

# EDINBURGH GARDENS

BRUNSWICK STREET

NORTH FITZROY

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN



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## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) provides an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy. The assessment supports a framework for the conservation and management policies which in turn support and guide development of a master plan for the gardens.

The CMP broadly follows the methodology recommended by the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) guidelines for the preparation of conservation plans and the principles set out in the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* 1999.

The CMP includes:

- €# A history which places an emphasis on the physical development of the Edinburgh Gardens and identifies major sequences of development (Chapter 2).
- €# A thorough physical survey of the buildings and hard and soft landscaping elements within the Edinburgh Gardens based on an examination of the available documentary evidence and on a physical examination of the built fabric as it exists. On the basis of this survey, levels of significance are ascribed to the various elements within the gardens. (Chapter 3 & 4).
- €# A comprehensive analysis and assessment of the significance of the Edinburgh Gardens taking into account established categories of cultural heritage significance: aesthetic, historic, scientific and social (Chapter 5).
- €# General conservation policies relating to significant elements, use and public access, repairs and maintenance, adaptation and new works, fabric and setting, views and vistas, new buildings and elements, parking, pest control, provision for the disabled, signage, and interpretation (Chapter 6).
- €# Specific conservation policies and strategies for significant individual elements and areas. These policies are framed to allow for appropriate adaptive re-use and alteration (Chapter 6).
- €# Community comments were sought by the City of Yarra to the draft Conservation Management Plan. Points discussed are those where the consultants have a different view (Chapter 7).

### *Conclusion*

The assessment concludes that the Edinburgh Gardens are of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Yarra. The elements and areas of primary significance include the Elm avenues and rows throughout the Gardens, the Peterson Oval (former Fitzroy Cricket Ground), the English Oak Avenue opposite Rowe Street, the Holm Oak specimen and the remnant Dutch Elm circles. With regard to buildings and hard landscaping features, those of primary significance are the grandstand, the principal nineteenth century path layout and remnant basalt edging, the Freeman Street entrance gatehouse, the timber entrance pavilion, cast iron gas lamp standards and nineteenth century cast iron bollards, the tennis club pavilion and courts (excluding fabric of courts), the Fitzroy Bowling Club (excluding fabric), the war memorial arbour, the Chandler drinking fountain, the pedestal of the Queen Victoria statue and the memorial rotunda.

The conservation policy recognises that continued use of the Edinburgh Gardens for public and private recreation is fundamental to its cultural significance. The conservation policy also recognises that whilst the Edinburgh Gardens retains significant nineteenth and early twentieth century elements, they have in many other respects changed from their nineteenth century appearance. Because of this layering, or co-existence of significant elements, the policy does not encourage favouring one particular phase in the history of the Gardens over others. Policies are instead directed towards conserving significant elements and features from a variety of periods in the history of the place and to remove others, while allowing for some new elements. Overall they are intended to conserve, enhance and recover lost elements of significance in the Gardens.



## PROJECT TEAM

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background and Brief

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Edinburgh Gardens was commissioned by the City of Yarra and has been prepared jointly by Allom Lovell & Associates and John Patrick Pty Ltd. The CMP is being prepared as part of an overall master planning process being undertaken for the refurbishment and management of the Edinburgh Gardens. The purpose of the CMP is to provide an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the gardens and its hard and soft landscape elements. The assessment is intended to provide a heritage framework which in turn will underpin and guide the development of a masterplan for the Gardens.

Beyond heritage, the masterplan also addresses a number of issues, including a vision for the Gardens, sporting and community facilities, horticultural and arboricultural, management, which variously relate to the future refurbishment of the Gardens

### 1.2 Methodology

This CMP broadly follows the format of the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) guidelines for the preparation of conservation plans<sup>1</sup> and the principles set out in the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*, 1999, adopted by Australia ICOMOS to assist in the conservation of heritage places.

The methodology involves the documentation of the overall history of the place and putting it into an appropriate context. This research is supported by a thorough physical survey of the extant elements and features, with additional research into elements which have been lost or removed from the subject area. A comparative analysis then follows, which literally compares the subject area with other similar places or developments, so as to arrive at an understanding of its relative importance or 'significance' both within the City of Yarra and the broader context of inner metropolitan parks. Based on this analysis, documentation and assessment, the conservation policies and strategies were then developed.

### 1.3 Constraints and Opportunities

#### *Constraints*

There have been a number of constraints in the preparation of this report. While the former City of Fitzroy Council Minute books are held by the Public Records Office, the lack of indexing, coupled with the incorporation of all committee meeting minutes including the gardens committee, into single reports, has meant that they were extremely difficult to access within the time and budgetary constraints of the report. This was particularly the case with smaller elements such as path edging, where there were no known key dates for the works on which to base a search. In addition, very little nineteenth and early twentieth century photographic evidence is available.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment hold the Crown Land Reserve Files. However, while the relevant file was consulted for this research, many of the early drawings were too delicate and were unable to be reproduced. Therefore, where the file has been consulted and where the only available image exists in the study by Rex Swanson of Landform Australia, these images have been reproduced and the source appropriately noted. A small number of relevant historic photographs are held in the State Library of Victoria Picture Collection and the Fitzroy local history collection at the Fitzroy branch of Yarra-Melbourne Regional Libraries.

## *Opportunities*

A broad range of issues, values and visions have arisen from an extensive community consultation programme undertaken as part of the master-planning process. Open days and community meetings of interested parties/stakeholders, and the broader community, have been held throughout the duration of the project. While a small number of issues raised do not impact directly on the heritage aspects or cultural significance of the Gardens, they are pertinent to the master-planning process. For a full analysis and discussion of these issues, the master-plan should be referred to.

The issues which relate directly to heritage have been addressed in the policy chapter and cover improved maintenance; implementation of a tree management programme; the retention and enhancement of the nineteenth century character of the Gardens; the improvement of underutilised and/or poorly maintained sections and facilities within the Gardens, such as the former depot and nursery area and ladies bowling club; the removal or replacement of poorly planned and sited intrusions such as toilet facilities and service buildings; the reinstatement of removed significant features; traffic and parking; and improvement of sporting facilities. While some of these aspects were considered by the various community groups to be essential, others could be identified as desirable. In effect, these issues have formed a ‘wish list’.

### **1.4 Location**

The Edinburgh Gardens are located in North Fitzroy and are bordered by Brunswick Street, St Georges Road, Alfred Crescent, Jamieson Street, Queens Parade, Napier Street and Freeman Street. (Figure 1)

### **1.5 Listings and Classification**

#### *Victorian Heritage Register*

The Edinburgh Gardens are not included on the *Victorian Heritage Register*, maintained by the Victorian Heritage Council other than for the Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand which is included as H751. Permits will be required from Heritage Victoria for new buildings and works which affect the grandstand.

#### *Register of the National Estate*

The Edinburgh Gardens are classified as an ‘indicative place’ (database No. 1018130, file No. 2/11/020/0097) by the Australian Heritage Commission. They are not included in the *Register of the National Estate*, and there are no statutory requirements as a consequence of this listing.

#### *National Trust of Australia (Victoria)*

The Edinburgh Gardens are not classified as a whole by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). However, some elements within the Gardens are classified individually. The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand was classified as a building of state significance on 3 August 1998 (File No. B6060). The North Fitzroy Railway Footbridge was classified as a building of state significance on 4 June 2001 (File No. B7125). A Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), located north-east of the bowling club, was classified as a tree of local significance on the 10 May 1993 (File No. T11566). There are no statutory requirements as a consequence of these classifications.





**EDINBURGH  
GARDENS**

*Figure 1*      *Location Plan*  
Source: Melways *Melbourne Directory*

### *Planning Scheme*

The Edinburgh Gardens are included in the Heritage Overlay Schedule to the City of Yarra Planning Scheme (HO 213). Individually identified is the Fitzroy Cricket Ground Complex which comprises the grandstand, timber gatehouse, entrance gateway, brick gatehouse (HO 215). Planning permits will be required for new building and works which affect elements included within the Heritage Overlay.

The citations are included in Appendix B.

## **1.6 Terminology**

The conservation terminology used in this report is of a specific nature, and is defined within *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter)* as endorsed by all statutory and national heritage bodies (See Appendix A). The terms most frequently referred to are: *place, cultural significance, fabric, conservation, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation*. These terms are defined in the revised charter as follows:

*Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

*Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. *Cultural significance* is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places* and *related objects*.

*Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.

*Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

*Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

*Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

*Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

*Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.

*Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

*Use* means the functions of a *place*, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the *place*.

*Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a *use* involves no, or minimal, impact on *cultural significance*.

*Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

*Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another *place*.

*Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the *place*.

*Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.

*Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

## 2.0 HISTORY

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### 2.1 Introduction

The emphasis of this chapter is on tracing the physical development of the Edinburgh Gardens. The chapter is based on research undertaken previously by Rex Swanson in his *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study* of 1987, with additional research as required.<sup>1</sup> It therefore attempts to identify and describe key phases of development of the Gardens.

### 2.2 Geomorphology

The area in which the Edinburgh Gardens are located is flat to undulating with a uniform shallow dark grey heavy textured expansive clay layer over basalt.<sup>2</sup> Early land use included basalt quarrying and pasture. The nearest quarry was located in the area bounded by Nicholson, Church, Rae and Alfred Streets.<sup>3</sup> Other quarries were located in Carlton, on the site of the Lee Street Primary School,<sup>4</sup> and Clifton Hill.

### 2.3 North Fitzroy – the development of a suburb

In contrast to South Fitzroy, which was undergoing vigorous development in the 1840s and 1850s, North Fitzroy's urban development was slow and followed a very different pattern. By the 1850s very little of North Fitzroy had been developed. The two areas, North Fitzroy and South Fitzroy, were separated by the Reilly Street Drain (now Alexandra Parade). North of the drain was the desolate wasteland of the Corporation of Melbourne's quarries. Nineteenth century commentator, 'Garryowen', wrote an unflattering summary of North Fitzroy:

It was for a long time surmised that building enterprise would never penetrate to any extent beyond the sickly Reilly Street drain. This due north region was the most unpleasant of the surroundings of Melbourne; the cold north wind in winter and the hot wind in summer, produced climatic variations anything but agreeable. One was either half-drowned or half-baked and between mud and dust, and wet and heat, you could hardly dream that homes and hearths could have an abiding place there.<sup>5</sup>

Despite such disincentives to residential development, the road to the village at Heidelberg, laid out by surveyor Robert Hoddle, ran through North Fitzroy. In 1850, the government constructed a bridge and metalled the Heidelberg Road (now Queens Parade). Within a few years allotments in the government township of Northcote were sold, and in the process, portions of land south along the Merri Creek, in what is now North Fitzroy, were also sold.

From the mid-1850s the colonial government's plan for subdivision of North Fitzroy unfolded. The plan specified a more spacious and gracious arrangement than the *ad-hoc* street layout of unplanned South Fitzroy. James Kearney's 1855 map of Melbourne and its suburbs shows the planned subdivision for North Fitzroy. It was prepared by Captain Andrew Clarke of the Survey Department, and comprised a series of geometric spaces aligned on an axis (Figure 2). The scheme was never realised, probably because the axial arrangement conflicted with the line taken by the Yan Yean pipe along St Georges Road, supplying fresh water to the growing metropolis.<sup>6</sup> Architectural historian, Miles Lewis, suggests that perhaps traces of Clarke's grandiose plan survive in the Darling Gardens and Edinburgh Gardens.<sup>7</sup>

Despite the failure of the government to implement Clarke's plan, the eventual subdivision pattern and street layout in North Fitzroy was still vastly different from the uncontrolled development which had taken place in South Fitzroy. Streets, as laid out by the government surveyor, were more carefully ordered and much wider than those in South Fitzroy.



*Figure 2 James Kearney's 1855 map showing Captain Andrew Clarke's proposed layout for North Fitzroy.*

Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

Additionally, in North Fitzroy, a higher standard of development was encouraged by allotments with a minimum size and street frontage.<sup>8</sup>

## **2.4 Sport as the Recreation of Gentlemen**

In 1858, when the City of Fitzroy was declared, Melbourne was expanding to become one of the major cities of the British Empire. As with the establishment of the Public Library in 1852 and the University in 1853, other institutions – such as sporting institutions – appropriate to a British city, began to take shape. As sport historian, June Senyard, notes,<sup>9</sup> already, in 1840 the Flemington race course had been formed, and in 1853 the Melbourne Cricket Club was permitted to make a cricket ground, fence it and erect a cottage pavilion on ten acres to the east of the city. While cricket was played in the summer, in August 1858, the game of football between Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College has been fixed as one of the starting points of the history of Australian football.

In Fitzroy, the gentry living along Victoria Parade and the nearby streets were involved in these initiatives. Playing cricket and football and following the horses drew residents of Fitzroy into the patterns of British sporting culture brought to the colony in its first decades of settlement. In 1862 and 1863, when the Prince of Wales Cricket Club and the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club sought permission to play cricket on the site of the Edinburgh Gardens, they were gentlemen who sought to replicate the recreational choices of Britain in Fitzroy. In 1865, for the older gentleman, the Fitzroy Bowling Club was formed in the centre of Victoria Parade.

### **2.4.1 The Impact of Athleticism and the Introduction of Organised Sport<sup>10</sup>**

In the eighteenth century, England took the leadership in the world of transforming traditional games and sports into modern organised sport. Apart from the interest in establishing more regular horse-racing and cricket matches, the middle class recognised a moral value in organising games previously played by the aristocracy. Originating in the public schools, the desire to provide recreational activity for young men and young women (to a certain extent)

to make them healthy, disciplined and co-operative members of society, became educational policy.<sup>11</sup>

In Melbourne, from the 1870s, a similar sporting revolution took place. Organised sport and the educational philosophy of athleticism became part of the public school experience, the public schools were the leaders in secondary education at the time.<sup>12</sup> From the 1870s, these schools introduced, to varying degrees, a sporting program as part of their school's activities. In 1877 a Public School Committee was formed to define a common set of regulations governing sport in the constituent schools. In Melbourne, this development occurred at a time when the city was experiencing a spectacular economic boom caused by the gold rushes. In England, the expansion of organised sport was dominated by the public schools and Universities,<sup>13</sup> and the same occurred in Melbourne.

In Melbourne, with the optimism generated by the decades of expansion from the 1850s, cities like the City of Fitzroy extended the benefits of organised sport to their residents. They committed the resources of the City to organised sport because of their belief in its value in propagating desirable moral values. The Edinburgh Gardens is one of the extant sites in Melbourne where the impact of this revolution in thinking can be observed.

## **2.5 The Establishment of the Reserve: 1859-1882**

From 1854 the *Act for the Establishment of Municipal Institutions in Victoria* provided Councils with the power to establish local recreational Gardens; grants of land and monies were made available by the colonial government. The present site of the Edinburgh Gardens was unreserved Crown Land when, in January 1862, the Fitzroy Council requested an area of approximately 50 acres (20 hectares) for public recreation. This site was chosen as an alternative to a triangular site between Heidelberg Road, Reilly Street and Smith Street, temporarily reserved for public recreation in 1859.<sup>14</sup> The initial choice had been rejected when it was pointed out by an officer of the Lands Department that the reserve came within the line of fire of the nearby rifle butts used by the Collingwood Volunteer Rifles.<sup>15</sup> The rifle butts, possibly the earliest sporting facility on the site, were located in the eastern half of the reserve.

The land chosen for the reserve was swampy, with a creek running through it. A Lands Department sketch map of the area dated February 1862 (Figure 3) shows an oval shaped reserve containing billabongs, a few scattered trees and the creek running north-south (broadly following the line taken today by the path running from Jamieson Street to Falconer Street).

Shortly after the initial site choice had been rejected, under the direction of Clement Hodgkinson, the reserve size was reduced from 50 acres (20 ha) to approximately 39 acres (15.78 ha). Hodgkinson, as the Deputy Commissioner of the Lands Department, was a leading figure in the planning of Melbourne's early parks and gardens. The southern half circle of the reserve was moved back to allow for the future extension of Brunswick Street, thus finalising the location of the Gardens (Figure 3). The northern half-circle of the reserve subsequently defined Alfred Crescent while the half circle at the southern end was obliterated when the square grid of Freeman, Langton and Brunswick Streets was laid. Temporary reservation of the new site was gazetted in March 1862.

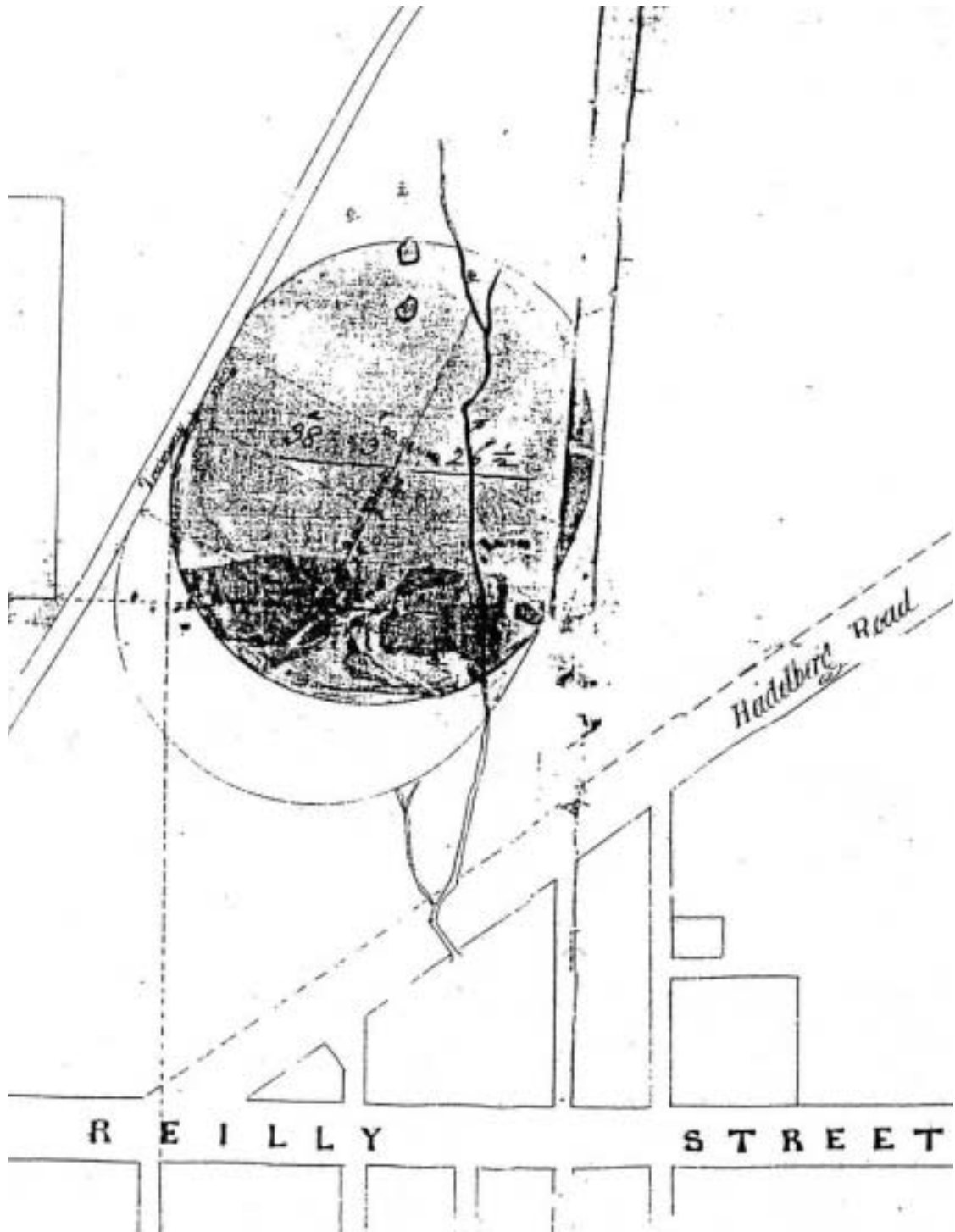


Figure 3 Detail of a Lands Department sketch, 1862, showing the modified plan.  
Source: Reserve File RS360, DSE, Melbourne, reproduced in Landform  
Australia, *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*.<sup>16</sup>

In September 1862, the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club was given permissive occupancy of 9 acres (3.6 hectares) of the reserve. The following year, The Prince of Wales Cricket Club was given permissive occupancy of 6 acres (2.4 hectares), directly to the south of the Collingwood ground. A Lands Department map of 1867 shows the division of the two grounds (Figure 4). The two cricket clubs amalgamated in 1872 and were given permissive occupancy of the combined site of 15 acres (6 ha) with sporting activities becoming focused on the southern oval. The balance of the reserve at this time appears to have remained undeveloped land, enclosed by a post and rail fence, and used for grazing by the Fitzroy City Council.<sup>17</sup> It was around this time that the Gardens acquired their name. Following the attempt on the life of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's younger son, on his visit to Australia in 1867-68, the council decided to commemorate the Gardens in his name.<sup>18</sup>

Early improvements undertaken by the cricket club included building, fencing, trenching and planting works, the latter comprising 'a magnificent assortment of trees...obtained from Dr von Mueller'.<sup>19</sup> Director of the Botanic Gardens from 1857-1873 and widely regarded as Australia's pre-eminent botanist, Baron Dr Ferdinand von Mueller was responsible for distributing thousands of plants across Victoria for the ornamentation of public spaces.<sup>20</sup>

A Lands Department memorandum dated 26 July 1876 noted that the Fitzroy Cricket Club had, to date, expended some £450 on improvements.<sup>21</sup> It also states that the remainder of the grounds was enclosed 'by a post and two rail fence at a cost of £90'.<sup>22</sup> The development of the ground during this period is shown in a sketch map submitted to the Lands Department in 1877, with a letter requesting permission to charge admission to the ground (Figure 5). The plan shows the playing ground encircled by a footpath/running track and seating. Sited along the Brunswick Street boundary is a pavilion and ladies reserve, described as 'fenced and planted with trees [and] flowers' with a 'fountain erected in the centre of one of the flower beds'.<sup>23</sup>

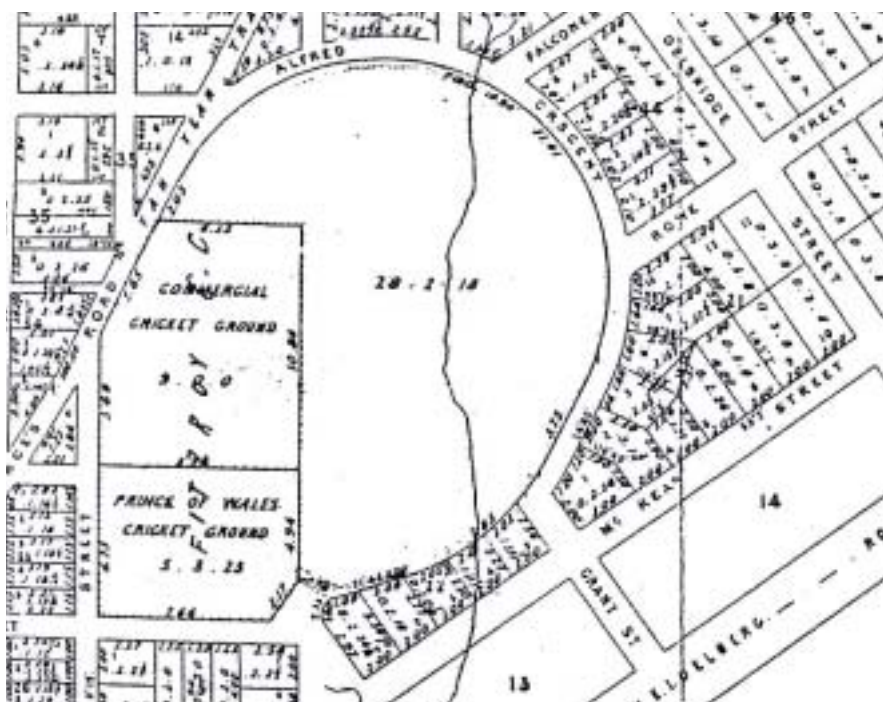


Figure 4 Portion of Lands Department lithographed map F99 of Fitzroy and Brunswick, October, 1867 showing the recreation reserve with two cricket grounds.

Source: Reserve File RS360, DSE, Melbourne, reproduced in Landform Australia, *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*.

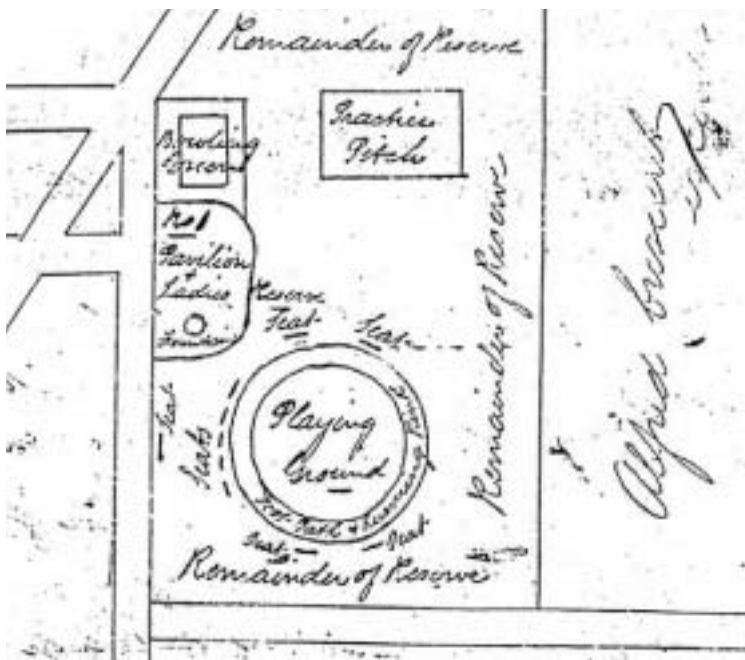


Figure 5 Sketch map of the portion of the reserve occupied by the cricket club, October 1877.

Source: Reserve File RS360, DSE, Melbourne, reproduced in Landform Australia, *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*.

Directly to the north of the ladies reserve is a bowling green (established in 1877 on the site of the existing bowling club) while practice pitches occupy the north-east corner. The memorandum also refers to a caretakers' residence, possibly that marked on an 1883 plan, in the approximate location of the existing gardener's house.<sup>24</sup>

In October 1877, a committee of management, comprising members of the cricket club, was appointed to control the area occupied by the club. In September of the following year (1878) regulations were gazetted appointing Fitzroy Council as committee of management for the remainder of the reserve.<sup>25</sup>

The first of many attempts to appropriate Edinburgh Gardens parkland occurred in 1881, with the proposed excision of 2 acres (.8 hectares) east of the cricket club, for a school site. Fitzroy Council promptly expressed its opposition, noting that 'the scheme of drainage for the greater part of Fitzroy north runs through the said land'.<sup>26</sup> The present site of the school, on the north side of Alfred Crescent, was subsequently chosen. The integrity of the Edinburgh Gardens was again under threat when, in October of the same year, when the Railways Department requested a strip of land running east-west through the Gardens for the purpose of a railway reserve. The proposal was subsequently amended so that the railway ran north-south through the gardens, terminating at Queens Parade (then known as Heidelberg Road). The railway line can be seen marked out on the 1882 plan of the Gardens (Figure 6) however, the Railways Department request lapsed and the matter was not to resurface again until 1888.

On 24 October 1881, the land were permanently reserved as a site for a public park and garden. A Crown Grant was issued on the 12 April 1882 for the larger southern section to the Board of Lands and Works jointly with the Mayor, Councillors and citizens of Fitzroy as a 'site for public park and Gardens for the recreation and amusement of our subjects and people'.<sup>27</sup> It was



not until June 1883 that the remainder, comprising a smaller section at the northern end of the Gardens, was permanently reserved. By this time Alfred Crescent had been continued around the south-east boundary of the park, linking up with Freeman Street.

