

By the time the 1945 aerial photograph was taken there was no avenue planting along this section of the path. There appears to be some small scale boundary planting across the northern end of the rail siding yards where they abut the path. East of the railway land the path is bordered on both sides by garden beds which were a feature of the east-west walk.⁷ Swanson states that floral bedding remained a feature of the Gardens until the late 1970s.

The history of the Pittosporum and the Oleander rows has not been determined. However, both species are frequently used for screening hedges and seem likely to have been used to ameliorate the visual impact of the rail and industrial uses which abutted the path. The location of the Pittosporum rows is consistent with the boundary of the former rail lands, and the southern edge of the former garden beds.

Description

A row of Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) is established north of the basketball court. In the east it is setback some distance from the path, and offset from the line of Sweet Pittosporum further west. Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) is planted at the setback alignment between the two groups of Pittosporum. Sweet Pittosporum is now considered a weed species. Neither species is in keeping with the scale and character of the Elms which dominate the avenue plantings of other sections of the path network. The offset alignments create a disjointed effect and the overriding impact is of a degraded section of the path avenue plantings.

Significance

The Sweet Pittosporum rows are not significant. The rows are not part of the original planting scheme for the Gardens and appear to be the remnants from two different sections of former boundary screen hedging associated with former industrial activities to the south. Both the Pittosporum and the Oleander are of a scale and form which is inappropriate to the avenue treatment of the path network which unifies and gives the Gardens much of its distinctive character.

4.2.10 North-East Elm Circle

History

While a circular garden feature is shown to occupy this section of the Gardens on the 1905 map, the tree planting is not indicated. The feature is thought to have been a garden bed with a surrounding path. The *Annual Reports* for the Committee of Management in 1895 note that a new circle was established on the eastern side of the railway, fenced with iron pickets and planted with flowers and shrubs. This is possibly the same garden bed.

A circle of trees with a fairly mature canopy is clearly indicated in this location in the 1945 aerial photo. It corresponds with another circle of similarly advanced trees around the ornamental pond in the south east of the Gardens. The latter is thought to have been established in 1894-95 when the pond was established. A photograph of the latter, thought to be c.1906, indicates semi-mature tree planting around the periphery of the path which would be consistent with a mid- to late 1890s planting date. It is possible that the Elms in both locations were planted contemporaneously.

The garden bed and the circular path were removed by 1945, possibly in the 1930s when the path along the eastern side of Alfred Crescent was grassed over and hedges were removed from alongside the railway line.



Figure 81 Part of a circle planting of 13 Dutch Elms (Ulmus x hollandica) in the north-east of the Gardens.

Description

A circle of 13 Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is set in one of the lawn areas in the north east of the Gardens. All but one of the trees are mature specimens. The thirteenth is a recent replacement for a missing specimen to complete the circle. The trees are in fair to good condition.

Significance

The north-east Elm circle is of primary significance as an element of one of the early ornamental features of the Edinburgh Gardens and as an unusual planting formation in Melbourne's nineteenth century parks. It marks the location and form of part of an early path layout which has since been lost, and indicates, what is believed to have been a circular flower bed in this location. The circle of trees is remarkably intact with twelve of the original thirteen specimens.

4.2.11 North-West Elm Circle

History

Although the 1905 plan does not depict a circle planting of trees in the north-west of the Gardens, the 1945 aerial photograph does show such a formation. By this date the canopies are well developed and are consistent with those of the trees in the north-east circle, thought to have been planted in the mid- to late 1890s (Refer to North East Elm Circle), and some of the avenue plantings. The circle appears to have been planted between the mid-1880s and early 1900s when the major structural plantings for the early Garden layout were carried out.



Figure 82 Dutch Elm Circle (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in the north-west of the Gardens.

It is possibly a contemporaneous planting with the mid-1890s planting of the ornamental pond and the north-east elm circle. The 1945 photograph shows the trees on the southern side of the circle to have significantly thinner canopies, as do nearby specimens in the avenue planting, suggesting that planting conditions were variable. The trees are Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), the species which dominated the nineteenth century planting of the Gardens.

Description

A circle of nine Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is established in the north-west of Edinburgh Gardens north of the Rotunda Lawn. There are three gaps in the circle. Unlike the corresponding formation in the north-east section of the Gardens, this circle has three Dutch Elms planted within the circle outline. All specimens are mature and are in good to fair condition.

Significance

The north-west Elm circle is of primary significance as an element of the early planting scheme for Edinburgh Gardens and as an unusual planting formation in Melbourne's nineteenth century parks.

4.2.12 Elm Arc

History

The 1905 map indicates a circular ornamental pond in this section of the Gardens. It is also depicted and annotated in a 1926 plan of the Gardens. Neither plan shows a circular planting form around the pond.



Figure 83 Dutch Elm Arc (*Ulmus x hollandica*)

However, a circle of trees with a fairly mature canopy is clearly indicated in the 1945 aerial photograph and corresponds with other circles of similarly advanced trees in the north-east and north-west areas of the Gardens. A photograph of the ornamental pond, thought to be c.1906, indicates semi-mature tree plantings around the periphery of the path, which is consistent with a planting date of from the mid- to late 1890s after when the pond was constructed.

In the late 1940s there were proposals to clear the south-east corner of the Gardens to construct two sports ovals and a pavilion. This was opposed by local citizens on the grounds that ‘the mound’, which was at that time adjacent to the ornamental pond, and a number of trees would be lost.

The proposal was modified to a single oval to the south with ‘the mound’ and the pond being retained for the time being. By 1966 the pond had been removed together with the southern half of the circle of trees which surrounded it. The aerial photograph of this date also shows ‘the mound’ as a bare space suggesting that it had been removed shortly before. During the 1980s the existing oval was constructed adjacent to the arc of trees remaining from the original circle around the former pond.

Description

An arc of seven Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is located south of the Rowe Street path at the northern end of the Alfred Crescent sports oval. The trees are mature specimens. At the time of writing they were in a stressed condition with thin canopy growth possibly as a result of heavy Elm Leaf Beetle attack.

Significance

The Elm arc is of contributory significance as a remnant of the former circle planting of trees associated with the former ornamental pond feature. The arc is also significant as part of the early landscaping scheme for the Gardens established in the nineteenth century.

4.2.13 W T Peterson Community Oval Perimeter Tree Rows

History

Early records note that the Cricket Club obtained a magnificent assortment of trees from Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens⁸ and that the ladies reserve north west of the oval was ‘fenced and planted with trees, [and] flowers’. The grounds administered by the Club during the late 1860s and 1870s were extensive, and ornamental planting may have been undertaken over a broad area. With the formation of the Fitzroy Football Club in 1883 the Cricket Ground was extended to accommodate football matches. It is likely that sloped earth banks which accommodated the crowds were constructed at this time and enclosed by an outer boundary wall and fence. The Cricket Ground does not appear to have had perimeter tree planting. None is shown in the 1905 plan, nor in the oblique aerial view of the ground c.1925.

In 1967 the Fitzroy Football Club vacated the oval and a decade of neglect ensued. During the 1980s the ground was redeveloped. The boundary walls and fences were demolished, and the earth banks re-graded and planted with trees.

Description

The perimeter of the W T Peterson Community Oval is planted with a row of Oaks. In the west the planting is Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), and in the south and west, Red Oak (*Q. rubra*). A second row of planting with London Planes (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is established along the street frontages of adjacent sections of Brunswick Street and Freeman Street. The specimens are all semi-mature and are generally in good condition.

Significance

The perimeter planting of the Peterson Oval is not significant. It is of recent origin and in a location where trees have not generally been planted.



Figure 84 Row of London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) on Brunswick Street frontage

4.2.14 Other Specimen Trees

History

The 1945 aerial photograph of the Edinburgh Gardens illustrates a group of mature dark foliage trees in the Rotunda Lawn which corresponds to the extant Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*). On the basis of tree size, it appears that approximately five of the Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*) are original plantings in the Gardens, with a further five added in the near vicinity in subsequent years. The group is surrounded by a number of mature Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) creating canopy competition.

The 1945 aerial photograph of the Edinburgh Gardens also illustrates two River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Although this species is indigenous, it is likely that these trees were early plantings at the northern end of the Gardens rather than remnants pre-dating European settlement.

The same aerial photograph also shows Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*) and the Deodar (*Cedrus deodar*) established in the north-east quadrant of the Gardens, and the six Southern Mahogany Gums (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) in scattered locations.

Description

A group of ten Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*) is concentrated around the Rotunda Lawn, adjacent to the St Georges Road frontage, on the western side of the Gardens. The trees are mature and of varying sizes and condition. Of note, the Holm Oak, located to the north-east boundary of the Bowling Club, has been listed on the National Trust (Victoria) *Register of Significant Tree s* for its outstanding size.



Figure 85 *Holm Oak (Quercus ilex) near Rotunda (left) and River Red Gums (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) opposite the Primary School in Alfred Crescent (right)*

The two River Red Gums are positioned in the north of the Gardens, opposite the Primary School. The trees are mature and in good overall condition.

In the north-east quadrant, the pair of Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*) and the single specimen Deodar (*Cedrus deodar*) are mature and good examples of their kind. They represent the only coniferous presence in the Gardens and provide a foliage contrast to the Elms in this locality.

There are seven Southern Mahogany Gums (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) in the Gardens of which six were established prior to 1945. Three of these are quite large; one near the north-west Elm circle, one east of the bike path entrance in Alfred Crescent, and one west of the Elm arc. While quite large as specimen trees within the Edinburgh Gardens, there are many examples of this species of similar size in other parks around Melbourne, for example in the Domain. Other specimens within the Gardens are smaller and not particularly distinctive. All are mature. The species also often develops structurally weak branching form.

Significance

The group of Holm Oaks concentrated around the Rotunda Lawn is of primary significance as an intact grouping of European species, dating back to the original planting within the Gardens.

The two River Red Gums are of contributory significance as early plantings in the Gardens and as indigenous species. The group of two Canary Island Pines and the Deodar are also of contributory significance as the only coniferous presence in the Gardens and as a distinctive foliage contrast to the nearby Elms. The Southern Mahogany Gums are not significant.

4.2.15 Privet Hedge

History

In 1892-93 five thousand Hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*) 'quicks' were purchased for the Gardens. These were further supplemented in subsequent years and used to establish extensive hedges to screen the railway land excised from the Gardens in 1888.⁹

In 1938 the hedges and picket fences which had occupied each side of the railway line were removed¹⁰ and in the 1945 aerial photograph the area is clear of vegetation.

In the 1966 aerial photograph two thin lines abut both sides of the rail route extending from the path crossing at the southern end of the former Ladies Bowling Club to Alfred Crescent. The lines are consistent with hedge planting suggesting that the Privet hedges (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) were planted sometime in the late 1940s or 1950s.

The rail line ceased operation in 1981 and was subsequently decommissioned. In the mid-1990s a bicycle path was established along the former rail route. In October 1993 Council received a request to remove the Privet hedge along the bike path route near the steam train engine which was formerly located in the north-east of the Gardens. This request seems to have been approved as the sections of hedge north of the skate park no longer exist.



Figure 86 Degraded section of privet hedge abutting cycle path

Description

The remnants of a former Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedge line the bicycle path between the path crossing the southern end of the former Ladies Bowling Club and the path south of the skate park. A small section of hedge also extends west along the path south of the skate park site and around much of the adjacent International House. The hedge is in poor condition. There are many gaps with a long section missing north of the former bowling green. Much of the hedge is weed infested with extensive invasion by Elm seedlings near International House. There has been little clipping in recent years to retain form. The hedge also poses a safety hazard as it restricts sight lines for pedestrian and bicycle movements.

Significance

The Privet hedge is not significant.

4.2.16 Floral Display Beds along the St Georges Road frontage

History

The nineteenth century garden layout featured long scalloped garden beds along the St. Georges Road frontage. These are shown on the MMBW plan c.1901 and on the 1905 plan of the Gardens. However, little is known about the character of the planting although it could be expected that they featured herbaceous borders and seasonal floral displays as a typical practice of many nineteenth century parks in Melbourne. This boundary treatment was removed in the early decades of the twentieth century. By 1945 there is a row planting of trees in this position - thought to be the present Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*). No garden beds are evident either along the perimeter or in the location of the existing beds.



