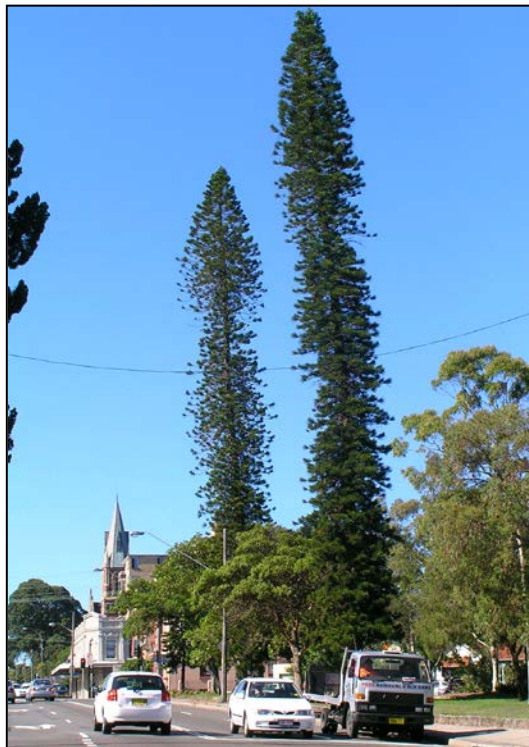


Register of Significant Trees

Volume 1 of 4

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves (Randwick City Council)

Significant trees under the control and management of
Randwick City Council



RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

PREPARED BY: LANDARC PTY LIMITED
Adopted: 28 August 2007

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

Adopted: 28 August 2007

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(Randwick City Council)**

Significant trees under the control and management of
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Acknowledgements

This Significant Tree Register was prepared by Noel Ruting, Director of LandArc Pty Limited over the period November 2005 to July 2006. I wish to thank the following people for their generosity, assistance and support in preparing this Register. The staff of Randwick City Council and in particular the efforts of Bryan Bourke, Council's Tree Management Officer, Lorraine Simpson (Heritage Officer), Steven Green (GIS Officer), Bettina Digby (Bush Regeneration) and Bowen Library staff, who were all extremely helpful and their input was much appreciated.

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Finally, I would like to thank all the nominees involved in the community consultation process and the owners of private properties who provided access and assistance in interpretation and evaluation of trees during the course of this study.

Executive Summary

A Significant Tree Register is inextricably linked to 'place' and heritage values. It is important to understand the way the community values its natural, Aboriginal and cultural heritage and how these values have been overlayed to create the existing landscape. This study reflects the processes, interactions and relationships which have shaped Randwick's cultural landscape character and its significant trees. It is a 'snapshot' of an ever-changing landscape as the 'subjects' of the study continue their dynamic cycle of growth, maturity, ageing, senescence and hopefully renewal for the benefit of the broader community and for future generations.

The purpose of this Significant Tree Register is to identify and recognise the importance of significant trees in the landscape, to guide their management and to ensure their protection for future generations. The Register forms part of a suite of strategic planning and management documents under *Randwick City Council's Tree Management Policies*. These documents provide the tools for improved tree management and planning in the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA) and include the following:-

- Street Tree Masterplan – complemented by Street Tree Identification Manual (Document 1);
- Tree Preservation Order (Document 2);
- Significant Tree Register (Document 3);
- Tree Technical Manual (Document 4).

The assessment methodology for determining significant trees is based on the criteria developed for the Register of the National Estate, in accordance with the Burra Charter. This is a nationally consistent approach to heritage identification and assessment and can be applied to all types of heritage places and items. A thorough physical examination of trees in relation to their natural occurrence or cultural history has been conducted and supported through extensive field work and examination of reports, photographs, archival material and oral evidence. The collected data has been evaluated on the basis of each tree's (or group of trees) contextual relationship to other similar trees (or groups) and relative importance in terms of the following criteria:-

- *historic and/or natural value* (ie. indigenous/cultivated origin)
- *botanic/scientific value*
- *social, cultural and commemorative value*
- *visual and aesthetic value*

The heritage values for each listed tree or group of trees has been encapsulated in a Statement of Significance which involves interpretation and analysis of comparative points of importance (eg. values including rarity, biodiversity, individual and/or group, landmark, representative and integrity, research, and social, cultural and spiritual associations). The criteria relate to both cultural and natural significance of an item and place. The heritage values of a significant tree or group of trees are almost always multi-layered.

During March-April 2006, public nominations for significant trees were invited by Randwick City Council through an advertising campaign in the local press, Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries and on Council's web-site. The original 4-week program was subsequently extended to receive nominations up to 1 May 2006. A total of 32 people, including members of local groups, provided nominations for individual trees and groups of trees in the Randwick LGA. All of these nominations were investigated and assessed and a Summary Report is tabled in the Appendices of this Register.

The scope of the study, as established in the Brief, specifically excluded the following areas which contain significant collections of natural, Aboriginal and cultural heritage but are under the control and management of other government departments and Trustees:-

- Centennial Parklands (Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust);
- Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar Headland (Department of Defence);
- Botany Bay National Park (NSW Department of Environment & Conservation).

Notably, many other government owned lands are included in this Register (refer to Volume 3 of the Register).

This Significant Tree Register has listed a total of 893 significant trees in the Randwick LGA (excluding the above areas) and for ease of reference has been divided into four (4) volumes as follows:

- **Volume 1:**
Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves (Randwick City Council)
(85 significant trees scheduled)
- **Volume 2:**
Significant Street Trees (Randwick City Council)
(155 significant trees scheduled)
- **Volume 3:**
Significant Trees: Other Government authorities, Institutional, Religious and Non-government Organisations
(523 significant trees scheduled)
- **Volume 4:**
Significant Trees under Private Ownership
(130 significant trees scheduled)

Note: All quantities shown are for scheduled items only. These figures do not include component/associate planting.

Each of these volumes has been further divided into precincts according to the Precinct Plans established under *Randwick City Council's Precinct Committees* (refer to *Figure 1: Key Precinct Map*). Listings are arranged in alphabetical order.

The planning and management of significant trees within a highly urbanised environment raises a number of issues. Many scheduled trees are of a similar age structure. Most of Randwick's significant trees were planted during the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century (Pre-War and Inter-War periods). Essentially, this means that many of these trees, particularly Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs, are rapidly approaching senescence. Rather than this being a long-term phase, the increased level of stress in our urban environment is effectively accelerating the processes of decline. Specific stress related and soil-borne diseases are also on the increase in many populations. Furthermore, these large specimen trees which have contributed greatly to Randwick's historic and cultural landscapes are no longer being planted in most locations. Often there is simply not enough space. In the absence of any staged recruitment for many decades, these ageing cultural landscapes are now in peril. It is important to develop a co-ordinated strategy to address these issues on an LGA-wide basis.

Randwick City Council currently facilitates the protection of most public and private trees through the Tree Preservation Order 2005. A Schedule of Exempt Species identifies undesirable and nuisance species which are not included under Council's Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Furthermore, trees declared as noxious species under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* are also excluded from the TPO. The question, however, is whether the TPO provides adequate protection for significant trees.

Scheduling of significant trees under the provisions of Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) establishes clear recognition of heritage values and facilitates improved protection, particularly with respect to development. For this reason, **all** scheduled trees (including individuals and groups) in the Register of Significant Trees will be listed as heritage items (trees) in Council's comprehensive Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Of particular importance is the scheduling of trees assessed as significant at the LGA and/or REGIONAL level (ie. excluding LOCAL level listings).

It is important to recognise that the Register of Significant Trees is not a static document and should be subject to ongoing review. For example, significant trees which have been scheduled as heritage items in an LEP can be reviewed like other heritage listings (eg. built heritage). Recommendations can be made for continued listing or removal according to any heritage assessment review.

In April 2014 the following trees or groups of trees were listed on the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Trust Register:

- Remnant population of Woody Pear trees – Purcell Park, Matraville
- White Walnut tree - 45 Wansey Road, Randwick
- Maroubra Junction Silver Date palms - Haig Street, Maroubra

The Trust Register lists those buildings, sites, areas and items which, in the Trust's opinion, fall within the following definition:

"Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as the present community."

Listing by the National Trust does not have any legal force but it is recognised as an authoritative statement of the historical, architectural importance or other value of a building, site, item or area and by listing such items in its Register, the Trust advises the public of the value of Australia's national heritage.

The enhanced status of significant trees should be used to promote broader community awareness and to highlight Council's commitment to the protection of these trees and their contextual landscapes. In this exercise, it is important to emphasise to the community the significance of "place" – not simply recognition of the listed item(s) but an understanding of the value of the trees within the landscape.

These initiatives, which will be promoted by Council as part of an ongoing community based exercise, will ensure ongoing media coverage, website information, community involvement, opportunities for further nominations and review, and education in appropriate conservation strategies.

The study also identifies a large number of remnant native specimen trees which have been fragmented and isolated by development. These individual specimens and small populations usually occur within highly modified habitat. In many instances, they occur in association with native understorey components of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, items which are not within the scope of this study.

The assessment and management of these individuals and/or remnant populations are specifically dealt with as part of Council's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Randwick City Council local government area (LGA) covers an area of approximately 36.43 square kilometres. The Randwick LGA is bounded by the Pacific Ocean (east) and Botany Bay (south) and the local government areas of Waverley, Woollahra, City of Sydney and City of Botany Bay in the north and west. Randwick LGA includes the suburbs of Randwick, Clovelly, Coogee, South Coogee, Kensington, Kingsford, Maroubra, Malabar, Matraville, Chifley, Port Botany, Phillip Bay, Little Bay and La Perouse.

In 1788 this area was covered by a vast, uninterrupted mosaic of vegetation which included estuarine and freshwater wetlands, heathland/scrub and woodlands on the coastal dunes and sandstone platforms (*Benson, D., and Howell, J., 1994, p.685/1990, pp.94-97*). Small areas of sandstone gully forest may also have occurred within parts of Coogee. The dominant vegetation growing on the nutrient poor, aeolian dune sand would have consisted of a distinctive sclerophyllous heath or scrub community. The scattered remnants of this once extensive community are now described as the *Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub* (*Dept. of Environment & Conservation (NSW), 2006*). The journals of both Banks and Cook mentioned 'a small bare island' (later known as Bare Island, La Perouse) as being one of the first places of contact between Europeans and the local Gweagal and Kameygal Aboriginal groups (*NSW State Heritage Register – Bare Island Fort*).

The sparse Aboriginal population was dependent on the continuity and management of limited resources. European settlement disrupted and totally transformed this existence. In the same year of settlement by Phillip in Port Jackson there was a brief occupation of Botany Bay by the French La Perouse expedition. The spread of disease quickly decimated the local Aboriginal population. Resources were increasingly affected by vegetation clearing, establishment of water-mills, wool-washers, fell-mongering and tanneries and timber-getting (in the Coogee area) irreversibly altering Aboriginal society. In the twentieth century it was the Inter-War and Post War suburban expansion that finally had a lasting and dramatic impact on this balance, leaving only a small fraction of the area's once extraordinary natural biodiversity.

As the natural vegetation was cleared, a new cultural landscape began to take shape. In 1879, Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens and resident of Coogee, reported on the disappearance of the last naturally occurring Eucalypts in the Domain. Rapid growth was also occurring within the Municipality of Randwick with the establishment of many fine residences and marine villas. Grand estates, gardens, avenues and parklands of planted native and exotic trees progressively replaced these natural landscapes and their rich botanic diversity. This new cultural landscape was to transform the visual and aesthetic character of Randwick.

The specimen trees planted during the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century are now part of the historic fabric of Randwick. This is now an ageing landscape in an increasingly urbanised environment. The multi-layered heritage values of these trees are being threatened by a range of processes and interventions. Space for these trees is continually being reduced under rising pressures for urban intensification. The associated impacts are tending to accelerate the loss of these heritage values. Randwick City Council has responded to this broad range of tree management issues in a number of ways including preparation of environmental planning instruments, development and regulatory controls, ongoing monitoring and compliance as well as community-based initiatives and education. Specifically, Council has identified the need for identification, protection and management of Randwick's significant trees.

Past heritage studies and local histories have tended to focus on Randwick's rich and complex social and cultural history, particularly its built environment and the social structure that was established after European settlement. This history is reflected in the extraordinary number and diversity of listed heritage sites and relics which tell the story of Randwick's development from remote beginnings on the outskirts of a convict settlement to being a vital part of Sydney's broader wealth, including port facilities to Australia's largest urban centre.

1.2 Purpose of a Significant Tree Register

In September 2005, a brief was prepared by Randwick City Council for preparation of a Significant Tree Register. It was stated in the brief that:-

"Randwick City Council has an important resource in its trees but recent history has shown that these valuable assets need to be protected from an increasing number of threats such as unsympathetic property development and indiscriminate tree felling.

There are many individual trees and groups of trees within the City of Randwick that are considered to be of significance. It is important that these trees are recognised, documented and provided appropriate protection to ensure their retention and longevity".

The purpose of the Significant Tree Register was stated as follows:-

"To provide Council with a single Register of all significant trees on both private and public land throughout the City and for this document to be incorporated into the best practise management and conservation of the City's tree resources".

This Register now forms part of a suite of strategic planning and management documents under *Randwick City Council's Tree Management Policies*. These documents provide the tools for improved tree management and planning within the Randwick City LGA and include the following:-

- Street Tree Masterplan (*Document 1*);
- Tree Preservation Order (*Document 2*);
- Significant Tree Register (*Document 3*);
- Tree Technical Manual (*Document 4*).

1.3 Study area

The scope of this study included investigation, research and assessment of all trees (ie. private and public) within the City of Randwick LGA, with the following specific areas excluded as detailed in the Brief:-

- Centennial Parklands (Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust);
- Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar Headland (Department of Defence);
- Botany Bay National Park (NSW Department of Environment & Conservation).

These relatively large areas contain significant collections of natural, Aboriginal and cultural heritage and are under the control and management of other government departments and Trustees. Notably, many other government-owned lands are included in this Register (refer to *Volume 3*).

1.4 Study objectives

The core objectives for the study were as follows:-

- to establish the importance of significant trees in the landscape, to guide their management and to provide better opportunities for long-term protection for future generations;

- to provide the City of Randwick with a methodology for identifying and assessing significant trees;
- to develop a consistent analytical approach to significant tree assessment based on accepted heritage assessment criteria;
- to provide a study which becomes an integral part of the suite of Council's planning and management documents;
- to provide an important tool for the future planning, protection and management of significant trees on private and public land;
- to raise public awareness, community interest and a broader sense of the value and worth of significant trees;
- to ensure thorough consultation with the community and key stakeholders;
- to establish appropriate tree management procedures and recommendations for significant tree listings; and
- to enable the listing of significant trees within Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

1.5 Significant trees as heritage items

A Significant Tree Register is essentially a heritage study. Significant trees are commonly the last vestiges of former natural and cultural landscapes. These trees retain exceptional values in terms of their contribution to our urban environment. They have a recognisable range of values – natural, cultural, historic, scientific, aesthetic, visual, social, spiritual and commemorative. These trees can be symbols of great spiritual power. They may have associations with individual people and communities or tell stories of other times and places, or of the historic development of a place, trade routes, connections and communications. Remnant trees from former natural ecological communities may retain valuable habitat and faunal corridors for other endangered and dependent species. These trees also offer a valuable gene pool for future scientific research, conservation and restoration.

In recognising the significant trees within a local area, greater meaning can be brought to the past, allowing a richer understanding of the present. This in turn can provide the basis for better methods of protection, care and management for the future. The assessment of heritage significance is a dynamic process, changing with the passage of time and reflecting the way people interact and perceive the relative importance of places and items, particularly as parts of this collective heritage are lost.