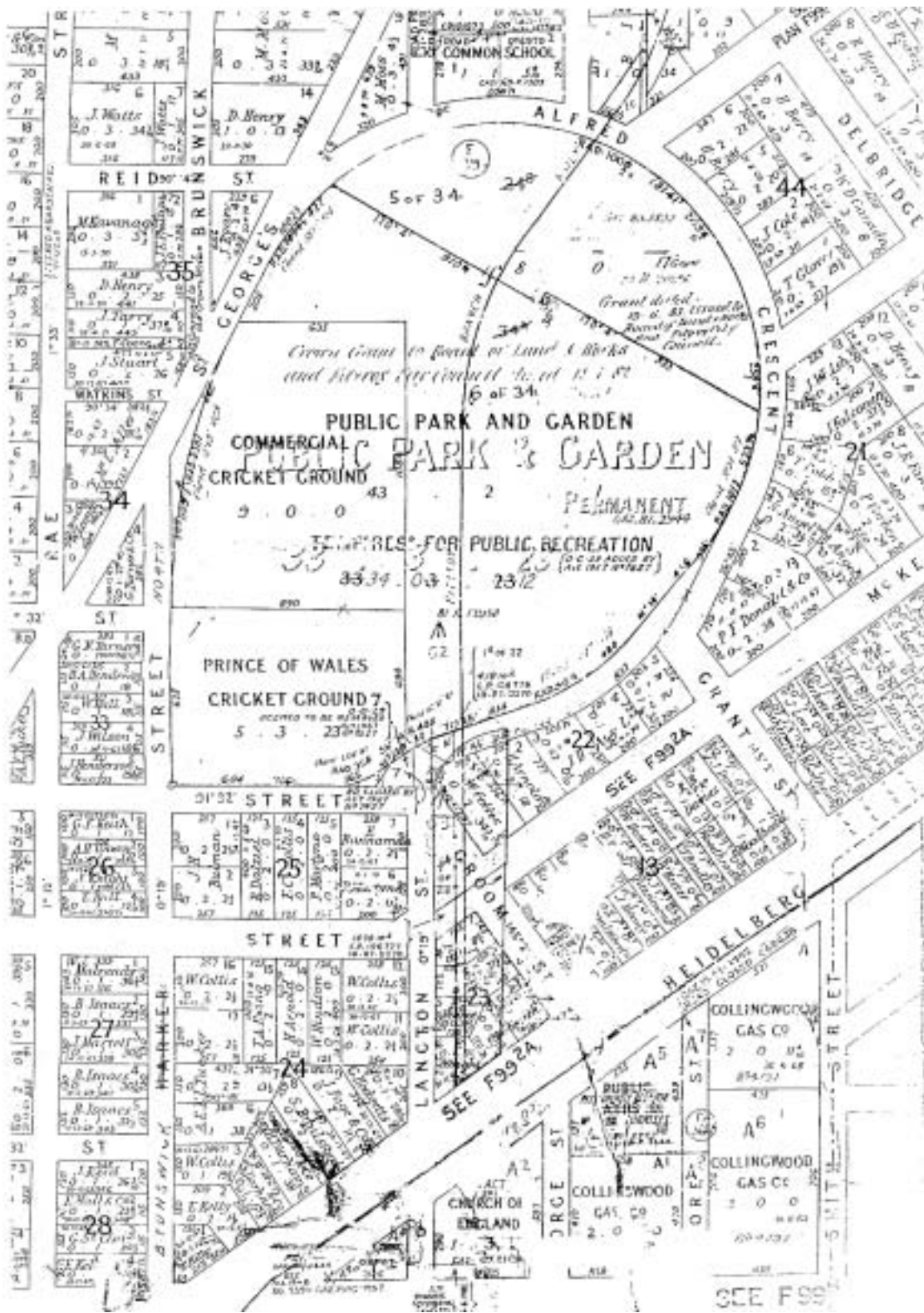


Figure 6 Plan of the 1882 Crown Grant  
 Source: Willys Keeble, Architect & Conservation Consultant

The 1882 Plan (Figure 6) clearly indicates the two cricket grounds – the Commercial and the Prince of Wales – and their acreage, though the clubs had merged in 1872. The plan does not name the area as the Edinburgh Gardens, but simply as the Public Park and Garden.<sup>28</sup> The recreation reserve had appeared on an earlier 1867 Lands Department plan of Fitzroy. However, the allocation of this acreage followed a pattern that had been established by the Superintendent of the Colony, Charles Joseph La Trobe in the 1840s. Reserves such as the Edinburgh Gardens, served as symbols of community ‘development’.<sup>29</sup> The Melbourne Town Council’s petition to La Trobe emphasised the:

vital importance to the health of the inhabitants that there should be parks within a distance of the town where they could conveniently take recreation therein after their daily labour ... the effect produced on the minds of all classes is of the most gratifying character ...<sup>30</sup>

While the reserve had been established as a public park and garden, the boundaries were clearly set that only a portion of it should be used for sporting activities, such as cricket. This portion was, after all, approximately one third of the available land. While no evidence has come to light to verify any explicit policy with regard to the ratio of sporting and recreation ground available, it appears the Gardens evolved in this way to everyone’s satisfaction, certainly in the earliest days of their existence.

### 2.5.1 Edinburgh Gardens: a Site for Nineteenth Century Sporting Clubs<sup>31</sup>

#### *Cricket and Cricket Spectating*

By the 1870s, as Senyard argues,<sup>32</sup> the revolution in the organisation of sport that had begun in England in the eighteenth century had been taken up in Melbourne with enthusiasm, and those involved were at the forefront in the world in giving sport its modern shape. From the late 1860s cricket and football began to assume the structure of associations with constituent clubs entering teams that usually played each Saturday of a season. This was quite different from the scene of the 1850s. Now, in the interests of competition, teams were graded and placed in an ascending order of skill. In 1872, the Fitzroy Cricket Club was formed from the amalgamation of the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club and the Prince of Wales Cricket Club and the Fitzroy Cricket Club emerged as a major site for the development of modern cricket. Fitzroy was always part of the strongest cricket competition until, in 1895, the Victorian Cricket Association was formed and Fitzroy became a club in the District competition.

Cricket became a spectator sport in the latter part of the nineteenth century. From 1862, when an estimated crowd of 25,000 turned out to see the first English side to visit the colonies, cricket attracted an audience. This audience peaked for Test cricket (organised from 1877) and for inter-colonial games, but there were regular crowds for the most matches between the strongest clubs, especially from 1895 with the formation of the District competition.<sup>33</sup>

#### *Australian Rules Football and the Fitzroy Football Club*

In Australian football, the same process of organising interested teams into regular competition had begun<sup>34</sup> as Senyard notes.<sup>35</sup> In 1877, the Victorian Football Association was formed and it became an urgent matter for Fitzroy to show its community identity by forming a club to represent the suburb. In 1883, the Mayor of Fitzroy chaired a meeting to form a Football Club. The Football Club negotiated with the Cricket Club to share the oval in Edinburgh Gardens. Before the season opened in 1884, the importance of the decision was reported in the *Australasian*:

The Fitzroy Club will have a good ground to practise on – a great desideratum for a club, and one highly calculated to fully develop any real talent it may possess.

Moreover, it has a large and populous district to recruit from; so that it contains within itself the elements of success, and its future will much depend on its committee of management.<sup>36</sup>

The 1880s to 1900 period of the Gardens development is also marked by the inception of the Fitzroy Football Club. The Cricket Club had been approached in 1882 regarding the formation of a football club, and in September 1882 they were granted approval to extend the ground to allow for football games.<sup>37</sup> On 26 September 1883, the Fitzroy Football Club was formed at a meeting held at the Brunswick Hotel and chaired by the Mayor of Fitzroy, John McMahon. The colours of blue cap and knickerbockers, maroon jersey and hose were subsequently adopted and the club was admitted to the Victorian Football Association.

The first football match at the Brunswick Street ground took place in September 1883,<sup>38</sup> however the participants were the Melbourne and Carlton clubs. Fitzroy's first game was against the Richmond Union Junior Football Club on April 26 1884. A crowd of some one thousand people saw the home team score 14 behinds to their opponents 2 behinds.<sup>39</sup>

Temporary fences were erected around the ground by the cricket club on match days, giving rise to complaints from local residents. A petition was drawn up in September 1887 asking for the removal of the fences, which were apparently left in place after match days, necessitating detours around the ground and restricting access to public parkland. The petition also requested that 'paths should be made from one gate to another for pedestrians' and notes that paths were 'already worn by feet'.<sup>40</sup> The Surveyor-General subsequently recommended the removal of the fences whilst generally praising the efforts of the committee of management:

From what can already be seen as the effect of the operation of the trenching and manuring the results achieved by the managing committee in the improvement of the grounds considering the small amount at their disposal is something remarkable.<sup>41</sup>

In c.1887, an ornamental fountain was erected in the north-west corner of the Gardens and connected to the main path network by four radiating paths. The fountain was constructed following a council meeting on 17 May 1887, the minutes record that 'a fountain be erected in the Edinburgh Gardens, to be called the Jubilee Fountain, at a cost not exceeding £100'.<sup>42</sup> Early photographs of the fountain show it to have been located in the centre of a garden bed, and later enclosed by an iron picket fence (Figure 13).

The plan form of the cricket ground oval had been largely fixed in its present configuration by 1887. The popularity of cricket and football at the Brunswick Street ground continued to grow, providing the cricket club with the financial means to construct a substantial new grandstand. Completed in 1888, the grandstand was designed by the prominent architect Nathaniel Billing<sup>43</sup>. Other works to the ground included the relocation of the cricket pavilion to the east side of the ground, below the site of the present day tennis courts. An old timber stand was also moved to the eastern side of the ground but was later pulled down. Additional sporting facilities were provided with establishment of the tennis club in 1888.<sup>44</sup>

### *Football Spectating*

Australian rules football undoubtedly attracted large crowds and each week, crowds of thousands began to be recorded. In October 1872, the *Australasian* attested to the power of the game:

Six or 7,000 people assembled to witness this context ... a stranger to this amusement would find it hard to believe that it is only a football match in which such great interest is being displayed.<sup>45</sup>

This was a Melbourne versus Carlton game. Throughout the 1870s, attendances peaked for those matches while the rest generally attracted from one to two thousand spectators.

In the 1880s, crowds spiralled. Some games attracted huge crowds. In August 1890, the 30,000 barrier was surpassed. The match between South Melbourne and Carlton attracted a crowd of 32,595. The *Argus* commented with some pride, 'In these days of "records" as showing the ever-increasing popularity of our game, it might not be out of place to set forth here that the match Carlton v South Melbourne played on the Melbourne Cricket-ground on August 1, 1890, drew together the largest assemblage that has ever been present at a football match in any part of the world'.<sup>46</sup>

### *Lawn Bowls*

In 1877, the North Fitzroy Bowling Club built two rinks in the Edinburgh Gardens. In July 1880, the Victorian Bowling Association was formed with delegates from Melbourne, Prince Alfred (St Kilda), West Melbourne, Carlton, Richmond, Richmond Union, Victoria, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy and Ballarat and an apology from South Melbourne. One of its first decisions was to organise an inter-colonial match. The concept of local competition was complemented by the idea of an élite level. In this development, the North Fitzroy Bowling Club was a major voice.<sup>47</sup>

### *Tennis*

In 1894, a Fitzroy Tennis Club was formed, only twenty years after Major Wingfield had patented the game in England. As with other sports, the rules of the game were only gradually established. Scoring by sets had only been introduced in 1889 and in 1891 the covered ball was finally adopted to replace the rubber ball used up until that time.<sup>48</sup> In 1884, a pennant competition had been established in Melbourne and the Fitzroy Tennis Club contributed to the establishment of tennis as a major competitive sport in the city.

### *Baseball*

In the United States, baseball replaced cricket as the summer game in the 1860s and the game was inevitably linked with American immigrants when it was played on the goldfields. The Spalding tour of December 1888, when two American professional teams played in Melbourne and Ballarat, was a major impetus to the introduction of the sport. Harry Simpson, one of the baseballers, stayed on to organise the game in Australia. The next year, in 1889, a baseball league was established in Melbourne and the first inter-colonial match was played between South Australia and Victoria in Melbourne.

Because the skills required were seen as similar to those of cricket, the sport gained a following amongst cricketers and the first baseball clubs were sections of the cricket clubs. East Melbourne Cricket Club emerged as a stronghold of the sport and with the Melbourne Cricket Club dominated the Baseball Association pennant competition.<sup>49</sup> By 1904-5, after some variations, there was a regular competition between East Melbourne, the MCC, South Melbourne, Fitzroy, Carlton, Prahran, Richmond and St Kilda. There was sufficient enthusiasm for this to expand and in 1907 there were sixteen teams in the Victorian competition.

## **2.6 Paths, Tree Avenues and the Railway: 1883-1900**

In July 1883, a Committee of Management for the Gardens was appointed, comprising representatives of the Board of Lands and Works and the Fitzroy Council, with one member nominated by the Minister. Evidence that Clement Hodgkinson, who was instrumental in establishing the garden, has not been found to support the suggestion he was also a member of the Committee of Management.<sup>50</sup> The COM and the Council agreed to contribute £250 per annum towards the improvement and maintenance of the Gardens. The separate committee of management responsible for the cricket ground area continued at this time.<sup>51</sup>

### *Paths and Tree Avenues*

Work on the laying out of the Gardens network of pathways and avenue plantings appears to have begun in earnest soon after the formation of the Committee of Management. A report prepared in December 1883 for the Lands Department by the Committee, records these developments in detail:

We commenced operations by having surveys made and plans prepared of the principal paths leading to the adjoining streets and thoroughfares bordering the Gardens. We also, with the object of creating ornamental avenues, had strips of ground on either side of such paths surveyed and marked out for trenching, this work we had done by tender in all 434lb sq rods at a cost of £144-10-6. We then availed ourselves of the opportunity to which fortunately presented itself of securing gravel from the St Kilda Road, and latter for tenders accordingly in this way we secured and had delivered in the Gardens 610 cubic yards at a cost of £113-2-1 which we believe will be sufficient for all our requirements. The principal work now being proceeded with is beside the care of existing trees the formation of and the gravelling of the walks giving it in the first place a coat of 2 inch thickness of lime. 20 chains has been completed, the works still progressing. The same length of ground for the avenues has been prepared and is ready for the reception of the young trees at the proper season.<sup>52</sup>

A plan of the Gardens, which was prepared in 1883 to accompany the tender documents for the trenching works, (Figure 7) shows the beginnings of the main path network. Entry points to the Gardens correspond to the surrounding pattern of radiating streets. The paths take routes which, as Swanson notes, ‘clearly reflect the practical, through traffic needs of pedestrians rather than a garden designers aesthetic predilections’.<sup>53</sup> The path running broadly east-west from Rowe Street to St Georges Road, and the main north-south paths are shown. The creek bisecting the eastern half was filled in around this time and an underground brick culvert laid to the west.<sup>54</sup> The creek route today corresponds to the path running north from Jamieson Street to Falconer Street and the two bridge crossings shown on the plan are now marked by path intersections.

Perimeter fences (thought to be timber picket fences) with entrance gates, the northern oval and southern cricket ovals, the bowling green, cricket pavilion and a gardener’s dwelling with a fenced yard (on the site of the existing gardener’s cottage) are shown on the 1883 plan (Figure 7). Various circular and rectangular plan shapes shown scattered randomly about the eastern half of the Gardens are possibly garden beds.

Common to parks and gardens of the period, regulations drafted in 1883 required that ‘persons visiting or walking through the [Edinburgh] Gardens shall keep to the footpath’. This notice was accompanied by a warning that ‘... no person shall lie on the seats or on the grass’.<sup>55</sup> Wide paths were therefore required and those in the Edinburgh Gardens were up to 14 feet in width (4.3 metres).

The planting of the avenue trees appears to have begun in 1884. Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture dated 12 June 1884 records the approval for the plantings in the Edinburgh Gardens.<sup>56</sup> Prior to planting, the trenches dug alongside the paths were filled with street scrapings, a common practice at that time and believed to improve the soil.

Despite the extensive improvements undertaken in the early 1880s, the Council continued to deposit garbage, rubbish and dead animals in the Gardens. In response to the complaints of local citizens, one Councillor was to comment that ‘only seven horses have been buried in the Gardens during the past six years and none of them less than four feet below the surface’.<sup>57</sup> The Minister for Lands subsequently directed that the rubbish dumping should stop.<sup>58</sup>

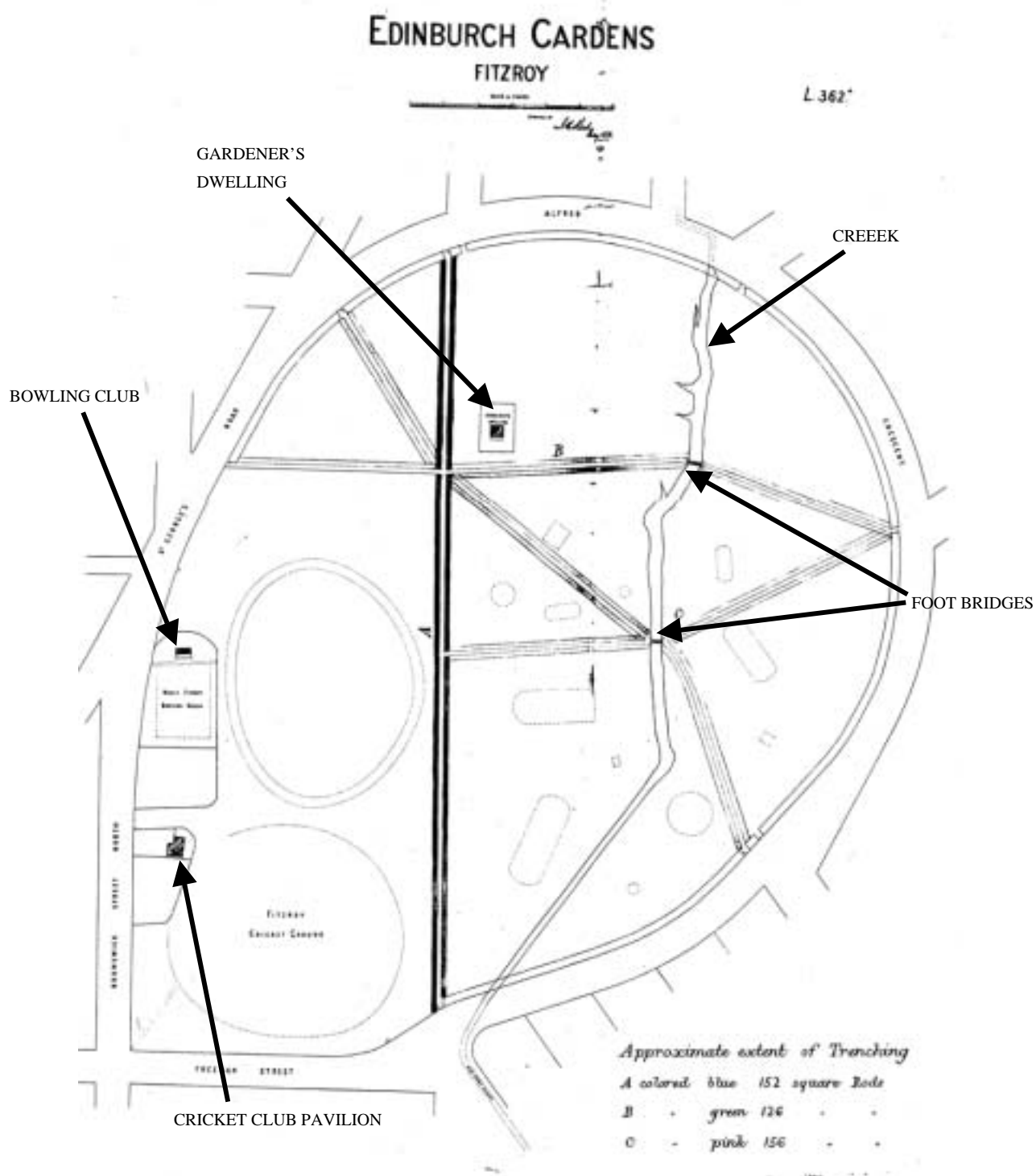


Figure 7 Plan of the Edinburgh Gardens dated 1883.  
Source: VPRS 44/P 745, Public Record Office, Melbourne.

### *Construction of the Railway Line*

Further development of the Gardens was severely curtailed by the construction of the railway line running through the centre of the Gardens in 1888. During the decade of the 1880s, railways legislation authorised the construction of 475 miles (765 kilometres) of new line in Victoria. This was achieved by the passing of the *Railway Construction Act* (No. 682) in December 1880.<sup>59</sup> Among those authorized were the North Melbourne to Coburg (via Royal Park) and the Clifton Hill to Alphington lines.

As work on these lines began, parliamentarian and notorious land boomer, Thomas Bent, became Minister of Railways. His *Railway Construction Act* (No. 821) of 1884 (known colloquially as the '*Octopus*' *Bill*) proposed the construction of sixty-five individual extensions to the network. The *Bill* promised lines to all electorates in order to gain electoral support.<sup>60</sup> It also allowed for the construction of a link from Alphington to Oakleigh – the Outer Circle Railway, and a link between Royal Park and Clifton Hill, with branches to Fitzroy and Collingwood – the Inner Circle Railway.

The Inner Circle line opened on 8 May 1888, with a terminus on each of the branch lines at Fitzroy and Collingwood.<sup>61</sup> As its name suggested, the Inner Circle progressed in a semi-circular formation after leaving the Coburg line slightly north of the Royal Park Station. From there it ran north-east under The Avenue and Royal Parade, before crossing Bowen Crescent and Park Street at street level. The line then turned eastward running parallel to Park Street to Rushall Crescent, North Fitzroy, where it curved south-easterly around a bend in the Merri Creek to join the Alphington and Heidelberg line at Clifton Hill.<sup>62</sup> Near Best Street, North Fitzroy, a single-track branch, or spur line diverged to run southwards, parallel to Mark Street and then through the Edinburgh Gardens, terminating on the north side of Queens Parade.<sup>63</sup> A second spur ran southwards from Clifton Hill Station as far as Johnston Street, Collingwood.

The passenger service on the Fitzroy line of the Inner Circle line was short-lived. Although a platform had been built as part of the railway siding to serve the anticipated crowds attending the Fitzroy Football Ground in Brunswick Street, these expectations were never met. In reality, neither of the spur lines could be used for anything but goods traffic, and did not advantage the residents of Fitzroy greatly.<sup>64</sup> After traffic on the Inner Circle line declined, passenger services to Fitzroy were withdrawn in May 1892.

The Fitzroy branch line instead became a major goods route, making coal deliveries for the Metropolitan Gas Company's gas works on the south side of Queens Parade, as well as transporting other inward and outward goods for nearby timber yards, contractors and factories.<sup>65</sup>

#### **2.6.1 Further Developments to the Edinburgh Gardens**

Following the construction of the railway, much planting work in the Edinburgh Gardens appears to have been directed towards screening the railway line. Annual reports of the committee of management for 1892-93 note the purchase of 5,000 Hawthorn 'quicks' or cuttings, with more purchased in subsequent years.<sup>66</sup> Swanson surmises that in addition to being planted alongside the railway line, the hedges of Hawthorn were sited elsewhere in the Gardens, including possibly along the boundary fence.<sup>67</sup>

*Annual Reports* for 1894-95 note the following additions to the park:

- £# a one room extension to the caretaker's cottage;
- £# four drinking fountains (the location and type is not specified);
- £# a new 'circle' on the eastern side of the railway fenced in iron picket planted with flowers and shrubs.



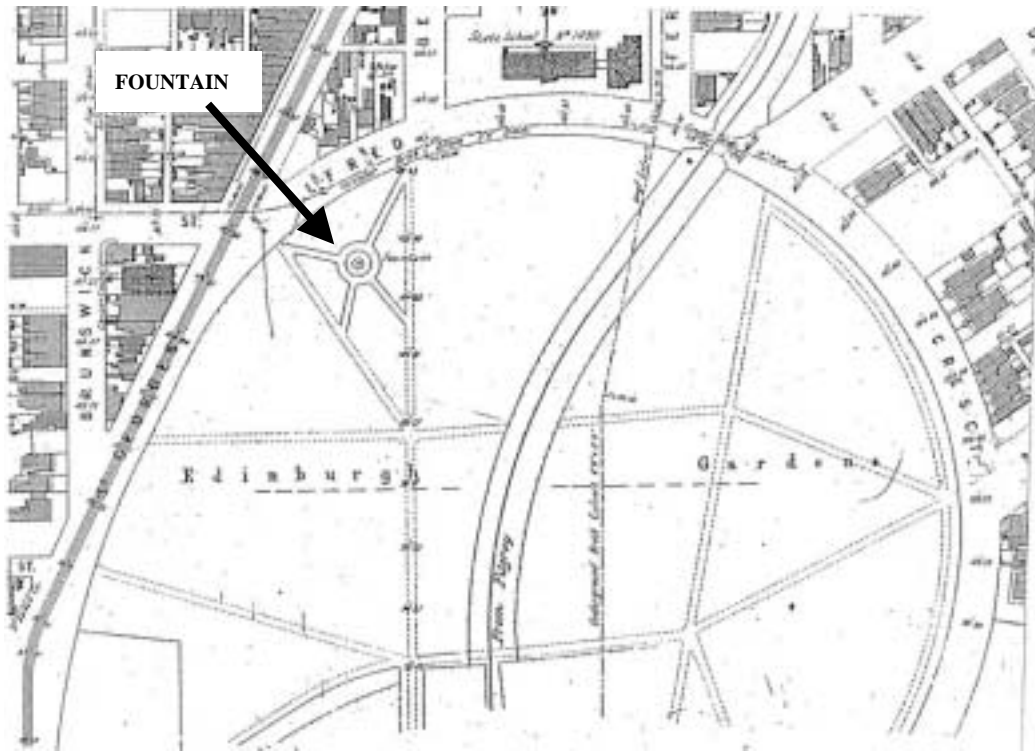


Figure 8 Portion of MMBW Plan 50 (northern section) c.1900 (Scale: 160 feet to 1 inch)  
Source: State Library Map Collection

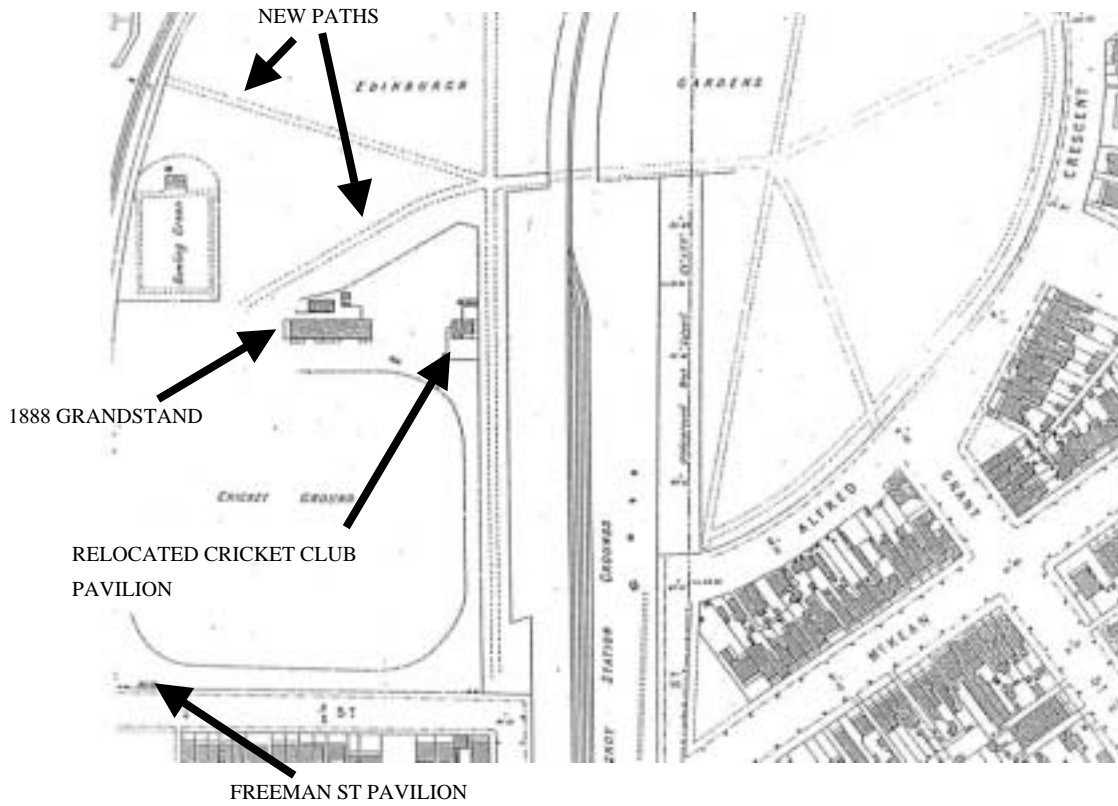


Figure 9 Portion of MMBW Plan 29 (southern section) c.1896 (Scale: 160 feet to 1 inch)  
Source: State Library Map Collection

The 'circle' does not appear on the MMBW plan of c. 1900 (Figure 9) but is likely to be either the circular garden bed in the north-east of the gardens or the planting around the ornamental pond (Figure 10). It is also noted in the *Annual Report* for the year 1894-95, that storm water run-off from Rowe Street was carried into the Gardens; it has been suggested that the ornamental pond later erected in the eastern side of the Gardens was used to store this water.<sup>68</sup> The Committee began selling grass for revenue in this financial year, a common practice in Melbourne's parks and gardens during that time. Details of the nature of the sale of grass have not been located.

By 1900 there had been a number of changes to the path system, as shown in MMBW plans 1896 and 1900. The northern oval was removed and two additional paths were created to the north and south of the bowling club, intersecting at the main north-south path.

The paths were possibly constructed in response to the resident's petition of 1887. In the centre of the Gardens, a diagonal path located near the current site of the Queen Victoria memorial, was also removed. The 1900 plan indicates that the area occupied by the bowling club had expanded, the fence line differing from that shown in the 1896 plan. The Freeman Street pavilion, constructed c. 1895, is discernible on the south side of the oval.