Figure 87 Floral display beds along the St Georges Road frontage

Anecdotal evidence makes reference to the presence of beds of Canna (*Canna sp.*) along the St Georges Road frontage. It is reported that these were grassed over by the 1960s.¹¹ It is not known whether the Canna beds were an earlier form of the existing beds or if the existing beds were established subsequently to replace the earlier Canna beds.

Description

Two rectangular display beds are situated in the lawns adjoining the St Georges Road frontage. They are aligned parallel to the boundary and are planted with sparse displays of Hydrangea (*Hydrangea sp.*) to poor effect.

Significance

The floral display beds along the St Georges Road frontage are considered to be intrusive. The beds are poor reminders of earlier forms of display beds which historically ran along the boundary. The existing beds are not consistent with either of the two dominant forms which appear to have characterised the nineteenth century garden bed displays. They are neither continuous beds lining a pathway, nor are they the round circle form which was used as a discrete feature in selected locations, eg the north-east Elm circle and the Queen Victoria Shrub Bed. The present beds are poorly planted and small in scale rendering them to appear 'lost' in their present context, and without appreciable impact.

4.2.17 Rotunda Lawn Shrub Beds



Figure 88 Rotunda Lawn shrub beds

History

The history of the garden beds in this area would appear to parallel the history of those located along the St Georges Road frontage. The nineteenth century garden layout featured only long scalloped garden beds along the St. Georges Road frontage as indicated on the 1905 plan of the Gardens.

This boundary treatment was removed in the early decades of the twentieth century. By 1945 there is some tree planting along the boundary thought to be the present Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*). No garden beds are evident either along the perimeter or in the location of the existing beds within the Rotunda Lawn.

However, the 1966 aerial photograph clearly shows the central shrub bed with its distinctive concrete edging and rounded ends. The two matching beds, that now exist on either side of the original bed, (although aligned at right angles to it), are not evident at this time and may have been added later.

Anecdotal evidence makes reference to the presence of beds of Canna (*Canna sp.*) along the St Georges Road frontage. It is reported that they were grassed over by the 1960s.¹² It is not known whether the Canna beds were located in this locality as an earlier form of the existing beds or whether the latter were established subsequently to replace the earlier Canna beds.

Description

Three shrub beds are located in the Rotunda Lawn along the St Georges Road frontage. The central bed is oriented parallel to the boundary and is flanked at either end by two beds of similar size which are aligned at right angles to the central bed. All beds are edged with a concrete mowing strip and are rounded at each end. Planting consists of an eclectic mixture of

shrubs which includes ornamental fruit trees such as Pomegranate (*Punica sp.*), Cherry (*Prunus sp.*), and Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) mixed with Camellia, Azalea and Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*). The effect tends to the disorderly.

Significance

The shrub beds located in the Rotunda Lawn are considered to be intrusive. The beds are poor and much reduced descendants of earlier forms of display bed which historically ran along the boundary. The existing beds are not consistent with either of the two dominant forms which appear to have characterised the nineteenth century garden bed displays in Edinburgh Gardens. They are neither continuous beds lining a pathway, nor are they the round circle form that was used as a discrete feature in selected locations, eg north-east Elm circle and the Queen Victoria Shrub Bed. The present beds are poorly planted and lack impact.

4.2.18 Conifer Shrub Bed

History

The first evidence of a garden bed in this location is the 1945 aerial photograph which shows a circular bed in a lawn setting. The circle feature is again clearly evident in the 1966 aerial photograph although it appears to be more formally defined with sharp edges which may correspond either to walling, or to a narrow perimeter path.

The date of the present construction has not been established but is thought to be the late 1960s or 1970s based on the style of the raised bluestone planter box.

Description

A large raised garden bed is situated in the north-east of the Gardens just south of the nearby Elm Circle. The garden bed is circular and in this regard reflects a form which is characteristic of much of the nineteenth century ornamental planting in the Gardens.



Figure 89 Conifer shrub bed

The bed is approximately 10 metres in diameter. It is constructed of bluestone pitchers and is surrounded by a concrete mowing strip. The bed is planted with a mix of dwarf conifers which Swanson considered out-of-keeping with the surroundings and of the wrong scale for a public park.¹³

Significance

The bed is not considered significant. However, the planting is intrusive and represents an anomalous element which does not harmonise with the scale or character of the setting.

4.2.19 Rowe Street Entrance Beds

History

The earliest evidence found of the existence of the two circular garden beds flanking the Rowe Street entrance is the 1966 aerial photo. They did not exist when the 1945 aerial was taken and must have been built in their present form sometime after this date.

Description

Two circular garden beds are constructed either side of the Rowe Street entrance. The beds are approximately 5 metres in diameter and are edged with a raised concrete kerb which is cracking. They are well setback from the main path and are small in scale. Consequently, they lack impact. The beds are planted with *Convolvulus* (*Convolvulus cneorum*) and are undistinguished.

Significance

The beds are considered to be intrusive as poor quality planting displays of an inappropriate scale and siting.



Figure 90 Rowe Street entrance beds

4.2.20 Shrub beds to Tennis Club and former Ladies Bowling Club Site

History

The diagonal path north of the present tennis courts was constructed between 1887 and 1900. A MMBW Plan (50) depicting the layout in 1900 shows a boundary roughly parallel to, but setback from, this path, separating the Gardens from the area now occupied by the tennis courts and the grandstand pavilion. The same configuration is reflected in the 1905 plan with the addition of an avenue of trees along the abutting diagonal path.

A Fitzroy Council letter to the Lands Department written in April 1938¹⁴ refers to the ‘floral decorative strip along the pathway north of the (tennis) playing arenas from the Brunswick Street entrance eastwards...which could not be continued to the end of the courts as desired because of these trees’, which seem to have been removed at this time. The floral strip is thought to have occupied the setback area between the tennis court boundary and the path, although it appears to have been reduced in width by 1945 to accommodate a northward extension to the tennis courts. The existing shrub beds roughly accord with the remnant area of the floral strip north of the tennis courts.

Swanson states that floral bedding was a feature of the Gardens until the late 1970s.

There is nothing to indicate that shrub beds existed along the southern boundary of the former Ladies Bowling Club site prior to its construction in 1948.

Description

The beds are mass planted with *Agapanthus* (*Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis*) and are likely to be a replanting carried out in the late 1970s when floral bedding was generally discontinued.

Significance

The shrub beds to the Tennis Club and former Ladies Bowling Club site are not significant.



Figure 91 Shrub Beds next to the Tennis Club

4.2.21 W T Peterson Community Oval – Former Fitzroy Cricket Ground

History

A sports ground has existed on the site since 1863 when the Prince of Wales Cricket Club was given permission to occupy the area. Permission to extend the ground was given in 1882 to accommodate football matches of the Fitzroy Football Club which was officially formed the following year. The grounds were enlarged again in 1934 when they were extended east, necessitating the removal of an avenue of Elms (*Ulmus sp*).

The Fitzroy Football Club vacated the grounds in 1967 and the facilities were neglected over the following decade. In the 1980s a major programme of restoration was carried out which included renovation of the oval, and regrading of the surrounding earth banks and tree planting. The oval continues to be used for local cricket and football activities.

Description

The sports oval contains a cricket pitch and is surrounded by a low chain mesh fence and brick spoon drain. A path runs along the outer perimeter of the fence between the oval and the surrounding earth embankments. The oval is in very good condition.

Significance

The W T Peterson Community Oval – Former Fitzroy Cricket Ground is of primary significance as one of the earliest elements remaining from the establishment of Edinburgh Gardens. It is also of social and cultural significance as the site of the former Fitzroy Football Club and was the focus of a major aspect of local community sporting life for nearly a century. The presence of the earth banks and oval fence is of contributory significance as elements which have been part of the historic oval form, although the existing fabric is of recent origin and not significant. The path surrounding the oval is not significant.

4.2.22 Alfred Crescent (Schools) Sports Oval

History

The 1905 plan indicates two circular elements in this section of the Gardens. They are believed to be the ornamental pond and the ‘mound’ which were features of the early Gardens layout. Path access is shown to and around the pond a with an irregular path running west of the mound. The boundary path along Alfred Crescent is also extant at this time. The 1945 aerial photograph shows advanced tree canopies in a circle formation around the ornamental pond



Figure 92 Peterson Community Oval

leading to a well developed avenue to the south-west. Other trees are scattered through the lawns in this vicinity. South-west of the path west of the mound, however, tree planting is much more limited.

By 1938 the path along Alfred Crescent had been removed and grassed over. In 1945 the Council proposed that the south-east area of the Gardens be cleared and developed for two ovals and a single storey pavilion. Local citizens opposed the initiative because it entailed the loss of a number of trees and the 'mound'. The proposal was modified to a single small playing field which was constructed in the late 1940s south-west of the serpentine path. Despite this compromise, the ornamental pond, the southern half of the circle of trees surrounding it, the adjoining avenue planting and the mound had all been removed by 1966. The area was redeveloped in the early 1980s as an enlarged sports oval.

Description

A sports oval occupies the south-east of the Edinburgh Gardens. It contains a cricket pitch and is graded to a shallow swale around the perimeter. It is set within a broader area of turf which is defined by surrounding avenue plantings and Alfred Crescent, and accommodates a children's playground to the south.

Significance

The Alfred Crescent school sports oval is not significant. It is of recent origin and was not part of the early layout and design for Edinburgh Gardens.



Figure 93 Alfred Crescent Sports Oval

4.2.23 Former Railway Siding and National Can Site

History

The site was excised from the Gardens in 1888 for a station and railway line which connected to the inner circle line between Clifton Hill and Royal Park. After traffic on the Inner Circle line declined, passenger services to Fitzroy were withdrawn in May 1892. The Fitzroy branch line instead became a major goods route, making coal deliveries for the Metropolitan Gas Company's gas works on the south side of Queens Parade, as well as transporting other inward and outward goods for nearby timber yards, contractors and factories. In 1954 the National Can Company was established on the former rail siding site.

The development of the land for industrial purposes is clearly shown in the 1966 aerial photograph with extensive building over a large portion of the site. The rail continued to be used for the movement of goods until 1981, after which it was decommissioned.

The National Can Company continued to operate on the site until 1996 when the land was returned to the Gardens and redeveloped as parkland by the City of Yarra Council.

Description

The site consists of a large open space which has been graded and turfed. The space is well-defined to the east and west by avenue planting, the cricket ground and tennis courts, and the Elm row. The northern boundary is marked by the offset lines of Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*). The southern boundary is poorly defined. It presently adjoins vacant land which is the subject of a residential development proposal by the Office of Housing.

Within the space there is no tree planting and as a consequence the elevated position affords stunning views south to the City. There is a deep depression at the northern end of this area where a pit is situated. The removal of the industrial uses has also exposed the visual



Figure 94 *Former Railway Sidings*

prominence of the Centenary Pavilion which formerly backed onto the industrial site and was less intrusive.

Significance

The large open space which now comprises the former railway siding and National Can site is not significant. It has recently been reclaimed from industrial use after more than a century of being excised from the Gardens Reserve.

4.2.24 Soccer Practice Ground opposite the Primary School

History

The 1905 plan shows this area as open parkland with a row of trees along Alfred Crescent and another, roughly parallel to the south. In 1925 the City of Fitzroy approved the construction of a children's playground opposite the primary school in Alfred Crescent. However, there is no evidence of the feature in the 1945 aerial photograph suggesting it had been removed by this date, although a playground facility appears to be located north of the depot in the 1966 aerial photo.

It is uncertain when the existing soccer practice field was established but it appears to be of relatively recent origin associated with use of the Gardens by the Primary School.

Description

The soccer field is a small practice area with goal posts at either end. There are extensive wear patches in the turf.

Significance

The soccer practice ground is not significant. It is of recent origin and is consistent with an apparently long history of active children's play in this section of the Gardens.



Figure 95 Soccer pitch

4.2.25 Log

History

The history of the log has not been established. Broad scale clearing of mature tree plantings was carried out in this vicinity in the mid-twentieth century when the ornamental pond and the southern half of its circle of trees was removed along with other trees. The log may be the remnant of one of these trees. Alternatively, it may be a specimen tree which died sometime later. Anecdotal evidence by residents suggests a date in the early 1970s.