1.6 Study Approach

Heritage Assessment Criteria

Over many years, various bodies have sought to establish a set of guidelines or criteria for what exactly constitutes a "significant tree". Many of these listings of significant trees have relied largely on a nomination process involving community and special interest groups, stakeholders and interested individuals. In some cases, these listings have been critically evaluated by a panel of experts to determine whether a tree or group of trees should be included within a Register. A number of listings have focussed on quantifying significance attributes using a range of numerical weighting and scaled formats. These listings have often strived for objectivity but have been hamstrung by their level of complexity.

This study has been guided by established and tested practices in heritage identification and assessment. The process has highlighted a consultative approach with the community which includes public nominations of significant trees, Public Exhibition of the Draft Register, opportunities for submissions and review by a panel of independent experts.

In developing the criteria for a Significant Tree Register, an underlying concept of value and worth must be established in order to provide the way to qualitatively sort through the enormous range of trees encountered in a survey. Moreover, a Significant Tree Register must provide a consistent analytical approach to maximise its value as a reference document which will

facilitate the protection and ongoing management of these trees within a rapidly changing urban environment.

The Register of the National Estate, based on the criteria developed in accordance with the Burra Charter, provides a nationally consistent approach to heritage identification and assessment. It establishes a set of criteria to assess places and items for listing (refer to section 1.9 *Existing Heritage Listings*). These criteria can be applied to all types of heritage places and items including natural, cultural and Indigenous. The Register of the National Estate also provides an independent validation process which is useful for comparative assessments which can be adapted to Significant Tree Registers (refer to *Heritage Assessments, Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning publication, 1996*).

Significant trees are assessed through systematic research, field work and documentation. A thorough physical examination of trees in relation to their natural occurrence or cultural history is conducted and supported through reports, photographs, archival material and oral evidence. The collected data is evaluated on the basis of each tree's contextual relationship to other similar trees and its relative importance in terms of the following criteria:-

- **historic and/or natural value** (ie. indigenous/cultivated origin)
 - determination of origin as a component of natural ecological community or cultivated/ planted as part of historic development of the place;
 - including influences by historic figures, events and patterns of development.
- **botanic/scientific value**
 - associated with research and educational values, based on integrity, rarity and representative values.
- **social, cultural and commemorative value**
 - focusing on qualities such as the spiritual, political, national and cultural sentiment reflected by the broader population or smaller community groups;
 - including commemorative events.
- **visual and aesthetic value**
 - must be based on existing physical fabric;
 - relates to qualities of bulk, scale and contribution to defining local character and the "spirit" or sense of place.

The heritage values for each listed tree or group of trees is encapsulated in a Statement of Significance which involves interpretation and analysis of comparative points of importance as follows:-

- *rarity value;*
- *biodiversity value;*
- *individual and/ or group value;*
- *landmark value;*
- *representative value;*
- *integrity value;*
- *research, teaching and understanding;*
- *social, cultural or spiritual associations; and*
- *associations with significant individuals.*

The criteria relate to both the cultural and natural significance of an item and place. Some have a specific cultural or natural bias. Nevertheless, the heritage values of a significant tree or group of trees are almost always multi-layered.

Statement of Significance

A Statement of Significance establishes why a significant tree or group of trees is important. (refer to further discussion in section 1.10 Survey Data Sheets – Register of Scheduled Places and Items).

Comparative Significance

The rarity, integrity and representative values of a significant tree or group of trees are important criteria in assessing comparative significance. This process of comparative assessment establishes priorities for limited resources.

Field Investigation and Assessment

LandArc has conducted exhaustive field investigation, evaluation and assessment of trees throughout the Randwick LGA. Particular emphasis has been placed on the identification and assessment of trees which are growing on land under the control and/or management of Council (Parks and Street Trees) and all private property within the LGA.

Literature Review

In order to establish the natural, cultural, social and historic context of each site, source documents have been reviewed including heritage studies, historic plant data bases provided by the Heritage Office, archival material from the Bowen Library, Randwick & District Historical Society, La Perouse Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens library, State Records, State Library of NSW – Small Pictures Files, other heritage listings and schedules, maps and plans, street tree/park inventories and management studies.

1.7 Context

It is important to recognise that “significance” is inextricably linked to “place”. Significant trees do not generally occur in isolation – rather they are important components in defining the broader context and character of the landscape. Listings may be composed of a number of trees, possessing as a whole entity, the values for significance recognition, whilst each individual tree, as a component, may or may not be considered significant in itself.

Significant trees are a product of natural environmental opportunities and the cultural impact of landscape modification and human intervention over time. Cultivated landscape elements, garden escapes and exotic weeds are now overlaid to varying degrees upon a former natural vegetation pattern. Cultural and historic planting also reflect intricate patterns of development, providing a guide to the way the landscape has changed since European settlement. Significant groupings of cultivated trees are thus traceable to the following areas of Randwick:-

- early trading/overland routes and transport corridors (between Port Jackson and Botany Bay);
- places of early navigational markers and defence sites (eg. La Perouse);
- isolationist and institutional outposts of the Colony (eg. Prince Henry Hospital and Long Bay Gaol);
- the large private estates and ‘marine villas’ (eg. Randwick and Coogee);
- social and sporting venues and seaside resorts;
- outlying village centres and ‘settlements’;
- church properties, educational and other government institutions;
- the Crown lands and commons, public parks and cemeteries; and
- later residential garden suburbs, public planting programs and industrial developments.

In this way, trees of cultural significance have been an integral part of the multi-layering process of places, people, associations and time.

Significant trees often visually dominate a place by their sheer size, scale and visual impact, however this particular attribute, by itself, may not necessarily mean that the tree(s) are significant. Some trees, such as Eucalypts, can achieve dramatic proportions in a relatively short timeframe but may not be assessed as “significant”. It is important to recognise that the process for determining significance must consider the full range of criteria. Furthermore, it is possible that some significant trees may be remarkably diminutive but they may possess extraordinary botanic or scientific significance in terms of rarity or representative values (eg. the local native Woody Pear). This example highlights the need for a systematic approach to

assessment including detailed investigation and identification, comparative analysis, review of local contextual relationships and determination of relative importance of all potential listings.

In assessing significant trees, a balance is established between items which have the qualities of significance and those items possessing fewer attributes according to the criteria. It is important that listed items should not in any way reduce the value or deem expendable those trees which are not scheduled on the Register. For example, immature trees of little historic, cultural, social, aesthetic and visual significance today may in time achieve great significance and value to future generations.

Trees are living, growing organisms which are affected by the environment around them and conversely, trees will make their own impact felt over time. These dynamics are not contained within a static document and this point emphasises the need to monitor, upgrade and modify the Register over a period of time.

1.8 Community Consultation

Public Nominations

The study approach has highlighted the importance of community consultation in the development of this Register. During March-April 2006, public nominations for significant trees were invited by Randwick City Council through an advertising campaign in the local press, Council's libraries, Customer Service Centre, and on Council's web-site. The original 4-week period was subsequently extended to receive nominations up to 1 May 2006. A total of 32 people, including members of local groups, provided nominations for individual trees and groups of trees in the Randwick LGA. All of these nominations were investigated and assessed and a Summary Report is tabled in the Appendices of this Register (refer to *Appendix I: List of Public Nominations and Assessments*).

Project Management

Throughout the study, LandArc liaised with Council staff on a regular basis for guidance, review and comment on the process, formatting and outcomes of the study. The staff also assisted in relevant land ownership details, Precinct Plans, map bases and property descriptions affecting the future management of significant trees.

Public Exhibition

A Draft Register of Significant Trees was then placed on Public Exhibition for comments and feedback from the community and stakeholders.

1.9 Existing Heritage Listings

Statutory Registers

A broad range of heritage listings, identifying places and items of heritage significance, exist for the Randwick LGA. These listings provide the first steps in protecting and managing these places and items. Significant trees, as discussed, do not occur in isolation. They are contextual elements within the broader landscape and 'places' which may have multiple layering of natural and cultural heritage significance. Council is to ensure that the scheduled items within this Register of Significant Trees are included under an appropriate statutory framework.

Statutory listings or registers provide a legal framework for this process and they help to ensure that these special places and items are not lost or diminished by unsympathetic development or inappropriate management practices.

At the Federal government level, a statutory listing is provided by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) in accordance with the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*. The National Estate is defined as "those places being components of the natural environment of Australia or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community".

Nominations are taken and reviewed by the Commission. Much of the database, particularly listings prior to 1991, are currently under review by the Commission:-

- Australian Heritage Database – a register of places and items of particular importance to the people of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Australian Heritage Places Inventory is another database providing a compilation of sourced material from the Register of the National Estate. Listings for local government areas can also be sourced on this database.

There are two further types of statutory listings in NSW, as follows:-

- State Heritage Register – a register of places and items of particular importance to the people of NSW; and
- Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) – which include listings or schedules of places and items which have significance within the local government area (LGA).

These listings have tended to focus on Randwick's built heritage. Council's LEP schedule contains very minimal data on natural heritage or cultural landscape heritage. In the past, there has been a considerable amount of duplication of listings and to some degree, conflicting data or ambiguity in the listings. Many listings are incomplete or have no data available. Furthermore, there are currently no listings for significant trees.

Non-statutory Registers

The National Trust of Australia (NSW), a non-government community organisation, maintains a register of landscapes, townscapes, buildings, industrial sites, cemeteries and other items or places which the Trust determines have cultural significance and are worthy of conservation. This process follows a nomination and assessment process, assisted by the Trust's various committees. Items which are considered worthy of listing are given the non-statutory title of 'classified'. Although having no legal force, 'classification' ensures recognition of the item and an authoritative statement by professionals with specific expertise in this area of heritage.

1.10 Survey Data Sheets – Register of Scheduled Places and Items

The survey data sheets form the main part of the Register with detailed information for each individual or group listing. For ease of reference these listings are divided into four volumes:-

- 1. Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves (Randwick City Council)**
Significant trees under the control and management of Randwick City Council
- 2. Significant Street Trees (Randwick City Council)**
under the control and management of Randwick City Council
- 3. Significant Trees: Other Government authorities, Institutional, Religious and Non-government Organisations**
Significant trees on land under the control and management of other Government departments and authorities [incl. Institutional, Religious and Non-government Organisations (NGOs)]
- 4. Significant Trees under Private Ownership**
Significant trees under private ownership within the boundaries of Randwick City Council

Each of these volumes has been further divided into precincts according to the Precinct Plans established by *Randwick City Council's Precinct Committees* (refer to *Figure 1: Key Precinct Map*). Listings under each precinct are arranged in alphabetical order.

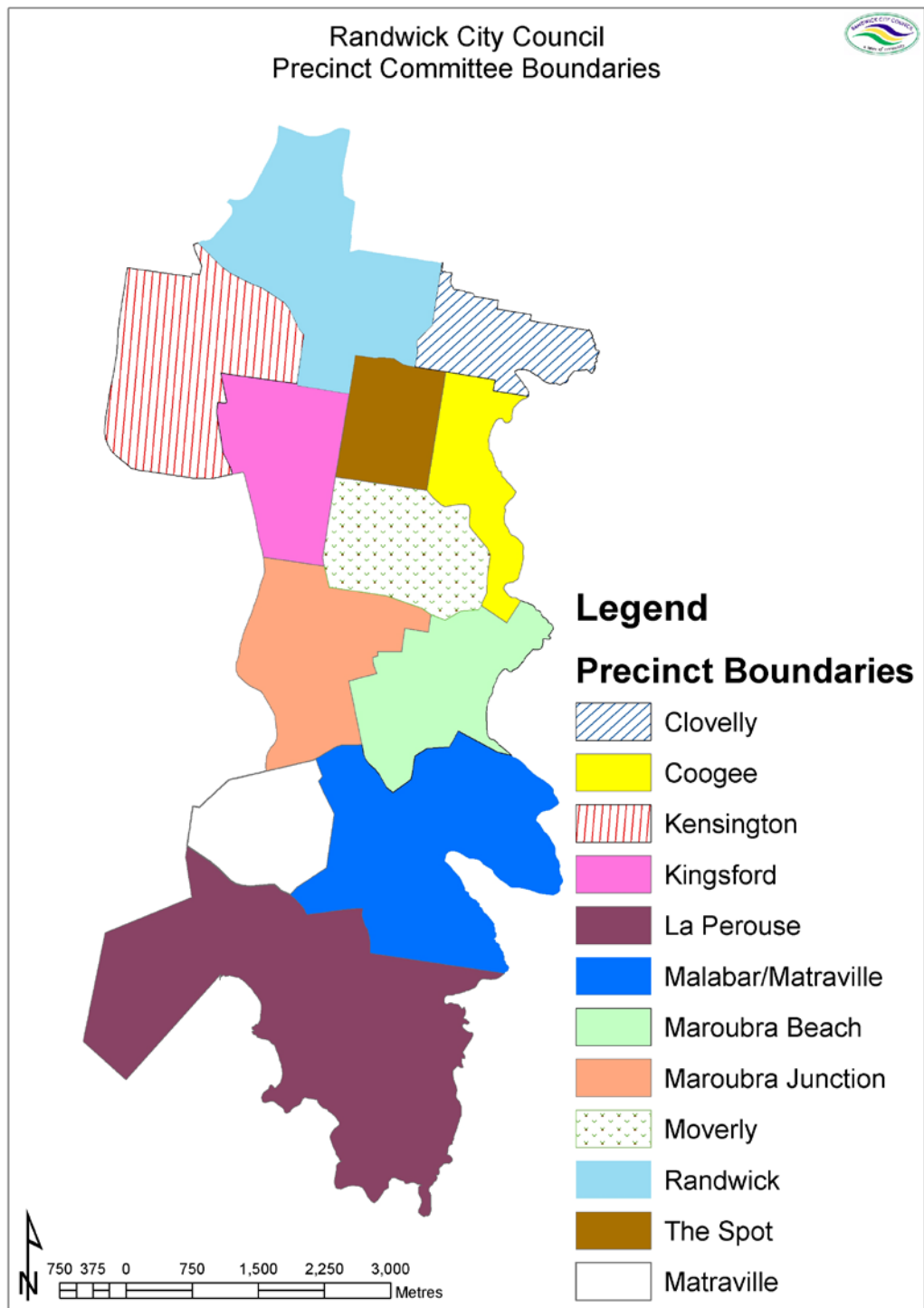


FIGURE 1: KEY PRECINCT MAP

The following information is provided on each survey data sheet:-

A. Summary Data:

- A.1 precinct number and description;
- A.2 digital photographic record and precinct map references;
- A.3 date, location and full property description, ownership/management and references to other items associated with the property (where applicable);
- A.4 summary of **scheduled items** including:-
 - origin (cultural planting or indigenous remnant);
 - cultural type (eg. single specimen, row plantation, group planting, etc);
 - level of significance (eg. GROUP or INDIVIDUAL – LOCAL/LGA or REGIONAL levels); and
 - number of scheduled items for property description (or a group within the property description).
- A.5 summary of other tree and palm components/associates (ie. important contextual elements within the property description).

Notes – Item A.4

Trees which are assessed as having significance in terms of the established criteria are listed in the “summary of scheduled items” for each property description. An opinion of the level of significance for each scheduled item (as an individual or group listing) is also provided as follows:-

- LOCAL (ie. precinct level rather than neighbourhood level);
- LGA (ie. Randwick City local government area); and
- REGIONAL (Sydney metropolitan area).

There are no scheduled items considered to be of STATE or NATIONAL significance in this Register. Scheduled items may form a larger group or collection of significant trees which in combination have a greater level of significance (eg. LGA significance).

Notes – Item A.5

Other tree and palm components/associates are listed in order to highlight their importance as contextual elements (ie. these items are not considered to be significant and none of these items were considered for inclusion in the LEP). Nevertheless, these trees and palms are typically integral components of the landscape (both public and private) and have a range of aesthetic, visual and amenity values. They help to define the landscape character of a place and may support the values associated with significant trees. In the future, some of these trees may acquire a level of significance.

