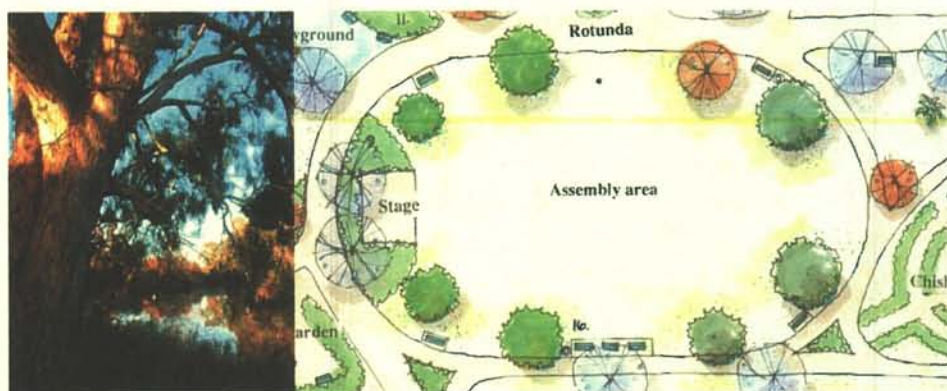


Plan of Management



Victory Memorial Gardens

Wagga Wagga



Prepared for

Wagga Wagga City Council

Prepared by

alexandra dalglish landscape architect
BLArch AAILA Grad Dip Env Law
Olde Milong YOUNG NSW 2594

NOVEMBER 2006

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Location
- 1.2 Description
- 1.3 Context of site
- 1.4 Zoning
- 1.5 Tenure and purpose of dedication

2.0 Strategic

Review of strategic plans

3.0 Funding

- 3.1 Section 94, EPAA, 1979
- 3.2 Organised charity groups
- 3.3 Commemorative grants, Veterans Affairs
- 3.4 Other sources of funding

4.0 Situation Assessment

4.1 Natural Environment

- i. The Wiradjuri People
- ii. The lagoon, geology and soils
- iii. Salinity
- iv. Flora and Fauna
- v. Weeds

4.2 Designed Environment

- i. Police Barracks
- ii. A memorial for Wagga
- iii. A Design Competition
- iv. Dedication of the Gardens
- v. Condensed Time Line

5.0 Objectives of Management

- i. Crown Land Management Objectives
- ii. Victory Memorial Management Objectives

6.0 Statement of Significance

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 7.0 | Policies and Framework for Management |
| 7.1 | The Design of the VMG/ Layout and Paths |
| 7.2 | The Lagoon Edge (both sides) |
| 7.3 | Anzac/(Diggers Avenue) |
| 7.4 | Trees |
| 7.5 | Understorey |
| 7.6 | Memorials |
| | i. Cenotaph |
| | ii. Memorial archway |
| | iii. All other memorials |
| 7.7 | Elements/ themes in the garden |
| | i. Fountain |
| | ii. Playground |
| | iii Senses Garden |
| | iv Chess Garden |
| | v Swaggy and Surrounds |
| | vi Band rotunda |
| 7.8 | Park facilities |
| | i. Furniture |
| | ii. Signage |
| | iii. Walling |
| | iv. Toilets |
| | v. Lighting |
| 7.9 | Use of the Site |
| | i. Everyday Use and Events |
| | ii. Linkage |
| | iii. Booking the site |
| | iv. Multi use of the site |
| | v. Scenic use of the site |
| 7.10 | Maintenance |
| 7.11 | Risk management |
| 8.0 | Plan Implementation |
| 9.0 | Management Strategies Summary |
| 10.0 | References |

11.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Community consultation

Community consultation notes

Collated surveys of consultation

Appendix B: Lists of fauna and flora (previous plans) of entire Lagoon

Appendix C: Tree report by Wade Ryan Arborist

Appendix D: Lists of plants used in Interwar Gardens and list of current plants in the Gardens.

Appendix E: Inventory of the Gardens

Appendix F: Elements that were once in the gardens and have been removed

Lists of Figures

Figure 1 Location map of Victory Memorial Gardens

Figure 2 Subject land of this plan of management

Figure 3 LEP zoning map

Figure 4 Surrounding land use

Figure 5 Kerr's' plan

Figure 6 Policies and framework for management

Figure 7 Anzac Avenue plan

Figure 8 Tree inventory and understory

Figure 9 Tree inventory and elements northern side of lagoon

Figure 10 Memorial inventory

Figure 11 Asset inventory

Figure 12 Use of the site

Figure 13 Masterplan

Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations have assisted us in our research for this report:

Harold Fife AOM, Historian

John Duffy WWCC

David Ramsay WWCC

Graham Clarke WWCC

Graham Wenzke WWCC

David Read WWCC

Grant Marsden Dept of Lands

Billmans Foundry Castlemaine

Resolve Planning produced the strategic sections of the plan

Rachel Tokley produced the mapping and asset inventory of the Gardens as well as taking the notes at the community meeting.

The local history unit of the Wagga Wagga library kindly allowed for the reproduction of the black and white photos used in this report. They are named 'The Rose Series', but are not dated. If anyone is aware of the dates that these photos were taken, please contact the library.



ROSE SERIES P. 8499

MEMORIAL GARDENS, WAGGA, N.S.W.

Community consultation was undertaken as part of the process of preparing this plan of management. The following was included:

- Community meeting on Saturday 27th May 2006 to discuss issues relating to the park, which was advertised locally. Newspaper advertisement and Minutes are included in Appendix A.
- Meeting with Department of Lands (11 May 2006)
- Meeting with indoor staff Wagga Wagga City Council (11 May 2006)
- Meeting with outdoor staff Wagga Wagga City Council (11 May 2006)
- Meetings with Harold Fife historian (7 June 2006, 20 June, 5 July 2006)
- Informal discussions with users of the park on (3 June 2006, 16 June 2006)

(For a more complete history of the VMG, a book documenting the site by Sherry Morris and Harold Fife is due for release in April 2007.)



From the western end of the gardens facing east

Executive Summary

The Victory Memorial Gardens (VMG) are approximately 5 acres in area, existing within the CBD of Wagga Wagga. It is bound by Morrow Street to its south, Ivan Jack Drive to its west the Fitzmaurice/ Baylis Street Bridge to its east and the Wollundry Lagoon to its north. The Lagoon at this point alters the grid of Wagga Wagga, resulting in the space that is the Victory Memorial Gardens.

The VMG is connected to, as well as being intertwined with, major world events and how they have affected Wagga Wagga; from the dedication of the memorials for both the First and Second World Wars, the annual Anzac Day Service, to the visit of Prince Henry and the death of King George V² to the celebrations of the 2000 Olympics³.

The VMG evoke potent and varied emotions, providing the setting for those wishing to pay their respects to the various memorials or as a backdrop commonly used by couples for their wedding photos. The Gardens are also popular with families and children, particularly to feed the ducks or play in the playground. In addition the site is used daily by workers in town during their lunch breaks. However, due to the central location of the VMG, the site is also unfortunately the target of vandalism and misuse, particularly at night.

The VMG is an example of an Interwar Garden, featuring many of the plants that were symbolically used at this time. Much of the original 1928 layout by Mr. Thomas Kerr has survived. However, due to the dynamic nature of landscapes change is inevitable, as

¹ *Daily Advertiser*, October 18, 1934 (30 000 people expected)

² Memorial service of King George V, January 28, 1936

³ Estimated that over 5000 people attended the closing ceremony and fireworks display. WWCC Minutes, October 2000.

Victory Memorial Gardens Draft Plan of Management

illustrated by the fact that many of the older trees in the Gardens are now senescent whilst the younger plantings have not yet begun to take form.

For the purposes of this plan of management, the area known as the VMG is included, as well as the area to the north of the VMG (opposite side of the lagoon) which forms the visual backdrop to the garden. The Lagoon itself is not included within the plan, other than how the VMG and areas opposite affect the lagoon. Not included in this plan of management, but referred to is the extent of Anzac Avenue (from Baylis Street to Beckwith Street) which exists for the most part within the study site.

This draft plan of management has been prepared to guide Council in the future management of the VMG and areas opposite. It documents the landscape value of the site and addresses recreational uses and environmental considerations as well as cultural elements of the past and present as well as future opportunities. The plan documents management policies, objectives, strategies and targets possible funding for the ongoing works and maintenance for the VMG.

It is the intention of the plan to ensure that the valued functions and elements of the reserve are retained and enhanced for the community it serves and for the benefit of future generations.



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Location

The VMG are centrally located within the Central Business District of Wagga Wagga, between the Baylis Street Precinct and Fitzmaurice Street Precinct, as shown in Figure 1. The Gardens are located on the opposite side of Baylis Street to the Civic Centre and Wollundry Lagoon forms the northern boundary of the Gardens.

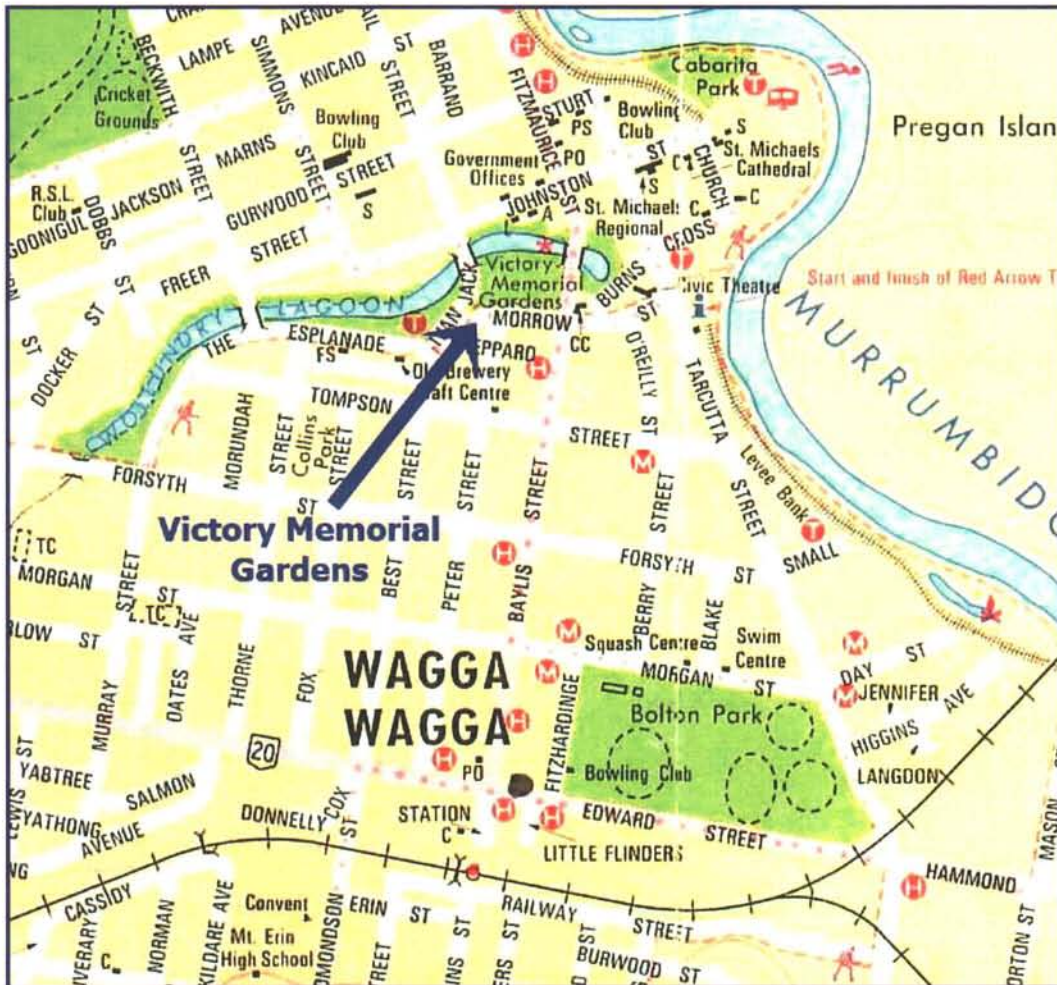


Figure 1: Location Map of Victory Memorial Gardens

1.2 Description

The VMG are described as Reserve 62489, being Lots 7026, 7027 and 7028 DP 10436 and Reserve 71657, being Lot 7024 DP1043682. An additional Reserve, Reserve 19153, being Lot 7012 DP1043680, and an unidentified portion of land which forms part of a walkway along the northern side of Wollundry Lagoon, shall be included in this Plan of Management as it is considered that these Crown lands provide an important visual backdrop to the Gardens. All land included in this Plan of Management is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Subject land of this Plan of Management

1.3 Context of the site

Adjoining land uses include the Civic Centre to the east of the Gardens, the Baylis Street commercial precinct to the south and Fitzmaurice Street commercial precinct with shop top housing to the north. The Gardens therefore provide a retreat for workers in the surrounding commercial areas, shoppers and visitors to the City as well as the residents of surrounding shop top housing units.

The Gardens are easily accessible from surrounding central residential areas allowing the Gardens to be utilised for play or relaxation by surrounding residents.

The recent development above the 2WG building (north of the Gardens) has resulted in greater surveillance over the VMG, particularly at night. The creation of Sunflower Cottage (southern side of Morrow Street) provides a place for people with mental disabilities to rehabilitate. It is likely that these people may find some solace within the gardens.

It is considered that the VMG forms the heart of the central open space areas with links to open space around the eastern section of the Wollundry Lagoon and Amphitheatre area and to open space between Wollundry Lagoon and Ivan Jack Drive and The Esplanade. This central open space is utilised regularly for activities such as the Farmers Markets, Food and Wine Festivals, outdoor theatre, community group gatherings and the like. It is considered that as the City of Wagga Wagga grows the importance of this central open space and in particular the Victory Memorial Gardens will also increase.

1.4 Zoning

The land is zoned Open Space and Business under the provisions of the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 1985 (LEP) and Open Space 6(a) Recreation (Urban Living Area) and Business 3(a) General under the provisions of the Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2005 (DCP). The zoning of the land under the provisions of the LEP is shown below in Figure 3. The Gardens are also located within Wagga Wagga's Conservation Area.

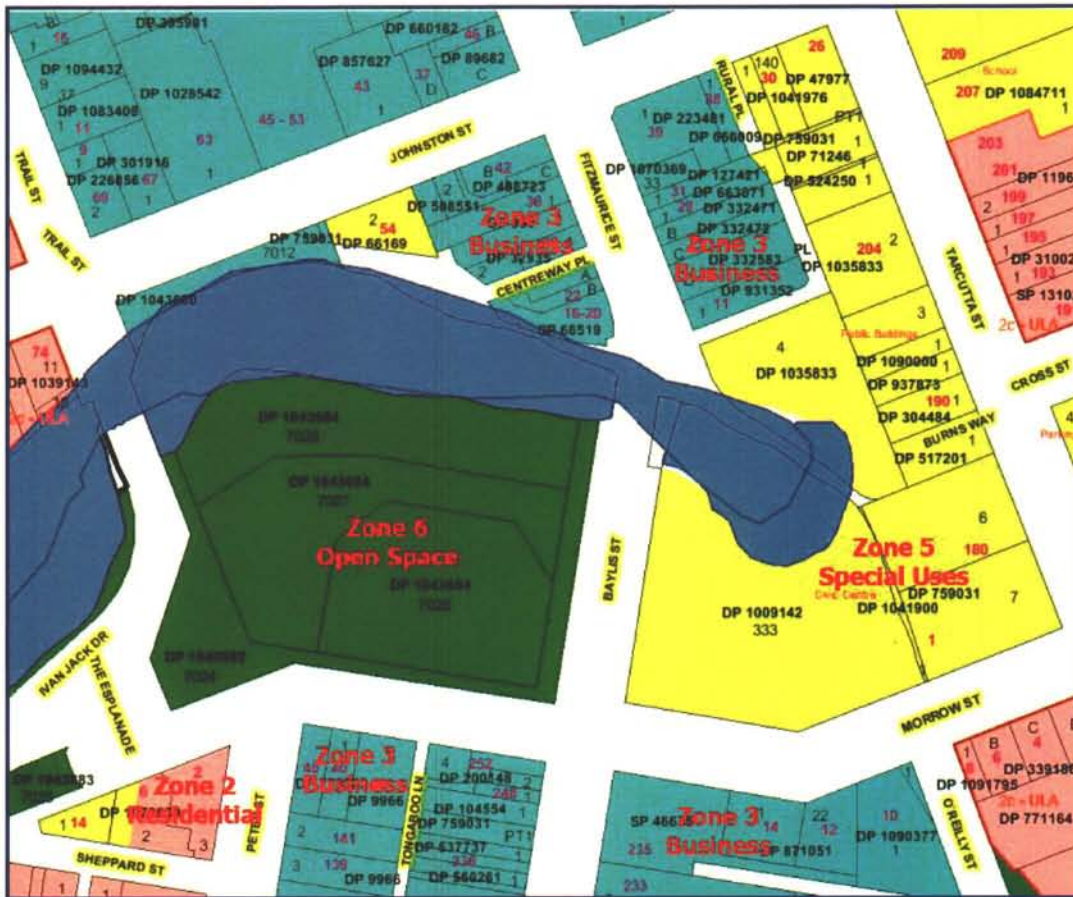


Figure 3: Local Environmental Plan Zoning

1.5 Tenure and Purpose of Dedication

All of the three above-mentioned Reserves are Crown Reserves managed by Wagga Wagga City Council under Reserve Trust. Reserve 19153 on the northern side of Wollundry Lagoon is dedicated by the Crown for "Plantation" with the remaining two Reserves dedicated for "Public Recreation".

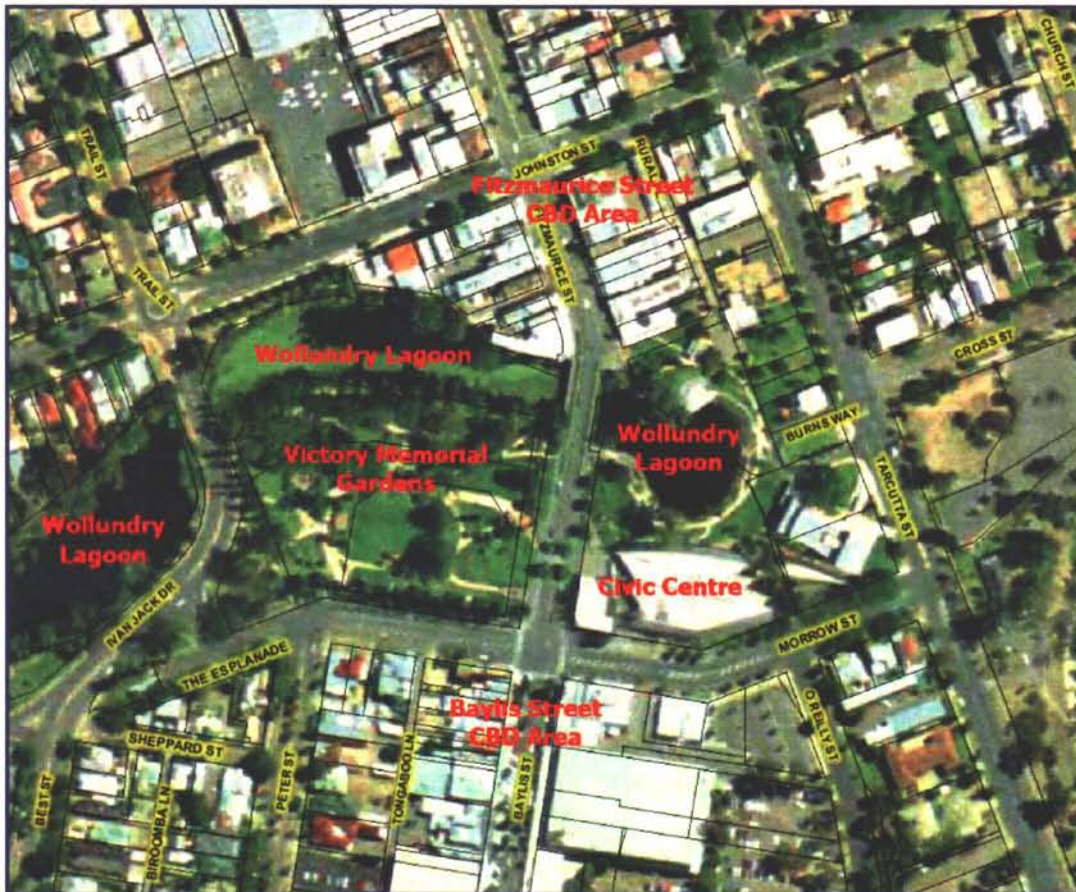


Figure 4: Surrounding Land Use

2.0 Strategic

This section provides a review of various Council and government strategic policies and plans and their impact on the management of the Gardens. Opportunities for the funding of the management of the Gardens are also discussed below.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) is a crime prevention strategy that focuses on the planning, design and structure of cities and neighbourhoods and was formulated by the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (former Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and now NSW Planning) and the NSW Police.

Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 requires consent authorities to ensure that development provides safety and security to users and the community. CEPTED provides guidelines to allow crime prevention strategies to be implemented. The following strategies are considered to be relevant to the management of the Gardens.

Space/Activity Management strategies are an important way to develop and maintain natural community control. Space management involves the formal supervision, control and care of the development. All space, even well planned and well-designed areas need to be effectively used and maintained to maximise community safety. Places that are infrequently used are commonly abused. There is a high correlation between urban decay, fear of crime and avoidance behaviour.

Natural access control includes the tactical use of landforms and waterways features, design measures including building configuration; formal and informal pathways, landscaping, fencing and gardens.

Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2005 Chapter 12 – Open Space Zone

Given that the Victory Memorial Gardens are zoned for Open Space, chapter 12 of the DCP governs any development of the land. The objectives of the Open Space zone are:

- To ensure there is provision of adequate open space areas to meet the needs of all residents and provide opportunities to enhance the total environmental quality of the city.
- In the case of land shown unhatched on the local environmental plan to identify land which is now owned by the Council or which will be dedicated as a condition of development consent or subdivision approval to the Council for open space or public recreational purposes. And
- To develop and provide a system of regional, district and local open spaces within the City.
- To promote a mix of active and passive recreation use of open space areas to ensure a balanced provision of facilities for the community.
- To ensure that a diversity of services and facilities is available to facilitate a variety of leisure time opportunities for all sections of the community.
- To reinforce and improve significant landscape elements so as to enhance their character for the benefit of the residents of the City.
- To encourage access to the foreshores of the Murrumbidgee River, Lake Albert and Lagoons for aquatic recreational and scenic recreational activities.
- To ensure that land uses do not create or increase a soil erosion/soil degradation hazard.

Wagga Wagga Development Control Plan 2005 Chapter 16 – Urban and Rural

Development Control Plan Heritage Provisions

The Gardens are located within Wagga Wagga's Conservation Area. This means that the Gardens are protected by the heritage provisions of the LEP and DCP. Council's Heritage Advisor is able to provide advice relating to the heritage significance of the Gardens and the NSW Heritage Office provides an Officer that provides specialised advice relating to garden and landscape issues. Any future development of the land must take into consideration the heritage values of the Gardens and the provisions of Chapter 16 of the DCP.

Vision 21

Vision 21 was a strategic planning exercise finalised in 2002 which analysed and documented the various land uses throughout the city and provided findings and recommendations for the future form, shape and direction of the City's growth. Aims of the study, actions and conclusions drawn that are important and relevant to the management of the Victory Memorial Gardens include:

- Provide useable spaces both passive and active that reflect the needs of the community.
- Ensure that the majority of parkland fronts main roads and can be easily viewed.
- Ensure the overall size and width of open space is adequate for its intended purpose and is economical to maintain.
- The changing demographics of the city's population be recognised as a factor in the determination of open space needs

Wagga Wagga Social Plan 2004

The Wagga Wagga Social Plan 2004 identified several issues through its research and consultation phases that are relevant to the Victory Memorial Gardens:

- Existing parks are valued highly, with specific praise given to the Botanic Gardens, Zoo, BBQ area and nature reserve on Willans Hill, the Victory Memorial Gardens and the Lake Albert Walking Track.
- There is a current trend away from organised sporting activities to non-formal leisure pursuits.
- There was a strong demand for improved maintenance of parks and reserves, improved playground equipment, provision of shade over equipment, development of older age playgrounds, provision of hard court areas and seating.
- Recent programs of community events were highly valued and there was a strong desire expressed for family friendly, affordable and alcohol free events.

Wagga Wagga Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2005-2015

General Implications of Demographics

The Wagga Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2005 – 2015 found the following implications of demographics for sport and recreation provision which may have an impact on the management and development of the Victory Memorial Gardens:

- WWCC population is increasing with a likely 8000 more people over the next 10 years, (Councils' Section 94 Plan notes varied figures to this; an expected 1% increase in population each year to a total of 5900 people over the next 10

years) which will require Council to make investment in new and improved open space and recreation facilities in the future.

- Currently just under half of the population of Wagga is aged between 10 – 40 years, a range which includes the most active age cohorts in relation to participation in formal sporting activities, however,
- As there is an overall aging population, there will be an increasing need to provide for passive recreation activities and services at a local level such as walking and places for people to meet for social or group activities.
- There will also be a need for development of safe and accessible places for recreation, that is, develop facilities and spaces which adjoin car parks, good security lighting and sealed and accessible paths for people with poor mobility
- Need for an improved and integrated signage system for all Council recreation facilities and open space areas (includes directional signage, identification signage and functional / operations signage.
- A collaborative and partnership approach with community groups, government agencies and the private sector will drive the provision of sport and recreation facilities and services and the provision of open space

Relevant Trends in Open Space Planning and Use

The strategy also identified trends that needed to be considered for management of the VMG:

- A recognition that people enjoy built, modified and restored open spaces and do not always desire or require pristine rural environments.
- Recognition that recreation settings need to be sustainable ecologically.
- A growing user preference for sites that offer different experiences and benefits at different times of the day, week and year and different experiences for different users.
- Greater interest in sites that offer opportunities for participative and interpretive experiences.
- A strong preference for sites that allow linked family use.
- A strong preference for sites which offer quality amenities and a clear sense of personal security
- A greater emphasis on non competitive, cultural and passive leisure opportunities at the expense of participation in organized recreation activities (i.e. sport)

Reasons Why People Visit Open Space

During the consultation phase of the Strategy it was discovered that the Victory Memorial Gardens ranked as number 3 in the top 10 most visited parks of Wagga Wagga, behind the Botanic Gardens and Jubilee Park.

The top 10 reasons for visiting open space included:

1. Walking
2. Picnic
3. Use of Playground
4. Play with Children
5. Spectator
6. Play Sport
7. Walk the Dog
8. Feed animals Walk around
9. Football
10. Socialise

Principles for the Development of Regional and District Parks

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy states that the development of the landscape of regional and district parks should be guided by the following principles:

- An integrated tree planting strategy should be implemented throughout Regional and District Parks to:
 - Provide an overall landscape framework.
 - Increase amenity through shade and wind protection.
 - Form landscape spaces.
 - Improve habitat values.

Trees should be located to integrate with facilities, such as picnic shelters, seats and tables.

- Planting should be provided in all car parks within Regional and District Parks to provide shade and shelter for vehicles, and to contribute to an improved landscape character and setting. Trees should be planted to avoid loss of parking spaces, should be surrounded by low growing species planted around their base, and should be protected from low speed vehicle impacts at their base by low fencing, or other appropriate 'bumpers'.
- Trees should be planted along shared paths within Regional and District Parks to provide shade for path users, improved definition of circulation around the park, and locations for seating. Planting should consist of canopy trees, to maintain views along and across the paths, and to also enhance a sense of personal security for park users.
- Areas of low level indigenous planting should be added at appropriate locations throughout Regional and District Parks, to create a variety of informal park spaces and a varied landscaper character. Care should be taken, however, in the selection of species to avoid the creation of personal security issues through reduced sight lines.

- Some planting should to be provided along park edges adjoining perimeter roads, to create an attractive public interface, and in some cases, as a buffer between the road and the park. This planting should be generally low, to maintain views into the parkland, with occasional canopy trees.

- Where appropriate, circulation within the park should connect directly with broader neighbourhood and regional trails, particularly the shared paths associated with Nature Reserves.

- Pedestrian access from residential streets should be provided through the construction of paths linking with the end of streets, as well as improved signage.

- Clear and direct links should be made between park spaces to encourage use of the entire park, rather than just localised areas. This could be achieved through manipulation of views, landform and planting, as well as formed paths.

- As with Sports Grounds, general park facilities, including tables, seats, BBQs, drinking fountains, litterbins, and bicycle parking facilities should be provided at points of public focus. The precise siting of each of these facilities will be determined on a site by site basis, but are to meet the following criteria:
 - Grouping of facilities.
 - Use of existing access and pavements.
 - Association with existing buildings, to reduce visual prominence.
 - No removal of indigenous vegetation.
 - Association with existing parking where possible.

- Taking advantage of the shade and shelter provided by existing vegetation.
- Tables and seats should be located to take advantage of key views, particularly to activity areas, playgrounds etc. Tables and seats should be of robust construction, of heavy section timber, and of a standard detail, to allow for easy and inexpensive replacement.
- The setting of buildings and structures within Regional and District Parks should be planned to maximise integrated vehicle and pedestrian pavements and planting (using indigenous species).

Wagga Wagga Tree Management Policy

The significance of individual trees within the Victory Memorial Gardens have not been assessed by Council staff however the provisions of Council's Tree Management Policy must be complied with should it be planned to remove any trees. The Tree Management Policy aims to ensure environmental, social and economic issues are considered before trees are removed or otherwise damaged.

Urban Stormwater Management Plans 2001

The Urban Stormwater Management Plans are frameworks for action to facilitate the co-ordinated management of stormwater within a catchment to maximize ecological sustainability and social and economic benefits of sound stormwater management practices.

The Victory Memorial Gardens are located within the Turvey Park Catchment. The issues that have been identified for this catchment include leaf and litter contamination, urban salinity, contaminated sites, silting, lack of native vegetation, introduced wildlife species and the degradation of the water quality of Wollundry Lagoon.

The stormwater management objectives for the Turvey Park Catchment that should be considered in the management of the Victory Memorial Gardens include: the introduction of understorey planting on the banks of the Lagoon; creation of habitats for native wildlife; reduction of non native wildlife, which includes the control of European Carp in the Lagoon; restocking of Wollundry Lagoon with native wildlife species; and in relation to soil erosion and silting of the Lagoon, the stabilisation of construction sites should any works within the Gardens disturb the land.

Urban Salinity Wagga Wagga 2001

Urban Salinity Wagga Wagga was first prepared and published by Wagga Wagga City Council in 1988 and was revised in 2001. The booklet details the areas within Wagga Wagga that have existing or potential problems with urban salinity and describes the techniques that should be employed to control the issue. The principles of this booklet should be considered in the management of the Victory Memorial Gardens. Such principals could be achieved by the selection of suitable plant and tree species and appropriate watering methods.

Wagga Wagga Draft Natural Resource Management Plan

The Wagga Wagga Draft Natural Resource Management Plan was originally collated in 1998 and addresses a wide range of catchment management issues in both urban and rural areas.

Although the Victory Memorial Gardens are not specifically referred to in this document there are some catchment management issues discussed in the document that should be considered in the management of the Gardens. These include:

- Stormwater and runoff management to reduce the pollution of Wollundry Lagoon
- Protection of the quality of ground water
- Control of urban salinity
- Control of soil erosion and protection of soil structure
- Provision and management of adequate and appropriate vegetation for groundwater recharge control, shade, windbreaks, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, soil stability and aesthetic values
- Pest and weed management
- Riparian management

3.0 Funding Opportunities

3.1 Section 94 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

There are three methods that contributions can be obtained:

- a** Section 94 contributions can be levied against a fixed plan that establishes a nexus between certain types of development and the need for services and facilities in the general location of the development. A works program is established and monies are collected to embellish parklands in this way. Funds can also be levied for regional facilities, which the VMG is considered to be.
- b** Section 94A provides the Council with a mechanism for applying a fixed levee (up to 1% of development costs) that can then be utilized more freely in the city for application towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities or public services (or towards recouping the cost of their provision, extension or augmentation). No connection is required between the development the subject of the development consent and the object of expenditure of any money required to be paid by the condition. This provides for greater flexibility in the utilisation of the funds. It is understood that while more development can be levied (including extensions, single houses etc. Generally less money will be collected via section 94A and monies cannot be used for maintenance purposes.
- c** Developer agreements can be established between Council and individual developers in a transparent and legal way to trade development opportunities for public benefit. A developer agreement could include in

kind works to the park, general embellishment funding and or funding for general maintenance purposes.

All of the above section 94 mechanisms could be utilized to raise funds for the embellishment, improvement and to a limited extent the general maintenance of the VMG.

❖ To trigger the ability to seek funding via section 94 it is appropriate that any park management plan incorporates a "Masterplan" or "Strategy" for the park which specifies:

- all works and upgrades required including full costings, and
- realistic maintenance budgets

These details can then be incorporated into a Section 94 plan which will then allow the funding to be accessed.

3.2 Organised Charity Groups

The park has historically been financially established and supported by the people of Wagga Wagga and it has only been in the later years that there has been a community acceptance and expectation that parks can be adequately embellished and maintained by Local Government.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy had as a strategic objective that Council:

“Consider options for improved support for “Friends” groups and other voluntary management groups and collaborative arrangements for open space management, particularly main parks, Lagoons... etc.” (Page 101)

In consultation with both indoor and outdoor council staff, it was agreed that this should be contemplated, particularly when such a large percentage of the current budget for the Gardens is spent repairing damage as a result of vandalism and other anti social behaviour that occurs in the park overnight. The current VMG budget can only support a rudimentary maintenance regime for the park and other funding sources are required to reinstate the park to its original showpiece glory.

In consultation with council staff, it was also considered that there would be more financial support for the park if an independent group was involved in the management of a support fund.

3.3 Commemorations Grants from the Department of Veteran Affairs

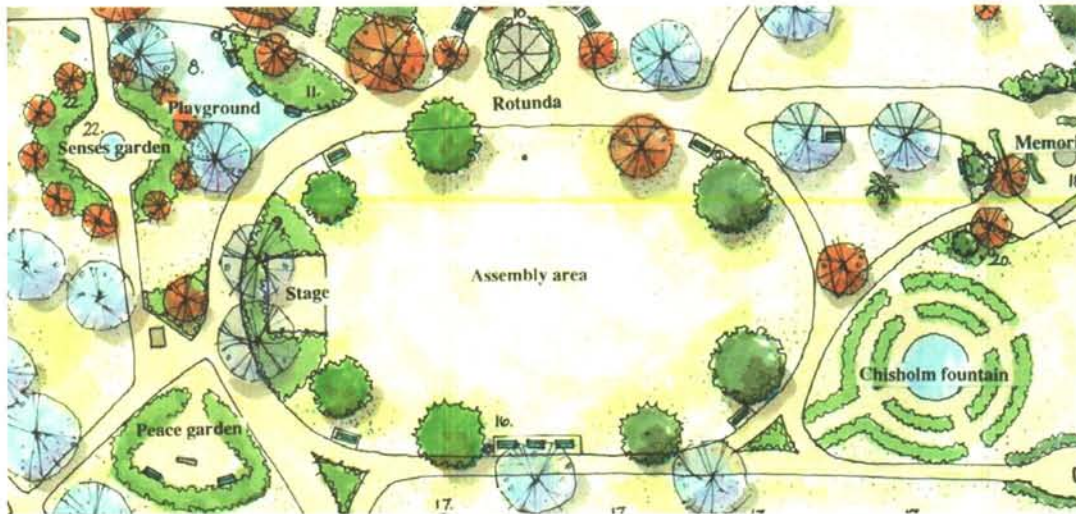
Local government authorities are eligible to apply for modest grants for works such as restoring, preserving or upgrading community war memorials; the improvement of access and safety of the immediate surrounds of existing community memorials and the like.

3.4 Other sources of Funding

Some ideas for future funding and support include:

- Fund raising by local charity groups (Apex, Rotary etc). A possibility would be additional collection for the Victory Memorial Gardens during the running of the "Farmers Markets" once per month by Rotary.
- Seek funding from local business houses whose staff may utilise the park during their lunch break.
- Investigate opportunities for local business to assist with meeting the cost of repairing damage caused as a result of inappropriate behaviour, either directly or indirectly related to business within the City. Eg: Local Pubs/Clubs and Supermarkets. A similar arrangement is now in place where Council collects shopping trolleys from the lagoon, impounds them and asks for the relevant supermarket to pay for the cost of the recovery of them.
- Seek financial support through the Chamber of Commerce.
- Seek funding via the Local Heritage Fund for plans or works to ensure that the style of street furniture within the park is appropriate.

- o Seek fund raising via the local childcare centres and preschools, to help fund either improved play equipment for the park or an "All abilities" playground recommended in the Recreation and Open Space Strategy (page 19).⁴
- o Educational Programs whereby residents of the youth detention centre could assist with maintenance of the park.
- o Inclusion of parks maintenance within the Work for the Dole Program.



⁴ Personal communication, John Duffy, August 10, 2006. The 'All Abilities Playground' is most likely to go to the botanic gardens

4.0 Situation Assessment

4.1 Natural environment

i. The Wiradjuri people

Little is known of the actual site of VMG and how the Wiradjuri people previously used it, but it is known that the adjacent Lagoon was managed traditionally, including the use of constructed barriers for fish breeding.

"I do not remember in just what year it was, but the chief of the tribe at Wagga Wagga in talking to my father, said that, white settlement increasing along the river, it was not only fished in by the settlers, but fished in season and out, so that the breeding stocks were diminishing as well as the grown fish which the blacks' laws allowed them to take sustenance. He said that to provide against the depletion of the Wollundry Lagoon would have to be closed, whether as a breeding place, as a reserve of supplies, or what I cannot recall. But it had to be closed at the river end⁵."

"... (the tree came down) in about 1874, it was used as a footbridge..... the reason the blacks felled this tree was so that the fish in the body of the Wollundry would not in flood time be swept over this end and then as the water subsided lie stranded on the surrounding flat just about where Peter Street now runs. I have seen the blacks on this flat, as flood waters fell, collecting the stranding fish to put them into the deep holes and the lagoon.⁶"

Wollundry is derived from the Wiradjuri language; *Walan* is associated with stone, strength, hardness and *dry* means place of; *Wollundry* means place of stone, with

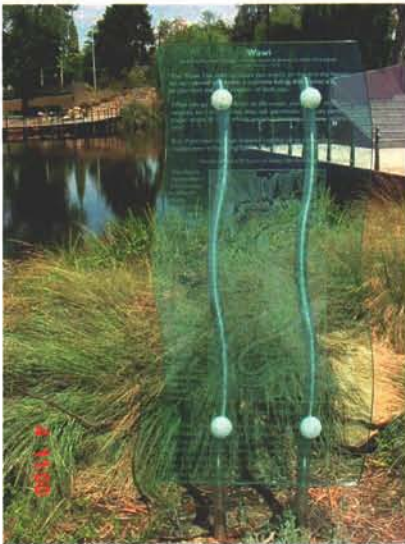
⁵ Gilmore, M. "Old Days, Old Ways: Fish Balks and Traps", p.200

⁶ Ibid., p. 204

reference to the point at the Wagga Rocks (on the Murrumbidgee River) where Wollundry Lagoon became an anabranch of the river. The meaning of the name is a wonderful reminder of the interconnectedness of the river and the floodplain.

