



# Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan

Maribyrnong City Council  
October 2000

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**Maribyrnong City Council Note:**

This report was prepared by Jill Orr-Young, Landscape Architect in October 2000. Additional notations and footnotes were added, with the consent of the author, in February 2003 to explain developments that have occurred since the report was prepared.

**Front cover photograph:**

recent (Nov 2002) aerial photograph showing the Yarraville Gardens Precinct

Yarraville Gardens Precinct  
Conservation Plan

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## Summary

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan provides a basis for the management of change. The process has involved a search for history, in libraries, archives and government files, a reading of site clues, and piecing together of fragments of information, as in a jigsaw puzzle, to reveal a significance which has been concealed and forgotten. As such, this plan may be only a starting point, waiting for community memory to make further connections and add layers of meaning. The story so far, reveals achievement born out of the Great Depression, when labour was available as sustenance workers, and the value of site materials was capitalised. It reveals values developed out of sporting culture, and the vision, diligence and tenacity of local heroes such as James Cuming and David Matthews. It is not a master plan (which is recommended as a next process), nor is it a management plan, which defines how the place will be managed. Its purpose is to identify cultural heritage significance and develop policies and strategies which will safeguard the significance, as well as provide a starting point for the development of sensitive new layers which will keep the culture alive.

## 1.0 Introduction

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct comprises the public gardens and sporting grounds of *Yarraville Gardens*, *Hanmer Reserve*, and *Yarraville Tennis Club Reserve*, and the islands of the road reserve known as *Cuming Reserve*. The precinct is cut off from the Maribyrnong River, both physically and visually, by factory development, and therefore primarily attracts visitors from the residential area, west of Nicholson Street.

The larger space, of the co-joined Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve, comprises approximately 6.8 hectares. The reserves were developed separately: Yarraville Gardens as a Crown Reserve for Public Gardens, after 1874, and Hanmer Reserve as a Council acquired recreational space from c.1933. The Yarraville Tennis Club Reserve (Hanmer Reserve Extensions) of 0.8 hectares, was also acquired by Council at about this time. Cuming Reserve, of approximately 0.2 hectares, was gazetted as Footscray Ornamental Plantation Reserve in 1903. Both Crown Reserves are managed by the Maribyrnong City Council as the Committee of Management for Land Victoria.

The north-eastern corner of Hanmer Reserve has been vacated by the Seddon Bowling Club and the Seddon Croquet Club. A preferred use for the site is currently under investigation.

The brief for this Conservation Plan is attached as Appendix 1. The plan is informed by the Australia ICOMOS (Burra Charter) guidelines for the conservation of sites (Appendix 2) and Kerr's guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance<sup>1</sup>.

### Objective

The objective of this work is to assess the cultural heritage significance of the precinct, and to provide policies and strategies for conservation of the cultural heritage significance, which will guide future management decisions.

### Scope

The scope of the work includes:

- Primary and secondary research, including research by Council officers
- On-site evaluation of existing conditions
- A preliminary tree survey (Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve) by Council officers
- Community consultation by Council (request through local newspaper for information relating to the precinct)
- Compilation of all readily available documentary and physical evidence<sup>2</sup> as a resource for a history of development of the precinct and summary chronology
- The assessment of evidence to determine design intent, principal development periods and influences on precinct development
- The assessment of evidence to determine the cultural heritage significance of the precinct
- The assessment of evidence in the context of the culture of the time, as shaped by social and economic conditions, and by comparison with other reserves
- A statement of cultural heritage significance
- The development of conservation policies and management strategies that support the cultural heritage significance and guide future management decisions

<sup>1</sup> Kerr, James S., 1996, *The Conservation Plan*, fourth edition, National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)

<sup>2</sup> Time and budget have limited research of documentary evidence. Additional research may provide further details



## Location

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct is defined by Somerville Road, Nicholson, Princess, and Whitehall Streets, and includes Harris Street and Hyde Street. The Precinct is located approximately 5.5km west from the Melbourne CBD, as shown on Melway map 42 C8 (Fig 1) and the cover photograph.

## Heritage Identifications

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct has not been evaluated for heritage significance by National or State reference agencies.

However, the James Cuming Memorial, which was moved to the Cuming Reserve<sup>3</sup> c.1960 has recently been nominated by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as a work of public art of state significance, possessing historical, technical and social merit (see Appendix 3 Classification Report – Public Art).

There are no National Trust Significant Tree registrations in the precinct. But, Footscray Conservation Study (1989) nominates 'palms' (*Phoenix canariensis*) in Cowper Street Tennis Reserve, Cuming Reserve and Hyde Street median, south of Princess Street. Footscray Conservation Study also places significance on the stone rubble walls of the Cowper Street Tennis Reserve (but does not mention those in Hanmer Reserve or bounding the Gardens).

The Maribyrnong Heritage Review was initiated by Maribyrnong City Council in May 1998<sup>4</sup>. *Historic Places Volume 6 – Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong* (2000) nominates *Phoenix canariensis* in Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve and *Ficus macrophylla* and *Ulmus* sp. in Cuming Reserve.

Interim heritage controls were introduced over Yarraville Gardens, Hanmer Reserve and Cuming Reserve in November 2002<sup>5</sup>. There are no heritage controls over the remainder of the precinct. Yarraville Gardens, Hanmer Reserve and the Yarraville Tennis Club are zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone. Cuming Reserve is zoned Residential 1 under the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme.

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<sup>3</sup> The James Cuming Memorial was relocated from the Cuming Reserve to its current setting in the Yarraville Gardens and re-dedicated on 21 October 2001

<sup>4</sup> The Heritage Review was completed in 2001. The Heritage Plan was adopted by Maribyrnong City Council in February 2002

<sup>5</sup> Amendment C31 to the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme is currently on exhibition until February 2003 and will, if approved, formalise the heritage overlay over Yarraville Gardens, Hanmer Reserve and Cuming Reserve

## 2.0 History

### Introduction

When European settlers first occupied land which was to become the township of Footscray, it belonged to the Woi wurrung people of the Kulin nation, who had occupied and used the land surrounding the Maribyrnong River valley for at least 17,000 years. The grasslands of the volcanic plains were initially settled for sheep grazing, but when the price for tallow exceeded wool and meat prices, boiling-down works set the pattern for industry, close to Melbourne and river transport, which rapidly transformed the landscape.

The 1844 Hoddle Plan<sup>6</sup> shows the area around the junction of the Saltwater and Yarra Yarra Rivers as first observed by white settlers, with dense riparian scrub, marsh land, and the sparsely treed low hills of Yarraville and Footscray. Tracks to Melbourne, Geelong and Williams Town are marked, joining Benjamin Levien's punt crossing. The 'Reserve' notation refers to the future township (*Fig 2*).

By the early 1850s, quarrying of basalt for building material, ship ballast, road and railway construction, was a major industry. Also, the discovery of gold at Ballarat led to the development of industries such as flour milling, breweries and meat canneries, as a new wave of immigrants travelled via Footscray to the goldfields.

A plan titled 'The Township of Footscray, Public Lands Office Melbourne' (1857/58/59)<sup>7</sup> shows the Footscray township extending south to Lyons Street, the punt crossing of the Salt Water River at Bunbury Street, tracks to Williamstown and Geelong, and the Railway line. Only swamp is marked in the area where the Yarraville Gardens would first be reserved (*Fig 3*).

It is now difficult to imagine the original landscape and the teeming wildlife described by early explorers and settlers. A remnant River Red Gum in the Yarraville Gardens provides a clue to a lost vegetation community, which was probably Grassy Woodland<sup>8</sup>, dominated by Yellow Box, with River Red Gum, possibly Manna Gum, and a herb-rich grassy understorey, dominated by Kangaroo Grass and scattered shrubs.

A recent study which identified places in the City of Maribyrnong of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people, found no remnant fabric or cultural associations with land comprising the Yarraville Gardens precinct<sup>9</sup>.

### Development Periods

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct is best understood by review as distinct development periods:

- 1859 - c.1880 Pre Development
- 1880s - 1916 Early Development, Decline and Recovery – Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve
- 1916 - 1930 Redevelopment Under the Direction of Curator D R Matthews
- 1930 - 1964 Expansion under Curator D R Matthews – Hanmer Reserve
- 1964 - 2000

(See also Appendix 4 Chronology of Development)

<sup>6</sup> Plan detail from John Lack, 1991, reference Sydney C/16230, Land Victoria

<sup>7</sup> Reference F18, Land Victoria

<sup>8</sup> Ecology Australia, 1999, *City of Maribyrnong Natural Heritage Study*

<sup>9</sup> Biosis Research, 1999, *Maribyrnong Aboriginal Heritage Study*

### 1859 – c.1880 Pre Development

The idea for a public garden at Footscray was instigated in 1859 when Council wrote to the Lands Department and arranged to meet the Surveyor-General at Footscray railway station for inspection of 'land north of the Sunbury line'. This site was initially agreed upon, but quickly substituted with 'the flat on which the powder magazine is situated', following further advice<sup>10</sup>. A note accompanying the site plan states 'site in the township of Footscray shewn on annexed plan and containing 34½ acres recommended for public gardens', and was signed (3/11/59), by Clement Hodgkinson, Deputy Surveyor-General<sup>11</sup>. The land was temporarily reserved on November 21, 1859 (*Fig 4*). A Plan of Subdivision notes the 'Reserve for Botanical Gardens', located on marsh land beside the Yarra Yarra River, below its junction with the Saltwater River (*Fig 5*).

But the site was valuable for other purposes. During 1867, the Council called tenders for clearing and preparing a portion of the Botanical Reserve, 'the stone obtained to be the property of the Contractors'. The Crown Lands Bailiff reported in March 1870, that 'The Footscray Botanical Reserve is leased by the Borough Council to Joseph and Solomon Leek for 3 years. They have also agreed to plant one hundred trees every year.' A short note follows, 'use for quarrying purposes must be discontinued.' By April 1870, no planting or fencing had been achieved towards its development as public gardens. In June, Council was advised that 'unless during the next 2 months this reserve be returned to the purpose for which it was set apart, and in aid of which the Borough Council has received money from the State, it will be cancelled'<sup>12</sup>. The crisis was averted, but failed to provide a new imperative.

In 1874, Council requested cancellation of all but the southern 19 acres of the reserve, which had already been quarried and filled, with the balance of 15 acres to be re-established across Whitehall Street. This resulted in the temporary reservation of 25 acres 3 roods 24 perches for public gardens, on March 30, 1874.

An undated plan, 'Township of Footscray', (reference F19, Land Victoria) shows the original Reserve for Public Gardens of November 21, 1859, and cancellation, retaining part of the original land to the south together with additional land to the west of Whitehall Street, as 'Botanical Gardens'. Approximately 5 acres of the cancelled reserve was designated as 'Permissive Occupation for Cricket, 1882'. A quarry extended over the original reserve (*Fig 6*).

The 'Plan of Botanical Gardens Footscray', 1873/74 (reference F25B, Land Victoria) shows the 'Public Gardens' in two parts, adjoining the Township Boundary. The western portion, bounded by Hyde Street, Somerville Road and Whitehall Street (10 acres 1 rood 37 perches - the extant Yarraville Gardens) is unfenced, while the 'Flat' to the east of Whitehall Street (15 acres 1 rood 27 perches) is shown as fenced, consistent with it having developed as part of a larger site. The land which was to become the Hanmer Reserve is shown as sold. 'Harris Street' has been pencilled in over 'Dove Street', although it was not constructed until c.1934 (*Fig 7*).

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<sup>10</sup> Correspondence in Reserves File Rs1453

<sup>11</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

<sup>12</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

## 1880s – 1916 Early Development, Decline and Recovery – Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve

### *Yarraville Gardens*

Little is known about the first period of the Gardens' development, but activity was underway before 1881. Council Minute Books record that Yarraville councillor James Cuming was a member of Council's Gardens Committee at least as early as 1881, until the end of his first term as mayor in 1886. During this time, Council Minutes record the replacement of trees and shrubs and the repair of a (picket) fence at the 'Southern Reserve' (1881), the removal of a gardener's cottage to the north-west corner (1885) and placement of the 'Yarraville obelisk', commemorating the first land sale at Yarraville, on one corner (1886)<sup>13</sup>. The earliest known photograph, claimed to be from the early 1890s, shows development of the western portion of the reserve, consistent with it having been planted c.1880, or earlier. It shows simple crossed paths, laid out between corner entrances over a hill formation, with dark coniferous planting as avenues along paths and boundary windbreaks (*Fig 8*). This is supported by details shown on the first known layout plan of 1913 (*Fig 11*).

In 1887, a public deputation urged the Minister for Lands and Survey to prevent the burying of night soil in the public gardens. This had been common practice in the Carlton Gardens<sup>14</sup> and elsewhere, as a cheap source of fertiliser and means of filling in uneven ground.

In 1897, the temporary reservation for portion 15 acres 1 rood 27 perches (east of Whitehall Street) was revoked<sup>15</sup>. A quarry is clearly marked on a plan showing this section, and the swampy land beside the river encroaches.

The coniferous theme planting, in a photograph c.1909, shows healthy growth of Pines and Cypresses along the northern boundary of the Yarraville Gardens. A timber picket fence shows some sign of disrepair. The ground to the north, which was to become the Hanmer Reserve, appears to be disturbed as from quarrying of the rocky outcrops. The date of this photograph is given as c.1909 by Frances Smith, which would be consistent with growth rates expected since the previous photograph (*Fig 8*), but it could also be as late as 1916/17, when it appeared in the City of Footscray annual report (*Fig 9*).

There is no more photographic evidence until c.1920.

In 1909, Regulations for the Care, Protection, and Management of Reserves in the City of Footscray were gazetted (*Fig 10*).

However, by 1913, the Gardens were in a neglected state and again under threat. Perhaps the recreation and maintenance emphases had shifted to the Yarraville Oval, or to the Railway Gardens, with its new band rotunda, or perhaps after James Cuming's death in 1911, there was no significant figure to champion their cause. The Reserve file notes a repeat of history, in that quarrying had again become the priority<sup>16</sup>: 'This area of 10A 1R 37P has been reserved since 1873 for Public Gardens. It has been to some extent improved but is now much neglected. Its chief use at present apparently being as a stone breaking depot. The fence is broken down and as a public reserve it is practically useless. It is under the control of the Footscray City Council' (14/5/1913). Further, 'I made an inspection today of this reserve. On the north west corner a quarry is being worked. The stone from this quarry is being carted into heaps on the reserve and is being broken into metal suitable for road making. The fence surrounding the area which is partly post rail and picket and partly hurricane-wire is in a disgraceful state of disrepair especially the picket portion. The area has been planted with pines cupressis (sic) oaks and peppertrees and despite evident neglect a great many are in a healthy state. The whole area is at present and has been for some considerable time in a most neglected state' (29/5/1913). To which the Secretary of Lands responded: 'If the Council

<sup>13</sup> Research by John Cuming, October 2000 (Council Minute Books)

<sup>14</sup> See pages 8, 22, 33, 44, Georgina Whitehead, *Civilising the City*

<sup>15</sup> Reserves File Rs1453. Note that Council had notified the Lands Department of their wish to relinquish this portion as early as 1885 (research by John Cuming)

<sup>16</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

is not prepared to proceed with the improvement of the site under notice, with a view to attain the object of its reservation, the question of revocation thereof will require to be considered' (17/6/1913).

The City of Footscray assured the Department that 'a scheme of general improvements to this reserve has been prepared.' However, the new popular game of tennis decided priorities. 'An area measuring 150' x 120' (50m x 40m) was enclosed with a picket fence topped by wire netting on 3 sides; 2 tennis courts were laid down of concrete with asphalt facing, and a weatherboard building for Members rooms was nearly completed (25/7/1914)<sup>17</sup>. The prominent position of the courts and clubhouse, at the corner of Somerville Road and Hyde Street, is shown on a 1931 air photo (*Fig 18*). The courts were not relocated until c.1937, when the annual report<sup>18</sup> also notes 'shifting pavilion from Yarraville Gardens to Johnson Reserve'. This probably referred to the 1914 tennis clubrooms.

By 1915, the Yarraville Gardens reserve was again enclosed, with a fence consisting of '5" x 3" jarrah posts, 3" x 3" hardwood rail and 3 wires'. The grounds had been generally 'cleaned up' and a cinder path laid down (7/10/1915)<sup>19</sup>.

### *Cuming Reserve*

The triangular site was reserved incrementally<sup>20</sup>. In 1892, when Council requested permanent reservation of the southern portion 'for public purposes', Harris Street was reserved through to Nicholson Street, Princess Street did not exist and Berry Street was a private street. The site had been temporarily reserved for the storage of road metal, but the land north of the Harris Street extension was shown on Council's plan as a Recreation Reserve (*Fig 12*).

In further correspondence in the same year, the Town Clerk advised that 'no improvements have been effected' and the intention of Council was 'to fence and plant the land'. The Office of Lands and Survey suggested the reserve as 'a site for an ornamental plantation,' and proposed that Berry Street be carried through to Hyde Street. The large Moreton Bay Fig, beside the Berry Street extension, may date from about this time.

In 1902, Council requested the extension of Princess Street through the reserve to Hyde Street. A plan accompanying the letter shows the reserve as fenced. The Officer of Lands and Survey allowed the Princess Street road reservation in lieu of the Harris Street extension, which was added to the plantation reserve (*Fig 13*).

Two roods and 15 perches (just over ½ acre) were temporarily reserved as *Footscray Ornamental Plantation Reserve*, in 1903<sup>21</sup>.

In 1906, James Cuming<sup>22</sup> offered to bear the cost of beautifying the reserve, on condition that it would be designated as the Cuming Reserve. This was accepted, and the City Surveyor prepared a layout plan. Later correspondence mentions proposed seats and gates in the reserve fence. In 1909, the Yarraville obelisk was moved to Cuming Reserve from Yarraville Gardens<sup>23</sup>. The fate of the obelisk is unknown: it is no longer extant.

A 1913 plan shows the layout and planting of the reserve (*Fig 11*), consistent with two photographs in 'Footscray's First 50 Years', 1909, of views in 'Cuming 'Gardens' (*Figs 14, 15*). The scale is domestic, featuring rockeries and shrubberies which have not survived<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

<sup>18</sup> Annual Report 1936/37

<sup>19</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

<sup>20</sup> See Reserves File Rs 9508

<sup>21</sup> 1903 gazette p. 2125

<sup>22</sup> James Cuming was a prominent councillor and mayor of Footscray 1885/86 and 1890/91, J. P., industrialist and philanthropist. He resided in Hyde Street Yarraville, until his death in 1911

<sup>23</sup> Research by John Cuming

<sup>24</sup> Cuming Reserve was last described as 'an ornamental garden of ½ acre' in the 1926/27 City of Footscray Annual Report

Street trees are first evidenced in the 1931 air photo (*Fig 18*). The line of trees shown on the western side of Nicholson Street, between Princess and Berry Street, probably dates from c.1903, but most were removed during roadworks c.1966, as were those south of Berry Street and on the eastern side of Cuming Reserve<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> See altered road alignments 1966 plan

## 1916 – 1930    Redevelopment Under the Direction of Curator D R Matthews

### *Yarraville Gardens*

In 1916, the newly appointed 'Working Landscape Gardener', David Reeves Matthews inherited a reserve that had lost its original vision. Although there were some remnant plantings of pines, cypresses, oaks and peppertrees<sup>26</sup>, and a new path and fence enclosure had been completed, it was essentially an invitation to start again.

Following Matthews' appointment, major works were carried out in 1919/20<sup>27</sup>, when 20 chains (396metres) of 10ft (approximately 3 metres) wide paths were laid out and gravelled. In the same year, 3,000 cubic yards of fill were carted in for the formation of flower beds and shrubberies, 300 trees and shrubs were planted and a water service laid, facilitating the development of lawns. A Children's Playground was developed at this time, several years before Footscray Park<sup>28</sup>.

A sports and recreation imperative was emerging.

By c.1920, the layout of the Gardens appears fundamentally changed, to accommodate a small sports field in the lower section<sup>29</sup>. The paths appear narrower, and the whole has a more domestic scale compared with the bold path and avenue layout of the earliest photograph (*Fig 16*). Development continued in the following year, with more soil brought in for 5 new shrub and flower beds. Low-lying ground was filled and graded as lawns.

A photograph in the Annual Report of 1921/22 shows Matthews' new vision for the Yarraville Gardens, with rock-edged paths, a band rotunda<sup>30</sup> and ornamental planting of shrub beds (*Fig 17*). Although some remnant pines of the 1880s were evident, the emphasis had changed from shaded promenades to ornamental features, as demonstrated by John Guilfoyle in the Fitzroy Gardens.

The 1931 aerial photograph shows the Gardens as redeveloped during this period, and Hanmer Reserve as a quarry site. Various informal tracks connected across the site (*Fig 18*).