## 2.7 The Growth of Fitzroy

Fitzroy, Melbourne's first suburb, was made up of a mixture of professionals, merchants, clerks, shop assistants and labourers.<sup>69</sup> Its main development occurred from the 1870s until the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a consequence, various housing types from the Victorian and Edwardian periods are represented within the Precinct. The areas which developed first, prior to 1890, have the largest number of single and double-story attached dwellings: these are best represented in the area near Brunswick, Rae, Birkenhead and Best Streets.

The Clifton Ward grew as an exclusively residential enclave. North Fitzroy, and especially the streets around the Edinburgh Gardens, became the favoured area for industrialists and land speculators to reside.<sup>70</sup> Most of the Fitzroy councillors of the 1880s and 1890s invested there – indeed, it was a speculators' paradise. Some of the councillors also lived in the area. John McMahon, mayor of Fitzroy in 1892, employed David Masterton, a local contractor, to erect his large villa facing the Edinburgh Gardens. Local industrialists such as Johannes Yager and a contractor, W H Deague, also lived around the Gardens.<sup>71</sup>

The streets to the north-east of the Edinburgh Gardens contain a mix of single and double-storey, attached and detached housing from both the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Alfred Crescent, which defined the north and east sides of the Gardens, has a large number of substantial, and largely intact, mostly double-storey Victorian and Edwardian dwellings which overlook the Gardens. They provide pleasant vistas from around the Crescent.

Commercial development – which includes a number of Victorian and, to a lesser extent Edwardian, shops with residences above – is concentrated in St Georges Road, near Scotchmer Street and in Queens Parade. Small retail strips are in Nicholson Street, and further north near Holden Street. Banks, hotels and post offices are also represented. Notable retail buildings include the Gladstone Buildings (1888) and a row of ten two-storey Italianate shops and residences with a corner pediment and paired, arched window openings. Along with hotels, and to some extent public buildings, banks were amongst the largest and most imposing of nineteenth century buildings, and most were located on prominent corner sites. The North Fitzroy Primary School in Alfred Crescent, directly opposite the Edinburgh Gardens, is a single-storey polychromatic brick Gothic revival building with a tower and St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church (1869) are notable non-residential buildings in the area.

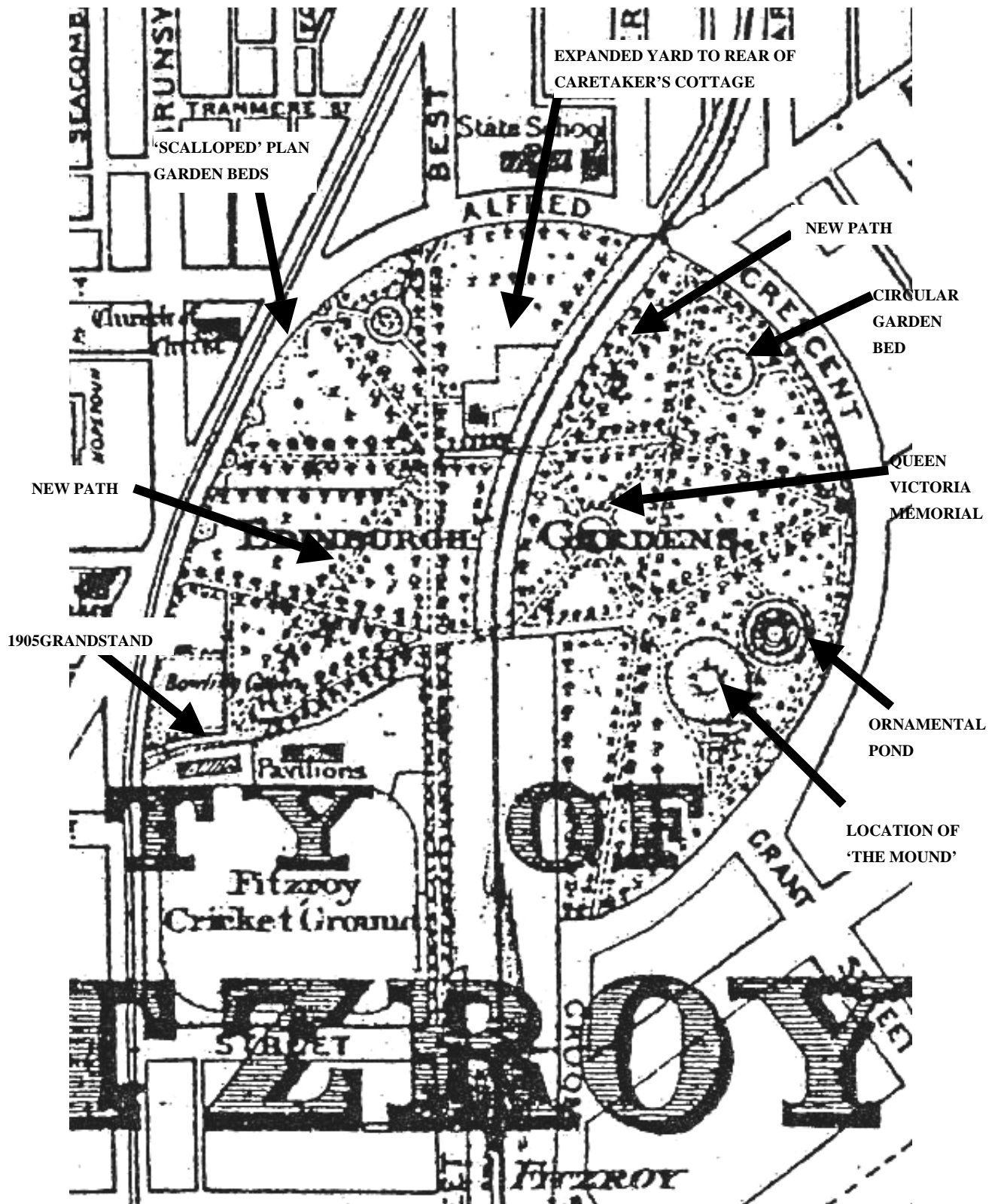


Figure 10 Detail of an unidentified map of northern suburbs, c. 1905, showing the avenue plantings and other features of the Edinburgh Gardens. (Scale 1 inch equals 10 chains)

Source: Reproduced in *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*

### **2.7.1 The Development of the Gardens: 1901-1916**

From Federation to the First World War, a number of additions were made to the Edinburgh Gardens. These are indicated on an unidentified map of the northern suburbs dated c.1905 (Figure 10). In the western half of the Gardens two new paths were laid, the first along the eastern boundary of the bowling club. The second path runs diagonally from the south-east corner of the bowling club to the main north-south path.

In the eastern half of the Gardens, an additional path runs from the Falconer Street entrance to a railway crossing within the Gardens. South of this path is the site of the former Queen Victoria monument, originally comprising a statue of Queen Victoria in the centre of a circular garden bed with two intersecting diagonal paths. The statue was erected in 1902, though documentary evidence to confirm this date has not been located. In the north-east corner of the Gardens is a circular garden bed, possibly the one referred to in 1894-85 annual reports.

The Best Street entrance to the main north-south path appears to be of a 'horseshoe' configuration, similar to that which exists today. No other plans of the period shows the entrance in this form; and it is not appear again until a 1945 aerial (Figure 19). In the south-east of the Gardens an ornamental pond is encircled by a garden bed and path containing a small island planted with palms and other shrubbery. Adjacent to the pond is a large circular feature with a serpentine path skirting its eastern edge. It is likely that this is 'the mound', a grassy hillock which is shown to occupy this location in a plan dated 1926 (Figure 18).

Located in the centre of the Gardens, and evident on the 1905 plan, are the caretaker's cottage, shown with an enlarged yard area, and a second grandstand located to the west of the 1888 grandstand. Constructed in 1905 and designed by architects Twentymen and Askew,<sup>72</sup> the new grandstand was required to accommodate the large crowds which Fitzroy matches were then attracting. The football club had won the premiership the previous year and were enjoying their most successful period. In the summer of 1903 the cricket club organised a series of 'open air concerts' with attendances reputedly in the thousands.<sup>73</sup> The 1910 photograph shows the crowds at the football match at the Fitzroy Cricket Ground (Figure 14).

The development of the Gardens during this period is also demonstrated on a c.1906 MMBW plan (Figure 11). The plan appears to have been annotated at a later date and shows the bowling club pavilion which was constructed in 1913 on the south side of the green. The timber cottage previously used by the club can be seen on the north side of the green.

By the early 1900s, the area around the oval was more intensively developed. In addition to the two main grandstands, a number of smaller structures are evident, including a tennis club pavilion, entrance pavilions, a gymnasium to the rear of the 1888 grandstand and a number of unidentified structures, including the toilet blocks. The asphalt tennis courts, previously located adjacent to the bowling club, were relocated to make way for the 1905 grandstand.<sup>74</sup>

The Fitzroy Station ground remained largely undeveloped at this time and contained oil tanks and a small office building. At the railway entrance to the Gardens on Alfred Street a gatehouse with a semaphore signal is located to its south.

### **2.8 Between the Wars: 1917-1944**

The Board of Lands and Works ceased to play an active role in the management of the Gardens in October 1917. Following a Cabinet decision, the Joint Committee of Management was revoked and the Fitzroy Council was appointed as the committee of management in full control. Financial contributions to the cost of the upkeep of the Gardens from the Crown were then discontinued.<sup>75</sup>

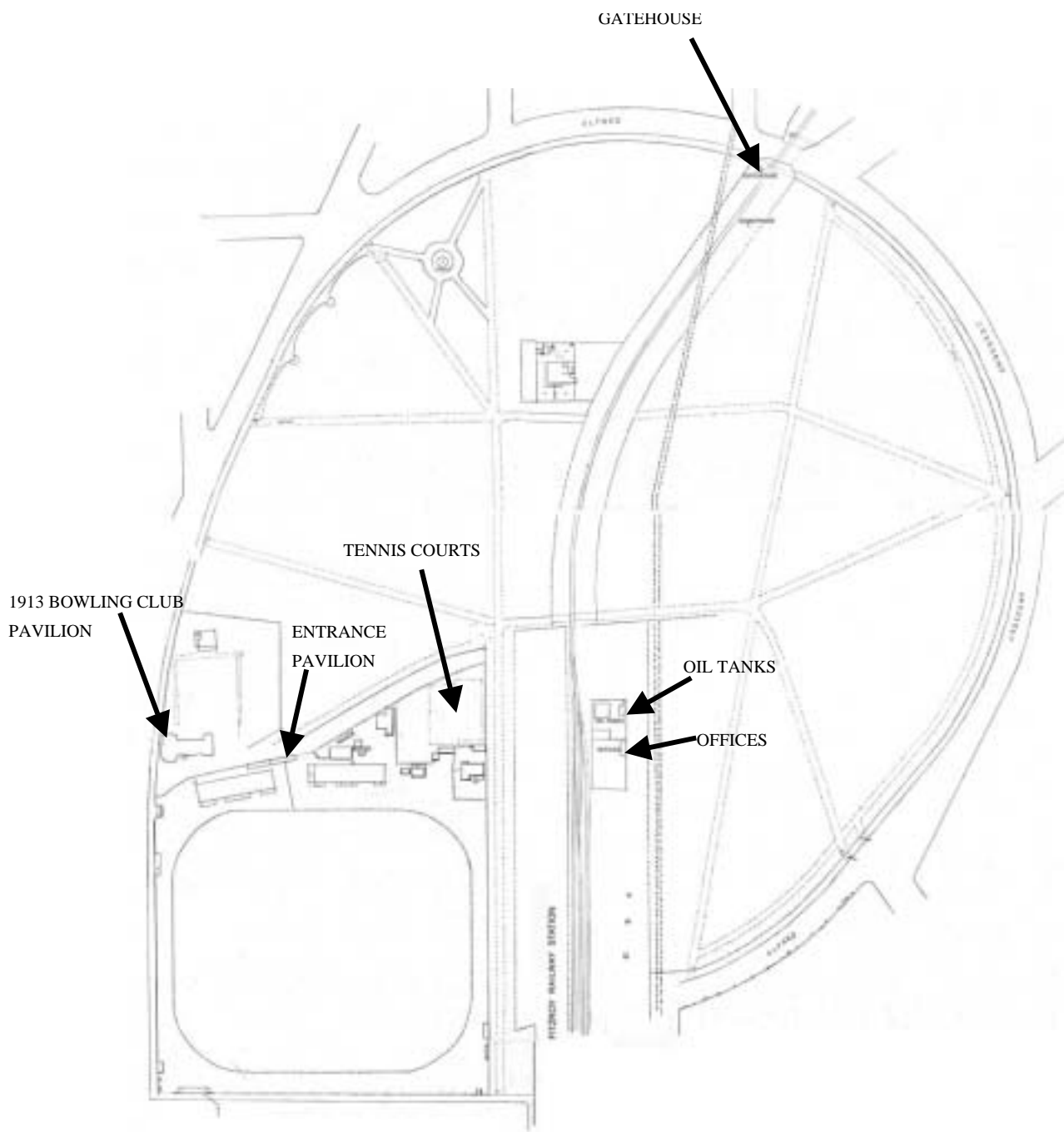


Figure 11 MMBW plan, c. 1906, annotated and showing bowling club constructed 1913.  
Source: State Library Map Collection.



*Figure 12* A c.1906 postcard of the ornamental pond  
Source: Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria



*Figure 13* A c.1907 postcard of the fountain.  
Source: Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria



Figure 14 View of a football crowd at the Fitzroy cricket ground, c.1910.  
Source: Reproduced from *Fitzroy: Melbourne's First Suburb*

A plan of the Gardens dated 1926 shows the pathways little changed since the early nineteenth century (Figure 15) although there were a number of new structures. Two War Memorials were erected, as expected of a nation still grieving for the loss of thousands of young men. The first memorial was an arbour, constructed in 1919 by the various sporting clubs occupying the ground, to commemorate their members who fell in the war.

The second memorial took the form a bandstand rotunda and was built in 1925 by the City of Fitzroy.<sup>76</sup> Photographs of the memorial indicate it was surrounded by garden beds, enclosed with what appears to be wire with timber posts and rails (Figure 17).

At the time of the rotunda's construction in 1925, approval was granted for the construction of a children's playground, to be sited opposite the state school in Alfred Crescent.<sup>77</sup> Other park elements dating from this period include the D J Chandler fountain (1926), and the infant welfare centre, a small timber building located adjacent to the caretaker's residence (1926, demolished c.1966). It has been suggested that boundary fences to the Gardens were probably removed during this phase of development, in line with the contemporary trend for 'opening up' Melbourne's parks and gardens.<sup>78</sup>

The cricket club *Annual Report* for 1930-31 describes the sporting facilities during this period:

in addition to the playing area there are fifteen bowling rinks on two of the finest greens in Victoria, five tennis courts (three of concrete and two of asphalt), the whole forming for Fitzroy citizens a Recreation Reserve which has few equals and no superior in Victoria.<sup>79</sup>

The extension of the cricket ground in 1934 brought about the most substantial change to the Gardens during the inter-War period. The Fitzroy Cricket Club had first proposed to extend the ground by 30 feet (9.1 metres) in 1926. In doing so, an avenue of elm trees was to be removed. The proposal drew much opposition from local residents: it was described by the press of the day as 'as a gross act of vandalism' and a 'typical instance of the methods adopted by interested parties in flinching portions of the public estate'.<sup>80</sup>

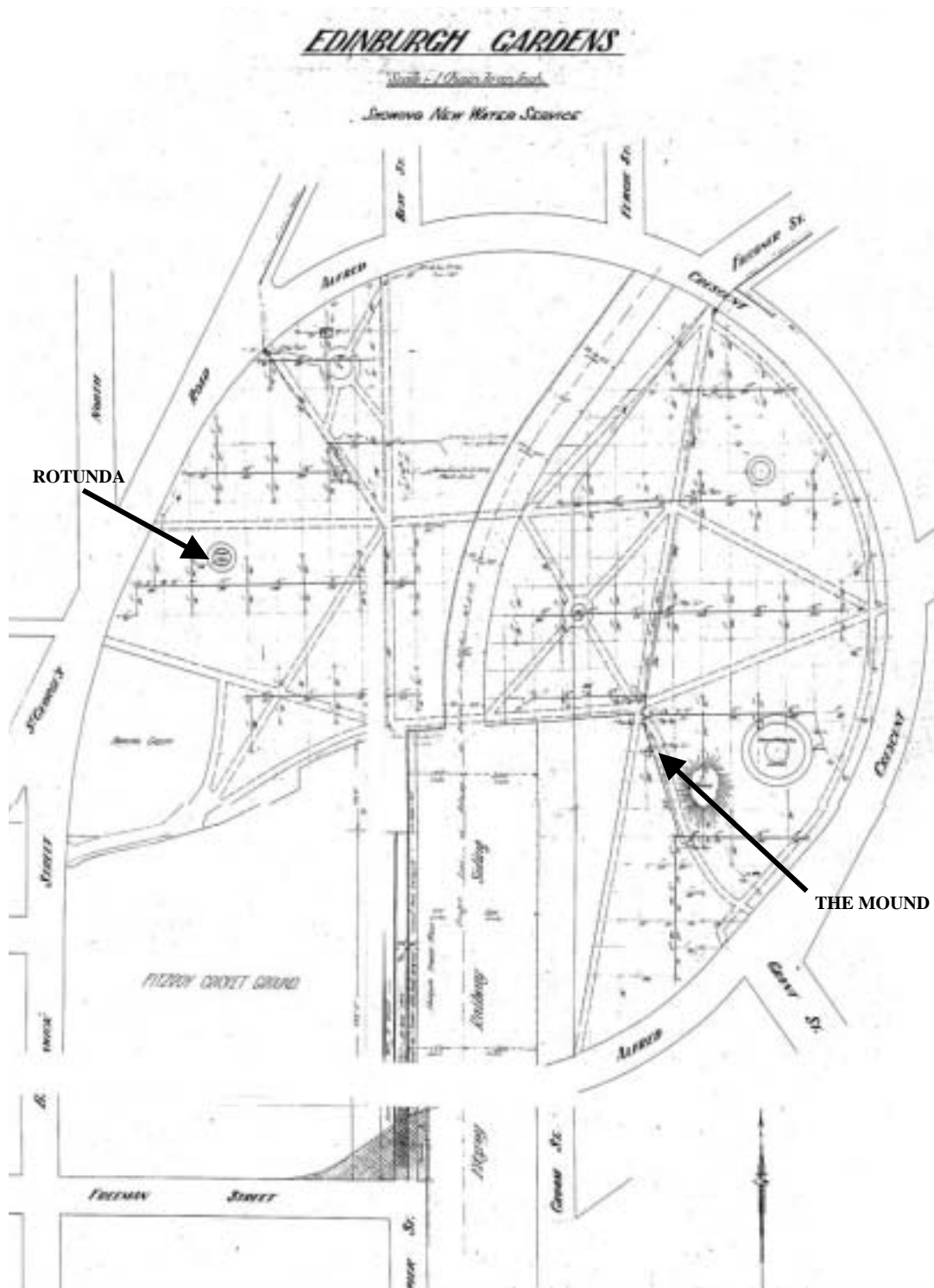


Figure 15 Plan of the Edinburgh Gardens, dated 1926 (annotations to the east of the cricket ground date from c.1948).  
 Source: Reserve File, RS360, DSE, Melbourne.



A reduced extension of cricket ground eastwards by 26 feet (7.9 metres) was eventually approved by Lands Department in March 1934.<sup>81</sup> A strip of land was subsequently purchased from the Railways Department and the main north-south path, running alongside the cricket ground, was pushed eastwards to its present alignment. Approval for the extension had been conditional upon the retention of the row of elm trees along the east of the path, which are visible in a 1925 oblique aerial photograph of the area (Figure 16). The trees were, nevertheless, removed by 1938, the Fitzroy Council reported to the Lands Department that they had become an ‘eyesore and a danger’.<sup>82</sup>

Additional trees adjacent to the tennis court were removed on the basis that the shadows thrown onto the courts were distracting players and the tree roots had interfered with the surface.<sup>83</sup> The action was further justified by the Council on the grounds that the:

floral decorative strip along the pathway north of the playing arenas from the Brunswick Street entrance eastwards ... could not be continued to the end of the courts as desired because of these trees.<sup>84</sup>

Additionally, at this time the footpath along the eastern and southern side, abutting Alfred Crescent, was removed and grassed over. Other improvements described by the Council include the removal of hedges and picket fences alongside the railway line.<sup>85</sup>

## 2.9 The Post-War Years: 1945-1969

The path layout remained largely unchanged in the immediate post-War years. An aerial photograph dated 1945 shows a previously unrecorded narrow path, possibly an informal foot track, in the eastern side of the Gardens, running north-south from Falconer Street to the Alfred Crescent/Grant Street intersection (Figure 19). In addition, one of the diagonal paths radiating outwards from the fountain had been removed. The grassy hillock, known as the ‘the mound’



*Figure 16* Oblique Aerial view showing part of the Edinburgh Gardens, dated c.1925. The row of elms removed following the extension of the cricket ground are visible to left of the oval.

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



*Figure 17* View of the rotunda, c.1927.  
Source: Yarra Melbourne Regional Libraries, Fitzroy Local History Collection.



*Figure 18* A family photograph of 1941 with 'the mound' visible in the background.  
Source: Reproduced from *Fitzroy: Melbourne's First Suburb*



*Figure 19*      *Aerial view of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1945.*  
Source: University of Melbourne Archives Image Collection

is still discernable in the south east of the Gardens (Figure 18), as is the adjacent ornamental pond and surrounding ring of trees. Modifications to the north-south path running past the nursery complex are also evident with the formation of the existing ‘horseshoe’ configuration at the entrance off Alfred Crescent.

The most substantial change to occur during this period was the clearing of the south-east corner of the Gardens for use as a playing field in the late 1940s. The sports field, as first proposed by the council in 1945, was to have included two ovals and a single storey pavilion.<sup>86</sup>

Local citizens opposed the plans which would have involved the loss of a number of trees as well as ‘the mound’. Church groups were also in opposition, fearing that the field would be used for Sunday football. The council subsequently amended the proposal, reducing the size of the playing field.<sup>87</sup>

In 1948 a ladies bowling green was established in the centre of the Gardens. This was indicative of what Swanson describes as:

... a period of public interest in simple open space values and passive recreation in the inner suburban parks [that] declined in favour of more intensive sporting and institutional uses.<sup>88</sup>

By the mid- to late 1960s, a number of modifications to the Gardens had taken place, as is evident in a 1966 aerial photograph (Figure 20). Facilities at the cricket ground had by this time been developed to their fullest extent. Terraced viewing areas can be seen to the fronts of the grandstands while there are a number pavilions and structures along the east side of the oval. The concrete fence is discernable to the east, west and south boundaries. The northern end of the railway goods yard, shown largely vacant in the 1945 aerial, is dominated by a large industrial building, the National Can Company building. In the centre of the Gardens, the park depot and nursery complex appear to be largely complete to its current extent. Around this time the original caretaker’s cottage was demolished and the existing cream-brick villa erected.

A circular garden bed is discernible near the Rowe Street intersection (presently occupied by the dwarf conifer bed with bluestone edging). In the south-east corner of the Gardens is the playing field, as created in the late 1940s and occupying a site half the size of the playing field which exists today. The irregular path to the north of the sports ground, evident in the 1945 aerial photograph, has been remade as a well-formed serpentine path. The ‘mound’ to the north of the path appears to have recently been removed and is discernable as a patch of cleared ground. The adjacent ornamental pond has also been removed, along with the trees encircling its southern half. The pond and its stock of goldfish were apparently considered to be too much trouble to maintain.<sup>89</sup> It was filled in with earth removed from the mound, the remainder being used as cheap fill by the Fitzroy Council.<sup>90</sup>

Garden beds along St Georges Road, reputedly planted with massed cannas and described as an ‘eye catching summer feature’, are believed to have been grassed over in the in 1960s.<sup>91</sup> The fountain was also demolished at this time. The removal of early features is demonstrative of a trend in the post-War period towards the simplification of park management in line with modern cost effective methods.

Further changes to the administration of the Gardens took place when the *Fitzroy (Edinburgh Gardens) Lands Act* of 1967 was proclaimed on 12 December 1967. The *Act* had come about following a realisation that the Crown land occupied by the cricket ground had, through a legal technicality, never been formally allocated to the cricket, football or bowling clubs.<sup>92</sup> Consequently, the Fitzroy Council was unable to lend money to the clubs and lacked the legal power to raise it for them. The Fitzroy Council was appointed as the Committee of Management and allowed to make specific leases of parts of the Gardens to various sporting clubs. The *Act* also closed a small portion of Freeman Street and incorporated it into the Gardens.<sup>93</sup>

The late 1960s also marked the end of the Fitzroy Football Clubs’ eight-decade long association with the cricket ground. During this period, the club had found itself increasingly in conflict with the Council and local residents over requests for upgraded facilities and increased car-parking. Unable to arrive at a satisfactory lease arrangement, the club vacated the oval in 1967.



Figure 20 Aerial view of the Edinburgh Gardens, 1966.  
Source: Reserve File RS360, DSE, Melbourne.

## 2.10 Recent Developments: 1970-1999

The trend towards simplification of management and maintenance of the Gardens as a cost saving measure continued into the 1970s. The practice of maintaining labour intensive flower beds was largely abandoned during this period, effectively leaving the garden's nursery facility

redundant. In 1972, a children's welfare centre, toilet block and a pedestrian shelter were constructed, all in a starkly utilitarian design typical of parks and gardens architecture of the period. The welfare centre was built to replace a 1926 timber building located adjacent to the original caretaker's cottage, a site which occasionally attracted 'undesirable characters'.<sup>94</sup> Another of the parks' early structures, a Victorian timber lattice gazebo, was demolished to make way for the pedestrian shelter. In 1977, the Centenary Pavilion was built to provide rooms for children using adjacent school sports oval.

The cricket ground remained largely ignored in the 1970s. Proposals mooted in 1972 to develop the ground as a car-racing track came to nothing.<sup>95</sup> Most of the buildings on the site were allowed to fall into a derelict state and in 1977 the 1905 grandstand was destroyed by fire.<sup>96</sup>

Subsequent proposals for upgrading of the ground were focussed upon providing for community uses. Redevelopment commenced in the early 1980s with the Fitzroy council committing around \$500,000 to the cost. Works included demolition of the boundary walls and fences, regrading of earth banks and tree planting. The 1888 grandstand was restored, the adjacent community room constructed and the timber entry pavilion relocated to the main through path. Other changes at this time included the removal of one of the diagonal paths intersecting the former Queen Victoria statue. The school sports oval was also enlarged and the serpentine path from the Grant Street entry was removed.

The closure of the railway line in 1981 was to have a significant impact on the amenity of the Gardens. The railway line had long been an unsightly scar, dividing the Gardens in two. Following its removal, the track was remade as an asphalted bicycle and pedestrian pathway. Industrial structures on the former goods yards site were removed in the 1990s and the area south of the railway footbridge redeveloped as housing. A small quadrant of land, to the north of the railway footbridge, is currently being redeveloped as public housing.



Figure 21      *The cricket ground as it stood empty during the 1970s*  
Source: Reproduced in the *Roar of the Lions*

In 1992, the Fitzroy Football Club proposed to return to the cricket ground. Part of the 1888 grandstand was to be enclosed for use as an administration area and a first floor gym constructed above the community rooms. In response to significant opposition from the local community, the scheme was abandoned. The vulnerability of the historic park structures to vandalism and arson was highlighted in 1996 when the timber gatehouse was destroyed by fire. It has subsequently been reconstructed.

## 3.0 PHYSICAL SURVEY OF HARD LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

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### 3.1 Introduction

The following physical survey of the hard landscape elements of the Edinburgh Gardens is based on an examination of the available documentary evidence and on a physical examination of the built fabric as it exists. The objective of the survey has been to establish, as far as possible the nature and intactness of the original layout, structures and plantings, and to describe the various modifications which have occurred up to the present day and by doing so, determine those elements which are original and/or significant.

### 3.2 Documentation

The physical development of the Edinburgh Gardens may be traced from a range of different sources, both primary and secondary. A key documentary reference is the *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*, prepared by Rex Swanson, Landform Australia Pty Ltd, in 1987. This report includes a historical overview of the development of the gardens. The history was largely drawn from correspondence, maps and other documents in the Crown Lands Reserve file held by the Department of Sustainability and the Environment. Relevant documents held by the Public Record Office of Victoria include Crown Lands correspondence and City of Fitzroy Minute Books. A small number of relevant historic photographs are held in the State Library of Victoria Picture Collection and the Fitzroy local history collection at the Fitzroy branch of Yarra-Melbourne Regional Libraries. Additionally, this report incorporates comments made in submissions to the City of Yarra following the community consultation process.

### 3.3 Levels of Significance

In considering cultural heritage significance, an assessment has been undertaken on the basis of the analysis and assessment of the Gardens as a whole, including the soft landscape contained in Chapter 4. The elements are variously described as being of primary, contributory, little or no significance and intrusive. The definitions of the levels of significance are as follows:

#### *Primary Significance*

Elements of primary significance are those which:

- ☞ contribute in a fundamental way to an understanding of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens, and/or
- ☞ are of individual significance in their own right, and
- ☞ are predominantly intact in overall form and/or fabric.