Description

A large log is located south of the English Oak avenue on the northern side of the Alfred Crescent oval.

Significance

The significance of the log is unknown.



Figure 96 The log

5.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 Assessment Criteria and Methodology

The significance of the Edinburgh Gardens has been assessed against the criteria used by the Australian Heritage Commission and that used by the Victorian Heritage Council. In assessing significance, the methodology used by Dr Jim Kerr has been referenced.¹

5.2 Comparative Analysis

5.2.1 The Origins of Public Gardens

Parks for public use began appearing in England in the nineteenth century and were designed to provide ‘breathing spaces and recreation grounds for the people’.² It was generally believed that there was a strong need for green spaces, particularly in industrial towns. Initially, however, these were funded through patronage rather than by the government. In 1843, Birkenhead Park was established outside Liverpool in the hope that ‘the congestion and drudgery of factories and docks would in some measure be offset by an open place reflecting country-type scenery’.³ The movement caught on and a year later the first government-funded London park was laid out. By this time the trend towards the reserve of public parkland had already reached Australia, which had the advantage that it was able to incorporate parks and gardens into its newly developing cities.⁴ Industrialists’ concerns for the health and happiness of their workers was shown in the development of the ‘Garden Villages’ (1879) of Bourneville by the Cadbury Brothers, and also of Port Sunlight (1887), near Liverpool by the Lever Brothers. This principle was developed further by Ebenezer Howard in his ‘Garden Cities’ proposal of 1898, whereby it was concluded that public parks should be developed within towns which included ample recreation grounds within easy access of all the people.⁵

5.2.2 Public Gardens in Inner Melbourne

The idea of such public gardens were embraced by the founders of Melbourne who frequently made provision for public reserves when laying out patterns of subdivision and urban development.⁶ In 1844 the Melbourne Town Council wrote to Charles La Trobe that

It is of vital importance to the health of the inhabitants there should be parks within a distance of the town ... in such places of public resort the kindest feelings of human nature are cherished, there the employer sees his faithful servant discharging the higher duties of a Burgess, as a husband or a father.⁷

The most obvious manifestation of this in the metropolitan area is the magnificent ring of gardens which encircle the City of Melbourne. These gardens, the Domain and the Alexandra, Carlton, Fitzroy, Treasury and Flagstaff Gardens, were laid out by the leading landscape and urban designers of the time, the latter four by Clement Hodgkinson.⁸ To varying degrees the gardens have retained the qualities of their original designs, which for the most part are characterised by strong avenue plantings.⁹

Initially it was thought that the indigenous trees were the most suitable, and available, for planting in public gardens. The Victorian Gardeners’ Mutual Improvement Society decided, in 1860, that ‘very many of the native trees of Victoria are peculiarly adapted for park planting, and should be used as far as possible’.¹⁰ Ultimately, it was the deciduous trees brought out from England – elms, poplars and oaks – which were favoured in the belief that parks ‘should be planted on the principles of park planting known and practised in Britain as far as those are applicable to our climate and circumstances’.¹¹ Therefore, although it was common to introduce large areas of native vegetation, it was rare for areas of indigenous trees to be retained.

Examples of this style of landscaping can be found at Royal Park, Wattle Park and also at Alma Park.

Nineteenth century 'pleasure gardens' developed as another type, but were less common. One example of a 'pleasure garden' is the Cremorne Gardens in Richmond. These gardens, founded by James Ellis of the gardens of the same name in London, were bought by entrepreneur, George Coppin in 1856. The gardens closed in 1963, but previously were:

pleasure gardens, consisting of 4 hectares of ornamental planting among which were set out attractions that included a theatre, menageries, artificial lake, maze, pavilion for dancing, fountains, grottoes and bowling alleys.¹²

The trend towards pockets of public gardens continued into the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries as the development of the public health movement in Victoria brought renewed concerns for 'fresh air' and improved methods of sanitation. Public recreational space was increased in Melbourne's inner suburbs where unhealthy industrial practices and overcrowded streets, were feared by public health professionals and government policy makers.¹³ Parks were seen as the 'lungs' of the inner suburbs and were therefore an essential component of the town layout.

Parks, gardens and squares also proliferated throughout the next ring of Melbourne suburbs during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Suburban parks included those named Carlton, Princes and Royal Parks; squares included University, Lincoln, Argyle, Murchison, Macarthur and Curtain; and gardens included those named South Yarra (Fawkner Park), Prahran (Victoria Gardens), St Kilda East (Alma Park). Additionally, gardens and parks in other suburbs included St Kilda (Catani Gardens and St Kilda Botanical Gardens), Albert Park (St Vincent Gardens), Elwood (Elsternwick Park), Hawthorn (St James Park and Central Gardens), Malvern (Central Park, Malvern Public Gardens) and Caulfield (Caulfield Park). With the exception of Fawkner Park, and possibly Caulfield Park, the Edinburgh Gardens are the largest in this group of suburban parks and gardens. They are also one of the earliest established gardens in Melbourne.

5.2.3 Park & Garden Recreation Facilities

From the inception of the urban park in nineteenth century Australian cities, public spaces accommodated both passive and active recreation, a movement which was being paralleled throughout the western world. One of the earliest English examples, the 'People's Park' in Birkenhead, included 'an open field of clean, bright, green-sward, closely mowed' for the playing of cricket, as well as an archery ground.¹⁴ The attractions were immediately popular and were adopted enthusiastically, with the exception of botanical gardens, which remained the preserve of the genteel, despite often being set aside as a 'botanic garden and recreation reserve'.

By 1900 the expanding suburbs of Australian cities saw much park building and it became standard practice to outfit each park with recreational facilities of some type.¹⁵ Not only were there facilities for sport and active recreation, but for more passive pursuits such as open-air concerts and kiosks. The straightening of the Yarra River near Princes Bridge and the creation of the Alexandra Gardens and parklands, enabled the establishment of paths for walking, cycling and horse riding, as well as facilities for rowing.

As a consequence of the new-found zeal for amateur sport, many municipal ovals and sporting facilities were established throughout Melbourne at the turn of the nineteenth century, and combined facilities for cricket and football, and also accommodated lawn bowls, croquet, tennis, fives and golf. Elwood's Elsternwick Park was one such place which served active and passive pursuits, evolving from a swampy marsh containing a horseracing track to a grassy

pleasure ground in 1905 with tennis courts, bowling green, golf course, athletics track and cricket oval complete with grandstand.

Some sports have always tended to be primarily participatory, rather than spectator events, while others have drawn substantial crowds. In the case of the latter, spectators appear to have been accommodated from an early date, though grandstands of any magnitude did not appear until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. There are, nevertheless, a large number of spectator facilities of architectural merit scattered throughout the suburbs and wider Victoria. In Melbourne, Richmond's Punt Road oval dates from 1856 and it is believed the grandstand is based on the old 'Smoker's Stand' from the MCG (rebuilt 1920s).¹⁶ There is little left of the early stands which surrounded the Carlton Oval, located in Princes Park, in 1897. The former Lakeside Oval cricket pavilion (1926, Clegg & Morrow), South Melbourne exists, though it now forms part of the Bob Jane Stadium of the South Melbourne Soccer Club. These larger city and suburban structures usually comprised extensive clubrooms and changing facilities beneath an impressive, elevated grandstand. They often featured ornate cast iron columns, friezes and balustrades or timber fretwork detail.

Grandstands at municipal and agricultural society showgrounds throughout Victoria also follow the general typology of sporting facility grandstands. Modest late nineteenth and early twentieth century examples can be found in many of Victoria's country towns such as Kingston (1902), Shepparton (1902) and Benalla (1913).

5.2.4 Major Melbourne Parks

Carlton Gardens

The Carlton Gardens were originally laid out by Edward La Trobe Bateman in the late 1850s and were modified by Clement Hodgkinson in 1873. His plan for the gardens shows:

- a central fountain
- a large pond with an island in the north-west corner
- four paths radiating out from the central fountain
- paths curving around the garden, carving it into many portions
- clumps of larger trees grouped along the paths
- smaller trees scattered in the open grassland
- one straight path along Moor Street with an encircled star creating a central decorative feature
- no statues

The Carlton Gardens were fundamentally changed in 1879 by the construction of the Royal Exhibition Building and annexes in the northern section, leaving a garden area approximately two thirds the size of the original. The path system surviving from that time is in the southern section and is predominantly retained and the integrity of the mature planting is high. Notwithstanding, it is now difficult to establish how much, if any, of the remaining design is Hodgkinson's.

Fitzroy Gardens

The Fitzroy Gardens were also initially designed in 1857 by Edward La Trobe Bateman.¹⁷ In the *Picturesque Atlas of Australia* (1886) Andrew Garran described the square in 1860 as 'an unenclosed and dreary waste, destitute of herbage, and sparsely sprinkled with aged gum trees'. He credited Hodgkinson with the transformation of the gardens.¹⁸ Garden historian, Peter

Watts, however, argues the popular opinion that this transformation was, in fact, due to the first curator, James Sinclair, who arrived at the gardens in 1858.¹⁹ Historian, Georgina Whitehead, debates this view, claiming Hodgkinson was the principal designer. She states:

The reason for this [misconception] can perhaps be found in Sinclair's allegedly celebrated gardening career in Europe, his publication of the *Gardener's Magazine* soon after his arrival in Melbourne in 1854, and his descendants belief that he was the designer ... From the 1890s to the 1990s the management of Melbourne's gardens have been predisposed to let Hodgkinson's name drop from sight.²⁰

The true identity of the designer of these gardens is yet to be resolved. Hodgkinson's plan for the Fitzroy Gardens included:

- a garden divided by a central path from Albert Street to Wellington Parade
- a complex system of secondary paths leading in from the 13 boundary entrances
- a creek running parallel to the west side of the path
- fountains and fish ponds etc placed within circular paths around the perimeter of the garden
- statues placed on paths around interior of the garden
- a small pond near in south-east corner of the garden
- other random water features placed around the garden

The existing path layout of the Fitzroy Gardens predominantly follows Hodgkinson's design. The entrances have been maintained, with additional minor entrances on the Lansdowne and Albert Street boundaries. The River God and Grey Street Fountains are the only surviving 'statues' from the 1863 design – the remaining statues and follies were added in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The woodland gully still runs through the centre of the Gardens and this theme has also been implemented around the lake, north-east of the gully.

Flagstaff Gardens

Hodgkinson utilised many of the ideas from the Fitzroy Gardens in the 1862 design for the Flagstaff Hill Reserve.

His plan for the reserve on the steep Flagstaff Hill, included:

- various fountains and statues as well as a drinking fountain placed at the top of hill, centrally on the King Street boundary
- paths radiating from the top of hill to corner entrances and to the central William Street boundary
- a combination of rows of trees lining paths and clumps of trees
- statues placed on path junctions and also randomly throughout reserve

Fundamental changes were made to the Gardens after John Guilfoyle was installed as curator in 1890. These changes included the thinning out of existing vegetation, and the addition of beds and borders of flowers, a Rosary, palms and herbaceous borders. Changes in style occurred again when J T Smith was appointed curator in the early 1920s. He constructed a pond, erected a new gardener's cottage and used infill to create a mound separating the garden from La Trobe Street. The old statues were removed and new ones installed.²¹

Little remains of Hodgkinson's design for the reserve. The path system has been significantly altered and most of the trees have been removed. A number of buildings and sporting facilities have been added and the feel of the park is no longer that of a lush forest of trees. No statues or

fountains from the period survive and it is difficult to establish how the Gardens would have looked after Hodgkinson completed his design.

Treasury Gardens

Hodgkinson designed the Treasury Gardens in 1867, three years after the completion of the Fitzroy Gardens.

The original design included:

- a central decorative feature
- six paths radiating straight out from the central feature
- linking paths curving around the border
- avenues created by tree lined paths
- trees scattered throughout the reserve
- central clumps of trees/garden beds within each segment created by the paths
- a pond with two islands in larger northern segment
- no statues

The Gardens were largely changed by William Guilfoyle when he was curator. Guilfoyle created a 'Japanese' lake with willows, azaleas, bamboo, flowering cherries and iris, a tea house and ornamental bridge.²²

The Treasury Gardens lost a third of its area when the Treasury buildings were constructed. The dominant geometric Hodgkinson layout, however, was mostly retained. Six paths run from the entrances of the site to a central point. Only two of the meandering outer paths remain but the plantings bordering these can be made out. One central path has deviated from its initial line and is not framed by trees as can be found in the other avenues. Of the six planned landscape features, only the pond remains. No other decorative features survive.