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<sup>26</sup> Reserves File Rs 1453

<sup>27</sup> Council's Annual Report 1919/20, Central Records Section Maribyrnong City Council

<sup>28</sup> This playground was possibly the first in the City

<sup>29</sup> Probably the cricket wicket reported in the 1926/27 Annual Report

<sup>30</sup> Nothing is known about the provenance of the band rotunda, which has not survived

## 1930 – 1964 Expansion under Curator D R Matthews – Hanmer Reserve

### *Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve*

While the 1930s were a time of widespread economic depression, and represented a decline in the standards of many parks and gardens, Matthews capitalised on the opportunity to continue improvements by marshalling resources that became available to him, such as labour by sustenance workers. Initially, ornamental plots were set out in front of the Gardens in Hyde Street<sup>31</sup>, but larger works were planned. In 1932, Council provided Government with a large schedule of works which Footscray was prepared to undertake if Government paid for the labour from the Unemployment Relief Fund<sup>32</sup>. This included an extension to the Yarraville Gardens for a sporting ground, on the quarried land to the north of the Gardens, transferred to the City of Footscray from CSR, (24 Jan 1933). In 1933, a plan was prepared for the earthworks, including grading and embankments (*Fig 19*). The construction by 'unemployment relief work'<sup>33</sup> is shown in photographs in the 1935/36 Annual Report (*Figs 20, 21*). By then, the new reserve of approximately 7 acres, had been named the Hanmer Reserve<sup>34</sup>, and a new turf wicket had been constructed for the Seddon Cricket Club<sup>35</sup>. An additional 2 acres of 'reclaimed' land north of Harris Street was made available by CSR<sup>36</sup>, (6 Feb 1936), at a reduced price to Council, and four new tennis courts were planned for the Yarraville Tennis Club. This land was referred to in later reports as the Hanmer Reserve Extensions.

In 1935, the City of Footscray requested the appointment of (honorary) Crown Land Bailiffs to enforce the (1909) Regulations in the Yarraville Gardens, as 'much damage is being done to the reserve.' The earliest Canary Island Palm plantings are noted at about this time (*Fig 22*)<sup>37</sup>.

By c.1936, a plan was prepared for a sports pavilion<sup>38</sup>, to incorporate a hall, dressing rooms for football, hockey, men's and women's tennis, showers and toilets. In the 1936/37 Annual Report, a budget of 512 pounds was under consideration for a pavilion, and by the following year (1937/38), four porous tennis courts, a pavilion, and dressing rooms for clubs using the reserve, were reported as situated on the Extensions. However, the existing sports pavilion does not resemble the plan drawing. The 1914 tennis facilities were probably removed from the Yarraville Gardens at this time. Nothing is known about the 'Old Pioneer's Cottage or Shelter House' in Yarraville Gardens, for which renovations costing 250 pounds were under consideration in 1936/37<sup>39</sup>. It may be the gardener's cottage mentioned in 1885, or a timber building seen in *Fig 28*.

In 1937/38 the first entrance pergolas and dedicated seats were constructed at Hanmer Reserve. 'Turf wickets, sloping grass lawns, terraced rock gardens, and the choicest of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowering annuals' were reported, and 'an avenue of Australian trees'<sup>40</sup> 'between the two Reserves'<sup>41</sup>. An accompanying photograph shows the entrance pergola (removed) directing views to a cricket match on the Hanmer Reserve. Note the gravel path (now asphalt), rock edges, the row of Palms on the eastern side of the oval (extant) and the site which would soon become the bowling and croquet greens (*Fig 23*). The reserve was fenced on its northern side with a steel post and mesh fence (*Figs 24, 35*). The marginal

<sup>31</sup> Annual Report 1930/31

<sup>32</sup> John Lack, *A History of Footscray*, p.295

<sup>33</sup> Noted in 1937/38 Annual Report

<sup>34</sup> Named in honour of Cr. Edward Hanmer, mayor of Footscray 1931/32 and 1936/37

<sup>35</sup> Annual Report 1934/35

<sup>36</sup> Annual Report 1934/35

<sup>37</sup> In late 1934, the Animal Welfare League donated 300 palms from their property at South Preston (*Historic Places Volume 6 – Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong*, Maribyrnong City Council, 2000)

<sup>38</sup> Plan source Maribyrnong City Council

<sup>39</sup> Annual Report 1936/37

<sup>40</sup> The Victorian Tree Planters Association had recommended the planting of native trees for civic beautification c.1930, and Melbourne's centenary in 1934 encouraged the use of native species. *Tristanias (Lophostemon confertus)* were particularly favoured for their uniform shape (p.77, Whitehead, 1997). Locally, the Footscray and District Tree Planters Association started in 1938, which with the other works evidence, suggests the 'avenue of Australian trees' was planted in their year of inception

<sup>41</sup> Annual Report 1937/38 - apparently between Hanmer Reserve and the Hanmer Reserve Extensions, where some Australian species are extant



planting of the Hanmer Reserve Extensions, with lawns, additional rock gardens and select flowering shrubs, was also complete by 1937/38.

Meanwhile, maintenance of the 'well-kept lawns and ornamental flower beds, ... a fine collection of choice trees and shrubs, with showy annuals in season', continued in the Yarraville Gardens despite difficulties with gales and serious drought, followed by excessive rains and bleak conditions<sup>42</sup>.

Lawn bowls and croquet were planned for Hanmer Reserve in 1938/39, with consideration for 'an up to date dressing pavilion'<sup>43</sup>. The plan progressed, as an 8-rink bowling green and croquet lawns are reported by 1945/46<sup>44</sup>. They are shown on a 1948 air photo (*Fig 25*), and in photographs c.1946/47 (*Fig 26*) and c.1950/51 (*Fig 27*). The 1946/47 Annual Report notes that football, cricket, baseball, tennis and bowling clubs were accommodated at Hanmer Reserve at that time.

Two entrance gates and pergolas were erected in 1945/46, and by 1947/48 the new front entrance was almost complete, with ornamental pergolas, rock fence and new garden plots<sup>45</sup> (*Fig 28*)<sup>46</sup>. This probably completed the five Hyde Street entrances begun in 1937/38.

The 1948 air photo (*Fig 25*) shows the extent of development since 1931 (*Fig 18*), including Hanmer Reserve and Harris Street, the croquet and bowls facilities, relocation of tennis courts, additional shrub beds, street trees, palm rows, and a path across Cuming Reserve.

At the instigation of Mayor Cr. H. J. McIvor, a series of plans for the 'beautification' of the city's parks, reserves, streets and recreational areas was prepared by curator David Matthews, and put together in book form as reference for each of the city's councillors<sup>47</sup>. The salient features of each plan were outlined in the City Curator's Report of 1949/50, which noted 'many of the above areas are already completed'. An oblique view aerial photograph shows clear details of the precinct at that time (*Fig 29*) and a photograph from high ground overlooking Hanmer Reserve shows plant growth since c.1937 (*Fig 30*).

Four of the plans provide details for the Yarraville Gardens Precinct:

- Yarraville Gardens and Adjoining Land (including Hanmer Reserve) Plan No. 3, (date unknown) (*Fig 31*)

The master plan shows path layouts and entrances with gates, specimen trees on lawns and along boundaries, 'shelter trees', single rows of Palms and 'ornamental gardens' in relation to paths, a caretaker's residence, areas designated for sport, and street plantations. A 'suggested design' for a stone and timber pergola entrance is also shown.

The accompanying curator's report notes 'one eight-rink bowling green, four tennis courts, two croquet lawns, sporting arenas for cricket (including one turf wicket) and football, also spacious lawns and ornamental plantations of trees, shrubs and flowering plants. At the Hanmer Reserve there is room for five additional tennis courts.' Note that the tennis courts referred to are not shown on this plan (see Plan No. 19).

- Yarraville Gardens Main Entrance Plan No. 12, 1946 (*Fig 32*)

The plan further details the 'proposed improvements' to the 'main entrance', 'including ornamental pergolas and gates' (at the Somerville Road/Hyde Street corner), and the 'position for a future caretaker's cottage'. It also depicts the site for a children's playground,

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<sup>42</sup> Annual Report 1938/39

<sup>43</sup> Annual Report 1938/39

<sup>44</sup> Annual Report 1945/46

<sup>45</sup> Annual Report 1947/48

<sup>46</sup> Photograph from 1953/54 Annual Report

<sup>47</sup> Copy held by Maribyrnong City Council. Although it is widely believed that Matthews prepared the plans, it cannot be discounted that they may have been prepared under his direction, or in collaboration with a landscape artist such as William Nicholls, who was employed by Matthews from the 1930s

an ornamental pool, a 'suggested position for a music bowl'<sup>48</sup>, and placement of several golden-leaved tree specimens (ie. Golden Weeping Cypress and Golden Ash).

- Hanmer Reserve Tennis Courts Plan No. 19, (date unknown) (*Fig 33*)

The plan shows the position of four tennis courts, north of Harris Street, with two dressing pavilions, lawns, 'ornamental garden plot' and plantations. Palms are featured in Hyde Street and a pergola marks the main entrance at the north-west corner.

- Plan (elevation) showing Suggested Fencing and Planting Hanmer Reserve Plan No. 25, (date unknown) (*Fig 34*)

The plan shows a proposed feature entrance to Hanmer Reserve from Whitehall Street. The fence is shown as a low stone rubble base with steel posts and rails and mesh infill. The entrance pergola is similar to that proposed for the main entrance to the Yarraville Gardens (Plan No. 3), with the name of the reserve displayed on the cross beam. Planting shown along the fence is repeated in symmetry about the entrance and two ornamental cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta' extant) frame the entrance pergola.

By 1950/51 all driveways and footpaths within the 2 reserves had been constructed (presumably with asphalt), new playground equipment installed, and a good display of seasonal flowers maintained<sup>49</sup>.

The 1956/57 Annual Report notes the implementation of master plans 'for the layout and beautification of its Parks, Reserves, Streets and Recreational Areas' over a ten year period. It notes the Hanmer Reserve and Yarraville Gardens as 'an outstanding example of good town planning for lightly industrialised areas'.

By about 1960 Matthews must have considered the master plan implementation for the Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve virtually complete. The Yarraville Gardens (of 10 acres 1 rood 37 perches) were permanently reserved for Public Gardens on February 7, 1964, almost 90 years after temporary reservation (March 30, 1874). David Matthews retired in the same year.

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<sup>48</sup> Note also Plan No. 11 which shows 'Kiosk and Music Bowl, a design for refreshment kiosk and modern music bowl to be erected on a site to be selected'

<sup>49</sup> Annual Report 1950/51

*Cuming Reserve and Hyde Street/Nicholson Street*

The 1906 layout of Cuming Reserve was essentially abandoned in 1934 when a new plan was accepted. This may have been prompted by the gift of 300 Palms from the Animal Welfare League<sup>50</sup>. By 1938/39, the Cuming Reserve was substantially changed to 'lawns and plantations'<sup>51</sup>. A photograph in the Annual Report shows young Palm Trees in Hyde Street, adjoining the Hanmer Reserve Extensions (*Fig 35*). The Canary Island Palms appear to be the same age as others planted on the east side of Hyde Street. Those defining the Cuming Reserve appear smaller (*Fig 25*), but were in place by the 1942 plan<sup>52</sup>. Council Reports<sup>53</sup> describe the activities of the Footscray and District Tree Planters' Association<sup>54</sup> in relation to Council's street tree planting program, under the direction of City Curator Mr D Matthews. 'Since our inception, in 1938, the members have planted over 850 trees in streets and playing spaces. During the war years, this Association was unable to carry out a progressive policy of street tree planting, but is now making a comprehensive survey of the City and its requirements for the purpose of preparing plans for the next season's plantings'. Only those Palms planted in Cuming Reserve survived the c.1966 roadworks.

In c.1960, the James Cuming Memorial was relocated to the Cuming Reserve, from Napier Street, Footscray adjacent to the Railway Reserve. The memorial was commissioned in 1913, by public subscription, and erected in 1916, but relocated with significant sculptured details removed. It was the work of Margaret Baskerville, a leading artist of the time (*Fig 36*).

A comparison of the 1942 plan of Nicholson Street Reconstruction<sup>55</sup> with the 1966 roadworks plan shows several trees were lost in the period. Although the bus shelter did not exist in 1942, a seat is shown at the bus stop. The 1942 plan shows a clear and logical path system, with rows of trees lining the paths (altered c.1966). The extent of roadworks is unclear.

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<sup>50</sup> Information from *Historic Places Volume 6 – Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong*, Maribyrnong City Council, 2000

<sup>51</sup> Annual Report 1938/39

<sup>52</sup> Plan of Nicholson Street Reconstruction

<sup>53</sup> Annual Reports 1938/39 and 1946/47

<sup>54</sup> See also footnote 40

<sup>55</sup> Plan source Maribyrnong City Council

## 1964 - 2000

### *Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve*

The 1960s were the era of CRB road widenings, and none of the city's major parks escaped untouched. Road works in Hyde Street c.1966 resulted in removal of part of the Gardens' stone wall and privet hedge along the western boundary, removal of seven mature pine trees, a large gum tree, shrub beds in the Gardens<sup>56</sup>, and removal/reconstruction of the ornamental gates/pergola at the Somerville Road/Hyde Street corner entrance. Although built features were replaced, workmanship was inferior (*Figs 37, 38*). A plan drawn in 1969 for replacement of the pergola (*Fig 39*), reflects the original structure of basalt piers and timber beams, but is not as careful in design detail (compare *Fig 28*). The extant pergola has been altered from the plan - struts have been removed from the timber structure, and the name beam is no longer incorporated, concrete repair work is clumsy, gates have been removed and a steel 'bollard' fixed in ground (*Figs 40, 41*). The adjoining asphalt path was realigned to match, with stone edging restored.

An undated air photograph, c.1960, shows existing conditions before roadworks and resiting of the Cuming Monument. It shows an altered path layout and entrances in the south-west corner, a new toilet block (or storage shed?) and the rotunda (now removed) (*Fig 42*).

During the 1970s and early 1980s, there was a continued emphasis on the provision of sporting facilities and amenities. Concept drawings were completed by Lawrence J Atley & Partners, Architects, for a public toilet and gardeners' amenities block at Yarraville Gardens, in 1971. The proposed building required new openings in the existing stone wall (one was made) and demolition of the existing toilet block and storage shed. The building was constructed as toilets only, and the existing storage shed was retained. A plan for the Yarraville Tennis Club (1979) shows the construction of 2 new courts (for a total of 8) and parking off Cowper Street.

The 1970s were also the era of urban forests, although the concept was poorly understood by municipal gardeners. The Ralph Kenyon<sup>57</sup> Forest, a memorial plantation of *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian Blue Gum), 'planted by Ralph Kenyon, and originally much larger'<sup>58</sup>, is an example of this trend.

In 1982, plans were drawn up for the lease of Seddon Bowling Club (including the Croquet Club) and Seddon Football Club. A new extension to the Seddon Football Clubrooms is shown north of Harris Street, but little other detail is shown. The Whitehall Street pedestrian entrance had become a car park.

In 1991, an irrigation plan was prepared for Council, to cover the Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve, excluding the land leased out for the Seddon Croquet Club and Seddon Bowling Club 1991. A revised plan (September, 1998) is currently being implemented, as funds become available.

Various small structures were added in an ad-hoc manner during this period, including the sound stage, barbecues and drinking fountains. New plant species were introduced, such as the infill row of Golden Elms. Generally, the developments since 1964 have not shown an understanding of garden design or the already established design ethos.

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<sup>56</sup> Reserves File Rs1453

<sup>57</sup> Ralph Kenyon was a gardener with the City of Footscray 1945 – 1977. From 1945 to 1974 he worked at Yarraville Gardens, and from 1974 to 1977 he was Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Gardens. In 1970 he presented a report to Council on the effects of air pollution at Yarraville Gardens, and recorded 33 trees which had died between 1948-1969

<sup>58</sup> As advised by Jenni Lee 5/10/00

*Cuming Reserve and Hyde Street/Nicholson Street*

With road works in Hyde Street c.1966, the Cuming Reserve was reduced in width, the bus shelter demolished, redesigned and repositioned, and the Cuming memorial again relocated (but similarly aligned as a focal point from a Gardens' entry). Pitcher kerbing was replaced, some paths were lost, and one was altered. Although many of the Canary Island Palms in Cuming Reserve survived, their setting, and therefore their amenity, was reduced. The Moreton Bay Fig was no longer positioned centrally in its island reserve, and earlier plantings have been progressively lost since c.1942<sup>59</sup>. The careful streetscape design, which provided a complementary setting for the Gardens, with each element strengthening the whole, was lost in the reconstruction<sup>60</sup>.

The Cuming memorial has been classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)<sup>61</sup>, and an appeal launched for its restoration and relocation<sup>62</sup> (*Fig 43*).

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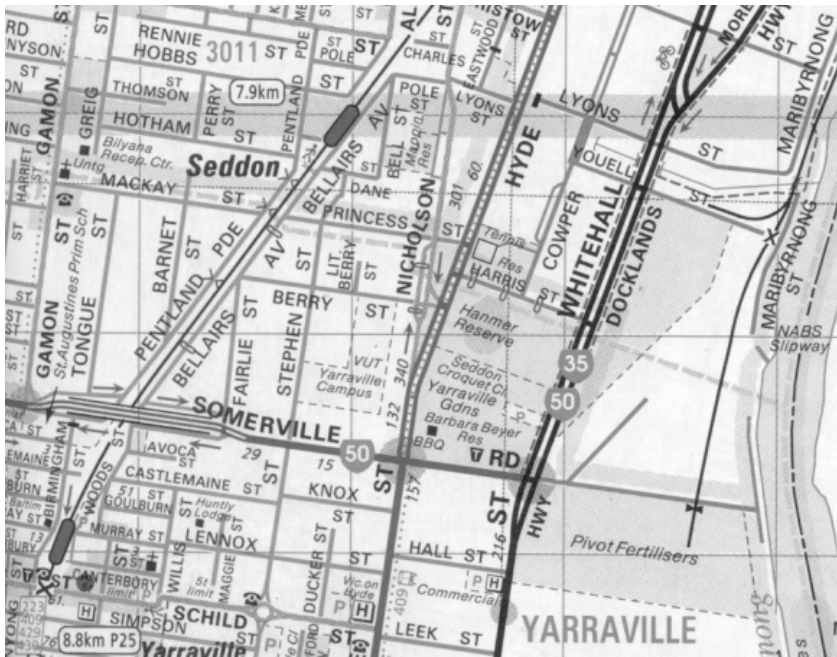
<sup>59</sup> Compare plans Nicholson Street Reconstruction 1942 and Hyde Street/Nicholson Street Reconstruction 1966 (Maribyrnong City Council)

<sup>60</sup> Refer plan Hyde Street/Nicholson Street Reconstruction 1966 (Maribyrnong City Council), Reserves File Rs1453 (Land Victoria), plan Bus Shelter Hyde Street at Cumings Reserve 1968 (Maribyrnong City Council)

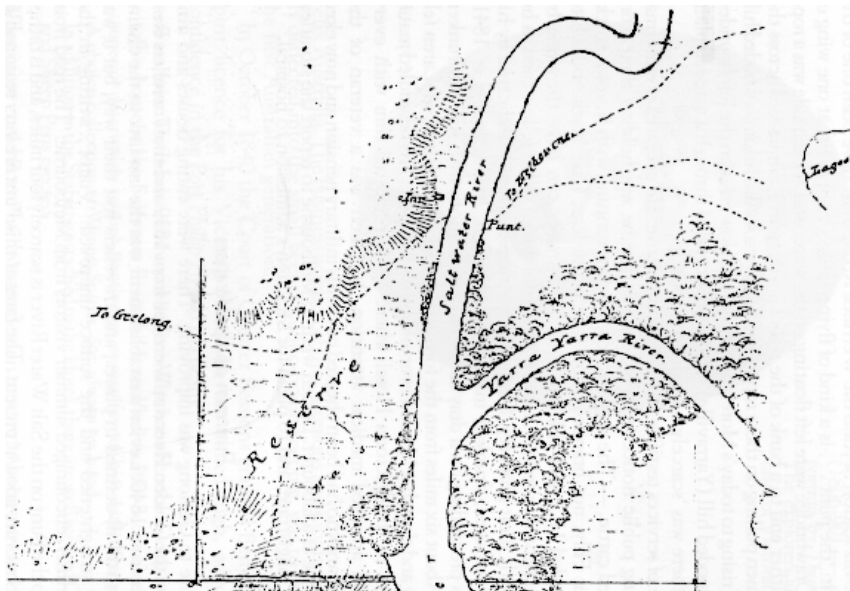
<sup>61</sup> See Appendix 3

<sup>62</sup> A National Trust Appeal by Cuming Family descendants raised funds to assist with the restoration of the Memorial and relocation to a landscaped setting in Yarraville Gardens. The remainder of the restoration and relocation costs were met by Maribyrnong City Council and the Yarraville Club Inc.