#### *Contributory Significance*

Elements of contributory significance are those which:

- ☞ are of a secondary nature in the understanding of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens, and/or
- ☞ have been altered or degraded to the degree that they no longer demonstrate their original design or other qualities.

Elements of contributory significance are generally of a lesser level of significance in their own right and, while they make some contribution to an overall understanding of the history and significance of the Gardens in a contextual sense, they are not fundamental elements which underpin the significance of the Gardens.



### *Little or No Significance*

Elements of little or no significance are those which:

- are not of any significance in their own right, and/or
- do not contribute to an understanding of the cultural significance of the Edinburgh Gardens

Elements of little or no significance generally include plantings, building and structures of recent origin.

### *Intrusive Elements*

In contradistinction to elements of significance are elements which are intrusive and which have a negative impact upon the Gardens.

## **3.4 Hard Landscape Elements**

### **3.4.1 Grandstand**

#### *History*

Early facilities at the ground constructed by the cricket club are known to have included a timber members' pavilion (located to the north-west of the oval), a small timber stand, and a number of seats located around the oval. By the late nineteenth century, cricket and football games at the ground had become so popular as to warrant the construction of additional spectator facilities. The grandstand was built in 1888 to the design of the prominent architect Nathaniel Billing.<sup>1</sup> The builder was a Mr Purser and the total amount expended was £2,086.<sup>2</sup> A timber gymnasium was erected at the rear of the grandstand and the existing cricket pavilion was relocated to the eastern side (below the tennis club).<sup>3</sup> The old timber stand, also moved to the eastern side of the oval, was eventually pulled down. A second grandstand was erected by the football club in 1905, to the west of the 1888 grandstand. In 1966, the Fitzroy football club vacated the ground, unable to achieve a satisfactory lease from the Fitzroy Council. By the 1970s the ground had fallen into a derelict state, the 1905 grandstand was destroyed by fire in 1977.



*Figure 22 View of the 1905 grandstand (left) and the existing 1888 grandstand (right), c.1913*

*Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Jubilee Annual Report 1912-13.*

In the early 1980s, the 1888 grandstand was restored as part of the redevelopment of the oval facilities for community use. Further restoration works were undertaken in 1991-2 and included the reinstatement of the timber bench seating and repainting in a heritage colour scheme.<sup>4</sup>

### *Description*

The grandstand is located on the north side of the community oval. It is of typical Victorian design with a stepped, timber-framed seating area above a lower brick storey containing club rooms and change rooms. The jerkinhead roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel and contains a central gable with weatherboard infill and a circular louvered timber vent. Flagpoles are mounted on the roof at the centre and at either end. The timber roof trusses are supported on cast-iron columns with Corinthian capitals. Extending along the front and sides of the main roof is an awning supported on timber brackets.

Reconstructed timber stairs, located to the centre and one at either end of the south elevation, provide access to the seating area, which has a timber board floor and simple timber bench seating with steel supports to the backrests. The front and sides of the seating area have a cast iron balustrade with a moulded timber handrail, set above V-jointed board panels. Behind the seating area are the remnants of the sliding timber-framed windows which ran across the full width of the rear elevation.

The north elevation has weatherboard cladding set between timber posts and containing fixed-sash, six-pane, timber-framed windows. Two of the timber posts have been replaced with brick piers. The brick walls to the ground floor have been overpainted and contain a series of V-jointed board doors and louvered timber-framed windows fitted with wire mesh security screens. Abutting the west elevation is a skillion-roofed verandah supported on timber posts.



*Figure 23 Grandstand (left) and adjoining Community Hall (right)*

### *Significance*

The grandstand is of primary significance. Architecturally, it is a fine and substantially intact example of a nineteenth century grandstand designed by notable architect Nathaniel Billing. It is also believed to be one of the oldest and most intact examples of the few surviving nineteenth century grandstands in metropolitan Melbourne and is the most prominent element of nineteenth century fabric in the Gardens. Collectively, with the oval, pavilion and gatehouse, it is demonstrative of the leisure pursuits of the community since the nineteenth century and which remain popular today, albeit at another location. Like other such facilities in the Gardens, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. Its association with the now defunct Fitzroy Football Club, who occupied the ground from 1884 until 1967, is of historical and social significance.

### **3.4.2 Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse**

#### *History*

The former entrance gatehouse was possibly constructed c. 1895 and is discernible on a c.1901 MMBW plan (Figure 24). During this period the Fitzroy Football Club was enjoying great on-field success, winning four premierships and playing in nine of the first ten VFL grand finals. Large crowds flocked to the oval, necessitating the construction of additional spectator facilities. It appears that the ground floor originally contained some sewer facilities, such as toilets, while the upper floor was possibly a viewing area.

#### *Description*

The former entrance gatehouse comprises a double storey red-brick building on a narrow rectangular plan. The building has a corrugated galvanised steel clad roof with distinctive pyramidal roofs to either end, surmounted by turned timber finials. Eaves have a beaded tongue and groove board lining with a carved timber valance to the north elevation only. The south elevation is divided into seven regular articulated bays, four of which are gabled. The walls are articulated by brick pilasters and contain a continuous band of render along the ground floor and a moulded string-course at the first floor level. The four gabled bays have a rendered segmented arch at the ground floor and paired timber louvres at the first floor. Alternating bays are square-headed and finished with a dog-tooth brick course surmounted by a rendered panel. Two of the bays contain small louvred vents with rendered lintels and chamfered sills. The ground floor bay to the western end contains a painted sign which reads: 'VISITING MEMBERS' GATE CORNER'.

The east elevation contains a recessed brick panel at the ground floor with a rendered segmented-arched head and non-original double-leaf flush panel door. At the first floor is a blank recessed brick panel. The west elevation is similarly detailed, although there is an infilled window/door opening at the first floor. The ground floor has been overpainted while the south-west corner displays evidence of the removed boundary wall. Abutting the centre of the north elevation is a recent timber-framed stair providing access to the first floor. The first floor has a weatherboard infill and contains a non-original flush panel door and tripartite timber-framed, double-hung sash windows fitted with metal security bars. A double-leaf flush panel door is located to the centre of the ground floor. At the western end is a small red brick addition with a flat concrete roof, presumably an infilled toilet entrance.

#### *Significance*

The former entrance gatehouse is of primary significance. It is one of only two surviving nineteenth century structures associated with the cricket ground and the Gardens, the other being the grandstand. Architecturally, it is a rare example of late nineteenth century sporting pavilion and is distinguished by its unusual pyramidal roofs. Collectively with the oval, and

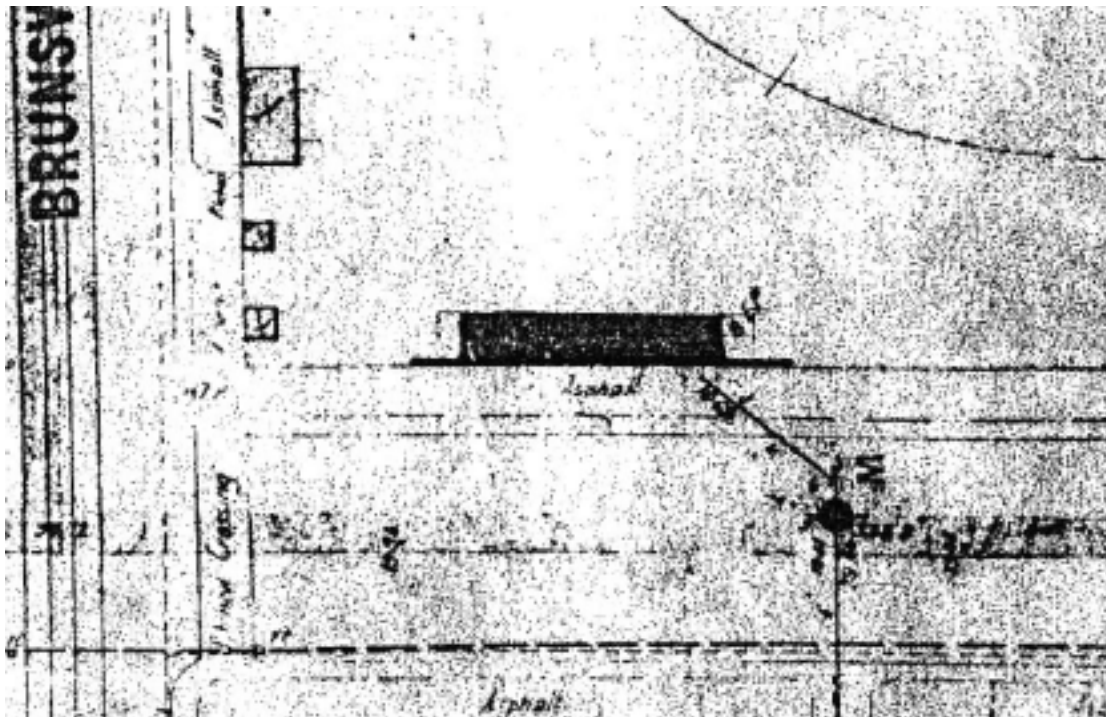


Figure 24 Detail of a c.1901 MMBW plan showing the former entrance gate to the centre.



Figure 25 Southern entrance to the Oval

pavilion, it is demonstrative of the leisure pursuits of the community since the nineteenth century and which remain popular today.

### 3.4.3 Oval Surrounds

#### *History*

A playing field was first established on the site of the existing oval in 1863. Improvements undertaken by the Fitzroy Cricket Club during the 1870s included the laying of a footpath and running track around the field. MMBW plans dated c.1901 show a fence to the oval perimeter, possibly the simple timber picket fence visible early twentieth century photographs. *Annual Reports* of the Cricket Club record the construction of a brick drain right around the perimeter of the playing field.<sup>5</sup>

The picket fence appears to have been removed in the post-War period. By the 1970s, the oval perimeter was encircled by a galvanised steel pipe and wire fence and a continuous timber bench.<sup>6</sup> The existing fence and path appear to date from recent upgrading works to the community oval. The drain may have been built c.1912-13.

#### *Description*

The perimeter of the oval is edged by an open drain, which is lined with red brick, and fenced by a non-original steel-framed Cyclone wire fence with powdercoated finish. The oval is encircled by a path with asphalt finish.

#### *Significance*

The drain, fence and path to perimeter of oval are of little or no significance in their fabric.



Figure 26 Drain, Fence and Path to perimeter of Oval

### 3.4.4 Cricket Practice Nets



*Figure 27 Cricket Practice Nets*

#### *History*

Possibly erected in the 1980s as part of the redevelopment of the community oval.

#### *Description*

The cricket practice nets comprise four concrete and artificial turf wickets with a galvanised pipe and cyclone wire enclosure.

The nets also incorporate a remnant of the concrete boundary wall, featuring a painted mural, which formerly ran along the boundary of the cricket/football ground.

#### *Significance*

The practice nets are of little or no significance.

### 3.4.5 Timber Entrance Pavilion

#### *History*

The building is a reconstruction of the original entrance pavilion, which was destroyed by fire in 1996. Constructed c.1900, the pavilion first appears on the MMBW plan dated c.1901,



*Figure 28 Timber entrance pavilion, viewed from the north-east*

located between the 1888 grandstand and the 1905 grandstand. In the early 1980s, as part of the redevelopment of the community oval, the pavilion was relocated to its present site on the main through path.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Description*

The entrance pavilion is a utilitarian, timber-framed building on a narrow, rectangular plan. It has a framework of stop-chamfered timber posts and beams with V-jointed board cladding. Passing through the centre of the pavilion, are two wide openings fitted with V-jointed board gates and surmounted by panels of diagonal boarding. The openings are flanked at either end by bays fitted with narrow V-jointed board doors.

The gabled roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel with cast iron cresting and a central gablet to either side. The eaves are battened and feature a carved timber valance.

#### *Significance*

The entrance pavilion is a recent reconstruction of the original pavilion. While the fabric has no intrinsic significance in itself, the reconstructed structure has historical and aesthetic significance as a reinstated lost structure which makes a positive contribution to the amenity of the Gardens and which emphasises their Victorian origins. Collectively with the oval and gatehouse, it is demonstrative of the sporting activities of the community since the nineteenth

century. Like other such facilities in the Gardens, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. Of primary significance.

### 3.4.6 Community Hall



Figure 29 Community Hall (right)

#### *History*

Erected in the early 1980s as part of a \$500,000 upgrade of oval facilities undertaken by the City of Fitzroy.

#### *Description*

Located to the east side of the grandstand, the community hall is a steel and timber-framed building with a gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The east elevation comprises a brick wall with a stepped parapet, arched at the apex. Extending across the north of the building is a verandah with timber lattice screens while both the north and south elevations contain large, timber-framed glazed sliding doors.

#### *Significance*

The community hall is of recent origin and as such is of little or no significance.

### 3.4.7 Tennis Club & Courts

#### *History*

The tennis club was established in 1888.<sup>8</sup> Fitzroy Cricket Club records for that year note the demolition of a tennis court, described as an 'adjunct to the bowling club', to make way for the new grandstand.<sup>9</sup> Tennis courts first appear in plans of the Gardens dated c. 1901 (Figure 30). Asphalt tennis courts, occupying the site of the existing courts, are shown along with a number



of buildings and structures. Two small rectangular plan buildings are located along the south of the tennis courts, the one to the west side is marked 'pavilion'. The existing clubhouse may possibly be the building visible directly to the right of the grandstand, albeit in a modified form. In 1894, two tennis courts were constructed at a cost of £57 and a third tennis court was added in 1901-1902.<sup>10</sup> By 1929-30 there were five tennis courts, two asphalt and three resurfaced with concrete. A ladies dressing room was added to the tennis pavilion between 1933-34 at a cost of £54 and a new shower and toilet block constructed 1953-5. An additional tennis court was erected in 1955-56.<sup>11</sup>

A 1966 plan of the cricket ground shows the tennis courts with a Cyclone wire fence to the perimeter and two small buildings in the south west corner (Figure 31). One is of brick construction while the other is labelled 'old fibro and weatherboard clubhouse'. This is presumably the existing clubhouse although it appears to have since been relocated further to the north.

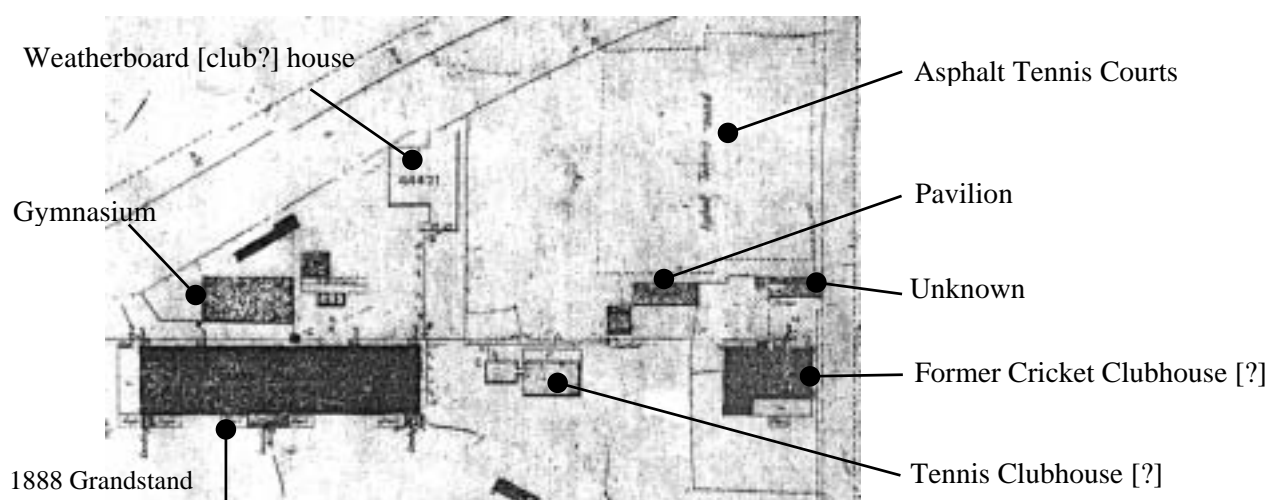


Figure 30 Detail of a c.1901 MMBW plan showing the arrangement of the tennis club

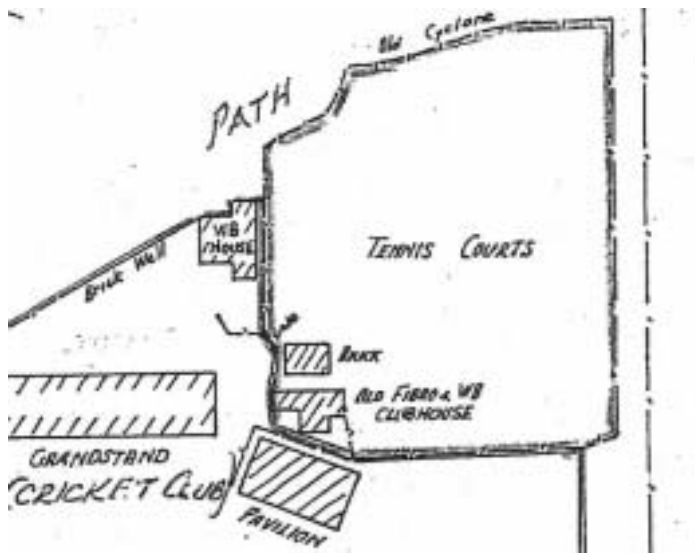


Figure 31 Detail of a 1966 plan of the gardens showing the tennis club  
 Source: Department of Sustainability and the Environment



Figure 32 Tennis Club

### *Description*

The tennis club is located to the east of the grandstand. The site contains six *en-tout-cas* courts with a high galvanised steel pipe and Cyclone wire fence to the perimeter. The clubhouse, located to the west side of the courts, is a single-storey, timber-framed building with battened fibro-cement cladding above a weatherboard plinth. It comprises two parts: a gambrel-roofed section at the northern end and skillion-roofed section at the south, each with corrugated galvanised steel roof cladding. The skillion-roofed section has a timber-framed verandah extending along the east elevation, facing the tennis courts.

The main entrance, located on the south elevation of the gambrel roof section, has a bracketed awning and a non-original flush panel door. Extending across the north elevation of the gambrel-roofed section is a verandah supported on timber posts with prominent carved timber brackets and a central gablet. The wall behind the verandah contains a recent glazed, timber-framed, double-leaf door, flanked on either side by paired timber-framed, double-hung sash windows. Recent timber decking runs around north and east sides of the building.

### *Significance*

The tennis club has an intrinsic historical association with the Edinburgh Gardens, having occupied its present site since c.1888. It is demonstrative of the leisure pursuits of the community since the nineteenth century and which remain popular today. Like other such facilities in the Gardens, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. The clubhouse, though possibly dating from the early twentieth century, has been modified and apparently relocated variously in the vicinity of the tennis courts. The building is one of the older elements in the Gardens and is similar to the example in the Carlton Gardens.

The tennis courts have been altered and resurfaced a number of times and as such their fabric is considered to be of little or no significance. However their existence and location date from at least 1901 and as such they are demonstrative of the leisure pursuits of the local community since 1888. As an entity the tennis courts and pavilion are considered to be of primary significance.

## **3.4.8 Bocce Courts**

### *History*

It is understood the Bocce courts were constructed following the redevelopment of the community oval in the 1980s.

### *Description*

Two gravel bocce courts with timber edging, located to the north of the grandstand. The site is enclosed by a recent steel mesh fence with a low hedge to the south side.

### *Significance*

The bocce courts are of social interest in that they reflect the sporting pursuits of the migrants from Mediterranean countries who moved into Fitzroy in great numbers from the post-War years and which differed from the more familiar Anglo-Saxon games of tennis, bowls, cricket and football.



*Figure 33 Bocce Court*

### **3.4.9 Fitzroy Bowling Club & Green**

#### *History*

The establishment of a bowling green on the site was approved in 1877 by the Fitzroy Cricket Club in its capacity as the Committee of Management.<sup>12</sup> Subscriptions from the public and members of the Cricket Club raised £160 towards the laying of a two-rink green. Within the next two years an additional rink was laid. A timber shed, which had initially served as the Club's pavilion and canteen was replaced by a timber cottage, relocated from the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Ground.<sup>13</sup> An MMBW plan of 1896 shows the early arrangement of the bowling green with the timber cottage at its northern end (Figure 34). The cottage would appear to be that visible in a 1912 photograph of the bowling club which also shows the greens enclosed by a timber picket fence with a hedge along the Brunswick Street/St Georges Road boundary.

In 1893, financial difficulties prompted the Bowling Club to become affiliated with the Cricket Club (Figure 35). A further two rinks were added in 1910-1911 and in 1913 construction of a new pavilion was commenced at a cost of £1,600 (Figure 36).<sup>14</sup> In 1929-30 the paths around the bowling greens were paved with old stone flags, donated by the Fitzroy Council.<sup>15</sup>

A memorial gate was erected on 17 September 1943 in honour of Mr W Hannah, President of the Club from 1936 to 1942. During the 1947-48 season a memorial fountain was erected in memory of T S Rowe, secretary of the club for 16 years, and an additional fountain was placed between the two greens to honour the 1946-47 champion fours.<sup>16</sup>

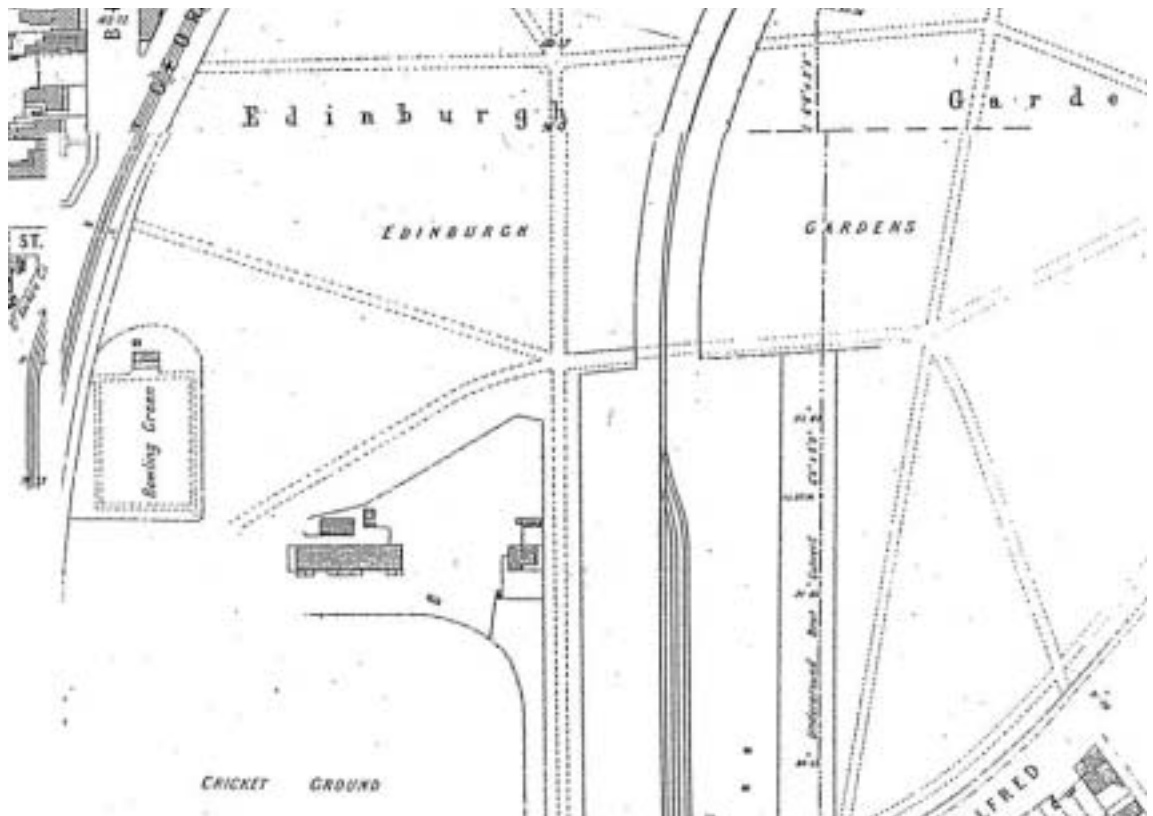


Figure 34 *Detail of an 1896 MMBW plan showing the Bowling Green.*  
 Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

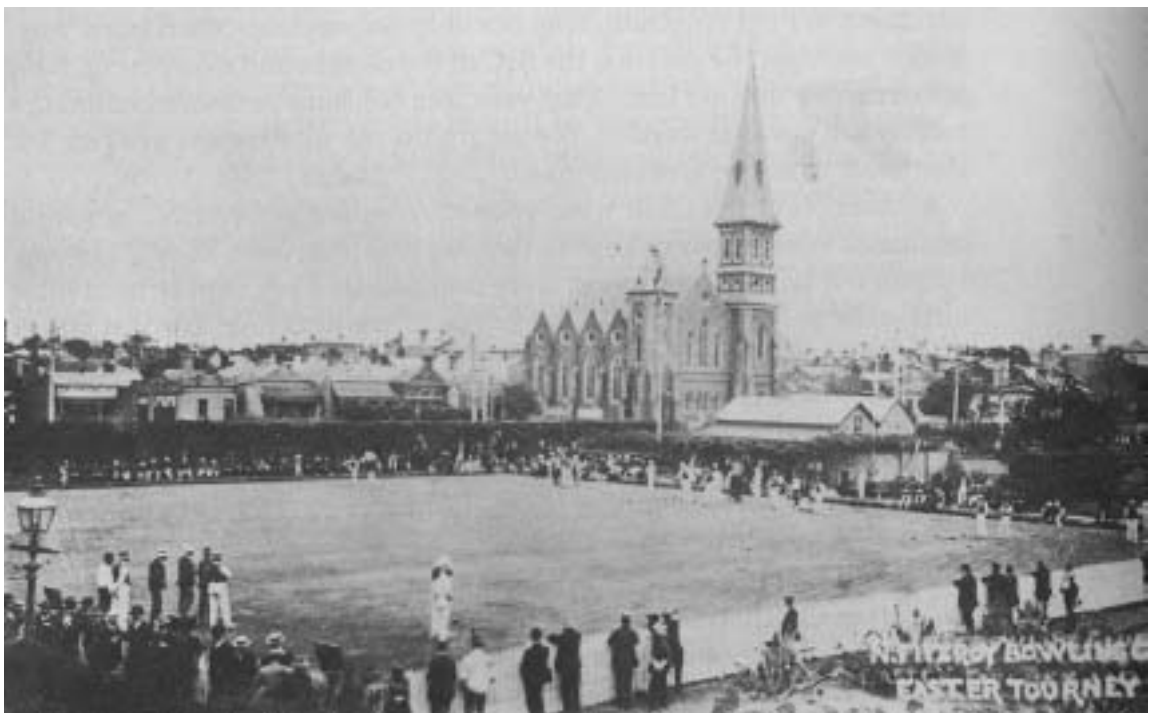


Figure 35 *The Bowling Green, 1912.*  
 Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-13

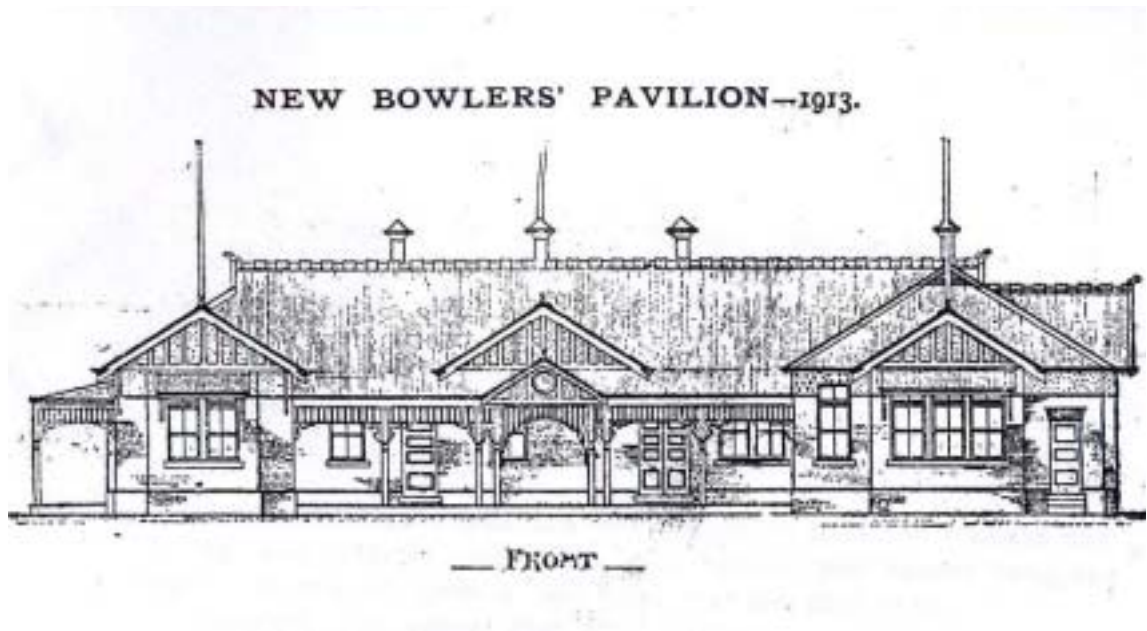


Figure 36 *Elevation of the new bowlers' pavilion, c.1913.*  
Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-1913.



