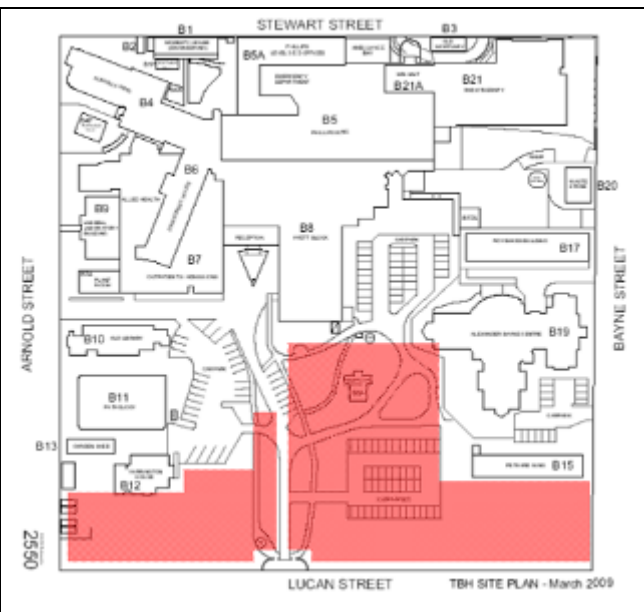


Landscape



Location: Lucan Street
Built: -
Designer: Probably Vahland & Getzschmann
Builder: Unknown





History:

Historic photographs show that the vegetation on the site has changed a number of times, but consistent elements are avenue plantings framing the main driveway and trees planted along the street boundaries. There appears to have always been a strong commitment to maintaining attractive gardens around the hospital buildings. This was most likely for the enjoyment of patients, visitors and staff and as a distraction from illness and grief - a place to seek solace.

The siting of the earliest hospital buildings towards the rear of the site was most likely master-planned by Vahland and Getzschmann. The siting of the symmetrical Central Block at the top of the hill and at the end of the straight driveway from the main entrance on Lucan Street, created an impressive image of the hospital complex. This approach would have been further enhanced by the avenue plantings on either side of the driveway. The large expanse of gardens in front of these buildings, when viewed from Lucan Street, would also have enhanced the picturesque qualities of the setting and increased the sense of separation from the general public.

Historic photographs show a variety of plants and trees, from willows to palms, which are no longer extant.

Despite extensive redevelopment across the site throughout the twentieth century, garden space has generally been retained for a depth of approximately 30 metres back from the Lucan Street boundary and either side of the driveway. However, the design of the Hyett Block, constructed in 1977, necessitated the re-alignment of the central driveway. The first half of the driveway from Lucan Street has been retained in its original location, but it then turns approximately 20 degrees to the west to lead towards the hospital's new reception.

Description:

The site is rectangular and slopes gently uphill from Lucan St toward Stewart Street. The front of the site, along Lucan Street, is well planted with a variety of mature trees and lawn areas. These trees include avenue plantings of sixteen oak trees lining the main driveway. These trees provide evidence of the original alignment of the driveway. Further trees in the open area adjacent to the Lucan Street boundary include Cypress, Liquid Amber, Ash and a Cork tree. Elsewhere on the site, planted near the street boundaries, are a wide variety of trees including a substantial Silver Birch near the Lansell Laboratory Building.

The expanse of lawn and plantings has been reduced in recent years by the expansion of the bitumen parking areas.

Cultural Heritage Significance

Historic Theme: Development of the Bendigo Hospital

Contributory significance to the major historic theme and to the site as the setting for the structures which defined the site's earliest history. Apart from the first half of the driveway, the original garden design is not intact and has been diminished by the construction of the Hyett Block and parking.



The landscaped grounds in front of the Central Block and Bowen Wing, 1880.
Source: Bendigo Health Records



Trees lining the central driveway and boundaries in c.1963.
Source: Bendigo Health Records