FIGURES



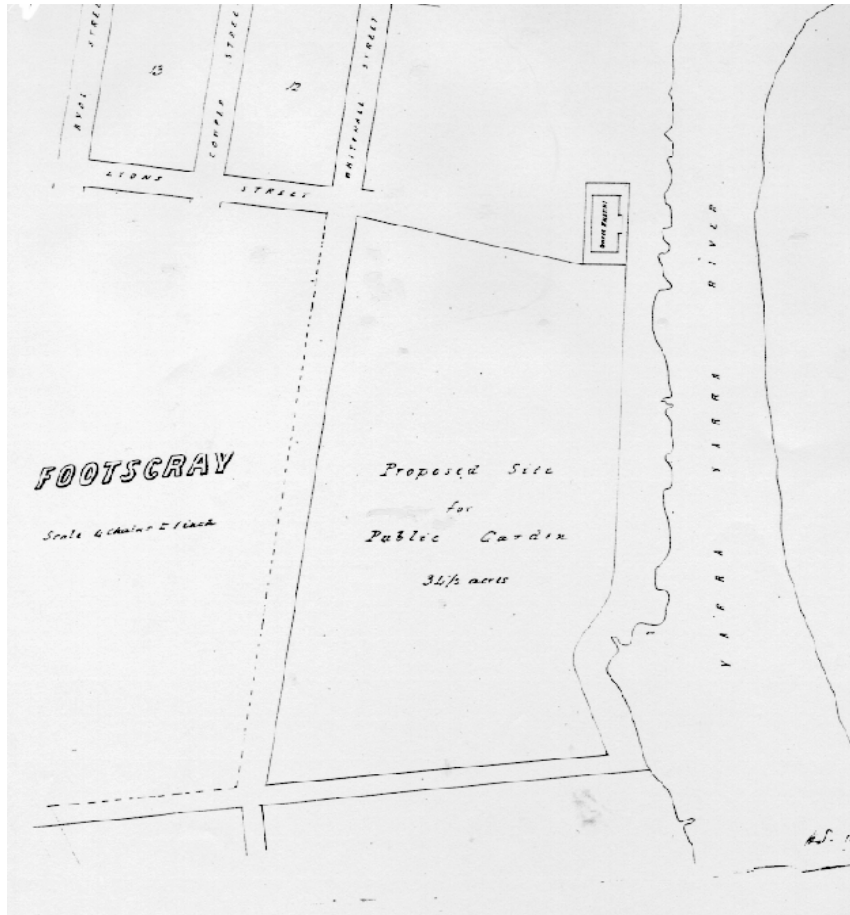
**Fig 1**  
Precinct Plan  
(Melway map 42 C8)



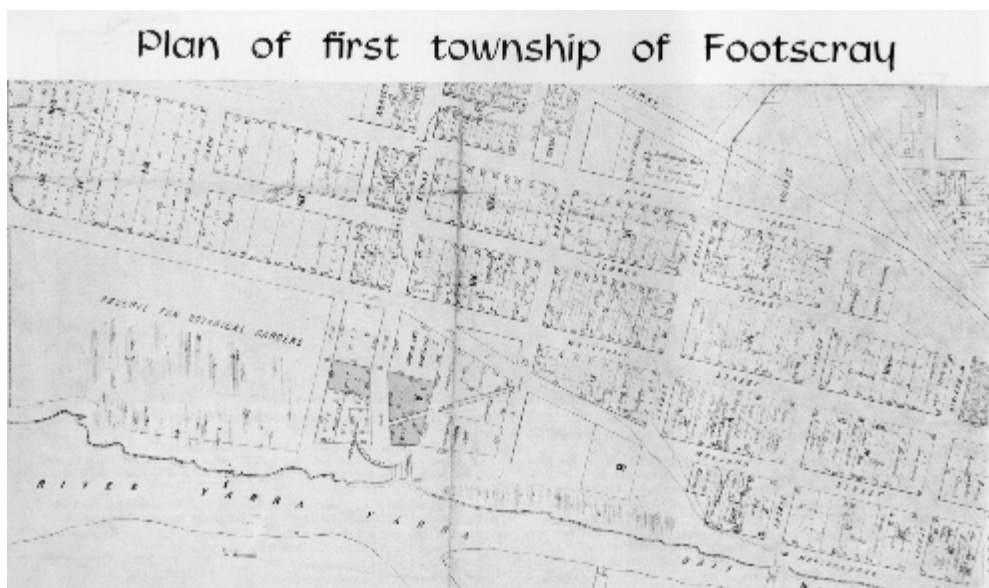
**Fig 2**  
The 1844 Hoddle plan shows the area around the junction of the Saltwater and Yarra Yarra Rivers, as first observed by white settlers, with dense riparian scrub, marsh land, and the sparsely treed low hills of Yarraville and Footscray. The tracks to Melbourne, Geelong and Williams Town are marked, with Benjamin Levien's punt crossing, which site later developed to become Lynch's punt, and Lynch's Bridge. The 'Reserve' label refers to the future township (detail from John Lack, reference Plan Sydney C/16230, Land Victoria)



**Fig 3**  
‘The Township of Footscray, Public Lands Office Melbourne’ 1857/58/59 plan shows the Footscray township extending south to Lyons Street, the punt crossing of the Salt Water River at Bunbury Street, the tracks to Williamstown and Geelong, and the Railway line. The Footscray Botanic Gardens (Yarraville Gardens) were not reserved. Only swamp is marked in this area (Plan F18, Land Victoria)



**Fig 4**  
1859 plan showing Proposed Site for Public Garden (34 ½ acres), south of the Powder Magazine (Reserves File Rs1453)



**Fig 5**  
The (post) 1857 Plan of Subdivision notes the 'Reserve for Botanical Gardens' located on marsh land beside the Yarra Yarra River, below its junction with the Saltwater River ('Footscray's First 100 Years')



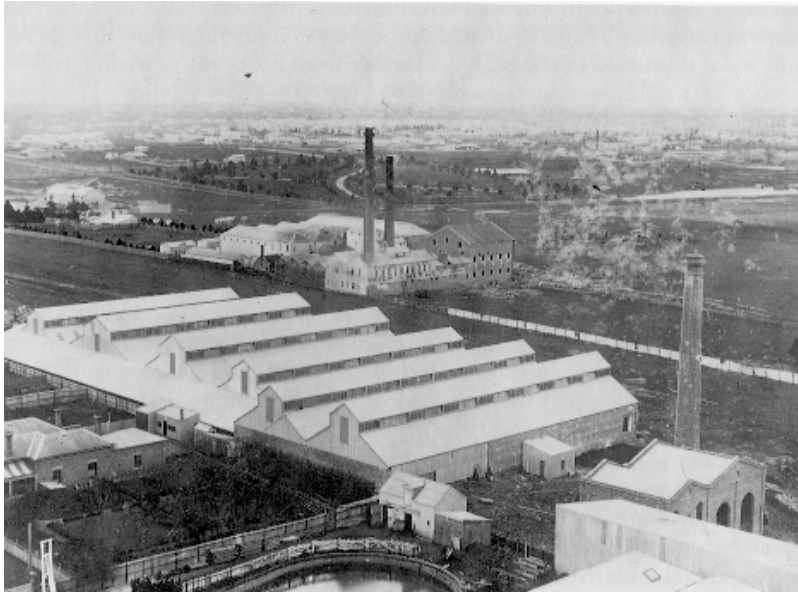


**Fig 6**  
Township of Footscray, undated plan, shows original Reserve for Public Gardens 21.11.1859, and cancellation, retaining part of the original land to the south together with additional land to the west of Whitehall Street, as 'Botanical Gardens'. Approximately 5 acres of the cancelled reserve is labelled 'Permissive Occupation for Cricket 1882'. A quarry extends along the original reserve (Plan F19, Land Victoria)



**Fig 7**

The 'Plan of Botanical Gardens Footscray', 1873/74 shows the 'Public Gardens' in two parts adjoining the Township Boundary. The section (10 acres 1 rood 37 perches) bounded by Hyde Street, Somerville Road and Whitehall Street (the existing Yarraville Gardens) is unfenced, while the 'Flat' (15 acres 1 rood 27 perches) to the east of Whitehall Street is shown as fenced, consistent with it having developed as part of a larger site. This eastern section was excised in 1896. A quarry is clearly marked on this section, and the swampy land beside the river encroaches. The land which was to become the Hanmer Reserve is shown as sold. Harris Street has been pencilled in over Dove Street (Plan F25B, Land Victoria)



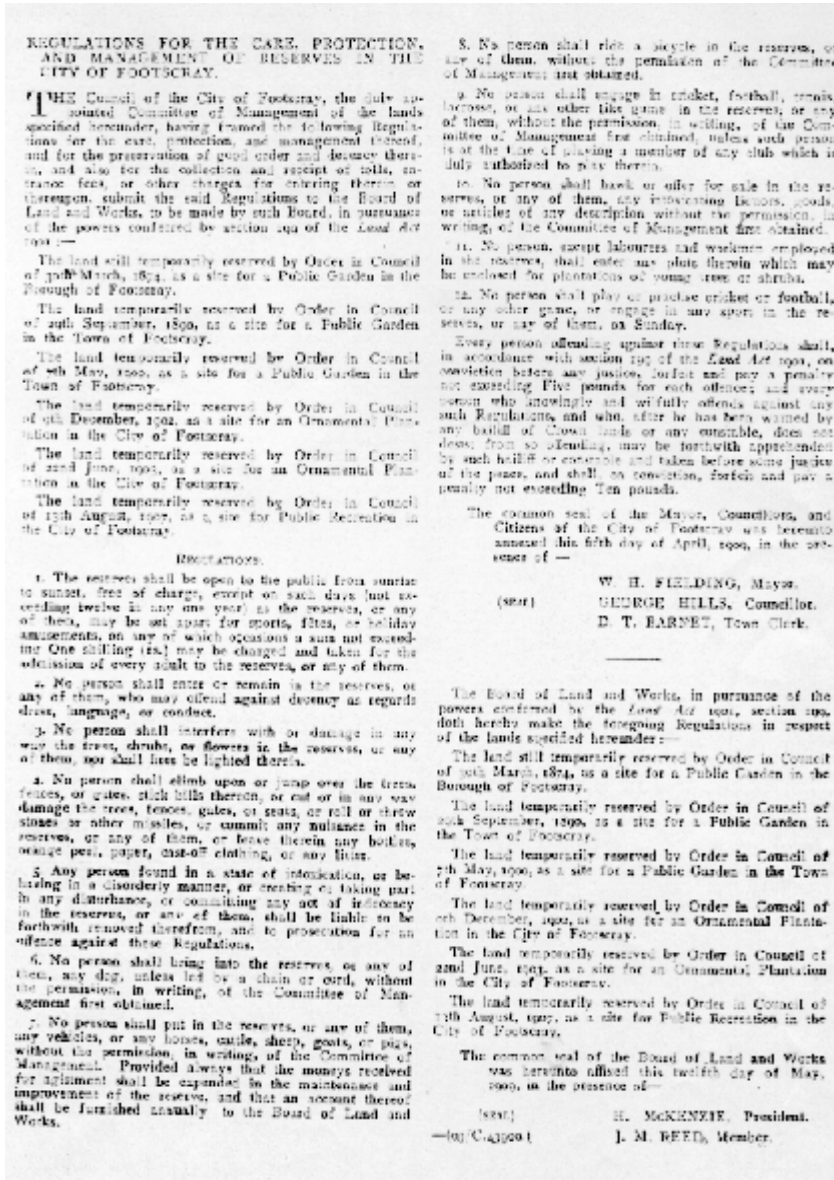
**Fig 8**

The earliest known photograph of site development, taken c.1890s, from the chimney of the Yarraville sugar refinery, shows development of the western portion (10 acres 1 rood 37 perches) of the reserve. It shows simple crossed paths, laid out between entrances over a hill formation, with dark coniferous avenues along paths and boundary windbreaks. Factory development beside the river is well underway (John Lack, p.115, CSR Collection ANU Archives of Business and Labour)



**Fig 9**

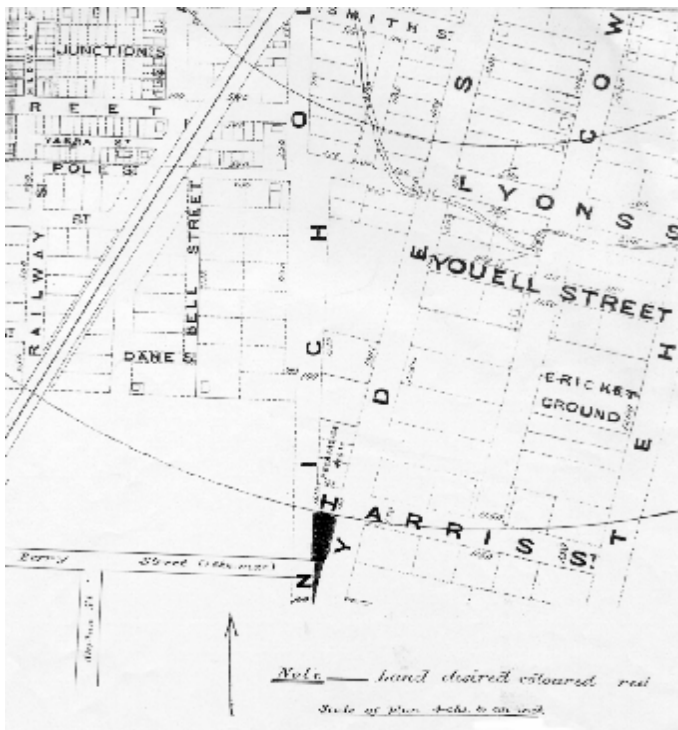
The photograph shows the Yarraville Gardens from Hyde Street c.1909 with healthy growth of Pines and Cypresses and a timber picket fence along the northern boundary. The ground to the north, which was to become the Hanmer Reserve, appears to be disturbed as from quarrying of the rocky outcrops (Frances Smith, and City of Footscray Annual Report 1916/17)



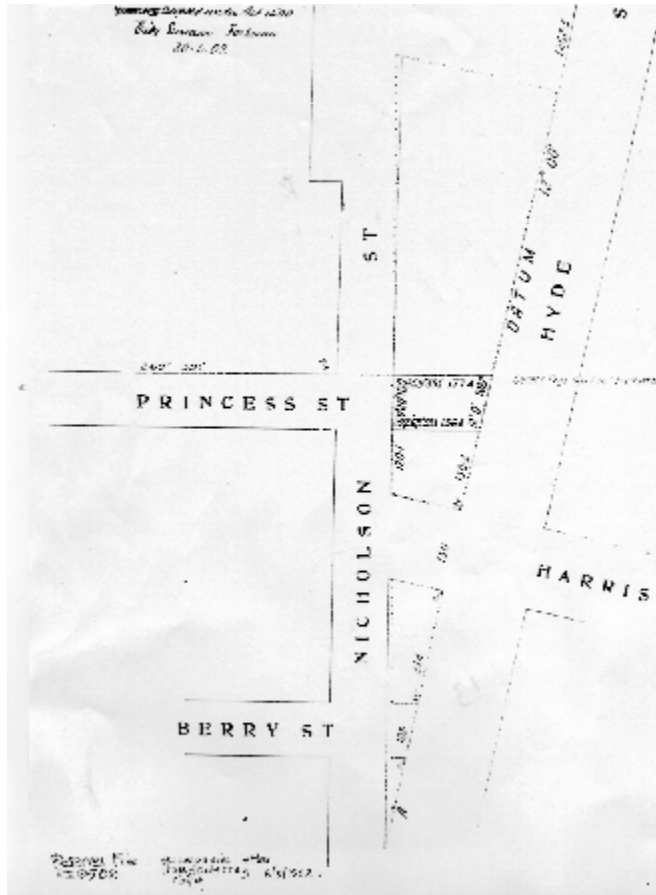
**Fig 10**  
Regulations for the Care, Protection, and Management of Reserves in the City of Footscray, gazetted 1909. Note 'the land still temporarily reserved by Order in Council of 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1874, as a site for a Public Garden in the Borough of Footscray' is the Yarraville Gardens, and similarly, the land temporarily reserved in 1903 'as a site for an Ornamental Plantation in the City of Footscray is the Cuming Reserve (Reserves File Rs1453)



**Fig 11**  
1913 plan showing 'Cumming's Reserve' and Yarraville Gardens as laid out (Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 12**  
Plan 1892 which accompanied the letter from Footscray Council requesting permanent reservation of the land which would later become Cumming Reserve (Reserves File Rs9508)



**Fig 13**  
Plan 1902 showing the reserve as fenced. Princess Street was excised from the reserve in lieu of Harris Street which was added  
(Reserves File Rs9508)



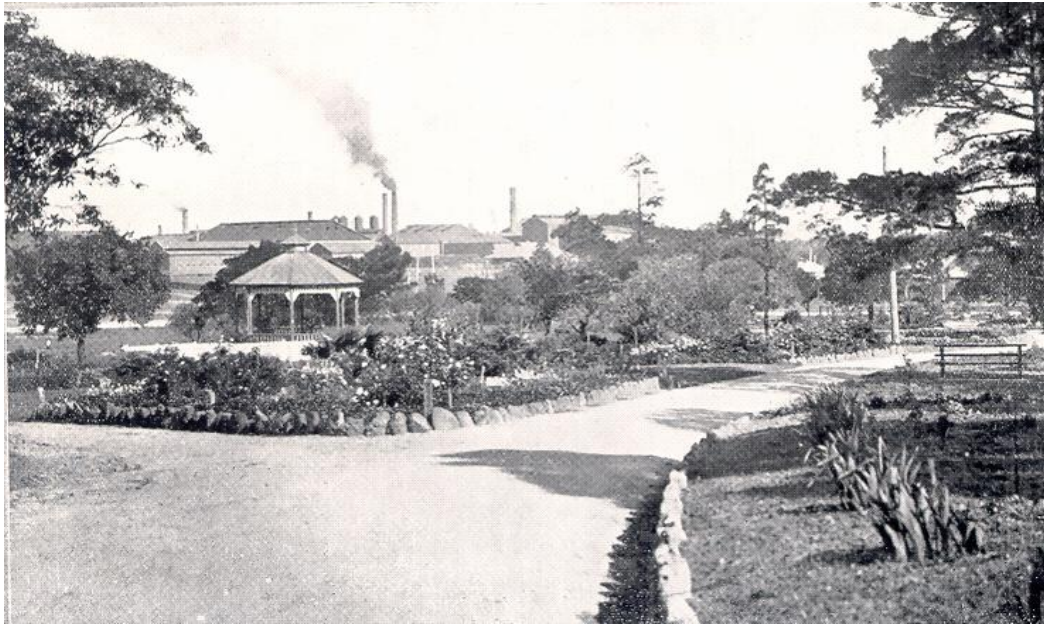
**Fig 14**  
Photograph showing 'view in Cuming Gardens', 1909  
(Footscray's First 50 Years)



**Fig 15**  
Photograph showing 'another glimpse of Cuming Gardens', 1909  
(Footscray's First 50 Years)



**Fig 16**  
By c.1920, the layout of the Gardens appears fundamentally changed to accommodate a small sports field in the lower section. The paths seem narrower, and the whole has a more domestic scale compared with the bold path and avenue layout of the earliest photograph (see *Fig 8*)  
(Images of the West CD-ROM, Footscray Historical Society picture collection)

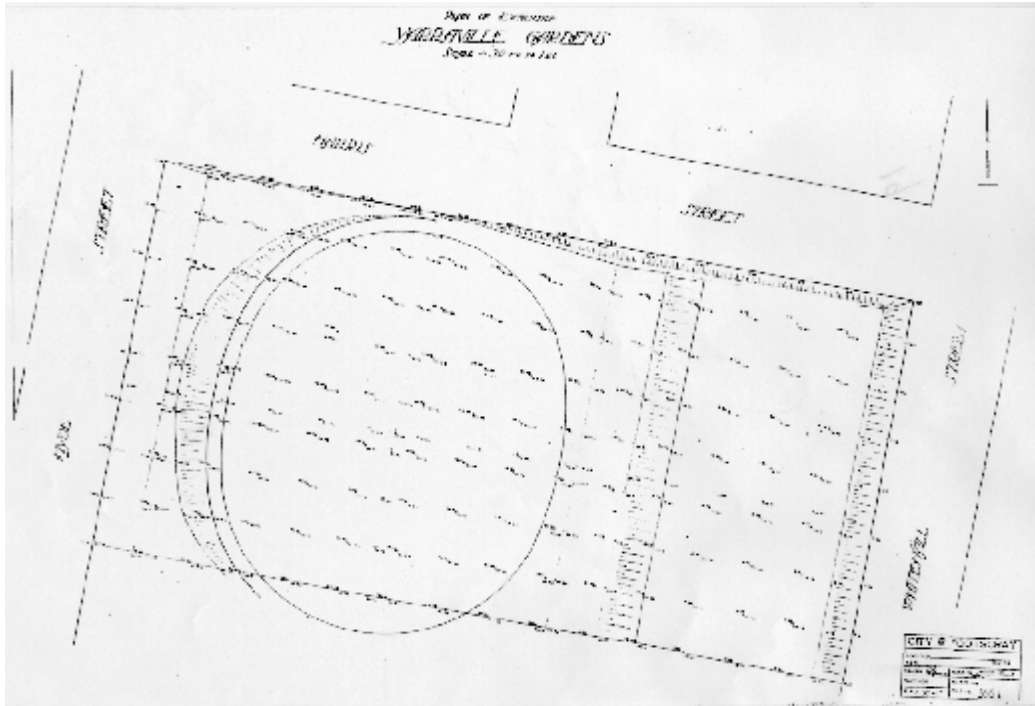


**Fig 17**  
Yarraville Gardens 1921, shows Matthews' new vision, with rock-edged paths, a band rotunda and ornamental planting of shrub beds. Although some remnant pines of the 1880s are evident, the emphasis has changed from shaded promenades to ornamental features (City of Footscray Annual Report 1921/22)