These components/associates are discussed in the Statement of Significance with regard to their values and relative importance within the landscape (eg. positive, neutral, intrusive). Management issues, particularly relating to trees which may be considered intrusive (eg. affecting the growth of a significant tree or an environmental weed species) are also discussed.

B. Description of scheduled items:

- B.1 full botanical description, including botanical and common names, other local/historic names, if applicable;
- B.2 significance attributes of scheduled item;
- B.3 origin (eg. ornamental/cultivated – geographic place of origin/cultivars);
- B.4 location – detailed description of site location within property listing;
- B.5 extent of influence – reference to canopy cover and possible extent of root zone;
- B.6 estimated age, height, canopy spread and trunk diameter @ 1.0 metre above ground level/extent of any buttressing, etc;
- B.7 visual tree assessment including condition, status, health, evidence of any physical or structural damage, insect attack and pathogens (see notes); and
- B.9 comments on existing or potential threats and other relevant issues affecting the status of the tree(s) and recommendations for management and/or remedial treatment (including priority scheduling).

Notes – Item B.7

The comments provided on the status, health, condition, potential threats and recommendations for management need to be qualified. These comments are essentially a visual assessment undertaken in the field, under varying conditions, and within the context of developing a heritage Register. This data is not presented as a detailed arboricultural investigation or assessment of any individual or group of trees. For further detailed assessment of health, condition and tree management recommendations for scheduled trees, a qualified arborist should be consulted.

Furthermore, a more generic approach has been taken for scheduled trees occurring on public and government lands which are not under the direct control or management of Randwick City Council. In these instances, individual or specimen trees within these properties have been assessed as a group rather than as individual items.

C. Statement of Significance:

C.1 Statement of Significance – description outlining the reasons for significance of scheduled items.

Notes – Item C.1

A Statement of Significance establishes why a significant tree or group of trees is important. It examines the evidence in terms of contextual relationships and the heritage values associated with the place. For this type of study in a highly urbanised context, origin (eg. natural or cultivated), cultural phases, socially based and aesthetic values are often highlighted in the Statement of Significance. Furthermore, rarity, integrity and representative values of a significant tree or group of trees are important criteria in assessing comparative significance.

1.11 Management Realities for an Ageing Population of Trees

The collection of remnant trees which forms the main body of this Register are all ageing trees within a rapidly changing environment. The forces driving Randwick's development and urban consolidation mean that these trees have less space to survive and grow. Many of Randwick's significant trees scheduled in this Register are under threat from a broad range of urban impacts. Development is intensifying the processes of incremental loss. The requirements for development such as multiple off-street and underground parking, driveways, garages, drainage retention devices, air-conditioning and ducting, large service areas and preferences for expansive outdoor paved living areas and swimming pools have all substantially increased the building footprint on blocks of land. The intensive nature of building in these locations requires dramatic changes to existing soil profiles and is often accompanied by increasing compaction around ageing root systems, significantly altered water tables, modification of soil nutrient levels, pH levels, salinity, drainage conditions and introduction of new pathogens. These activities impact in varying ways upon these ageing trees. Each development proposal in isolation may not seem that significant – however, it is the cumulative impacts of these actions over time that are inexorably shifting the balance.

Significant street trees are facing similar constraints and pressures. These public areas are taking greater traffic loads, both pedestrian and vehicular, over time. The spaces for these often large remnant trees are diminishing as services increase. Even within Randwick's parks and reserves, significant trees are under stress, often as a result of similar activities. Many of these trees are positioned close to roadways (a legacy of nineteenth century and early twentieth century row planting). These trees are affected by a range of overhead and underground services and the requirements for access, maintenance and renewal of this infrastructure. Compaction of old root zones in these locations, particularly from increasing road and pedestrian traffic, are also taking a high toll on the long-term viability of these specimens. In this way, Randwick's heritage is being gradually diminished – individual specimens are being lost from ever smaller groups of trees. At the broader macro-level, the visual integrity of these landscapes is being significantly altered over time.

The even-aged structure of a vast number of trees planted during the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century means that many of these giants, particularly the iconic Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs, are rapidly approaching a senescent phase. Rather than this being a long and relatively stable phase (as in a natural setting), the increased

level of stress in this urban environment is effectively accelerating the processes of decline. The responses and interventions which are often necessary in public spaces have also tended to accelerate these processes rather than address the core issues.

Furthermore, for much of the Post-War period through to the early 1980s there were very few examples of positive recruitment and staging to address any losses. In recent decades the replacement strategy has focussed on new urban realities with the introduction of smaller natives, particularly hardy, drought-tolerant sclerophyllous species which require less maintenance and smaller spaces for growth. Over the same period, however, the ageing cultural and historic landscapes, both public and private, were gradually vanishing – these are now threatened landscapes in Randwick.

In future years it will be important to retain flexibility in the selection of suitable replacement species, whilst considering these issues of context and ensuring that site-specific opportunities and constraints are properly addressed.

1.12 Strategy Plan

It is therefore important to establish the kind of future the community seeks with respect to Randwick's landscape heritage, particularly its significant trees. This Register of Significant Trees identifies the following guiding principle for the conservation strategy over the next 10-20 years in accordance with Randwick's Tree Management Policies:-

"To improve the protection, care and management of Randwick's significant trees and their contextual associations with the 'place', on public and private land, for the benefit of the community and for future generations".

This Register holds the key to providing the kind of outcomes identified in this guiding principle. Scheduling of significant trees under the provisions of Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) establishes clear recognition of heritage values and improved protection, particularly with respect to development.

Therefore, **all** scheduled trees (including individuals and groups) in the Register of Significant Trees are listed as heritage items (trees) [or similar] in Randwick's Local Environmental Plan (RLEP).

It is important to recognise that the Register of Significant Trees is not a static document and should be subject to ongoing review. For example, significant trees which have been scheduled as heritage items in an LEP can be reviewed like other heritage listings (eg. built heritage). Recommendations can be made for continued listing or removal according to the heritage review and assessment process.

Furthermore, the enhanced status of significant trees will be used to promote broader community awareness and to highlight Council's commitment to the protection of these trees and their contextual landscapes. In this exercise, it is important to emphasise to the community the significance of "place" – not simply recognition of the listed item(s) but an understanding of the value of the tree within the landscape. These initiatives will be promoted by Council as part of an ongoing community-based exercise ensuring broad media coverage, web-site information, volunteer involvement, an opportunity for further nominations and review, and education in appropriate conservation strategies.

2. *Randwick's Landscape Heritage*

2.1 Overview

The significant trees we see today tell the stories of the people, the places and events which shaped the City of Randwick since the middle of the nineteenth century. These trees also tell the stories of early plant collectors, botanists, nurserymen, horticulturists, landscape designers and garden makers. Significant trees are dynamic, ever-changing and potent symbols within the landscape. Many of these older trees are present day icons, evocative of a time of picturesque landscapes and romantic pleasure gardens. Some planting schemes dating from the Inter-War period can be highly formal and reflective while others from this period share the exuberance of a seaside resort with all its attractions.

These trees also share and reflect the cycle of life like all living organisms, moving from birth to juvenile development, onto a long period of maturity, followed by senescence and death. This is an ageing landscape – one that evokes a vast range of personal values and associations. This urban landscape has been overlayed and modified with a range of natural and cultural heritage values. It is something that Sydney is passionate about. The debate over the removal and replacement of figs in the Domain and recent media coverage of the problems facing Hyde Park's fig avenue are testament to this fact. The management decisions affecting a rapidly ageing population of significant trees in Centennial Parklands awaits the same public scrutiny. In Randwick, the debate continues over coastal views, property values and the impact of public trees and bushland affecting these private views. The potential loss of any significant trees will undoubtedly stimulate public debate. Furthermore, as these trees near the end of life cycle it is important to make informed decisions based on a better understanding of their requirements in an increasingly urbanised environment.

2.2 Randwick's natural heritage

At the time of European settlement in 1788, the land between Botany Bay and Port Jackson would have been a place of extraordinary biodiversity. Upon a brief visit to the northern interior of Botany Bay, Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook however described the area as "...mostly a barren heath diversified with marshes and Morasses". In the First Fleet journals Dr Worgan described the natural landscape as "swampy, rocky ground...and on the whole it was tedious..." (Lawrence, J., 2005, p.2).

These descriptions would have referred to habitats ranging from tidal flats, estuarine and freshwater swamps to heaths, scrubs and woodlands covering sandy dunes and coastal sandstone plateaus. After one hundred years the road between Randwick and Sydney was still only a bush track but within the next 70 years most of the natural vegetation had been swept away or modified in some way.

Remarkably, the Randwick LGA still retains important, albeit fragmented natural ecosystems, primarily within the more remote coastal sandstone plateaus and outcrops of Malabar Headland and Little Bay (Botany Bay NP). There are also a number of vital remnants of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community scheduled under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* which are now the subject of a Draft proposal as Critical Habitat. The Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) once occupied approximately 5,300 hectares of land in the Eastern Suburbs area and North Head. This figure has been reduced to only 149 hectares – most of which is highly fragmented across many different land parcels and tenures.

These remnant communities are not included in this Register – however, other smaller highly fragmented elements of natural heritage are included. These items are sometimes the last vestiges of an ecological community, usually occurring within a highly modified environment and under management regimes which may restrict opportunities for natural recruitment. Examples of these listings in the Register include remnant Woody Pears (*Xylomelum pyriforme*) at Randwick Racecourse and Purcell Park and the remnant population of mesic understorey species – *Ficus rubiginosa*, *Acmena smithii*, *Ceratopetalum apetalum*, *Endiandra sieberi*, *Glochidion ferdinandi* and *Rapanea variabilis*, etc) - at Fred Hollows Reserve and neighbouring 260 Alison Road. Some of these specimens are of considerable age and amongst the oldest trees listed in this Register. Origin and provenance issues, however, arise in a number of highly modified populations such as the group of Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*) at Dunningham Reserve. Of all these natural remnants the Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*), a ubiquitous lithophyte, remains a true urban survivor – highly adaptable within Randwick's coastal sandstone landscapes.

Historically, the Randwick area had few stands of commercial timber. The trees within these communities tended to be small and stunted in response to the nutrient poor soils and exposure to salt-laden winds. Notably, the seaward facing valleys of Coogee may have supplied some commercial timber as early as 1820. Samuel Tree, a market gardener, recorded the removal of "a great deal of timber, gum-trees, mahogany and other types" (Benson, D., and Howell, J., 1990, pp.96-97). In the more sheltered locations, woodland and gully forest canopy species would have included Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*), Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*) and Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*). The understorey shrub layer contained a diverse range of sclerophyllous or scrub species including *Banksia serrata*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Monotoca elliptica*, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, *Xanthorrhoea resinosa*, *Leptospermum* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Persoonia* spp., etc.

Apart from the core bushland areas of Malabar Headland and Little Bay (Botany Bay NP) and proposed critical habitat – Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) - the Randwick LGA contains a large number of highly fragmented and isolated individual and small group remnants. These natural heritage items include a broad list of species and locations within Yarra Bay, Yarra Point (Yarra Bay House), Frenchman's Bay, La Perouse Public School, Yarra Road and adjacent privately owned lands, Woomera Reserve, Bunnerong Road, Anzac Parade, the Little Bay and Long Bay coastal cliffs and many other locations. The wetlands of Lachlan Swamp (Centennial Parklands) and Botany Swamp (Mill Stream) still contain stands of Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), now a common cultivated species. Many of these items are not within the scope of this study. For example, they often include fragmented understorey and groundcover components rather than trees.

During this study, many remnant native species and communities have been investigated, some of which have been the subject of public nomination (see Appendix I – Bettina Digby). Examples include a small group of (4) Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) at Woomera Reserve (Bunnerong Road), a mixed age group of (9) Bangalay including an *E. saligna* x *E. botryoides* hybrid at Baragoola Avenue, old specimen Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*), a group of Swamp Oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) at Yarra Point and a stunted, multi-stemmed Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*) in the hind-dunes of Yarra Bay (believed to be the only naturally occurring example of this rare species in the Randwick LGA). There are many other isolated examples and populations, sometimes in association with other native species, but usually occurring within weed infested and highly modified habitat. Many of these isolated items have been investigated however they are not included in this Register. They are to be the subject of further investigation as part of Council's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which focuses more on these isolated remnant populations.

2.3 Early Patterns of Settlement

The earliest attempts by Europeans to change and modify this landscape can be traced to the French expedition of Laperoise in 1788. The French built a stockade and garden nearby (NSW Heritage Register – Bare Island Fort, last updated 1999). They also buried their dead, including chaplain and botanist, Pere Receveur, who died from wounds sustained in a conflict with

natives in Samoa on route to Botany Bay. During this time, there were a number of overland visits between the French expedition and the British settlement in Port Jackson. It is believed that the traditional Aboriginal tracks known as “maru” by the Cadigal (Gadigal) people were used during these visits and that there was an extensive path network throughout the Eastern Suburbs. In the same year a place known to the local Aboriginal people as ‘Woccanmagully’, later to become “Farm Cove” was established by Governor Phillip as the Government Domain. This area of land extended east from the Tank Stream to Woolloomooloo Bay. The first farm was established to feed the struggling Colony.

Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) were amongst the earliest garden specimens brought to the Colony. Ships returning from Norfolk Island were likely to have transported the first seedling Norfolk Island Pines to the new Colony. A report by Francois Peron (member of the Baudin Expedition) suggests a pine was cultivated in the gardens of the Old Government House site as early as 1802 (Wilson, E., 2004, p.43).

In 1811 the Lachlan Swamps (now Centennial Parklands) were preserved as the Sydney Common by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. In the same year Governor Macquarie commenced construction of stone walls to define the boundaries of the Domain, thus separating it from the town. The landscaping to Farm Cove during this time, under the guidance of Mrs Macquarie, was the earliest attempt in Australia to consciously create a public garden. By 1814, Governor Macquarie’s concept of a “Government Garden” in Farm Cove had begun to take shape with the planting of two Norfolk Island Pines (Churches, S., 1990). Following completion of Mrs Macquarie’s Road in 1816, English Oaks (*Quercus robur*), Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*), Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and Blackbutts (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) were planted along the roadway. It is interesting to note that of these four species, two were Old World exotics and two were local species indigenous to this particular area. Remnants of the stand of Swamp Mahogonies still stand along the stone wall in the Gardens, making them the earliest civic planting in Australia.

The Sydney Botanic Gardens began a significant botanical role as early as 1816 in the exchange of plant specimens. Collections of Australian flora were being exported to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, during Sir Joseph Banks’ directorship (1772-1820). Sydney quickly became a vital part of this trade with other gardens around the globe including Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Mauritius, St. Vincent, Jamaica, Trinidad and Capetown (Churches, D.R., 1990). Access to the Gardens was first restricted to only the ‘gentry’ of Sydney but was later changed in 1831 to include the general public. Much of the planting within the gardens at this time related to kitchen needs. Nevertheless, from these beginnings, a vast range of botanical specimens were introduced to the Colony, providing the early influences and direction which guided the future development of the gardens and cultural landscapes of Randwick.

Following Governor Macquarie’s planting of the Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) in the ‘Government Garden’, this species became a particularly popular landmark planting during the early years of the Colony. These pines also served as navigational beacons and markers on the harbour and in strategic coastal locations. Notably, one specimen dating from the time of Governor Darling (c.1830s), is believed to be the oldest cultivated tree in the Randwick LGA. This ageing Norfolk Island Pine is the last remaining specimen of a group of five Norfolk Island Pines planted near Macquarie Watchtower, La Perouse (Blaxland, G., pers. comm. 6.2.06). Refer to listing in this Register. The distinctive appearance of these trees with their physical stature, symmetry and grand scale has been a significant part of Randwick’s history and development.

In 1819 the emancipist Samuel Terry received a land grant of 570 acres (224 Ha) covering much of the area now known as Kensington. The grant included Lachlan Stream and part of the Lachlan and Botany Swamps (freshwater wetlands). Water-powered mills had already been established along the Lachlan Stream producing paper, cloth and flour. Terry named the grant the “Lachlan Mills Estate” (Randwick City Council web-site www.randwick.nsw.gov.au). In 1823 Simeon Lord received a grant of 600 acres (236 Ha) along the northern shores of Botany Bay.