The sand hill along the northern side of the lagoon was reportedly the site of meetings, corroborees and a fighting place. Records indicate meetings of up to 1000 Wiradjuri and their neighbours, as late as the 1840s. The area provided for dry camping and the lagoon and surrounds provided a reliable food supply.

The Lagoon is reputedly the home of the Wawi⁷, as is revealed in the glass panel around the lagoon around the Wollundry Gardens and amphitheatre.



The Wawi Panel Wollundry Gardens by Sue McPherson and Dawn Elrington

ii. The Lagoon, Geology and Soils

Wollundry Lagoon was originally a natural meander channel of the Murrumbidgee River. Progressive sideways migration of the river partially isolated this and many other sections

⁷ *Geological history Wollundry Lagoon* information panel northern side of the lagoon

of the channel forming lagoons and billabongs. These were then filled only by high water levels, floods and local runoff.

A low sandhill runs along the lagoons northern margin, which was believed to be formed 15 000 years ago when the river transported large amounts of sand and gravel. Today, the Lagoon no longer fills naturally from the river, it is replenished by water pumped from a bore in the park near the intersection of Forsythe Street and The Esplanade. Wollundry Lagoon serves three basic purposes: ⁸

- Detention pond for flood water from the Turvey Park catchment
- Storage basin for water used to irrigate central parkland and
- As a scenic lake in central Wagga Wagga

iii. Salinity and acid soils

The Gardens feature mainly exotic species, some of which require a considerable amount of irrigation. Over watering of gardens is known to be a factor contributing to salinity.

Soils along the lagoon edge have been tested and they are approximately 4.5pH⁹. In acid soils aluminium and manganese are mobilized and increase to toxic levels, reducing plant growth and contributing to soil erosion¹⁰. Grass will continue to struggle in this area.

iv. Flora and Fauna

A Flora and Fauna inventory were undertaken as part of the 1992 Short Report. It was for the entire Lagoon (not necessarily just the areas within the VMG) and has been included

⁸ *Urban Stormwater Management Plans, Volume 2, Turvey Park Catchment p.5*

⁹ Personal Communication, Graham Clarke, Maintenance Crew VMG.

¹⁰ Draft Natural Resource Management Plan, WWCC., p. 59

at Appendix B for reference. A full tree inventory is included as figure 8. The numbers of trees listed below are in reference to this map.

There are several mature Eucalyptus both planted (*Eucalyptus cladocalx*, tree nos. 26,2,28) and locally native (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, tree nos. and *Eucalyptus melliodora* tree no. 72) along the lagoon edge. Several of the *E. camaldulensis* (tree nos. 153, 154, 161 and 180) on the northern side feature large hollows (characteristic of a habitat tree) and one has a nest of bees (tree no. 161). There is a stand of Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) along the northern side of the lagoon.



Remnant Eucalyptus (#161) northern side of lagoon with hollows and bees nest

There is limited use of native or locally native plantings within the gardens, species are generally exotic. Native plantings within the Gardens include Lily Pily (*Syzygium sp.* Tree nos. 48, 78, 79, 81, 131, 134), Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii* Tree no. 45), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus* Tree nos. 13 & 120), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus* tree no.

53) Paperbark (*Melaleuca stypheloides* Tree nos. 6 & 119) Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta* Tree nos. 42, 43, 52, 73 and 74) and juvenile plantings of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and *E. camaldulensis* along the lagoon edge (Tree nos. 11, 14, 15, 16, 112, 113, 114, 122, 123, 124, 125, 147, 148, 149)

There are scattered clumps of *Juncus* (*Juncus* sp.) on the southern side of the lagoon adjacent to denuded areas, which are consistent with acidic soils. Plantings of native grasses taken from the Wollundry Gardens end of the Lagoon have been relocated to pockets along the Lagoon. Branches that fall from trees are retained with the Lagoon as snags and potential habitat.

The South West Slopes revegetation Guide (Stelling, Fleur 1998) gives the following vegetation profile of Rivers' edge landform, River Red Gum Forest:

Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)
Northern silver wattle (*A. leucoxyla*)
Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*)
River She Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
River bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)
Turkey Bush (*Eremophila deserti*)
Austral Cranesbill (*Geranium solanderi*)
Mat Rush (*Lomandra* sp.)
Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
Cumbungi (*Typha* sp.)
Fuzzweed (*Vittadinia cuneata*)
Blue Bell (*Wahlenbergia* sp.)

The Native vegetation and threatened species of the city of Wagga Wagga¹¹ list the River Red Gum forest community as vulnerable, with its threats coming from weed invasion, changes to river flows and clearing¹². As the Lagoon is a significant open space parcel within the CBD of Wagga Wagga, it is assumed that it has habitat value, providing refuge for birds, aboreal and aquatic species.

¹¹ Dept of environment and conservation 2005

¹² *Native vegetation and threatened species of the city of Wagga Wagga* p.,11

The Short Report (1992) found that native flora and fauna populations have declined as their habitat has deteriorated due to unsuitable stormwater quality.

It has been reported that bird life (and therefore it is assumed aquatic species) was once prolific along the Lagoon; Wild duck, swans and bird life abound and are always ready to be fed by children and visitors¹³.

There are no Threatened Species sightings listed within the vicinity of the VMG, although there are several with the potential to be found along the Lagoon. The Native vegetation and threatened species of the city of Wagga Wagga (Dept of environment and conservation 2005) includes the following species:

Brolga (*Grus rubicundis*), is known to have once lived along the Lagoon, (but only very rarely in Wagga in recent times) and, as a species are dependent on wetlands/ shallow swamps. The retention of wetlands and density of vegetation is important for this species. Blue Billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*) and Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*), both species are recorded occasionally in Wagga, with the later being positively identified at the Lagoon in 2002. ¹⁴ The retention of wetlands and density of vegetation is important for this species.

Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), is commonly observed in Wagga, and the retention of hollow bearing trees is considered important for their survival.

v. Weeds

There are many weeds along the lagoon, including suckers from plants that originated in the gardens, with particular reference to Palms (*Phoenix canneriensis*), Willows (*Salix sp.*),

¹³ The Reveille, December issue, 1937

¹⁴ Personal communication, David Read WWCC

Privett (*Ligustrum sp.*), White Cedar (*Melia azaderach*), Vinca (*Vinca sp.*), Sacred bamboo (*Nandina domestica*).

Water lilies along the Lagoon are viewed by many as weeds and by others as picturesque element of the Gardens.



Water lilies on Wollundry Lagoon

4.2 Designed Environment

i. Police Barracks

The Lagoon was the 'natural' division between the early white settlement of 1847 and the late 1850's and the southern development of the town known as 'Newtown'¹⁵.

The various portions of land that make up the Gardens were acquired over time by Council, sometimes by less conventional means. For example, the Council swapped other land it owned with the owners of the Lagoon foreshore, the Hardy Brothers¹⁶.

¹⁵Bannister, R. 1998, *Managing Wollundry Lagoon and its precinct; A report to the Wagga Wagga City Council*.

The site of the VMG was originally the Police Barracks and Police Horse Paddock. The Government disposed of the site to the Wagga Wagga Council for £1000 and from the sale of materials from the old buildings the council realized about £400, leaving the outstanding cost to council of £600¹⁷.

After the First World War there was much discussion as to what form an appropriate War Memorial would take¹⁸. Possible memorials considered at this time included:¹⁹

Memorial (similar to Manly) and an Honor Roll

Memorial Building combined with Town Hall

Public Building

Bacon Factory- Industrial Memorial

Hospital Wing (Children's Wing)

Honour Roll at Town Hall

Story on the Town Hall

Technical College (this was lost)

Interestingly, Memorial Gardens were not considered at this time.

In 1922 the cenotaph was erected, which was paid for by public subscription²⁰. The names of the men that died in the First World War are carved in stone panels on the eastern and western side of the cenotaph. In 1952, bronze tablets were included on the northern and southern sides of the cenotaph of those that lost their lives during the Second World War.

¹⁶ *Daily Advertiser*, October 6, 1922

¹⁷ *Daily Advertiser*, April 27, 1931. Sixteenth anniversary of daring Dardenelles Achievement Victory Memorial gardens dedication

¹⁸ Permanent memorials not considered appropriate – too expensive with no tangible benefit to the war relief. *Daily Advertiser*, July 20, 1918,

¹⁹ 'Proposals for the memorial' *Daily Advertiser*, March 7, 1919

²⁰ Personal communication, Harold Fife



Cenotaph

ii. A memorial for Wagga Wagga

It was not until 1924, that it was finally decided that a Memorial Garden would be the most appropriate memorial.

"This meeting deplores the fact that no memorial has yet been provided for the soldiers of Wagga Wagga and district despite the fact that approximately 2000 pounds has been contributed by the public for that specific purpose"...

It was further decided that the memorial should take the form of gardens to be made beside Wollundry Lagoon between the Baylis and Trail streets bridges on the South Wagga side".²¹

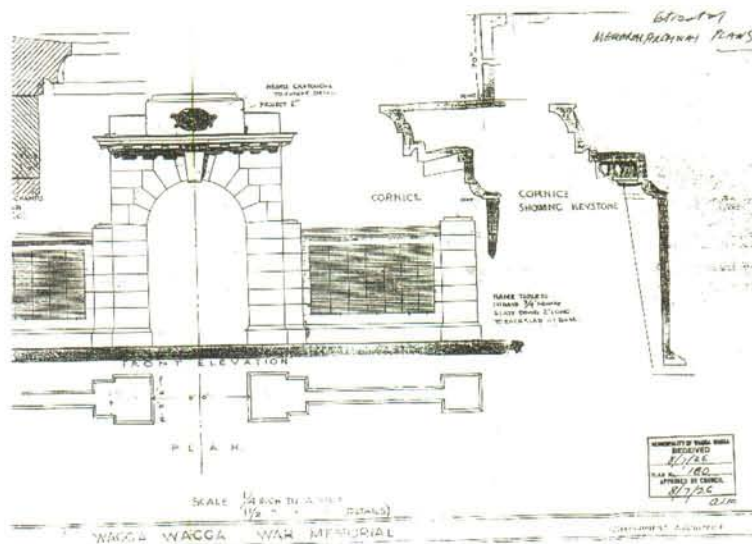
iii. The Memorial archway

The memorial archway was erected in 1926. It bears the names of the men and women of Wagga Wagga and District that served during the First World War.

At the time of its' erection there was an argument that the archway should stand on the corner of Baylis and Morrow Streets and frame the cenotaph. Mr. D.T. Byrnes, a member

²¹ "Public Meeting demands gardens, immediate action asked, Memorial Executive criticised". *Daily Advertiser*, April 29, 1924

of the War Memorial Committee, undertook legal proceedings in 1926. It appears that it was settled out of court however, as the archway remains in its original position to this day²².



Original drawings of the Memorial arch

iv. A Design Competition

The competition was advertised in November 1927 in the local, Sydney and Melbourne newspapers. The brief for the design included the following criteria:

4) Features

The intentions are mainly to have Memorial Gardens suitable for Meeting Places and recreation and also (but not to any great extent) shrubberies, flowerbeds etc. Allow in the design for part of the area being subject to flooding. The entire Police buildings area is to be included in the design.

7) Water supply etc. Provision to be made in the designs for water supply, fencing, gates, paths and lighting.

²² Ellis, W. 1960, *Report to Council regarding the Victory Memorial Gardens*

- 10) Competitors to be required to design a speaking platform
- 15) Retaining walls- nothing to be specified
- 16) Public conveniences - nothing to be specified,²³

Twenty-two entries were received, with the successful entry being awarded prize money of £100. Mr. Thomas Kerr²⁴ of the Sydney Botanical Gardens submitted the successful entrant under the nom de plume of Phoenix. Kerr had already been to Wagga Wagga in 1925 to give advice to the Memorial Gardens Committee and to inspect and report on the site.²⁵ The features of the plan were discussed in length in the Daily Advertiser March 3 1928:

Design selected an Artistic Plan

"A large grassed assembly ground as the centre of the park, from which wide gravel paths will run. A drive from the existing memorial arch will form the main thoroughfare skirting the rotunda and the northern boundary of the central area and finally leading out to Morrow Street. ... It is proposed to construct the main drive with stone ballast and pave the surface with fine white gravel. The walk will be bordered with shade trees and edged in brick with lawns stretching either side. To the north east of the oval assembly ground there will be a circular rose garden... To the southwest near Morrow Street, a circular recreation area for children will be constructed containing swings and sandpits. A number of smaller paths will separate the larger areas of lawn and the lagoon banks will be graded and a number of crazy work footpaths under willow and other flood resistant trees. Each section of the lawn will be banked by flower beds and shrubberies. It is proposed to turf special areas such as the assembly ground but all other lawns will be planted by couch grass.

²³ Victory Memorial Gardens Executive Letter

²⁴Mr. Kerr was recognized as the greatest authority on trees in the Southern Hemisphere. (Reply by the designer) January 10 1929 Page 5. dated 3 November 1927

²⁵ "Design selected: An Artistic Plan" ,Daily Advertiser, March 3, 1928

The memorial monument on the eastern side will be enclosed in a rosemary shrubbery, and close to it will be a long rustic pergola over which it is proposed to train rambler roses. It was recommended to maintain a simple design in the erection of the band rotunda and carry out the work in stone or brick. A roof of oak shingles will be supported by eight columns erected on an octagonal flooring.

All park boundaries will be defined by a railing fence and curved flower beds, in which it was recommended to grow chiefly perennials. Flowering annuals could be planted on the outer borders, facing both street and inside lawn. It was also recommended that The memorial monument on the eastern side will be enclosed in a rosemary shrubbery, and close to it will be a long rustic pergola over which it is proposed to train rambler roses. It was recommended to maintain a simple design in the erection of the band rotunda and carry out the work in stone or brick. A roof of oak shingles will be supported by eight columns erected on an octagonal flooring existing trees be preserved as far as possible and that a number of palms be included in the list for planting. A number of hardy golden poplars of a variety not generally grown in Australia will be planted together with planes, firs and gums. Cypress, willow and eucalypts were recommended for patches likely to be affected by flood waters."

The commencement of the laying out of the gardens began in April 1928, utilising funds collected by the Victory Memorial Committee, despite the Police building still being on site.²⁶

²⁶ "Block of land where the police building stood, be completed as soon as possible- an unsightly spot". *Daily Advertiser*, December 19, 1928

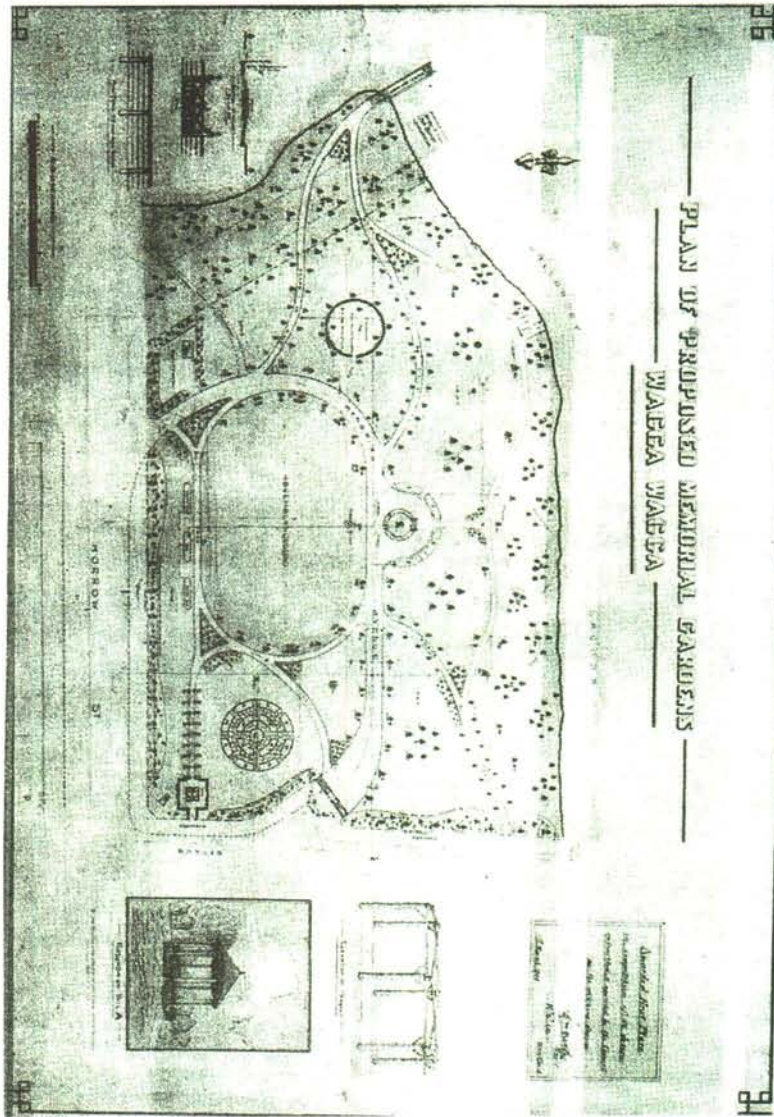


Figure 5: Kerr's Plan

v. Dedication of the Gardens

The official dedication of the VMG was reported on in the Daily Advertiser on April 27 1931. The Mayor's speech at the opening said that the 'gardens belonged to the people and to the children, as well as to the men and women'...

Victory Memorial Gardens Draft Plan of Management

' I name the gardens the Victory Memorial Gardens and dedicate them to the perpetual memory of those who left this town and district at the call of the Empire to take part in the great World War and I undertake that they will be guarded and cherished for the sacred objects for which they are founded'



THE ROSE SERIES P. 7420
COPYRIGHT

MEMORIAL & MEMORIAL GARDENS, WAGGA, N.S.W.

vi Condensed Time Line of Additions

1931 Flagpole located on assembly lawn

1938 Sunken garden

1962 Ivan Jack Drive constructed removing this part of the gardens, including the footbridge.

Stumps of this remain on the western side of the Drive.

1978 Water course and Jolly Swagman

1984 Earth dais mound constructed

1970s & 1980s - Gardens along Baylis Street were upgraded

1986 Peace garden

Senses garden (Unknown)

1965, 1984, 1990, 1994, 1995, 2005

Memorials installed

1991 Memorial walls and eternal flame area

2006 Installation of Chisholm fountain

2006 Installation of automatic irrigation system



Sunken garden



IE. ROSE. SERIES P. 8507

SUNKEN GARDEN MEMORIAL
TO THE PIONEERS OF THE DISTRICT. WAGGA. N.S.W.

5.0 Objectives of Management

i. Crown Land Management Objectives (Crown Lands Act 1989)

The study site is Crown Reserve and as such the principles of management as noted in the *Crown Lands Act, 1989* must be considered. The Act is the enabling legislation to authorise this plan of management. The vision for the Crown Land reserve System is to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of NSW Crown Reserves providing a wide range of opportunities for the recreational social and economic well being of our community.