**Fig 18**  
1931 aerial photograph showing the Gardens as redeveloped, with quarrying on the Hanmer Reserve site and various informal tracks across the site (Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 19**  
In 1933 a plan was prepared for earthworks, including grading and embankments, to form a sporting ground on the quarried land north of and adjacent to the Yarraville Gardens (Maribyrnong City Council)



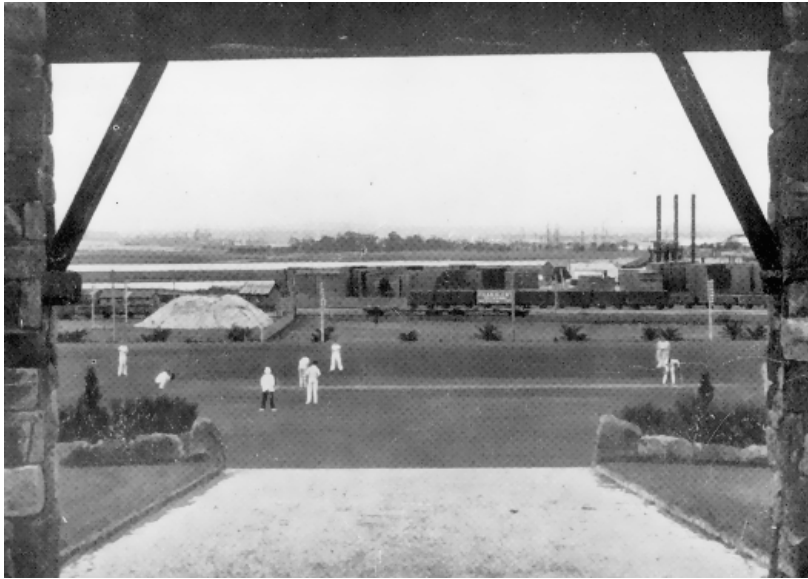
**Fig 20**  
The photograph shows the construction of Hanmer Reserve by 'unemployment relief work'. Earthworks included further cutting into the site, for levelling of the oval (see levels Fig 19), so stone used for the embankments would have been extracted from the site (City of Footscray Annual Report 1935/36)



**Fig 21**  
The photograph shows Hanmer Reserve as almost completed. Remnant conifers mark the former boundary of the adjacent Yarraville Gardens, and an ornamental Cypress is seen as newly planted at the top of the steps  
(City of Footscray Annual Report 1935/36)



**Fig 22**  
The earliest Canary Island Palm plantings are noted c.1935  
(City of Footscray Annual Report 1935/36)



**Fig 23**

Photograph c.1937/38 shows the first entrance pergola (now removed) directing views to a cricket match on the new Hanmer Reserve. Note the gravel path (now asphalt), rock edges, and the row of Palms on the far side of the oval. A later photograph (*Fig 30*) shows a similar view to the river, now hidden by industrial development

(City of Footscray Annual Report 1937/38)



**Fig 24**

The Hanmer Reserve was fenced on its northern side with a steel post and mesh fence (now replaced by treated pine posts and rails), (see also *Fig 35* – 1938/39). The photograph illustrates the post-war industrial context and the constructed landforms of the levelled sporting field below a planted rockery escarpment, which separates a passive recreation space

(City of Footscray Annual Report 1945/46)



**Fig 25**  
A 1948 aerial photograph shows bowling greens and croquet lawns, developed after 1938/39.  
(Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 26**  
The bowling green in popular use c.1946/47, looking north-east  
(City of Footscray Annual Report 1946/47)



**Fig 27**  
View of Seddon Croquet Club, c. 1950  
(City of Footscray Annual Report 1950/51)



**Fig 28**

The c.1947 entrance pergola at the corner of Hyde Street and Somerville Road featured the entrance sign incorporated into the structure, a stone wall with capped piers (but no steel post fence), a low hedge, double timber gate and decorative struts to the pergola. Note also the bluestone pitcher edge to the road, and the timber building within the Gardens. A landmark tree (*Araucaria columnaris*?) is no longer extant

(City of Footscray Annual Report 1953/54)



**Fig 29**

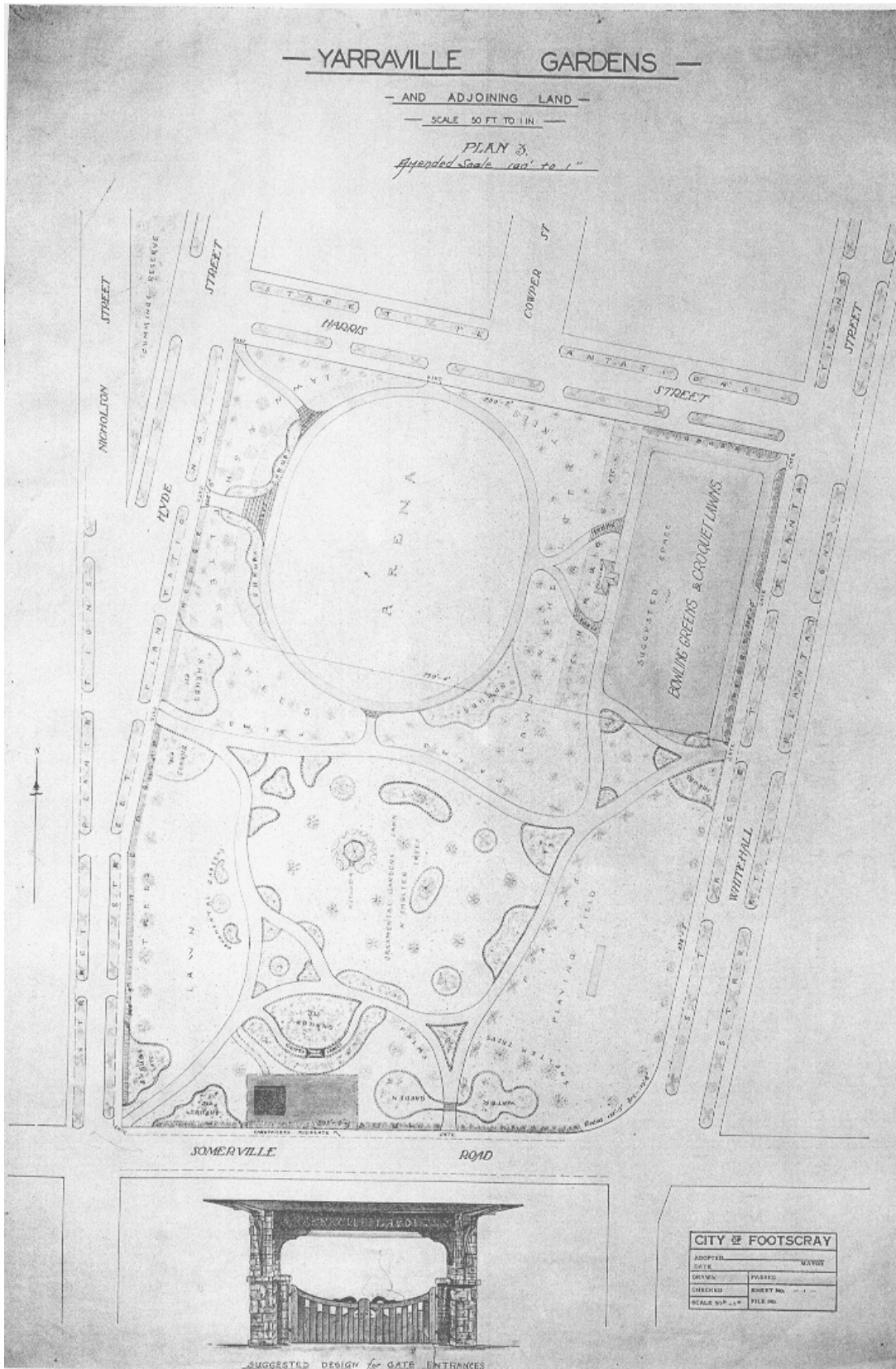
An oblique view aerial photograph shows clear details of the precinct c.1949/50

(City of Footscray Annual Report 1949/50)

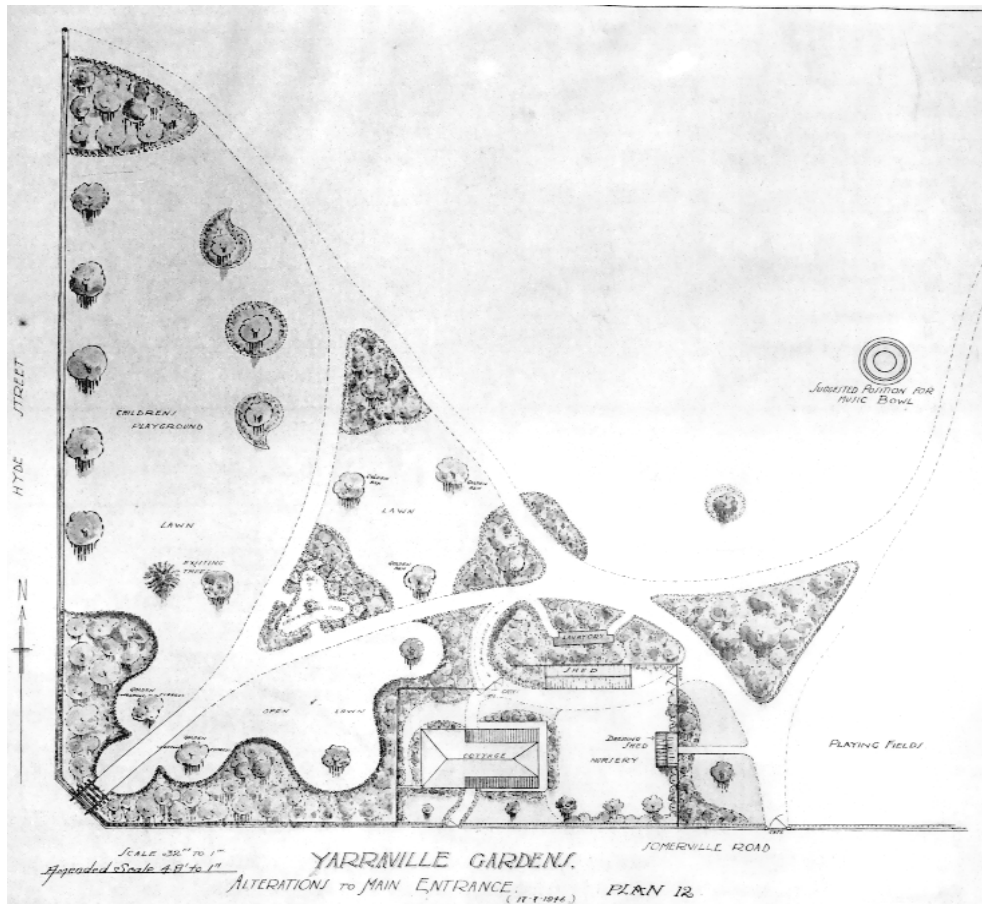


**Fig 30**  
A photograph of Hanmer Reserve c.1950 shows plant growth since c.1937 (compare with *Fig 23*)  
(Images of the West CD-ROM, Footscray Historical Society picture collection)

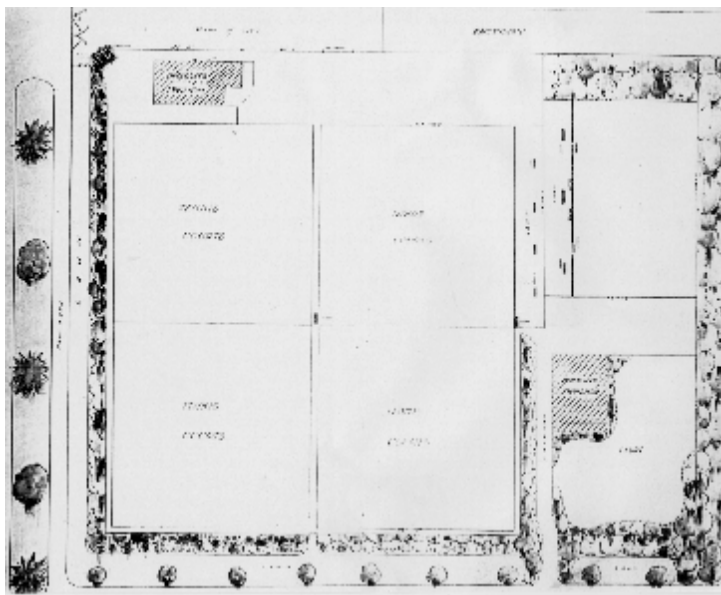




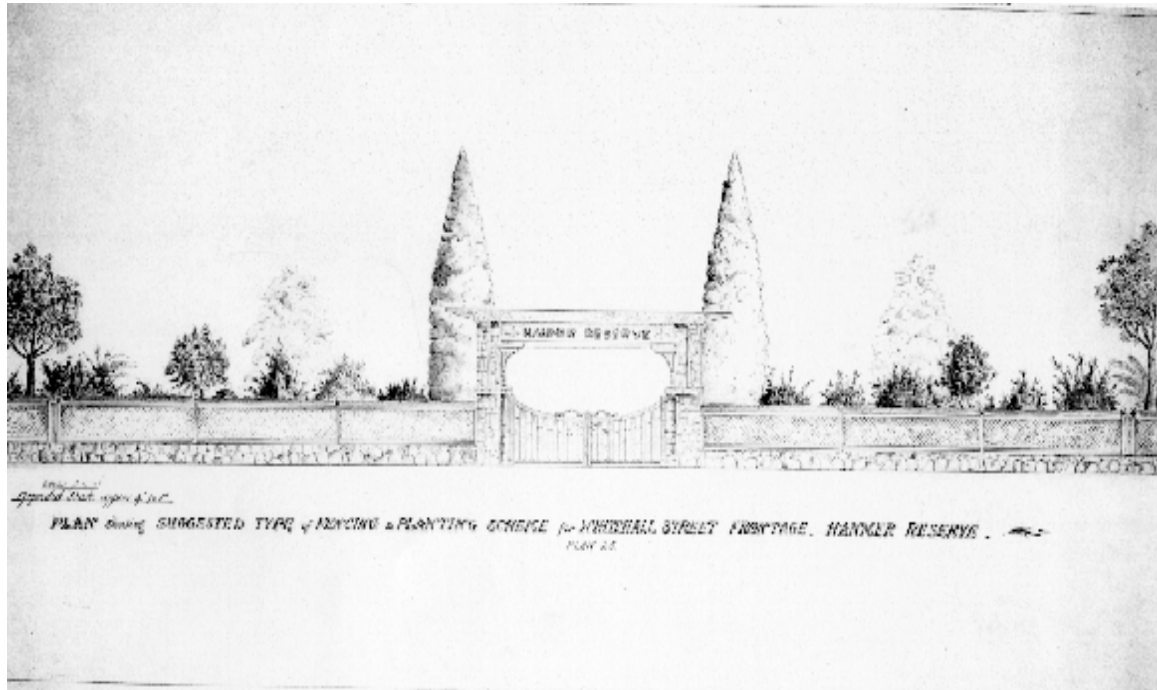
**Fig 31**  
Plan No. 3, Yarraville Gardens and Adjoining Land (including Hanmer Reserve) (date unknown)  
from City Curator's Report, 1949/50  
(Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 32**  
Plan No. 12, Yarraville Gardens Main Entrance, 1946, from City Curator's Report, 1949/50 (Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 33**  
Plan No. 19, Hanmer Reserve Tennis Courts (date unknown) from City Curator's Report, 1949/50 (Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 34**  
Plan No. 25, (elevation) showing Suggested Fencing and Planting Hanmer Reserve (date unknown)  
from City Curator's Report, 1949/50  
(Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 35**  
A photograph c.1938/39 shows 'improvements made to plantation in Hyde Street, adjoining Hanmer Reserve.' Young Canary Island Palms were planted as street trees on a wide lawn reserve, beside an asphalt path edged with cut basalt and garden beds beside the tennis courts. A low stone wall, steel mesh fence, and entrance pergola were in place at Hanmer Reserve. The pergola appears to show timber bracket details similar to Matthews' Plan No. 3 (see Fig 30). Remnant Radiata Pines still dominate the skyline on the original boundaries of the Yarraville Gardens (City of Footscray Annual Report 1938/39)



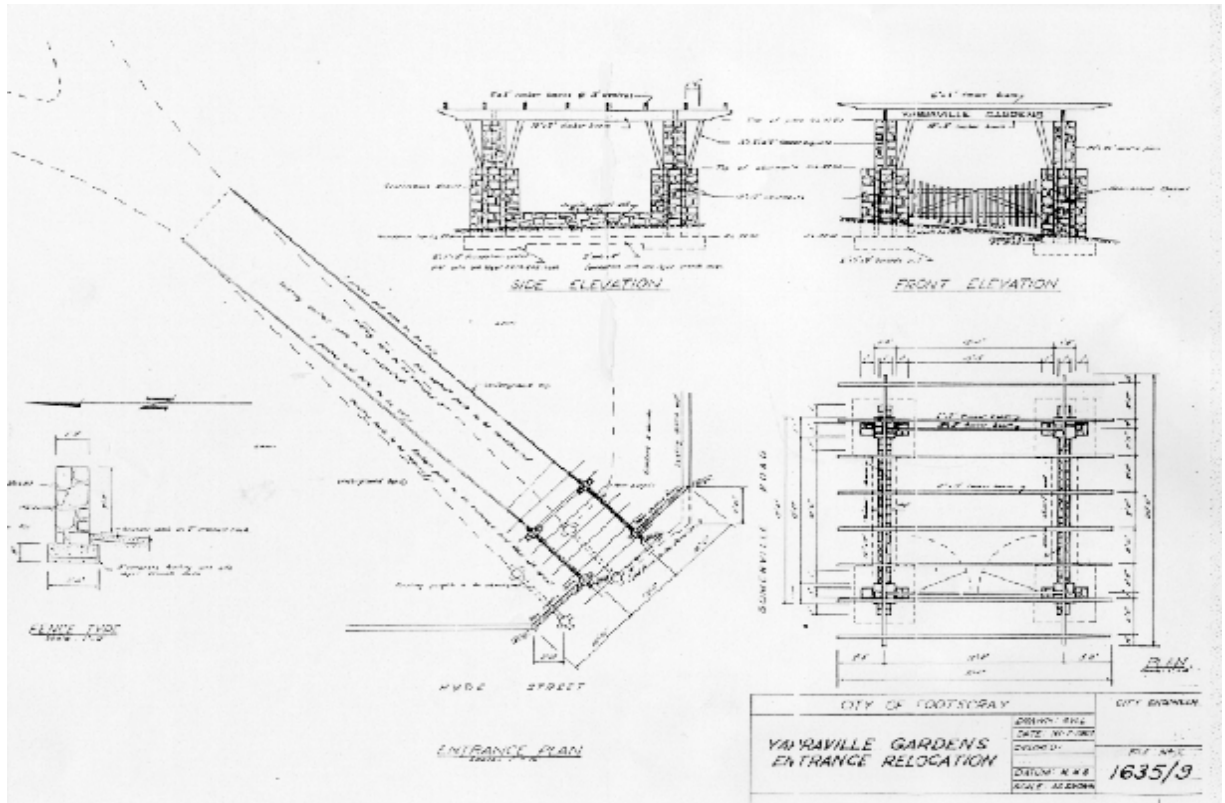
**Fig 36**  
The James Cuming Memorial, originally erected in 1916 on Napier Street, in a chain enclosed square on the south east corner of the Footscray Bowling Club, was the work of Margaret Baskerville, a leading artist of the time. The memorial was relocated to the Cuming Reserve, with significant details removed and loss of developed setting (Footscray Historical Society)



**Fig 37**  
Extant stone wall to Yarraville Gardens/Hanmer Reserve along Hyde Street (built 1930s), show traditional construction, with broad base tapering to top, raked joints and capping row. Originally completed with a steel post and mesh fence above. Notice also the relationship of wall to conifer behind, for a strong textured theme (photograph Jill Orr-Young, 2000)



**Fig 38**  
Extant stone wall to Yarraville Gardens along Hyde Street (reconstructed c.1966), shows poor workmanship in placement of stone and construction technique (wide mortar joints, vertical profile in mortared wall technique) (photograph Jill Orr-Young, 2000)



**Fig 39**  
Plan for Yarraville Gardens Entrance Relocation, 1969, when road construction forced demolition and realignment of the entrance pergola, showing details for reconstruction. Fine details of the original structure were omitted (compare with Fig 28) and 'fence type' shows a vertical profile, with no capping row  
(Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 40**  
Extant entrance to Yarraville Gardens at Hyde Street/Somerville Road, reconstructed c.1969. The design is simplified from the original (see Fig. 28), repair work is clumsy and a steel 'bollard' has replaced the gates  
(photograph Jill Orr-Young, 2000)



**Fig 41**  
Extant entrance to Yarraville Gardens at Hyde Street/Somerville Road, reconstructed c.1969, looking into the Gardens. Note that the name beam is no longer incorporated in the structure (photograph Jill Orr-Young, 2000)



**Fig 42**  
An undated aerial photograph, c.1960, predates roadworks and resiting of the Cuming Monument. It shows an altered path layout and entrances in the south-west corner, a new toilet block (or storage shed?) and the rotunda (now removed). An informal track across the site is still evident (Maribyrnong City Council)



**Fig 43**

The James Cuming Memorial was restored and relocated to a landscaped setting in the Yarraville Gardens in 2001.  
(photograph, Maribyrnong City Council, 2003)



### 3.0 Documentary & Physical Evidence

Both documentary and physical evidence of site development over time are essential resources for an assessment of cultural heritage significance, as each corroborates and complements the other.