These land grants and subsequent partnerships soon dissolved and the Terry land grant was purchased by Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey. The Lachlan Swamps became Sydney’s

second source of fresh water following construction of Busby's Bore between 1827 and 1837. The increasing activities of water-powered mills, including the manufacture of starch and paper and development of noxious industries such as wool washing, fell-mongering, tanneries and boiling-down works soon led to contamination of the water supply. An alternate water supply was needed. In 1859 Botany Swamps provided Sydney's third water supply – however, by 1867 the fresh water flow from the Lachlan Stream had almost ceased (*Lawrence, J., 2005, p.9*). These industries required labour and over time rough settlements established throughout the neighbouring sandhills.

In 1824 Captain Francis Marsh received 12 acres (4.7 Ha) in the area now defined by Botany Street, High Street, Alison Road and Belmore Road, Randwick. Simeon Pearce purchased 4 acres from Marsh's original grant in 1847 and built "Blenheim House" (*Pollon, F., 1988*). The Coogee area attracted visitors onwards from the 1820s and was gazetted as a village in 1838. During this period, the Randwick and Coogee areas began to emerge as desirable places to live and Simeon Pearce who became six times mayor and property developer, was at the forefront of this boom period of Randwick's development. By 1858, approximately 30 houses had been constructed in Randwick and a further 14 in Coogee. Although still isolated from Sydney, the area's seaside character, scenic beauty and clean fresh air were promoted by Simeon Pearce.

In the 1860s Randwick had a population of 800 residents, including a large pool of servants, labourers, market gardeners, quarrymen, etc. (*Lawrence, J., 2005, p. 12*). Racing also played a part in attracting a large number of people to the area from the 1830s. Establishment of Randwick Racecourse and regular meetings in the 1860s added to the area's popularity. Randwick attracted many of Sydney's wealthy merchants, businessmen and professionals during the 1880s. They established large private estates with fine residences and villas set within extensive gardens. Most of these properties were later subdivided and the homes demolished as property values increased throughout this part of Sydney. During the 1960s and 1970s period many of these residences were lost to multi-storey unit development.

These areas of early historic development began a process of cultural transformation. The native heaths and woodlands of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and the wetlands of the Lachlan and Botany Swamps were being progressively cleared, leaving vast open areas of sandhills and regenerating heaths. Over time, the new cultural landscape replaced much of this native vegetation with exotic species from all over the world. The footprint for these changes was at first gradual leading to larger areas of influence and eventual replacement of natural ecosystems and ecological processes.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century and early Pre-War period of the twentieth century, this consolidation process was concentrated within the northern portion of the Randwick LGA. The area to the south of Rainbow Street, Coogee, remained largely undeveloped. The connection of the tram-line to Randwick Racecourse in 1879, followed by Randwick (High Street) in 1881, Coogee in 1883 and La Perouse during the early Pre-War period was instrumental in this process. The trams provided accessibility to the city and its services and opportunities for city dwellers to visit Sydney's seaside resorts and their attractions (*Lawrence, J., 2005*).

2.4 Early Garden Influences

The early private gardens and public parkland of Randwick are closely linked to the picturesque and idealised landscapes of the early to mid-nineteenth century. As wealth increased in the Colony, gardens and estates were increasingly used to signify a new permanence, attempting to emulate the grand gardens of Europe. Gardens were first developed by borrowing on the traditions of the English Landscape School and European Romanticism. Both were well established in Europe at the time New South Wales was founded as a Colony. In 1825, Francis Greenway, the Civil Architect, outlined a vision for the Government Domain to be planted in the English Landscape style of Capability Brown. These romantic and idealised landscapes provided the main influences for garden design. Early gardening styles also took their lead from the classical, formal influences of the Victorian, Georgian, Regency, Classical and Italianate architectural styles of the period. It was also a time of great global exploration and interest in botanical collections.

Although there were many overlays of varying fashion, art, science and philosophical meaning, the thematic concepts for public and private gardens took their inspiration from the stories of early explorers, the cedar-cutters, botanists and plant collectors including William Paterson, Charles Fraser, Alan and Richard Cunningham, John Carne Bidwill and Ludwig Leichhardt and their Aboriginal guides. Plant discoveries by colonial botanists during the 1820s-1840s introduced a vast range of new and exciting subtropical rainforest species which were soon available to the public. Stories of extraordinary botanical diversity attracted enormous popular interest. These subtropical landscapes became the inspiration for new 'idealised landscapes'. The general infertility of soils hindered expansion for agricultural production. Sydney was surrounded by a hostile, relentless landscape offering no respite for early settlers. There were few similarities with the bucolic landscapes of England and northern Europe. In comparison, the rainforests to the south in the Illawarra and along the northern rivers of NSW offered unparalleled opportunities for tapping into a rich resource. The rainforests seemed to offer a way to change the Sydney landscape from its dry, desiccated scrubs, heaths and woodlands. It is interesting commentary on prevailing attitudes that the natural landscape immediately east of Sydney was described in the *Sydney Gazette* of May 1831, as "a mass of cold and hopeless sterility, which its stunted and unsightly bushes seemed only to render the more palpable." (Carlin, S./ HHT, 2000).

The Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), a particularly large and impressive evergreen broadleaf species, was a relatively early ornamental introduction to colonial gardens and was used as a major landscape element throughout much of the nineteenth century. This species has remained a definitive element in the Randwick landscape. The magnificent scale and broad dense evergreen canopies of these figs were ideally suited to grand garden schemes. 'Fig Tree Avenue' consisting of Moreton Bay Figs was planted in the Domain in 1847. This species remains a significant historic and cultural element in public planting schemes dating from the Victorian era.

Rainforest trees created an evocative, romantic landscape dominated by lush, subtropical broadleaf species. These collections included native rainforest specimens with outstanding floral displays such as the Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*), Blackbean (*Castenospermum australe*), Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*), Magenta Cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*), Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) and Queensland Lacebark (*Brachychiton discolor*). Other species such as Crow's Ash (*Flindersia australis*), Plum Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*), Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*), Tulipwood (*Harpullia pendula*) and Tulip Oak (*Argyrodendron actinophyllum*) were used more for their attractive dark, glossy evergreen foliage. Many of these species are still present in the Randwick landscape, proving their high level of tolerance to difficult site conditions and extended periods of drought. Of particular note, is the occurrence of a Pepperberry Tree (*Cryptocarya obovata*) located in 45 Wansey Road, Randwick. This is a magnificent historic specimen of outstanding botanical significance. The only other known example of this taxon in cultivation, of similar age structure and scale, occurs in the Sydney Botanic Gardens (near the old creek channel south of the Botanic Gardens Bookshop). The seedling of this cultivated specimen in Wansey Road may have been collected on the Brisbane River in 1828 (Wilson, E., 2004, pp. 48-49).

These native species were mixed with a broad range of other exotic ornamental introductions, many of which continued this broadleaf, evergreen character such as the Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and American Bull Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). Exotic pines such as Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*), Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) and Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) were also popular introductions during this period.

This broad selection of tree species with their myriad shapes, forms, textures and colours were adapted to the environmental conditions of Randwick and the prevailing garden styles and fashion. A vast number of new ornamental and cultivated species were introduced into gardens and parkland during this period. Many species failed while others flourished. This process of selection influenced the development of gardens over time. In this way, species selection and availability influenced the early Landscape Style (c.1810-c.1860) and the Picturesque Style of the 1820s-1860s which were later merged and overlaid with a new landscape approach – one

which reflected the vast range of botanical specimens sourced from around the globe. These collections grew increasingly complex and eclectic by nature. This Gardenesque Style (c.1835 – c.1890) gained momentum during the latter part of the nineteenth century following the era of The Great Exhibition held in London in 1851. In particular, the new technology, a glasshouse designed by Paxton, provided new opportunities to grow subtropical specimens in a cold climate. This fashion and popularity for such botanical curiosities influenced the types of exotic collections and character of both private gardens and public open space throughout Sydney.

2.5 Institutional and Public Planting Schemes

The great Victorian landscapes of row plantations and individual specimen planting have come to define much of Sydney's visual and aesthetic character, particularly within the Centennial Park and Moore Park areas. Alison Park, Randwick, is also typical of this style. They were visionary landscapes influenced by a broad range of people, but most notably through the efforts of Charles Moore, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) and his successor, Joseph Maiden (Director, Sydney Botanic Gardens 1896-1924).

Charles Moore, a man of significant influence in Sydney social circles, was a resident of Coogee, living at 'Ballamac' (later Hastings House). He became a Sydney alderman in 1865, Mayor of Sydney (1867-1869) and later a Randwick alderman during the 1880s. The siting of St Jude's Anglican Church in Randwick (rather than Coogee) by Simeon Pearce, the first Mayor of Randwick, led to considerable ill-feeling and rivalry between Moore and Pearce. In 1867, Charles Moore, with the help of his supporters, attempted to split the newly formed Municipality of Randwick by proposing a new Municipality of Coogee. The name of Charles Moore became synonymous with the late-Victorian Gardenesque Style and the public parks movement. Charles Moore, Joseph Maiden and William Guilfoyle (gardener, botanist and Director, Melbourne Botanic Gardens 1873-) promoted a distinctive philosophical approach to the design of public open space and parkland. Moreton Bay Figs became the key species in the structural layout of these parklands. Many other rainforest specimens were also used as important component elements, clusters and accents, particularly the native and Pacific Island Araucarias.

Over time, this legacy of Victorian public planting, has matured to produce landscapes which are dominated by massive native figs, particularly the Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Port Jackson Fig (*F. rubiginosa*). These species have been used predominantly in row plantations along the boundaries and as mixed components and accents within institutional and government-owned land, church properties and public parkland throughout the Randwick LGA. Rather than establishing a lineal, formal layout of rigid spacings, these trees were set out informally in the landscape. They are arranged in a more naturalistic way, stepping backwards and forwards along the boundaries, merging and overlapping with other planted elements and notable specimens. These rows occasionally include a range of similar species, including the Deciduous Fig (*Ficus superba* var. *henniana*) and Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and exotics such as Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*). Essentially, the large, broadly spreading, evergreen figs remained the tree of choice in these schemes – the quintessential elements in these boundary plantations.

This approach by Charles Moore, Joseph Maiden and the staff of the Sydney Botanic Gardens can be seen in the layout and design of many of Randwick's institutional landscapes and church grounds. All of the historic Roman Catholic land holdings throughout the Randwick area have a common landscape theme. The boundaries were usually planted with mixed or single species row plantations of either the Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) or the smaller growing Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*). The Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) was a common specimen planting in this locality, usually introduced as an informal element but sometimes used as the dominant species in a row plantation. Moreton Bay Figs, however, have significance as the keystone thematic element within all of these planting schemes - including Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH), Randwick, St Paul's Seminary and Catholic Convent (OLSH), Kensington, St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School, Randwick North, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Clovelly, and Brigidine College, Randwick. They are symbolic trees of extraordinary grandeur. These figs were also commonly planted on government and institutional lands (eg. Prince of Wales Hospital). Many primary schools within

the Randwick LGA (eg. Kensington Public School, Maroubra Junction Public School and Maroubra Bay Public School) contain at least one Moreton Bay Fig as a foundation specimen.

The internal open spaces created by the figs were embellished with a range of native and exotic species, including deciduous elements such as Oaks (*Quercus spp.*). In many instances dramatic vertical elements and botanic curiosities were introduced as key thematic elements. The native and Pacific Island pines such as the Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and Cook Pine (*A. columnaris*) have been the most successful in this environment. The Hoop Pine (*A. cunninghamii*), Bunya Pine (*A. bidwillii*), and Queensland Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*) were often used in mixed clusters and groupings but have not been as successful. Norfolk Island Pines continue to feature prominently in the landscape (eg. St Jude's Church group, High Cross Park, Prince of Wales Hospital, Long Bay Correctional Centre and Prince Henry Hospital). Their bold symmetry, dramatic scale and vertical accent are an important part of Randwick's modern sky-line. Moreover, these elements tended to reinforce the overall thematic style of a lush subtropical, evergreen character. This carried through to the early twentieth century planting overlays, including substantial formal layouts and re-workings of earlier garden typologies following the First World War.

2.6 Gardens of the Inter-War and Post-War Periods

The Kensington Estate was first conceived as a garden suburb in a competition held in London in 1889. The reality of poor sandy soils, however, restricted the implementation of grand planting schemes. In 1891, the Kensington Estate was subdivided for residential development. By 1919 Kensington was being promoted as a desirable residential suburb with wide streets and many 'excellent residences', a golf links and a racecourse (Lawrence, J., 2005, p.92).

South Kensington, later re-named Kingsford, experienced a considerable boom period of housing development during the 1920s. Randwick, Clovelly and Coogee also experienced accelerated growth during this Inter-War period (c.1915-1940). Many of the listed trees in this Register were planted during this phase of residential development and consolidation.

In particular, Hill's Weeping Figs were widely planted throughout the Randwick LGA during this period. Unfortunately, as this species has matured its vigorous growth pattern and aggressive root system has caused significant issues in relation to public infrastructure and private property. Hill's Weeping Figs are also showing increasing susceptibility to soil-borne diseases, causing root rot and structural instability in many of the older trees. In response to the diverse range of management issues Randwick City Council has initiated a tree management program of phased removal (ie. selective removal of diseased or structurally unsound trees up to a desired limit per annum for any given street) and subsequent replacement with a more suitable species in accordance with Randwick's tree management policy.

The Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) continued to be a key landscape element in private gardens and public parkland throughout the early part of the twentieth century. The Coogee/Clovelly precincts retain a number of Norfolk Island Pines which date from the Inter-War period (c.1915-1940). These examples are now highly fragmented within small private gardens. Many of these remnant emergent trees are located along the ridgelines surrounding these precincts and they combine to create a distinctive landscape character for the contained visual catchment. Unfortunately, there are no remaining public plantations of this species from this period or the Pre-war era. All earlier nineteenth century plantations, evident in photographs of Coogee (c.1890s), have long since vanished from an increasingly urbanised landscape. Notably, this species has been used in the recent upgrade of Coogee Beach Plaza.

While some new parks were established, many of Randwick's older public parks and gardens were the subject of replacement and infill planting during the Inter-War period. Planting often included the native Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) and exotic Kaffir Plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), American Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* and *P. x canadensis*), Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *Italica*) and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). A range of exotic palms including Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), Washington Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Cotton Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) and Jelly Palm (*Butia capitata*) were popular in these mixed

schemes. The rarely cultivated Silver Date Palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) was also used in one memorial plantation. These species were generally used in formal and commemorative layouts (eg. Long Bay Correctional Centre, Botany Cemetery and Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Haig Street [Maroubra RSL Club], Castle Street and Powell Street) or as informal groups and mixed palm clusters (eg. Randwick Racecourse, Randwick Town Hall, Leete Park, Coogee Beach Plaza and Garnet Street group).

These exotic palms are definitive elements of Coogee's grand Inter-War period development phase during which the beach was labelled "Australia's Most Beautiful Seaside Resort". Coogee has experienced a number of re-births since the first steam tram, offering a broad range of attractions and amusements including the opening of Centennial Aquarium and swimming baths in 1887 and Coogee Pier in 1929 with a 1400 seat theatre, ballroom and restaurant (Lawrence, J., 2005). The Washington Palm was used extensively in the area and has become an iconic specimen of the Hollywood era and Spanish Mission style. The remnant groves of these palms in the Randwick LGA are evocative of the southern California landscape. These mature palms are planted in public plantations and private gardens. Many of these hardy, drought tolerant palms line the upper ridges of Randwick, Coogee and Clovelly precincts. They are similar in form to the Cabbage Palm (*Livistona australis*), a native rainforest species, and are often confused. The native Cabbage Palm, however, requires a far more sheltered environment and preferably higher soil nutrient levels.

