

Yarra Bend National Park

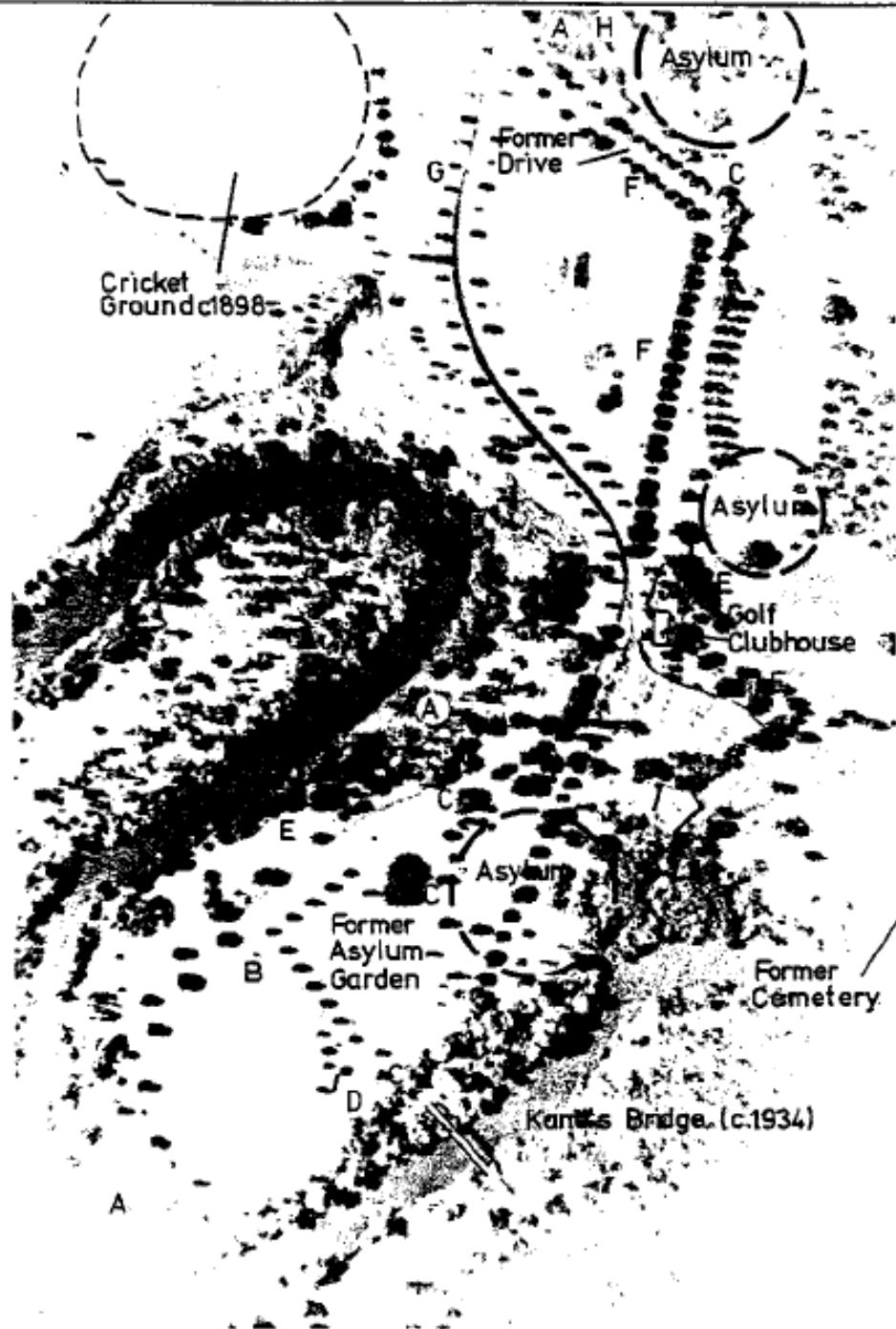
As with Fairfield Park, the elimination of the extensive Lunatic Asylum in the 1920's and the proclamation of the Heidelberg and Kew Lands Act (1923) meant the commencement of ornamental planting and the existence of mature introduced species from the Asylum's occupation. The development of the golf-course utilised many existing attributes.

From the Yarra Bend itself, surrounded by River Red Gums (A), the new recreation grounds took shape; delineated by Roman Cypress rows (B). Elsewhere large Moreton Bay Figs (C), pines, Holm Oaks (D) and Mature English Elm groves (E) indicated the inheritance from the Asylum garden which lay to the west of the middle section of buildings, within the bend of the river. The former driveway through the Asylum is now marked with Moreton Bays, Elms and Radiata Pine rows (F), whilst the present road swings to the west and is marked by the more recently popular Spotted Gum (A). Large English Elms and Oaks are located east of the golf clubhouse and to the south-east of the surviving Asylum buildings, at Fairlea Womens Prison. The former riverside Asylum

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Base: Lands Department 1950

Reference: MMBW Record Plan 39 (June 1898)



cemetery is today marked by a Pepper Tree, Oaks and Elms which formerly lined its perimeter. The overall landscape is one of grassed slopes with tree avenues or the occasional mature tree group and the river flood plain foliage; hence the effect is a successful blending of a restricted range of species because of grouping or row-planting around the unifying grasslands. Pepper Tree (H) and River Red Gum groups have produced outstanding groves.

Recommendations

Preserve and enhance this present landscape and replant only within the range of species dictated by those existing, proximitous to the locality of planting.

Preserve the landscape which relates specifically to the Asylum's occupation of the site, particularly the former driveway, garden and cemetery.