Conclusion

When viewed in the context of the major public gardens which are located in inner Melbourne, the Edinburgh Gardens are comparable in scale to the larger gardens, such as the Carlton and Fitzroy Gardens. While the Edinburgh Gardens were formed at a slightly later date than the major Melbourne gardens, they nevertheless demonstrate a similar *raison d'être*; a reservation for the provision of public open space for recreational purpose. Unlike the major Melbourne gardens, the Edinburgh Gardens included sporting facilities from the nineteenth century and in this regard is not dissimilar to Yarra Park. Whereas the Melbourne gardens all derive significance from an association with a notable designer, only the basic shape of the Edinburgh Gardens can be attributed to a designer, i.e. Hodgkinson. However, the Edinburgh Gardens do display some similar characteristics to the work of Hodgkinson and other nineteenth garden designers, such as strong avenue planting, internal vistas, radiating paths, ornamental features and significant historic structures.

5.2.4 The City of Yarra Context

The City of Yarra is relatively lacking in planned garden spaces, in particular those dating from the nineteenth century. With the exception of the Edinburgh Gardens and the nearby Darling Gardens, the remaining 'open urban spaces' located in Fitzroy are either linear river or bicycle path parks and incidental parkland. The suburb of Richmond is less well off, with one public oval and the Burnley Gardens, whereas Collingwood is almost devoid of planned green open

spaces, other than for the recent Collingwood Town Hall park, as a result of its inherent and traditionally industrial nature.

Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill

The following is a summary of information provided in *Darling Gardens: Cultural Significance and Conservation Policies* prepared by Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty Ltd in association with Context Pty Ltd in 1993.

The site of the Darling Gardens (15 acres, 3 roods and 4 perches) was temporarily reserved for use as a public garden in June 1863. This area excluded the four 'ornamental' roads located at each corner of the site.²³ Clement Hodgkinson had been appointed honorary Consulting Engineer to the municipalities of East Collingwood, Emerald Hill, Prahran and Richmond in April 1856 and it has been suggested that the reservation and early planning of the Darling Gardens was either influenced or prepared by him.²⁴

It was not until 1864 that the name 'Darling Gardens' was used, possibly to commemorate the Governor of Victoria (1863-1866), Charles Henry Darling. The other commemorative square in his name was Darling Square in East Melbourne. The temporary reservation was ultimately made permanent in November 1866, at which time the stated purpose of the reserve was amended to include recreation.²⁵ Interestingly, when the area was permanently reserved from sale in 1874 the purpose of the site was stated as 'Public Recreation purposes' with no mention of a garden at all.²⁶ By 1864 the East Collingwood Council was in receipt of seeds from Dr Ferdinand Mueller, and in 1865 Mueller had selected plantings for the reserve and trenching was completed. Major planting did not occur, however, until the 1880s. Though the trenching had been carried out and the inner oval reserve had been fenced in 1868, tenders for grazing leases were called as late as 1876.

A Crown Grant was issued in 1878, in the names of the Board of Land and Works and Collingwood Council jointly, to 'provide a site for public Gardens at Collingwood for the recreation of our subjects and people'.²⁷ Following this move the outer reserves were fenced and a major planting campaign was undertaken formalising the garden proper. By the late nineteenth century the Gardens included verdant lawns, garden beds and fish ponds and what ensued was a great community facility, heavily patronised by the surrounding residents. The large inner oval was the scene of plenty of sporting activity and recreation and bands were performing in 1898, a use which was formalised soon after by the construction of a rotunda in the centre of the Gardens (Figure 97). The Darling Gardens soon became the 'natural location of festivities in Clifton Hill'.²⁸

Permanent sporting pitches and grounds were discouraged when proposed in 1903 and during 1905 the Darling Gardens Committee decided to beautify the Gardens and banish cricket, football, and other organised sports to Victoria Park and Mayor's Park. The inner reserve was then developed to roughly its present form. By 1921 the reserve contained numerous paths including one from each corner to the central rotunda and a formalised desire line cutting the western half from south-east to north-west. This later path was mirrored in a second 'track' in the eastern half of the garden by 1930. By this time there was also children's play equipment in the western half of the Gardens and the semi-circular path around the eastern half of the reserve had been removed.

The planning and design of Darling Gardens was very clearly modelled on nineteenth century English urban squares. In Melbourne these were emulated in the 1850s and '60s throughout Carlton, East Melbourne and the St Vincent's Gardens, South Melbourne. The role of entertainment during this early period was largely confined to private institutions such as Richmond's Cremorne Gardens (see below) and residential squares were generally limited to more passive recreation.²⁹ It has been suggested that the Darling Gardens drew on the traditions of both residential squares and municipal parks.

Park and squares such as Lincoln and Argyle Squares in Carlton. The earlier path layout of the Darling Gardens has been largely removed, though it is demonstrated by remaining planting and basalt edging. .



Figure 97 *Darling Gardens, 1906*
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 98 *Darling Gardens, 1912*
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

The avenues of elm trees are the principal feature of the Darling Gardens and are a small-scale version of this fine Victorian garden device, keenly adopted throughout a number of Melbourne's parks and gardens. While they were not implemented until the turn of the century, the strong diagonal paths were a feature of mid-Victorian era parks such as the Fitzroy, Treasury and Carlton Gardens.

There are several other public parks and gardens in the suburbs of Clifton Hill, Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond, though none are comparable to the Edinburgh Gardens. Mayor's Park, Clifton Hill has been largely stripped of its nineteenth century planning and planting. It is used heavily for sporting activities and contains the Collingwood Leisure Centre, Clifton Hill Tennis Club and large amounts of car parking. Victoria Park focuses around the former Collingwood Football oval and related sporting activities. A small garden, Raines Reserve, exists at the intersection of Heidelberg Road and Queens Parade, though there are only remnants of the formerly well maintained garden. Gahan Reserve to the east of the Collingwood Railway Station is a small, largely open space containing mature palm trees and an early infant welfare centre. The various reserves along the Merri Creek and Yarra River have all been developed relatively recently on former industrial land and display nothing of the planning, scale or character of the Edinburgh Gardens.

Barkly Gardens, Burnley

Barkly Square as it was originally known, was developed on the site of a filled-in quarry. It first appears on an 1865 Lands Department survey map by J Noone. Barkly Square was planted with avenues of trees along a geometrical pattern of gravel paths and contained beds featuring specimen trees. At the turn of the century, crowds of thousands were attracted to the band recitals held in its rotunda on Sundays. During World War Two, when air raids on industrial Richmond were feared, slit trenches were dug in the park. The Barkly Gardens, as it is now known, was never returned to its former state. Additionally, some of the avenue planting was removed to accommodate a children's playground and maintenance building.

The Barkly Gardens are Richmond, and the City of Yarra's, only example of a nineteenth century residential garden square. Derived from London models which were relatively rare in Melbourne, they are historically comparable with Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, and examples in Carlton and East Melbourne.

Cremorne Gardens, Cremorne (demolished)

Colonial architect, Henry Ginn, purchased a Crown allotment on the river flats at Richmond in 1846, where he constructed a large villa surrounded by extensive gardens. The property, bounded by Cremorne Street, Balmain Street, Cremorne Place and the river, was sold to James Ellis in 1853 when it became the Cremorne Gardens Pleasure Garden, based on contemporary English pleasure gardens in landscaped settings. It was then purchased by actors Brooke & Coppin in 1856, sold and adapted as a private lunatic asylum in 1863, and eventually sold to Thomas Bent in 1884 when it was subdivided.³⁰

Conclusion

Given its large size, relative integrity, historic, aesthetic and social values, the Edinburgh Gardens can be considered the 'jewel in the crown' of the City of Yarra's public gardens. Albeit of a much smaller scale, the Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill, is the only other public garden in the municipality which displays a similarly high level of cultural significance.

5.3 Edinburgh Gardens – Historical and Social Significance

Since their inception, the Edinburgh Gardens have provided a major recreation facility to the residents of Fitzroy, demonstrating a pattern of urban development espoused by Clement

Hodgkinson, the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Lands and Survey. Hodgkinson controlled the initial planning and siting of this reserve as well as a number of parks and gardens surrounding the City of Melbourne. Public gardens, developed expressly for the free enjoyment and recreation of all members of society, and which had only just developed in England at the time of European settlement of Australia, was a concept embraced by Superintendent, Charles Joseph La Trobe. Their popular use in nineteenth century town planning in Victoria, and Melbourne in particular, was due to the perception that they not only improved living conditions and public health, but provided places where all levels of society could mix.

The densely populated and highly industrialised nature of the inner suburbs such as Richmond, Collingwood, Abbotsford, North and South Fitzroy in the nineteenth century dictated that there was very little room for either private or public recreation. The reservation of the Edinburgh Gardens and nearby Darling Gardens illustrates the philosophy of public recreation space so keenly taken up in other areas of the city, yet relatively rare in the suburbs which make up the present day City of Yarra. The open ‘lungs’ of the city soon became highly valued to the surrounding residents.

The area surrounding the Edinburgh Gardens has a wide range of 19th and early 20th century buildings, many of which remain largely intact. It contains some of the most substantial residential buildings in the municipality, many of which are located in Alfred Crescent, seen in the 1880s and 1890s as a desirable address, especially for councillors and land speculators. The landscape character of many streets surrounding the Edinburgh Gardens, themselves a focus of the Precinct, is notable.

It is of added significance that, unlike the Melbourne City Council’s major parks and gardens which formed the green belt around the city, the Edinburgh Gardens were soon occupied by numerous formalised sporting facilities and grounds including two cricket clubs, a bowling club and football club. The addition of a tennis club followed shortly after, continued the focus in the south western quadrant of the reserve for active recreation. The Fitzroy Football Club became a social and cultural focus for broad sections of the community, particularly in the first half of the twentieth century when the economic restrictions of the depression and war made it the focus of working class entertainment and spirit of endurance. A number of the remaining and introduced features such as the oval and its surrounds, grandstand, bowling clubs and tennis club demonstrate this ongoing and significant community use. The installation of more modern sporting recreation facilities, such as the bocce club, reflect the ongoing importance of the Gardens as a meeting place for the broad cultural groups which reside in the surrounding suburbs. While the later facilities are of no historical cultural value, they are facilities which retain strong social importance for their users.

While the southern section of the Edinburgh Gardens was absorbed by sporting facilities, the northern section was developed for more passive recreational use. A large number of its elements demonstrate popular nineteenth century garden planning, including the surviving path network and avenues. Although a number of unsympathetic additions, and the removal of features, have occurred in more recent times, the predominant character reflects the Gardens’ early origins.

The Edinburgh Gardens are of added significance as they no longer retain their railway line that intruded into the Gardens’ space for nearly 100 years.

Three of the structures in the Edinburgh Gardens are of significance in their own right as they demonstrate particular historical events and associations, albeit none of which are particularly related to the Gardens.

The memorial to Queen Victoria, erected in 1902, demonstrates the popular regard held for the monarch, a sentiment widely reflected around Australia, and throughout the Empire, following

her death. While the statue itself has been removed (believed to be missing), the plinth, garden bed and surrounding path system are remaining elements relating to the monument. Of added significance is the naming of the Gardens after Queen Victoria's eldest son, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh. The naming of the Gardens and the installation of the statue is testimony to our Anglo-Saxon cultural roots.

In 1919 the first war memorial was erected in the Gardens in the form of a concrete arbour, constructed by the various sporting clubs to commemorate their members who fell during World War I. The arbour, holding memorial value for the broader community, also has specific significance in connection with the sporting associations and clubs located within the Gardens.

The second memorial in the Edinburgh Gardens, a bandstand rotunda, was built in 1925 by the City of Fitzroy. These structures are fairly common in either the broader context of garden structures (arbours and rotundas) or Australian war memorials (rotundas), however they are the only examples within the City of Yarra. The arbour, while a familiar garden structure, is possibly less common in Victoria as a type of War memorial. A comprehensive State-wide survey, *War Memorials of Victoria*, carried out in 1994, does not identify any other examples of this type.³¹

The Edinburgh Gardens also has the curious distinction of being the only known major nineteenth century pleasure garden in Melbourne to have had its integrity entirely compromised for over a century by the excision of the railway land through its centre in the late 1880s and subsequent industrial development. That such actions could have occurred at all reflects the social and political priorities of the era. It may also reflect the traditional working class make-up of the suburb as it is difficult to imagine such an action being tolerated in other premier parks and gardens.