#### Documentary Evidence

Plans, photographs, publications, newspaper articles, files and reports held by government departments, libraries and archives provide evidence of precinct development over time. A comprehensive list has been compiled in Section 6.0, and is not repeated here. Documents that are critical to an understanding of development are referenced as footnotes and reproduced as *Fig* illustrations.

#### Physical Evidence

Physical evidence of the precinct development is provided by a detailed examination of existing conditions, as summarised below.

- Remnant River Red Gum (surviving indigenous tree)
- Remnant planting from c.1880 (Yarraville Gardens - mainly conifers) and c.1906 (Cuming Reserve)
- Planting from c.1916 – 1964 (Matthews period), including trees, shrub beds and ornamental flower beds (annuals)
- Planting from post-Matthews period, including The Ralph Kenyon Forest of Tasmanian Blue Gums
- (2) Moreton Bay Figs, Peppertree, (2) Elms, c.1892 - 1903 (Cuming Reserve)
- Canary Island Palm rows c.1935 (Yarraville Gardens, Hanmer Reserve, Cuming Reserve)
- 'Australian trees' (*Grevillea robusta*, *Lephostemon confertus*) between the 2 reserves (Harris Street)
- 'Native' trees in Nicholson Street, post 1966 (observed food source for native birds)
- Local stone and timber structures: entrance pergolas, walls, (3) memorial seats, embankments, steps, path edges, road channels (Harris Street) from c. late 1930s, altered
- Remnant steel post (and mesh) fences on boundary stone walls, late 1930s/1940s
- Path layout in Yarraville Gardens c.1919/20 (10' wide paths replaced earlier layout), modified layout, asphalt surfaces (replaced gravel)
- Extensive lawns
- 'Crazy-pave' concrete path in Cuming Reserve
- Children's playground (updated from 1919/20)
- Sporting fields and turf wickets (Garry Greelish Oval in Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve 1934/35)
- 8 Tennis courts in Hanmer Reserve Extensions (4 from 1930s), pavilion and ornamental planting which provides a setting for the courts
- Storage shed and toilet block in Yarraville Gardens
- Lawn bowls and croquet greens (bowls vacated), pavilion, setting including fences and hedges
- James Cuming Memorial (altered, repositioned c.1960, Cuming Reserve)
- Post 1964 structures including barbecues, sound stage
- Bus shelter c.1966
- Car parks, off Whitehall Street and off Cowper Street

**Known missing features:**

- Original path layout from c.1880s
- 1880s conifer windbreaks and avenues, 'Oaks', in Yarraville Gardens
- Original fencing and gates: Yarraville Gardens post rail and picket, hurricane wire; 1915 post, rail and 3 wire; Cuming Reserve c.1892
- Gardener's cottage 1885
- The Yarraville obelisk 1886
- Original extent and layout of Cuming Reserve as an ornamental garden (including fence, gates, seats c.1906)
- Street layouts re Cuming Reserve, paths, bus shelter pre road widening
- Band Rotunda c.1921/22
- Tennis court and clubrooms c.1914 (Hyde Street/Somerville Road corner)
- Paths near c.1914 tennis courts
- Street trees Nicholson Street, Hyde Street, Whitehall Street (Palms); ornamental plots Hyde Street
- Gravel surfacing of paths 1919/20, rock edging, grass verges
- Rock embankment Hanmer Reserve (partly rebuilt as bluestone pitcher wall)
- Shrub beds, shrub planting
- Canary Island Palms (specimens missing from rows in Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve)
- Symmetrical planting at entrances (Cypresses), (some extant)
- Old Pioneer's Cottage or Shelter House
- Entrance pergolas, name beams, gates
- Privet hedge Hyde Street, Yarraville Gardens
- Steel post and mesh fences, 1930s
- Views to River (after c.1950)
- Sculptured details James Cuming Memorial (in storage)<sup>63</sup>
- Paths, Cuming Reserve
- 33 trees listed in 1970 Kenyon report, viz: (4) *Pinus insignis*, (1) *Araucaria excelsa*, (1) *Fraxinus spp.*, (2) *Lagunaria patersonii*, (10) *Eucalyptus spp.*, (8) *Melaleuca styphelioides*, (4) *Acacia baileyana*, (2) *Acer palmatum*, (1) *Gingko biloba*

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<sup>63</sup> Memorial restored, including sculptured details, in 2001

## 4.0 Analysis & Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance

### Analysis of the Evidence by Development Periods

From the earliest period of development of the Yarraville Gardens, there is now only a small (but not insignificant) remnant of planting. The mainly coniferous tree species reflected the early concerns for windbreaks and shade.

Redevelopment under curator Matthews saw an emphasis on ornamental effect, featuring deciduous trees, shrubberies, floral display and lawns. A new winding path layout provided unfolding vistas, focusing on features. A second period of development saw expansion of the site for sporting facilities – cricket, football, baseball, tennis, lawn bowls and croquet. There was a continued development of permanent structures, with local stone as a defining feature. The developments were made possible by the availability of labour through unemployment relief works, and the ability of Matthews to manage the opportunity and create a quality park with essentially unskilled labour. Canary Island Palms were introduced to define paths and 'edges' in the Gardens and as street trees defining major roads.

Since 1964, there has been no development to a master plan, or expansion of established themes. In addition, many trees were lost from the Yarraville Gardens, Hyde Street and Cuming Reserve with road works c.1966.

Cuming Reserve has been progressively down-graded in size, layout and planting since it was first developed at the turn of the century.

The following *extant* features are essential considerations for an assessment of cultural heritage significance:

#### Pre 1880

- Remnant *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum)

#### 1880s - 1916

First development of Yarraville Gardens c.1880s:  
Emphasis on establishment – windbreaks and shade

- (3) Corner entrances
- Tree planting from c.1880: large scale, coniferous theme (Pines, Cypressess, Pepper Trees), viz. remnants:  
*Araucaria bidwillii* (1 specimen)  
*Cupressus macrocarpa* (possibly 5 specimens)  
*Pinus halapensis* & *Pinus canariensis* (possibly 16 specimens)  
*Schinus molle* (possibly 4 specimens)

First development of Cuming Reserve c.1906:

- *Ficus macrophylla* (2 specimens)  
*Schinus molle*  
*Ulmus spp.* (2 specimens)

#### 1916 - 1930

Redevelopment of Yarraville Gardens under curator D R Matthews:  
Emphasis on ornamental effect and domestic scale

- New asymmetrical path layout (10' wide)
- Rock edges
- Flower beds, shrub beds, lawns, ornamental/specimen tree planting
- Small sports field
- Children's playground (site)

## 1930 – 1964

Expansion under Matthews:

Sporting emphasis, within ornamental settings

Use of 1930s depression sustenance labour

Consistency of development to master plans

Consistent use of local stone

- Hanmer Reserve & Extensions, including oval, wickets, tennis courts, pavilion and sundry structures?
- Street plantations as setting for Gardens
- Additional entrances
- Stone boundary walls
- Entrance features, integrated detail, design symmetry, stone and timber pergolas
- Rock embankment, steps, 3 memorial stone seats
- Bluestone road channels
- 'Crazy-pave' concrete path
- Relocation of 1916 James Cuming Memorial to Cuming Reserve (minus details and setting)
- Ornamental/specimen planting
- *Phoenix canariensis* rows (remnants)
- Australian trees eg. *Grevillea robusta*, *Lephostemon confertus* (Harris Street)
- Extensive lawns
- Lawn bowls and croquet greens, pavilion, landscape setting
- Steel post and mesh fence on stone walls (remnants)
- Book of plans for 'beautification' of city's open spaces

## 1964 - 2000

- Ad-hoc planting, construction of sound stage and small structures, (not to a master plan)
- 'Native trees' in Nicholson Street (food source for native birds)
- Ralph Kenyon Forest of *Eucalyptus globulus*

## Design Context

During the late 1850s, the first progress was made in developing Melbourne's public gardens, when a reliable water supply became available by damming the Plenty River at Yan Yean. Previously, only the botanic gardens, developed from 1846, had had readily available irrigation, with water directly from the Yarra River. The Fitzroy Gardens, designed and developed by Clement Hodgkinson<sup>64</sup> from 1858, soon became Melbourne's principal pleasure ground, and a model for subsequent developments.

The layout and planting from the Yarraville Gardens' earliest period of development are typical of the style of Clement Hodgkinson, who favoured paths lined with avenues of shade trees, as convenient lines of communication across the gardens, with no beds or borders of flowering plants, owing to funding constraints. Until 1873, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Government Botanist and Director of the Botanic Gardens, had distributed trees propagated by the Botanic Gardens, free to churches, councils, gardens, cemeteries and individuals, throughout Victoria. His bias towards conifers was shared by Clement Hodgkinson. By the early 1880s, this planting style was out of fashion, and both men had been publicly criticised.

From 1873, William Guilfoyle was redesigning the Melbourne Botanic Gardens with gently curving paths, specimen trees and shrubberies, creating a continuous series of changing

<sup>64</sup> Engineer Clement Hodgkinson was appointed as Deputy Surveyor-General in March 1858, with responsibility for parklands. He was responsible for the design of Melbourne's earliest gardens - the Fitzroy Gardens, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens, and the remodelled Carlton Gardens. In 1861 he was Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and by 1873 was also Inspector-General of Metropolitan Gardens, Parks and Reserves. He resigned in 1874, but his advice was still sought for public garden matters until his death in 1893

vistas across extensive lawns. He combined evergreen and deciduous trees, and introduced flowers in shrub beds, emphasising contrasts in colour, texture and form. Meanwhile, in 1880, prominent nurseryman William Sangster was providing plants and labour for the remodelling of the Carlton Gardens, where 'all traces of the old familiar gardens had vanished along with their gloomy cypresses and dismal pines. In their place were colour, contrast and bold effects.'<sup>65</sup> With the appointment of John Guilfoyle in 1891 to the position of Curator of the Metropolitan Parks and Gardens, there was a further emphasis on horticultural feature. In the Fitzroy Gardens he removed trees to feature flower beds on lawns (1905), in the style of Sangster, but also introduced elements of the 'subtropical planting'<sup>66</sup> favoured by his brother William, as in an avenue of palms with yuccas, agaves and New Zealand flax (1904). He experimented with rock edging to replace fences (1904). Under his management, an upgraded nursery supplied 'a greater variety of plants, particularly shrubs and flowers'<sup>67</sup> to the reserves, with surplus stock available free to suburban municipalities. His influence set a direction which future curators followed even after his death in 1909.

From the early twentieth century, the English Arts and Crafts Movement influenced Australian architecture and design. This continued into the 1920s and 30s and coupled with the Depression for the popular re-use of second-hand building materials, and an appreciation of the rustic qualities of English domestic style architecture and gardens, expressed in the use of stone rubble, stucco, pergolas, trellises and rustic seats. For example, R. F. Alsop, an architect in private practice and winner of the Footscray Park design competition (1911), was influenced by the English style and Arts and Crafts philosophy. His pergola at 'Kilbryde', Toorak, was featured in the Real Property Annual of 1917 (p. 47, not sighted). Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board architect A. G. Monsborough was influenced by English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in the design of a wide variety of Tramways Board structures, including the chalet and waiting shelters at Wattle Park, between 1926 and 1938. Gradually, the modern movement in architecture became more locally influential, but the earlier aesthetic persisted in landscape design. Edna Walling was greatly influenced by English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll (who worked with Lutyens), and her pergolas, gates, walls and paths are frequently similar to Jekyll's in concept and detail. She popularised the style in her articles for the 'Australian Home Beautiful' magazine from 1926 to 1934, some of which were collected in 'A Gardener's Log' (1948). It was a small step to translate her domestic style to municipal gardens.

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<sup>65</sup> P 30, Georgina Whitehead, *Civilising the City*

<sup>66</sup> An appreciation of plant 'form' as popularised by William Robinson, in *The Subtropical Garden or, Beauty of Form in the Flower Garden*, 1871

<sup>67</sup> P 39, Georgina Whitehead, *Civilising the City*

### The Role of David Reeves Matthews City Curator 1916 - 1964

When David Matthews was selected in 1916 as 'Working Landscape Gardener', from 70 applicants, he commenced work with Footscray Council at a time of bitter conflict. Council had resumed control of the fledgling Footscray Park, thus alienating the citizen's Beautification Committee, and south ward ratepayers were objecting to expenditure on a Park so far from Yarraville.

Matthews came to Footscray with a strong horticultural background. He had completed a five-year apprenticeship under Hugh Linaker<sup>68</sup> and served 2 years as foreman, establishing the Ararat public gardens, recreation reserves, street plantings and council nursery. At 26, he was to devote the next 48 years, spanning two world wars and an economic depression, to a similar mission in showcasing Footscray.

History records that Matthews was able to inspire trust and support from both Council and the citizen's committee. His diligence and character would seem to be the key to his accomplishments. In the 1930s he planned ambitious extensions and beautification for Footscray's parks and reserves, both capitalising on and fostering Footscray's initiatives for unemployment relief programs. Hanmer Reserve was constructed and Yarraville Gardens were gradually transformed. Many of his ideas were developed in Footscray Park, which Matthews considered as Footscray's premier 'botanic' park.

The series of master plans which were produced by Matthews, or under his direction, c.1949, was a substantial and significant contribution, in documenting a strong vision for development of the municipality's parks, as was his perseverance with consistent implementation of the plans.

Matthews maintained diverse support networks, which fostered his extensive contribution to, and knowledge of, developments in the field of horticulture. He would have been aware of articles published in local magazines and trade journals<sup>69</sup>, as well as developments in neighbouring municipalities. He was awarded the Member of the British Empire for his many public services, in 1965, and died in 1969.

'Beautification' would seem to be a key word in the design approach of Matthews and the expectations of Council. His plans feature decorative elements, as ornamental shrub beds, specimen trees on lawns, seasonal flowering annuals and novelty colours in foliage. The emphasis is on appreciation of features by movement along paths. There is a domestic scale in path widths and plant choices, an undeveloped sense of spatial design, and an emphasis on what architect Robin Boyd would term 'featurism'<sup>70</sup>. This criticism is not confined to Matthews, as the modern movement never really arrived as an influence on landscape design in Australia during the first half of the twentieth century.

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<sup>68</sup> From Ararat, Hugh Linaker went to the Melbourne Lunacy Department as landscape gardener, and later designed Melbourne's King's Domain, which was laid out in the 1930s by sustenance labour. He died in 1938

<sup>69</sup> Matthews contributed articles to the magazine *Your Garden* and to the Royal Horticultural Society Year Book (dates unknown)

<sup>70</sup> 'The subordination of the essential whole and the accentuation of selected separate features', p.23, Robin Boyd, *The Australian Ugliness*, Penguin Books Australia Ltd., 1960

### Public Garden or Botanical Gardens?

The earliest evidence of 1859 documents the 'proposed site for public garden' (Fig 4)<sup>71</sup>, but later plans label the 'reserve for botanical gardens' (Figs 5, 6). The terms seem to have been interchangeable: a plan c.1873/74 titled 'Plan of Botanical Gardens Footscray', shows the site labelled 'Public Gardens' (Fig 7). After they were initially developed, the Gardens came to be referred to simply as the 'Yarraville Gardens' (Fig 11), although government legislation (eg. Regulations 1909, Fig 10) refers to the site as a 'Public Garden'.

It is important to make the distinction, as development of a botanical garden confers greater status and significance. As early as 1871, a Board of Enquiry was redefining the role of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens to legitimise horticultural and design emphasis with the scientific basis.

While there is evidence that curator David Matthews introduced a wide variety of 'choice trees and flowering shrubs' to the Yarraville Gardens, there is no evidence of the development of a botanic role in the acclimatization of new species, establishment of plant collections, or naming of plants, as in Footscray Park<sup>72</sup>.

Today it is widely acknowledged that the essential values of a botanic garden are *scientific, education, conservation and recreation*.

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<sup>71</sup> Reserves file Rs1453

<sup>72</sup> See Footscray Park Conservation Study

## Comparative Analysis

This analysis compares and contrasts developments from a similar period. Although Yarraville Gardens had an earlier period of development, its extant form derives essentially from the inter-war years, and broadly from the continuing period of development under curator David Reeves Matthews (1916 – 1964).

The most direct comparison is with Footscray Park (from 1911), developed in the same style, by the same curator, during the same period. Although Footscray Park is larger (15ha.) and has the advantage of a river frontage, with views to Flemington Racecourse, many of the elements have aspects in common with Yarraville Gardens, viz. Gardens on high ground with views over sporting fields, the integration of sport and Gardens, an emphasis on ornamental effect, with deciduous trees, flower beds and lawns, the use of local stone, pergola features, Palm rows, and the use of labour from the 1930s Unemployment Relief Works to maximum effect. There is evidence that Footscray Park was 'loved' by the community as the site of many donated memorials and special events. The lily ponds and Drew walk pergola are unique features. While Council of the time and Matthews himself considered Footscray Park as the city's premier park, located as a gateway to the city and displaying a diverse, labelled botanical collection, much of this impact was lost with roadworks in the 1960s and a decline in the plant collection. In many ways, Footscray Park and Yarraville Gardens complement each other, and can be considered as companion developments.

Comparisons can also be made with Wattle Park Surrey Hills (1916), Catani Gardens and adjacent foreshore St Kilda (c.1910), Central Park Malvern (1906), Hedgeley Dene Gardens Malvern (from 1924), and Melbourne's King's Domain (1934), for similarities of development in the Great Depression period. Basalt spalls from the western plains were favoured in construction of pergolas and waiting shelters (by architect A. G. Monsborough) at Wattle Park, rock walls, rockeries and arch in the Catani Gardens Precinct, rockery embankments, steps and stone edges at Hedgeley Dene Gardens, stone walls and seats at Central Park.

The popular tree planting of the inter-war period favoured deciduous species, including Poplars, Oaks, and Elms, in place of the earlier coniferous windbreaks. Canary Island Palms featured at Catani Gardens (concentrated planting), Central Park and Hedgeley Dene Gardens. Bhutan Cypressess were a feature at entrances to Central Park, in a similar use as Matthews, and Australian rainforest trees (Kurrajongs) were planted, but failed at Central Park.

The City of Maribyrnong has few extant private or public mature tree specimens compared with other western region municipalities<sup>73</sup>.

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<sup>73</sup> Information from *Historic Places Volume 6 – Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong*, Maribyrnong City Council, 2000



## Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance

The essential contributing factors to the development of the Yarraville Gardens Precinct have been analysed and cultural heritage significance is now assessed, against the internationally recognised criteria of Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999 (Burra Charter, Appendix 2) and Kerr's additional criteria of 'ability to demonstrate' and 'associational links'<sup>74</sup>. In accordance with Kerr, levels of significance are expressed in neutral terms, as 'high', 'medium' and 'low'.