During the Inter-War period Randwick's public parks and street trees were increasingly influenced by the pace of urban consolidation. In the Depression resources were stretched for appropriate management of these public spaces and important tree collections. The city's parks became the focus for various unemployment schemes and many trees were removed while others were added as part of these programs. This approach to the design and management of public parkland and their valuable historic collections of trees continued for much of the Post-War period (1940s to 1960s).

During the early Post-War period (1940s to 1960s), the suburbs of South Coogee, Maroubra Beach, Maroubra, Matraville and Chifley experienced rapid residential growth and consolidation. There are far fewer listed trees (particularly of historic significance) in these areas due to this relatively recent phase of development. The harsh environmental conditions of poor sandy soils, relatively flat to hilly topography and exposure to southerly desiccating winds are further factors contributing to the low number of listings in these areas.

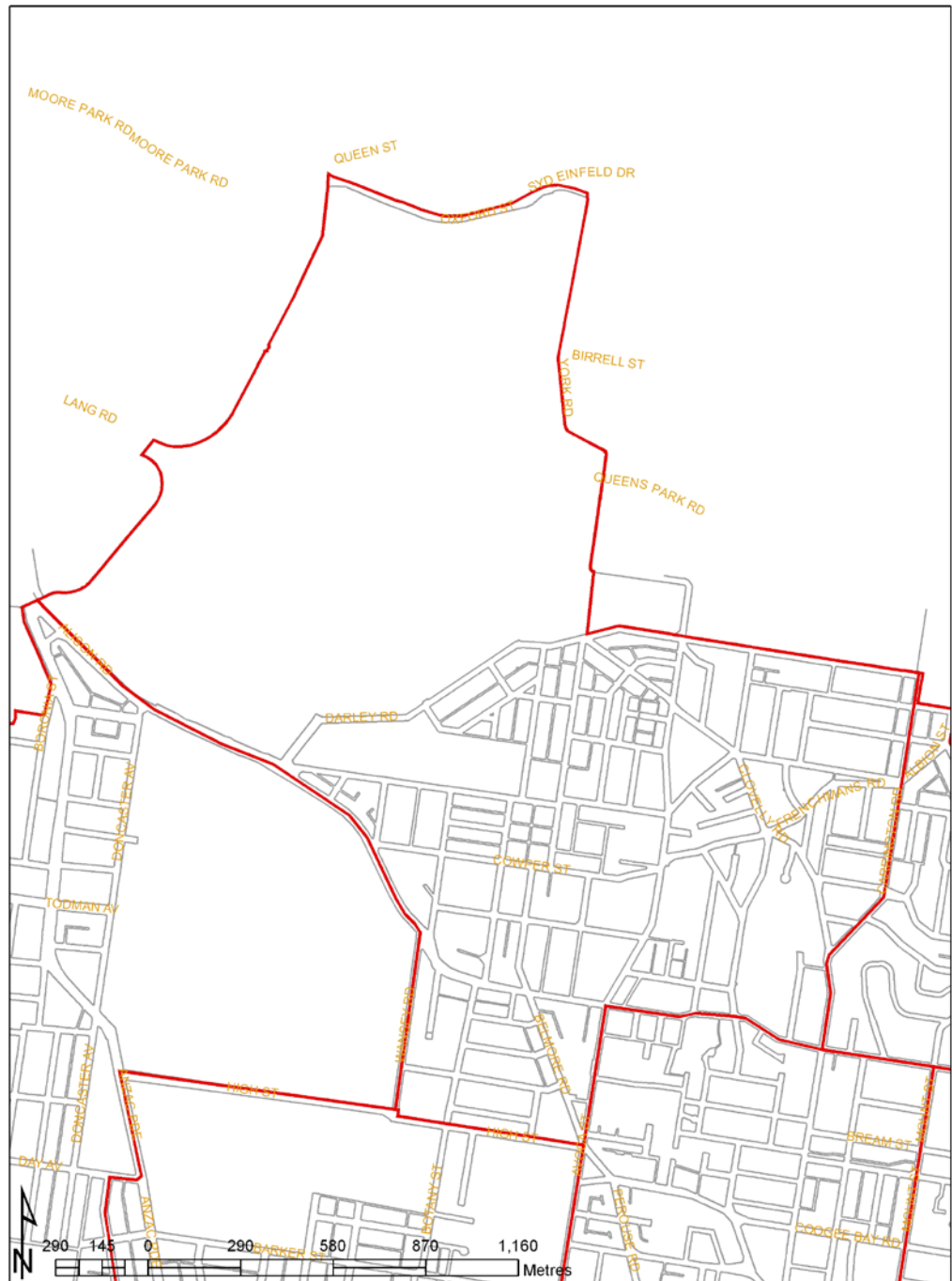
During the 1940s to 1950s period, native gardens were beginning to be embraced and promoted by people such as Betty Maloney, Jean Walker and Edna Walling. This movement towards creating 'bush gardens' laid the foundations for a new Australian garden style which grew in popularity during this period. This philosophy became part of a broader focus on global and local environmental issues during the 1960s to 1970s. The new garden style was adapted to suburban parks and streetscapes with the introduction and layering of a new range of Australian species. At the same time, however, Randwick's outstanding cultural landscapes were gradually disappearing under a surge of multi-storey unit development. During the 1960s and early 1970s, these developments significantly reduced and alienated historic curtilages and eliminated much of Randwick's heritage fabric, including many heritage trees and landscapes.

Since the early 1970s, the planting strategy has tended to focus on new smaller natives, particularly hardy, drought-tolerant sclerophyllous species which required less maintenance and smaller spaces for growth. These trees created improved amenity value at the suburban level and were further beneficial in addressing increasingly contentious issues of private views. This public planting strategy has established the now ubiquitous examples of Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus spp.* and *Corymbia spp.*), Paperbarks (*Melaleuca spp.*), Banksias (*Banksia spp.*), She-oaks (*Casuarina spp.*), Wattles (*Acacia spp.*) and Bottlebrush (*Callistemon spp.*). These generic native species have created a new 'bush' aesthetic, particularly within the streetscapes. It is worth noting that this group of trees attracted considerable community interest in the nomination process during this study. In Randwick's parks, these trees have continued to shape and impact upon older historic collections and in some instances have adversely affected the integrity of heritage landscapes through over-shadowing, competition and compromising the original design

philosophy and palette. The issues in relation to protecting and managing Randwick's ageing population of significant trees are discussed in the previous section and in the Data Sheets.

The following section of this study provides the Data Sheets identifying the City of Randwick's significant trees. The information is arranged into four volumes, each covering the full range of precincts (see *Figure 1: Key Precinct Map*). For a detailed description of the way data sheets have been prepared refer to *1.10 Survey Data Sheets – Register of Scheduled Places and Items*.

Randwick Precinct



Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: D 04
DATE: 9.01.06

PRECINCT 1: RANDWICK

Alison Park – Alison Road, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: MIXED GROUP/ROW PLANTING & INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LGA

Group A: Alison Road frontage

1 No Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Group B: Abbey Street frontage

2 No Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*)
1 No American Cotton Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)
2 No Queensland Firewheel Trees (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*)

Group C: Frances Street frontage/Randwick-Coogee Pre-school Kindergarten

1 No Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Group D: The Avenue frontage

4 No Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*)
8 No Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens* and f. *rubiginosa*)
1 No Washington Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)

Other tree components/associates

Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*)
Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*)
London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alison Park, dedicated as public parkland on 4 February 1876, was named after Alison Road (formerly known as Randwick Road). The park is part of the St Jude's Historic Precinct and is bounded by Alison Road (south), Abbey Street (west), Frances Street (north) and The Avenue (east). Alison Park is considered to be significant as an integral component of this historic precinct and its surrounding heritage buildings. The park retains an outstanding collection of mid-to late nineteenth century and early twentieth century planting which further reinforces the historic character of the precinct. The collection is considered to have significance at the local and Randwick LGA levels in terms of its historic, cultural, social, visual and aesthetic values.

Before the park's dedication, the site became a centre of controversy when Randwick Cemetery was established and the land fenced for this purpose. Simeon Pearce, responsible for the proposal, had been embroiled in the debate over the siting of St Jude's Church, in Randwick, an issue which threatened to spilt the new Municipality of Randwick. He was later labelled 'King Pearce' during the factional fighting over the development of this precinct. The ill-feeling over these issues continued between Simeon Pearce and his rival, Charles Moore, an influential local Coogee resident. Moore was the Director, Sydney Botanic Gardens (1848-96), Mayor of Sydney (1867-69) and later a Randwick alderman.

Alison Park is defined by a structured treatment of row planting, albeit informal in its layout, spacings and set-backs along the perimeter of the park. The central lawn areas contain

individual specimen planting. This is typical of the late Victorian Gardenesque style and public parks movement promoted by Charles Moore and his successor, Joseph Maiden, (Director, Sydney Botanic Gardens 1896-1924). Notably, the park contains a number of individual specimens of local significance. The Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) located on the corner of Alison Road/ Abbey Street (1 No.), Frances Street – grounds of Randwick Coogee Pre-school Kindergarten (1 No.) and the Avenue (4 No.) are all outstanding specimens of massive scale and proportions. The Moreton Bay Fig located on the corner of Alison Road and Abbey Street, standing at 22 metres in height, 30 metres in canopy spread and 2500mm diameter base, is a particularly memorable specimen. The group of Moreton Bay Figs along The Avenue are part of a larger, contiguous group of figs including eight Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens* and f. *rubiginosa*). Together these figs visually dominate this public open space. These figs may date from the earliest phase of park development in the late nineteenth century or Pre-war period of the twentieth century.

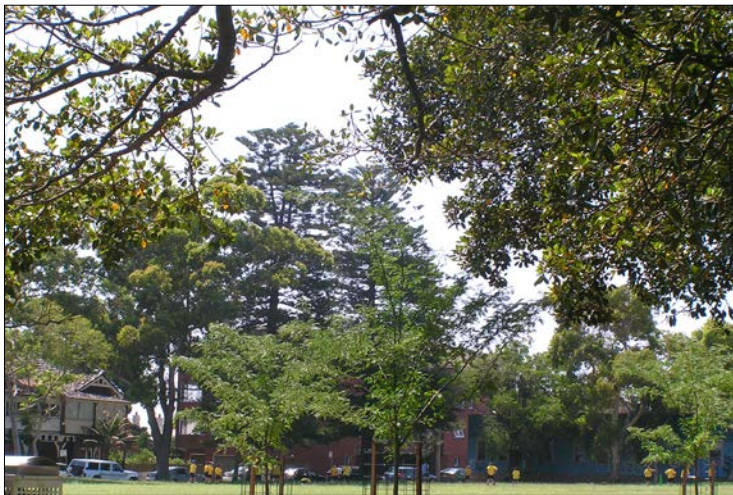
The two Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*), American Cotton Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Washington Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Queensland Firewheel Trees (*Stenocarpus reticulatus*) and Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) are believed to represent further embellishment during the Inter-War period (c.1915-1940). Other trees have been added during the latter part of this period and Post-War period (1940s-1960s) including Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) and London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*). These components are generally considered to be supportive to neutral with respect to the listed items.



Alison Park, The Avenue – Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens* and f. *rubiginosa*)



Alison Park, Frances St frontage – Randwick-Coogee Pre-school Kindergarten
Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)



Alison Park, view to Abbey St – Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*)
[background]



Alison Park, Alison Road frontage – Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: D 05 & E 05
DATE: 9.01.06
PRECINCT 1: RANDWICK

Fred Hollows Reserve (also known as "Glebe Gully") - Alison Road, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (LOCAL INDIGENOUS REMNANTS)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: REMNANT NATIVE (UNDERSTOREY) COMPONENTS
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LGA

Remnant native community – Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest

Sub-canopy Species:

Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*)
Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*)
Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*)
Corkwood (*Endiandra sieberi*)
Cheese Tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*)
Muttonwood (*Rapanea variabilis*)

all other remnant understorey components

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fred Hollows Reserve (also known as Glebe Gully) is a narrow parcel of highly disturbed and modified land within a deep south-facing gully. The remnant mesic plant community along the steep banks of the creek represents the last vestiges of a once complex ecological community known as Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest (Map Unit 10ag (iii)) – Closed-forest: *Ceratopetalum apetalum-Tristaniopsis laurina* (Benson & Howell, 1994). The gully has been subject to a long history of clearing, disturbance and modification. It is likely that the canopy species, dominated by Eucalypts and Angophoras, were logged for building materials during the early period after European settlement. Successive regrowth would have also been removed for fire-wood.

In 1857, the gully formed part of a land grant to the trustees of the United Church of England and Ireland and annexed to St. Mark's Anglican Church in Darling Point. The land became known as St. Mark's Glebe and later simply – "Glebe Gully". The upper slopes were subdivided for residential development in the 1880s while the northern portion of the gully was used as a stone quarry. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the gully was terraced and used as a tip-site for the dumping of household waste and various building and fill materials. A large portion of the creek channel was piped and filled. This history of clearing, modification, weed invasion and urbanisation has placed enormous pressures on this remnant natural community. The canopy species have long since disappeared.

Although highly simplified in terms of its original structural and species diversity, this remnant community is considered to have significance at the Randwick LGA level in terms of its historic, botanic, biodiversity, aesthetic, visual, representative and rarity values. The reserve is currently under a local bush restoration, reconstruction and enhancement program (National Trust of Australia and the Fred Hollows Bushcare Volunteer Group). The gully still retains many important component species of this ecological community which is now rare in the Eastern Suburbs. These species include Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Cheese Tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*), Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*), Corkwood (*Endiandra sieberi*) and Muttonwood (*Rapanea variabilis*). All of these are sub-canopy, mesic species and are associated with other native understorey species including *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Cissus hypoglauca*, *Cissus antarctica*, *Smilax australis*, *Eustrephus latifolius*, *Blechnum*

cartilagineum, *Doodia aspera* and *Microlaena stipoides*. The reserve contains no known threatened plant species. This ecological community is not scheduled under the Threatened Species Conservation Act (1993).

In recent years, extensive clearing of weed species has been undertaken in the reserve particularly in the upper gully area. Exotic trees and rampant vines have been removed over large areas however the phased strategy needs to ensure protection and management of vital habitat, bio-linkages and buffers. The impact of extended drought and one scorching day during the summer of 2005-06 highlighted the need for a carefully phased approach.



Fred Hollows Reserve – overlooking creek-line
Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: C 04
DATE: 9.01.06

PRECINCT 1: RANDWICK

Govett Street Reserves – public reserves and playground (cnr. Govett/Dangar Streets and Govett/Mort Streets), Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS/MIXED FICUS PLANTING
SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

- 1 No Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)
1 No Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED TREE SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Ficus macrophylla*** (1 No.)
Common Name: Moreton Bay Fig
Significance Attributes: native rainforest single specimen planting
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/park and streetscape)
biodiversity value
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (SE Qld to NSW Shoalhaven region)
Location: Single specimen located in lawn area – northern corner of small triangular-shaped reserve/playground.
Extent of Influence: Canopy extends over northern portion of reserve and partially over roadway. Root zone is likely to span a similar area.
Height: 14 metres
Canopy Spread: 25 metres
Trunk Diameter: 2000mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level (extensive buttressing and aerial roots to 3000mm).
Estimated Age: 90-100 years+
Condition/Health: Fig is in good condition and health with minimal pruning to canopy. The fig was stressed by the recent prolonged drought with extensive leaf fall and psyllid insect damage however it has responded to recent heavy falls of rain with a dense flush of new foliage.
Management
Recommendations: No immediate threats are evident. The fig should be periodically inspected by a qualified arborist. Investigate options to improve care and management.