5.4 Edinburgh Gardens – Aesthetic Significance

While it is known that the renowned Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Clement Hodgkinson, played a role in the initial establishment of the reserve, no known evidence survives which links the Edinburgh Gardens to any other significant landscape designers or horticulturalists. The survey of the reserve in 1883 to establish trenching and paths is signed by J M Reed, presumably Joseph Martin Reed (1857-1932) who joined the Victorian Lands Department as district surveyor in the 1880s, before going on to become surveyor-general from 1899-1914 and to carry out numerous other roles within the upper ranks of the public service.³²

Like a number of other Melbourne gardens, the path system which was designed for the gardens formalises general pedestrian desire lines to create long straight path alignments and intersecting diagonal routes, rather than a path network of any particular aesthetic style. Comparative examples can be found in the Fitzroy, Treasury and Carlton Gardens ringing the central City area, and Fawkner and Yarra Parks in nearby southern suburbs. The majority of the remaining path layout dates from 1883-4 and demonstrates the earliest planned design for the Gardens.

Of additional significance is the largely circular form, its aesthetic characteristics and the relationship of the Gardens with the surrounding Alfred Crescent streetscape. While a number of Melbourne's parks and gardens are flanked by intact nineteenth century streetscapes, the circular planning of the Gardens and adjoining Crescent are rare in Melbourne and the broader Victorian context. Other known examples are limited to St Vincent Gardens in Albert Park, where the Gardens provide a pleasant outlook and sense of theatre to a stately curving line of high quality nineteenth century terraces. This relationship is demonstrated on a much larger, if less grand, scale with the Edinburgh Gardens than the more intimate St Vincent Gardens.

Interestingly, the aesthetic style of the Edinburgh Gardens does not conform to either of the two prevailing garden styles which were the major influences for the design of many of Melbourne's nineteenth century gardens. It does not incorporate the meandering serpentine layout of the 'picturesque' influences inherited from the eighteenth century English Landscape tradition, as demonstrated in the Royal Botanic Gardens and parts of the Domain. Nor does it demonstrate the 'gardenesque' influences of the nineteenth century which featured a diversity of plants and foliage displayed for their intrinsic interest and botanical curiosity. This latter style was characterised by shrub beds featuring textural contrast, and lawns dotted with a variety of specimen trees as demonstrated in the Royal Botanic Gardens, The Domain and to some extent the planting of the Fitzroy Gardens. In stark contrast, the Edinburgh Gardens is distinctive because of its limited planting palette with its almost exclusive reliance on a single taxon, Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) for its avenues, and small number of taxa overall. Historically, it did have some 'gardenesque' elements with the scalloped garden bed and the Queen Victoria memorial shrub beds, however these have since been lost. The Edinburgh Gardens possibly has more in common with the formality of layout and simplicity of planting palette found in many French formal gardens.

The unusual perimeter row planting of the *Brachychiton* species is a rare-known use of the species as such a feature in Victoria. Such planting demonstrates a major shift in aesthetic preferences which occurred between the end of the nineteenth century and the inter-War years. It was a time when strong Nationalistic sentiment was expressed in the selection of Australian ornamental species over exotic European trees as the basis for garden planting palettes.

Several other factors contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the Edinburgh Gardens. These include the nineteenth century character of the northern half of the reserve, mature avenues of elms, a small number of significant specimen trees, views and vistas, the oval and the large 'oasis' of green parkland in the built up inner city location. Features such as the grandstand, brick gatehouse, memorial arbour, band rotunda, drinking fountain, and intimacy of the surrounds of the Queen Victoria memorial garden also add to the valuable aesthetic qualities of the place.

Conclusion

In summary, the Edinburgh Gardens have pleasant aesthetic qualities which make them a valuable open space within the City of Yarra and inner suburban Melbourne. They have retained a strong nineteenth century character exhibited in their layout, plantings, memorials and recreational facilities which have endured, notwithstanding later phases of development. This is perhaps its greatest strength.

5.5 Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The area later known as the Edinburgh Gardens was set aside as a temporary public reserve in 1862. Soon after the reservation was gazetted, the first of the sporting organizations to become associated with the place, the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club was given occupancy, establishing a tradition of organised sport within the Gardens which continues today. Around 1872 the reserve acquired its name, commemorating Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh. The balance of the Gardens was not immediately laid out or cultivated, and grazing of the land continued until the early 1880s. While the various sporting clubs had already made improvements to their respective areas, the Fitzroy Council was not appointed as managers of the Gardens until 1878. In 1882 the Gardens were permanently reserved and in 1883 a formal layout, trenching and tree planting commenced to the straightforward design of Joseph Martin Reed, Victorian Lands Department district surveyor. In 1888 the Gardens were divided by an

excision of land through the centre for construction of the Fitzroy spur line of the Inner Circle Railway. The Gardens continued to be redeveloped to various degrees throughout the twentieth century with the addition of further sporting, ornamental and memorial structures and plantings.

The Edinburgh Gardens retains most of its earliest path system as well as a number of subsequent additions. It also retains avenues of mature elms, together with other specimen trees and significant twentieth century examples of rare perimeter planting. A substantial number of significant nineteenth and early twentieth century structures and buildings survive within the Gardens.

How is it Significant?

The Edinburgh Gardens are of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Yarra.

Why is it Significant?

The Edinburgh Gardens are historically and socially significant. Their development from 1862 reflects the desires of the former Fitzroy Council to establish an extensive area for public recreation for its constituents, a concept which began to materialise as early as 1859. They demonstrate a common trend at the time in Melbourne's developing suburbs, whereby public open space and recreation were promoted and highly-prized as a relief from the densely populated and unhealthy inner suburban context. Deputy Commissioner of the Lands Department, Clement Hodgkinson was a leading figure in the planning of Melbourne's early parks and gardens and although his association is limited, it was under his direction that the reserve took its present form and location. The relationship of the Gardens with their surrounding streets demonstrates an approach to town planning which differs quite markedly from the nearby suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood.

The unusual circular form of the Edinburgh Gardens and the surrounding Alfred Crescent are a relatively rare combination in Victoria. The Gardens' shape, chosen in 1862, reflects, more than anything, the availability of land in that area, and the restrictions of the boundary of the Reilly Street Drain, later St George's Road. The precinct contains a wide range of 19th and 20th century buildings, many of which remain substantially intact. Alfred Crescent also contains some of the most substantial buildings in the municipality. The Gardens remain a central focus of the area.

The continuous 140-year history of the public reservation is displayed in its planning and physical fabric. While the formal path network was not laid out until the early 1880s, the long and continuous use of the south-western section of the Gardens for active recreation is demonstrated in its numerous sporting facilities; most notably, the use of the Gardens for cricket. From its earliest months, organised cricket clubs were given occupancy of the site, and from 1872 the southern (present) oval became the focus. Similarly, bowling facilities were established in 1877, football in 1882 and tennis in 1888.

The character of the more formalised nineteenth century pleasure garden dates from 1883, when the major path network and avenue plantings were established. The majority of these features survive, while a small number of paths were added in the early twentieth century and later. Conversely, a small number of paths and associated features have been removed and together, these changes demonstrate subsequent phases of development and approaches to curatorial change. The Gardens are of additional historical interest in the initial use of almost only one taxon, Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), for avenues and specimen trees, a rare characteristic for a nineteenth century public garden of this scale. Further, the use of the Australian native *Brachychiton* species as a row planting is also rare. It demonstrates a major shift in aesthetic preferences between the end of the nineteenth century and the inter-War period, when a more nationalistic sentiment was evident in the selection of planting palettes. The remnant railway and evidence of its alignment is also of some significance. Although largely removed, it

demonstrates a distinct use of the site from the 1880s and reflects social and political priorities of the era which inspired and allowed such an action.

A number of early structures are significant in their own right. The 1888 grandstand is of historical significance as possibly the oldest and most intact nineteenth century grandstand in the metropolitan area and because of its enduring association with inner metropolitan football and cricket. With the oval, it stands as important evidence of the contribution made by Fitzroy to the history of Australian Rules Football in Victoria. The remnant of the originally prominently-sited, former Queen Victoria memorial (1902) demonstrates public sentiment and respect for the popular monarch's reign throughout the Empire, and is of historical and social significance. The significance of the 1919 War memorial arbour is twofold – as a relatively rare form of War memorial; and because of its association with the sporting clubs located in the Gardens. The 1925 band rotunda and D J Chandler drinking fountain also have historical and associational significance as memorials.

The Edinburgh Gardens are aesthetically significant. They derive their aesthetic significance from their landmark qualities of a large expanse of green within the built-up inner suburbs and their avenue network of mature plantings which impart delightful internal vistas on the space. The focal points of a small number of garden structures also combine to provide an enduring nineteenth century character. The Edinburgh Gardens are unusual as an example of a nineteenth century garden which cannot be characterised into typical Victorian styles of garden design such as the picturesque or gardenesque. The Gardens are the most outstanding example, and one of only two formal nineteenth century gardens, in the former City of Fitzroy and present City of Yarra.

Established for over 140 years, the Edinburgh Gardens are of social significance because of their enduring focus of community use and high regard in which they are held. The Gardens' continuing social importance and popularity is heightened by its accessibility and provision of passive and active recreational facilities within a dense urban setting and provision for community interaction.

5.5 Applicable Criteria

HV A The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

ie. Its links with the early planning of Melbourne, and Fitzroy in particular.

AHC A3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of cultural landscapes or features.

ie. The unusual combination of traditional nineteenth century exotic European planting taxa with the use of Australian ornamental species.

ie Its unusual circular form and relationship with the surrounding Alfred Crescent streetscape, an unusual planning form in Melbourne.

AHC A4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of Victoria.

ie. The ability to demonstrate the cultural phase of providing for recreation and public well-being via public gardens.

ie As an early example of accommodating sport and more active pursuits within public gardens.

- ie. *The ability to demonstrate the stylistic phase of using exotic European taxa, common to late nineteenth century design and planting in Victorian gardens.*
 - ie. *The numerous memorials to events and individuals located throughout the Gardens including the two War memorials and the Queen Victoria Memorial.*
- AHC H1** Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of Victoria.
- ie. *Its association with the Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Clement Hodgkinson.*
- HV D** The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.
- AHC D2** Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Victorian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).
- ie. *As one of a very small group of Victorian-era formal garden reserves in the City of Yarra established and run under municipal control for public recreation.*
 - ie. *Its distinctive features such as avenue and boundary plantings, paths, oval, grandstand, pavilions, band rotunda, drinking fountain, memorial arbour and statues.*
- HV E** The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.
- AHC E1** Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.
- ie. *As a rare example of a public garden with a largely circular form, enhanced by its strong relationship with the surrounding and highly intact Alfred Crescent streetscape.*
 - ie. *Its treasured nineteenth and early twentieth century character, its 'landmark' values as a large expanse of green amongst the built up inner city suburban context and valued historic features.*
- HV G** The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.
- AHC G1** Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, education, educational, or social associations.
- ie. *As a focus for the local community's passive and active recreation for over 140 years.*
 - ie. *Its association with the Fitzroy Cricket and Football Clubs and their successors, namely the Brisbane Lions.*

6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Introduction

The following conservation policy has been developed on the basis of the preceding assessment of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens as set out in the Statement of Significance. The intention of the conservation policy is to provide direction and guidelines for the conservation and adaptation of the significant areas and elements within the Gardens, and the appropriate development of the site as a collective entity while retaining and maintaining its heritage values. To this end, this chapter should be read in the context of the broader *Edinburgh Gardens Master Plan*. The conservation policy includes both general and specific policies applying to the significant spaces, elements and buildings / structures.