The principles of Crown land management are: (*Crown Lands Act, 1989 s.11*)

- that the environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,
- that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,
- that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,
- that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

ii. Victory Memorial Management Objectives

It is the intention of this plan of management to:

- i. **Recognise** the VMG as a culturally significant park in Wagga Wagga^{27,28}
- ii. **Retain** and respect the sites' identity
- iii. **Focus** on the management issues affecting the VMG and recommend achievable strategies including possible funding sources.
- iv. **Acknowledge** the role that the Wollundry Lagoon plays as the setting of the VMG and
- v. **Support** a future plan of management and masterplan that addresses the entire lagoon and adjacent land and that a single organisation eg. Friends of Wollundry Lagoon, with the inclusion of Council, be vested with the responsibility of co ordinating the implementation of this plan of management. ²⁹
- vi. **Recognise** legitimate uses of the gardens from the reflective use of the site for memorial purpose to recreational pursuits with an emphasis on passive recreation and ensure that the Gardens are safe and accessible for all people.
- vii. **Support** the reinstatement of the Anzac Avenue to ensure it is well established prior to the centenary of Gallipoli (2015).
- viii. **Resurrect** Kerr's' vision for the VMG and re/instate elements from the original plan which have either been removed or were never fully realized

²⁷ Kerr, J.S. 2004, A Conservation Plan, p.39. A Cultural landscape is defined as one that is a landscape designed, improved or at least affected by human activity.

²⁸ Oxford op. cit., p.82 Aesthetic value (one of the components of cultural significance) Includes aspects of sensory perception such as form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric

²⁹ *The Civic Trust report; Managing Wollundry Lagoon and its precinct* refers to the existence of a Friends of the Lagoon group. David Read of WWCC advised that the group is still active.

6.0 Statement of significance

The VMG is a valuable open space area within an otherwise urban setting. It exists on the banks of the Wollundry Lagoon, which in itself provides refuge for not only the residents of Wagga Wagga but also plant and animal life. It is a cultural and aesthetic landscape that is affectionately regarded by the residents of Wagga Wagga,³⁰ providing a place for reflection and passive recreation within the heart of our busy city. The Gardens contain many memorials and mature trees, which are intrinsic to the site and linked to its development and history. It is an example of an Interwar garden (c. 1928) with the framework and many of the original plantings still on site.

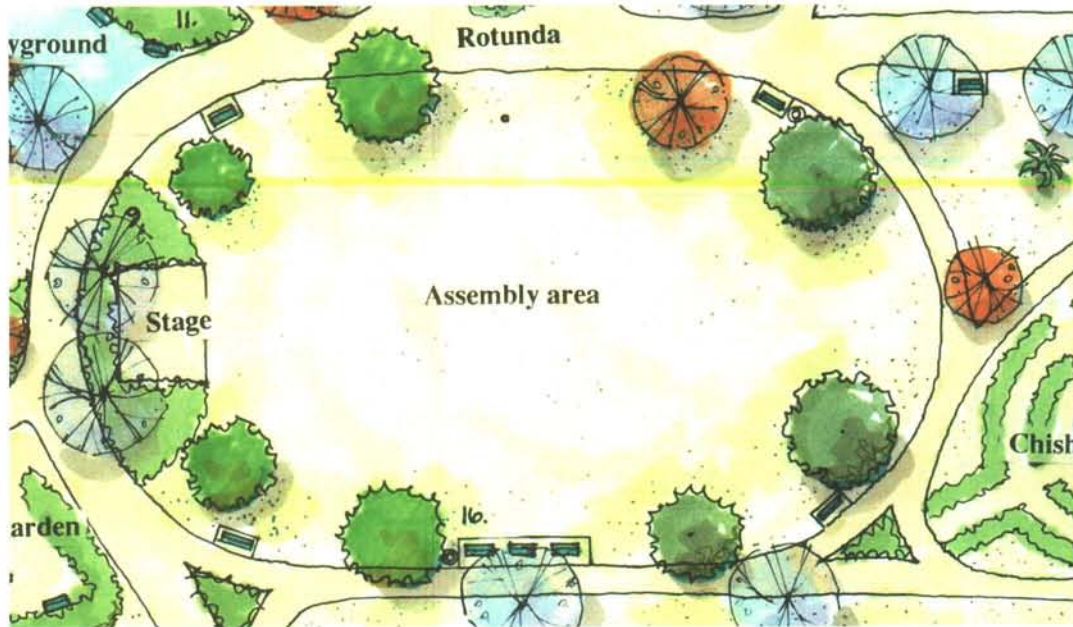


Garden views

³⁰ 'Humans have a strong capacity for affectionate attachment to place. Usually local, sometimes wry, but very real, it is one of the intangible factors that helps make a place significant.' A conservation plan, James Semple Kerr 2004 p 30. Or as put in article 2.5 Australian ICOMOS, Guidelines to the Burra Charter: a focus for cultural sentiment

7.0 Policies and Framework for Management

Refer to Figure 6 for location of areas discussed.



7.1 The Design of the VMG, Layout and paths

Social, physical and technological change influenced the design and use of many parks created during the 1900s³¹. The classification of the gardens as a particular style is best described as a mixture of both picturesque (the lagoon side) and gardenesque for the remaining layout. Picturesque is referred to as style that is not distinguishable by nature, which grew from the interest in landscape as scenery as in a painting³². The staggered native trees along this side, which are shown in Kerr's plan as drifts and groupings rather than individual trees could be described as a picturesque style. The irregular shaped planting beds are also referred to as elements of the picturesque style³³.

³¹ Aitken & Looker, M. op.cit. p.491

³² Ibid., p.10

³³ Ibid., p.82

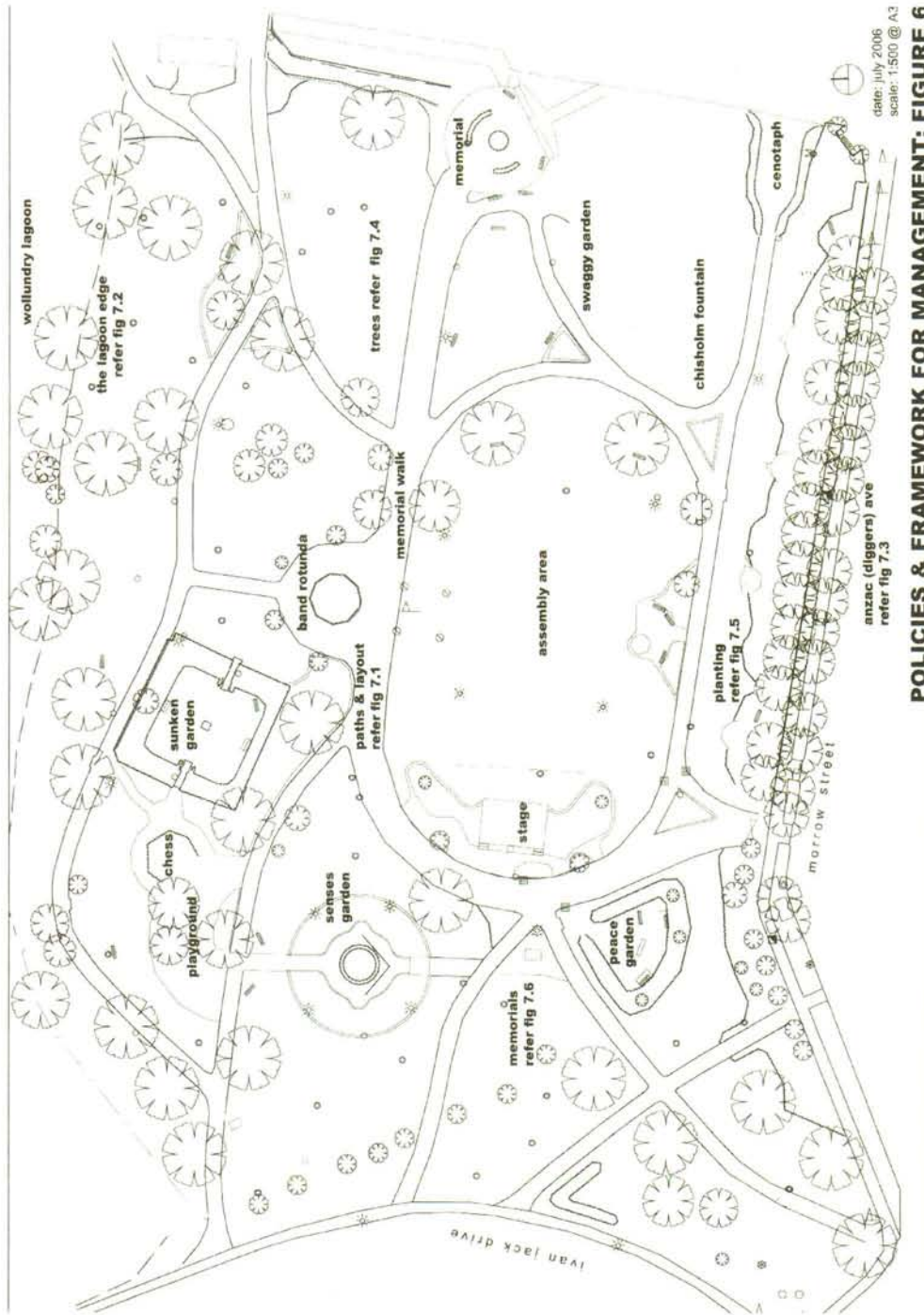


Figure 6 Policies and framework for management

Gardenesque was the style that allowed for single plants to grow so that they were not touched by another, each plant able to display its character to its' optimum. This is the style adopted for planting at the VMG and another example would be the Sydney Botanic Gardens, where Kerr was a landscape gardener.

However there was some disagreement shortly after the laying out of the gardens between the designer and the curator of the VMG regarding the spacing between the trees. The curator of the time, D.N. Campbell was quoted as saying, '...50% of the plantings are too close and the site will never be a success until altered", about the double row of Poplars running from the Lagoon to Morrow Street, which are planted at about 12 feet apart³⁴. It would appear that the designer might have had his way, as the remaining Poplars mentioned are 14 feet apart.

In an article appearing in the Daily Advertiser on December 29, 1928, the designer is quoted as saying '... there will be no notices to stay off the grass. The public will be invited to come in under the cool shade of trees...³⁵' which would suggest that informal use of the grassed areas was intended. It was not intended to be a Garden like that of earlier Victorian styles that were used for promenading.

The paths depicted in the plan by Kerr, create the framework for the Gardens and these are similar to those that survive today. There appears to have been the intention that hierarchy ³⁶ is given to the 'Memorial walk' as it is a wider sweeping path that loops through the Memorial Archway, out onto Morrow Street and back to Baylis Street.

³⁴ Daily Advertiser, December 29, 1928.

³⁵ Hands Off! An Extraordinary Report...

³⁶ Ibid., "the main path through the garden is a wide and sweeping track to which no exception can be taken"

It would appear that the Morrow Street footpath (Anzac/ Diggers Avenue) as noted above, was intended as part of the Gardens, not as part of the streetscape.

The width of the paths was ³⁷another point of contention between the designer and the curator of the VMG. It would appear that the original width of 6 feet (1.8m) has been retained to the current day

The original material of the paths was believed to have been stone ballast for the main drive and white gravel for all other paths with a brick edge³⁸. Today, the paths are decomposed granite with either a brick or a concrete edge. In some areas the camber of the paths is reversed, causing drainage problems in wet times.

Cast iron grates that once would have lined the paths have been removed (believed to have been thrown in the Lagoon)³⁹.

The northern most path (running east west with the Lagoon) was historically included here as the line to where the Lagoon would frequently flood. This path could be closer to the Lagoon to encourage greater interaction with the Lagoon. This path also forms part of the Wiradjuri walking trail, which follows the lagoon.

Desired outcomes

- To retain wherever possible the general themes of the dominant landscape styles of the original design.
- Refer to the original plan prior to any future developments within the VMG
- To retain the hierarchy of paths as proposed by Kerr

³⁷ Ibid., Campbell stated the footpaths were too narrow and Kerr retaliated by stating more substantial paths would be of little use.

³⁸ Daily Advertiser, May 22, 1928

³⁹ Graeme Clarke, op. cit.

- To fix drainage issues along paths

Actions

- Re route the path on the VMG side closer to the lagoon, so that the Wiradjuri Walking Trail is a more direct route and to encourage a walk around the edge of the lagoon with the hope of providing greater interaction with the waters' edge.
- Program for the refurbishment of those paths that have drainage problems.
- Program for the reinstatement of brick edged paths throughout the Gardens.
- Reinststate fixed cast iron grates to the paths.

Performance measures

- A pleasing lack of formality is apparent along the Lagoon and all future trees across the Gardens are given enough space to mature.

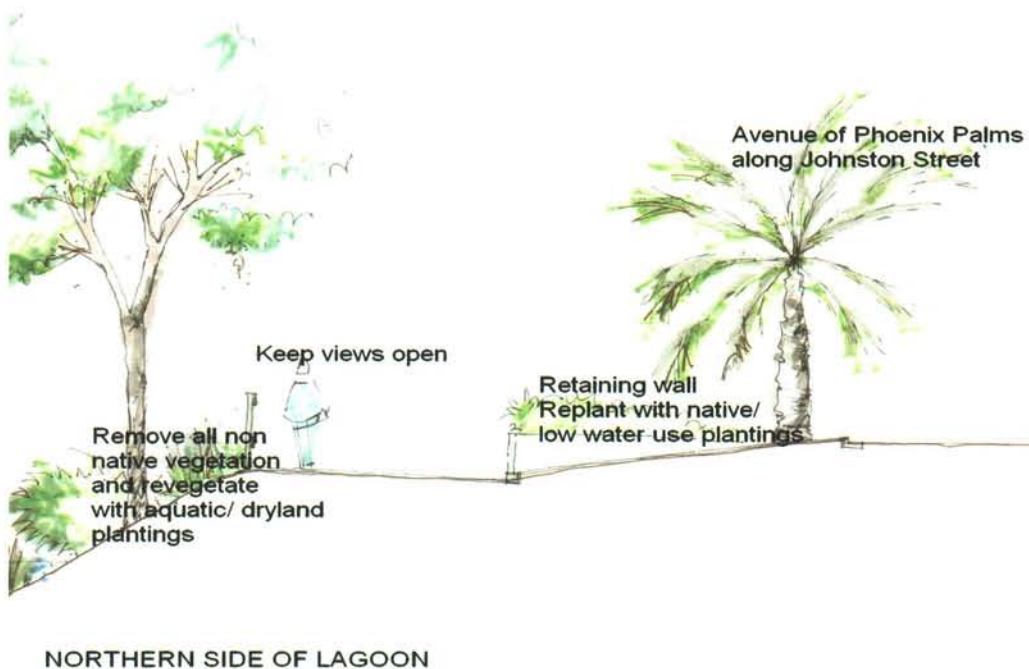


7.2 The Lagoon Edge (both sides)

This plan of management does not include direct recommendations for the Lagoon itself, other than as it relates to those areas directly adjacent with the potential to influence the lagoon.

The original plan by Kerr refers to the Lagoon as 'Wollundry Lake', which reveals a scenic, even romantic notion of the Lagoon as the setting to the VMG. Consultation clearly defined that the setting of the VMG on Lagoon was intrinsic to its character.

The Lagoon is the backdrop to the site. Interaction with the Lagoon is confined to duck feeding along the best part of the edge, whilst a section in the west of the Gardens is fenced off. Little interaction, other than visually, is possible from the opposite side of the Lagoon as the majority of the western end is raised up higher than the Lagoon.



The Civic Trust put together a report in 1998 that included consultation and the collection of anecdotes of the Lagoon (not necessarily just the area within the VMG). These have been included in Appendix A and it would seem that there was once a much greater interaction with the Lagoon.

The area along the edge of the Lagoon is denuded of vegetation because the ducks in the area have acidified the soil to a level of 4.5 pH⁴⁰. It is impossible for lawn to grow in this area and alternatives will need to be considered.

The opposite side of the Lagoon features a path from the Ivan Jack Bridge back to under to the Fitzmaurice Street Bridge, where the path connects back up to street level.

Vegetation on the Victory Memorial side includes both locally native and introduced (refer Figure 8) whilst the opposite side features mainly introduced species and two significant remnant trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* nos. 153 & 161 at Figure 9) featuring hollows (one has a bee colony).

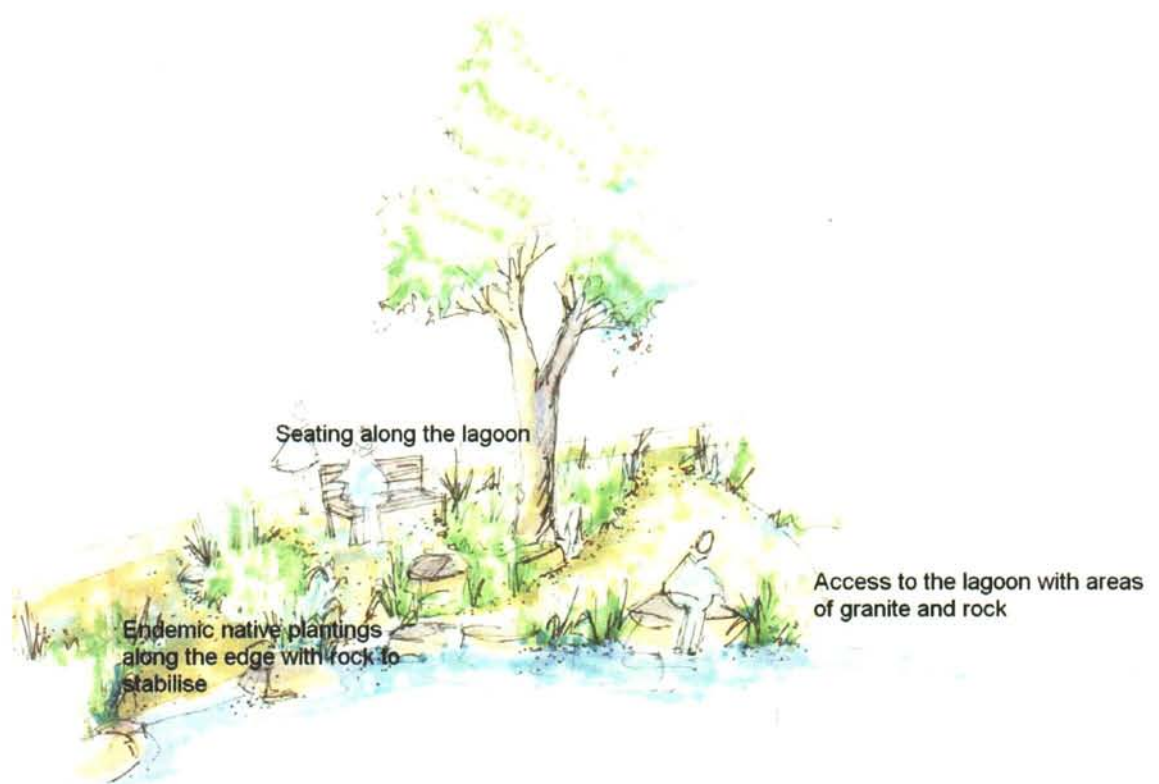
Some people like the waterlilies, others think they are weeds and should be removed. Rubbish and debris end up in the Lagoon, as well as other objects such as shopping trolleys.



⁴⁰ Graeme Clarke., op. cit.