### Historic

- The Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve pre-date Footscray Park as a major recreational precinct. Despite some loss of land area for roadworks c.1966, the precinct was enlarged for the development of diverse, active recreational activities (Hanmer Reserve and Extensions). The history of Yarraville Gardens at its current site parallels the development of the Footscray municipality from 1874. Yarraville Gardens is the earliest, essentially intact, public reserve in the municipality (*High Significance*).
- The extant layer of planting c.1880 (mainly conifers) is witness to the earlier history (*High Significance*).
- The collection of mature trees planted during Matthews' era of curatorship 1916 – 1964 are an uncommon resource in the municipality (*High Significance*).
- As the redevelopment of Yarraville Gardens paralleled the development of Footscray Park - the municipality's 'showpiece', under the direction of the same curator, over the same period, responding to similar cultural influences, it gains significance from its association with Footscray Park. The association reinforces the significance of both (*High Significance*).
- Footscray achieved substantial public works during the Depression of the 1930s, as part of a deliberate plan initiated by Council to provide local relief work. Works included the development of Hanmer Reserve, rock structures in Yarraville Gardens, and road and drainage works in the precinct (*High Significance*).

### Social

- An informed assessment of social significance, including the annual 'Carols by Candlelight' celebrations, commemorative plantings and seats requires community consultation beyond the scope of this brief.
- The development of sporting facilities (cricket, tennis, football, bowls, croquet) as the favoured recreational focus since about 1914, and the earlier use of Yarraville Gardens as a starting point for district foot and horse races, demonstrates the role of the precinct in the strong sporting culture of the municipality (*High Significance*).
- The playground (site extant) was an early example (possibly the first in the city) of the popular twentieth century movement towards providing play equipment (*Low Significance*).

### Aesthetic

- The development of Yarraville Gardens under the direction of one person over 48 years has provided a consistent vision, with each new development reinforcing the whole. The documenting of the vision in master plan drawings is unusual for the time, and adds to our understanding of Matthews' design intent.
- The integration of sports facilities within ornamental settings, without compromise to either, is a consistent aesthetic expression throughout the precinct.
- The consistent use of rustic and recycled materials (rock spalls, timbers), influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Movement and by the economic constraints of the 1930s/40s provides a distinctive aesthetic.
- The consistent use of local stone, in boundary walls, pergolas, and embankments, in a modest range of forms and scale, provides aesthetic unity.

<sup>74</sup> Kerr, J. S., *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust N.S.W., fourth edition, 1996

- The relationship between the use of stone and site history, as a former stone quarry, reinforces the quality of both.
- The diversity in landform supports a traditional 'picturesque' aesthetic. All of these factors provide *High Significance*.
- The James Cuming Memorial (1916), notwithstanding its need for restoration and its resiting c.1960<sup>75</sup>, has been separately assessed as *High Significance*, as the work of Margaret Baskerville, a leading artist of the time.

#### **Scientific**

- One *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) remains in Yarraville Gardens from the pre-development period, providing evidence of a pre-white settlement vegetation community, now rare within the municipality. The tree is of *High Significance*.

#### **Ability to Demonstrate**

- Major redevelopment of the precinct during Matthews' era demonstrates a resourcefulness in the use of local materials and available labour during the economic difficulties of the Great Depression (*High Significance*).
- Extant trees demonstrate the changes in choice of plant species over time, with the earliest favouring of conifers for shade and windbreaks c.1880, ornamental display and deciduous trees in the period between the wars, 'Australian trees' in the early 1930s, later Palms, and early ideas of ecological sensitivity (which compromises the earlier work), in the 1970s (*Medium Significance*).

#### **Associational Links**

- The association with David Reeves Matthews is crucial to the development of the precinct as it is known today. He provided the 'vision' for development, coupled with practical horticultural experience, and inspired trust in his workers. He maintained networks across municipalities, sharing ideas in the field of horticulture. He was awarded the MBE for his public service (*High Significance*).
- Councillor James Cuming was a member of the Gardens Committee c.1881 – 1886, during the first period of development of the Yarraville Gardens. He initiated the layout and planting of Cuming Reserve in 1906, at which time it was named in his honour (*High Significance*).
- The Footscray and District Treeplanters' Association provided an additional labour force, which carried out substantial tree planting in streets and play spaces within the municipality in 1938 and 1946, under Matthews' direction. Sadly, their legacy has been depleted by roadworks throughout the municipality. The surviving Canary Island Palms in Cuming Reserve are a living memory of their activities (*Medium Significance*).

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<sup>75</sup> The James Cuming Memorial was restored and relocated to its current setting in the Yarraville Gardens in 2001

**Heritage Victoria Criteria for Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance**

The following criteria, from Heritage Victoria's *Criteria for Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance*,<sup>76</sup> are applicable to the Yarraville Gardens Precinct. Note that this assessment is additional to the preceding assessment which is based on the Burra Charter and Kerr's criteria.

- A** The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object  
*Earliest surviving public reserve in the Footscray municipality*  
*Remnant trees from nineteenth century development*  
*Redevelopment contiguous with Footscray Park development over 48 years*  
*Example of extensive public works (to a coordinated vision) during the 1930s economic depression*  
*Relationship between use of stone in structures and site history as a stone quarry*
- B** The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness  
*Remnant Eucalyptus camaldulensis from pre-white settlement vegetation community*  
*Mature tree specimens uncommon in the municipality, such that those which survive (eg. in Yarraville Gardens and Footscray Park) are more valuable to the municipality*
- C** The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage  
*European influence on nineteenth century planning and design in Victoria*  
*Changes in plant palettes and design approach with development eras as illustrated by collection of mature trees*
- D** The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects  
*Consistent approach to development of Melbourne's large public gardens*  
*Diversity in landform supports picturesque aesthetic*  
*Consistent use of rustic materials, influenced by English Arts and Crafts Movement and economic constraints of the time*
- E** The importance of a place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features  
*Consistency of development to a documented vision*  
*Integration of sporting facilities and ornamental settings*
- F** The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements  
N/A
- G** The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations  
*Early and continuing recreational preferences for sport*
- H** Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance  
*Series of plans for development of the precinct to a consistent vision*  
*James Cuming Memorial (Margaret Baskerville, 1916)*  
*Association with James Cuming*  
*Association with David Reeves Matthews*  
*Association with Footscray and District Treeplanters' Association*

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<sup>76</sup> Adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 March 1997 pursuant to Sections 8(c) and \*(2) of the Heritage Act 1995

## Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance

The Yarraville Gardens Precinct is a recreational area, where each adjunct public space supports the essential core of the Yarraville Gardens. Dating from c.1880, the earliest development of the Yarraville Gardens is evidenced in remnant planting. Cuming Reserve was developed as an initiative of James Cuming, from 1906, but only a small collection of trees remains. The period 1916 – 1964, during which curator David Reeves Matthews was responsible for development, is the most important period for the development and character of the precinct. Later development has proceeded without a master plan, and in some instances has compromised the earlier development vision, in choice of materials and placement.

### **The Yarraville Gardens Precinct is of High Cultural Heritage Significance:**

as an example of extensive public works achieved to a coordinated vision by skilled management of labour and resources under David Matthews during the Great Depression

as an expression of the dominant culture of sport in the municipality, and the incorporation of sporting facilities in ornamental settings

for its association with David Matthews, horticulturist and City Curator for 48 years, whose vision for the city's improvement is the legacy we have today

for its remnant rows of Canary Island Palms, planted c.1935, (as a gift), now acknowledged as the signature tree of the municipality

### **The Yarraville Gardens is of High Cultural Heritage Significance:**

as the earliest public garden in the municipality (gazetted 1874)

for its collection of mature trees, dating from c.1880, an uncommon resource in the municipality

for its consistent development to a 'vision', as recorded in a 'master plan' by David Matthews c.1949, and expressed in an aesthetic derived from the English Arts and Crafts Movement and the economic constraints of the times (eg. in the use of local and inexpensive materials)

for its surviving *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* which provides evidence of the pre-white settlement indigenous flora, and is a rare example in the municipality

### **Cuming Reserve is of High Cultural Heritage Significance:**

for its association with James Cuming, prominent councillor, mayor, J.P., industrialist and philanthropist, who initiated and paid for the development of the Reserve, and requested its naming as Cuming Reserve (1906)

for the James Cuming Memorial, sited in Cuming reserve since c.1960 (with details removed)<sup>77</sup> – a 1916 work of art by prominent artist Margaret Baskerville, classified by the National Trust, and the association of the memorial with Cuming Reserve and James Cuming

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<sup>77</sup> The James Cuming Memorial was restored and relocated to its current setting in Yarraville Gardens in 2001. The restoration included replacement of the original carved marble pedestal with its group of four supporting putti

## 5.0 Conservation Policies & Strategies

Conservation policies and strategies are set out in the following pages, using the terminology and definitions of the Burra Charter (Appendix 2). The strategies are prioritised (**P1, P2, P3**), to guide management of the precinct.

### General

Policies:

- **Conserve (preserve and restore) all extant features from the earliest period of development c.1880s, through Matthews' era of development 1916 – 1964**
- **Ensure that conservation works are coordinated by a professional landscape architect, experienced in cultural landscape conservation and contemporary design, with additional specialist advice as appropriate**
- **Do not implement new capital works until a new master plan has been adopted**

Strategies:

- **Undertake a detailed features survey of the precinct, including contours (P1)**
- **Prepare a plan showing all elements of cultural heritage significance, including paths, structures, trees and planting themes, for future conservation and master plan direction (P1)**
- **Develop a master plan for the future of the precinct, in consultation with the local community (P2)**

### Adoption and Review

This conservation plan will guide the conservation of cultural heritage significance by prioritising actions, despite limitations of finance and resources.

This policy is intended to allow for any new evidence to be incorporated into a revised report. Any new historical information, such as photographs, personal accounts, and details of new physical evidence will need to be carefully collected and analysed to determine whether it adds to or conflicts with the existing analysis and policies. In particular, the period following Matthews' retirement in the 1960s and 70s is not well known. This was a period when unemployment schemes were once again evidenced in public works, and government funding was available for sport. Structures were lost (band rotunda), changed (stone embankments Hanmer Reserve) or replaced (toilet block), during this period, but as recent history, the stories have not yet been recorded.

This policy will also allow for changes of management and/or circumstances to be incorporated into a revised report.

Policies:

- **Adopt the Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan for implementation by the City of Maribyrnong**
- **Incorporate the Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan as a Heritage Overlay on the Maribyrnong City Council Planning Scheme**
- **Review the Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan on a regular basis (eg. every five years) and/or if any circumstances arise which substantially affect the ownership or management of the site**

Strategies:

- **Distribute copies of the Yarraville Gardens Precinct Conservation Plan to City of Maribyrnong Parks and Gardens Department, libraries, Footscray Historical Society and NRE Port Phillip Region, for attachment to the Reserves File (P1)**
- **Invite new historical information in a front page attachment to library copies (P1)**

- **Further research Council records for critical periods** (records held at Public Records Office, Laverton) (P1)

### Views and Vistas

The high land along Hyde Street offers opportunities for views over former flood plain to the Maribyrnong River. However, views of the river, which would enhance the aesthetic experience and cultural connection have been lost with the development and redevelopment of the river frontage for industry.

A vista to the main (south-west) entrance to Yarraville Gardens is compromised by the location of a power pole.

Policies:

- **Seek to re-establish visual connections**

Strategies:

- **Identify future opportunities to secure visual corridors with redevelopment of river front industries (P2)**
- **Remove modern accretions which compromise vistas** (eg. remove or relocate power pole) (P2)

### Layout and Paths

The extant path layout in Yarraville Gardens is essentially that as evidenced in the first aerial photograph (1931), and probably the same layout of 10 ft. wide paths which Matthews reported in 1919/20. It is generally in accordance with Matthews' Plan No. 3 (*Fig 31*), if not read too literally. Minor changes have occurred in the south-west corner (where the 1914 tennis court remained until 1937) and in the north-east corner, where the path was realigned to connect with a new service road (c.1938) beside the bowls and croquet lawns. Gravel paths have now been replaced by asphalt surfaces. Rock edges have mostly survived, but manicured grass verges have been lost.

The path system in Hanmer Reserve is not as complex as in Yarraville Gardens, linking Hyde Street with the sports ground in utilitarian fashion, in three places. It survives as first laid down c.1935, but asphalt has replaced the gravel surface.

The geometric layout of Cuming Reserve has not survived. Existing footpaths generally have no significance, with the possible exception of the 'crazy-pave' concrete path in the northern section, (evidenced in the 1948 aerial photograph) which reflects an economic use of materials, relating it to a depression times aesthetic.

Policies:

- **Conserve the path layouts in Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve as laid out pre 1964, with rock edges where extant**
- **Retain the 'crazy-pave' concrete path in Cuming Reserve**

Strategies:

- **Restore paths in Yarraville Gardens to their former (compacted) gravel surface where supported by archaeological evidence** (refer Archaeology policy and strategies) **and as funds become available (P2)**
- **Redesign the layout of Cuming Reserve to reflect its former geometry, and its association with James Cuming** (note centenary of development 2006) (P2)

## Archaeology

In restoring garden significance, buried remnants of original fabric often provide valuable evidence. Former path alignments, edge treatments, surfacing materials and garden bed alignments are often corroborated in this way. An archaeological survey should not be undertaken in a haphazard manner, but planned, controlled and recorded for reference.

Policies:

- **Undertake archaeological survey as a preliminary step to all conservation works**

Strategies:

- **Compile a list of Gardens' conservation works which could be assisted by archaeological survey (P1)**
- **Collect, label and store any recovered artefacts (P1)**
- **Seek specialist professional advice on undertaking an archaeological survey. Note that a permit is required from Heritage Victoria (P2)**

## Trees

The collection of mature trees in the precinct is an uncommon resource in the municipality. A preliminary survey of trees in Yarraville Gardens reveals planting themes associated with distinct periods of development since c.1880. One indigenous River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) survives in Yarraville Gardens as evidence of the pre-white settlement flora. Several trees planted in Cuming Reserve c.1906 are extant. Remnant rows of Canary Island Palms, from c.1935, are evident in the precinct, and are now considered the 'signature tree' of the municipality. Avenues linking the precinct and Footscray township have been depleted over time, although some replacement Eucalypts attract native birds.

Policies:

- **Conserve the mature tree collection**
- **Conserve (restore) known missing tree specimens which were 'landmarks', features, or completed an avenue or row**
- **Ensure that ecological issues are considered in any proposals**

Strategies:

- **Undertake a tree assessment for extant species identification, age (era), condition and recommended horticultural treatments (P1)**
- **Assess the significance of individual trees (including the indigenous River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) for possible inclusion in the National Trust Significant Tree Register (P1)**
- **Further research known missing tree specimens and their design role, for possible replacement (P2)**
- **Remove recent tree specimens which compromise planting themes and spatial arrangements of the pre-1964 period (P3)**
- **Design new planting which complements existing themes (P2)**
- **Remove overhead power lines in Hyde Street and Nicholson Street so as not to compromise the mature form of street trees, and place them underground (P2)**

## Garden Beds

Garden beds made an important contribution to the character, scale, and amenity of Yarraville Gardens during Matthews' era of influence and to Cuming Reserve from c.1906. Shrub beds are depleted in Yarraville Gardens, and lost completely in Cuming Reserve to lawns and plantations (1938). Shrub beds are shown on Matthews' Plans No. 3 and 12 (*Figs 31, 32*) in relation to visitors' movements on paths and entrances. The plans are a guide but should not be translated literally. There is little evidence of which shrub species were popular. Roses are believed to have been a popular theme. Circular beds for (annual) floral display are still a feature in the Gardens. The extant shrub beds around the tennis courts north of Harris Street demonstrate Matthews' strategy of incorporating sporting facilities in ornamental settings (as Plan No. 19, *Fig 33*). This is also demonstrated by the planted rockery embankment and access steps c.1934 in Hanmer Reserve. There is a strong contrast in design sensitivity between the surviving early stone embankments and the section replaced by bluestone pitchers.

Policies:

- **Conserve existing garden beds and ornamental settings to sporting facilities**
- **Do not recreate garden beds in Cuming Reserve** (not enough evidence), but allow a sensitive contemporary development in conjunction with the resiting of the James Cuming Memorial<sup>78</sup>

Strategies:

- **Conduct primary research into the popular planting themes and shrub species of the 1930s and 1940s, during which much of the redevelopment and new development took place (P2)**
- **Recommend planting themes and plant species for replanting of the garden beds (based on research, as above) (P2)**
- **Design new planting which complements existing themes (P2)**

## Modern Accretions

(see Buildings; Visitors' Services)

## Buildings

None of the extant buildings, viz: tennis club (c.1937), Hanmer Reserve pavilion and dressing rooms (from c.1937), lawn bowls and croquet dressing pavilion (post 1939), gardens shed (post 1948), sound stage (post 1964), bus shelter (c.1968) or toilet block (c.1971), has been mentioned in previous conservation studies.

Note that the siting of the gardens shed in relation to landform is a good example of integration. By contrast, note the clumsy manipulation of landform in the later siting of the toilet block.

Policies:

- **Ensure that the extant buildings are considered in a review of heritage significance**
- **Do not replicate lost buildings** (eg. the rotunda)
- **Ensure any new buildings are integrated with the land form, by careful consideration of levels**

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<sup>78</sup> The James Cuming Memorial was relocated to a newly landscaped setting in Yarraville Gardens in 2001. This site was selected by Maribyrnong City Council, the National Trust, the Footscray Historical Society and John Cuming in preference to retention at Cuming Reserve. The main reasons for the selection of the garden site being: improved public accessibility and a more civic setting in an established park consistent with its original location on Napier Street in the Footscray civic area



- **Adopt a contemporary design style for new buildings, while respecting the established aesthetic in choice of materials and scale. Extend buildings into the landscape by incorporating pergolas**

(see also Visitors' Services)

## Furniture

(see Visitors' Services)

## Boundary Fences and Walls

The first act in creating a nineteenth century public garden was the fencing of boundaries, against damage by wandering cattle. There were several attempts to maintain fences around Yarraville Gardens, before stone walls joining Hanmer Reserve and Yarraville Gardens were constructed c.1937 – 1947. Matthews Plan No. 25 (*Fig 34*) shows low stone rubble walls with steel posts and rails and mesh infill, as remnant today. The use of local stone in boundary walls and pergolas (etc.) is significant, as is their contribution to a consistent character which responded to an Arts and Crafts Movement aesthetic as well as the economic constraints (and labour opportunities) of the times. Mesh fences were used without stone bases on the eastern boundary. Treated pine posts and rails have replaced the mesh fence on the Harris Street boundary. Stone walls were often associated with low privet hedges. Extant Privet hedges along the bowls and croquet green boundaries probably date from the 1930s/40s. A section of stone wall in Hyde Street was rebuilt c.1966 in conjunction with roadworks, but workmanship is inferior. No fences survive in Cuming Reserve.

Policies:

- **Conserve (restore) stone rubble walls of the 1930s/40s**

Strategies:

- **Reconstruct inferior stone work to a standard which matches the original (P2)**
- **Reconstruct mesh fences on stone bases, according to remnant evidence (P2)**
- **Replant hedges in conjunction with stone walls (P2)**
- **Construct new mesh boundary fences to a sensitive contemporary design where new uses and safety concerns demand a higher fence (as advised by community consultation during master plan process) (P3)**

## Pedestrian Entrances

There is enough evidence to understand Matthews' design intent for a repeated pattern at each of the pedestrian entrances to Yarraville Gardens and Hanmer Reserve. It comprised the following elements:

- Pergola – basalt stone and timber structure, timber gates, park sign; either repeated double piers at corner entrances or single structure with struts. The pergolas were constructed over a period from c.1937 - 1948
- Adjoining stone wall with steel post and mesh fence above, and low (Privet) hedge
- Planting symmetry comprising paired specimens: *Callitris columellaris* (Murray Pine) at entrance, *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta' (Italian Cypress) as accent, also flanking paired Poplars and Pepper trees
- Ornamental Grape and/or Wisteria on the pergolas

The elements remain in varying degrees of intactness at each of the pedestrian entrances.

Policies:

- **Conserve (preserve and restore) extant elements which comprise the original design for pedestrian entrances** (as described above)

Strategies:

- **Document the extent of remnant material at each entrance (P1)**
- **Check the identification of Murray Pine** (habit not typical) **(P1)**
- **Remove the Creeping Fig from the main north-west entrance, which is damaging rockwork and obscuring details of the pergola (P1)**
- **Reconstruct removed pergolas (P2)**
- **Reconstruct gates at entrances, or replace extant steel posts at entrances with a sensitive modern treatment (P3)**
- **Restore planting associated with each entrance** (as described above) **(P3)**

## Monuments

The James Cuming Memorial was originally located facing Napier Street in the south-east corner of the Footscray Bowling Club at Railway Reserve. It was relocated to the Cuming Reserve c.1960, without its significant sculptured details or constructed setting. Roadworks c.1966 subsequently reduced its site and it currently stands on a grassed island amidst power poles. A plan for its restoration and relocation to a prominent site and new setting in the Yarraville Gardens has been initiated by Council, and supported by the National Trust, and the Footscray Historical Society. Relocation to its original prominent urban site (which would increase cultural heritage significance) is no longer possible.