Figure 37 *Fitzroy Bowling Club & Green*



*Figure 38 Hannah memorial gates at the entrance to the Bowling Club*

Between 1969-70 the Pavilion was demolished to make way for a new clubhouse. Building works were completed by 1971 at a cost of \$95,000.<sup>17</sup>

In the late 1990s the site underwent a general upgrading and redevelopment. This was carried out as part of the amalgamation of the Fitzroy Club with the Victoria Club to form the Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Club. Shortly after, the Ladies Bowling Club also relocated to the site, from its location in the centre of the Gardens, and was integrated into the new Club. The upgraded facilities included the enlargement of the clubhouse, installation of a synthetic surface to the green nearest the clubhouse, additional storage sheds, and the relocation of a shed from the Brunswick Street boundary to the eastern boundary adjacent to the Gardens. A new fence was constructed around three sides of the perimeter in chain mesh and to a height of 2 metres.

#### *Description*

The Fitzroy Bowling Club comprises a clubhouse, greens and various ancillary structures. The clubhouse is a single and double-storey utilitarian brick building on a long rectangular plan. It has a flat roof with an aluminium fascia and walls with a bagged render finish and aluminium-framed windows. There is one ten-rink synthetic green and one seven-rink Tidrawf grass green, with a central stone retaining wall and rose bushes planted around the perimeters. The site is enclosed by a chain mesh and galvanised steel pipe fence with the main entrance from Brunswick Street through a wrought iron memorial gate with red and brown brick piers. Other structures on the site include recent timber lattice shelters, prefabricated aluminium sheds, and earlier steel-framed shelters to the centre of the green with canvas awnings.

#### *Significance*

The Bowling Club as an entity, has occupied the present site since 1877 and has an intrinsic historical association with the Edinburgh Gardens. It is demonstrative of the leisure pursuits of the community since the nineteenth century, and which remain popular today. Like other such

facilities in the Gardens, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. The Bowling Club is of primary significance. However, the recent fabric of the place – greens, clubhouse and ancillary structures – are of little or no significance in their own right.

### 3.4.10 War Memorial Arbour & Substation

#### *History*

The memorial was erected in 1919 by the various sporting clubs which occupied the Edinburgh Gardens to the fallen who had been connected with the clubs.<sup>18</sup> The arbour originally stood over the main path running along the northern side of the cricket ground.

#### *Description*

A concrete arbour supported by six Tuscan order columns resting on pedestals with simple moulded caps. The perimeter beams have a textured rendered frieze and a moulded cornice and support a series of parallel rafters carrying Wisteria. The beam to the east elevation contains a central pediment with pressed cement swags surmounted by a moulded cornice. Below the pediment is a recessed panel with the inscription 'IN MEMORIAM' in incised lettering. Urn finials, originally located at either end of the east beam, are missing (Figure 39). On the south elevation, the beam contains a marble plaque which reads: 'THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CRICKET, FOOTBALL, BOWLING, BASEBALL AND TENNIS CLUBS TO PERPETUATE THE MEMBERS WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919'. The plaque originally appears to have been fixed to the panel on the east elevation. A steel-framed cabinet for the display of wreaths is fixed to one of the columns and is in poor condition with all of its glass broken.



*Figure 39 Anzac Day service at the memorial arbour, 1932*  
*Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection*





*Figure 40 War Memorial Arbour*

A concrete substation now abuts the west end of the arbour and the joist ends along the north side have been cut short to accommodate the bowling clubhouse. The substation has been partly detailed to match the arbour.

#### *Significance*

Of primary significance. Historically and socially the arbour is of significance as a memorial to the fallen of the First World War and like other elements, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. Architecturally, it is a rare example of a memorial arbour in the late Edwardian classical style. However, the re-routing of the main path away from the arbour, the siting of the adjacent bowling clubhouse and the construction of the substation have severely detracted from its setting. The substation is intrusive.

### **3.4.11 Chandler Drinking Fountain**

#### *History*

The annual report of the Edinburgh Gardens Committee of Management for 1895 records the purchase of four drinking fountains – the location and type is not specified.<sup>19</sup> Drinking fountains were introduced into Victorian streets as early as the mid-nineteenth century under the influence of Temperance movements and philanthropic organizations concerned with the quality of drinking water in the city. The connection to the Yan Yean Reservoir was also a major factor. Nineteenth century drinking fountains tended to be of cast iron with attached taps. The design of fountains where outlets were housed within a small temple-like structure, became a popular style for memorial fountains during the first two decades of the twentieth century when the majority were constructed in stone, grey Harcourt granite being the most popular choice.<sup>20</sup>



*Figure 41 Chandler Drinking Fountain*

The fountain was presented to the city of Fitzroy by Councillor D J Chandler in July 1920. Chandler was a prominent local identity and president of the Fitzroy Football Club from 1911 to 1931.

*Description*

Located on a path intersection, to the north of the ticket booth/entrance gate, it is square-plan, with polished granite basin on a plinth of rock-faced Harcourt granite. Two semi-circular bowls extend outwards from the sides of the fountain and are fitted with non-original bubblers. Surmounting the fountain, is a small four-sided 'temple' form with arched openings between polished granite columns and a domed top with an orb finial. The whole of the fountain rests on a bluestone plinth.

An engraved inscription on the side of the fountain reads: 'PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF FITZROY BY COUNCILLOR D J CHANDLER JULY 1926'.

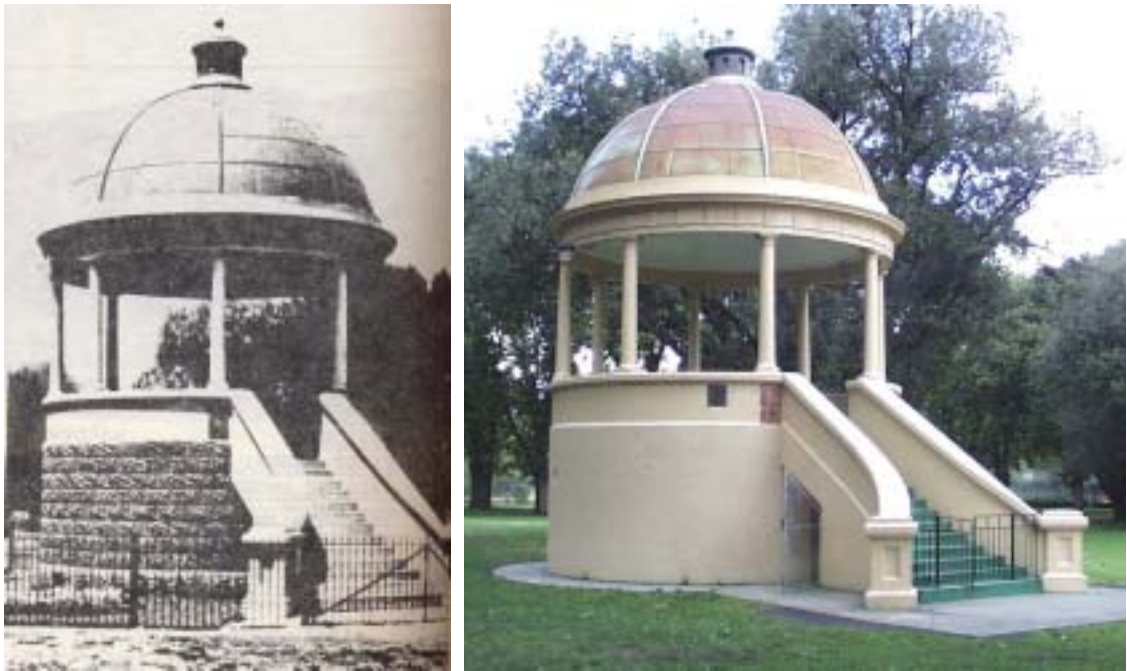
*Significance*

The fountain is of primary significance as an early element within the Gardens. Aesthetically it is a typical example of a memorial fountain of the period. The fountain's association with D J Chandler is of local historical significance and, like other elements, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area.

**3.4.12 Rotunda**

*History*

The bandstand rotunda was constructed in 1925 as a memorial to those who served in the First World War.<sup>21</sup> It was designed by Edward Twentyman, founder of the well known architectural firm Twentyman and Askew, and long serving office bearer with the Fitzroy Cricket Club.



*Figure 42 View of the rotunda, c.1920s (left) and as existing (right).  
Source: Reproduced in North Fitzroy Conservation Study*

The rotunda originally had a rusticated bluestone base and was encircled by garden beds enclosed by an iron picket fence. A photograph of the rotunda dated 1927 also shows surrounding garden beds with timber post and rail fences. The appearance of the rotunda has also been altered by the rendering of the quarry-faced bluestone plinth. In its early days, the rotunda was a venue for weekly performances by the Fitzroy Municipal Band and during the 1950s it was used by the Ladies Bowling Club.<sup>22</sup> In more recent times it has served as a meeting room for the local branch of the Australian Labour Party and as a clubhouse for the Bocce Club. Local folklore has it the rotunda may have been used as an air-raid shelter during the War, though evidence to support this rumour has not been found.

#### *Description*

An inter-War Classical Revival rotunda of rendered masonry and concrete construction. Circular in plan, it has a platform raised above a lower storey base and surmounted by a copper clad dome. The dome is finished by a copper lantern and is supported by eight Tuscan order columns with an entablature containing a moulded cornice and a frieze with triglyphs and plain metopes. The platform is accessed via a flight of stairs with a solid balustrade which curves outwards at the ground floor where it is terminated by panelled and capped piers. A non-original steel gate is fitted to the stair entrance. Two copper plaques are affixed to the drum, either side of the stairs. The plaque to the south side reads:

PEACE MEMORIAL ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CITY COUNCIL AND THE  
PEACE YEAR (1918-1919) COMMITTEE IN HONOUR OF THE CITIZENS OF  
FITZROY WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919 ENLISTED-1453  
WOUNDED-521 KILLED-213 – 1925.

The plaque to the north side contains the names of the various committee office bearers responsible for the erection of the rotunda. Adjacent to the south plaque is a small bronze plaque which reads

ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CITY COUNCIL IN HONOUR OF THE  
CITIZENS OF FITZROY WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II 1939-45.

The base walls contain perforated metal vents and two sets of steel-framed, louvred windows with wirecast glazing and external wire mesh security screens. Access to the interior of the base is through a V-jointed board door located below the stairs. Openings to the understair area are enclosed by recent wire mesh security gates. Modern floodlights are fitted to the dome entablature and the whole structure stands on a non-original concrete paved apron.

#### *Significance*

The rotunda is of primary significance. It is of historic and social significance as a memorial to the citizens of Fitzroy who fell during both World Wars and, like other elements, it occupies a place in the broader thematic history of the Gardens and the Fitzroy area. Aesthetically, it is a distinctive landmark in the Gardens and a good example of an inter-War rotunda in the Classical Revival style.

### **3.4.13 Queen Victoria Statue Pedestal and Shrub Bed**

#### *History*

While the exact date has not been determined, it is thought that the circular Queen Victoria Shrub Bed was established about 1902 as part of a larger memorial scheme. It included a statue of Queen Victoria mounted on a base. It was presented to the citizens of Fitzroy by MLC, George Godfrey, following Queen Victoria's death in 1901. This is consistent with the establishment of many such commemorative memorials throughout the British Empire,



*Figure 43 Queen Victoria Statue Pedestal (left) and original statue c.1910 (right).  
Source: State Library of Victoria*

erected as a tribute to her more than sixty years on the Throne.

The MMBW Plan No. 50, depicting the northern half of the Gardens in 1900, does not show the diagonal path layout and shrub bed which accommodated the memorial, although both are shown in the 1905 plan of the Gardens, consistent with their construction in the intervening period.

An early photograph of the statue shows a setting of what appears to be Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) and round leaf shrubs, camellias or perhaps roses, enclosed by a low iron fence.

The reportedly wooden statue is thought to have disappeared in the 1930s, although the pedestal, the circular shrub bed, surrounding path and diagonal approach paths remained. The north-east and south-west diagonal paths were removed sometime after 1966, possibly during the 1970s, as part of a general move to reduce maintenance costs.

In 1991 Council restored the shrub bed to a design by Patrick and Wallace, based on historic photographs of the feature. The design included reinstatement of a sympathetic iron fence and a low clipped Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedge. The initiative was plagued by continued theft with 80 plants reported stolen in 1992. Theft of replacement plants continued and by mid-1993 some \$2,000 had been spent on plant replacements.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Description*

The memorial comprises a cement rendered pedestal with moulded cornice and a stepped plinth, located to the centre of a circular garden bed and which was originally a focal point in the Gardens. The south face of the plinth contains a small raised panel, to which a plaque was presumably affixed.

The circular shrub bed is much neglected and large sections of planting are missing; the form of the planting scheme has been all-but obliterated. All that remains of the original planting are Chinese Windmill Palm specimen (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), some Mexican Orange Blossom (*Choisya ternata*), and various grass species.

#### *Significance*

The Queen Victoria memorial is of intrinsic historical significance as it is demonstrative of one of the many commemorations made to Queen Victoria following the death the Monarch in 1901. Secondly, the state was named after Queen Victoria. And a further connection exists with the original naming of the Gardens after Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's son. While it is an early and major ornamental and commemorative feature in the Gardens, the pedestal is hard to understand without interpretation, which has been provided by way of a sign which makes its purpose and origins clear. The pedestal is considered to be of primary significance, notwithstanding the loss of the statue.

The shrub bed is of contributory significance as an important element of the layout of the Gardens. The existing planting is a degraded remnant of the 1991 restoration and is not significant.

### **3.4.14 Ladies Bowling Club & Green**

#### *History*

The ladies bowling club was established in 1948, possibly in response to the all-male membership of the adjacent Fitzroy Bowling Club. A room inside the base of the nearby Rotunda served as the first clubhouse until the existing structure was built c.1961.<sup>24</sup> The club house was disbanded in the late 1980s or early 1990s and the site remains unused.

### *Description*

The clubhouse is a utilitarian, rectangular plan building, located at the southern end of the bowling green. It has a gabled roof, re-clad in metal tiles, with exposed rafters at the eaves. External walls, presumably originally weatherboard, have been reclad in *faux* brick cladding.



*Figure 44 The Ladies Bowling Club*

The building is entered through a wrought iron gate located under a timber-framed pergola on the north elevation. Flanking either side of the gate, are windows fitted with steel roller shutters, while the side elevations contain timber-framed louvred windows. The site perimeter has bluestone pitcher edging and is enclosed by a wire mesh and galvanised steel pipe fence surmounted by strands of barbed wire. Two small brick shelters and a prefabricated aluminium shed are located at the northern end of the now overgrown green.

### *Significance*

Historically, the existence of the ladies bowling club has some level of local interest, however its fabric is of little or no significance.

## **3.4.15 Emily Baker Infant Welfare Centre**

### *History*

The Infant Welfare Centre was erected in 1972, just to the north of a site previously occupied by an elaborate fountain dating from c.1887. Prior to the construction of the existing building, the Infant Welfare Centre was housed in a 1926 timber structure, located adjacent to the former gardener's residence.<sup>25</sup> Security concerns and the need for ease of supervision appear to have prompted the relocation of the Welfare Centre to a site on the perimeter of the park.<sup>26</sup>

### *Description*

The infant welfare centre is an undistinguished, single-storey, tan-brick building with aluminium-framed windows and a skillion roof clad in metal tray deck. A brick wall with tile coping extends outwards from the side elevations, enclosing the front of the building.



*Figure 45 Emily Baker Infant Welfare Centre*

*Significance*

The Infant Welfare Centre is of little or no architectural significance. The siting of the building in a prominent position on the Garden's perimeter is considered to be intrusive.

### **3.4.16 Former Gardener's Residence**

*History*

The building was constructed in c.1964, replacing the original caretaker's residence, which is believed to have dated from the 1870s.<sup>27</sup>

*Description*

The former gardener's residence is a double-fronted, cream-brick building, typical of suburban villas of the period. It has a hipped roof clad in glazed terracotta tiles with a chimney on the south elevation. Windows are timber-framed and fitted externally with retractable canvas awnings. A recently constructed disabled access ramp leads up to the front door. To the front of the building is a lawn enclosed by a low hedge and remnants of a timber post and wire fence. Located to the centre of the lawn is an elongated oval-shaped garden bed with bluestone pitcher edging. A recent timber-paling fence encloses the north-west corner of the residence.

*Significance*

The former gardener's residence is of little or no historic or architectural significance.



*Figure 46      Former gardener's residence*



### 3.4.17 Former Plant Nursery & Depot



Figure 47 Glasshouse and shadehouse, Former Nursery

#### *History*

The general locale of the nursery developed as a service yard following the construction of the first caretaker's cottage on the site in the 1870s. The service yard expanded incrementally over the years and appears to have been largely developed to its present state by the mid 1960s.

A shift away from the practice of maintaining labour-intensive flowerbeds in the parks and gardens of Fitzroy began in the early 1970s, effectively leaving the nursery redundant. Also around this time the city discontinued the traditional June mayoral ball, for which the nursery had played an important role in providing palms and other potted plants.<sup>28</sup> The nursery was vacated in the 1990s, and at the time of writing this report, the City of Yarra is proposing to demolish the complex.

#### *Description*

The nursery complex contains a range of single-storey utilitarian structures, including a garage, toilets, glasshouses, sheds and a shadehouse. Most of the buildings appear to date from the 1960s and later. The site is enclosed by a galvanised pipe and wire mesh fence, surmounted by a row of razor wire. The garage and toilets are located on the west boundary of the site and comprise a single storey building with parapeted cream-brick walls and a skillion roof. The shadehouse is a rectangular plan building with slatted timber wall and roof cladding. The

earliest of the structures on the site appears to be a small weatherboard shed with a gabled corrugated galvanised steel roof and a V-jointed timber door to east elevation.

#### *Significance*

It is of some historical interest that the nursery complex evolved from a service yard established on the site in the late nineteenth century. Accepting that all of the existing structures are of recent origin and in a dilapidated state, the nursery complex is considered to be intrusive.

### **3.4.18 Centenary Pavilion**

#### *History*

The Centenary Pavilion was erected in 1977 and officially opened in January of the following year to mark the Centenary of the City of Fitzroy.<sup>29</sup> When constructed, it backed onto the National Can Company industrial site. However, with demolition of the industrial complex and the reincorporation of this land into the Gardens on the western side of this building, it is now highly visible in a manner which would not have been anticipated when it was constructed.

#### *Description*

The Centenary Pavilion is a single-storey building with walls of recycled brick and a parapeted skillion main roof clad in metal tray decking. A steel-framed verandah with an aluminium fascia extends along the east and side elevations.



*Figure 48 Centenary Pavilion*

### *Significance*

Historically it is of some local interest in commemorating one hundred years of local Government by the City of Fitzroy, however, in terms of its physical fabric, the Centenary Pavilion is of little or no significance.

### **3.4.19 Public Toilets**

#### *History*

The toilet block was one of three structures introduced to the park in 1972, the others being the Infant Welfare Centre and the pedestrian shelter. The need for vandal resistance, security, ease of supervision and economy appear to have dictated the design and siting of the toilet block.<sup>30</sup>

#### *Description*

Located in the north-east corner of the park, the toilet block is an undistinguished, utilitarian structure with a flat concrete roof and tan brick walls, matching the nearby Infant Welfare Centre.

#### *Significance*

The toilet block is considered to be an intrusive element.



*Figure 49 Toilet Block*

### 3.4.21 Skate Park



*Figure 50 Skate Park*

#### *History*

The skate park was constructed in 1991, continuing the trend towards the provision of both passive and active recreational facilities in the Gardens.<sup>31</sup>

#### *Description*

Located immediately to the south of the former gardener's residence, the skate park comprises a series of an excavated concrete bowls enclosed by a steel mesh fence.

#### *Significance*

While the skate park is popular with the youth of the surrounding community, it is of little or no cultural heritage significance.

### 3.4.22 Playgrounds

#### *History*

Approval for the construction of playground in the northern end of the Gardens, opposite the state school, was granted in 1925.<sup>32</sup> Playgrounds were built in many of Melbourne's parks and gardens during this period, largely in response to lobbying by the Guild of Play. Established in Melbourne in 1912, the Guild of Play advocated the need for supervised play as an essential component of a child's development.

Their beliefs stemmed from an international playgrounds movement formed in the United States and England and active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The movement sought to alleviate some of the social problems experienced by families living in crowded inner cities areas.<sup>33</sup>

The existing playgrounds are of recent origin.

#### *Description*

The northern playground is located close to Alfred Crescent, opposite the primary school while the southern playground is located at the southern end of the section of the Gardens used as a sports ground. Both are enclosed by recent steel fences and have Soft-Four ground covering. The play equipment is steel framed in the northern playground and of treated pine log construction in the southern playground.

#### *Significance*

The playgrounds are popular with the children and family groups who congregate in the Gardens and use these facilities. It is also of some historical interest that a playground is likely to have existed in the general locale of the northern playground since 1925. While the provision of playground facilities is of local historical interest, the existing fabric is of no cultural heritage significance.



*Figure 51*      *Playground in the Edinburgh Gardens, sited opposite the primary school, 1965. Note the fountain in the background behind the power pole. Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection*



*Figure 52 Northern Playground*



*Figure 53 Southern Playground*

### 3.4.23 Basketball Court



*Figure 54*      *Basketball Court*

#### *History*

One of a number of active recreation facilities introduced to the Gardens in recent times.

#### *Description*

An asphalt court with steel framed goals, located directly to the north of the Centenary Pavilion.

#### *Significance*

The basketball court is of little or no historic or aesthetic significance.

### 3.4.24 Shelter

#### *History*

The shelter was constructed in 1972, replacing a Victorian, timber lattice gazebo which had a slate-roof (Figure 56).<sup>34</sup>



*Figure 55*      *Detail of a 1965 photograph of the Gardens showing the original timber gazebo.*  
*Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection*



*Figure 56*      *The existing shelter*



### *Description*

A non-descript brick structure with timber benches to all sides and a steel framed butterfly form roof clad in metal deck.

### *Significance*

While the historical precedence for a shelter is of some local interest, the fabric of the shelter is considered to be an intrusive element.

## **3.4.26 Paths**

### *History*

Laying out of the main path network appears to have commenced around 1883. The path routes were possibly dictated by established foot tracks through the Gardens. The main north-south path followed the fenceline of the cricket grounds while the path running from Jamieson Street to Falconer Street broadly followed the line of an infilled creek bed – the location of two bridges which crossed the creek is now marked by path intersections. By the early 1900s a secondary system of diagonal paths was in place, emphasising focal points within the Gardens such as the fountain, Queen Victoria statue and circular garden beds.

Following the extension of the cricket ground in 1934, a section of the north-south path along the side of the ground was pushed several metres further eastward to its present alignment. By the late 1930s the path along the south and east perimeter to Alfred Crescent was taken up and grassed over. In the late 1960s the fountain and its radiating diagonal path system was removed and by the late 1970s the serpentine path from the Grant Street entrance had been taken up to allow for an expansion of the school sports field.

During the 1980s redevelopment of the cricket ground, a path was laid around the perimeter of the oval whilst the path running along the north of the cricket ground from the Brunswick Street entrance was realigned. Other recent changes include the removal of the path from the east side of the Bowling Club, the removal of a diagonal path intersecting the Queen Victoria statue site, and the formation of a path following the route of the demolished railway line.



*Figure 57 View along a path in the gardens, c.1927.*

Source: *Fitzroy Local History Collection*



*Figure 58 Path through the centre of the Gardens, looking west toward the Ladies Bowling Club*



*Figure 59 Path in northern section of the Gardens, looking south*

Paths within the Edinburgh Gardens were originally surfaced with gravel.<sup>35</sup> *Annual Reports* prepared by the Committee of Management from 1897-1899 record expenditure on ‘ashes’ for the paths, while MMBW plans dated c. 1901 show most paths to have been asphalted by this time. The bluestone rock edging is possibly an early feature of the gardens, however the original nature of the path edging has not yet been established. Similar edge treatment was a feature of many of Melbourne’s parks and gardens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A photograph of the gardens dated c.1927 shows garden beds with bluestone rock edging (Figure 57). Sections of lawn alongside the path, however, appear to be without edging.

#### *Description*

The path network is essentially utilitarian in nature. Entry points correspond to the surrounding street pattern and almost all paths run in a straight line. Most of the secondary diagonal path system, connecting points of interest within the Gardens, has been removed. A path has been created along the curving route of the demolished railway line and incorporates a remnant section of railway track.

All paths are asphalted. Flush bluestone pitcher edging has recently been laid along some paths while some sections of the earlier rock edging remain. There are also some sections of concrete kerbing, generally located in the vicinity of the community oval.

#### *Significance*

With the exception of the removal of a number of secondary paths and the alteration to paths around the community oval, the main path network through the Edinburgh Gardens remains essentially unchanged since its creation in the 1880s and 1890s. The principal path structure is of primary significance to layout, but not the majority of materials. However, remnant early basalt scoria rock path edging is of contributory significance.

The remnant railway track and the alignment of the curving path along the former railway track is of contributory significance as being demonstrative of the former railway line. Together they provide the last remaining evidence of the Fitzroy Branch line which operated from 1888 up until its closure in 1981. The railway footbridge located at the southern end of the Gardens, though not part of this study, is, we understand, to be relocated.

### **3.4.27 Open Drain**

#### *History*

The open drain, lined with bluestone, is believed to have been constructed in c.1945 when the path along the side of the tennis courts and cricket oval was relocated further east.

#### *Description*

An open concrete drain with bluestone pitcher edging, running north-south along eastern perimeter of the oval.

#### *Significance*

The open drain is of little or no historic significance.



*Figure 60 Open drain lined with bluestone pitchers*

### **3.4.28 Bluestone Retaining Wall (Alfred Crescent)**

#### *History*

The retaining wall appears to be of comparatively recent origin.

#### *Description*

Bluestone pitcher retaining wall, running along the southern section of the Alfred Crescent boundary.

#### *Significance*

The retaining wall is of little or no historic or architectural significance.



*Figure 61 Bluestone retaining wall along Alfred Crescent*

### **3.4.29 Captain Cook Memorial**

#### *History*

The Captain Cook memorial appears to be of comparatively recent origin.

#### *Description*

Located at the Rowe Street entrance to the Gardens, the memorial comprises a granite plinth featuring a bas-relief bronze sculpture of Captain Cook and a memorial plaque. At the time of writing the statue had been stolen from its concrete base.

#### *Significance*

The statue is of little or no historical cultural significance to the Edinburgh Gardens.



*Figure 62 Captain Cook memorial*

### **3.4.28 Sundry Items (Lighting, Seating, Signage, Furniture, Bollards)**

#### *History*

The sundry furniture, lighting and signage throughout the Gardens is predominantly of recent origin. Two exceptions to this are the small number of cast-iron nineteenth century gas lamp standards in the vicinity of the rotunda and the memorial arbour and the early cast iron bollards. Swanson suggests that gas lamps were possibly never installed in the Gardens, and that the lamps adjacent to the rotunda and memorial were erected in the 1920s.<sup>36</sup>

*Annual Reports* prepared by the Edinburgh Gardens Committee of Management in 1899 record the purchase of 50 wooden seats and 12 iron seats.<sup>37</sup> The exact nature of these early seats remains unknown, as pictorial evidence has not been found. Simple timber seats, seen in a photograph of the rotunda dating from c.1927, possibly date from the 1920s. Cast iron

reproduction Victorian seats were introduced to the gardens in the late 1980s, replacing some earlier concrete-frame timber seats. It would appear that a small number of additional seats of contemporary design have been introduced since this time.

The history of other elements, such as signage, furniture and bollards is more unclear. It is of relatively recent origin and would appear to have been introduced to the Gardens over the past 20 or so years.



*Figure 63      Reproduction aluminium standard (left) and early cast iron standard (right)*



*Figure 64      Contemporary steel standard (left) and combined power pole and light (right)*



Figure 65      *Reproduction seat (left) and contemporary steel and timber seat (right)*



Figure 66      *Contemporary signage including interpretive signs (right)*



Figure 67      *Picnic & BBQ facilities (left) and drinking fountain (right)*





Figure 68 *Early cast iron bollards (left) and later steel bollards (right)*



Figure 69 *Galvanised steel boom gates*



Figure 70 *Electrical sub board and rubbish bin enclosure*

### *Description*

Lighting throughout the gardens is ad hoc in its style and placement. It is generally provided by mercury vapour lamps cantilevered from either steel, concrete or timber poles, many of which double as power poles with overhead wiring. Three electrified cast-iron nineteenth century gas lamp standards are located in the vicinity of the rotunda (one has lost its top half) and one to the south of the bowling club. There are also a number of aluminium reproduction Victorian gas lamps, contemporary steel lamp standards and bollard style lighting.