Desired outcomes

- To revegetate the lagoons' edge (both sides), including a greater variety of locally endemic vegetation, including species that are able to withstand the acidic nature of the soil.
 - To retain and create greater opportunities for interaction with the lagoon.
 - To support the future masterplan and plan of management for the entire lagoon.
- Include in the team a mixture of professionals, including historians, hydraulic engineers, landscape architects, architects, planners and social planners to ensure that the masterplan and plan of management includes all facets of management to do with the lagoon. Ensure community consultation and include the community in the preparation of the document and masterplan.



Actions

- Retain native and locally native trees along the edge of the lagoon and systematically remove all non-native trees and vegetation along the banks of the Lagoon, except for the retention of the two *Phoenix canneriensis* palms that have deliberately been retained as part of the 2WG building development and the mature Plane Tree and Cottonwood which would appear to be stabilising the banks of the Lagoon (Refer Figure 8 Tree Survey as tree nos. 169 and 176)
- Propose only native plantings along the edge of the lagoon, including understorey plantings that will trap sediment prior to entering the lagoon. Use 'Flawra edge 'or similar plants to try and keep ducks from removing plants while they are establishing (refer Figure 13 Masterplan for preferred species).
- Install areas of rock to create pockets for planting and the use of materials such as jute mesh along the lagoon.
- Install areas of decomposed granite (natural looking materials), sections of decking and seating along the edge of the lagoon to encourage greater interaction with the lagoon.
- Extend the use of sculpture and artworks into this area (like those from the Wollundry Gardens).
- Keep waterlilies in check by removing strips of plants at a perpendicular line to the gardens, to retain the view (that many people admire) from the Fitzmaurice/ Baylis Street Bridge.

Performance measures

- Greater variety of native plants and wildlife along the lagoons edge.
- Greater opportunity for people to interact with the lagoon.



7.3 Anzac (Diggers) Avenue

Anzac (Diggers) Avenue is an Avenue of Honour that runs from the corner of Baylis and Morrow Streets, down to Beckwith Street Bridge. It is typical of those popular after WWI, ⁴¹ and was planted in 1932 (trees were 6 feet high at that time) with 350 Poplars for a distance of 40 chains, and each one planted by a Digger⁴².

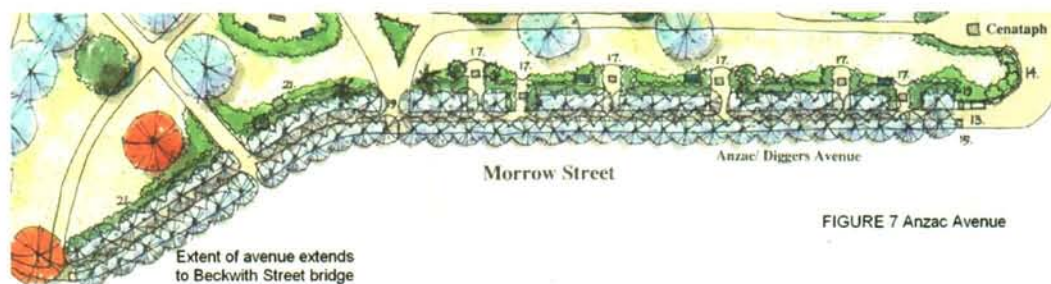


FIGURE 7 Anzac Avenue

Figure 7 Anzac Avenue

The choice of the Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) is consistent with the period of planting. Memorial Trees were often a direct reference to a place where soldiers had fought, and Poplars were representative of France, as they grew in abundance on the World War I battlefields of Europe ⁴³. It is believed that the Lombardy Poplars used along the avenue are clones of the European poplar.⁴⁴

The people of Wagga gave a donation of 6 Lombardy Poplars (only 2 of them were planted) to the people of Sydney in 1938, to be planted at the cenotaph at Martin Place, Sydney. The Daily Advertiser⁴⁵ surmised that these Poplars were the same as those used along Anzac Avenue.

⁴¹ Oxford, op. cit., p.151

⁴² "Avenue of remembrance", Daily Advertiser, December 21, 1937

⁴³ Oxford, op. cit., p.151

⁴⁴ Correspondence from the council of the city of Wagga Wagga 2 February 1999, From Mr Brian Andrews (General Manager) to Mr Gregory Maddock (General Manager Sydney City Council).

⁴⁵ Wed July 27 1938, p. 6

It would appear that the original plan by Kerr did not intend an Avenue of Honour along Morrow Street, but it does appear that the Morrow Street footpath was intended as part of the Gardens.

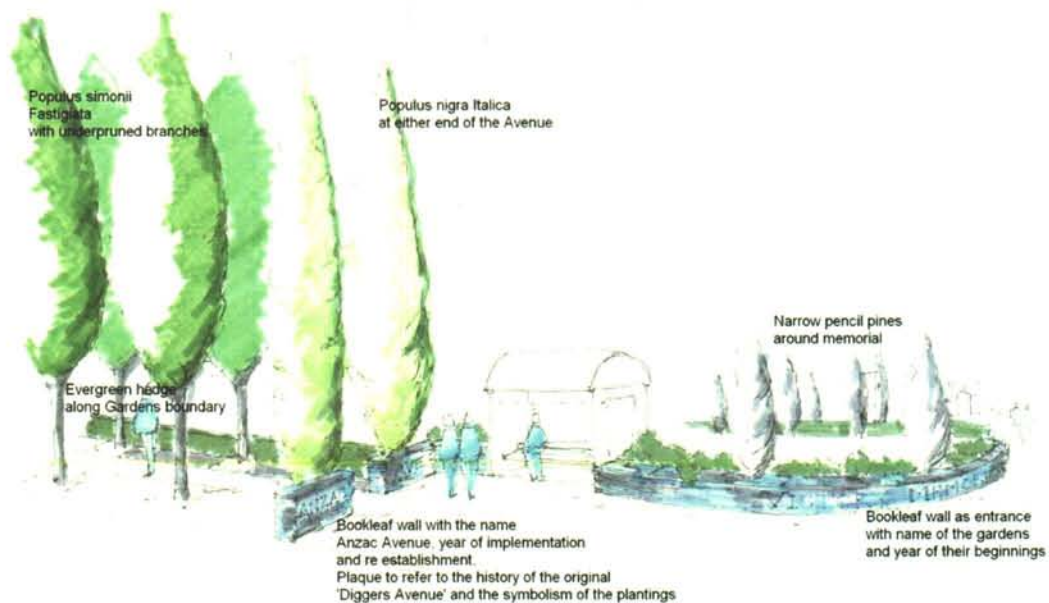


Post card of the original Anzac Avenue (date unknown)

In April 1935, Mr. Morrow of the RSL sub branch noted that the avenue of the poplar trees from the cenotaph monument to Beckwith Street Bridge, had been named Diggers Avenue by Municipal Council⁴⁶. It is not clear if that decision was later changed, but it would appear that the avenue was named Anzac Avenue instead as per the name set in the footpath.

A report on the health of the trees in the gardens by Arborist Mr. Wade Ryan (Refer Appendix C) notes that at least a dozen of the Poplars should be removed as they are decaying. The Poplars have also caused damage to many of the memorials along this side of the Gardens.

⁴⁶ Daily Advertiser, April 26, 1935



Desired outcomes

- A fitting avenue is in place prior to the Centenary of Gallipoli.
- Memorials along this interface are incorporated into the scheme.
- Lighting is incorporated into the scheme to provide safe access at night and to create a mood of lighting along the Avenue.

Actions

- Engage discussions with RSL regarding the removal of the line of Poplars from Baylis Street to Beckwith Street.
- Call for public help regarding the 350 diggers that the Poplars represent, to see if anyone has additional information⁴⁷.
- Register interest with TREENET to access potential funding for the project and cost the project accurately for programming within a budget.
- Take cuttings from the Poplars and propagate 4 trees (2 at either end of the Avenue) to retain the history attached to the trees.

⁴⁷ Fife, op. cit., Mr. Fife is not aware of a list that names the Diggers

- Remove the Poplars in two stages (those within the study site and the remaining line) and replace with a double line of Simon Poplars (*Populus simonii Fastigiata*).
- Plant trees of a similar size for the entire avenue so that they mature at a similar rate.
- Investigate the uplighting of the trees and lighting along Anzac Avenue to create a mood along the strip and also to give safe access (which complies with AS 1158) along the perimeter of the Gardens. (Refer lighting section)
- Incorporate the use of low maintenance ground covers and or hard surface materials around the trees, to lessen maintenance and create a symbolic planting scheme to the avenue.

Performance Measures

- RSL and families connected with the Anzac/ Diggers Avenue satisfied with level of consultation regarding the reinstatement of the Avenue.
- A fitting Avenue in place well before the Centenary of Gallipoli.
- Greater interaction between the VMG and Morrow Street, by reinforcing the inclusion of Anzac Avenue as part of the Gardens, rather than a separate element.



Segment of original avenue, corner of Morrow Street and the Esplanade

7.4 Trees

Included at Figure 8 is a plan of the existing trees of the VMG. The numbers refer to those given by Mr. Wade Ryan in his report on the health of the trees, which is included in Appendix C. An additional list of trees (including those on the northern side of the Lagoon) has been included at Appendix C. Refer to Figures 8 and 9 for location of trees. Trees with a dark outline indicate those that are recommended for removal. Hatched trees represent evergreen trees, whilst the dotted trees represent deciduous trees. In consultation, many people expressed that it is the trees that they associate most with the VMG.

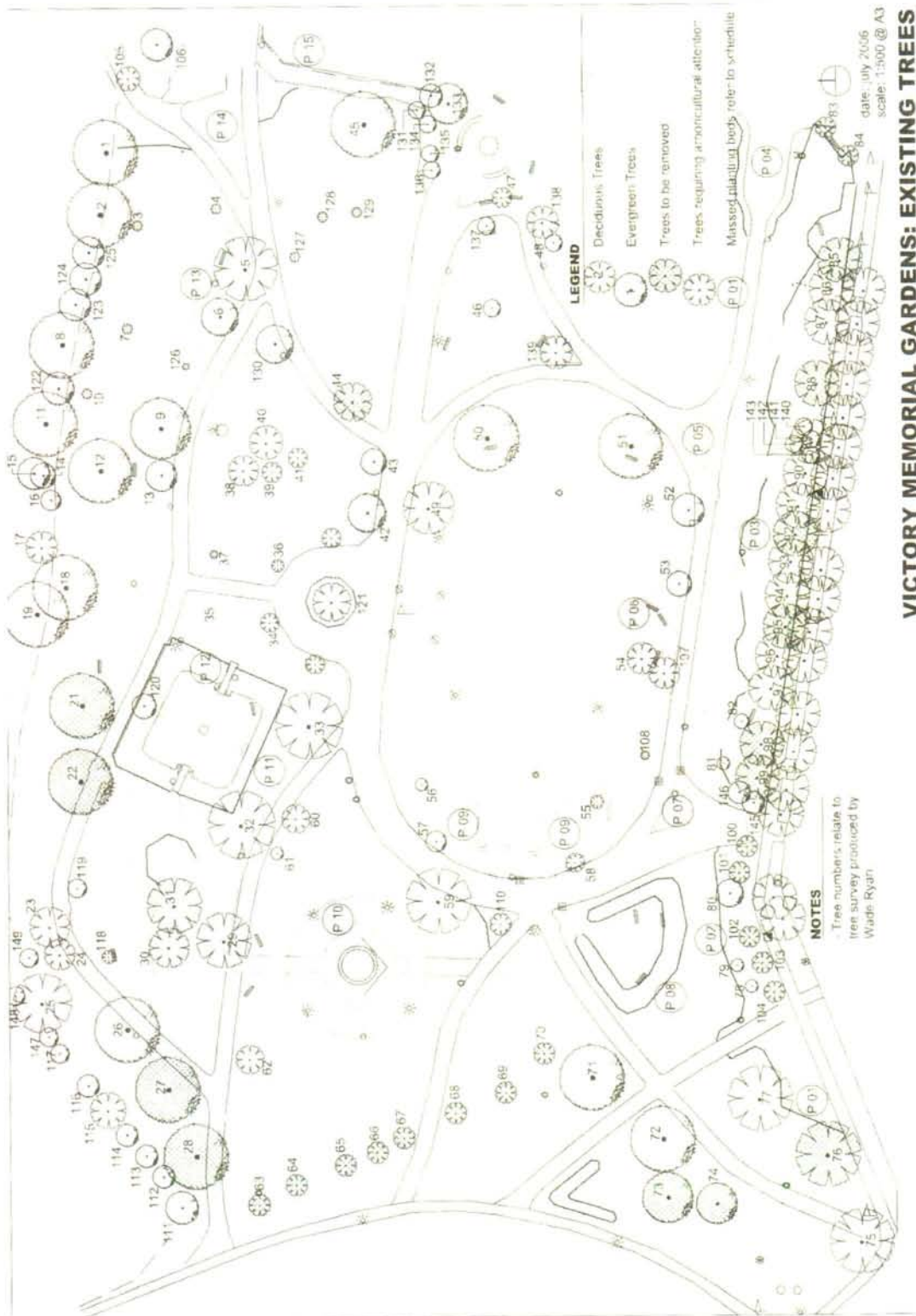
It would appear that there was some planting undertaken in the Gardens prior to their establishment in 1928⁴⁸. The Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx* noted as numbers 12, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28) may well have been pre VMG. It is imagined that there would have been endemic stands of vegetation along the Lagoon itself, including trees no. 72 (*E. melliodora*) and remnant trees on the northern side of the lagoon, *E. camaldulensis* (tree nos. 153 and 161)

The key for Kerr's' plan is unknown, but an article appearing in the Daily Advertiser on July 13, 1928 lists the plants that were to be included in the VMG:

Palms (*Phoenix canneriensis* and the *Washingtonia robusta*,⁴⁹ still on site as numbers 46, 80 & 146) (Phoenix- unknown but assumed that the nom de plum used by Kerr was in reference to a Phoenix palm)

⁴⁸ 'Pine trees and Peppers grubbed out near lagoon', *Daily Advertiser*, April 6, 1928.

⁴⁹ Popular plantings after WWII The National Trust of Australia (NSW) Parks and Gardens Conservation Committee, 2003. *Interwar gardens a guide to the history, conservation and management of gardens 1915-1940*.



VICTORY MEMORIAL GARDENS: EXISTING TREES

Figure 8 Existing trees

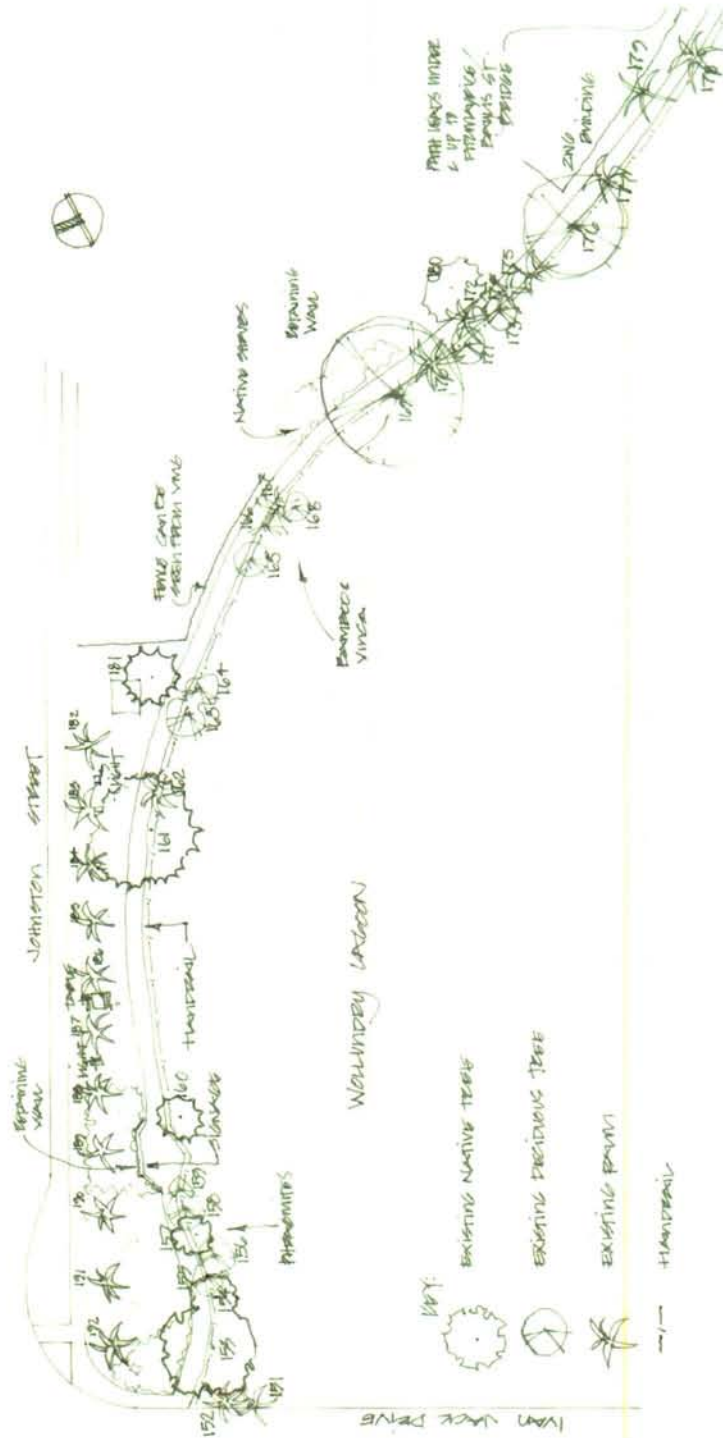


Figure 9 Tree inventory and elements northern side of lagoon

Ash (*Fraxinus exelsor*, still on site as numbers 44 & 105)⁵⁰

Silky and other Oaks (*Grevillea robusta*, still on site as numbers 52 & 53)⁵¹

Poplar *Populus deltoidea* (Actual species unknown)

Willows (*Salix* sp.) An article in the Daily Advertiser⁵² refers to the designers intention that the Willows should be grouped, as they were not intended to grow into specimens. The article refers to the Willows as *Salix sacramento*.

An article in Daily Advertiser, October 10, 1938 refers to the Willow trees being grown from cuttings from Livingstone Gully. Captain McCarthur of Camden Park presented several Willow Trees to the present owners grandfather.



Remnant Eucalyptus northern side of the Lagoon (tree no. 153)

Gums References in the Daily Advertiser to Gums in the Gardens include:

'... Flowering Gums white, pink and deep crimson are making a beautiful show...'

January 7 1932

⁵⁰ A later article in 1933 (Daily Advertiser June 2) refers to trees being thinned out including Ash on the lagoon side.

⁵¹ NTA (NSW), op. cit., p.21. Generally planted with Jacarandas for the contrast between the two.

⁵² Reply by the designer, January 10, 1929, Daily Advertiser

'...trees being thinned out, including the avenue of Blue Gums adjoining the Fountain and Poplars to the west garden and young gums on the lagoon side...' June 2 1933

'...the row of Blue Gums, in the background of the north side of fountain to be removed and replaced with Golden Cypress...May 6, 1937 and

Planes (*Platanus hybrida*) A massive specimen (No 176) exists on the opposite side of the Lagoon

Maples (*Acer sp.*) Original plantings do not exist, but more recent juvenile plantings include the use of *Acer rubrum*.

Deodar (*Cedrus deodar/ atlantica*). On site as numbers 50 and 51 and 106.⁵³

Juniper (*Juniperus sp.*) The hedge around the Chess set area

Honey Locust (*Gleditsia sp.*) Original plantings do not exist, but more recent plantings have been included.