Botanical Name: ***Ficus rubiginosa*** f. *rubiginosa* (1 No.)
Common Name: Port Jackson Fig
Significance Attributes: native rainforest single specimen planting
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/park and streetscape)
biodiversity value
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (from *rubiginosa* northern NSW to Illawarra)
Location: Single specimen located in lawn area – eastern side (adjacent to Mort Street) within small triangular shaped road reserve.
Extent of Influence: Canopy extends over large portion of reserve and partially over roadway. Root zone is likely to span a similar area.

Height:	15 metres
Canopy Spread:	20 metres
Trunk Diameter:	1300mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level.
Estimated Age:	90-100 years+
Condition/Health:	Fig is in good condition and health with a dense broadly spreading canopy and minimal pruning.
Management Recommendations:	No immediate threats are evident. The fig should be periodically inspected by a qualified arborist. Investigate options to improve care and management.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) is located within the northern corner of Govett Street Reserve, a triangular-shaped "island" of open space bounded by Govett Street, Dangar Street and White Street. The small reserve has a children's playground. Although not a particularly tall example for this taxon, this cultivated native fig is an outstanding specimen. It has developed a massive spreading canopy, a distinctive sculptural form, extensive buttressing and aerial roots creating a dramatic sense of scale within this reserve and streetscape.

The specimen Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*), located in a nearby reserve (bordered by Govett Street, Mort Street and Little Mort Street), was likely planted at the same time as the Moreton Bay Fig. The Port Jackson Fig is an exceptional example of this taxon with a dense, symmetrical canopy and form. The branching pattern arches almost to the ground.

Both species are significant as important components of public planting schemes during the late Victorian era and early twentieth century. These specimens are likely to date from the Pre-War or early Inter-War period (c.1915-1940). Both have individual significance at the local level in terms of their historic, cultural, social, biodiversity, visual and aesthetic values. They make an important visual and aesthetic contribution to the streetscape and local environs. Furthermore, they are significant as an informal mixed fig group (pair) and represent an interesting example of early twentieth century public street/ road-side reserve planting in this area.



Govett Street Reserve, cnr. Govett Street and Dangar Street
Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)



Govett Street Reserve, cnr. Govett Street and Dangar Street
Detail – Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)



Govett Street Reserve, cnr. Govett Street and Mort Street
Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: D 03
DATE: 15.06.06

PRECINCT 1: RANDWICK

Public Reserve – cnr. Wansey Road and Alison Road, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: MIXED ROW/BOUNDARY PLANTATION
SIGNIFICANCE: GROUP – LOCAL/LGA

5 No Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*)
8 No Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Other tree components/associates

Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*)
Cape Chestnuts (*Calodendron capense*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Washingtonia robusta***
Common Name: Washington Palm
Significance Attributes: mixed exotic palm species boundary/row plantation
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (north-western Mexico)
Location: Formal mixed row plantation along boundaries of small triangular
reserve – 2 No. south boundary, 2 No. west boundary (Wansey
Road) and 1 No. north-east boundary (Alison Road).
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones contained within the reserve.
Height: 18-22 metres [clear trunk]
Canopy Spread: 2.0-2.5 metres
Trunk Diameter: n/a
Estimated Age: 80-90 years+
Condition/Health: These palms appear to be in good condition and health with strong
apical growth.
Management
Recommendations: No immediate threats or problems are evident.

Botanical Name: ***Phoenix canariensis***
Common Name: Canary Island Date Palm
Significance Attributes: mixed exotic palm species boundary/row plantation
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (Canary Islands)
Location: Formal mixed row plantation along boundaries of small triangular
reserve – 4 No. west boundary (Wansey Road) planted as opposite
pairs at the northern and southern ends of the reserve.
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones contained within the reserve.
Height: 10-14 metres [clear trunk]
Canopy Spread: 6-7 metres
Trunk Diameter: n/a
Estimated Age: 80-90 years+

Condition/Health:	These palms appear to be in good condition and health with strong apical growth and no evidence of disease in this group however a single <i>P. canariensis</i> (similar age structure) planted on the western corner of Wansey Road/Alison Road has recently died, possibly as a result of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt. This population may be under threat.
Management Recommendations:	Continue to promote management practices which restrict the introduction of fungal soil pathogens (eg. <i>Fusarium</i> sp.). Implement appropriate management protocols (eg. restrict use of imported soils and mulches, ensure thorough cleaning of equipment, etc).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The formal, patterned layout of boundary row plantations including five mature Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) and eight Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) is believed to be an early Inter-War period (c.1915-1940) public planting scheme. The group is considered to have significance at the local and Randwick LGA levels in terms of its historic, visual, aesthetic, social and cultural values. The plantation may also have commemorative values associated with the First World War and this point requires further investigation.

The mixed group forms one of the largest single clusters of exotic palms in Randwick's parks and reserves. The palms are located in a prominent location on Alison Road and create a dramatic visual impact on the local streetscape. The formal layout of paired Canary Island Date Palms at the northern and southern ends of the reserve is an interesting design component. The Washington Palms are amongst the tallest examples of this taxon in the Randwick LGA due to the site's relatively sheltered location near an old creek-line. These two cultivated palm species have significant representative values in the Randwick area and were typical of early twentieth century plantations in public parks and streetscapes. The palms may have been planted at a similar time as those in Randwick Racecourse (refer to listing in this Register).

The two Cape Chestnuts (*Calodendron capense*) located in the reserve's northern corner and an adjacent avenue of Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) in Wansey Road are believed to represent further embellishment during the latter part of the Inter-War period. These components are generally considered to be supportive with respect to the listed items however issues of competition and shading from the figs may need to be addressed over time. Other generic Eucalypts have been added to the reserve in recent decades however these trees are considered to be neutral to intrusive in the context of the original formal palm layout.



Public reserve, cnr. Wansey Road and Alison Road – Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) and Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: D 04
DATE: 9.01.06

PRECINCT 1: RANDWICK

Randwick Town Hall – 90 Avoca Street, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: MIXED GROUP/INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LOCAL

1 No Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)
1 No Jelly Palm hybrid form (*Butia capitata* var.)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED PALM SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Phoenix dactylifera***
Common Name: Date Palm
Significance Attributes: exotic specimen palm planting
cultural/historic and commemorative
visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (Western Asia to North Africa)
Location: North-eastern grass verge adjacent to car parking area.
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones are contained within the lawn area.
Height: 15 metres, clear trunk
Canopy Spread: 6 metres
Trunk Diameter: n/a
Estimated Age: 90-100 years+
Condition/Health: This palm appears to be in good condition and health with strong apical growth and no evidence of disease.
Management
Recommendations: No immediate threats or problems are evident.

Botanical Name: ***Butia capitata***
Common Name: Jelly Palm
Significance Attributes: exotic specimen palm planting
cultural/historic and commemorative
botanic/scientific
visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin: ornamental/ cultivated (Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina)
Location: North-eastern grass verge adjacent to car parking area.
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones are contained within the lawn area.
Height: 4 metres
Canopy Spread: 4 metres
Trunk Diameter: n/a
Estimated Age: 90-100 years+
Condition/Health: This palm is in good condition and health with strong apical growth and no evidence of disease.
Management
Recommendations: No immediate threats or problems are evident.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

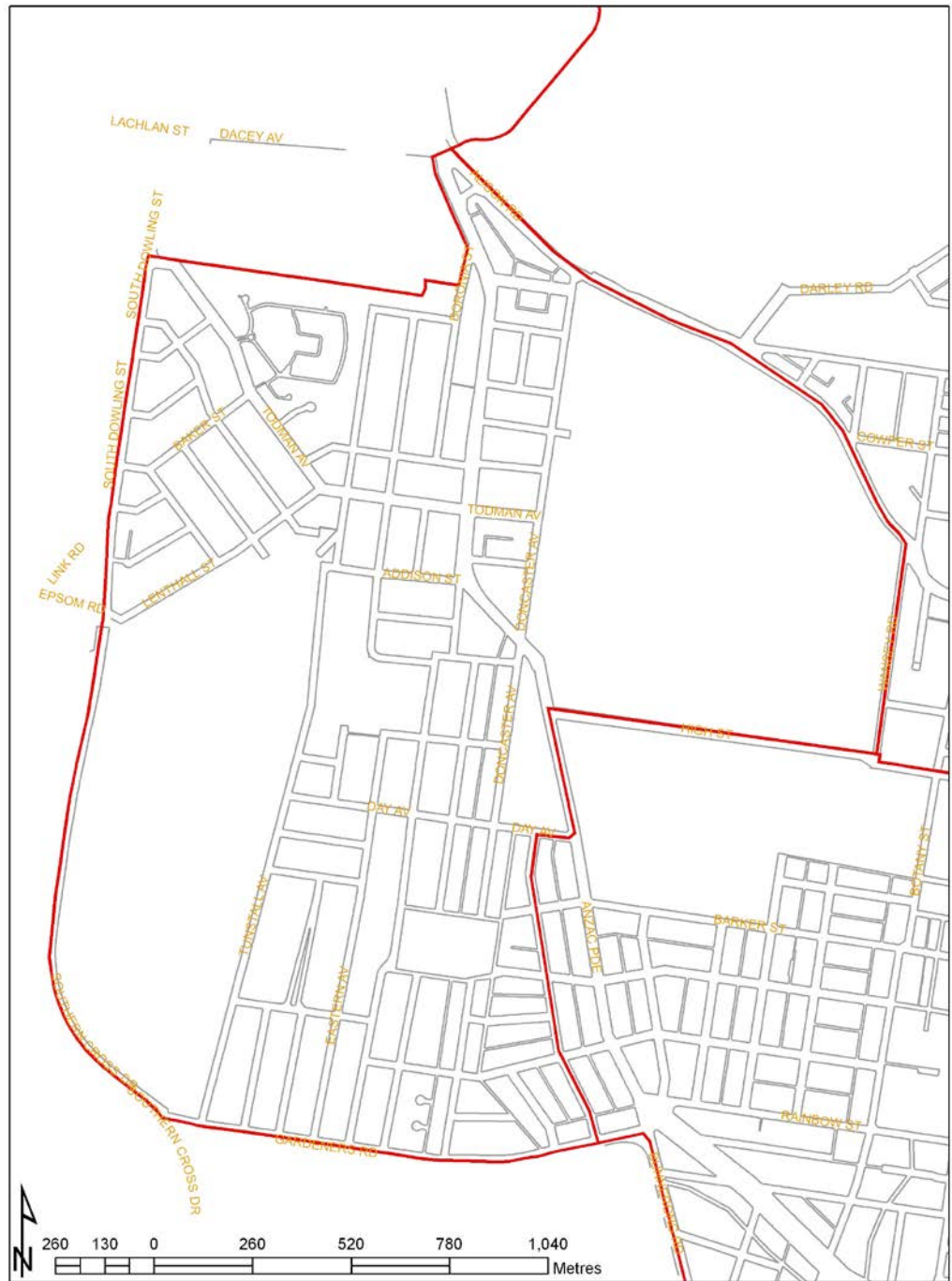
The Randwick Town Hall was built in 1882. The informal grouping of two distinctive palms, located on the north-eastern lawn area appear to be remnants of a former larger planting scheme. This eclectic botanical style using exotic palms became very popular during the late nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century. The style was generally associated with commemorative parkland and civic streetscapes. These specimens may date from the early twentieth century (possibly pre World War I or early Inter-War period c.1915-1940). The palms are believed to have significance at the local level in terms of their historic, social, cultural, commemorative, botanic, visual and aesthetic values. The taller Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), standing 15 metres (clear trunk height), is the well-known commercial date species. It is a relatively uncommon ornamental palm species within the Randwick LGA.

Although only four metres in height (clear trunk height), the smaller palm is believed to be a cultivar of the Jelly Palm (*Butia capitata*), a relatively common species within the Sydney metropolitan area. This old specimen is interesting and unusual in its relatively compact stature, vivid blue leaf colour and graceful arching foliage. *Butia capitata* has a number of variations within the species and is known to hybridise freely with other genera such as the Chilean Wine Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) and Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*).



Randwick Town Hall – 90 Avoca Street
Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) [right mid-ground]

Kensington Precinct



Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: F 02
DATE: 30.01.06

PRECINCT 2: KENSINGTON

Kensington Park and Kensington Bowling Club – Doncaster Avenue, Kingsford

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEM S: FORMAL ROW PLANTATION
SIGNIFICANCE: GROUP – LOCAL

5 № Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Other tree components/associates

Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*)

Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Botanical Name:	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>
Common Name:	Canary Island Date Palm
Significance Attributes:	exotic specimen palm planting cultural/historic and social visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin:	ornamental/cultivated (Canary Islands)
Location:	The eastern portion of Kensington Park adjacent Kensington Bowling Club. The row is aligned within the unmade section of Doncaster Avenue.
Extent of Influence:	Canopies and root zones are generally contained within the park.
Height:	12-14 metres, clear trunk
Canopy Spread:	6-7 metres
Trunk Diameter:	n/a
Estimated Age:	80-90 years+
Condition/Health:	These palms are in good condition and health with strong apical growth and no evidence of disease.
Management Recommendations:	No immediate threats or problems are evident. Continue to promote management practices which restrict the introduction of fungal soil pathogens (eg. <i>Fusarium</i> sp.). Implement appropriate management protocols (eg. restrict use of imported soils and mulches, ensure thorough cleaning of equipment, etc).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The formal, non-contiguous single row of five Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) is believed to be a remnant of an Inter-War period (c.1915-1940) planting scheme. These palms are aligned within the unmade section of Doncaster Avenue creating a dramatic visual affect in the landscape, particularly when viewed from the southern end of the avenue. The row has significance at the local level in terms of its historic, visual, aesthetic, social and cultural values. This was a popular cultivated species, particularly during the early twentieth century period. These palms may have been planted at a similar time as those in Randwick Racecourse (refer to listing). By 1919, Kensington was being described as a desirable residential suburb with wide streets and many 'excellent residences', a golf links and a racecourse (Lawrence, J., 2005, p.92).

This palm species was used extensively as a commemorative planting in public parkland and civic streetscapes following the Boer War and First World War. The palm, a subtropical/ warm temperate exotic species, was highly favoured in formal planting schemes due to its relatively uniform growth pattern, bold accent, dramatic scale and tolerance to poor sandy soils and periods of drought. Canary Island Date Palms were ideally suited to the Kensington area. This species of palm however has been decimated over the last decade as a result of introduced fungal pathogens in the soil, particularly *Fusarium* sp. which leads to rapid decline and death sometimes in an entire local population. Replacement planting schemes using the same and other exotic palm species (eg. *Washingtonia* spp.) have not been successful. It will be important to maintain appropriate management protocols for the protection and management of this potentially vulnerable population. The park also contains various other overlays, some of which date from the latter part of the Inter-War period and Post War period (1940s to 1960s). Species including Hill's Weeping Figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) and a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), are generally considered to be supportive of the earlier planting scheme.



Kensington Park and Kensington Bowling Club
Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: D 02
DATE: 2.08.06

PRECINCT 2: KENSINGTON

Kokoda Memorial Park – Goodwood Street, Kensington

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: INDIVIDUAL SPECIMEN PLANTING
SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

1 No Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens*)

Other tree components/associates

Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*)

Hill's Weeping Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED TREE SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens***
Common Name: Port Jackson Fig
Significance Attributes: native rainforest single specimen planting
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/park and streetscape)
biodiversity value
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (form *glabrescens* Qld and northern NSW)
Location: Single specimen located in northern lawn area – adjacent to
boundary with Goodwood Street.
Extent of Influence: Canopy extends over this portion of reserve and public verge and
partially over roadway. Root zone is likely to span a similar area.
Height: 20 metres
Canopy Spread: 20 metres
Trunk Diameter: 1800mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level.
Estimated Age: 90-100 years+
Condition/Health: Fig is in good condition and health with a dense broadly spreading
canopy and minimal pruning.
Management
Recommendations: No immediate threats are evident. The fig should be periodically
inspected by a qualified arborist. Investigate options to improve care
and management.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The single specimen Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *glabrescens*) is located in an open lawn area at the northern end of the reserve. This cultivated native fig is an outstanding specimen with a large spreading canopy and distinctive sculptural trunk, creating a dramatic sense of scale within this reserve and streetscape. The specimen fig is considered to have individual significance at the local level in terms of its historic, cultural, social, biodiversity, visual and aesthetic values.