Seating within the gardens largely consists of reproduction Victorian seats with stained timber battens and painted cast iron frames fixed to a concrete slab. Two frame designs are evident: the first is an elaborate Victorian pattern while the second is simpler with curvilinear, Art Nouveau inspired detailing. In the vicinity of the community oval and the northern playground the seating types are of various contemporary designs comprising stained timber battens on painted wrought iron frames. In addition there is a timber picnic table and seats and a small number of concrete-framed timber seats.

Signage is of a relatively recent origin and is typically of powdercoated steel panel construction. A small number of decorative wrought iron interpretative signs have also been recently introduced to the gardens in the vicinity of significant early structures such as the grandstand, band rotunda, Queen Victoria memorial and D J Chandler fountain. In addition there are also instructive signs for the use of the park relating to dogs, parking etc. They are generally of standard design and fixed to galvanised steel poles with small steel signage panels.

Adjoining the northern playground is a recent BBQ and drinking fountain constructed of coursed bluestone.

A small number of early cast-iron bollards remain at entrances to the gardens in addition to later cast iron bollards of a simpler design. Other, intrusive, bollard designs include painted treated pine posts and contemporary removable painted steel bollards. A galvanised steel pipe gate is located at the vehicular entrance point to the depot off Alfred Crescent and across the Brunswick Street vehicular entrance to the Gardens, south of the bowling club.

The path in front of the former gardener's residence and the vehicular entrance from Brunswick Street, south of the Bowling Club are gated by galvanised steel boom gates.

Rubbish bins are housed within perforated powdercoated steel enclosures of a contemporary design and electrical sub-boards throughout the park are housed within plain, powdercoated steel cupboards.

In addition to the above-mentioned sundry items, are a number of what would appear to be surplus timber and steel posts, poles, and concrete pad footings which appear redundant.

### *Significance*

The cast-iron nineteenth century gas lamp standards and cast iron bollards are of contributory significance as early elements within the Gardens. None of the other sundry elements are considered to be of significance.

## 4.0 PHYSICAL SURVEY OF SOFT LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

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### 4.1 Introduction

The following physical survey of the soft landscape elements of the Edinburgh Gardens is based on an examination of the available documentary evidence and on a physical examination of the fabric as it exists. The objectives are the same as those for hard landscape outlined in Section 3.1.

### 4.2 Soft Landscape Elements

#### 4.2.1 Kurrajong Row - St Georges Road vicinity

##### *History*

The earliest evidence of the boundary treatment to St Georges Road between the Bowling Club and the present toilet block, is a MMBW plan dating from the beginning of the twentieth century which indicates a scalloped garden bed in this location. It is not clear whether trees were planted at the apex of the scallop patterns, however the 1905 plan of the Gardens which also depicts the scallop beds suggests that there may not have been tree planting along this boundary.

By 1945<sup>1</sup> the scalloped beds had been removed and a row of trees had been established along the boundary. The row appears to extend to the present northern entrance to the Gardens opposite the Primary School. These trees are still evident in the 1966 aerial photo, although those at the southern end appear small and possibly depleted in number.



Figure 71 Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), St Georges Road

Given the size and apparent age of many of the Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) specimens in this location it is thought that the existing row is the same planting evident in the aerial photos of 1945 and 1966. Some of the specimens in the 1945 photograph have moderately developed canopies, suggesting a planting time before 1940, possibly in the 1920s or 1930s. Such a planting time would be consistent with the heightened sense of national identity and sentiment following World War I which was expressed in several parks through the use of Australian species, such as a plantation of Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*) in the Domain, and Kurrajongs in Central Park, East Malvern.

#### *Description*

A row of Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*) is planted along the north-west boundary of the Gardens fronting St. Georges Road and running north of the Bowling Club to the northern entrance opposite the Primary School.

There is considerable variation in the size of the trees with some responding to site conditions markedly better than others. The row includes a number of exceptionally good examples of the species within the Melbourne context, particularly those at the northern end.

#### *Significance*

The row of Kurrajongs in the St Georges Road vicinity is of contributory significance as an example of a formal planting of this Australian species which is relatively unusual in Melbourne's public parks. Its relationship with a similar row planting on the eastern boundary of the Gardens along Alfred Crescent is also of significance. (Refer to Section 4.2.3 Kurrajong and Illawarra Flame Tree Row Alfred Crescent)

### **4.2.2 Alfred Crescent Desert Ash Row**



Figure 72 Desert Ash (*Fraxinus augustifolia*) Alfred Crescent

### *History*

The 1905 plan of Edinburgh Gardens indicates a row of trees planted along the Alfred Crescent frontage between the northern entrance to the Gardens and the former railway line as part of the early landscaping scheme established in the nineteenth century. The location roughly corresponds to the section of the Gardens directly opposite the Primary School.

This row had been removed by 1945, and is not apparent in the 1966 aerial photo.

The present planting therefore seems to have occurred since the mid-1960s as a substantially later date would not be consistent with the level of maturity of the existing specimens.

### *Description*

A short row of nine Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and one Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood') is planted along the northern frontage of the Gardens to Alfred Crescent opposite the Primary School. The trees are mature and in fair to good condition.

### *Significance*

The presence of a row of trees along this section of the perimeter of the Gardens is of contributory significance as an element of the early landscape design for the Gardens. However, the existing trees are of recent origin, and the species choice reflects mid-twentieth century tastes and is unlikely to have been part of the early planting palette. The existing trees are not of heritage significance.

#### **4.2.3 Kurrajong and Illawarra Flame Tree Row Alfred Crescent**



*Figure 73 Kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus) Tree Row Alfred Crescent*



Figure 74 *Illawarra Flame Tree (Brachychiton acerifolia) interplanted with Kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus) along eastern sectors of Alfred Crescent*

#### *History*

The 1905 map indicates that the early landscaping established in the nineteenth century included an avenue planting along the boundary path to Alfred Crescent which extended from the Falconer Street entrance to a location opposite Grant Street.

During the late 1930s this path was removed and grassed over.<sup>2</sup> The 1945 aerial photograph shows a single row of generally very small trees along this boundary, with frequent and wide gaps, suggesting that they may have been planted, or replanted, when the path was removed. This date would be consistent with the likely period of the planting of the Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) row on the north-east boundary of the Gardens along St Georges Road.

The 1966 aerial photograph shows a similar planting pattern to that indicated in 1945 but with larger specimens as might be expected.

The existing row planting consists of many more specimens than evident in the mid-1960s indicating that subsequent infill planting has occurred. The location of specimens shown in the 1945 and 1966 aerial photos tends to correspond with the existing Kurrajong plantings. These specimens are larger and more established than the Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolia*).

The *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study* makes specific reference to the Kurrajong row, noting that there are numerous gaps and that it tapers out at the southern end.<sup>3</sup> It makes no mention of the Illawarra Flame Trees. As the latter are still young they appear to have been planted subsequent to this study to infill the gaps in the Kurrajong row i.e. since 1987. Both species are Australian natives from NSW and Queensland, and as they are of the same genera, are closely related botanically.

### *Description*

A row of Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) and Illawarra Flame Tree (*B. acerifolia*) is established along the north-eastern frontage of the Gardens extending from the Falconer Street entrance to the vicinity of Grant Street. The planting consists of some fourteen Kurrajongs which are generally larger in size and dominate the northern end of the row. However, a number of the Kurrajongs are not large, particularly toward the south, suggesting more inhospitable conditions in this vicinity.

The Illawarra Flame Tree plantings consist of about seventeen specimens interplanted with the Kurrajongs. These are predominantly located south of the Rowe Street entrance. They are generally significantly smaller than the Kurrajongs although this could be expected given the relatively recent planting, their slow growth habit, and the fact that they are still young. Both species are in good to fair condition.

### *Significance*

The presence of a boundary row of trees along this section of the perimeter of the Gardens is of contributory significance as an element of its early landscape design. However, the existing trees are not thought to be the original planting. The Kurrajongs are considered to be of contributory significance as part of a broader boundary planting scheme undertaken on both sides of the Gardens, possibly in the 1920s or 1930s. They represent an example of a formal planting of this Australian species which is relatively unusual in Melbourne's public parks. (Refer to Section 4.2.1 for the Kurrajong Row – St Georges Road vicinity) The significance of the row planting is likely to increase as the Illawarra Flame Trees come into maturity as this species is even more unusual as a formal row planting in Melbourne's parks and when in flower forms a spectacular sight.

#### **4.2.4 Elm Row Alfred Crescent South**



*Figure 75 Dutch Elm (Ulmus x hollandica) Alfred Crescent South*

### *History*

Although the 1905 plan indicates the presence of a row planting along Alfred Crescent between Grant Street and Jamieson Street, there were no trees shown in this location in either the 1945 or 1966 aerial photos.

The present Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) are semi-mature and date from a relatively recent planting in the last decade or so.

### *Description*

Four semi-mature specimens of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) are planted along Alfred Crescent between Grant Street and Jamieson Street. The trees are in fair to good condition.

### *Significance*

The presence of a row of trees along Alfred Crescent is of contributory significance as an element of the early landscaping scheme established in the nineteenth century. However, the trees are of recent origin. The species is consistent with the dominant species of the nineteenth century planting of the Gardens.

## **4.2.5 Elm Avenues and Rows**

### *History*

The initial avenue trees appear to have been planted about 1884 following the survey and construction of the principal paths in the preceding year. (Refer to 1883 Plan) A report by the committee for the Lands Department in December 1883, notes that works in the Gardens included the survey and marking out of trenches along either side of the paths with the object of creating ornamental avenues. The same report also records that the avenues were prepared and ready for the reception of the young trees at the proper season.<sup>4</sup> In June 1884 approval was given for trees to be planted in the Edinburgh Gardens.<sup>5</sup> Prior to the planting, the prepared trenches were filled with street scrapings, presumably containing manure, as a soil improvement measure.

Only four years later, approval was given to excise land for construction of a railway line and station which bisected the Gardens. This action resulted in removal of sections of the east-west avenue plantings which crossed the newly created branch line.

Avenue plantings seem to have been undertaken as the path layout developed with the addition of diagonal routes and the construction of a second major north-south route roughly where the stream had been put into a barrel drain sometime after 1887. By 1905 the major path network and accompanying avenue plantings were in place. (Refer to 1905 plan).

Between 1934 and 1938 further avenue losses occurred when the Elm rows east of the Fitzroy Cricket Club were removed to extend the sports ground. By 1945, the avenue planting along the path south-west of the fountain no longer existed. West of the former Ladies Bowling Club site, another section of Elm avenue planting was removed by the mid-1960s. The removals occurred along the length of the bowling green and were possibly undertaken when the greens were constructed in 1948, or subsequently to prevent shading of the lawns.

A section of the Elm avenue planting along the western side of the Alfred Crescent school's sports oval has also been lost. However, it is not clear if this loss is associated with the initial construction of an oval in this vicinity in the late 1940s, or with its later enlargement in the 1980s. Certainly, the avenue was generally intact up until the mid-1940s.





Figure 76 Avenues of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) lining the main path system.

#### *Description*

Mature avenues of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) line much of the path network forming a major feature of Edinburgh Gardens. <sup>6</sup>

Although the avenues do not represent the full extent of the historical plantings, the original scheme is still largely intact. Some sections, as noted above, have been removed, while in other avenues occasional specimens may be missing.

The remaining trees are generally in fair to good condition, although there is evidence of some deadwood in upper canopies. At the time of writing, thin canopy growth was frequent, reflecting severe elm leaf beetle attack and possum browsing. The prevailing drought conditions may also be aggravating the situation although most of the Gardens are irrigated.

#### *Significance*

The Elm avenues are of primary significance as a major element of Edinburgh Gardens which dates from its early development in the mid-1880s to the early 1900s, and which remains substantially intact. The Elms are also significant as the overwhelmingly dominant species in the early planting scheme. The almost exclusive reliance on a single species is unusual in Melbourne's nineteenth century parks and gardens where a broader planting palette was typical. The Elm avenues are also significant as a good example of a traditional ornamental use of this species; which is increasingly rare with the loss of most European and North American examples as a result of Dutch Elm Disease.

#### 4.2.6 English Oak Avenue



Figure 77 Avenue of English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

##### *History*

The avenue planting is thought to date from the early planting of the Gardens as the path system was developed between 1884 and 1900. However, it is not clear why this one section of the path network should have been planted in English Oak (*Quercus robur*) when the remainder of the paths were planted with Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*).

##### *Description*

The southern fork of the path opposite Rowe Street is planted with an avenue of English Oak. Two specimens are missing mid-way along the southern row.

The trees are well-established but have not thrived in the conditions and are somewhat small. They are in fair to good condition although there is evidence of deadwood in the upper canopy of a number of specimens, and some appear to have been subject to possum browsing.

##### *Significance*

The English Oak avenue is of primary significance as part of the early planting scheme for Edinburgh Gardens, carried out between 1884 and the early 1900s, and which remains substantially intact.

#### 4.2.7 Dutch Elm Row East of the Tennis Courts



Figure 78 *Self seeded row of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) (left) and detail of old fence rails showing through trunks*

##### *History*

The row of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) east of the tennis courts is thought to date from the early 1940s when it established, possibly as a self-seeded row, along the fenced boundary to the former rail siding.

Prior to this a formal avenue planting of Elm dating from the 1884 layout, had existed immediately to the west, as a southern extension of the path running north past the former Ladies Bowling Green. This avenue was removed between 1934 and 1938 to enable the Cricket Ground to be extended eastward. An adjacent strip of land was purchased from the Railways Department to which the present main north-south path was relocated. The Elm row runs along the eastern side of the relocated path on former railway land. In 1954 the National Can company occupied the site and remained there until the cessation of the industrial activities in 1996 when the land was converted to parkland by Yarra City Council. The boundary fence was presumably removed at this time.

##### *Description*

A row of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is established along the east of the tennis courts and the abutting path. The trees are irregularly and closely spaced, often only 2-3 metres apart. Many appear to have originated as two or more seedlings which have self-grafted to form multi-trunk trees. In several specimens the remains of the former fence can be discerned where old rails now curiously protrude through sections of the trunk which have grown over and around them. The trees are poor examples of the species with an inherently weak structural form.

### *Significance*

The Dutch Elm row east of the tennis courts is not significant. It does not relate to the early layout and planting of Edinburgh Gardens, nor does it reflect the early boundary of the land excised from the Gardens to create the rail reserve. The trees are of poor form and are of mid-twentieth century origin.

#### **4.2.8 Purple Leafed Plum Avenue**

##### *History*

The diagonal path in the north-west of the Gardens is thought to have been originally planted between 1884 and the early 1900s as part of the avenue planting of the early path network. The 1905 map which is the earliest planting plan identified for the Gardens, shows an avenue planting along this path. The 1945 aerial photo, however, shows no canopy trees along this path. Instead there appears to be a newly planted avenue of young specimens. These either failed or were removed by the mid-1960s when an aerial photograph shows two trees only in the vicinity of the existing toilet block.

A single specimen of Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) in this location may, or may not, give a clue to the planting which appears to have taken place in the 1940s. The existing avenue of Purple Leafed Plum (*Prunus x blieriana*) was planted sometime after 1966, possibly in the 1970s when the toilet block and Infant Welfare Centre were constructed (1972) nearby.



*Figure 79* Avenue of Purple Leafed Plum (*Prunus x blieriana*)

### *Description*

An avenue of Purple Leafed Plum (*Prunus x blieriana*) is established on the diagonal path leading from the intersection of St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent. The trees are small and with foliage colour which does not sit harmoniously with the stately scale and character of the avenues of Dutch Elm which dominate the Gardens. A number of the specimens are missing so that the avenue form is diminished and weak. The trees are in fair condition and are approaching the end of their effective horticultural value.

### *Significance*

The Purple Leafed Plum avenue is intrusive. It is a recent planting which does not harmonise in scale or colour with the stately heritage character of the nineteenth century avenue plantings which typify Edinburgh Gardens.

## **4.2.9 Sweet Pittosporum and Oleander Rows**

### *History*

The section of path where the Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) are now located, is shown on the 1883 plan and was possibly first planted as part of the 1884 works which established the main elm avenues along the network of paths. However, the integrity of this planting would have been short-lived with the excision of the railway land in 1888 which cut a swathe across the path. The 1905 plan indicates a gap in the avenue planting along the sections of path adjacent to the railway land, although the trees along the eastern end of this section of the path are still intact.



*Figure 80 Off set rows of Sweet Pittosporum (Pittosporum undulata) and Oleander (Nerium oleander) on the south side of the central east west path.*

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

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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

### **4.2.10 North-East Elm Circle**

#### *History*

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

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

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



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

*Description*

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

*Significance*

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

#### **4.2.11 North-West Elm Circle**

*History*

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



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

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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

### **4.2.12 Elm Arc**

#### *History*

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





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

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

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

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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

#### 4.2.13 W T Peterson Community Oval Perimeter Tree Rows

##### *History*

Early records note that the Cricket Club obtained a magnificent assortment of trees from Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens<sup>8</sup> and that the ladies reserve north west of the oval was ‘fenced and planted with trees, [and] flowers’. The grounds administered by the Club during the late 1860s and 1870s were extensive, and ornamental planting may have been undertaken over a broad area. With the formation of the Fitzroy Football Club in 1883 the Cricket Ground was extended to accommodate football matches. It is likely that sloped earth banks which accommodated the crowds were constructed at this time and enclosed by an outer boundary wall and fence. The Cricket Ground does not appear to have had perimeter tree planting. None is shown in the 1905 plan, nor in the oblique aerial view of the ground c.1925.

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

##### *Description*

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

##### *Significance*

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



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

#### 4.2.14 Other Specimen Trees

##### *History*

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

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

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

##### *Description*

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



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

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

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

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

#### *Significance*

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

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

#### **4.2.15 Privet Hedge**

##### *History*

In 1892-93 five thousand Hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*) 'quicks' were purchased for the Gardens. These were further supplemented in subsequent years and used to establish extensive hedges to screen the railway land excised from the Gardens in 1888.<sup>9</sup>

In 1938 the hedges and picket fences which had occupied each side of the railway line were removed<sup>10</sup> and in the 1945 aerial photograph the area is clear of vegetation.

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

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



*Figure 86 Degraded section of privet hedge abutting cycle path*

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

The Privet hedge is not significant.

### **4.2.16 Floral Display Beds along the St Georges Road frontage**

#### *History*

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



Figure 87 Floral display beds along the St Georges Road frontage

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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

#### 4.2.17 Rotunda Lawn Shrub Beds



Figure 88 *Rotunda Lawn shrub beds*

##### *History*

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

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

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

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

##### *Description*

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

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

#### *Significance*

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

#### **4.2.18 Conifer Shrub Bed**

##### *History*

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

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

##### *Description*

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



*Figure 89 Conifer shrub bed*



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

#### *Significance*

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

### **4.2.19 Rowe Street Entrance Beds**

#### *History*

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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



*Figure 90 Rowe Street entrance beds*

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

##### *History*

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

A Fitzroy Council letter to the Lands Department written in April 1938<sup>14</sup> refers to the ‘floral decorative strip along the pathway north of the (tennis) playing arenas from the Brunswick Street entrance eastwards...which could not be continued to the end of the courts as desired because of these trees’, which seem to have been removed at this time. The floral strip is thought to have occupied the setback area between the tennis court boundary and the path, although it appears to have been reduced in width by 1945 to accommodate a northward extension to the tennis courts. The existing shrub beds roughly accord with the remnant area of the floral strip north of the tennis courts.

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

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

##### *Description*

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

##### *Significance*

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



Figure 91 Shrub Beds next to the Tennis Club

#### 4.2.21 W T Peterson Community Oval – Former Fitzroy Cricket Ground

##### *History*

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

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

##### *Description*

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

##### *Significance*

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

#### 4.2.22 Alfred Crescent (Schools) Sports Oval

##### *History*

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



Figure 92 Peterson Community Oval

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

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

#### *Description*

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

#### *Significance*

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



*Figure 93 Alfred Crescent Sports Oval*

#### 4.2.23 Former Railway Siding and National Can Site

##### *History*

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

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

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

##### *Description*

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

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



Figure 94 Former Railway Sidings

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

#### *Significance*

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

#### **4.2.24 Soccer Practice Ground opposite the Primary School**

##### *History*

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

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

##### *Description*

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

##### *Significance*

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



*Figure 95 Soccer pitch*

#### 4.2.25 Log

##### *History*

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

##### *Description*

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

##### *Significance*

The significance of the log is unknown.



*Figure 96      The log*





## 5.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 5.1 Assessment Criteria and Methodology

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

### 5.2 Comparative Analysis

#### 5.2.1 The Origins of Public Gardens

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

#### 5.2.2 Public Gardens in Inner Melbourne

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **5.2.3 Park & Garden Recreation Facilities**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **5.2.4 Major Melbourne Parks**

##### *Carlton Gardens*

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

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

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

##### *Fitzroy Gardens*

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

Watts, however, argues the popular opinion that this transformation was, in fact, due to the first curator, James Sinclair, who arrived at the gardens in 1858.<sup>19</sup> Historian, Georgina Whitehead, debates this view, claiming Hodgkinson was the principal designer. She states:

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

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

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

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

### *Flagstaff Gardens*

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Treasury Gardens*

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

The original design included:

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

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

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

### *Conclusion*

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

#### **5.2.4 The City of Yarra Context**

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

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

### *Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

#### *Barkly Gardens, Burnley*

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

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

#### *Cremorne Gardens, Cremorne (demolished)*

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

#### *Conclusion*

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

### **5.3 Edinburgh Gardens – Historical and Social Significance**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **5.4 Edinburgh Gardens – Aesthetic Significance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Conclusion*

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

## **5.5 Statement of Significance**

### *What is Significant?*

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

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

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

#### *How is it Significant?*

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

#### *Why is it Significant?*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.5 Applicable Criteria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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### 6.1 Introduction

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

### 6.2 Basis of Approach

#### 6.2.1 Statement of Policy

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

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

### 6.3 Levels of Significance

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

#### 6.3.1 Elements of Primary Significance

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

Elements of primary significance include:

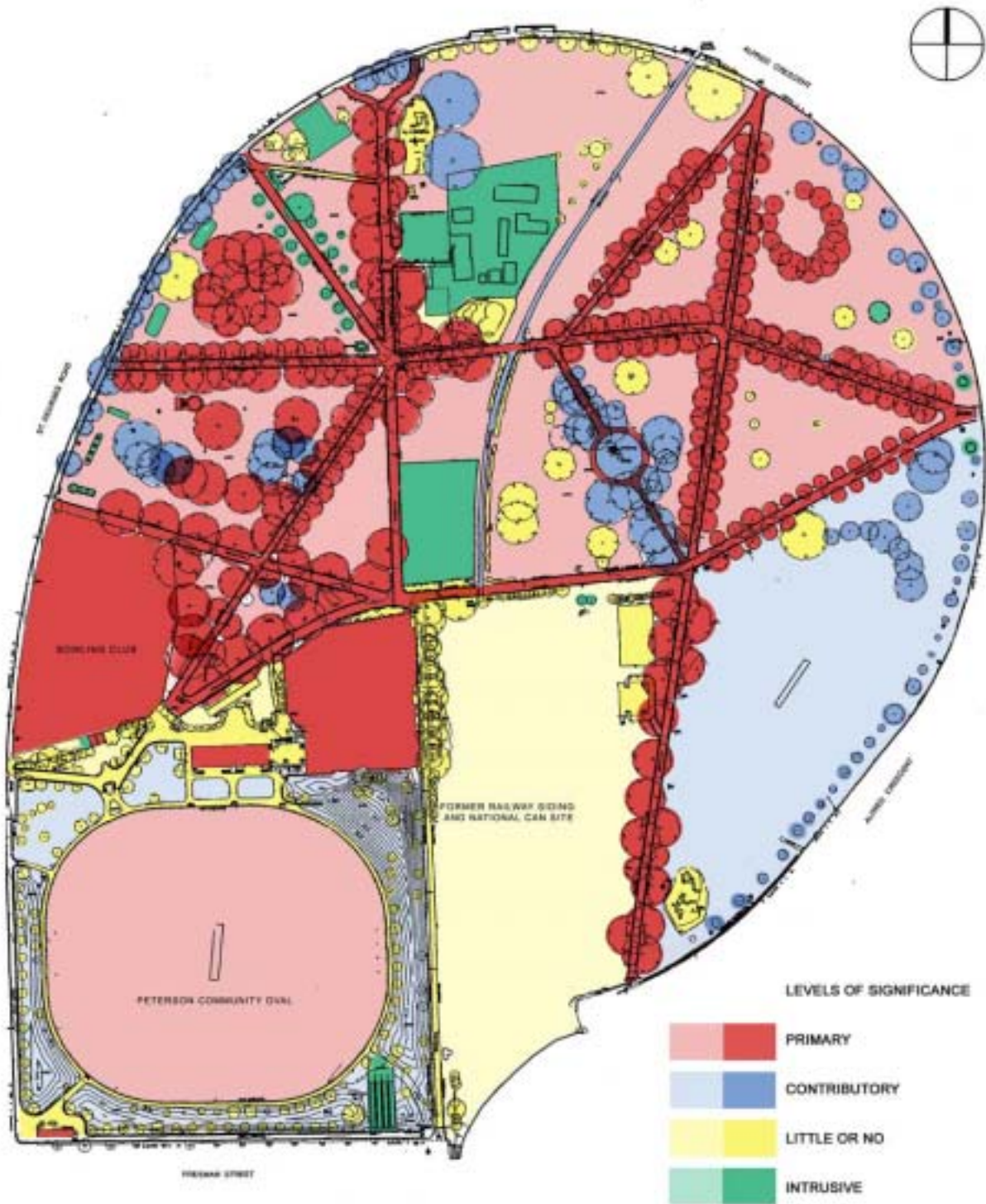


Figure 99 Hierarchy of significance within the Edinburgh Gardens, hard landscape, buildings and soft landscape





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### *Hard Landscaping and Buildings*

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

### *Soft Landscaping*

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

## **6.3.2 Elements of Contributory Significance**

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

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

Elements of contributory significance include:

### *Hard Landscaping and Buildings*

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

### *Soft Landscaping*

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

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

### 6.3.3 Elements of Little or No Significance

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

Elements of little no significance include:

#### *Hard Landscaping and Buildings*

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

#### *Soft Landscaping*

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

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

#### 6.3.4 Intrusive Elements

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

Intrusive elements include:

##### *Hard Landscaping and Buildings*

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

##### *Soft Landscaping*

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

#### 6.4 General Conservation Policies

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

#### 6.4.1 Significant Elements

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 6.4.2 Use and Public Access

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **6.4.3 Repairs and Maintenance**

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

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

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

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

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

### **6.4.5 Adaptation and New Works**

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

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

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

#### **6.4.6 Fabric and Setting**

##### **Period of Significance**

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

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

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



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

### **Garden Envelope, Buildings and Structures**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **6.4.7 Views and Vistas**

*Key views and vistas within the Gardens should be maintained.*

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

### **6.4.8 New Buildings and Elements**

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

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

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

The following general considerations should also apply:

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

#### **6.4.9 Monuments, Memorial Structures, Memorabilia and Naming**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **6.4.10 Parking**

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

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

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

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

#### **6.4.11 Provision for the Disabled**

*Maintain disabled access to the Edinburgh Gardens.*

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

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

#### **6.4.12 Signage**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **6.4.13 Interpretation of the Gardens**

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

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

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

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

#### **6.4.14 Pest Control**

*Establish a program of pest control.*

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

## **6.5 Specific Conservation Policies**

### **6.5.1 Grandstand**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **6.5.2 Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse**

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

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

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

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

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

### **6.5.3 Cricket Practice Nets**

*Retain or remove the cricket practice nets as required.*

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

### **6.5.4 Timber Entrance Pavilion**

*Retain and maintain the timber entrance pavilion.*

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

### **6.5.5 Community Hall**

*Retain or remove the community hall as required.*

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

### **6.5.6 Tennis Club and Courts**

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

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

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

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

### **6.5.7 Bocce Court**

*Retain or remove the bocce court facilities as required.*

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

### **6.5.8 Fitzroy Bowling Club and Green**

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

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

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

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

### **6.5.9 War Memorial Arbour**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **6.5.10 D J Chandler Drinking Fountain**

*Retain and conserve the drinking fountain.*

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

#### **6.5.11 Rotunda**

*1. Retain and conserve the rotunda.*

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

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

~~#~~steps and dwarf walls

~~#~~roof structure and copper cladding

*2. Reverse unsympathetic alterations to the rotunda.*

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

*3. Maintain an appropriate setting for the rotunda.*

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

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

#### **6.5.12 Queen Victoria Statue**

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

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



memorializing other prominent citizens, especially monarchs. In the context of the “Edinburgh” Gardens, named in honour of the royal heir, it is even more significant. The plinth should be retained and conserved and the statue reinstated, based on the photographic evidence available. While the original statue reportedly was of timber, it would be preferable to reconstruct any new statuary in more durable masonry.

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

It would be desirable to recreate an appropriate setting for the statue. Early photographs and plans of the area indicate that two of the four original diagonal paths surrounding the feature have been removed and it is desirable that they be reconstructed to their original layout. While the plinth presently sits in a shrub bed, which was reconstructed from photographic evidence in 1972, the planting is poor in quality and condition as a consequence of vandalism. Refer to Section 6.5.33 for policy relating to the shrub bed surrounding the statue.