Other plantings and no longer on site include; Mock Orange, Pines, Pecan Nut, Nettle tree of France, Flowering Plum, The flowering thorn, Red Flowering Peach, Japonicas and Cootamundra Wattle.⁵⁴

Mr Kerr is quoted as stating in a later article⁵⁵ that '... some of the trees could not be bought for money, but were obtained free as a favor to the Victory Memorial Gardens Committee...'

The plantings are typical of a Memorial Garden, as they often featured certain species from battlefields where Australia fought; Pines from Gallipoli and Poplars from France. Plants were often chosen to symbolize life and death; Cypress, Pine and Oak.⁵⁶

⁵³ Often planted as a lawn specimen within larger gardens of the Interwar period op. cit. Interwar gardens, p.21

⁵⁴ Daily Advertiser September 17, 1938

⁵⁵ op.cit., 'Reply by the Designer'

Other plantings, believed to have been planted at this time, include Brushbox

(*Lophostemon confertus* still on site as tree no.s 13 and 120).⁵⁷

Paperbark (*Melaleuca* sp., still on site as tree No. 6) ⁵⁸and the Cootamundra Wattle

(*Acacia baileyana*) The Cootamundra Wattle was very popular after WW1⁵⁹, it is a short-lived plant, which would be why it is not present today.



The Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*, tree no. 45) is also imagined to be an original planting as is the Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* Tree No. 77) and Coral Tree (*Erythrina cristagalli* Tree no. 139).

The weeping tree (tree no 49.) is a favourite with children and one of the Deodara is annually used as the Christmas tree

The Araucaria & Phoenix palms along Baylis Street in backdrop

Other references to trees in the VMG in the Daily Advertiser include; the unusual planting of a Queensland Firewheel (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) by Lady Gowrie in 1943 that was planted near the sunken garden. A further reference to the tree in 1947 mentions that it had been vandalized and would not survive; it does not seem to have been replaced. There is reference in the Reveille (December 21, 1937) that all trees and shrubs were botanically named, although no other reference of this has been found.

⁵⁶ Op.cit.,Oxford p.51

⁵⁷ Op.cit., Interwar Gardens, 'These were mass planted in Sydney Streets from the end of the First World War '.

⁵⁸ Ibid., p20, Interwar period saw the decline in the use of exotic pine trees were replaced by the use of bush box and the Paperbark and Eucalyptus

⁵⁹ loc.cit.

Following a severe storm, many trees were removed from the park 7th February 1998.

It is unknown what these species were.

Ongoing vandalism of trees within the VMG is unfortunate, including the burning of the base of the Pin Oak (Tree No. 29) near the playground ⁶⁰ and the removal of juvenile trees. The maintenance staff believes that tree guards have some impact on lessening the vandalism.

Desired outcomes

- To adopt the report by Wade Ryan regarding the health of trees in the VMG.
- To retain the character of the site through the use of plantings that are representative of the time of its inception.
- To retain a mix of evergreen/ deciduous and native/ exotic plantings within the gardens.

Actions

- Implement and budget a five year program for the systematic removal of trees and replacement (numbers in order of urgency):
 - I. Remove trees numbered 21, 22, 27, 28, 44, 71, 73, 74, 76, 85, 83, 84, 88, 92, 95, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104
 - II. Replace these trees with the following species; *Prunus cerasifera*, *Quercus palustris*, *Populus alba*, *Populus nigra Italica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus scoparia* *Corymbia ficifolia*

⁶⁰ Graeme Clarke, op. cit.

III. Remove juvenile deciduous trees numbered 3,4,7, 10, 54 and 107 and relocate to other sites

- Refer maintenance section for inspection
- Place orders with nurseries to grow advanced stock, well before them being required.
- Plant trees of the same species as the same size.
- Reinstate Cedrus to even up other side (same size)
- Reinstate trees to either side of the 'shade walk' (refer to Kerr's' plan and masterplan)

Performance measures

- Public informed and satisfied with the reasons for tree removals in the VMG.
- Trees growing at a similar rate and species consistent with the period of the Gardens inception.



7.5 Understorey

Figure 8 numbers the existing planting beds, which corresponds to the existing species list at Appendix D, as well as a list of plants that were popular during the interwar period.

It is necessary to ground the gardens in the time of their inception, as the Depression commenced soon after they began. At this time labour was abundant and it is clear from photos that there was a high level of development and maintenance during the early years of the VMG. The RSL put returned soldiers to work in the gardens during the depression⁶¹. After World War II ornamental gardens were simplified to save money ⁶².



⁶¹ Since 1929 several works of improvement have been carried out by unemployed returned soldiers, especially during the depression years when the Wagga Branch of the RSL contributed to the council 290 pounds as wages for the returned men engaged. Daily Advertiser December 21 1937.

⁶² Oxford, op cit., p492

The types of plants used in Memorial Gardens were often chosen to symbolize life and death; Rosemary for remembrance, Roses for love and peace ⁶³. The types of plants that were used at this time can be identified in photos and also through references in the Daily Advertiser. From the February 26, 1929 issue, '*...the colour along the foreshores of the Lagoon is a delight ... the perennial Phlox, Gladioli and Other bedding plants...*' ⁶⁴



Other plants used in the gardens included Dahlias ⁶⁵; '*... 500 up to date Dahlias display around Anzac Day...*' ⁶⁶. A later report in 1948 (April 14) in the Daily Advertiser refers to the Dahlias being stolen in 1948. A tree Dahlia has recently been included in the senses garden.

⁶³ Ibid., p151

⁶⁴ NTA (NSW) op. cit., Gladioli were the most popular bulbs grown during this period.

⁶⁵ Dahlias were one of the most popular plants of the period. A popular book of the 1920s was the Dahlia in Australia (EE Prescott)

⁶⁶ Daily Advertiser January 13, 1933

Iris were also planted in the gardens'... 2000 of the finest Iris plants in the Commonwealth donated by Mr WAP Aylett of Mangoplah...'⁶⁷

It would appear that the original plan by Kerr included dense plantings along Baylis Street (some delineation between the street and the Gardens). The RSL would prefer to keep this area open for use of the area on Anzac Day.



There is a maturing Camellia hedge along Baylis Street (to the north of the Memorial Arch). The foreground to this area is seasonally planted to annuals. There are no views into the park from this area as the street level is much higher than the park level (bookleaf stone wall between the two). The planting areas surrounding the paths leading into the Gardens from near the Fitzmaurice Street Bridge still feature a variety of flowering perennials in a mixed display.

⁶⁷ Daily Advertiser Jan 7, 1932.

Many of the plantings along the Morrow Street interface are tired and or have died out in patches. The plantings of the individual garden areas are noted under those sections.

Desired outcomes

- To recommend plants which are representational of this period of gardening.
- To retain a planted threshold to the VMG, but to minimize the height to allow views into the Gardens.

Actions

- Program and cost the removal of bamboo, Vinca, noxious weeds and Blackberries in areas noted on the masterplan
- Program and cost to replace entire planting beds at once
- Remove line of understorey along Morrow Street to keep views from the street level into the site open, except for a simple evergreen hedge species and understorey species.
- Refer maintenance section
- Include hardy understorey plants and group plants with similar maintenance and water requirements together.

Performance Measures

- Public aware of reasons for plant removals
- Public satisfied with the visual appeal of the site.

7.6 Memorials

The Map of the Memorials at Figure 10 includes a numbering of memorials M1, M2 etc. that is referred to here.



"Memorials may and no doubt will take many forms, some utilitarian and some symbolic,..... should be in good taste, dignified and of the highest artistic merit.

For the most cases simplicity is desirable..... The selection of sites and proper planning of memorials are subject to the greatest importance and the most obvious site is not always the best."(Memorials Advisory Board comprised of 16 Men)

Mr. J.D. Fitzgerald, Minister for Local Government regarding the erection of soldiers Memorial as reported by the Daily Advertiser, September 12, 1919.

In a recent speech by Major General Michael Jeffries Governor General of Australia (September 7, 2004) he said the following regarding memorials:

'There are few battlefields in Australia to remind us of war and the events of conflict.... Thus for many relatives and friends it is difficult, if not impossible for them to see the graves of their loved ones. Memorials in Australia help to fill that void. They also provide a focus to strengthen the local community's identity and facilitate the public memory to its fallen. A community which does not draw from its past has little upon which to assemble its future.'



VICTORY MEMORIAL GARDENS ASSET INVENTORY

Figure 10 Asset inventory- memorial locations

i. The Cenotaph (M1)

The Cenotaph exists at the entrance to the VMG on Baylis Street. There was some discussion in 1925⁶⁸ that the cenotaph was only placed in its current position as the former police buildings were still on site and that once they were removed the memorial should be moved to a more central position within the gardens.

In consultation with the RSL, they felt that the pines surrounding the cenotaph, had become large and obscured the view.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Memorial ID: | M1 - Cenotaph |
| Material used: | Bowral Trachyte with a concrete base. |
| Condition: | Good. Pencil pines overgrown and obscuring the memorial. |
| Content: | Cenotaph built in 1922 prior to the gardens being laid out. The names of those that died in WW1 are carved in stone panels on the eastern and western sides and those that died in WW2 were erected on bronze tablets on the southern and northern sides in 1952. |



Memorial M1

⁶⁸ Daily Advertiser 'Action by the public wanted' April 28, 1925

ii. The Memorial Arch (M2)

The curved walls and eternal flame were added in 1991. More recent additions include the Rosemary hedge (within a cage to protect).

In consultation, some felt that the space within the walls (around the eternal flame) should have a locking mechanism to keep people out at night (as is the case with the Memorial in Canberra) , which appears to be the time when vandalism of this area occurs. However if there were people legitimately wishing to pay their respects after hours (eg. Someone travelling through Wagga Wagga) this would restrict use.

Historically, the location of the arch has been controversial, with some believing it should not be sited in its current location ⁶⁹.



WAGGA WAGGA, N.S.W.

WAR MEMORIAL & GARDENS

⁶⁹ The designer of the gardens Mr Kerr, referred to its position in an open letter to the Daily Advertiser (January 10, 1929) 'I think Mr Campbell will agree that the site of the Memorial Arch with its 8ft opening has become more hideous than ever and that he will advise the authorities to move it to a more suitable position, which it richly deserves.' (Mr Campbell was the then Curator of the gardens)

- Memorial ID:** M2 - Memorial Arch, Eternal Flame and Memorial Walls
- Material used:** Sandstone on a Trachyte base with polished Trachyte panels.
- Condition:** Good.
- Content:** **Memorial arch 1926:** Inscription of the names of men and women of the Wagga district that served during WW1.
Eternal Flame 1991:
Memorial Walls 1991: The Honour Roll and Memorial Roll. The plaques on the walls are for the following:
- Korea 1950 -1954
 - Malaya-Borneo 1948 -1960, 1964 -1965
 - Vietnam (Supreme sacrifice) 1962 -1973
 - WW II (Supreme sacrifice)
 - Anglo Boer War 1899 -1902
 - Women's Services
 - Plaque with additional names not included on others.

iii. All other memorials

- Memorial ID:** **M3**
- Material used:** Brick with bronze plaque
- Condition:** Bricks lifting and cracked. Evidence of scaring to the base of the memorial tree.
- Content:** This tree was planted by Lt Gnr Sir Phillip Bennett KBE, AO OSO chief of the general staff on 24/1/84 to commemorate the centenary of birth at Wagga Wagga Lake Albert on 24/1.1884 of Field Marshall Sir Thomas Albert Blamey GBE, KCB, CMG, DSO,ED 1884-1951. Australian military Forces 1906 - 1951. General Officer commanding imperial forces 1939-1942, Commander in Chief. Australian military forces 1942 - 1945. Commander allied land forces south west pacific area 1942 1945
MH Gissing Mayor
ER Ellis Town Clerk



- Memorial ID:** M4
- Material used:** Brick with bronze plaque. Aeroplane propeller blade and white pebbles.
- Condition:** Good condition. Some brick paver surrounds lifting due to tree roots.
- Content:** 50th anniversary of RAFF Base Forrest Hill which commenced operations 1st July 1940.
The following is immortalized
- trained pilots for WWII: Ansons beaufighters and wirraways once filled the skies
 - aircraft were repaired: like ansons, beaufighters, beauforts, boomerangs, kitty hawks, mitchells, vengeance and ventras.
 - Since technical training involving apprentices and adults has been performed: other non technical training is now a feature
 - The base is an integral part of the city. Its airmen continue to be contributing members of the community
 - Those who served at the base are remembered.
- 30th June 1990
Alderman Pat Brassil, Mayor Group Captain K.V. Griffin
Officer Commanding
RAAF Wagga Base



Memorial M4

Memorial ID:

M5

Material used:

Brick paver with bronze plaque. 3" motor gun on a slate platform.

Condition:

Good condition. Some bricks slightly lifted due to spring growth, are causing trip points.

Content:

This monument commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Kapooka military area which commenced operations 1 May 1942.

Pat Brasil Mayor

Col G.W. Hurford Commander Kapooka Military Area



Memorial M5

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Memorial ID: | M6 |
| Material used: | Brick paver with feature pattern. Green anchor and bronze plaque. |
| Condition: | Lettering fading on the plaque. Pavers slightly raised and sink spots. |
| Content: | Commemoration of active service during the 1939-1945 World War of HMAS Wagga. Corvette J315 of the Royal Australian Navy commissioned in Dec 1942 and served with distinction until November 1945 in the Coral Sea, New Guinea the South Pacific and Hong Kong, Milne Bay, Philippines, Balikpapan, LaeFinscaffen, Admiralty Island, Subic Bay, Oro Bay, Biak Morotai, Leyte, Sansapor, Lidna Straights Hong Kong. Dedicated in honour of all who served by the HMAS Wagga association. |



Memorial M6

Memorial ID: M7
Material used: Concrete sand bags, bronze plaque on concrete base with paver surrounds
Condition: Cracked pavers, cracked mortar bed.
Content: This monument is dedicated to the national servicemen, citizen's military forces and reserves of Wagga Wagga district.
The National Servicemen's Ode

Have you forgotten yet?
Let us remember those who have served Australia with pride and dedication. Look up, and swear by the green of spring that you will never forget we will never forget.
51 National Servicemen's Association 72
Navy Army Air force.



Memorial M7

Memorial ID: M8
Material used: Granite boulder with bronze plaque inset. Paver surround.
Condition: Pavers lifting.
Content: This plaque was placed on site as part of the city of Wagga Wagga Australia remembers and is dedicated to those members of the civil construction corps, land army protective services volunteer aid detachment and the volunteer defence corps who by their outstanding contribution on the home front contributed to ultimate victory in WW2. Unveiled by the mayor of Wagga Councillor Peter Dale 11 Nov 1995.



Memorial M8

Memorial ID:
Material used:
Condition:
Content:

M9

Brick wall, figurine, 2 rose bushes, bronze plaque set in bricks.
Lettering fading.
International Peace Year 1986. This garden of peace roses was established to mark Wagga Wagga's recognition of the international year of peace 1986. Contributions towards the establishment of this garden were received from Mr G Sturzaker B.E.M Wagga Sub branch RSL citizens of Wagga. The Peace Rose originally named MMW. A MEILLAND was developed by Francis Meilland in France just prior to the outbreak of World War 2. Bud wood from the rose was smuggled out of Nazi occupied France on the last clipper to America where it was produced in numbers to be generally released at the end of the war as the peace rose. At the first session each delegate received a peace rose bloom a fitting symbol to express the hope for world peace. This garden was officially opened by ALD R.F Harris Mayor of Wagga on 15th August 1986.



Memorial M9

Memorial ID:
Material used:
Condition:
Content:

M10

Marble table, bronze sculpture brick base, paver surround with 4 bronze plaques.

Good.

SANDAKAN

This memorial was dedicated by Father John Brendan Rogers, OFM, eighth division A.I.F Chaplin, Sandakan & Kuching. This memorial was unveiled by Hon Con Sciacca M.P minister for veterans affairs 28th August 1994

1800 Australians of the 8th division A.I.F and 750 British troops. They fought Gallantly in the defence of Malaya and Singapore during WWII. Following the fall of Singapore, they became prisoners of the Japanese and were transported to Sandakan in British North Borneo in 1942 to construct an airfield where 900 died of ill

treatment. By the end of 1944 when allied forces were within striking distance of Sandakan, the Japanese command ordered the removal of prisoners inland to Ranau 165 miles west on 29th Jan 1945. 470 prisoners guarded by 500 Japanese marched toward Ranau. Those unable to carry on were killed. The second march comprising 532 prisoners left Sandakan on 29th May 1945 183 arrived at Ranau on 26th June 1945 only 8 survived from the first march. Of the 288 prisoners left at Sandakan there were no survivors. On 1 August 1945 the surviving 33 prisoners at Ranau were massacred. Six who escaped were rescued by special forces. This memorial honours those men who enlisted from the Southern region of NSW. We will remember them.
Sandakan Memorial Foundation



Memorial M10

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Memorial ID: | M11 |
| Material used: | Bronze plaque mounted on small piece of slate in a circular garden bed with a feature tree. |
| Condition: | Slate slightly chipped on one corner. |
| Content: | Churchill Memorial tree planted 24 th Feb 1965 by Gp. Capt N.F Lamb O.C RAAF base Wagga Wagga and Lt Col K.P Outridge CO Kapooka Military area. |



Memorial M11

- Memorial ID:** M12
Material used: Slate column with bronze sundial and plaque.
Condition: Memorial in good condition. Ground surrounding memorial worn from pedestrian traffic.
Content: This sundial garden was placed here in grateful recognition of what we owe to our pioneers and was unveiled on the 9th October 1938 by ten of their descendants of the 4th and 5th generations.



Memorial M12

- Memorial ID:** M13
Material used: Flagpole.
Condition: Good.
Content: The flagpole was placed on the assembly lawn in 1931. Flagpole derrick ex HMAS Sydney. Struck by a shell from German cruiser Emden off Cocos Islands, 9th November, 1914
EE Collins Mayor and Chairman.



Memorial M13

The Sunken Garden is included as M12. Many memorial gardens had sunken gardens. One of the better known was the 'Sunken Garden' in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney that was dedicated to all Australian Pioneers, men and women (1879-1882) ⁷⁰.

The Sunken Garden is remembered by many people as a beautiful space that was a 'secret garden' ⁷¹.

The hedge around the site makes viewing into the area difficult and as such the site is unfortunately misused, particularly at night.

The area is quite heavily shaded as mature trees surround it and grass is not growing well in the space. There is a drain in the northern corner that is blocked. The corner conifer sections of the hedge need to be replaced.