In 1891 the Kensington Estate was subdivided for residential development. By 1919 Kensington was becoming a desirable residential suburb with wide streets, parkland, golf links, racecourse and substantial residences. It is believed that this Port Jackson Fig was planted during the Pre-War period of the twentieth century or early part of the Inter-War period (c.1915-1940).

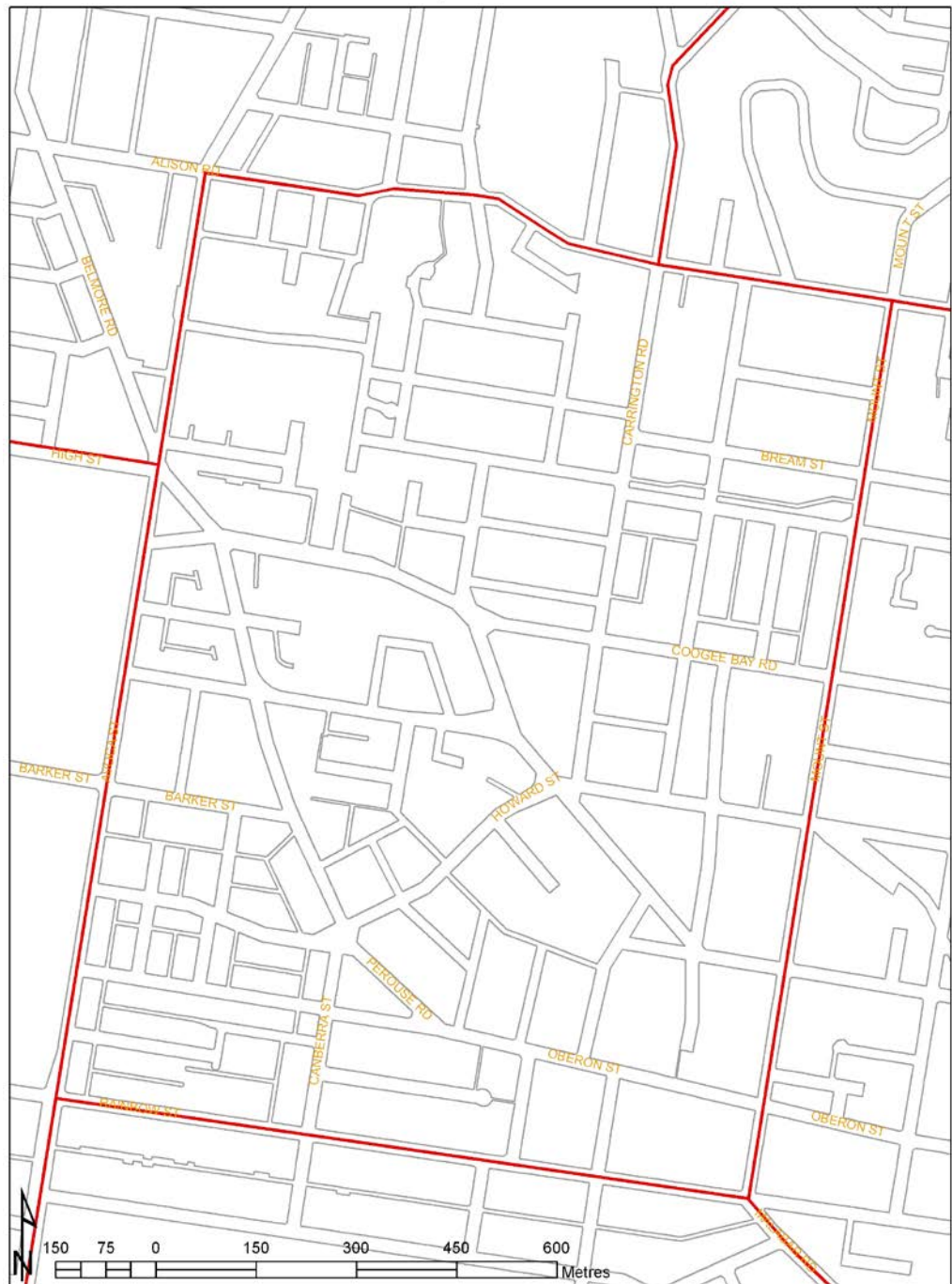
This form of the Port Jackson Fig, '*glabrescens*' was likely sourced from the rainforests of the northern rivers of NSW or Queensland. This glabrous leaf form (no hairs on the underside of the leaves) tends to be larger than the local '*rubiginosa*' form (with brown hairs on the underside of leaves). Port Jackson Figs have been an important component species within many public planting schemes during the late Victorian era and early twentieth century.

Kokoda Memorial Park contains a range of other planted trees including a Hill's Weeping Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) and Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), possibly dating from the latter part of the Inter-War period or Post-War period. These trees are located in the southern portion of the reserve adjoining Ascot Street. These trees and other more recent planting are considered to be supportive to neutral with respect to the historic fig planting.



Kokoda Memorial Park, Goodwood Street
Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*)

The Spot Precinct



Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: F 05
DATE: 24.01.06

PRECINCT 4: THE SPOT

Baker Park and Memorial Playground – Dudley Street, Coogee

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: MIXED FICUS ROW PLANTATION
SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

6 No Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*)
1 No Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*)

Other tree components/associates

Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED TREE SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Ficus macrophylla*** (6 No.)
Common Name: Moreton Bay Fig
Significance Attributes: mixed boundary row plantation of native figs
cultural/historic and social
visual/aesthetic (local/park and streetscape)
biodiversity value
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (SE Qld to NSW Shoalhaven region)
Location: Dominant species in mixed row plantation along park boundary to
Dudley Street.
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones are largely contained within this park and
public verge to Dudley Street.
Height: 8-14 metres
Canopy Spread: 10-15 metres
Trunk Diameter: 700-1000mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level
Estimated Age: 70-80 years+
Condition/Health: The figs appear to be in fair to good health and condition with some
dead wood present in the crowns and a low to medium level of fig
psyllid damage to leaves.
Management
Recommendations: For further detailed assessment of health, condition and tree
management recommendations, a qualified arborist should be
consulted.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This mixed row plantation of six Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and a single Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*) is a visually prominent group along the upper park boundary to Dudley Street. These cultivated native figs are all relatively small and stunted specimens in terms of their overall height and scale for this taxon. This is possibly due to a combination of poor sandy soils (low nutrient value/ restricted soil moisture capacity), the high level of exposure to dominant on-shore winds in this elevated location and periodic and prolonged periods of drought. Nevertheless, these figs make an important contribution to the visual and aesthetic character of this park and streetscape. The figs are believed to date from the Inter-War period (c.1915-1940) and are representative of the early twentieth century public parks movement. Although none of these figs are of individual significance, the row plantation has group significance at the local level in terms of its historic,

cultural, social, visual and aesthetic values. The Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) are considered to be important contextual and supportive elements and may date from the same period or early Post-War period (1940s-1960s).



Baker Park /Memorial Playground, Dudley Street
Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: E 04
DATE: 27.01.06

PRECINCT 4: THE SPOT

High Cross Reserve – cnr. Avoca Street, Cuthill Street and Belmore Road, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: SINGLE SPECIES GROUP & INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LGA & REGIONAL (METROPOLITAN)

Group A: Major park group - Araucarias

5 No Cook Pines (*Araucaria columnaris*)

Group B: Avoca Street frontage

1 No Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

1 No Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa* f. *rubiginosa*)

Other tree components/associates

Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED TREE SPECIES

Botanical Name:	<i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (5 No.)
Common Name:	Cook Pine or New Caledonian Pine
Significance Attributes:	exotic single species informal group cultural/historic and social aesthetic/visual (local/streetscape and district)
Origin:	ornamental/cultivated (New Caledonia and Loyalty Islands)
Location:	Informal grove planting within the lawn area of a small triangular park at the major intersection of Avoca Street, Cuthill Street and Coogee Bay Road.
Extent of Influence:	Canopies and roots generally contained within the park boundaries.
Height:	30-40+ metres
Canopy Spread:	4-7 metres
Trunk Diameter:	700-900mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level
Estimated Age:	100-120 years+
Condition/Health:	These pines appear to be in reasonably good condition and health with well-developed canopies and continuing apical growth in most of the specimens. The slightly curved trunk is typical of this species.
Management	
Recommendations:	For further detailed assessment of health, condition and tree management recommendations, a qualified arborist should be consulted.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On first sighting these pines from the sea in 1774, Captain James Cook debated with his 'philosophers' (the Forsters) whether they were trees or 'pillars of Basaltes'. Cook was proved correct in this instance (*Source: Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust*).

High Cross Reserve is located in an historic precinct adjacent to the Prince of Wales Hospital (refer to listing in this Register). This small triangular reserve is at the centre of a major intersection – Avoca Street, Cuthill Street and Belmore Road. It is scheduled in Randwick City

Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP 1998) and classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). The reserve is dominated by an informal group of tall, slender growing New Caledonian Pines or Cook Pines (*Araucaria columnaris*). These pines are outstanding landmark specimens of high visual, aesthetic, historic, cultural and botanic significance to this location. Their prominent position, exaggerated vertical height and combined group impact create a dramatic sense of scale to this civic space. The Cook Pines are likely to date from the latter part of the nineteenth century. This species has been a popular collector's item since the early nineteenth century, particularly as a specimen or accent planting within larger private gardens and public parks. It is closely related to other native Australian rainforest and South-western Pacific Island pine species such as the Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*). The Cook Pine and other *Araucaria* pines have been used extensively in mixed groups within The Domain, Sydney Botanic Gardens and Hyde Park. This group has special significance at the Randwick LGA and regional (metropolitan) levels in terms of representative and rarity values as a single species grove of Cook Pines rather than the more common mixed grouping of emergent *Araucarias*.

These pines were often planted in association with plantations of Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*). Both of these species are present in the reserve adjacent to Avoca Street. These figs may be remnants of a former row plantation. They are relatively small in stature for these species (8-14 metres in height/ 12-14 metres in canopy spread and 600-1000mm DBH) but are nevertheless important components of the historic planting scheme. This stylistic approach was typical of the public parks movement promoted by Charles Moore and J.H. Maiden (Directors, Sydney Botanic Gardens 1848-1896 and 1896-1924 respectively). The Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) in the park may be an Inter-War period overlay (c. 1915-1940). Other various trees (eg. Eucalypts) have been added during the latter part of the twentieth century however these are considered to have either a negative to neutral impact on the integrity of the earlier planting scheme.



High Cross Reserve – view from Coogee Bay Road
Cook Pines (*Araucaria columnaris*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: F 05
DATE: 24.01.06

PRECINCT 4: THE SPOT

Leete Park – cnr. Thomas Street, Higgs Street and Dudley Street, Randwick

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: ROW/BOUNDARY PLANTATION
SIGNIFICANCE: GROUP – LOCAL

5 No Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*)

Other palm components/associates

Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED SPECIES

Botanical Name:	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>
Common Name:	Washington Palm
Significance Attributes:	single species row plantation of exotic palms cultural/historic and social visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin:	ornamental/cultivated (north-western Mexico)
Location:	Formal row plantation within reserve – along southern boundary to Thomas Street.
Extent of Influence:	Canopies and roots contained within the reserve.
Height:	15-16 metres [clear trunk]
Canopy Spread:	1.5-2.0 metres
Trunk Diameter:	n/a
Estimated Age:	70-80 years+
Condition/Health:	These palms appear to be in fair to good condition and health with strong apical growth.
Management	
Recommendations:	No immediate threats or problems are evident.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

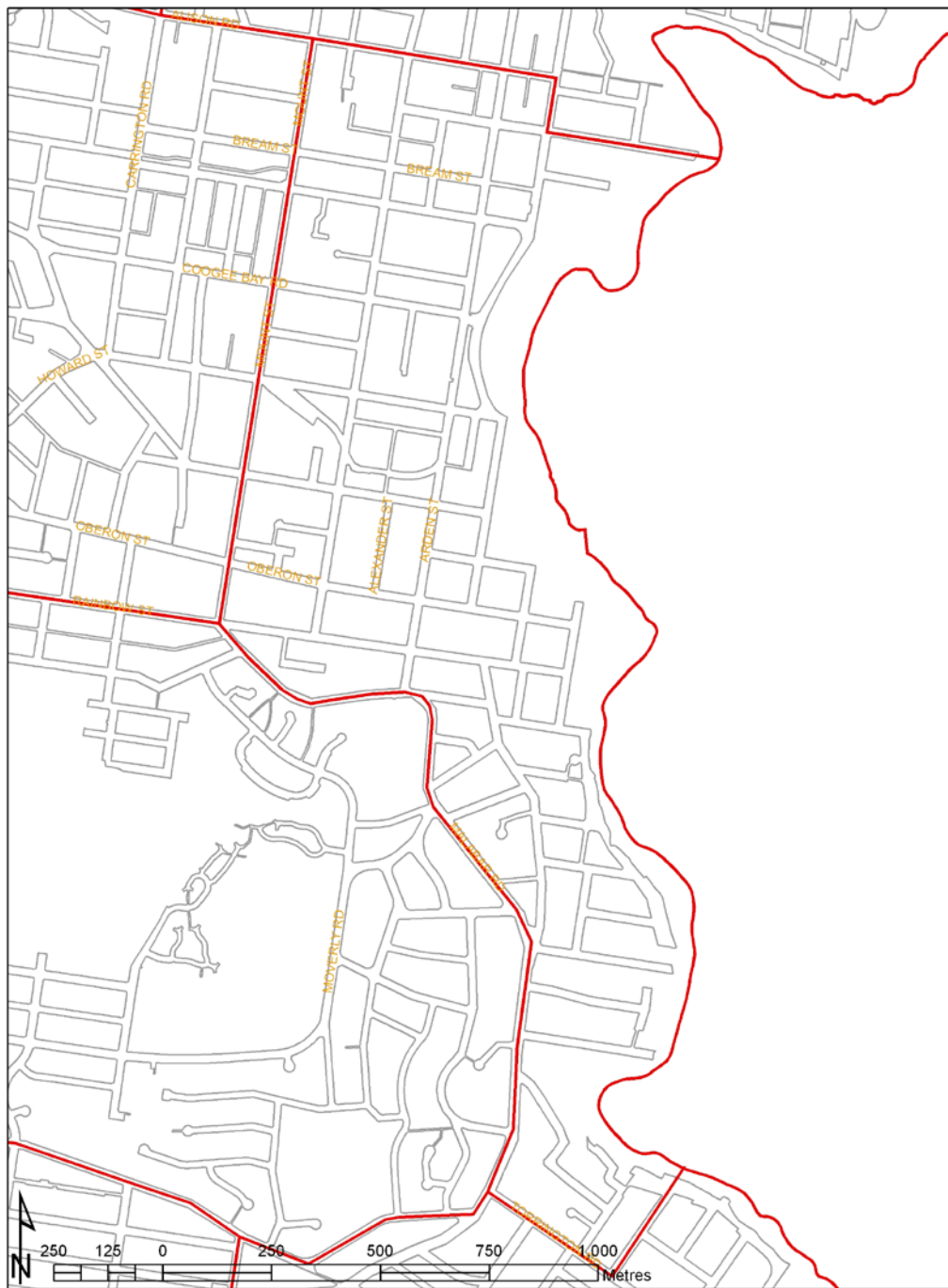
The formal row plantation of Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) along the boundary to Thomas Street is considered to have group significance at the local level in terms of its visual, aesthetic, historic, cultural and social values. These palms are believed to be part of a broader landscape program undertaken in Coogee possibly during the late 1920s to early 1930s period. Other similar local public park and street plantations include Coogee Beach Plaza (northern end) and Dunningham Reserve (refer to other listings in this Register). Although none of these palms are particularly tall for this taxon, the group is visually prominent in this open elevated location. The Washington Palm is a hardy and drought tolerant species from northern Mexico and has been cultivated in Sydney since the latter part of the nineteenth century.