### **6.5.13 Ladies Bowling Club and Green**

1. *Remove the Ladies Bowling Club clubhouse.*

As an intrusive element and in poor condition, the Ladies Bowling Club clubhouse detracts from the Gardens and is of no significance. It is located in a visually conspicuous area and should be removed. Should the bowling green area be redeveloped for a new sporting use, such as croquet or bocce, then a small, well-designed pavilion could be introduced onto the site. There is no heritage reason why these uses could not be located in this area.

2. *Maintain and upgrade or remove the ladies bowling green*

Should the area be redeveloped then it should be substantially upgraded and maintained. It is desirable, however, that if no new use can be found for the area, that it be removed and returned to parkland in line with its pre-1948 layout. Should fencing be required for the security of any new greens or facilities, it should be of a design which is sympathetic to the character of the gardens and one which would enable the site to be integrated with the surrounding gardens, such as a steel palisade fence.

### **6.5.14 Emily Baker Infant Welfare Centre**

*Retain or remove the Infant Welfare Centre as required.*

As an intrusive element located in a highly conspicuous position on the edge of the Gardens, the Infant Welfare Centre detracts from the Gardens environs. It is desirable that prior to, or once the facilities reach the end of their useful economic life, the facilities be relocated to another site completely or incorporated into a well-designed building as part of a broader rationalisation of facilities and buildings in the Gardens. (Refer to the Master Plan) If it must be retained in its present location, it should be substantially upgraded and maintained. If the centre is to be relocated, the existing area should be returned to its former late nineteenth century nature which would enable the reconstruction of the former fountain and surrounding path network which are considered to be highly desirable.

### **6.5.15 Former Gardener’s Residence**

*Retain or remove the former gardener’s residence as required.*

While the building provides much-used community facilities and it is located on the site of an earlier gardener’s residence, it is intrusive in its character, design and siting, detracting from the surrounding garden environs. It is desirable that the functions housed within the building be

consolidated into a well-designed building as part of a broader rationalisation of facilities and buildings in the Gardens and the existing building be demolished. Long term re-use of the area as a site for future building development is not inappropriate, given that it has been the site of a building since the 1870s. If budgetary constraints dictate that the building must be retained in its present form temporarily, then it should be substantially upgraded and appropriately landscaped.

#### **6.5.16 Former Nursery and Depot Site**

*Create an appropriate garden environment on demolition of the former nursery and depot.*

At the time of writing this report, the intrusive and run down nursery and depot facilities are an eyesore and are being demolished. It is proposed to return the area to grassed parkland, which is an appropriate interim solution. Long term re-use of the area as a site for future building development is not inappropriate, given that it has been the site of buildings and structures since the late nineteenth century. There are considerable opportunities to consolidate facilities and to introduce well-designed buildings within this section of the Gardens.

#### **6.5.17 Centenary Pavilion**

*Retain and maintain or remove the Centenary Pavilion as required.*

Although the pavilion is of no historical significance, or aesthetic merit it provides necessary toilet and changing facilities to the adjoining playing fields and gardens. The facility may be maintained or replaced as required, however the opportunity exists in this case to introduce a high quality well-designed facility which enhances the area. Should it be retained into the foreseeable future, due to budgetary constraints then it should be adequately maintained and improvements could be made to its general appearance such as screen planting.

#### **6.5.18 Public Toilets**

*Retain and maintain or remove the public toilets as required.*

Although the public toilets are of no historical significance, the building provides necessary toilet facilities to the Gardens. The facility may be maintained or replaced as required. The building itself is rather intrusive in its location and design and consideration should be given to adopting a plan similar to that employed by the City of Melbourne, whereby public toilet facilities are of an appropriate historicist design and siting takes into account public safety and accessibility.

#### **6.5.19 Skate Park**

*1. Retain and maintain or remove the skate park as required.*

While the skate park is of recent origins, it is presently one of the most heavily used facilities in the Gardens. Its location is fairly conspicuous and, as such, it should be maintained in good condition if it is to remain in this area. The facility could occupy this, or other areas within the Gardens, such as the former railway siding / National Can site, where there would be greater scope to enlarge the facility and cause less impact on the nineteenth century character of the formal garden environs.

2. *Maintain an appropriate setting for the skate park.*

At present there is considerable damage and vandalism to the perimeter fence of the facility, which requires annual replacement and is often unsightly and in poor condition. The fence does not appear to have any practical purpose. Consideration should be given to removing the fence altogether or replacing it with a low grassed mound which would not only serve to partially screen the facility but contain the activities within the immediate area and provide informal amphitheatre seating from which to observe skaters.

#### **6.5.20 Playgrounds**

*Retain and maintain or remove the playgrounds as required.*

While the fabric of the playgrounds is relatively new and of no historic significance, playground facilities have been part of the Gardens since 1925 and remain popular. If retained, regular maintenance should be undertaken to ensure they remain in good condition. It is recommended that no additional playground areas be introduced to the Gardens as the two facilities are well spaced and located. Equipment can be changed / upgraded as required and in accordance with the appropriate standards.

#### **6.5.21 Basketball Court**

*Retain and maintain or remove the basketball court as required.*

While the basketball court is of no historical significance and in average condition, it has the potential to provide a popular facility within the Gardens. The court is currently under utilised due to its poor surface condition and size. Consideration should be given to either removing the court or upgrading it to include an improved playing surface and hoops. The size could also be enlarged to provide the appropriate size for basketball and two netball courts over the same area.

#### **6.5.22 Shelter**

*Preferably remove the shelter and consider reconstruction of the original gazebo.*

While the shelter replaces an earlier gazebo in the same location, the present structure is ugly in design and of no historical significance. It is recommended that the existing shelter be removed. Consideration could be given to reconstruction of the original gazebo, which should be based on the available photographic evidence.

#### **6.5.23 Path System**

1. *Retain and maintain the formal pathway layouts and surface treatment.*

The majority of formal paths are generally significant elements of the landscape and layout, with most sections dating from 1883 and the early 1900s. The paths and associated avenues contribute to the nineteenth century character of the place, particularly the northern, eastern and western quadrants of the site. The significance is related to the layout and overall design, rather than the actual fabric of the paths themselves with the exception of some remnants of early basalt edging. The asphalt surface, while not the earliest, is consistent, is an appropriate finish, is reflective of an early treatment and should be retained. All paths should undergo regular maintenance and be properly constructed and drained so as to avoid cracking and ponding of water.

2. *Reinstate realigned section of north-south path.*

The southern end of the main north-south path alignment was altered during the 1930s and the more recent redevelopment of the eastern edge of the cricket ground has meant that its reinstatement is unlikely in the near future. Should, however, re-planning of this area take place, then it is preferable that the original path alignment be reinstated.

3. *Generally develop a consistent edge treatment to all pathways.*

Edge treatments vary from nothing, to early basalt rock edging, to later bluestone pitchers and concrete kerbs and gutters. The remnant basalt rock edging is significant as a rare surviving early path edging and should be retained and raised / reconstructed where it has subsided. While the bluestone gutter pitchers are not an early treatment, they are an appropriately low-key and non-intrusive solution, provided that they finish flush with the abutting lawns and paving. The concrete kerbs are intrusive and out of character with the overall character of the site and should be removed. They could be replaced with shallow bluestone pitched drains if required. Recent laying of pitchers has involved excessive use of mortar to create a straight edged appearance which is at odds with the variation of the originals and should be avoided in the future.

4. *Reinstate the removed diagonal path from the Queen Victoria statue.*

The pair of diagonal pathways were constructed c. 1901, following the installation of the statue, however one was more recently removed. While there would appear to be no remnant planting to reinforce its alignment, its reconstruction would reinforce the significance of the Queen Victoria statue site.

5. *Reinstate the removed diagonal paths from the former fountain.*

Should the former fountain in the northern section of the Gardens be reinstated, it is desirable that the removed path system associated with the feature be reconstructed.

6. *Reinstate the removed path around the eastern portion of Alfred Crescent.*

An interesting feature of the Gardens' planning is the former circuitous path flanking Alfred Crescent. While some of this path remains, other areas have been removed and it is recommended that they be reconstructed.

#### **6.5.24 Bluestone Drain**

1. *Remove the open bluestone drain and replace with underground drainage.*

The open bluestone drain would appear to have been constructed in c.1891 in response to the overflow of cesspit waste which flowed into the Edinburgh Gardens. Given that the drainage problem has been solved and given that there is nothing of particular interest in its fabric or construction, it could be removed or retained as required. In its present form it poses a safety issue and could be replaced with underground drainage.

#### **6.5.25 Sundry Items**

1. *Maintain an adequate level of general lighting.*

The provision of lighting in the Gardens is more related to amenity and safety rather than any identified historical precedent. It is essential to maintain an adequate level of general lighting and this should be undertaken in line with the plan prepared by John Patrick Pty Ltd in 1999. The existing lighting would appear to be of no historical value other than for the gas standards

surrounding the Rotunda and the remnant cast iron lanterns, yet it serves a required function. However overall, lighting is inconsistent in design and placement. It is recommended that a new, well-designed system of lighting be prepared and installed which replaces the existing standards, highlights garden features and provides additional lights where there is a shortfall.

Given the historical nature and formalised nineteenth century character of the Gardens in terms of built form, elements of infrastructure and the landscape, there are two approaches which could be taken and which are in accord with the *Burra Charter*. The first is that fittings could be reproduction cast iron Victorian models in the garden areas with strong nineteenth century character. They should be manufactured showing their date. This approach would build upon and reinforce the nineteenth century character and ambience of this section of the Gardens and the approach previously adopted with regard to restoration of and reconstruction of missing and/or original elements. It would also be consistent with other recommendations in this report with regard to reinstatement of missing features. This approach would require contemporary fittings to be installed elsewhere, such as in the sporting areas where the nineteenth century character has been dissipated. The alternative approach would be to install contemporary fittings throughout the Gardens which would present as a uniform approach throughout and in recognition that the provision of lighting is a practical requirement. The new fittings would be clearly of modern design and would be consistent throughout the Gardens. They could be replaced at any point in time as required. Depending upon their location, they may provide general light or floodlight to illuminate playing surfaces.

2. *Retain and maintain or replace the garden furniture as required.*

While the majority of the furniture in the Gardens is of a contemporary nature, it is an eclectic collection with regard to design, and much is in average to poor condition. A policy of providing standard, contemporary items of a matching suite should be investigated, with the long-term goal being to replace all of the existing furniture in the same approach as taken to the lighting (See above).

A variety of bollard types exist throughout the site, including historic cast iron City of Fitzroy bollards and contemporary City of Yarra types. The use of reproduction cast iron bollards of the historic standard Fitzroy City Council design is encouraged in order to maintain a the historical connection with the former administrators of the Gardens. This approach would be consistent with the ‘Victorian’ approach suggested above in relation to the lights and seats.

3. *Introduce new sporting infrastructure only if it does not adversely impact on heritage values.*

If the sporting facilities are to remain popular and viable, there will be demands from time-to-time to introduce new elements, for example a scoreboard, lighting, nets and the like. Generally these types of elements are acceptable depending upon their precise location, scale, bulk and design and the impact that they may have on any particular heritage values. They would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and in reference to the conservation policies and strategies and also the masterplan.

## **6.5.26 Bluestone Retaining Wall**

*Maintain the bluestone retaining wall to Alfred Crescent.*

While the present wall is of no significance, it is unobtrusive and serves a functional role. It is, however, poorly constructed with wide mortar joints, and it is recommended that it be reconstructed with an appropriate joint size and mortar colour.

### 6.5.27 Captain Cook Memorial

*Retain or remove the Captain Cook Memorial as required.*

The Captain Cook memorial is of recent origin and no historical significance specifically to the Gardens. It can be retained and maintained or removed as required. Refer to the general policy on monuments and memorial structures in Section 6.4.8.

### 6.5.28 Principal Avenue Plantings

#### 1. *Retain Elm and Oak avenues*

Retain and conserve the existing Elm and Oak avenues as a major feature of the early layout of the Gardens and as an important component of their structure. They define the various spaces which make up the Gardens and provide a setting or backdrop for other features. Much of the distinctive character of the Edinburgh Gardens is attributable to the presence of these avenues and it is important that they be retained and renewed as necessary, in accordance with City of Yarra tree management standards.

#### 2. *Re-establish avenue plantings along pathways where early plantings have been lost or replaced by inappropriate species.*

There are gaps in some of the principal avenue plantings where sections have been lost, such as the central link in the east-west path linking Brunswick Street and Rowe Street, and the north-south avenue on the west side of the site of the former Ladies Bowling Green. In other locations, early plantings have been replaced with species which are not appropriate to the scale, character or period of the original avenues creating a discordant element. An example of this is the diagonal avenue of Purple Leaf Plum (*Prunus x blieriana*) in the north-west of the Gardens. It is desirable to replant these sections with specimens from the same taxa as the principal avenues, to reinstate the integrity and character of the avenues, and to re-establish the formal structure of the Gardens.

#### 3. *Develop long term strategies for tree-replacement to all avenues. Consult with the community prior to removal of trees in the principal avenues and rows.*

All trees eventually senesce (advanced decline prior to death). It is desirable that a long term replacement strategy be prepared to ensure the progressive regeneration and replacement of avenue plantings on a managed basis. This approach also has the advantage of reducing the possibility of sudden tree loss on a broad scale as would occur if the bulk of the trees were permitted to approach senescence at a similar time, causing a devastating impact on the Gardens. The preparation of a long-term replacement strategy is particularly important at Edinburgh Gardens where the aesthetic and structural character of the Gardens is highly dependent on a single species (*Elm Ulmus x hollandica*) which is of uniform age. Authoritative opinion on Elm longevity suggests that a healthy lifespan of 100 to 150 years is probably a realistic expectation for most elms in Australia, provided they are maintained well. As most of the Elm population is now over 100 years old, a replacement strategy should be programmed to achieve a full replanting over the next 50 years.

The following is suggested as an appropriate approach for preparation of such a strategy. It is based on the premise that avenues, and rows, are most effective in appearance when all trees are

of the same age. This does not mean that all avenues, or rows, in the Gardens should be planted at the same time. The most effective approach is to have a range of different age avenues or sections of avenues. A less successful approach is to remove and replant every second tree so that some old trees are retained as alternating specimens in the short term. The latter are subsequently removed and replanted after say 5 years. This approach is less successful because the growth of the young trees is adversely affected by overshadowing and root competition from the mature trees.

Proposed strategy principles:

- €# Remove individual trees when irreparably damaged, diseased or dead or when the maintenance costs exceed their amenity value: removal includes stump grinding to 300mm below the surface.
- €# Do not fill gaps in avenues where trees are more than 30 years old.
- €# Remove trees when gaps in sections of the avenue exceed 30% of the original number of trees, unless there is a need for earlier replacement caused by extensive damage or dieback.
- €# Replace avenues by clear-felling sections between cross paths or a minimum of 8 pairs of trees.
- €# Replant avenues on a staged basis so that replacement is achieved progressively while sustaining the amenity of the Gardens.
- €# Stage the replanting program over the next 50 years to establish a good range of tree age groups and achieve a full replacement before the expiry of the expected tree lifespan.
- €# New trees shall be the same taxon as those removed, unless there is a good reason for an alternative. Given the dominance of Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in the Gardens, and the vulnerability of this species to Dutch Elm Disease, which has decimated overseas populations, it is desirable that the strategy introduce at least some taxa that are resistant to this disease. This will reduce the risk of sudden catastrophic loss should the disease infect the Gardens tree population at some point in the future. This is not to say that all Elms should be progressively replaced. This species forms an important and significant feature of the Gardens and its presence should be retained. However, it would be foolish for the Gardens' aesthetic and structural dependence to rely on a single and vulnerable species. Alternative taxa for the Elms should be of a similar aesthetic character, with canopied deciduous foliage. Possible alternatives include (*Zelkova serrata*), Hackberry (*Celtis australis*), and Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*).
- €# Plant new trees at the same spacing as the trees removed.
- €# Replacement trees should be advanced stock, preferably about 5 years old, so that they are of reasonable size and scale. This will provide greater assurance of successful establishment and trees will be less prone to vandalism yet physiologically suited to establishment. It will also enable a sense of avenue to be achieved immediately increasing the likelihood of public acceptance.
- €# Trees should be contract-grown and prepared in a nursery specifically for the Edinburgh Gardens. Trees should be grown in the nursery at the same spacing as their eventual avenue spacings, to avoid narrow canopy effects if grown too close. A number of trees from the same batch should be grown on in the nursery so that if replacements are required within 5 years of replacement planting, suitable plants are available.

A vital part of the strategy management is to inform the public and explain the need for the action prior to removal:

#### 4. *Maintain the avenues to the highest standards*

Maintenance of existing trees should be to the highest standards and should include:

- ## An annual inspection and condition report covering crown, trunk and root system and detailing any disease, damage or faults.
- ## Implementation of a management program for specific trees based on the findings of the annual inspection.
- ## Routine maintenance as required including removal of unsafe branches, dead-wooding, structural cabling, canopy reduction repair of damage caused by storms or other reasons
- ## Soil amelioration and reduction of compaction to root zones.
- ## Pest control programs for possums, Elm Leaf Beetle and other diseases.
- ## Maintaining root zones clear of all competing plants such as other tree species and shrubs, except grass, unless tree condition requires mulching of root zones.

### 6.5.29 **Perimeter Planting**

#### 1. *Retain the perimeter planting of Brachychiton species.*

A perimeter row of tree planting is a traditional feature of the Garden interface to Alfred Crescent. The existing planting along St Georges Road and the northern part of Alfred Crescent, although dating from the early decades of the twentieth century, is also notable as an unusual example of a Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) row planting in Melbourne. The row has been recently extended and existing gaps replanted along the south-eastern perimeter using Illawarra Flame Tree (*B. acerifolia*). The latter species is closely related to the Kurrajongs being another Australian native and a member of the same genus. It represents a suitable complementary species which appears to be responding well to the conditions, and when mature will provide a spectacular floral display. Plantings of this species are unusual in Melbourne's parks. These plantings provide structural definition to the boundary of the Gardens as well as a sense of enclosure.

#### 2. *Progressively replace other species with Brachychiton.*

Several sections of the perimeter planting along St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent contain species other than the Kurrajongs or the Illawarra Flame Trees and disrupt the consistency and distinctive character of the row. This includes the Ash (*Fraxinus sp.*) opposite the primary school and some Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) in vicinity of Falconer and Rowe Streets, as well as several Elms (*Ulmus sp*) opposite Jamieson Street. When any specimens fail or decline, replacements should be either Kurrajongs, especially in the north where they have done well, or Illawarra Flame Tree, concentrated to the south where they appear to be establishing successfully.

#### 3. *Replace poor Kurrajong specimens with Illawarra Flame Tree specimens.*

South of Rowe Street, many Kurrajong specimens have not responded well to the conditions and have not reached their full potential despite what is thought to be a long period of establishment. Their small scale is inappropriate to the position and it is suggested that as the nearby Illawarra Flame trees reach an appreciable scale, Kurrajong specimens which lack vigour or are stunted, should be removed and replaced with Illawarra Flame trees. This replacement could be undertaken at an early stage in any tree replacement programme so that the new trees will not be substantially different in age from the existing Illawarra Flame trees, enabling the row, as a whole, to achieve a relatively consistent appearance.



An essential step in the management process for tree replacements is to inform the public in advance of any removals and explain the need for the action.

4. *Develop a long term strategy for tree replacement of the perimeter plantings.*

A long term strategy should be developed to ensure that the perimeter plantings are progressively replaced on a similar basis to the avenue planting strategy. (Refer to Section 6.5.28).

5. *Retain the perimeter planting around W T Peterson Community Oval*

Recent row plantings of London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) have been established along the Brunswick Street and Freeman Street frontages, with another row of Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Red Oak (*Q. rubra*) around the W T Peterson Community Oval. While these plantings are not of heritage significance they should be retained for the structural definition they provide to this edge of the Gardens, the enclosure given to the oval space, and for the enhanced appearance they contribute to this vicinity.

6. *Maintain tree rows to the highest standards*

Maintenance of all trees should be to the highest standards as outlined in Section 6.5.28.

### **6.5.30 Elm Circles and Elm Arc**

1. *Retain the Elm Circles and Elm Arc*

Retain the Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) circles and the Elm arc as unusual and distinctive features of the early planting scheme for Edinburgh Gardens.

2. *Develop long term strategies for replacement of the circles and the arc.*

As the trees approach senescence they will need to be replaced. This process should be part of a general strategy for tree replacement in the Gardens. With respect to the circle and arc plantings a replacement strategy should be based on the following approach:

- ⌘ Replace the features in a progressive programme so that each feature is re-established before another is replaced.
- ⌘ Replace the entire feature by clear-felling so that new specimens are of the same age to achieve the most effective appearance. Grind stumps to 300mm below the surface to enable turf re-establishment.
- ⌘ Use advanced specimens of reasonable size and scale so that an immediate replacement effect is achieved.
- ⌘ Replace the circles and arc in the same locations as the existing features to retain the historic authenticity of the original layout and planting design.
- ⌘ Replant the same number of specimens at the same spacings as the existing features. Shift the position of the planting hole on the circle to avoid planting directly over any remnants of former root balls.
- ⌘ As all features are potentially vulnerable to Dutch Elm Disease consideration should be given to using alternative taxa to replace at least one of the existing circles so that in the event of a future infestation, not all of these planted features would be lost. (Refer to Section 6.5.28 for discussion of alternative Dutch Elm Disease resistant species).

3. *Maintain tree features, circles and arcs to the highest standards*

### 6.5.31 Specimen Trees

1. *Retain all significant specimen trees.*

A number of mature specimen trees make a significant contribution to the character of the Gardens or are significant examples of their species and should be retained. These include:

- €# 10 Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*) near the Rotunda Bandstand. One of the specimens is listed on the National Trust (Victoria) *Register of Significant Trees*. The planting forms a distinctive contrast of dark evergreen foliage against the light green of the deciduous Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) and the pale grey green of the Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*).
- €# Two large River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) at the northern end of the Gardens represent good examples of an indigenous species, though they are not remnant specimens.
- €# Two large Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*) in the north-east of the Gardens, and a single mature specimen of Deodar (*Cedrus deodar*) provide elements of dark evergreen foliage which mirrors the Holm Oak group in the north-west, and contrasts with the nearby Elms. They represent the only coniferous presence in the Gardens.

Retain all significant specimen trees using the highest maintenance standards unless irreparably damaged, dying, diseased or when maintenance costs exceed amenity value.

2. *Develop a long term replacement strategy for significant specimen trees.*

Replacement plantings of the above specimens should be carried out as part of a general tree replacement strategy whereby:

- €# The Holm Oaks to be replaced on a progressive basis over an extended period, for example 20 years, as they approach senescence. This process will not need to be initiated for some time as the species is potentially very long lived. Because of the relatively large number of trees in this group, specimens could be replaced either one at a time, where they are scattered, or in pairs, where they are close together, to allow better light penetration for re-establishment. By adopting a staged approach to replacement the visual impact of broad scale removal will be avoided.
- €# Replant replacement specimens of other significant trees in advance of senescence to enable establishment prior to removal of existing trees. Most existing specimens are scattered so that replanting in the general location can occur without impairing conditions for growth.
- €# Replace removed trees with the same species and generally in the same locality unless there is a sound reason not to do so eg. risk of disease or inappropriate growing conditions.
- €# Replant to retain existing planting patterns consistent with the established historic character of the Gardens.

3. *Provide for long-term replacement of the Southern Mahogany Gums with a more appropriate species.*

Six large Southern Mahogany Gums (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) represent a notable presence in the Gardens and contribute to the historic planting mix of exotic and native species. However, the species is not indigenous and is not well regarded as an ornamental specimen in Melbourne's public parks. It is suggested that:

- €# When replacement plantings are undertaken, a more appropriate eucalyptus species should be planted to retain the representation of the genus in the planting palette. A suitable substitute would be the River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) which is indigenous to the area, and provides a living link with pre-European vegetation patterns. It would also augment the two specimens already present in the Gardens.
- €# Replacement planting should be carried out in advance of senescence of the existing Southern Mahogany Gums to enable establishment prior to removal of the existing specimens.
- €# Replacement plantings should be located on a scattered basis similar to the existing distribution and in similar numbers to existing specimens.

### 6.5.32 Dutch Elm Row east of Tennis Courts

*Retain or remove the Dutch Elm Row east of the tennis courts as required.*

The row is thought to have self-seeded along the former fenced boundary to the railway siding. The row is not considered to be of heritage significance. It is not aligned with the original path and avenue, and the specimens are poor examples of the taxon.

### 6.5.33 Planting Beds and Shrubberies

#### 1. *Reinstate shrubbery bed around Queen Victoria memorial.*

The shrub bed around the Queen Victoria memorial forms an integral component of the heritage significance of this major feature within the Gardens. The planting carried out in the early 1990s has largely been lost through neglect and vandalism. Replant with reference to the historic plant forms and textures as indicated in historic photos of this element and reinstate the surrounding iron palisade fence. Refer to Section 6.5.12 for policy relating to the statue.

#### 2. *Demolish conifer shrub bed.*

The shrub bed is a comparatively recent construction of no significance, while the planting of dwarf conifers is an anomalous element which is not consistent with the scale or character of the setting.<sup>1</sup>

#### 3. *Replace conifer shrub bed with either lawn or new water feature.*

It is suggested that the bed be demolished. It could either be returned to lawn, or alternatively would be a suitable location to reintroduce a water element into the Gardens. It is in the vicinity of the ornamental pond which was a feature in the early Gardens where the northern end of the Alfred Crescent primary school's oval is now constructed. A new water feature could appropriately evoke the memory of the earlier pond by using the same simple round shape of its historic precedent; a shape which is repeated in many of the ornamental planting and layout elements to be a distinctive and recurring form in Edinburgh Gardens.

#### 4. *Demolish Rowe Street Entrance Bed and return to lawn.*

The beds are of recent construction and form intrusive elements which detract from the heritage values of the Gardens. The concrete kerbing and the undistinguished planting are not consistent with the character of the Gardens and are too small in scale to have an impact. They are also setback too far from the path to function as an effective treatment to the Rowe Street entrance. Return the beds to lawn to be consistent with other entry treatments to the Gardens.

5. *Retain or remove shrub beds to Tennis Club site and former Ladies Bowling Club site as required.*

The shrub beds do not have heritage significance. Those bordering the northern side of the tennis courts are the much depleted remnants of floral beds which existed in the late 1930s. The existing planting is of recent origin but forms a useful function of softening the interface with the adjacent tennis courts, and could be retained for this purpose.

The planting scheme adjacent to the tennis courts should be upgraded to create greater floral interest reminiscent of the historic role of the former shrub beds.

The shrub beds south of the former Ladies Bowling club site have no historic precedent. They can be retained or removed as required. This decision will be influenced by the future of the former club house. While this building remains, the bed can be usefully retained to soften the interface with the Gardens, although the planting scheme needs to be upgraded. Removal of the beds is likely to be appropriate with the demolition of the former club house.

6. *Create new shrub and floral display beds in the lawns fronting St Georges Road.*

The existing shrub beds in the Rotunda Lawn and the floral display beds fronting St Georges Road are, in their present form, intrusive elements which detract from the Gardens. They are small, piecemeal, and lack impact in the large scale setting of the Gardens. Moreover, the planting schemes are of poor quality.

Historically a long continuous garden bed occupied the length of this frontage. While it is not possible to reinstate this bed as the perimeter has long been occupied by a row planting of Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), the scale and orientation of the early garden beds could be recreated generally parallel to their original position but set back behind the Kurrajong row. The new beds would be at least as wide as the existing bed on the North West Elm Circle Lawn and should generally extend from the southern end of the Rotunda Lawn to the northern end of the Elm Circle Lawn. Some small breaks may be appropriate to allow for pedestrian movement to St Georges Road and to avoid tracks being trampled through the garden beds.

The planting scheme should provide for a floral display as a feature which was historically characteristic of this segment of the Gardens. Plant selection should be drawn from a palette that was typical of Melbourne's nineteenth century heritage parks and gardens. Any planting scheme would need to take into account the now relatively shaded aspect of this area.

#### **6.5.34 Privet Hedge**

*Remove the remnant sections of the privet hedge.*

The hedge was not a feature of the early garden layout. It is thought to date from the mid-twentieth century when it was planted along the rail line to replace earlier Hawthorn hedges. However, the existing hedge is much degraded. It also forms a barrier to movement across some sections of the Gardens and poses a safety hazard in vicinity of the bike path where it restricts pedestrian and cyclist sight lines. Privet is also a known severe allergen to hayfever sufferers.

#### **6.5.35 Lawns**

1. *Retain and maintain lawns to a high standard.*

Broad expanses of turf or lawn are a feature of the Gardens generally. They form a major component of the traditional heritage character in the formal ornamental sections of Edinburgh Gardens and the informal areas, as well as the active sports fields.

These areas should be retained as a primary component of the heritage fabric.