New research has revealed a forgotten association of James Cuming with the Cuming Reserve, whereby Cuming initiated and paid for the development of the reserve in 1906, and requested its naming. While resiting of the memorial in Yarraville Gardens would not compromise the significance of the memorial or the Gardens, siting in Cuming Reserve strengthens the association of James Cuming with his chosen memorial of the Cuming Reserve.

In addition to the Cuming Memorial, other community memorials are known. There is now no trace of the Yarraville obelisk, which was known to have been situated in the Yarraville Gardens and moved to Cuming Reserve in 1909. Three stone and timber dedicated seats dating from 1937/38 are extant in the Gardens, but their story is unknown.

Policies:

- **Conserve (restore) the James Cuming Memorial in an appropriate contemporary setting in the Cuming Reserve** (as the preferred site)<sup>79</sup>
- **Do not undertake new developments in the Gardens until a master plan has been developed in consultation with the community**

Strategies:

- **Conserve (restore) the (3) stone and timber dedicated seats in Yarraville Gardens (P2)**
- **Research local newspapers c.1937/8 for information about the dedicated seats (P2)**
- **Incorporate interpretation with the Cuming Memorial setting (P2)**

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<sup>79</sup> The James Cuming Memorial was restored and relocated to a landscape setting in Yarraville Gardens in 2001 (see also footnote 78)

## Recreational Use

While the earliest development of Yarraville Gardens provided passive recreation, by about 1914 the newly popular game of tennis had claimed a prime corner of the Gardens, and a small sports field was developed on the flat c.1920. By the 1930s, sporting pursuits were the impetus for expansion of the Gardens to include the Hanmer Reserve, and Extensions soon after. While the precinct retains a significant sporting focus, it can be seen that each sports ground has been sensitively incorporated within an ornamental planting framework, acknowledging a broader vision. While the croquet greens are still in use, the adjoining bowls greens have been vacated, and a new use is sought for the land.

Regular cultural events, such as Carols by Candlelight in Yarraville Gardens, celebrate a continuity of community value in the place and continue the relevance of the place to contemporary society.

Policies:

- **Retain the mix of passive and active recreational activities**
- **Preserve the *integration* and *scale* of each sports ground, by conserving existing 'footprints' and spatial definition in planting**
- **Continue the tradition of shared/multi-purpose club-houses**
- **Continue the tradition of community events such as Carols by Candlelight**
- **Consult with the local community regarding any proposed changes to recreational use (as part of a master plan for the future of the precinct) (P2)**

## Visitors' Services

The provision of toilets, shelters, clubhouses, playgrounds, barbecues, drinking fountains, litter bins, seats and tables is an important consideration in any public recreation space. Most of these items have been provided in the precinct over recent years, but do not respect the cultural heritage or enhance the established landscape character.

The provision of information and site interpretation must not interfere with cultural heritage integrity. The least intrusive methods of providing site interpretation are by guided tour or brochure. Incorporation of information in the pergola structures or as interpretation 'markers' could be considered, but the most subtle and challenging method is by new design which showcases the original vision by contrast or comparison.

A car park off Whitehall Street has expanded into the reserve over time.

Policies:

- **Maintain all existing facilities in the short term** (until a new master plan has been prepared)
- **Prepare a strategy for visitors' services, by consulting with the community as part of a new master plan**
- **Limit the expansion of the car park**

Strategies:

- **Prepare an inventory of existing visitors' services and assess the strengths and weaknesses of each in the context of the whole (P2)**

## 6.0 References

### Files:

Reserves File Rs1453 Yarraville Gardens (Land Victoria)  
Reserves File Rs9508 Ornamental Plantation Reserve (Land Victoria)

### Publications:

City of Footscray, 'Footscray A Pictorial Record of the Municipality from 1859 to 1988', 1989  
Kerr, James Semple, The Conservation Plan, 1990  
Lack, John 'A History of Footscray', 1991  
Matthews, D R, article in Royal Horticultural Society Year Book, 'Trees and Shrubs for Park and Street Planting', (no date)  
Smith, Frances, 'Yarraville Village and Club', City of Footscray Historical Society, 1992  
The Advertiser Office, 'Footscray's First 50 Years', printed and published by J Jamieson, 1909  
The Advertiser, 'Footscray's First 100 Years (1859 – 1959)', c.1959  
Whitehead, Georgina, 'Civilising the City', State Library of Victoria, 1997

### Reports:

Allom Lovell & Associates, Wattle Park Heritage Conservation Plan, 1993  
Biosis Research, Maribyrnong Aboriginal Heritage Study, 1999  
Butler, Graeme, City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study, Vol 2, Environmental History, 1989  
Butler, Graeme, Footscray Conservation Study, Further Site Examination, 1989; extracts  
Footscray Conservation Study (significant trees)  
Seddon Bowling Club, Greenkeeper's report, 1970  
Ecology Australia, City of Maribyrnong Natural Heritage Study, 1999  
Footscray City Council Annual Reports 1916/17 – 1956/57  
Orr-Young, Jill, St. Vincent Gardens Conservation Analysis & Management Strategy, 1997  
Whitehead, Georgina, 'Footscray Park Conservation Study', 1998

### Plans:

1844 Sydney C/16230 (in Lack, 1991, original plan Land Victoria)  
1850 Village of Footscray, Sale of Allotments (in 'Footscray, A Pictorial Record...')  
1857/59 The Township of Footscray, Plan F18, Public Lands Office Melbourne (source Land Victoria)  
post 1857 Plan of Subdivision (in 'Footscray's First 100 Years')  
1859 Proposed Site for Public Garden 34 ½ acres (Reserves File Rs 1453)  
1873/77 Township of Footscray, Plan F19 (source Land Victoria)  
1873/74 Plan of Botanical Gardens Footscray, Plan F25B (source Land Victoria)  
1887 (New Plan of Melbourne and Suburbs, Sands & McDougall's Melbourne and Suburban Directory, per Ken Duxbury)  
1892 Plan showing Cuming Reserve as reserved in increments (Reserves File Rs 9508)  
1902 Plan showing Cuming Reserve as fenced (Reserves File Rs 9508)  
1913, Dept Lands & Survey, (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1933 Plan of Extension Yarraville Gardens (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1934 (source Maribyrnong City Council) (based on 1913 plan, Dept Lands & Survey)  
c.1936 Proposed Sports Pavilion Hanmer Reserve Footscray (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
c. 1938 - 1947 Set of Plans by Curator Matthews (curator 1916 – 1964) (source Maribyrnong City Council) The set of plans are not numbered chronologically, many are not dated, but they seem to have all been drawn between 1938 and 1947:  
Plan No. 3 Yarraville Gardens and Adjoining Land  
Plan No. 12 1946 Yarraville Gardens Main Entrance  
Plan No. 19 Hanmer Reserve Tennis Courts  
Plan No. 25 Plan showing Suggested Fencing and Planting Hanmer Reserve  
1942 Nicholson Street Reconstruction (source Maribyrnong City Council)

1966 Hyde Street/Nicholson Street Reconstruction (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1968 Bus Shelter Hyde Street at Cumings Reserve (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1969 Yarraville Gardens Entrance Relocation (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1971 Public Toilet Block and Gardeners' Amenities, Lawrence J Atley & Partners Architects (2 sheets) (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1979 Yarraville Tennis Club (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1982 Seddon Bowling Club (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1982 Seddon Football Club (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1986 City of Footscray Community Facilities (source Footscray Pictorial Record)  
1991 Yarraville Gardens 1:500 (irrigation plan) (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
1991 Yarraville Gardens 1:500 (existing conditions plan) (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
(no date) Survey Plan with contours (source Maribyrnong City Council)  
2000 Tree Survey  
2000 Melways Directory

MMBW Plans (no date) (note no MMBW 1898 plan for this area)  
Melbourne Water Plans 1:2500, 1994

**Photographs:**

Photograph c. 1890s, in Lack, 1991, p.115  
Aerial photograph, c.1920 - 1968  
Images of the West CD-ROM (Footscray Historical Society picture collection)  
Photographs in Annual Reports 1916/17, 1921/22, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1938/39, 1945/46, 1946/47, 1947/48, 1950/51, 1953/54

**Miscellaneous:**

Notes from Ken Duxbury  
Jenni Lee's notes from Footscray Historical Society and Council Archives  
Information from Heritage Victoria  
Newspaper article, 'The Advertiser' 25 March 1964  
Regulations in Reserves File  
National Trust File: Rodney Alsop  
Research by John Cuming

## **Appendices**

### **The Brief 1**

## BRIEF FOR A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE YARRAVILLE GARDENS PRECINCT

### 1.0 REPORT CONTENTS

#### 1.1 Introduction

Yarraville Gardens, together with Hanmer Reserve, is a public gardens of some 6.8 hectares. It forms part of a landscape precinct that includes a number of road reserves and public recreation areas generally bounded by Whitehall Street, Somerville Road, Nicholson Street and Harris Street (refer attached plan). It was one of the earliest intended municipal gardens (c1874) although its development did not occur until some time later (c1915).

Yarraville Gardens / Hanmer Reserve and the Hyde St road reserve were identified in the Footscray Conservation Study (1989) as being of high local importance and regional interest. The Gardens, the Hyde St reserve and the Cowper St landscape associated with the Yarraville Tennis Club have also been identified in the Draft Maribyrnong Heritage Review as being of local importance.

The north eastern corner of Hanmer Reserve was previously occupied by the Seddon Bowling and Croquet Club. This area of the Gardens has been identified in other studies as having potential for redevelopment as a major tennis facility.

#### 1.2 Background

The Maribyrnong City Council is commissioning a conservation plan for the Yarraville Gardens Precinct as a means of ensuring that its cultural significance is recognised and maintained and to guide its ongoing and future management. The Conservation Plan is fully funded by the Maribyrnong City Council.

#### 1.3 Scope

This conservation plan is for the place known as the Yarraville Gardens Precinct. The Precinct includes the following:

· Yarraville Gardens

A formal municipal garden fronting Somerville Rd, Whitehall St and Hyde St. Within the park are a number of park facilities including a sports oval, children's playground, BBQ area and performance stage.

· Hanmer Reserve

A sporting oval surrounding by a formal landscape treatment and linked to Yarraville Gardens. The Reserve has a frontage to Hyde St, Whitehall St and Harris St. It also includes the Seddon Bowling and Croquet Club. This Club has now combined with the Yarraville Footscray Bowling Club and no longer operates from the site. The site, including club rooms and bowling lawns, is currently leased (on a short term basis) to the Vietnamese Community in Australia – Victorian Chapter. The Community primarily make use of the clubroom buildings.

· Hyde Street Landscape Road Reserve

A formal landscaped road reserve forming a triangular shape and bounded by Hyde St, Nicholson St and Princess St. Within the reserve are mature tree plantings, the James Cuming Memorial and a bus shelter.

.. Yarraville Tennis Club

A public tennis facility consisting of four courts, clubrooms for the Tennis Club and the Sports Clubs that use Hanmer Reserve. The site has a landscape frontage to Hyde St and Cowper St and also fronts Harris St.

The conservation plan should include all the place(s) marked on the attached map.

**1.4 Objective/s**

The purpose of the conservation plan is:

- to provide an assessment of the cultural significance of the place and a statement of cultural significance;
- to prepare conservation policies for the place based upon its cultural significance;
- to prepare conservation strategies for the management of the place.

**1.5 Report methodology**

The Conservation plan is to be prepared in accordance with the *Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter)* and its guidelines. Reference should be made to the publication by Kerr, J.S. Third Edition (1990)

*The Conservation Plan: A guide to the preparation of conservation of European cultural significance*, The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is also a useful guide.

**1.6 Sources and material**

Due to budgetary constraints it is anticipated that Council staff will provide research assistance, if required and as directed by the consultant. The following sources and material should be researched:

.. Records held by the City of Maribyrnong

Lack, John (1991) 'A History of Footscray', Hargreen Publishing Company and the City of Footscray  
City of Footscray First One Hundred Years  
Seelaf, G (ed) (1989) 'Footscray A Pictorial Record of the Municipality from 1859 to 1988' City of Footscray  
City of Footscray Annual Reports  
Butler, G (1989) 'Footscray Conservation Study'. City of Footscray  
  
City of Maribyrnong Open Space Plan  
City of Maribyrnong Access and Equity Policy  
City of Maribyrnong Cultural Development Plan  
City of Maribyrnong Planning Scheme  
Maribyrnong City Council Heritage Review (draft)  
Maribyrnong City Council Tennis Development Strategy (draft)  
Footscray Park Conservation Study (1998)  
Relevant Council Files  
Aerial photographs (c1931 - 1968)  
Plans (c1940's, 1991, 2000)

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Classification Report - Public Art (relates to James Cuming Memorial)



.. Records held by Others

Other primary and secondary sources such as files from relevant State government departments, local historical societies, photographs, aerial photos, plans, maps, relevant legislation, policies and charters, current and former staff and their families and sundry source materials.

**1.7 Assessment of cultural significance**

The conservation plan should set out clearly, the reasons for the place's significance, on the basis of information collected from physical investigation, oral history and documentary information. It should include a brief history and historical chronology of development and a survey of the fabric of the place.

The assessment of cultural significance must include a comparative analyses of heritage significance and should discuss the relative significance of the individual components which make up the place as well as the significance of the place as a whole.

The assessment of cultural significance shall be carried out using the **Criteria For Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance** adopted by Heritage Victoria (as attached).

**1.8 Statement of cultural significance**

The statement of cultural significance should set out concisely:

- the reasons for the place's significance including the extent and level of significance and the significance of any component part(s).

The statement should be based on the analysis of the place against the **Criteria For Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance** adopted by Heritage Victoria. The statement of significance should not repeat physical or documentary information.

**1.9 Conservation policy**

The conservation policies and guidelines are to be based on the statement of significance. Conservation policies shall be provided for:

- the place as a whole; and
- each significant component of the place including built landscape elements, plantings, landscape form, boundary treatments, buildings and memorials.

The statement of conservation policy shall be prepared as set out in the Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy. In developing the policy the consultant shall have specific regard to the requirements set out in Section 3.2 of the Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy:

.. Fabric and setting

The conservation policy should identify the most appropriate way of caring for the fabric and setting of the place arising out of the statement of significance and other constraints. A specific combination of conservation actions should be identified. This may or may not include changes to the fabric.

.. Future developments

The conservation policy should set guidelines for future developments resulting from changing needs. This may extend to the preparation of plans and drawings to depict guidelines for future development.

A number of future developments are proposed as follows:

- the relocation of the James Cuming Memorial to the rose bed at the junction of paths beyond the main entrance gate (refer to attached plans);
- additional tree planting and replanting of garden beds;
- potential removal of mature trees under high voltage power lines along the Hyde St frontage;
- expansion of the existing children's playground;
- upgrading of the existing picnic and BBQ facilities, including seats, bins, drinking fountains;
- conversion of the bluestone store to provide park shelter;
- cyclone mesh fencing along the Somerville Rd frontage to provide a secure dogs off leash area on the lower oval; and
- new signage throughout the park.

.. Use

The conservation policy should identify a use or combination of uses, or constraints on use, that are compatible with the retention of the cultural significance of the place and that are feasible. The use of the Gardens for local festivals such as Carols by Candle Light held annually at Christmas should be commented upon. The use of the former Seddon Bowling and Croquet Club area should also be addressed. Reference should be made to its current use by the Vietnamese Community in Australia - Victorian Chapter and recommendations for future use outlined in the draft Tennis Development Strategy.

.. Interpretation

The conservation policy should identify appropriate ways of making the significance of the place understood consistent with the retention of that significance. This may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric, the use of the place and the use of introduced interpretive material.

.. Management

The conservation policy should identify a management structure through which the conservation policy is capable of being implemented. It should also identify:

- (a) those to be responsible for subsequent conservation and management decisions and for the day to day management of the place;
- (b) the mechanism by which these decisions are made and recorded;
- (c) the means of providing security and regular maintenance for the place;
- (d) any specialist expertise required, for example management of significant trees.

.. Control of physical intervention in the fabric

The conservation policy should include provisions for the control of physical intervention. It may:

- (a) specify unavoidable intervention;
- (b) identify the likely impact of any intervention on the cultural significance;
- (c) specify the degree and nature of intervention acceptable for non-conservation purposes;
- (d) identify existing inappropriate interventions including trees and general plantings, park and street furniture and public facilities;
- (e) detail specific research proposals

.. Constraints on investigation

The conservation policy should identify social, religious, legal or other cultural constraints which might limit the accessibility or investigation of the place.

.. Adoption and review

The conservation policy should contain provision for adoption and review.

### **1.10 Consequences of conservation policy**

The practitioner should set out the way in which the implementation of the conservation policy will or will not:

- (a) change the place including its setting;
- (b) affect its significance;
- (c) affect the locality and its amenity;
- (d) affect the client, owner and user;
- (e) affect others involved.

**If appropriate, the policy shall also contain recommendations for classes of work which could be undertaken without a permit under the Maribyrnong City Council Planning Scheme.**

### **1.11 Conservation strategy**

The conservation plan shall contain a section on management strategies, setting out how the conservation policies can be implemented. This should include:

- a prioritised 5 year schedule of works, including any reconstructions, containing short and long term conservation and management requirements, including regular maintenance, security and priority areas;
- management requirements, including regular maintenance, security and priority areas; budget strategy, maintenance organisation

### **1.12 Consultation with the Community**

During the research stage of the development of the conservation plan, the community and major stakeholders are to be consulted in relation to:

- past and current use;
- aspects of the form and character of the Precinct which are valued; and
- their stories, images, and memories.

This may take the form of a questionnaire, public meeting, request for information etc. The consultant should provide advice on the most appropriate way of obtaining this and other information. The Cultural & Public Spaces Branch will undertake the consultation process with the community and provide the raw data. The consultant will be required to analyse the information and incorporate within the conservation plan as appropriate.

### **1.13 Format**

#### **· Written material**

The written report shall be typed in an A4 vertical format. It should include:

- (a) name of the client
- (b) names of all the practitioners engaged in the task, the work they undertook, and any separate reports they prepared;
- (c) authorship of the report;
- (d) date;
- (e) brief;
- (f) constraints on the task, for example, time, money, expertise;
- (g) sources;
- (h) a summary, index page and bibliography; and
- (i) terminology, analysis and plans that are consistent with the Australia ICOMOS Guidelines for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

.. Graphic material

- (a) Photographs, maps and drawings shall be of a suitable quality to enable reproduction and scanning. All historic graphic material shall be fully captioned including the source.
- (b) Drawings shall conform to accepted standards of drafting practice and shall be capable of reduction to A4 size. Drawings larger than A3 size should be separately attached to the report and folded to A4 size.

.. Sources

- (a) In all cases, sources of information shall be fully documented.
- (b) All sources of information, both documentary and oral, consulted during the task should be listed, whether or not they proved fruitful.
- (c) In respect of source material privately held, the name and address of the owner should be given, but only with the owner's consent.

## **2.0 CONTRACT DETAILS**

The client for this report is the Culture & Public Spaces Branch, Maribyrnong City Council. Day to day project management will be provided by Sue Godfrey, Street Tree Co-ordinator and Jenni Lee, Cultural Development Officer.

### **2.1 Services**

The client shall supply/ provide the following services:

- arrange access to Council files and documentation;
- research assistance, if required and under the guidance of the consultant;
- copies of plans, drawings and photographs held by Council;
- general photocopying of materials held by Council

### **2.2 Appointment**

The appointment of the consultant shall be upon the recommendation of the Culture & Public Spaces Branch, Maribyrnong City Council. On appointment, the consultant shall provide the Project Managers with an outline of the proposed method and approach to the study. The outline shall include:

- a schedule of research tasks or other assistance to be undertaken by Council staff and completion times;
- a schedule of tasks to be undertaken the consultant and completion times;
- persons responsible; and
- proposed reporting times.

### **2.3 Supervision**

General administration and supervision of the study will be by Sue Godfrey and Jenni Lee.

### **2.4 Budget**

The total budget for the Conservation Plan is \$6,000.

### **2.5 Payment**

- 10% on commencement of contract;
- 60% on submission of first draft acceptable to the Project Managers;
- 30% on submission of final draft/ completed conservation plan acceptable to the Project Managers.

## **2.6 Timing**

The required examination of the Yarraville Gardens Precinct is to start no later than 31 March 2000, with the first draft being completed by 30 May 2000. The finished Conservation Plan is to be submitted by 30 June 2000. Any change to this timetable is to be agreed to by the Project Manager.