6.2 Basis of Approach

6.2.1 Statement of Policy

The conservation policy has been developed to achieve a series of identifiable conservation-related objectives and includes policies applying generally to the site, and to significant elements within it. Having regard to the assessed significance of the place, the policies are framed to:

- €# maintain a sense of the history of the site, as one of only two nineteenth century garden reserves in the City of Fitzroy;
- €# retain a sense of the nineteenth century planning and layout of the Gardens and of the fabric relating to this early phase in its history;
- €# retain and conserve elements identified in the conservation analysis as being of primary and contributory significance;
- €# maintain the Edinburgh Gardens as a place of passive recreation and social interaction; and
- €# allow for well-considered change which melds with, rather than obliterates its attributes and nineteenth / early twentieth century character.

6.3 Levels of Significance

In the development of the conservation policy, consideration has been given to the levels of significance of the different elements within the Gardens. Three levels of significance have been assigned to the various components of the site: primary, contributory, and little or no significance in addition to elements which have been identified as intrusive. Establishing such a hierarchy indicates where there is greater or lesser scope for adaptation and alteration of any given element without diminishing the overall significance of the place.

6.3.1 Elements of Primary Significance

Elements of primary significance are those which contribute in a fundamental way to an understanding of the cultural significance of the place as it exists. They may be predominantly intact in form and fabric, and/or are particularly demonstrative of the original design or functional concept with regard to form or fabric. As such, they should be retained and, if altered, then it should be done with minimal impact on significant fabric.

Elements of primary significance include:

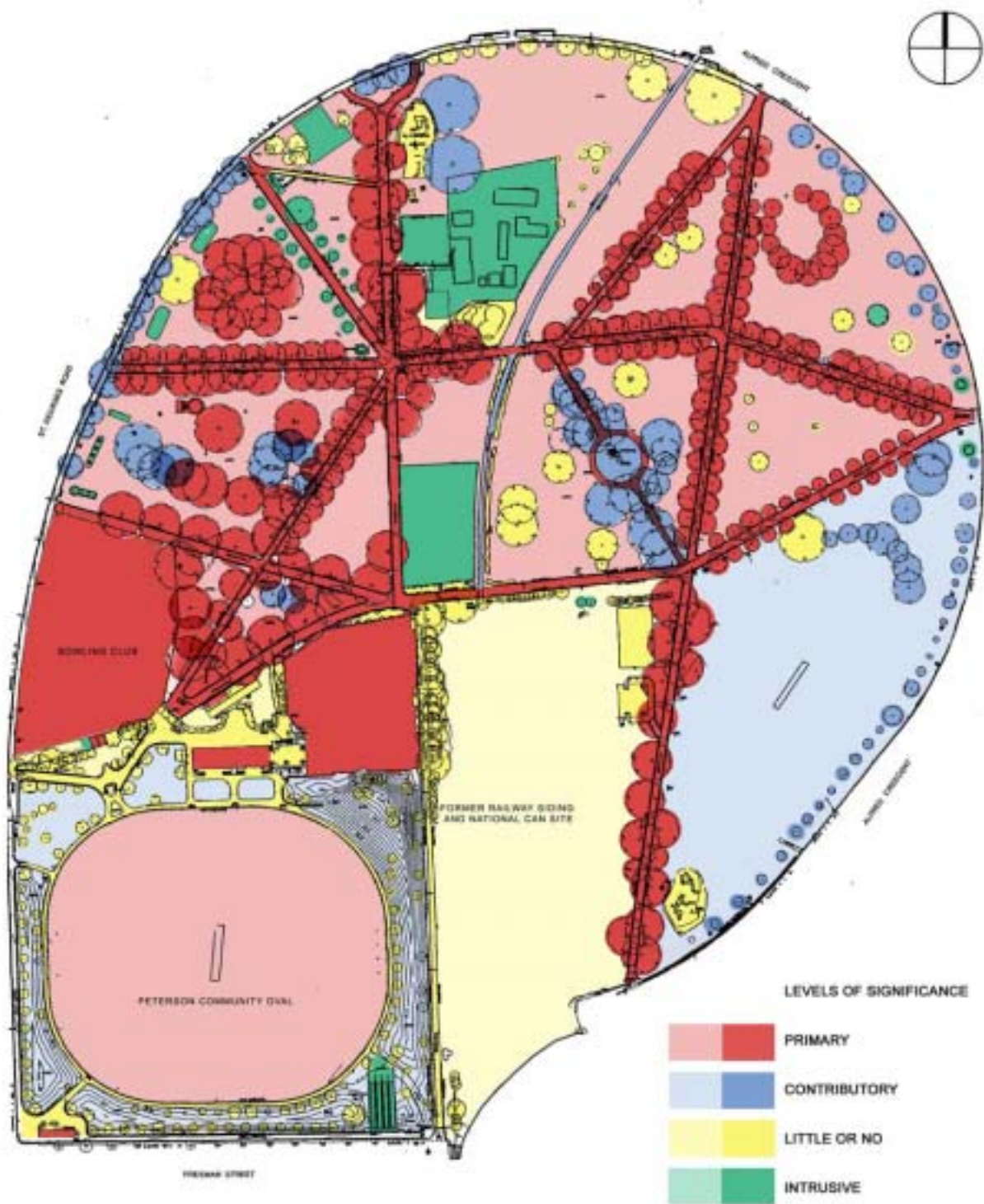


Figure 99 Hierarchy of significance within the Edinburgh Gardens, hard landscape, buildings and soft landscape

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Hard Landscaping and Buildings

- £# Grandstand
- £# Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse
- £# Timber Entrance Pavilion
- £# Tennis Club Pavilion and courts (excluding fabric of courts)
- £# Fitzroy Bowling Club (excluding fabric)
- £# War Memorial Arbour
- £# Chandler Drinking Fountain
- £# Pedestal of the Queen Victoria Statue
- £# Rotunda
- £# Cast iron gas lamp standards
- £# Nineteenth century cast iron bollards
- £# Principal nineteenth century path layout and remnant basalt edging (limited to layout but not path surface or recent edging materials)

Soft Landscaping

- £# Peterson Oval (former Fitzroy Cricket Ground)
- £# Major Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) avenues and rows throughout the gardens
- £# English Oak Avenue (*Quercus robur*) opposite Rowe Street
- £# Dutch Elm circle (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in north-east quadrant of gardens
- £# Dutch Elm circle (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in north-west quadrant of gardens
- £# Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) specimen trees in the rotunda lawn

6.3.2 Elements of Contributory Significance

Elements of contributory significance are those which were of a secondary or supportive nature in the understanding of the cultural significance of the Gardens as it exists. While they contribute to the overall significance of the complex, they are not of individual distinction with regard to original plan form, fabric or function.

Elements of contributory significance should be retained although there may be scope for alteration and adaptation.

Elements of contributory significance include:

Hard Landscaping and Buildings

- £# Remnant railway track and path following former railway line (limited to track and alignment only, but not path surface or construction materials)

Soft Landscaping

- £# Kurrajong Row (*Brachychiton populneus*) – St Georges Road vicinity
- £# Desert Ash Row (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) – Alfred Crescent

- ## Kurrajong and Illawarra Flame Tree Row (*Brachychiton populneus* and *B. acerifolia*) – Alfred Crescent
- ## Elm Row (*Ulmus x hollandica*) – Alfred Crescent South [limited to the avenue alignment but not the actual trees – see 6.3.3]
- ## Dutch Elm arc (*Ulmus x hollandica*) north end of Alfred Crescent sports area
- ## River Red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) opposite primary school
- ## Queen Victoria shrub bed to the extent of the layout but not the remnant planting

6.3.3 Elements of Little or No Significance

Elements of little or no significance include those which were originally minor in nature, contributing little to the cultural significance of the place, areas which have been so altered that they have lost any significance they might have otherwise had, or are of recent origins. Generally, they can be altered, adapted or removed as required.

Elements of little no significance include:

Hard Landscaping and Buildings

- ## Oval fence and surrounds
- ## Community Hall
- ## Tennis court fabric and later brick additions to club house
- ## Bocce courts
- ## Bowling Green, Club and Memorial Gates
- ## Centenary Pavilion
- ## Skate park
- ## North and south playgrounds
- ## Basketball court
- ## Path alignment surrounding grandstand and clubhouse
- ## Open bluestone drain
- ## Sundry elements including non-original lighting, non-original bollards, seating, bins, signage, power poles and electrical sub-board enclosures
- ## Bluestone retaining wall to Alfred Crescent
- ## Captain Cook Memorial
- ## Pedestrian shelter
- ## Asphalt paving surface to paths and bluestone pitched path edges, kerbs and gutters

Soft Landscaping

- ## Dutch elm row (*Ulmus x hollandica*) – Alfred Crescent South [limited to the actual trees – see 6.3.2 for the significance of their alignment]
- ## Dutch elm row east of tennis courts (*Ulmus x hollandica*)
- ## Sweet pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) row north of basketball court

- £# Peterson Oval perimeter planting of Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Red Oak (*Q. rubra*)
- £# Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedge along former railway line
- £# Queen Victoria shrub bed to the extent of the planting
- £# Conifer Shrub Bed in the north-east quadrant of the Gardens [limited to the actual bed - see 6.3.4 for planting]
- £# Shrub beds around the Tennis and Ladies Bowling clubs
- £# Alfred Crescent sports oval
- £# Open space (former railway siding and National Can site)
- £# Soccer practise area opposite the primary school
- £# Log located on the northern side of the Alfred Crescent oval

6.3.4 Intrusive Elements

In contradistinction to the significant elements, are elements which are considered to be intrusive and which have a negative impact upon the property.

Intrusive elements include:

Hard Landscaping and Buildings

- £# Ladies Bowling Club and Green
- £# Emily Baker Infant Welfare Centre
- £# Former Gardener's Residence
- £# Former Nursery and Depot
- £# Public Toilets
- £# Cricket Practice Nets
- £# Shelter
- £# Substation

Soft Landscaping

- £# Purple Leafed Plum Avenue (*Prunus x blieriana*)
- £# Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) specimens north of basketball court
- £# Floral display beds along St Georges Road frontage
- £# Floral display beds in Rotunda Lawn
- £# Planting of the Conifer Shrub Bed in the north-east quadrant of the Gardens [see 6.3.3 for alignment]
- £# Rowe Street entrance beds

6.4 General Conservation Policies

The following general policies apply to the Edinburgh Gardens and are intended to provide an overall framework within which the specific policies for individual elements have been formulated (See policies at 6.5).

6.4.1 Significant Elements

1. *Those factors which have been identified in the statement of significance as contributing to significance should be considered in, and form the basis of, all future works.*

In undertaking any maintenance or conservation works or works to adapt the place to new uses, consideration should be given to the assessed significance of the place, including individual built and landscape elements and the impact of the works on that significance.

2. *All the future conservation and adaptation works which affect elements of significance should be carried out having regard for the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999.*

The guidelines contained in the *Burra Charter* should be used in determining the acceptability of any proposed works or adaptive uses. Specific conservation objectives should include the retention and enhancement of existing cultural heritage values, the retention of identity and its contribution to a sense of place, the retention of as much significant fabric and as many attributes as possible, restoration of significant fabric or elements and removal of intrusive accretions.

3. *Those elements identified as being of significance should be conserved in accordance with the specific conservation policies identified in this Conservation Plan.*

Specific conservation policies have been provided for elements of individual significance and these policies should be observed when works are undertaken. These policies allow for appropriate adaptive re-use and alteration of individual elements and spaces.

6.4.2 Use and Public Access

1. *Future use of the place should have regard for those factors which have been identified in the statement of significance as contributing to its significance and should not detract from the identified cultural significance of the place.*

Given that the Edinburgh Gardens is one of a small group of nineteenth century public gardens in the City of Yarra used for public and private recreation, it is fundamental to its cultural significance that its use for this purpose be continued. It should continue to be used primarily as the setting for sporting activities and public and private community gatherings and passive recreation in accord with its original *raison d'être*. Given the Garden's overall high level of significance, it is essential that only events which do not pose an unacceptable risk to significant fabric be permitted.

2. *The Edinburgh Gardens should be maintained as a place of passive recreation and social interaction. Accordingly, public access should be maintained at all times. Existing active recreation areas may be retained and a range of passive recreational uses and activities should be permitted within the Gardens. Activities which have potential to affect the fabric of the Gardens should be discouraged.*

Throughout its history, the Edinburgh Gardens has been a focus for the local community for both passive and active recreation and social interaction. The specific nature of the activities and experience of the Gardens has changed little over time and could continue to evolve, however, the principle of maintaining general public access and use is fundamental to the significance of the place and should continue.