These palms visually combine with separate row plantations of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) along the park boundaries to create a distinctive landscape character. The Canary Island Date Palms are all relatively small in stature (only 3-6 metres clear trunk height) and it is believed that they represent a more recent overlay, possibly from the early Post-War period (1940s to 1960s). This plantation may have commemorative values associated with the Second World War and should be further investigated.



Leete Park, Thomas Street – Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*)

Coogee Precinct



Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: E 05
DATE: 14.01.06

PRECINCT 6: COOGEE

Bardon Park (Coogee Croquet Club) – Smithfield Avenue, Coogee

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: GROUP/INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LOCAL

2 № Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED TREE SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Ficus macrophylla***
Common Name: Moreton Bay Fig
Significance Attributes: native rainforest specimen planting
cultural/historic and social
aesthetic/visual (local/streetscape)
biodiversity value
Origin: ornamental/cultivated (SE Qld to NSW Shoalhaven region)
Location: Two specimen figs located on a low embankment to laneway verge (Smithfield Avenue) adjacent to the Coogee Croquet Club greens.
Extent of Influence: Canopies extend over the laneway and the grassed area adjoining Coogee Croquet Club greens. Root zones are likely to extend to similar area.
Height: Fig A: 18 metres; Fig B: 20 metres
Canopy Spread: Fig A: 20 metres; Fig B: 30 metres
Trunk Diameter: Fig A: 1500mm/ Fig B: 1800mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level (up to 3000mm buttressed base).
Estimated Age: 100-120 years+
Condition/Health: These figs appear to be in reasonably good health and condition with a medium to high level of fig psyllid damage to leaves. There is a history of pruning to branches overhanging and shading the greens.
Management
Recommendations: For further detailed assessment of health, condition and tree management recommendations, a qualified arborist should be consulted.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two closely planted Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) are of historic significance and were possibly planted within the original curtilage of the adjoining property and Italianate Villa – Smithfield Grange. These native rainforest figs are typical of the planting on larger estates during this period. One specimen (Fig B) in particular, has outstanding proportions and scale with a canopy spread of 30 metres in diameter. This fig would be one of the largest examples of this species in this precinct. Together, these figs are visually prominent specimens within the streetscape and local area. These trees are considered to have significance at the local level in terms of their historic, social, cultural, aesthetic and visual qualities.



Bardon Park (Coogee Croquet Club), Smithfield Avenue
Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: F 06
DATE: 29.01.06

PRECINCT 6: COOGEE

Coogee Beach Plaza – beach reserve and northern car parking area (near Dolphin Street), Coogee

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: INFORMAL GROUP (REMNANT)
SIGNIFICANCE: GROUP – LOCAL

5 No Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED PALM SPECIES

Botanical Name:	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>
Common Name:	Washington Palm
Significance Attributes:	single species exotic palm group cultural/historic and social visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin:	ornamental/cultivated (north-western Mexico)
Location:	Informal scattered group of palms in open lawn area and northern car parking area (part of public beach reserve).
Extent of Influence:	Canopies and roots contained within the reserve.
Height:	16-18 metres [clear trunk]
Canopy Spread:	2.0-2.5 metres
Trunk Diameter:	n/a
Estimated Age:	70-80 years+
Condition/Health:	These palms appear to be in fair to good condition and health with strong apical growth. The palms have grown under very difficult conditions of impoverished sandy soils and exposure to predominant onshore salt-laden winds.
Management	
Recommendations:	No immediate threats or problems are evident.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This informal group planting of Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) are representative of Coogee's grand Inter-War period development phase during which the beach was labelled "Australia's Most Beautiful Seaside Resort". In 1929 the Coogee Pier was opened including a 1400 seat theatre, a ballroom and upstairs restaurant. A combination of damage by rough seas and the Depression led to its demolition only five years later (Lawrence, J., 2005). The palms are considered to have group significance at the local level in terms of their visual, aesthetic, historic, cultural and social values.

These palms do not appear in any Pre-War period photographs and are more likely to date from this golden era of development. They may be the remnants of a former public planting program. A 1929 photograph overlooking Coogee Beach, shows extensive plantations of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) and Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) along Arden Street. These palms visually combine with other groups and individuals of this species to create a distinctive thematic landscape which is reminiscent of parts of southern California (refer to Dunningham Reserve and other listings in this Register).

These hardy and drought tolerant palms from northern Mexico are often confused with the native Cabbage Palm (*Livistona australis*). The Washington Palm has been a popular cultivated species in private gardens and parkland throughout the Sydney metropolitan area since the latter part of the Victorian era. The Washington Palms popularity grew throughout the early Pre-War and Inter-War periods of the twentieth century and their appearance and silhouettes on the city's sky-line are now an important part of Sydney's landscape.

During the early 1990s, new plantations of Norfolk Island Pines were added to the Coogee Beach Plaza as part of the broader landscape improvements project, designed by landscape architect, Bruce MacKenzie.



Coogee Beach Plaza (northern car parking area) – Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) [centre mid-ground and background]



Dunningham Reserve, Beach Street – Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) [left mid-ground]

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: E 06 & F 06
DATE: 29.01.06
PRECINCT 6: COOGEE

Dunningham Reserve (southern portion), Coogee

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (POSSIBLY LOCAL INDIGENOUS REMNANTS)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS (PART OF REMNANT GROUP)
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LGA

Group Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*)

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (CULTURAL PLANTING)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: ROW/BOUNDARY PLANTATION
SIGNIFICANCE: GROUP – LOCAL

5 No Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED SPECIES

Botanical Name:	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>
Common Name:	Washington Palm
Significance Attributes:	single species row plantation of exotic palms cultural/historic and social visual/aesthetic (local/streetscape)
Origin:	ornamental/cultivated (north-western Mexico)
Location:	Formal row plantation within reserve – along south-western boundary to Beach Street (cul-de-sac).
Extent of Influence:	Canopies and roots contained within the reserve.
Height:	15-20 metres [clear trunk]
Canopy Spread:	2.0-2.5 metres
Trunk Diameter:	n/a
Estimated Age:	70-80 years+
Condition/Health:	These palms appear to be in fair to good condition and health with strong apical growth. The palms have grown under very difficult conditions of impoverished sandy soils and exposure to predominant onshore salt-laden winds.
Management Recommendations:	No immediate threats or problems are evident.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The formal row plantation of Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) along the boundary to Beach Street is considered to have group significance at the local level in terms of its visual, aesthetic, historic, cultural and social values. These palms are believed to be part of a broader landscape program undertaken during the Inter-War period (possibly late 1920s to early 1930s). During this time, Coogee was being promoted as "Australia's Most Beautiful Seaside Resort". These palms visually combine with other groups and individuals of this species to create a distinctive landscape character (refer to Coogee Beach Plaza and other listings in this Register).

The Washington Palm is a hardy and drought tolerant cultivated species with its origins in northern Mexico. These palms have been planted extensively throughout the Sydney

metropolitan area, particularly the beach-side suburbs. Their popularity grew throughout the early Pre-War and Inter-War periods of the twentieth century.

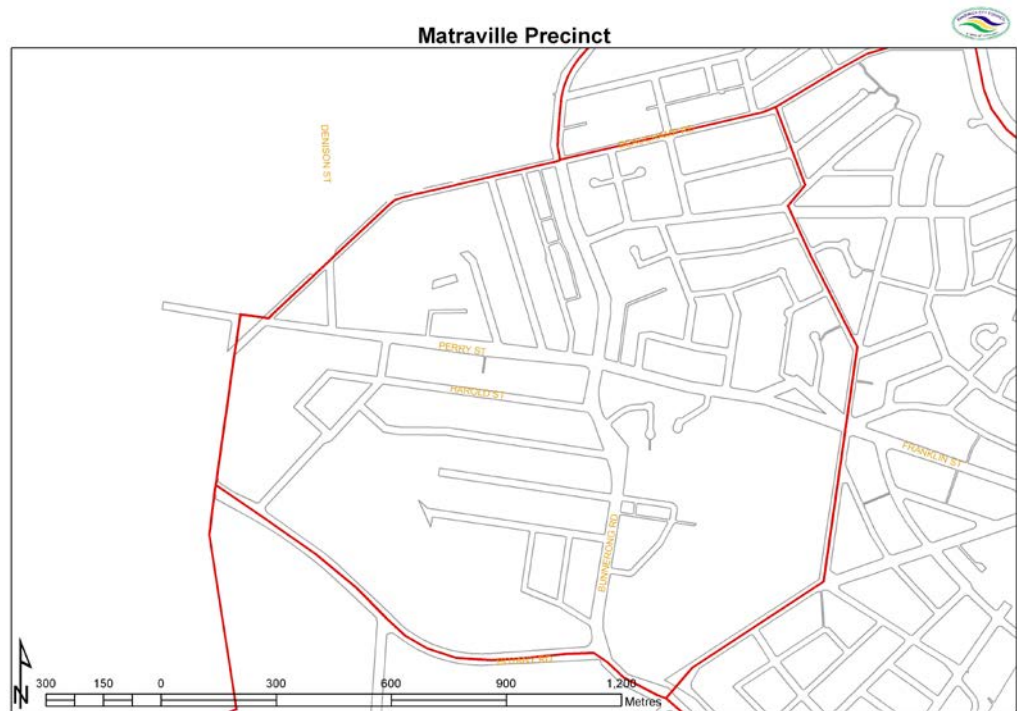
An early photograph of Coogee Beach and Dunningham Reserve taken by Tom Sproul (c.1890) shows a headland with mown open lawns punctuated with a canopy of mature native trees – remnants of the original coastal heathland and Banksia scrub. Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*), Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) appear to be the dominant native shrub/tree species in these photographs. A pathway winds through the groves of trees. A group of immature Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) line the upper slopes. By 1929, a photograph shows the sand dunes and headland as totally cleared and modified parkland. The Norfolk Island Pines of the upper slopes had matured. A few smaller trees and shrubs were still evident on the headland. These may have been remnant native regrowth or cultivated elements.

The existing population of Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*) is scattered throughout the headland with the largest specimens occurring within the leeward south-western slope. This group contains a few older multi-trunk specimens of unknown age (up to 7-8 metres in height/ 10-12 metres canopy spread and 900-1000mm diameter bases). These older trees are mixed with younger age groups (<30-40 years old). There are no remnant native groundcovers present or associated with any of the older specimens.

The community nominations received during this study identified the Coastal Honeysuckle group as possibly a significant remnant of the original coastal headland vegetation. The origins and genetic integrity of this population however remain unclear, particularly in view of the level of modification and the various phases of planting which have occurred over at least 120 years. Furthermore, Randwick's coastal reserves have been the subject of extensive native planting and rehabilitation programs since the 1970s. The Dunningham Reserve population has not been identified in the Critical Habitat Maps and Schedules for Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub as contained within the *Draft Critical Habitat Identification Report (March 2006)* under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. It is believed that further investigation is required to resolve the issue of genetic integrity in this particular population.



Dunningham Reserve (southern portion) – Coastal Honeysuckle (*Banksia integrifolia*)



Purcell Park – Group of Woody Pears (*Xylomelum pyrifolium*)

Significant Trees in Public Parks and Reserves

SURVEY DATA SHEET

Randwick City Council
Register of Significant Trees

MAP REF: M 02
DATE: 1.08.06

PRECINCT 10: MATRAVILLE

Purcell Park, Australia Avenue, Matraville

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULED ITEMS (LOCAL INDIGENOUS REMNANTS)

SCHEDULED ITEMS: INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS/REMNANT NATIVE GROUP
SIGNIFICANCE: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP – LGA

9 № Woody Pears (*Xylomelum pyrifforme*)
2 № Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED SPECIES

Botanical Name: ***Xylomelum pyriforme***
Common Name: Native or Woody Pear
Significance Attributes: remnant native population (understorey species)
botanic/biodiversity value
historic/cultural and social
aesthetic/visual (local/park)
Origin: Listed on the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register
remnant local native species/understorey component of former
ecological community (Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub community)
widespread – range extends to NSW north coast and Qld.
Location: Local remnant population consists of three separate groups and a
single individual specimen. Groups A, B & C – located within the
mown lawn area adjacent to the eastern pedestrian footpath near
Murrabin Avenue cul-de-sac. The single specimen is located on the
lawn immediately west of the central playground area.
Extent of Influence: Canopies and root zones contained within public reserve.
Height: 4-5 metres
Canopy Spread: 3-6 metres
Trunk Diameter: av. 180-200mm @ 1.0 metre above ground level
Estimated Age: unknown (est. >100 years+)
Condition/Health: These small trees, mostly multi-trunk specimens, appear to be in
good condition and health with dense canopies and vigorous new
growth evident.
Management
Recommendations: This isolated remnant population has no opportunity for recruitment/
natural regeneration under the current management regime.
Although specimens appear to be currently healthy, long term
viability is believed to be threatened by modified groundcover of
exotic turf grasses and mowing/edging practices.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Purcell Park is an unusual suburban park containing a locally rare example of a remnant population of Woody Pears (*Xylomelum pyriforme*) and other remnant species from the former Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS), an endangered ecological community. Purcell Park lies within a suburban residential area, adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the Amcor Botany Paper Mill (refer to listing in this Register). The park's original vegetation has been highly modified through clearing, introduction of exotic turf grasses and successive overlays of

generic Australian and local native species. The park also retains two mature Smooth-barked Apples (*Angophora costata*) (up to 9-10 metres in height/10-15 metres canopy diameter). Although these multi-trunk specimens are not particularly large examples, they are believed to be of considerable age and original components of the former community.

The Woody Pear, a member of the Proteaceae family, is a botanical curiosity. The taxon was highly valued in early botanical collections as it typified the unusual and bizarre nature of the Australian continent and its flora (Robinson, L., 1991). Originally known by the Eora as *Meridja courroo*, the 'Wooden Pear' received its name from the conspicuous large woody pear-shaped fruits or follicles. The botanic name similarly refers to 'Xylon' – wood, 'melum' – fruit and 'pyriforme' – pear-shaped (Fairley, A. & Moore, P., 1989). This remnant population has exceptional natural heritage values and has significance at the local and Randwick LGA levels in terms of its combined botanic, biodiversity, historic, cultural, aesthetic and visual qualities. Although amongst the smallest trees identified in this Register, the group of Woody Pears is distinguished by its rarity and representative values.

It is believed that these components of the former natural vegetation community were singled out for protection and retention while all other component species were either removed or gradually lost under the changing management regime. These specimens would have been relatively large to have been protected during this phase of development (possibly during the Inter-War period or Post-War period). The overall height and trunk diameters of the Woody Pears are slightly smaller and less furrowed than those found in Randwick Racecourse (refer to listing in this Register). It is believed that the population in Purcell Park may not be as old. Examples of this taxon still remaining in the Randwick LGA are generally restricted to remnant ESBS habitat (refer to Appendix II).

The long-term viability of this population of Woody Pears is believed to be threatened under the current park management regime, particularly with respect to regular mowing and edging practices. Remnant native groundcovers have been reduced to a single *Lomandra longifolia* under one of the scheduled trees. Recent landscaping of the grassed slopes (<10-15 years) using native plant species has emphasised the blending and merging of these overlays with the significant remnant population. It is now difficult to distinguish between the introductions and the remnant community. This recent work is impacting on the integrity of the original population. It is recommended that an appropriate bush regeneration/ restoration strategy be implemented to address these issues. The strategy should seek to integrate remnant components, reduce edge to area ratios, consolidate the area under management and establish local provenance-sourced groundcovers. Care should be taken to maintain public safety, security and sight lines within this suburban park setting.



Purcell Park – detail of foliage and fruit
Woody Pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*)