## **2.7 Meetings**

The consultant shall meet with the Project Manager on three occasions as follows:

- First meeting, following appointment and prior to commencing examination - week of 20 - 24 March 2000;
- Second meeting, six weeks after commencement of examination - 12 May 2000;
- Third meeting, two weeks after submission of the first draft. At this stage 3 copies of the report shall be supplied to the Project Manager.

Further meetings may be scheduled with the agreement of both the Project Manager and consultant.

On the agreed date of completion for the conservation plan, 4 bound copies of the report including any photographic negatives shall be submitted to the client. One copy must be a master copy with all original documentation and photographs as researched. The master copy is to be unbound and in a condition suitable for reproduction.

## **2.8 Computer disk**

A copy of the conservation plan shall be supplied on Word for Windows version 6.0, on a 3.25 inch diskette in accordance with the format details, to the client on the agreed date for completion of the report.

## **2.9 Ownership and copyright**

Ownership and copyright of the Conservation Plan including all reports, maps, plans, photographs and the like supplied to the Project Manager by way of progress, draft, or final report or publication, (including the original of the final report) shall be vested in Maribyrnong City Council.

The consultant(s) and the Maribyrnong City Council shall have a perpetual, free license to use the material for its own purposes at any time in the future.

## **2.10 Archival storage**

The responsibility for effecting archival storage in accordance with Article 28 of the Burra Charter is held by the client.

## **2.11 Dismissal**

Should progress of the work be considered unsatisfactory, the Project Manager may recommend the dismissal of the consultant and the appointment of a further consultant to complete the work.

The grounds for dismissal shall only be:

- a) Repeated failure to meet agreed submission dates (or as reasonably extended) provided that such failure not be the fault of the Project Manager;

and/or;

- b) Deliberate failure to undertake the work (or portions of it) as agreed to on appointment, or during the progress of the brief.

**2.12 Changes to brief**

Where it becomes clear that some aspect of the task will require more investigation or more expertise than has been allowed within the budget or the terms of the agreement, the practitioner shall advise the client immediately.

**2.14 Insurance**

The consultant shall be fully responsible for obtaining all necessary insurances.

## **The Burra Charter 2**

## The Burra Charter

(The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance)

### Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

### Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

### Using the Charter

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent. Articles in the Conservation Principles section are often further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. Headings have been included for ease of reading but do not form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained in the following Australia ICOMOS documents:

- Guidelines to the Burra Charter;

Cultural Significance;

- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy;
- Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports;
- Code on the Ethics of Coexistence in Conserving Significant Places.

### What places does the Charter apply to?

The Charter can be applied to all types of places of cultural significance including natural, indigenous and historic places with cultural values.

The standards of other organisations may also be relevant. These include the Australian Natural Heritage Charter and the Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Places.

### Why conserve?

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records, that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious.

*These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations.*

*The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.*



## Articles

### Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

**1.1** *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

**1.2** *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

**1.3** *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

**1.4** *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

**1.5** *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

**1.6** *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**1.7** *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

**1.8** *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.

**1.9** *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

**1.10** *Use* means the functions of a *place*, as well as the

## Explanatory Notes

The concept of place should be broadly interpreted. The elements described in Article 1.1, may include memorials, trees, gardens, parks, places of historical events, urban areas, towns, industrial places, archaeological sites and spiritual and religious places.

The term cultural significance is synonymous with heritage significance and cultural heritage value.

Cultural significance may change as a result of the continuing history of the place.

Understanding of cultural significance may change as a result of new information.

Fabric includes building interiors and sub-surface remains, as well as excavated material.

Fabric may define spaces and these may be important elements of the significance of the place.

The distinctions referred to, for example in relation to roof gutters, are:

- maintenance — regular inspection and cleaning of gutters;
- repair involving restoration — returning of dislodged gutters;
- repair involving reconstruction — replacing decayed gutters.

It is recognised that all places and their components change over time at varying rates.

New material may include recycled material salvaged from other places. This should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

activities and practices that may occur at the place.

**1.11 Compatible use** means a use which respects the *cultural significance of a place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

**1.12 Setting** means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

**1.13 Related place** means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance of another place*.

**1.14 Related object** means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance of a place* but is not at the place.

**1.15 Associations** mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.

**1.16 Meanings** denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

**1.17 Interpretation** means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance of a place*.

Associations may include social or spiritual values and cultural responsibilities for a place.

Meanings generally relate to intangible aspects such as symbolic qualities and memories.

Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (e.g. maintenance, restoration, reconstruction); the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material.

## Conservation Principles

### Article 2. Conservation and management

**2.1** *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.

**2.2** The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance of a place*.

**2.3** *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.

**2.4** *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

### Article 3. Cautious approach

**3.1** *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations and meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

The traces of additions, alterations and earlier treatments to the fabric of a place are evidence of its history and uses which may be part of its significance. Conservation action should assist and not impede their understanding.

**3.2** Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

### Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques

**4.1** *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.

**4.2** Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation of significant fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which

The use of modern materials and techniques must be supported by firm scientific evidence or by a body of

activities and practices that may occur at the place.

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circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

#### Article 5. Values

**5.1** Conservation of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.

**5.2** Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a place.

#### Article 6. Burra Charter Process

**6.1** The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.

**6.2** The policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.

**6.3** Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

#### Article 7. Use

**7.1** Where the *use* of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

**7.2** A *place* should have a *compatible use*.

#### Article 8. Setting

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate *visual setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

experience.

n of places with natural significance is explained in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter. This Charter defines natural significance to mean the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value. **A cautious approach is needed, as understanding of cultural significance may change. This article should not be used to justify actions which do not retain cultural significance.**

The Burra Charter process, or sequence of investigations, decisions and actions, is illustrated in the accompanying flowchart.

The policy should identify a use or combination of uses or constraints on uses that retain the cultural significance of the place. New use of a place should involve minimal change, to significant fabric and use; should respect associations and meanings; and where appropriate should provide for continuation of practices which contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials.

Other relationships, such as historical connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the place.

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Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials.

Other relationships, such as historical connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the *place*.

#### Article 9. Location

9.1 The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

9.2 Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.

9.3 If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate *use*. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place of cultural significance*.

#### Article 10. Contents

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

#### Article 11. Related places and objects

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

#### Article 12. Participation

*Conservation, interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

#### Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

For some places, conflicting cultural values may affect policy development and management decisions. In this article, the term cultural values refers to those beliefs which are important to a cultural group, including but not limited to political, religious, spiritual and moral beliefs. This is broader than values associated with cultural significance.

### Conservation Processes

#### Article 14. Conservation processes

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*; retention of *associations* and *meanings*; *maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation* and *interpretation*; and will commonly include a combination

*There may be circumstances where no action is required to achieve conservation.*

of more than one of these.

**Article 15. Change**

**15.1** Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.

**15.2** Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

**15.3** Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

**15.4** The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a place includes *fabric, uses, associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

**Article 16. Maintenance**

*Maintenance* is fundamental to *conservation* and should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its *maintenance* is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

**Article 17. Preservation**

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

**Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction**

*Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

**Article 19. Restoration**

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient

When change is being considered, range of options should be explored to seek the option which minimises the reduction of cultural significance.

Reversible changes should be considered temporary. Non-reversible change should only be used as a last resort and should not prevent future conservation action.

Preservation protects fabric without obscuring the evidence of its construction and use. The process should always be applied:

- where the evidence of the fabric is of such significance that it should not be altered;
- where insufficient investigation has been carried out to permit policy decisions to be taken in accord with Articles 26 to 28.

New work (e.g. stabilisation) may be carried out in association with preservation when its purpose is the physical protection of the fabric and when it is consistent with Article 22.

evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

**Article 20. Reconstruction**

**20.1** *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

**20.2** *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

**Article 21. Adaptation**

**21.1** *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

**21.2** *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

**Article 22. New work**

**22.1** New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

**22.2** New work should be readily identifiable as such.

**Article 23. Conserving use**

Continuing, modifying or reinstating a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

**Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings**

**24.1** Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

**24.2** Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

**Article 25. Interpretation**

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

**Conservation Practice**

Adaptation may involve the introduction of new services, or a new use, or changes to safeguard the place.

New work may be sympathetic if its siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and material are similar to the existing fabric, but imitation should be avoided.

These may require changes to significant fabric but they should be minimised. In some cases, continuing a significant use or practice may involve substantial new work.

For many places associations will be linked to use.



**Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process**

**26.1** Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

**26.2** Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

**26.3** Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

**Article 27. Managing change**

**27.1** The impact of proposed changes on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

**27.2** Existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

**Article 28. Disturbance of fabric**

**28.1** Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

**28.2** Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

**Article 29. Responsibility for decisions**

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

**Article 30. Direction, supervision and implementation**

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be

The results of studies should be up to date, regularly reviewed and revised as necessary.

Statements of significance and policy should be kept up to date by regular review and revision as necessary. The management plan may deal with other matters related to the management of the place.

implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

**Article 31. Documenting evidence and decisions**

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

**Article 32. Records**

**32.1** The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

**32.2** Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

**Article 33. Removed fabric**

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

*Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.*

**Article 34. Resources**

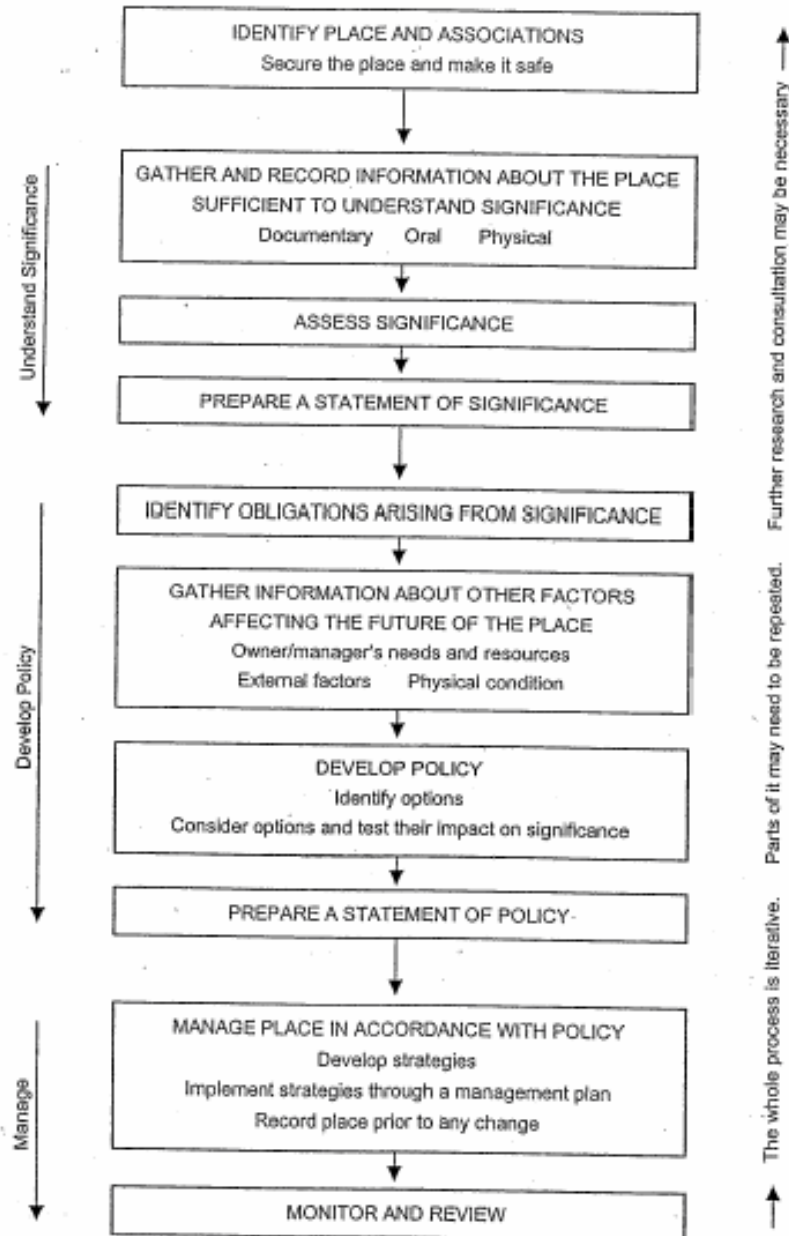
Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

The best conservation often involves the least work and can be inexpensive.

*Words in italics are defined in Article 1.*

## The Burra Charter Process

Sequence of investigations, decisions and actions



### **National Trust Classification Report 3**

**NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)**

**CLASSIFICATION REPORT – PUBLIC ART**

**1. NAME OF WORK OF ART**

James Cuming Memorial

**2. NAME OF THE ARTIST**

Margaret Baskerville sculpted the bust and putti. The base was produced by James A. Taylor and Sons, Monumental Masons of Footscray.

**3. DATE**

Work commenced on the memorial in 1913 and reputedly took two and a half years to complete. The date 191? (with the last digit obscured) appears on the work. The memorial was unveiled on Saturday 15 August 1916 by the Hon. J.G. Aikman MLC.

**4. LOCATION**

The memorial was originally located in Railway Reserve on the south east corner of the Footscray Bowling Club, Napier Street, Footscray in a chain-enclosed square. The relocation of the memorial to its present site was necessary due to the construction of the vehicular and pedestrian underpass under the railway line. The memorial was moved to the centre median at the junction of Nicholson and Hyde Streets, Yarraville (Melway's map 42, C8) adjacent to the J. Cuming Reserve and during this process the putti removed and the plinth modified creating a simpler and less elegant form.

The work currently remains in this location and is compromised by the poor aesthetics of the site and the high risk of damage by the heavy vehicles that use Nicholson Street. It is proposed to relocate the work to the Yarraville Gardens opposite where it currently sits. Within the gardens a site has been identified in the triangular landscaped garden bed directly in line with the southwestern entrance gate as one enters. This relocation is proposed to occur with restoration and conservation of the memorial that will see the putti included again.

**5. MATERIALS**

The memorial is a combination of:

- Italian marble bust and plinth with putti
- Harcourt granite column and base
- Bluestone foundation

6. **DIMENSIONS**

Height approximately 2.9 metres without putti which stand approximately 1 metre high. The base is approximately 1.5 metres square.

7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The monument is of state significance possessing historical, technical and social merit.

The work was a memorial to the notable Footscray philanthropist and former mayor of the municipality, James Cuming.

The achievement of Margaret Baskerville was described at the time as being "a world's record for a woman sculptor"<sup>1</sup> because she carved and completed all the work on the bust and the putti figures herself. Baskerville was the foremost Australian female sculptor of her period. She was a founding member and secretary of the Yarra Sculptors Society (1898 - 1910) and a member of the Melbourne Austral Salon, the Victorian Artists Society and at various times president or vice-president of the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors. Completed during the Great War, this memorial enabled Baskerville to gain several more commissions including the Edith Cavell memorial (St. Kilda Road, Melbourne) and the Maryborough War Memorial.

Baskerville completed several more modern works after the designs and for buildings designed by Walter Burley and Marion Mahoney Griffin.

Margaret Preston has described Baskerville as one of Australia's pioneer women artists and her involvement in the 1907 Melbourne Women's Exhibition justifies this.

8. **DESCRIPTION**

The memorial comprises a white marble bust of John Cuming which originally sat atop a square column around the faces of which sat four putti which represented:

- Peace; holding a dove with another at its side
- Harmony; holding a pan flute
- Plenty; holds a sheaf of wheat in one hand and a rock for crushing the wheat in the other
- Industry; holds a spindle for spinning cloth

The granite base is inscribed as follows:

"ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS  
in appreciation of the life  
of the late  
JAMES CUMING J.P.  
His memory lives in the hearts of all who knew his worth."

9. **HISTORY OF THE ARTIST<sup>23</sup>**

Margaret Baskerville was born in North Melbourne in 1861.

<sup>1</sup> Rose, "Margaret Baskerville 1861 - 1930 and C. Douglas Richardson 1853 - 1932", p204

## **Chronology of Development 4**

1851	Footscray declared as 'township'
1858	Railway line to Williamstown opened
1859	'Yarraville' estate offered for sale by land developers Biers, Henningham & Co. Footscray became a municipality, with 7 elected councillors and a rate base Yarraville became part of Footscray municipality 34 ½ acres temporarily reserved (but not developed) as Botanical Gardens, beside the Yarra Yarra River at Footscray 1860 Gravel pit in operation at bottom of Cowper Street (the future Hanmer Reserve)
1863	Footscray attained 'borough' status, 9 councillors elected
Late 1860s	Riverfront industries established (foundries, smelting works, etc.) near confluence of the 2 rivers, for (river) transport
1874	Northern part of Botanical Reserve cancelled, southern portion retained, with <b>new area (10 acres 1 rood 37 perches) temporarily reserved west of Whitehall Street (the current Yarraville Gardens site)</b>
<b>c.1880</b>	<b>Initial fencing, layout and planting of Yarraville Gardens</b>
1881	Cr James Cuming member of Gardens Committee (until c.1886)
1885	Cr James Cuming elected mayor of Footscray (1885/86)
<b>1886</b>	<b>Yarraville obelisk placed in Yarraville Gardens</b>
1888/89	Coode Canal opened
1890	Cr James Cuming again elected mayor of Footscray (1890/91)
1891	Footscray proclaimed a City
<b>Early 1890s</b>	<b>Earliest known photograph of the Yarraville Gardens, shows hill form, simple crossed path layout and formative planting</b> Economic depression
1897	Part of Botanical Reserve east of Whitehall Street cancelled
<b>1903</b>	<b>Land (2 roods 15 perches) temporarily reserved as Footscray Ornamental Plantation Reserve (Cuming Reserve)</b>
<b>1906</b>	<b>Cr James Cuming initiated layout and planting of Cuming Reserve (named in his honour)</b>
<b>1909</b>	<b>Photograph shows Yarraville Gardens, with timber picket boundary fence and well-grown conifer windbreaks</b> <b>Regulations for the Care, Protection, and Management of Reserves in the City of Footscray gazetted</b> <b>Yarraville obelisk moved to Cuming Reserve</b>
1908/9	Council purchased land for Footscray Park
1910/11	Competition for design of Footscray Park won by architect R H Alsop
<b>1913</b>	<b>First known layout plan of Yarraville Gardens and Cuming Reserve (not extant)</b> <b>Period of decline and neglect of Yarraville Gardens</b> <b>Pines, cypresses, oaks and peppertrees surviving in Yarraville Gardens</b>
1914-1919	First World War
<b>1914</b>	<b>Tennis facilities developed at S W corner of Yarraville Gardens (relocated c.1937)</b>
<b>1915</b>	<b>New post and wire fence enclosure and cinder path constructed at Yarraville Gardens</b>
<b>1916</b>	<b>Footscray Council appointed David Matthews as a 'Working Landscape Gardener'</b>
<b>1919/20</b>	<b>Major works in Yarraville Gardens, including gravel paths, shrub and flower beds, ornamental planting, a small sports field and a water service</b> <b>Children's playground developed in Yarraville Gardens (possibly the first in the City)</b>
<b>1921</b>	<b>Photograph shows rotunda (now removed) and rock edging to paths in Yarraville Gardens</b>
1928	Footscray Council opened public tennis courts at Yarraville Recreation Reserve
1930s	Economic depression
<b>1931</b>	<b>Aerial photograph of the precinct</b>



- c.1933** Extension of Yarraville Gardens for a sporting ground (Hanmer Reserve); labour by 'unemployment relief work'
- c.1934** Additional land developed as tennis courts (Hanmer Reserve Extensions)
- 1934** **New plan for Cuming Reserve approved**  
Gift of 300 Palms from Animal Welfare League  
Melbourne's centenary encouraged the popular planting of native species
- c.1935** **Earliest Canary Island Palm plantings**
- 1937/38** **Entrance pergolas and dedicated seats constructed at Hanmer Reserve; avenue of Australian trees planted**
- 1938** **Footscray and District Tree Planters' Association began planting street trees under Matthews' direction**
- c.1938/39** **Lawn bowls and croquet facilities introduced at Hanmer Reserve**
- 1939-1945** Second World War
- 1945/46** **2 entrance gates and pergolas erected at Yarraville Gardens**
- 1947/48** **New entrance at SW corner Yarraville Gardens, with pergola, rock fence and garden plots**
- c late1940s** **Plans prepared for Yarraville Gardens by curator David Matthews**
- c.1960** **The James Cuming Memorial (commissioned 1913) was relocated to the Cuming Reserve from the Railway Reserve**
- 1964** **Curator David Matthews retired**  
**Yarraville Gardens permanently reserved**
- c.1966** **Road works in Hyde Street resulted in removal of street trees, narrowing of Cuming Reserve, resiting of the Cuming monument, removal of trees, shrubs and privet hedge in Yarraville Gardens and removal/reconstruction of the stone walls and main entrance pergola**
- 1970s** **Gardener Ralph Kenyon planted forest of Tasmanian Blue Gums in the Yarraville Gardens**
- 2001** **The James Cuming Memorial was restored and rededicated and resited to the Yarraville Gardens**

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