

**Wombalano, 176 Kooyong Road (entrance gates and fence only)**

1902: MMBW plan shows the garden layout, gateway, plan of house and house name Wombalano (MMBW 160' to the inch plan 387 (59))

This is a remnant of the mansion property shown on the 1902 MMBW plan. This was the residence of J M Bruce of merchants Patterson, Laing and Bruce. Tenders were called by Twentyman and Askew in the *Argus*, 13 June 1884, p 8, the interior decoration described in the *Argus*, 8 December 1885, p 8. (1) The exterior was illustrated in *Victoria and its Metropolis*, II, p 456 (see opposite). The vast garden, with many large trees and the mansion with a two storey balcony, is clearly shown in a 1925 aerial photograph of Toorak. (2) The gateways are sawn basalt with an elegant curved recess and comprise four principal piers with cappings also of sawn stone. The external piers have basalt balls surmounting them. The gates are of an elaborate and elegant wrought iron and cast iron composition with the side hinged stiles curved over at the top in an elegant scroll form. The design of the gates, as well as the gateway, is extremely refined and represents one of the most important and elegant surviving gateways of a mansion allotment in Toorak. It is enhanced by the mature trees which originally formed part of the garden of this property and are of a character and age associated with a nineteenth century garden.

The former gates and gateway of Wombalano are of regional significance for their elegance and craftsmanship as well as for providing a rare reminder of the many large mansion gardens once found in this area.

1 Information provided by Dr Miles Lewis in correspondence with the Malvern Historical Society Inc. dated 18 August 1992

2 *City of Prahran Annual Report 1925-1926*, p.66.