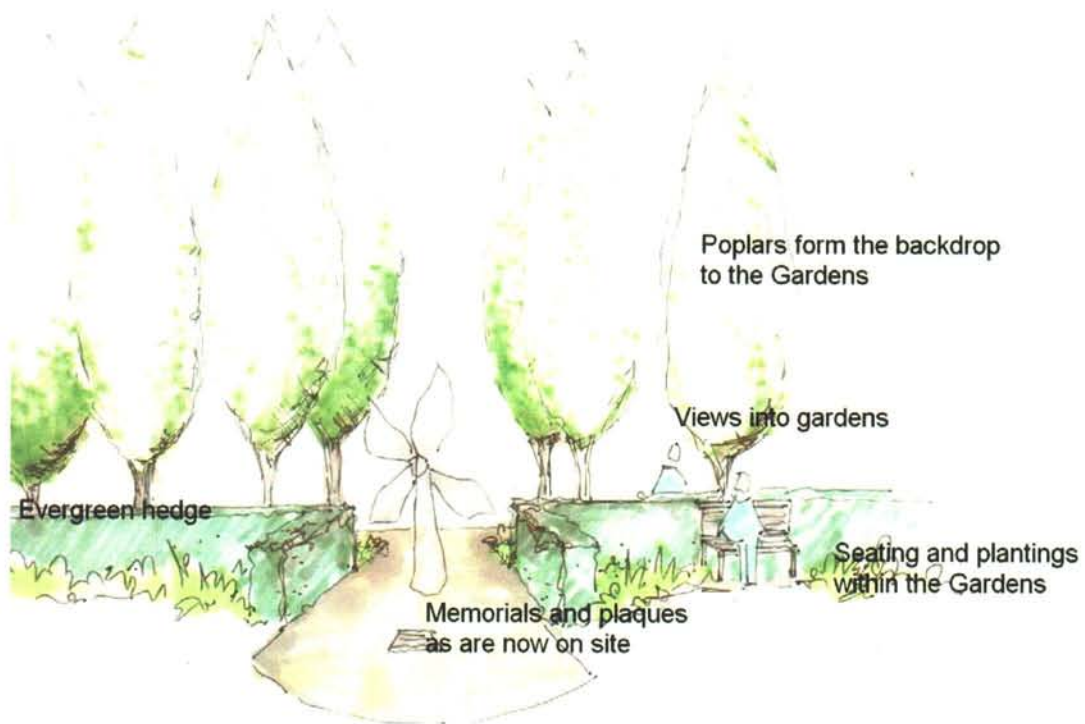
Species that were once planted in the garden include Agapathus, Variegated Pittsoporum, Gardenia, Eunomys and Magnolia ⁷².

The Poplars along the Morrow Street side of the Gardens have all caused damage, to varying degrees, to the memorials. If the Anzac/ Diggers Avenue is reinstated, it may be considered appropriate to consider the orientation of the Memorials along this side as double-sided Memorials (can be viewed both within and outside of the VMG). It is the intention of the plan and masterplan to integrate Anzac/ Diggers Avenue as part of the Gardens.

⁷⁰ Oxford op.cit. p51.

⁷¹ Personal communication Warwick Hull

⁷² Personal communication Graeme Clarke

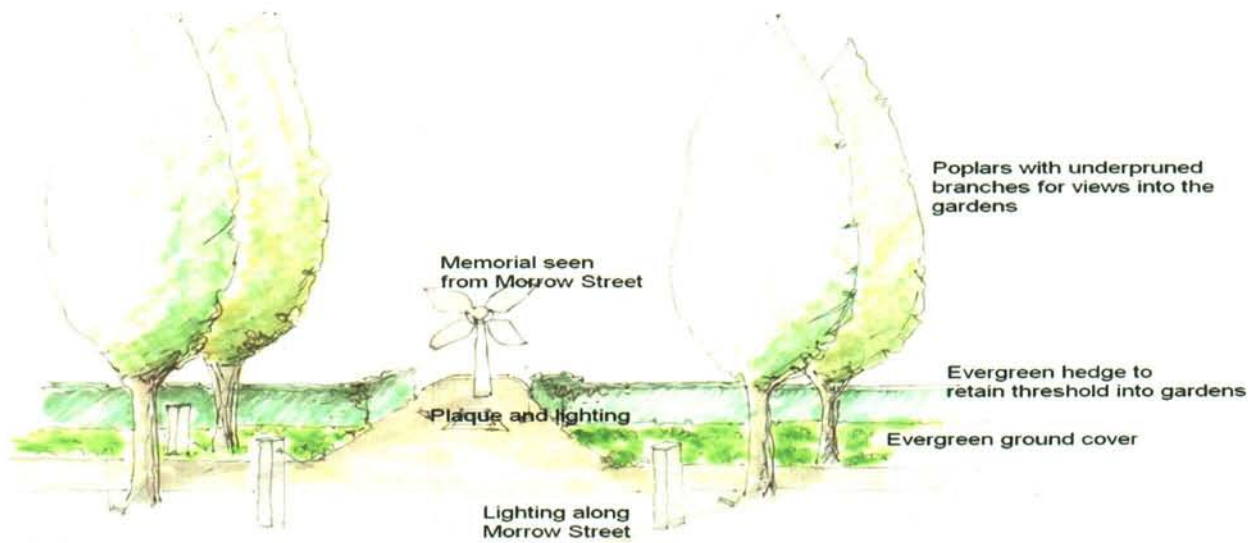


Views from within the gardens out to Morrow Street

It is understood that the Vietnam Veterans would like to erect a memorial within the Gardens. Should future memorials be sited within the VMG, the most obvious location may be to continue them along Anzac Avenue.

Desired outcomes

- To ensure that the Memorials and their surrounds are maintained.
- To include on the masterplan the preferred location for additional memorials.
- To ensure that future memorials are integrated into the site, using materials that are not only symbolic for their purpose but which are aesthetic and compatible with their surroundings.



VIEWS INTO GARDENS FROM MORROW STREET

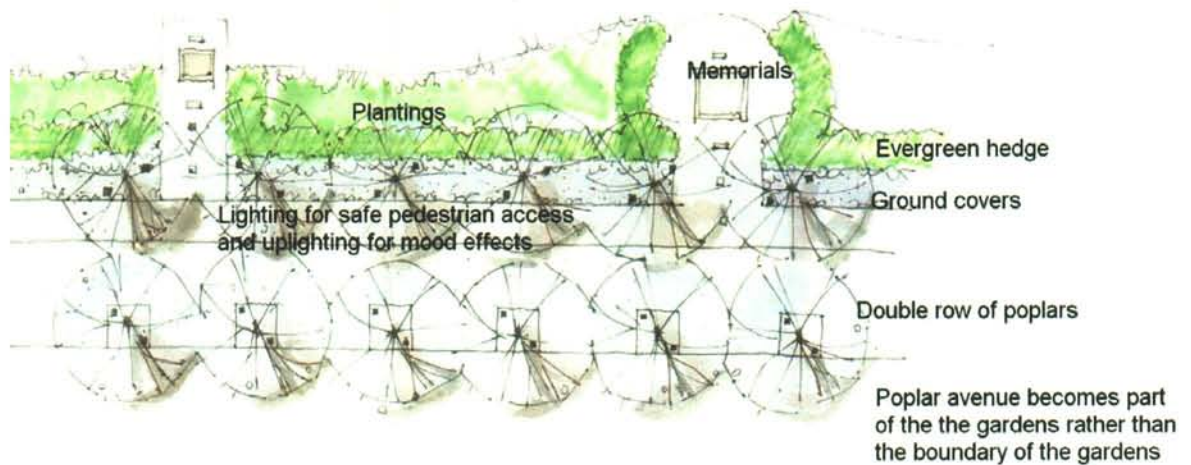
Actions

- Consult with the RSL regarding the possible funding opportunities through Saluting out heritage to upgrade the memorials and surrounds that have been damaged.
- Consult with RSL regarding the possible inclusion of double plaques along Anzac Avenue - one that faces the Gardens and one that faces the Avenue itself.
- Consult with the RSL regarding the proposal of nominating the strip along the Morrow Street façade as the preferred area for any future memorials.
- Propose a low evergreen spine planting which is in line with the memorials and which defines the setting of the memorials and incorporate flowering perennials both at the Morrow Street and within the Gardens. (Refer understorey section)
- Include in any future memorial the inclusion of landscape elements (hard and soft) that are sympathetic to the Garden setting.
- Cost the project.
- Redirect the access into the sunken garden to allow greater surveillance into the site and relocate seats to opposite corners.

- Remove the corners of the hedge in the sunken garden and replace with similar species
- Investigate drainage problems in sunken gardens with a view to paving the base of the gardens (to reduce water use and maintenance) Refer to lighting section for specific actions.
- Program and cost a replacement-planting scheme to the sunken gardens and include those species that were favoured during the interwar period.
- Re pave areas in the Peace Garden after the Poplars have been replaced.
- Investigate the removal and replacement of the Pencil Pines at the Cenotaph. A suitable species would be *Cupressus sempervirens Stricta*, which is consistent with the age of the structure.
- Investigate the use of locking gates at the memorial arch, to lock the space after hours.

Performance Measures

- RSL satisfied with the level of consultation
- Well maintained memorials that are fitting for their purpose
- Greater local understanding of the importance of the memorials and the place the play with local and global history.
- Greater surveillance into the sunken garden and community is satisfied with safety.



PLAN OF MEMORIALS/ ANZAC AVENUE

7.7 Elements in the Garden

i. Fountain

The fountain bears the plaque presented by Frederick Chisholm of Bulls Run in 1885. F. Chisholm was a bachelor member of the Chisholm Family from Goulburn ⁷³.

There were presumed to have been 5 or 6 ⁷⁴fountains that came out as unassembled parts from a Foundry in England. The top part, Serpent Boy, is considered to be a separate item and can also be seen in Ayres House (SA), Castlemaine Gardens and Melbourne Fitzroy Gardens ⁷⁵.



⁷³ Personal correspondence between Jill Morrow and Mrs S Walsh 6 August, 1974.

⁷⁴ Wagga Wagga, Forbes, Chaffey Homestead, Mildura, Adelaide and Bendigo (previously from Roslyn Park)

⁷⁵ Personal communication Billmans Foundry, Castlemaine.



The Serpent Boy top of the fountain as it exists within Melbourne's Fitzroy Gardens

The Fountain was then shifted to the VMG near Trail Street footbridge⁷⁶, approximately in the position of where the senses garden now stands. A fence was erected around the Chisholm fountain⁷⁷ and crazy paving was set around the outside of it⁷⁸.

⁷⁶ Daily Advertiser November 20, 1929.

⁷⁷ Daily Advertiser February 27, 1930

⁷⁸ The Reveille, December 21, 1937.



The original position of the fountain at about the same position as the senses garden today

Council Adopted council minutes 1996/07, the rose gardens and fountain be relocated to the VMG.

The Fountain has recently (2006) been sited to the eastern side of the Gardens. The colours of the fountain are not considered original ⁷⁹. The Foundry believed it would have been an aged green colour with perhaps some gold leafing ⁸⁰.

The position of the fountain was located on the original plan by Kerr, but dense planting is depicted along Baylis Street to screen the fountain from the street; showing the intention that the fountain was intended to be viewed from within the gardens, not from the outside and in doing so give greater emphasis to the Memorials. The RSL would prefer that the streetscape is left open for their use of the site on Anzac Day.

⁷⁹ Personal communication Billmans Foundry Castlemaine.

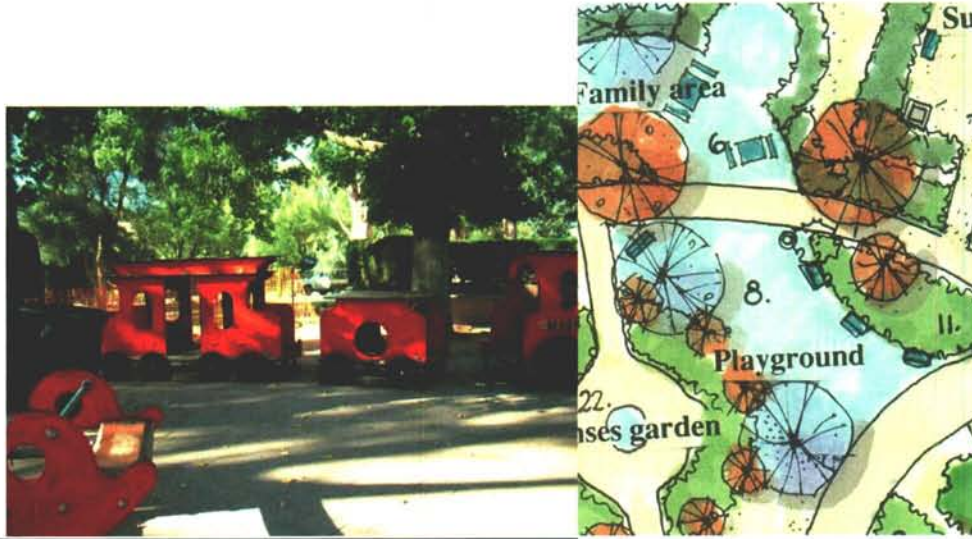
⁸⁰ There is reference to the fountain being painted cream and picked out in green and that 'the stonework was in progress'. Daily Advertiser March 14, 1930.

The layout of the fountain is a departure from the rest of the gardens. This type of fountain and layout is more typical within a Victorian style formal garden, as is the case with the fountains' twin in Victoria Square Park, Forbes.



The Fountain in Victoria Square Park, Forbes

ii. Playground



It appears that a playground was always a part of the VMG, although it has been moved over time.

During the masterplan phase, the position of the playground has been considered and it is proposed that it could be relocated and upgraded to an adjacent area, which is slightly further away from the Lagoon, with open sight lines and in close proximity to the open assembly area. Refer to Figure 13 masterplan.

The undersurface to the swings has recently been upgraded. The train is a very popular piece of equipment.

iii. Senses Garden

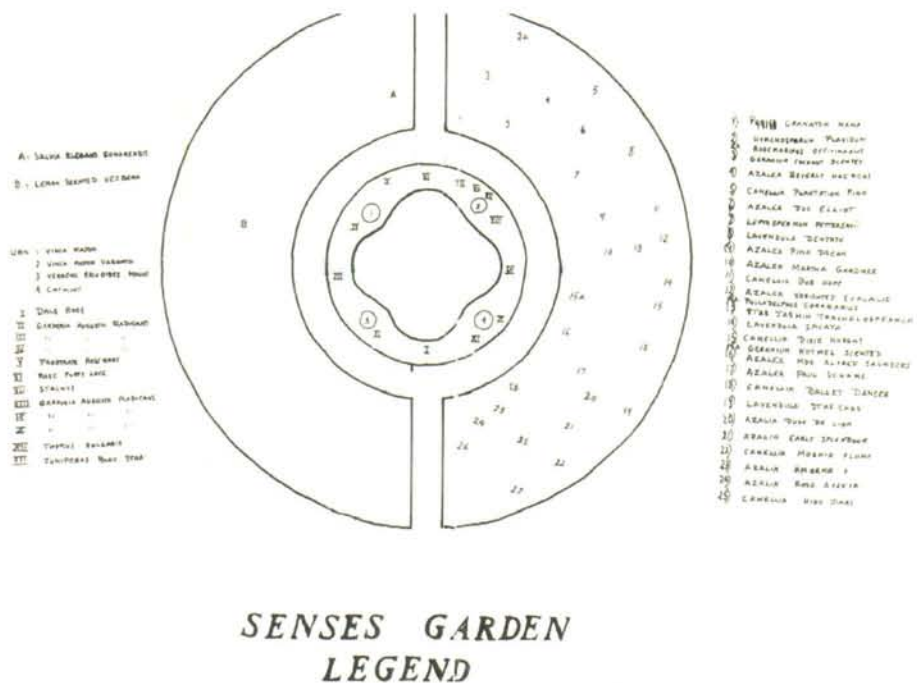
The Senses Garden includes a central water feature, surrounded by a walled planting area. There are some names of plants that feature Braille lettering. It is accessed by pergolas with climbers over and has four lights to each corner.

There has been some recent work on the fountain including an upgrade of the nozzles.

There is a crack through the pavement running under the fountain.



A plan of the Garden is included (date unknown) it is not shown on the original plan by Kerr and is presumed to be the approximate site of where the fountain was once located.



iv. Chess Garden

The chess garden is a defined circular space to the western end of the gardens.

The chess pieces have gone missing and the space is no longer used.

v. Swaggy Garden and Surrounds

The Swaggy fountain was completed in 1978 and until recent work on the Chisholm fountain, the sculpture had been obscured from view. Prior to the fountain works, there was a 'river' through this area that connected back to the 'billabong' beneath the swaggy. A spray/ mist of water is incorporated into the piece. The area is now crowded with elements and the scale of the Chisholm fountain dwarfs the structure.

It may be preferable to relocate the sculpture back towards the lagoon, where it could be sympathetically sited amongst native plants. It could become an element of sculpture along the lagoon, following on from those around the Wollundry Gardens.

vi) Band Rotunda

The Band Rotunda is depicted on Kerr's' plan to the north of the assembly area, but it was never implemented. The shape is consistent with the area for a rotunda and the Churchill Memorial now stands at this point. The plan depicts the stairs on the lagoon side of the structure, which would give a greater relationship between the structure and the lagoon. The intention of the rotunda was as a platform for those wishing to address the public ⁸¹.

⁸¹ Daily Advertiser November 12, 1927

Reference to the type of material is at section 4.2 Designed environment, iv A Design competition' . A sketch of the imagined structure is on the original plan by Kerr at Figure 5.

It is believed that the rotunda from the Town Hall Gardens (across the road) was to be moved back to the VMG, but at some point that structure has ended up out at Charles Sturt University.

A raised area would give a different vantage point for people to survey the Gardens and lagoon and provide a lost element to the Gardens.

Desired outcome

- To upgrade and investigate the relocation of the children's playground to the area adjacent (to the east of the sensory garden). Include equipment that is age appropriate and reflective of its surroundings. Ensure sofffall to AS 4422 as well as shade.
- To retain the current area of the playground (if equipment is relocated) as a family area (picnic tables) which could include an imaginative space (use of plants, rocks and stepping stones)
- To implement the band rotunda to the VMG and employ Kerr's' original drawing of the structure.
- To relocate the Churchill Memorial and Tree (when dormant) to the area adjacent to the new playground site.
- To retain the character of each of the separate gardens/ elements and ensure that adequate maintenance is provided to each area.

Actions

- Investigate the cracking under the pavement of the senses garden and program and cost for the replacement of plants in the senses garden with an emphasis on including additional Dahlias as a known favourite plant of the interwar period.
- Investigate the use of the chess set area as a 'stage' or performance space by young children.
- Investigate the costs associated with relocating the Swaggy sculpture and fountain and if this proves unjustifiable, include additional 'billabong' plantings to the base of the sculpture.
- Install imaginative equipment that is suitable for 0-5 year olds and softfall, which complies with AS 4422.
- Design the playground around existing trees and the shade they provide and program landscape improvements, by retaining the existing equipment whilst the new playground is created.
- Seek out philanthropic avenues for the funding of elements.
- Employ Kerr's' original drawings for the scale and detailing of the band rotunda and or engage in consultation with Charles Sturt University to find out how the structure ended up out there and whether it could come back.

Performance Measures

- Distinct character of each space is retained and enhanced.
- Users express satisfaction with the quality of the play equipment and setting.
- Users of the band rotunda both formally and informally express satisfaction with the facility.