Uses and activities which are permitted and encouraged within the broader Gardens area should generally be segregated as they are at present so as to avoid unacceptable pressure on the

sensitive physical fabric. The north and east sections of the Gardens allow for passive recreation such as walking, picnicking and other social activities, whereas the south-western area provides for more active sporting pursuits in the form of the long-established oval, bowling green and tennis courts and more recent activities such as bocce, skate boarding and basketball. Two children's playgrounds could be classed as active recreation but also allow for social interaction in the Gardens.

Should large public events take place in the Gardens, they should be monitored to ensure that the sensitive fabric of the Gardens is not affected.

6.4.3 Repairs and Maintenance

1. *All future repairs and maintenance should be carried out in a manner consistent with the assessed significance of the place and the conservation policy.*
2. *High standards of maintenance should be applied to lawns, shrubberies, display beds and public spaces.*

The approach should first be to maintain the Gardens and the site to ensure that the fabric does not deteriorate, and secondly to conserve significant existing fabric. To achieve this a cyclical inspection and maintenance programme should be instigated to ensure that the Gardens are kept in good physical condition and the fabric is not jeopardised. Such a programme should initially concentrate on areas of the Gardens which have been allowed to deteriorate, particularly the significant shrub and garden beds, memorials, paths and some lawn areas.

Significant fabric should be conserved in accordance with the principles of the *Burra Charter* and the conservation policies contained in this Conservation Plan. In particular, where existing fabric needs to be renewed, the replacement generally should match the original in design, materials, construction and species unless there are strong overriding functional reasons for altering the original concept and approach. Cutting down on regular maintenance should not be used to justify long term or permanent change. It would appear that the general run-down appearance of the Gardens is largely due to such cut-backs. If the original needs to be altered, then the new should match as closely as possible the original appearance and philosophy. Generally this means replacing significant elements with like and allowing for horticultural and arboricultural requirements, public safety and amenity.

This policy is intended to reinforce the original aesthetic qualities of the Gardens and to promote the Gardens as a place of relaxation, passive and active recreation and entertainment. Maintenance standards should be implemented which relate to lawn mowing heights and frequency, irrigation, leaf removal, rubbish collection and clearance of stormwater pits and drains. Particular attention should continue to be given to lawn repair or replacement after events. Shrubberies require renovation at regular intervals; works may include pruning, shaping, replacement of plants which are failing to thrive or which are horticulturally inappropriate.

Generally, day-to-day maintenance work can be carried out in accordance with the conservation policies without particular reference to a conservation specialist. However, major maintenance works or restoration works on significant items, should be undertaken with the advice of an appropriately qualified conservation practitioner, horticulturalist or arborist.

6.4.5 Adaptation and New Works

1. *Adaptation of and new works to significant elements should not detract from the overall cultural significance of the place.*

The conservation policies allow for adaptation of areas of primary significance. The primary conservation aim is the retention of their significance, and consequently, any adaptation should involve minimal physical alteration to significant fabric, should not substantially affect the Garden's fabric or spatial quality and should be sympathetic to its setting and surrounds. Changes which might be required should be made so as to avoid permanent intervention into areas and elements of primary significance and all changes and installations in these areas should be reversible when no longer required. Works in areas of contributory and no significance could be more extensive without substantial loss to the overall significance. In areas of contributory significance there is a preference for retaining original features as far as possible.

Further reference should be made to the Heritage Framework Plan (Figure 100) and the *Edinburgh Gardens Master Plan*, of which this CMP forms part, for an analysis of future works.

6.4.6 Fabric and Setting

Period of Significance

Future management of the Edinburgh Gardens should be undertaken having regard for the nineteenth century origins of the place, particularly relating to the period following the creation of a planned garden in the northern and eastern sections, but also for subsequent phases in its development.

One of the City of Yarra's oldest public gardens, the Edinburgh Gardens retains significant nineteenth and early twentieth century elements, including its largely intact path layout. The surviving nineteenth century formal avenues, specimen trees and remnants of shrubberies provide invaluable character to Yarra's 'jewel in the Crown'. However, in many other respects, the Gardens have changed from their nineteenth century appearance. Changes of the inter-War and early post-World War Two periods relate to curatorial approaches where funding and resources were limited, resulting in replacement of bedding displays by shrubberies, plus removal of shrubberies and bedding displays in favour of lawns. During the first quarter of the twentieth century a number of significant elements, such as the Queen Victoria statue, the memorial arbour and rotunda were also introduced to the Gardens. The construction of numerous other ancillary buildings, most of which have no direct relationship with the place, have also compromised the significant character of the place because of this layering in co-existence of significant element. Because of this layering or co-existence of significant elements it is not considered appropriate to approach the conservation and management of the Gardens by favouring one particular phase in its history over others. Rather, the approach should be one that seeks to conserve significant elements and features from a variety of periods in the history of the place and to remove others while allowing for some new elements.

In this context, in a general sense, it is not considered either necessary or appropriate to adopt a policy of reinstating the complete missing fabric from any particular period. The reconstruction of earlier treatments such as entire stretches of missing basalt path edging, is generally not considered to be a high priority, though such an action could be pursued if desired. However, the reconstruction/reinstatement of missing elements from a particular period, such as the Queen Victoria statue, or the replacement of an existing inappropriate setting, such as poorly maintained shrubberies around that statue, would demonstrably improve the presentation of significant elements as identified in the Conservation Analysis. In the same vein, reconstruction of elements such as the fountain, pond and some removed paths would also enhance the nineteenth century character of the place which is considered to be significant. In the case of the pond, reconstruction in its original position would conflict with use of the Alfred Crescent

playing field, an element highly valued by the community. Consideration could be given, therefore to introducing an interpretive water feature nearby which referenced the original in its scale and form. Refer to specific policies for guidance on individual elements.

Garden Envelope, Buildings and Structures

1. *All elements identified as being of primary significance in the Edinburgh Gardens should be retained and conserved or reinstated where missing.*

Landscape and built elements of primary significance have been identified as those which contribute in a fundamental way to an understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the Edinburgh Gardens, and these should be retained or reinstated as part of the ongoing management of the place.

2. *All elements identified as being of contributory significance should preferably be retained and conserved.*

Landscape and built elements of contributory significance make a lesser contribution to an understanding of the history and assessed significance of the Edinburgh Gardens. Their retention and conservation is strongly preferred.

3. *All elements identified as being of no significance could be retained or demolished as required.*

These elements do not contribute to, or detract from, an understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the Edinburgh Gardens as a whole and their retention is not required for heritage reasons.

6.4.7 Views and Vistas

Key views and vistas within the Gardens should be maintained.

While there are no major view or vista opportunities within the historic layout of the Gardens, numerous secondary vistas are obtained along the path and avenue system. These contribute to the significance of the place by enhancing the importance of the Gardens as a nineteenth century recreation reserve. In the future management of the Gardens, the maintenance and layout should maintain these vistas. No development should occur which would disrupt these views.

6.4.8 New Buildings and Elements

Any new buildings and elements should be carefully sited and be of an appropriately understated scale, form and design. Anything which has the potential to dominate the landscape of the Gardens should not be contemplated.

The Edinburgh Gardens is a landscape which provides a setting for a number of existing major and minor structures which impact on the Gardens in varying degrees. As identified, these vary in terms of their significance and contribution to the significance of the place as a whole. While it is conservation policy that buildings and structures of primary significance be retained and that those of contributory significance preferably be retained, others on the site - such as the former gardener's residence, works depot, Infant Welfare Centre, and Ladies Bowling Club - could be demolished if required as they are not key culturally significant elements, have served their purpose which is no longer required, are of a transitory nature and / or are ugly in their appearance and therefore detract from the values of the Gardens. In this context, the introduction of replacement buildings / facilities associated with the traditional operation and

use of the Gardens could be considered if required. It is also desirable that a number of existing functions be incorporated into a single, multi-functional, well designed facility to reduce the number of built elements and to increase the landscape area.

The following general considerations should also apply:

- ## Any new development should be carefully sited and be of an appropriately understated, sensitive scale and form.
- ## Good contemporary design should be preferred over period-style or reproduction architecture except where there is sufficient information to reconstruct the original.

6.4.9 Monuments, Memorial Structures, Memorabilia and Naming

1. *Any new monuments or memorials should be carefully sited and be of an appropriately understated scale, form and design. Introduction of such elements should be limited in number.*

At present, a small and relatively distributed collection of monuments and memorial structures exists throughout the Edinburgh Gardens. However, the Gardens have traditionally remained rather free of such elements and this approach should be continued. The rationale for any new monuments should be carefully considered and should include considerations such as: celebration of significant events, preferably local, personal associations with the Gardens or the sporting clubs, or prominent local citizens. Should it be necessary to place a new memorial element in the Gardens, it should be carefully designed to respond to an appropriate and precise setting. Such things as garden beds, trees, statutory, memorial seats and drinking fountains could be considered on their merits.

2. *Retain and maintain sporting and other memorabilia.*

Because of the long association of the cricket, football, bowling, football and tennis clubs with the Gardens it is essential that any memorabilia such as photographs, honour boards, trophies and the like should be retained, preferably within the Gardens. They could be retained in individual club houses or could be displayed in a collective sporting museum / interpretation centre which could be located in the Gardens such as in connection with the grandstand or community hall. It could be quite formal or could be associated with any bar or café facility which may be introduced. Security would need to be maintained.

3. *The naming, or renaming, of any elements should only be contemplated in exceptional circumstances.*

From time-to-time it may appear appropriate to rename a particular element, or indeed the Gardens, either because the relevance or significance of the original name has been forgotten, or because of a perceived political or commercial benefit. Memorials and commemorative naming are generally associated with a significant contribution made by someone in the past or with a prominent citizen(s) and are part of the social history of the Gardens. They should be respected and interpreted so that their relevance is revived in the public memory. Any future naming of unnamed elements should preferably be of local relevance rather than simply for commercial benefit as the Edinburgh Gardens is essentially a local park.

6.4.10 Parking

Parking should generally be confined to the surrounding streets other than for service vehicles engaged in activities associated with events or building works.

A small amount of parking is presently provided within the Gardens to the north of the former gardener's residence and to the north of the grandstand. The present use of these areas is not limited to official uses and motorists not familiar with the site generally may enter and exit at will. This is at odds with the primarily pedestrian nature of the Gardens and potentially causes a safety issue with the playground and barbeque areas to the north of the site in particular.

It is acknowledged that when large public events are held in the Gardens, there is inadequate parking in the immediate surrounding streets. In a small number of instances, the large open space on the site of the former railway siding and National Can site is used as overflow parking for major events, usually associated with the oval. While this is not a desirable permanent scenario, its occasional use is not inappropriate, given the negligible impact on significant areas of the Gardens.

It is recommended that no additional permanent carparking facilities be provided within the Gardens other than for disabled use. It is further recommended that the carpark adjoining the gardener's residence be removed or reduced in size to provide for a limited service area only. It is recommended that they be eliminated if the gardener's residence and depot precinct are removed. The use of the carpark behind the grandstand should similarly be restricted to limited official use only.

6.4.11 Provision for the Disabled

Maintain disabled access to the Edinburgh Gardens.

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the *Disability Discrimination Act* both require provision for the disabled. Access to and within the Gardens and the provision of facilities in accord with BCA D3 (Access for People with Disabilities) is recommended.

Presently the disabled can access the Gardens via all of the entries to the site. While the provision of disabled access to all parts of the Gardens may be laudable, it is considered that it may be impractical and unrealistic to alter areas which may contain gradients too steep, such as the mound north-east of the W J Peterson Oval, because of the considerable intervention on significant fabric which may occur as a result of the necessary levelling. This should not preclude minor works, such as the regrading of the small section of remnant path opposite Grant Street.

6.4.12 Signage

Any permanent signs should be sensitively scaled and sited and not be affixed to significant fabric.