2. *Upgrade turf areas subject to wear, particularly the soccer practice area at the northern end of the Gardens.*

The Soccer practise area is subject to heavy wear incurred by regular use by the primary school opposite. The turf and drainage in this location should be upgraded and maintained to standards appropriate to heavy wear conditions.

3. *Lawn maintenance practices to reflect efficient water management practices.*

In view of the prolonged period of drought experienced during the past summer, efficient water usage will continue to be an important management issue for Edinburgh Gardens, and for maintenance of turf surfaces in particular. Management tasks should include:

- €# Monitoring irrigation times and rates to ensure volume and frequency are appropriately adjusted to meet changing seasonal requirements while avoiding over watering and runoff.
- €# Regular checking of sprays and reticulation to ensure there are no breakages, blockages or leaks.

### **6.5.36 Log**

1. *Retain or remove the log as required.*

The log is not thought to be significant and appears to date from the early 1970s. However, it has become an element held in considerable affection by many residents and there is presently no imperative to remove the log.

## **6.6 Risk Preparedness**

A risk preparedness analysis, outlining the most likely threats and hazards posed to the fabric of the Edinburgh Gardens by environmental and social factors, indicates that greatest threats to the Gardens would seem to be:

### €# *Vandalism and Theft*

With the accessible nature of the Edinburgh Gardens in a densely populated and highly visited urban environment, the potential risk of vandalism to bedding plants, trees and lawned areas is considerable. There is also a risk arson and wilful damage to buildings and structures and theft of objects. Bedding plants could be damaged caused by people walking/running through the beds or removing plants. Maintaining a reasonable level of lighting within the Gardens as discussed, may assist in minimising the risk to the Gardens and improve safety for pedestrians at night.

### €# *Fire*

The risk of fire generally in the gardens is low given the location and visibility of the site. Notwithstanding this, the risk of fire to the grandstand is reasonably high and the timber Entrance pavilion. Fire from natural causes, such as lightning strike, is unlikely given its urban location and a lush environment.

### €# *Storm Damage*

The Edinburgh Gardens are exposed to the risk of storm damage from strong winds, rain, hail and lightning strike. Wind, hail and rain often occur in combination, which can result in weakening of tree root systems, falling trees and broken tree limbs. An abundance of

water due to localised flooding could also result in the damage to lawned areas due to inundation or subsequent damage from pedestrian traffic. Regular maintenance of stormwater drainage systems, where installed, and the grading of lawned areas to avoid ponding would minimise the risk of damage. The risk of lightning damage is less, although tree damage could occur. In any event, it cannot be prevented.

#### # Pests

Known pests include possums and Elm Leaf Beetle. The cinnamon root fungus (*Cinnamomum phytophthora*) and fig psyllids represent other possible threats. The City of Yarra, as the responsible management authority for the Edinburgh Gardens, should continue to manage pest populations which threaten the historic elms and other significant trees. Management includes trunk collars to discourage possums and chemical treatment, or barriers, to control or eradicate Elm Leaf Beetle. Consideration should be given to disease resistant varieties of the same tree species when replacement is required.

#### # Impact

With relatively low volumes of traffic in the area, with the exception of Brunswick Streets, the likelihood of a motor vehicle entering the grounds and colliding with either the landscaped or built elements is low with the only real significant targets being mature trees adjacent to the boundary, and the Gatehouse.

#### # Other

Other possible threats include flood (*ie* rising water levels), earthquake, riot and civil disturbance. Given the topographical, geological and social setting of the Edinburgh Gardens, it is highly unlikely that these threats would ever eventuate.

The following table sets out the most common threats, their probability, and type of preparedness:

Threat	Probability	Preparation/Response
Fire	Low - Moderate	With regard to buildings: Install/maintain fire suppression system; inspect all possible fire sources regularly and maintain electrical systems in good order; maintain liaison with fire brigade
Storm Damage	Moderate	With regard to the landscape: Regular maintenance of stormwater drainage systems, where installed, and the grading of lawned areas to avoid ponding  With regard to buildings: Maintain roofs in good order, inspect fixings; inspect and maintain windows and doors in good order; regularly inspect and clean eaves gutters and downpipes
Theft and Vandalism	High	Maintain adequate lighting levels and security surveillance as required.
Vehicle Impact	Low	None practicable
Flood	Very low	Maintain drains in good order
Water ingress (Buildings)	Moderate	Maintain and keep clear all rainwater goods (gutters, downpipes, sumps). Regularly inspect and maintain roof and windows.

## **6.7 Review and Implementation**

The conservation policy should be subject to review, normally at not less than five yearly intervals. Should the circumstances affecting the site alter in any significant way, then the policy should be reviewed at that time.

The conservation policy should be implemented by the City of Yarra as the management authority of the site.





## 7.0 COMMUNITY COMMENTS – ALLOM LOVELL RESPONSES

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This section addresses a number of points raised by submitters who variously have a connection with, and interest in, the Edinburgh Gardens. Consultation with the community provided a forum for those with views to raise them via submissions to the City of Yarra. This process raised some issues of methodology, questioned the conclusions found in the statement of significance, and challenged the conservation policy and management plan.

The points discussed here are those where the consultants have a different view from particular submissions. Rather than delaying completion of the brief further, it was resolved to document the views here and to further address them in the future.

### €# *Clement Hodgkinson as a major contributor to the garden design.*

Clement Hodgkinson, then Deputy Commissioner of the Lands Department, is known to have planned four of Melbourne's parks and gardens, that is, the Carlton, Fitzroy, Treasury and Flagstaff Gardens. However, conclusive evidence has not been found to support the proposal that he played a major role in anything other than the location and shape of the Edinburgh Gardens site.<sup>1</sup> Rather, Joseph Martin Reed, Victorian Lands Department district surveyor, signed the survey of trenching and paths. His signature appears on the 1883 plan of the Gardens.

### €# *Reconstruction of a watercourse because of the significance of the creek to the layout of the gardens and pathways.*

It is clear the creek existed on the Crown Grant of land which became the Edinburgh Gardens. However, the water was highly polluted, as waste-water from cesspits in North Fitzroy flowed into the Edinburgh Gardens. The creek was really no more than an open drain, and was unofficially used for the disposal of, amongst other things, dead horses. John Patrick Pty Ltd believe reconstruction of a watercourse would cause extensive disturbance and loss of existing Gardens fabric; it would impact on the storm water system; would once again divide the Gardens in two (as it was when the railway existed); and result in the high cost of increased water consumption. Given the comparatively low level of significance when compared with the above factors, it is considered that the creek not be reinstated. It could be interpreted.

It is also proposed that part of the creek's flow influenced the pathway layout and that this should be reinstated. It is the consultant's view that formal path network was not laid out until 1883; the creek was filled in by the late 1880s and therefore the path layout superseded the creek. The principal path structure is of primary significance in its layout (but not materials).

### €# *Levels of Significance – state, national and international*

Some submitters were of the view that the Edinburgh Gardens were of state, national and international significance. It was proposed it is of national and state significance as a unique example of a nineteenth century residential circus, and as a major historic park.<sup>2</sup> Also at a state level, it is proposed that the establishment of major nineteenth century sporting clubs in Fitzroy and located at the Edinburgh Gardens, demonstrates historic links between the early days of Victorian sporting teams, such as Australian Rules Football, district cricket, lawn bowls and tennis. At an international level, it is proposed that Melbourne led the world in crowds coming to watch sport 'through the power of Australian football' and that the Edinburgh Gardens could be regarded as a site significant to Australia as a 'sporting nation' because, in the context of sports spectating history, links can be made between the Brunswick Street oval and the international social phenomena of spectator sport.

The consultants are of the view that that the Edinburgh Gardens are of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Yarra because they have provided a major recreation facility

to the residents of Fitzroy for one hundred and forty years. Their popular use was, in the nineteenth century, due to the perception that sport and recreation not only improved living conditions and public health, but provided places where all levels of society could mix. This is evident in the use of the Gardens through the establishment of the many sporting clubs. The Edinburgh Gardens are also of aesthetic significance as the path system designed for the gardens formalises general pedestrian desire lines to create long straight path alignments and intersecting diagonal routes, rather than a path network of any particular aesthetic style.<sup>3</sup>

#### ## *Significance of the former railway line.*

The history of the Edinburgh Gardens provides a summary of the establishment, use and closure of the railway line into the Gardens. The remnant railway track and the alignment of the path provide the last evidence of the Fitzroy branch railway line. It is the view of the consultants that, although the line has been removed, the remnant railway track and path following the former railway line are elements of contributory significance and should be retained as they assist in marking out the alignment of the line.

#### ## *Conservation Policy and Management Plan*

Some submitters felt the report failed to provide adequate discussion of specific conservation policy for use and development of a number of elements contained within the Gardens, in particular, those elements considered to be intrusive. The consultant is of the view that the report systematically reviews and analyses every element within the Gardens and nominates a level of significance for that element as well as a policy.

The Gardens should not be frozen in time. In the past, structures have been installed in response to public needs, and this will occur in the future. The Gardens will continue to be the focus and location of a range of community services and activities not directly connected to the Gardens, for example, the Infant Welfare Centre. There is no heritage imperative which would require or prohibit this in the future. Rather, it is envisaged that there will be some new buildings but that they should be responsive and appropriate to the heritage value of the Gardens and should not be dominant in the gardens or in their immediate context.

## **Summary**

Issues raised but not addressed here have been incorporated into the CMP in the appropriate section.

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**APPENDIX A THE BURRA CHARTER**

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### The Australia ICOMOS BURRA CHARTER, 1999

#### Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice, 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

#### Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

#### Using the Charter

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent. Articles in the Conservation Principles section are often further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. Headings have been included for ease of reading but do not form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained in the following Australia ICOMOS documents.

#### Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.  
*Cultural significance* is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.
- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling components without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.
- 1.10 *Use* means the functions of a *place*, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the *place*.
- 1.11 *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
- 1.12 *Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.
- 1.13 *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another *place*.
- 1.14 *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the *place*.
- 1.15 *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- 1.16 *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.
- 1.17 *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

## **Conservation Principles.**

### **Article 2. Conservation and Management.**

- 2.1 *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.
- 2.2 The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.
- 2.3 *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.
- 2.4 *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

### **Article 3. Cautious approach.**

- 3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.
- 3.2 Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

### **Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques.**

- 4.1 *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.
- 4.2 Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the conservation of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

### **Article 5. Values.**

- 5.1 *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.
- 5.2 Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a *place*.

## **Article 6. Burra Carter Process**

- 6.1 The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding *cultural significance* comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the *place* in accordance with the policy.
- 6.2 The policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.
- 6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

## **Article 7. Use**

- 7.1 Where the use of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

## **Article 8. Setting**

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate visual *setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

## **Article 9. Location**

- 9.1 The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a *place* should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.
- 9.2 Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.
- 9.3 If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate *use*. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place* of *cultural significance*.

## **Article 10. Contents**

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*: on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition for cultural reasons: for health and safety: or to protect the *place*. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

## **Article 11. Related places and objects**

The contribution which *related places* and *related* objects make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

## **Article 12. Participation**

*Conservation*, *interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the *place* has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the *place*.

### **Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values**

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

### **Article 14. Conservation processes**

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*: retention of *associations* and *meanings*: *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *interpretation*: and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.

### **Article 15. Change**

- 15.1 Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.
- 15.2 Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.
- 15.3 Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.
- 15.4 The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a *place* includes *fabric*, *uses*, *associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of *cultural significance*, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight *cultural significance* and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater *cultural significance*.

### **Article 16. Maintenance**

*Maintenance* is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its maintenance is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

### **Article 17. Preservation**

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

### **Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction**

*Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

### **Article 19. Restoration**

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

### **Article 20. Reconstruction**

- 20.1 *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that remains the *cultural significance* of the *place*.



20.2 *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

### **Article 21. Adaptation**

21.1 *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

21.2 *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

### **Article 22. New work**

22.1 New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the *place*, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such.

### **Article 23. Conserving use**

Continuing, modifying or reinstating a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

### **Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings.**

24.1 Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

24.2 Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

### **Article 25. Interpretation**

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

## **Conservation Practice**

### **Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process.**

26.1 Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the *place* which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

26.2 Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the *place*.

26.3 Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the *place*. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

## **Article 27. Managing Change.**

- 27.1 The impact of proposed changes on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the *place*. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain *cultural significance*.
- 27.2 Existing *fabric, use, associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

## **Article 28. Disturbance of fabric**

- 28.1 Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the *place*, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.
- 28.2 Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the *place*. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

## **Article 29. Responsibility for decisions**

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

## **Article 30. Direction, supervision, and implementation**

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

## **Article 31. Documenting evidence and decisions.**

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

## **Article 32. Records**

- 32.1 The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to the requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.
- 32.2 Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

## **Article 33. Removed fabric.**

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the *place*.

## **Article 34. Resources.**

Adequate resources should be provided for conservation.

## **APPENDIX B      HERITAGE CITATIONS**

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**Victorian Heritage Register**

**Register of the National Estate**

**National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register**



### Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand, Brunswick Street Fitzroy

<b>VHR Number</b>	<b>H751</b>
<b>File Number</b>	601192
<b>Year Construction Started</b>	1888
<b>Municipality</b>	Yarra City
<b>Extent of Registration</b>	To the extent of the grandstand building, as defined by the Heritage Council.
<b>Architect/Designer</b>	Billing, Nathaniel
<b>General References</b>	<i>Citation</i> , National Trust
<b>Spatial Information</b>	-37.78978, 144.98012
<b>Heritage Act Categories</b>	Heritage place
<b>Item Categories</b>	
<b>Item Group</b>	Recreation and Entertainment
<b>Item Category</b>	Grandstand

### Statement of Significance

#### *What is significant?*

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand was constructed in 1888 to the design of the architects N Billing and Son. It is of typical nineteenth century form with central divided entry stair emphasised by a small pediment and restrained use of cast iron for balustrading. The ground, usually known as the "Brunswick Street Oval", was the home of the Fitzroy Football Club until 1966.

#### *How is it significant?*

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### *Why is it Significant?*

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand is of architectural significance as a fine example of a 19th century timber grandstand at a major sports venue. It is of typical 19th century form with central divided entry stair emphasised by a small pediment and restrained use of cast iron for balustrading only. Grandstands were a spectacular feature of nineteenth century recreation but generally were demolished or severely altered. The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand therefore stands as one of the most important of a now small group of survivors.

The Fitzroy Cricket Ground Grandstand is of historical significance as possibly the oldest and most intact nineteenth century grandstand in the metropolitan area and for its enduring association over many years with inner metropolitan football and cricket, one of the few associated structures to have survived relatively intact. The Cricket Ground was the home of the now-defunct Fitzroy Football Club until 1966

and stands as an important reminder of the contribution made by Fitzroy to the history of Australian football in Victoria.

## Register of the National Estate

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### **Edinburgh Gardens, Fitzroy North VIC**

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** Indicative Place

**Database Number:** 018130

**File Number:** 2/11/020/0097

### **Nominator's Statement of Significance:**

The Edinburgh Gardens are significant in terms of the large number of established trees and garden beds and the associated garden furniture - cast iron bollards, drinking fountain, fixed seats and bandstand. The tennis club house, train track and fixed train engine and the Bowling Club house and lawns are integral to this significance, while the adjacent cricket ground, with its two gatehouses and historic grandstand, is of complementary significance. They are also notable for the open space they provide and the manner in which they complement and close the vistas observable while passing along Alfred Crescent. The significance of the precinct is seen to lie in the marriage of the built environment with a sylvan landscape. It is enhanced by the quality of individual elements, both built and floral, in terms of their historical, architectural, recreational and visual amenity.

### **Description:**

The Edinburgh Gardens precinct is defined by the escargot shaped reserve originally set aside for Public Gardens, the Fitzroy and the North Fitzroy Cricket Grounds and a railway station and line. The unique shape of the gardens stems from the resolution between different street grids and the desire to create a circus along Georgian lines. The scheme for a grand crescent with central gardens, playing grounds and rail facilities was developed as the most logical answer to this dilemma.

### **Condition and Integrity:**

There is at present only one cricket ground in the south west corner, to the north of which lie the bowling and tennis clubs. The northernmost land of the reserve originally set aside for the north Fitzroy Cricket Ground has been absorbed into the gardens proper. The railway line is decrepit and unused, except on its northernmost gardens section, which now houses an old engine. The area originally allotted to the railway station and yards has become a timber mill. The one building of individual significance within the garden is an early twentieth century bandstand. Other, newer, buildings are intrusive.

### **Location:**

About 15ha, bordered by Brunswick Street, St Georges Road, Alfred Crescent, Jamieson Street, Queens Parade, Napier Street and Freeman Street, Fitzroy North.

### **Bibliography:**

*Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study* Prepared For The City Of Fitzroy -Landform Australia Pty Ltd. March 1987.

*North Fitzroy Conservation Study* Commissioned By The Historic Buildings Preservation Council And The Australian Heritage Commission For The City Of Fitzroy. July 1978.

## National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register

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### Fitzroy Cricket Club Grandstand

Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, VIC 3065

#### Extra Location Info

<b>Municipality:</b>	Yarra City
<b>Region:</b>	Inner Melbourne
<b>File No:</b>	B6060
<b>Category:</b>	BUILDING
<b>Place Type:</b>	Grandstand
<b>Class:</b>	State
<b>Classified:</b>	3 August 1998
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Trust

#### Citation

##### *Statement of Significance*

Built 1888, at the high point of the boom, the Fitzroy Grandstand is one of only three surviving grandstands that predate the great depression of the 1890s. It is one of the last works in the long and distinguished career of Nathaniel Billing, then practising as N Billing & Son. It is not of the grand scale of the City Oval, Ballarat, but despite the alterations to the change rooms under the tiered seating it still retains its form and detail elsewhere.

It is of typical nineteenth century form with central divided entry stair emphasised by a small pediment and restrained use of cast iron for balustrading only. Grandstands were a spectacular feature of nineteenth century recreation but generally were demolished or severely altered. Fitzroy Grandstand therefore stands as one of the most important of a now small group of survivors.

First Classified 18/5/89

Amended 29/6/89

Revised: Classified State 3/8/98



## National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register

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### Quercus ilex

Fitzroy, VIC 3065

### Extra Location Info

Edinburgh Gardens, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, NE side of Bowling Club

<b>Municipality:</b>	Yarra City
<b>Region:</b>	Inner Melbourne
<b>File No:</b>	T11566
<b>Category:</b>	TREE
<b>Tree Species:</b>	Quercus ilex
<b>Common Name:</b>	Holm Oak
<b>Tree Family:</b>	Fagaceae
<b>No of Trees:</b>	1
<b>Spread:</b>	21.70
<b>Girth:</b>	4.55
<b>Height:</b>	21.50
<b>Est Age:</b>	80
<b>Condition:</b>	Good
<b>Class:</b>	Local
<b>Last Revised:</b>	10 May 1993
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Trust

### Citation

#### *Statement of Significance*

Outstanding Size: height x circumference x spread

#### NOTES

The finer of two examples of the species in the gardens, the tree has undergone maintenance works to highlight its structure. Unfortunately, overcrowded by nearby elms.



**APPENDIX C      CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS**

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## APPENDIX C      CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

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The following information is largely based on notes on the history of the Edinburgh Gardens included in the 1987 Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study by Landform Australia.

- 1859      Fitzroy Council requests a reserve for public recreation from the Crown Lands Department. A 7 acre triangular site between Heidelberg Road, Reilly Street (now Alexandra Parade) and Smith Street is temporarily reserved for public recreation (6a 1r) and public baths and wash houses (3 roods).
- 1862      10 January and 19 February: Council requests an alternative site of 50 acres for public recreation in North Fitzroy. They suggest an oval site of 20 chains in diameter and 29.25 chains long.
- 22 February: The site is reduced in area to 38a 3r 26.5p and set back to clear the future extension of Brunswick Street by Clement Hodgkinson, Deputy Commissioner of Land and Works.
- 28 March: Temporary reservation of new site and revocation of 1859 reservation is gazetted.
- 25 September: Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club permitted to occupy and fence 9 acres of reserve at the intersection of Brunswick and St Georges Road.
- 1863      9 July: Prince of Wales Cricket Club is permitted to occupy 6 acres of the reserve directly south of the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Club.
- 1870s      Head Gardener's cottage constructed
- 1872      The two cricket clubs amalgamate to become the Fitzroy Cricket Club and are permitted to occupy a combined site of approximately 15 acres
- 1876      26 July: The reserve is referred to in correspondence as the 'Duke of Edinburgh Gardens'. A memo states that the Fitzroy Cricket Club has to date expended about £450 on fencing, planting, sowing, building, etc. The remainder of the grounds is enclosed by a post and 2 rail fence and the land used by the Fitzroy Council for grazing purposes.
- 1877      3 October: Letter from Fitzroy Cricket Club lists improvements to their area including the 'Ladies Reserve and Pavilion', the 'Playing Ground' including footpath and running track, the 'Bowling Green', the 'Practice Pitch' and a caretaker's residence.
- 22 October: Regulations for the management of the area occupied by the Cricket Club (14a 3r 23p) are Gazetted and a Committee of Management is appointed.
- 1878      2 September: Regulations for the management of the remaining area of the reserve by the Fitzroy Council is Gazetted (total area now 42a 3r 23p).
- 1881      9 April: The council opposes a proposed excision of 2 acres of the Gardens east of the Prince of Wales Cricket Ground for a State School Site.
- 1 and 9 August: Railway Department requests excision of a strip of land running east-west through the Gardens for a railway reserve. The request lapses.
- 24 October: The southern portion of the Gardens (33a 3r 23p) is permanently reserved and Gazetted on 28 October.
- By this stage Alfred Crescent had been continued around the south-east boundary between Grant and Groom Streets, resulting in some loss of area.
- 1882      Crown Grant for southern portion (33a 3r 23p) issued to the Board of Land and Works jointly with the Mayor, Councillors and citizens of Fitzroy as 'a site for a public park and gardens for the recreation and amusement of our subjects and people...'

Crown Grant for northern portion (now amended to 8a Or 17p) issued 19 June 1883.

- 1883 19 June: Southern portion of the Gardens permanently reserved (7a 3r 37p), Gazetted 22 June.  
22 June: Fitzroy Council agrees with the Board of Land and Works to each contribute £250 per annum for five years from 1 July for the improvement and maintenance of the Gardens, with the expenditure to be controlled by a Committee of Management appointed jointly.

Intensive development and planting of the Gardens appears to have commenced around this time including

- # large sections raised by filling with garbage and street manure
- # extensive areas trenched for the disposal of night soil
- # the creek was filled in and an underground culvert installed to the west

It is probable that the fine plantations and avenues of elms and oaks that survive today were planted in the 1880s.

A Land Department map dated May 1883 records developments to that time and shows the unfenced northern oval, the main southern oval, bowling green, pavilion and gardener's dwelling, all fenced, as well as the fence and gates around the boundary of the Gardens.

The main path system which persists today was already established by this time along routes which clearly reflect the practical, through-traffic needs of pedestrians.

The two east-west paths, one from Rowe Street, the other from Grant Street, crossed the natural barrier of the creek via two small bridges. These two crossing points persist today as intersection points in the path system.

The main north-south path ran beside the cricket ground in the line connecting Best Street and Langton (now Napier) Street. Later paving and avenue plantings confirmed the permanency of these main paths. Diagonal paths and decorative garden beds were added to fill in the interspaces.

- 1887 10 August: A deputation of citizens waits on the Minister for Lands asking for the immediate stoppage of the Council depositing garbage, rubbish and dead animals in a portion of the Gardens.

7 September: A petition of citizens asks for removal of certain fences erected by the Committee of Management which impede free access across the northern ground. Also asks '...that paths should be made from one gate to another for the accommodation of pedestrians' and notes that paths already worn by the feet of pedestrians...'

Maps show that within the next few years this part of the Gardens, north and east of the bowling green, was developed with paths and trees.

- 1888 22 June: The Gardens are subdivided to transfer a portion of the land to the Railways Commissioners (Vol. 2044, Fol. 4087030) and the rail line end station were subsequently built.

Education Department writes advising of closure of North Fitzroy School because of the smell and health risk caused by the depositing of rubbish in the Gardens by Fitzroy Council.

Fitzroy Council and Board of Land and Works agree to continue joint management arrangement for another 5 years from 1 July 1888, contributing annually £250 each.

First Grandstand constructed.

- 1892 Annual reports prepared by the Committee of Management for several years from 1892 are on file and give details of expenditures. These are signed by A A Bannerman as Acting Curator. In 1892-93, £3/15/- was spent for 5000 hawthorn 'quicks'; more were bought in subsequent years. It is apparent that extensive hedges of hawthorn were a feature of the gardens. These

were certainly used to screen the railway end and were probably planted in other locations, perhaps even along the peripheral fence.

1894-95 The Committee began the practice of 'selling grass' for revenue, i.e., harvesting hay, a common, practice in other Melbourne parks at the time.

The street water from Rowe Street was carried into the Gardens and used for watering the eastern side, for which reticulated water was not available. It is probable that the large circular pond built adjacent to Alfred Crescent was used to store this storm water.

1900 Most of the ground features of the Gardens existed at the turn of the century including the new railway station, rail line end level crossing, and a fountain at the northern end (This may have been the fountain once located in the Ladies' Enclosure of the Cricket ground).

c.1900: Timber gatehouse built for Cricket Club.

1905 Additional diagonal paths, avenue plantings, several circular garden beds, the circular pond in line with Rowe Street, and the gardener's cottage with a substantial yard to the rear (probably a service yard, where the present service yard end nursery facilities now stand).

Expansion of the cricket ground facilities, including construction of a second grandstand, which became important as the home ground of the Fitzroy Football Club.

c.1902 Statue to Queen Victoria erected

1917 2 October: The Lands Department withdraws from direct participation in the management of the Gardens and Fitzroy Council is appointed a Committee of Management. Gazetted 10.10.1917.

1924 Band stand erected

1926 Fitzroy Council's proposal to extend the cricket ground to the east, involving removal of the fine avenue of elms along the north-south path beside the railway land, is bitterly opposed in the press and by local citizens. The Minister for Lands forbids their removal. The issue resurfaces from time to time.

It is probable that the external fences, other than those around the cricket ground, were removed in the 1920s, the period when most public parks were opened up in Melbourne.

1938 9 March: Fitzroy Council informs the Lands Department that the trees have been removed as '...an eyesore and a danger...'

Also the trees '...adjacent to the Tennis Courts were throwing shadows on the playing arenas and the roots were also a continuous source of trouble'.

Refers to the '...floral decorative strip along the pathway north of the playing arenas from the Brunswick Street entrance eastwards ... which could not be continued to the end of the Courts as desired because of these trees.'

Recent improvements described include incorporation of disused Railway land on each side of the line after removal of the hedges and picket fences.

Removal of the footpath on the eastern and southern side abutting Alfred Crescent and its conversion to grass.

In recent years many flower beds and shrubberies have been eliminated to simplify maintenance and fixed sprinkler systems have been installed over large areas.

Late 1930s: Cricket grounds extended over the main north-south path on the Napier Street alignment and the path was relocated to the east.

- 1948 20 August: Lands Department approves of the establishment of a ladies' bowling green in the Gardens.
- Late 1940s: Schools' Sports Ground constructed after the removal of the path to Grant Street and the 'mound' and several trees. (Circular pond removed some years earlier)
- 1960s Superintendent's house constructed ?
- 1967 12 December: The Fitzroy (Edinburgh Gardens) Lands Act, 1967 is approved which
- # closes a small portion of Freeman Street and incorporates it in the Gardens
  - # appoints the Corporation of Fitzroy as the committee of management and
  - # permits the Corporation to lease the sites occupied for bowling (two), tennis, cricket and football for up to 21 years (subject to the approval of the Governor in Council if the term exceeds three years).
- 1972 Children's welfare centre erected replacing earlier timber building behind the present Superintendent's house.
- Toilet block erected near intersection of Alfred Crescent and St Georges Road
- Brick pedestrian shelter erected near the Superintendent's house, replacing a Victorian slate-roofed gazebo.
- 1977 Most buildings in the cricket and football areas are in a derelict state and Football Club grandstand is destroyed by fire and is largely demolished
- Centenary Pavilion, containing change rooms is constructed in the City's Centenary year.
- 1980 City of Fitzroy undertakes a \$500,000 project to upgrade the oval facilities including
- # demolition of boundary walls and fences
  - # earth banks regarded and planted with trees
  - # nineteenth century grandstand was restored
  - # former grandstand site re-landscaped
  - # Community Room constructed next to grandstand
  - # timber entry pavilion was relocated to main through path
  - # grounds and oval were returfed and replanted
- 1991-2 Bench seating reinstated based on original
- Grandstand and gatehouse restored
- 1996 Timber gatehouse destroyed by fire

To be confirmed:

Children's playground

Tennis club

Bocce court

Hockey field and changing rooms on the eastern side erected (the northern end of this ground covers the former site of the circular pond.).

Plant Nursery

Park Depot



**APPENDIX D      MAINTENANCE DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY  
HERITAGE VICTORIA**

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**Preparing a Maintenance Plan**

**Documenting Repair and Maintenance Works**

**Inspection Schedule**

