aviary.
- All areas will be viewable through glass windows.



BACK OF HOUSE SPACE

- Will be cleared and used for holding, breeding and quarantining animals.



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REBRANDING

- This document outlines the proposal of redeveloping the current “Bird Garden” at Lotherton into a small zoo, with various species.
- This presents an opportunity to rebrand the park and increase marketing potential.
- Rebranding should be cautious when dealing with this; appending the word “zoo” to a collection implies that a full range of larger megafauna is present, such as a big cats, etc.
- Rebranding should reflect the scope of the collection and in this instance a suitable take on the marketing of Lotherton could be “Lotherton Hall and Wildlife Park”.

EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

- Modern zoo standards require that every animal within a collection has to have an education, research or conservation rationale.
- The proposals set out in this document allude to an improved, coordinated and biogeographically “zoned” visitor journey.
- Each zone will have it’s own interpretation and educational “hub” areas which will naturally form as a centre point throughout the visitor experience.



CHILDREN’S ZONE

- The area which currently houses the parrots and education centre offers an opportunity to improve provision for family fun and visitor interaction with the animals.
- The existing run of aviaries in this area, with the exception of the two largest structures adjacent to the Tropical zone, will be removed.
- A small children’s zoo area with resident pygmy goats and traditional small farm type animals will be created.
- Hand-washing facilities will be made available here for health and safety purposes.
- The aviaries that are retained will be re-themed to create an impressive, extended parrot display—allowing improved space for flying and social interaction.
- A small play and discovery zone with interactive materials, games, and play structures will also be created in this area within the current central walkway area.



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