The current system of signage comprises a number of discordant styles, is boldly designed, rather intrusively placed, is poorly maintained and includes what appear to be redundant signs. Any signage system should be unified in design and placement and should be well-designed. It may reflect the historic nature of the Gardens or could be quite contemporary and understated such as the standard signage used throughout the City of Melbourne's public gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Permanent banners located around the Gardens should be discouraged, although it is envisaged that appropriately designed decorative banners, in-part including corporate and /

or sponsors' logos, would be acceptable on special occasions and events or for strictly limited periods.

While advertising signage is typically affixed to the perimeter fence of sporting arenas, unless it is maintained, it generally becomes redundant and a visual eyesore. It is preferred that such signage is not erected around the various sporting areas.

Signage which provides details of club contacts and the like could be erected provided that it is well-designed and not larger than necessary to convey basic information. Depending upon location, free-standing signage, or a noticeboard, may be preferred to signage affixed to a structure.

6.4.13 Interpretation of the Gardens

Consider installation of interpretative displays which deal with the gardens and its historic context.

While the Edinburgh Gardens can tell its own story to a degree, it is recommended that a more extensive form of display / interpretation be provided. This could document the history and significance of the Gardens within the context of Melbourne as a Victorian city, and Fitzroy as a suburb, and other relevant themes such as cricket, football or railways.

At present there are four existing interpretative signs of relatively recent construction and a high standard of presentation within the Gardens. They are located at the grandstand, the rotunda, the Queen Victoria memorial and the D J Chandler fountain. None of the principal soft landscape features or individual trees are identified. In considering the form, a future interpretation plan might take, consideration could be given to the following:

- ## The placement of a sign detailing the basic history of the Edinburgh Gardens (date of establishment, designers, principal features - including pathways and avenues, major specimen trees, and other attractions) to be located at the main entry to the Gardens from Brunswick Street. Smaller versions could be located adjacent to the north, east and south entrances.
- ## Additional unobtrusive signage, in the style and type of the existing interpretive signs, should be installed to interpret specific areas and significant elements such as the Freeman Street gatehouse, bowling club, tennis club, and memorial arbour and a smaller version for more significant specimen trees, such as the those included on the National Trust *Significant Tree Register*.
- ## Development of a brochure providing more detailed information on the history, layout, and significant features of the Gardens. This brochure could be available from weather-proof pamphlet boxes at the major entries to the Gardens, or, should this prove impractical because of potential vandalism, they could be available from the City of Yarra's libraries and offices, and the City of Melbourne's Victorian Visitor Centre and Visitor Information Booths.

6.4.14 Pest Control

Establish a program of pest control.

The City of Yarra, as the responsible management authority for the Edinburgh Gardens, should continue to manage pest populations which threaten the historic elms and other significant trees. Known pests that forage on the trees include possums and Elm Leaf Beetle. Management includes trunk collars to discourage possums and chemical treatment or barriers to control or eradicate Elm Leaf Beetle. The cinnamon root fungus (*Cinnamomum phytophthora*) and fig psyllids represent other possible threats.

6.5 Specific Conservation Policies

6.5.1 Grandstand

- 1. Retain and conserve the Grandstand in its current location in conjunction with the Peterson Oval and its environs.*

The grandstand and the surrounding curtilage should not be obscured or detracted from by the construction or planting of elements which may reduce its significance as the principal feature of the oval environs. The grandstand should be maintained in its current good repair and regularly monitored for any deterioration of its fabric, including inspection for termite activity. For a guide to the recommended extent and frequency of inspections, refer to the information sheets which are published by Heritage Victoria: 'Maintenance Documentation', 'Inspection Schedule' and 'Preparing a Maintenance Plan', included in Appendix D.

- 2. Install and maintain fire detection and security lighting throughout the grandstand.*

While the grandstand is a highly visible element, personal and property safety and security is presently at risk. In the case of fire, it is recommended that an appropriate fire detection system be installed and monitored given its isolated location and the level of vandalism which seems to occur in the Gardens, it is recommended that hard wired smoke detectors or a monitored alarm be installed. In the case of security, it is recommended that security lighting be installed throughout the building and that the building is regularly patrolled.

- 3. Adapt and alter the area under the grandstand as required.*

The area under the grandstand has already been changed from the original and could be further changed to upgrade facilities as might be required. Care should be taken in with any changes which require alterations to the external fabric.

6.5.2 Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse

- 1. Retain and conserve the Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse to the extent of its original form and fabric.*

As one of a small group of surviving Edwardian sporting pavilions in Melbourne, and Yarra in particular, the Gatehouse is also one of only two surviving early structures associated with the Fitzroy Football Club. Externally, the building has undergone a number of relatively superficial alterations and additions which should be removed. Original elements, such as timber-framed windows and doors should preferably be reconstructed. Consideration could be given to adapting the interior spaces of the gatehouse to provide additional storage and/or administrative facilities for any of the organisations associated with the use of the oval. The gatehouse should be maintained and regularly monitored for any deterioration of its fabric and to ensure elements such as gutters and roofs are kept clear of litter. For a guide to the recommended extent and frequency of inspections, refer to the information sheets which are published by Heritage Victoria: 'Maintenance Documentation', 'Inspection Schedule' and 'Preparing a Maintenance Plan', included in Appendix D.

- 2. Maintain an appropriate setting for the Gatehouse which reflects and reinforces its assessed significance.*

At present the building has a direct relationship with the Peterson Oval and surrounds which should be maintained. The building should remain in its existing 'hard' landscaped setting, that is, not surrounded by shrub or planter beds. The building was originally flanked to the east and

west by a brick wall along the southern boundary of the site, which could be reconstructed if desired. Any reconstructive work should be based on documentary or photographic evidence.

6.5.3 Cricket Practice Nets

Retain or remove the cricket practice nets as required.

In their current position and condition the cricket nets conflict with some surrounding elements and are of no heritage significance. They do, however, provide a vital function to the operation of the Cricket Club. The nets should be maintained in good order and presentation if retained.

6.5.4 Timber Entrance Pavilion

Retain and maintain the timber entrance pavilion.

Although the present building is a reconstruction of the original and is of no historical significance intrinsic in the fabric, it provides necessary facilities and makes a positive contribution to the grandstand environs. Regular maintenance should be undertaken to ensure the facility remains in good condition, including painting and clearing of gutters and roof.

6.5.5 Community Hall

Retain or remove the community hall as required.

Of no historical significance, the community hall nevertheless provides a valuable facility to the local community. It can be maintained, upgraded or demolished as required. The site is convenient to the grandstand and, as such, also has the potential to provide dedicated clubhouse facilities for the cricket and football clubs, should the other community functions be relocated elsewhere in the future. This option would be preferable to constructing an additional clubhouse building within the Gardens and potentially would satisfy the demand from sporting clubs for a place to display memorabilia and have a bar, neither of which would be in conflict with heritage issues.

6.5.6 Tennis Club and Courts

1. *Retain or remove the tennis club facilities as required.*

The tennis courts and pavilion provide much used recreational facilities which have serviced the public since 1888. While the tennis pavilion appears to have been moved around the tennis club environs a number of times and the courts have been resurfaced, the facility continues one of the earliest uses of the Gardens for active recreation. Given the changes to the fabric of the courts and surrounds, it would be feasible to either retain and conserve the existing facilities in their present form, or to construct new courts and re-use the pavilion in the vicinity.

2. *Retain and conserve the tennis club pavilion to the extent of its early twentieth century form and fabric.*

As mentioned, the pavilion has been relocated within the tennis club vicinity a number of times and it would also appear to have undergone minor alterations. Further, detailed investigation should be carried out as to the existing extent and condition of original fabric which should be retained and conserved. The adjoining brick structure is of no significance and could be retained or removed as required.

6.5.7 Bocce Court

Retain or remove the bocce court facilities as required.

While the bocce court provides a recreational facility it is of no heritage significance. Having said that, it fits within the history of sporting facilities in the Gardens and in this concept is not inappropriate. If retained, it is recommended that the surrounds be improved and upgraded with more appropriate fencing and planting. The facility could also be relocated to other areas within the Gardens such as the former Ladies Bowling Club site.

6.5.8 Fitzroy Bowling Club and Green

1. *Retain or remove the Fitzroy Bowling Club facilities as required and maintain an appropriate setting.*

While a bowling club has occupied the site of the existing club since the earliest phase of development of the Gardens, the fabric of the club house and greens are of recent origin and, as such, are of no heritage significance. Accepting this, the club has a long history and attracts a reasonable number of members and users and preferably should be maintained for future generations. It is important that while the club is in situ it is maintained in good condition. To this end, the clubhouse and greens could be upgraded as required.

2. *Maintain an appropriate boundary treatment to the Bowling Club.*

The Bowling Club occupies a prime and conspicuous position between the two entrances from St Georges Road to the Gardens. The existing combination of recent chain mesh and steel fences presents a non-unified appearance which is at odds with the historic character of the Gardens and should be addressed. While it is not necessary to reconstruct an earlier fence or one of a historicist design, it could be considered if based on documentary evidence. It would also be appropriate to consider replacing the existing with a consistent contemporary design such as a steel palisade fence which would be more sympathetic and which would enable the Bowling Club site to be integrated into the Gardens. To this end a perimeter planting of mixed shrubbery would help soften the visual appearance of this interface.

6.5.9 War Memorial Arbour

1. *Retain and conserve the war memorial arbour.*

The arbour is of primary significance and should be retained and conserved. It is understood that a number of original decorative elements such as urns are held in storage by the City of Yarra. These pieces should be located, conserved and re-fixed in their original position. In addition, the previously removed chamfered ends of the beams should be reconstructed where possible.

2. *Maintain an appropriate setting for the arbour.*

The enlargement and rebuilding of the adjoining Bowling Club has severely degraded the setting of the arbour by building hard up against the structure. Similarly, the construction of a substation and road at the western end of the structure has diminished its setting to the point where it has lost any dignity it may have once had and has obscured the original path alignment which passed through it. Today it is hard to understand what dictated these locations. Now unfortunately, it is neither feasible, nor likely, that the Bowling Club would be reconfigured in the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is recommended that the substation be relocated to an alternative, less intrusive location such as the rear of the grandstand or elsewhere in proximity

to the Bowling Club. Consideration should also be given to improving the planting and path layout in the vicinity of the structure in order to improve its presentation.

6.5.10 D J Chandler Drinking Fountain

Retain and conserve the drinking fountain.

While the fountain is an element typically found throughout Melbourne's gardens and parks, it is a rare surviving example in the City of Yarra. Donated to the Gardens in 1920, it has local historical significance and should be retained and conserved. It is unknown if the fountain is located in its original position, however the association of its benefactor, D J Chandler, local councillor and former president of the Fitzroy Football Club, would suggest that its position, adjacent to the timber entrance pavilion to the football ground, is appropriate.

6.5.11 Rotunda

1. Retain and conserve the rotunda.

As a memorial and early structure in the Gardens, the rotunda has local historical significance. In addition, it is a picturesque element in the landscape and its significant fabric should be retained and conserved in its present, original location. Significant fabric includes the following elements:

~~£~~bluestone base, floor, columns, friezes and pediments

~~£~~steps and dwarf walls

~~£~~roof structure and copper cladding

2. Reverse unsympathetic alterations to the rotunda.

The base of the rotunda originally had a quarry-face stone finish which has been rendered over. The finish may be extremely difficult to remove completely without damaging the stone, but nevertheless should be investigated. A pair of non-original wrought iron gates has been installed at the base of the steps leading up to the rotunda and a woven wire gate has been installed in the side dwarf wall beneath the steps. Both elements are unsympathetic and should be removed. Should security be a problem, a more sympathetic iron gate could be designed for the side opening. Any new gate should incorporate inter-War styling and be painted in a dark, recessive colour.

3. Maintain an appropriate setting for the rotunda.

It would be desirable to re-create an appropriate setting for the rotunda. The structure is presently unfenced and in an open lawned setting. Early photographs of the area, however, indicate that the structure was securely fenced by a low cast iron palisade fence and gate and surrounded by planting consisting of perennials or annuals.

At this time, no active implementation policy is required for the management of the rotunda, however the re-creation of an appropriate setting and removal of unsympathetic elements should be considered.

6.5.12 Queen Victoria Statue

1. Retain and conserve the remnant plinth and reconstruct the statue.

The former Queen Victoria statue is one of the few statues ever introduced to the Gardens and is indicative of both turn of the century garden practice, public sentiment and the practice of