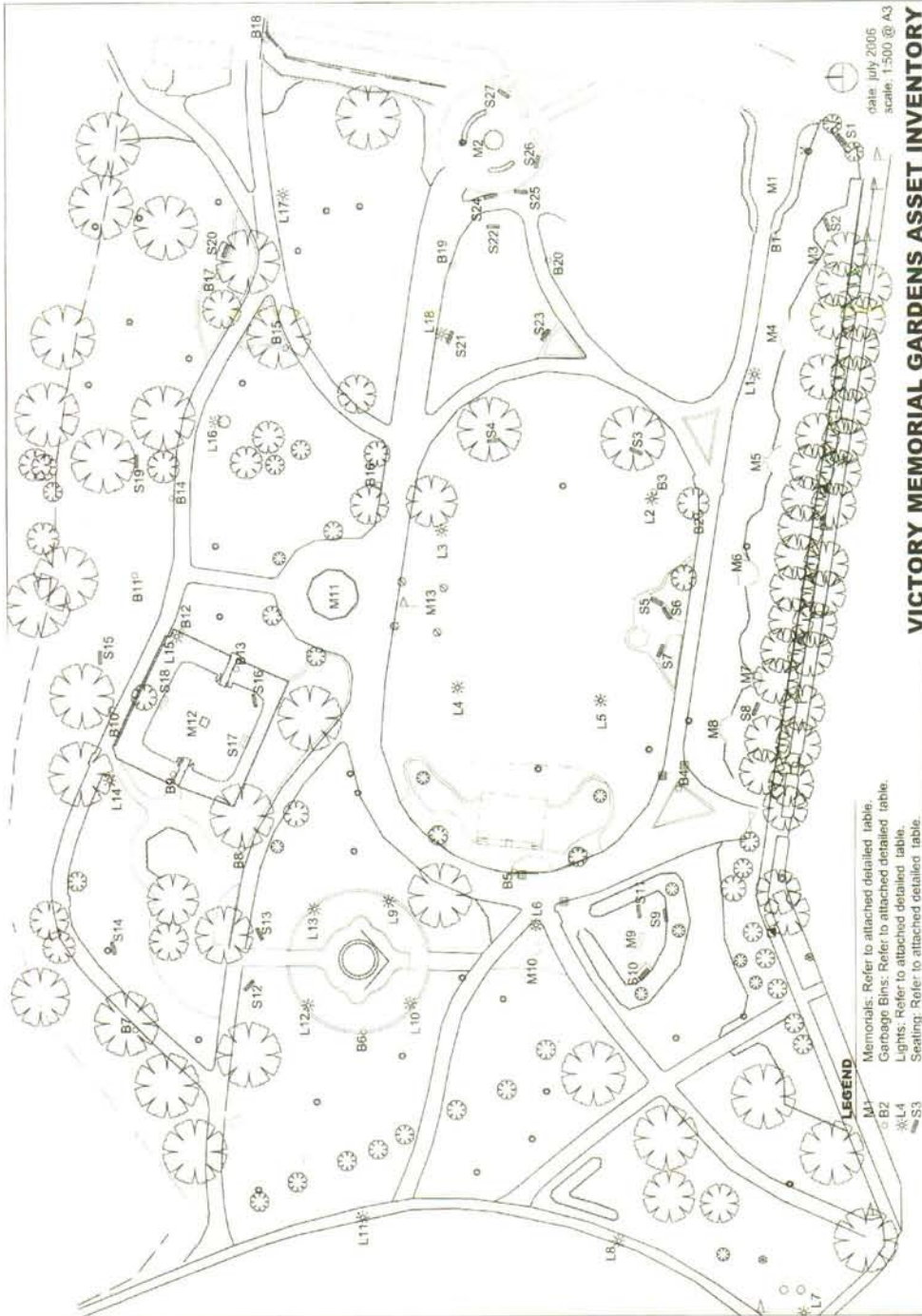


Figure 11 Asset inventory – location of garden furniture

iv. Toilets

In consultation, some people mentioned that toilets should be included in the park whilst others felt they should not.

Toilets are within the Council building (only open at certain times) or across Morrow Street on the corner of the Esplanade. Many people mentioned that the crossing of roads to get to these facilities is dangerous.

Siting of a building sympathetically within the VMG would be difficult as it would require a certain level of surveillance and there fore would be best sited close to a street. Morrow and Baylis Street would not be considered appropriate, which leaves Ivan Jack Drive, which is in close proximity to the existing facilities. This issue should be further considered at the time of assessing the entire Lagoon.

Historically there were toilets ⁸² in the VMG on the corner of Morrow St and Ivan Jack Drive, it is unknown when they were removed.

⁸² Daily Advertiser January 17, 1934

Victory Memorial Gardens Draft Plan of Management

- Support the suggestions of the safer by design presentation.
- Incorporate lighting into the re instated Anzac Avenue that up lights the trees at night as a visual effect, but also to give safe access to pedestrians around the Gardens at night.
- Incorporate a simple sign that refers to the name of the VMG and the year of its inception.

Performance measures

- Details in the park that are coordinated and sympathetic to the setting.
- Lighting is considered adequate.
- Less vandalism and misuse within the Gardens at night.



Type of seating that could be used within the gardens

7.9 Use of the Site

Refer to Figure 12 for use of the site

i. Everyday Use and Events

The site is used annually for one off events such as Anzac Day and Christmas celebrations, to weekly gatherings by a prayer group to everyday use by people having a picnic, and children using the park. There is an emphasis of passive recreation as the main use of the Gardens.

Other users include:

Early morning walkers

Feeding the ducks

Office workers having lunch

People paying their respects to memorials

Photographic backdrop for weddings

People without homes have been known to live in the Gardens from time to time.

It is clear that the use of the Gardens is greater on the weekend and more so on the days after the Farmers Markets (held in the adjacent Wollundry Gardens).

ii) Linkage

As the Garden exists on the Lagoon they provide an ideal position as a node in the overall Wiradjuri Walking Track that links the Lagoon to the River (and other open space parcels around Wagga Wagga).

The linkage from the site to the adjacent Civic facilities is possible both at street level and also underneath the Fitzmaurice/ Baylis Street Bridge.

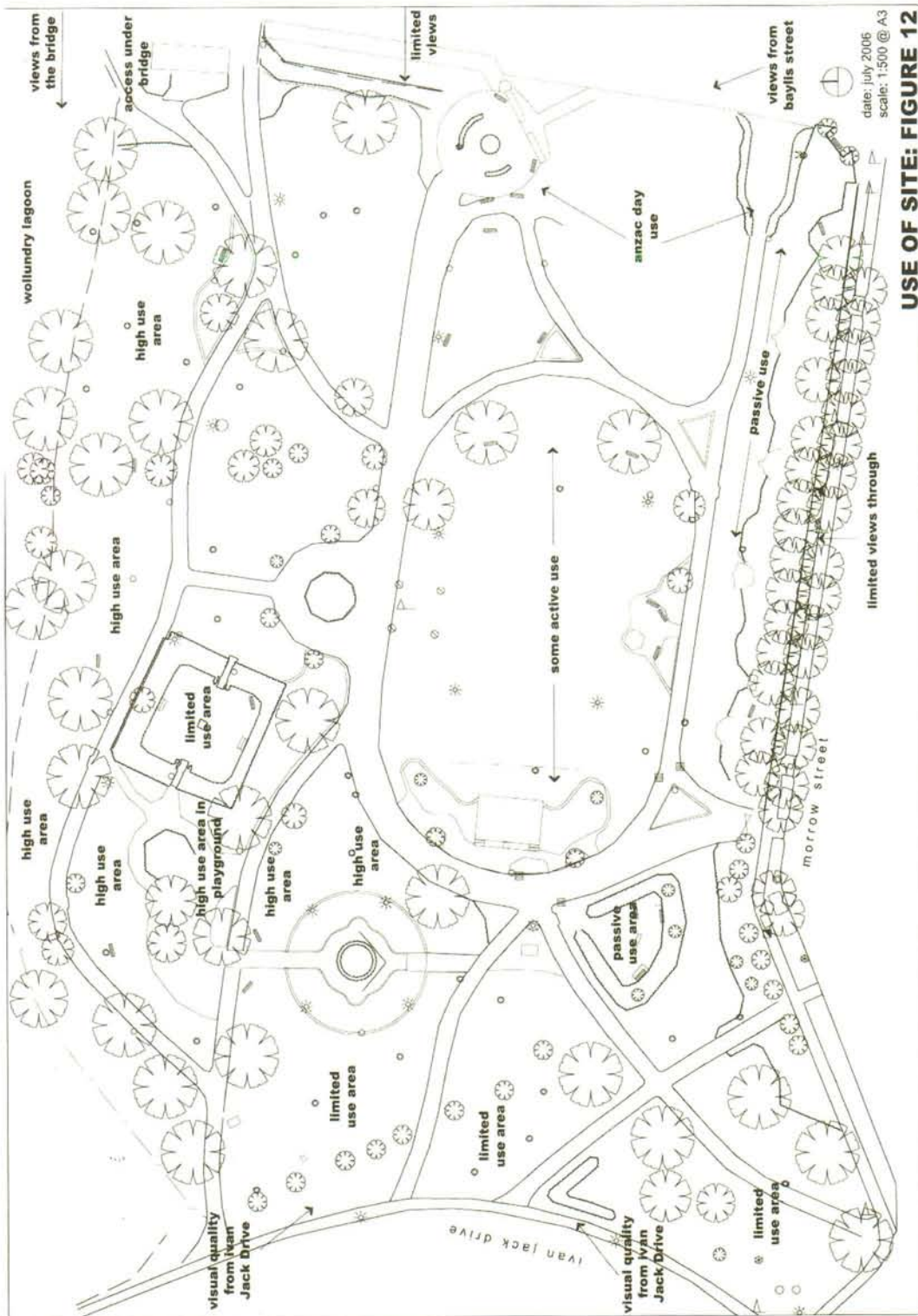


Figure 12 Use of the site

iii. Booking the site

The assembly area allows for large gatherings of people within an informal setting. The venue can be booked through Council (\$70 in 2006) but that does not necessarily give exclusive use, it is a qualification only. This amount of money is not tied to a contribution for maintenance. Groups that have booked the VMG in the past, were contacted as part of the consultation process, several mentioned now using the adjacent amphitheatre for organised events instead of the VMG.

iv. Multi use of the site

It would appear that spatially there is enough separation between the various areas of the Gardens to allow for several things to be happening at once in most instances. However for the purposes of the Anzac Memorial (and use of the assembly area) it would not be appropriate that a wedding photo shoot is held at the same time. It is hoped that through greater understanding of the history of the site that conflicts of use would not occur.

It would appear that at some point in the past a fixed policy for use of the Gardens on special occasions only did exist.⁸³

Wagga Legacy Club requested (October 1942) a band recital in the VMG in aid of the War Orphans Appeal. Council refused the use. December 1942, Kapooka was given permission for use of a band recital was allowed. The report went on to state that *surely no one has greater claim to the use of the gardens than these children, and it is now asked that Council will give its assurance that no discrimination will be made in the future.*

⁸³ Council Minutes, 8 April 1943.

It is unclear what the actual policy was, but it is believed to be no longer in place as council has a process of readopting policies every few years and this policy is no longer evident. Later events in the Gardens included a Peace Rally that Council attempted to ban,⁸⁴ but were given advice not to⁸⁵.

In more recent times a Peace Rally for the war in Iraq was proposed in the Gardens (as the final resting place from marching up Baylis Street), the RSL felt this was disrespectful of the dedication of the Gardens. The protestors requested use of the Gardens as a shady spot in summer and considered the site an ideal place to hold a peaceful rally as the Gardens contain many memorials to those that have lost their lives due to war.

As the Gardens are Crown Land, the basic principle of Crown Land management is that it is accessible and available to all people.

v) Scenic use of the site

The value of the site as a scenic attraction is considered significant, as it creates a contrast to the surrounding built up area, this is experienced both as a pedestrian and from vehicles, not necessarily from users within the Gardens.

Seasonally the site varies due to the number of deciduous trees (particularly the Poplars).



⁸⁴ Daily Advertiser, February 19 1986

⁸⁵ Daily Advertiser, February 26, 1986.

The height and maturity of trees contributes greatly to the visual appeal of the site.

Ivan Jack Drive is a scenic route that is greatly enhanced by the presence of the VMG.

Desired outcome

- To provide a setting for all people which does not discriminate between users.
- To promote the history and importance that the Gardens have in the making of Wagga Wagga to try and dissuade use that is not respectful of this.
- To improve on visitor use and public appeal through promotion of the site
- To promote the Lagoon in general and by association the VMG as a destination for tourists travelling to the area.
- To ensure that the events that are staged in the Gardens, carry the cost of the maintenance as well.
- To retain the scenic landscape value of the site

Actions

- Retain the open vista into the site from along Ivan Jack Drive
- Retain a threshold to the boundaries of the VMG but provide for views into the Gardens.
- Retain the balance of deciduous and evergreen trees from within the Gardens.
- Review operational costs associated with annual/ major events in the Gardens and assess their cost in relation to maintenance budgets.

Performance measures

- Public continue to use the VMG as a venue both formally and informally
- Greater understanding of the history of the site

7.10 Maintenance

Consultation with grounds staff included a detailed inspection of the site. The VMG require a high level of maintenance to keep them visually appealing. In consultation, the public demanded that the maintenance level of the Gardens be of a high standard.

The maintenance of the site is divided into two areas; scheduled (every day works) and non-scheduled, which would include rectification works (generally after vandalism).

Some of the ongoing general maintenance items include; watering, mowing, fertilizer application, mulching, weeding, top dressing, raking of leaves.

Rectification works include;

Rubbish removal, broken glass, ripping out of plants/ trees, and damage to the eternal flame (requires fortnightly drainage) and general destruction to elements of the VMG, (missing objects such as cast iron gates, cap stones and chess set believed to be in lagoon) some of which cannot be rectified. It is estimated that 25% of the maintenance budget would be spent on the effects vandalism ⁸⁶.

Additional maintenance works are undertaken prior to special events, such as Anzac Day, Christmas display and other specific uses.

Pests in the gardens as threats to plants include; snails, White Fly, Aphids and Cockatoos that seasonally strip trees.

⁸⁶ Personal communication Graeme Clarke

It would appear that no additional maintenance works to fixed hard elements, such as seating, lights etc. is regularly undertaken. (Refer Appendix E for inventory of elements)

All rubbish from garbage bins in the park is removed manually.

It appears occasionally that some areas are over-watered (water-ponding and soil saturation). The area between Ivan Jack Drive and the peace garden is slightly swaled and often holds water as does the picnic tables down near the lagoon (refer photo) and the grass in the area of the sunken garden requires renovation if water is to be on any benefit.

Recently (2006) an automatic irrigation system has been put in place, which may lessen possible over watering. Watering should only be undertaken when required and where possible plants with lower water requirements should be implemented.

Currently many of the garden beds feature plantings that require varied watering and maintenance regimes which make it difficult to maintain everything.

In areas where lawn is difficult to grow (e.g. lagoons edge) alternate treatments should be considered.

Desired outcomes

- To prepare a maintenance document for the staff of the gardens with best practice guidelines for the maintenance and upkeep of the gardens and its facilities.

- To propose grouping of plants that have similar requirements.
- That the required service level of the Gardens correlates to the maintenance budget.

Actions

- Review assessment of operational costs impacting on the maintenance budget.
- Review the service level of the Gardens and assess whether the maintenance budget (both scheduled and non scheduled) correlate.
- Consult with maintenance staff to prepare a list of all of the items that are undertaken.
- Consult with staff regarding those items requiring (say) bi annual maintenance and put together a schedule of when things should be checked.
- Estimate costs and the break down associated tasks.
- Prepare planting schemes that include groupings of plants that have similar requirements and propose for some areas with low maintenance plantings.
- Budget for a bi annual inspection of the trees and re allocate 'dangerous tree' budget,

Performance measures

- A maintenance document in place
- Defined maintenance areas within the VMG
- Maintenance budget corresponds with service levels

7.11 Risk Management

A risk assessment has not been undertaken in the VMG. Appendix 7 of the Department of Lands Trust Handbook includes a risk management checklist and register, which is not included within this plan of management.

Only two incidences in the VMG have been formally forwarded to Council:

Council Minutes 1995/ 12; Senses garden was made safe by erecting a fence around the pond as a child entered the water and in Council Minutes 1993/ 05 there was concern over the playground train. The Minutes do not expressly note what the problem was, but do state there had been no other reports. The Minutes state that they would monitor situation and that there was no plan to extend the fence.

Several parents/ carers noted at informal consultation at the playground, that the ground was very hard around the train.

Other potential risks associated with the VMG would include (this list is not necessarily exhaustive)

Lifting pavements (trip hazards)

Hazardous materials (broken glass and the like) left on site

Lighting at night

Open water (lagoon, two fountains)

Bees' nest on northern side of lagoon

Tree assessment by Mr Wade Ryan notes several trees which are considered to be a risk as they are likely to fail. These trees are noted as 21, 63-70, and several of the Poplars along Anzac Avenue. In particular a large Eucalypt (no 71) to the western end of the Gardens has recently died and it would appear that it should be removed.

Desired outcomes

- To complete the Risk management checklist and register as provided under the Trust Handbook by the Department of Lands.

Actions

- Meet with Council staff regarding the implementation of the risk management checklist to remove those items that are not required and add others that are.

Performance measures

- Check list completed.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 7420
COPYRIGHT

MEMORIAL & MEMORIAL GARDENS, WAGGA, N.S.W.

Key

- Existing evergreen trees retained (Refer to Appendix A for species)
- Existing deciduous trees retained (Refer to Appendix C and F for species)
- Existing palms retained (Refer to Appendix E for species)
- Proposed evergreen trees (Refer to Appendix B for species)
- Proposed deciduous trees (Refer to Appendix D for species)
- Proposed palms (Refer to Appendix G for species)
- Native grasses, ground covers and rock to stabilise lagoon edge (Refer to Appendix H for species)
- Ornamental plantings (Refer to Appendix I for species)
- Memorials (Refer to Figure 10 for location and dedication)
- Park seats/ Picnic tables (Refer to Figure 11 for location and number)
- Existing lights (Refer to Figure 12 for location and number)
- Rin locations/ hubbler (to family area)
- Existing paths/ Proposed paths
- Grassed areas/ Playground area

Figure 13
Landscape masterplan
VICTORY MEMORIAL GARDENS
 Wagga Wagga

Client: Wagga Wagga City Council
 Date: July 2006
 Scale: 1:500 (A1)
 Drawn: AD



- Notes**
1. Remove all non native vegetation (other than those shown) along the lagoons edge. Revegetate with native species (Dryland and wet filter plantings)
 2. Screen fence with native vegetation
 3. Remove all non native vegetation along the lagoons edge. Revegetate with native species (Dryland and wet filter species) and include the use of rock to stabilise the edges
 4. Boardwalk segments refer to the other lagoons on the Merrimidge floodplain
 5. Footpath is meant to remove grassed areas, providing a more direct path along the lagoon and encouraging greater interaction
 6. Picnic table area/ family area (Refer to Appendix J for location and number)
 7. Reposition entrances and seats for greater surveillance into the sunken garden. Include additional lighting and re-plant corners of hedge. Remove grass and pave base of garden to lessen maintenance/ water use
 8. Relocate and update playground. Include equipment for specific age groups and appropriate softfall. Position beneath trees for shade
 9. Replant area behind and around stage
 10. Install Cedar deciduous plantings opposite those in the site. Refer to Churchill tree and memorial
 11. Churchill memorial and tree relocated to this position
 12. Replant Poplar line with deciduous tree
 13. Replant Anzac Diggers Avenue with native species (Refer to Appendix H for species) and include the use of rock to stabilise the lagoon edge. Take cuttings of existing Poplars and use as the first two trees at the entrance of the walk. Include lighting along the avenue to AS 153.1
 14. Construct a bookleaf wall (to match existing around cenotaph) with wooden 'Victory Memorial Gate' Established 1928 along face of wall. Include evergreen hedge and annual plantings along the top of the wall
 15. Construct a bookleaf wall (to match existing around cenotaph) 'Anzac (Diggers) Avenue' Established 1932 Replanted 2007. Include a plaque within the wall to explain the significance of the avenue
 16. Remove garden and relocate deciduous tree
 17. Upgrade damaged memorial surroundings (paving lifted by tree roots)
 18. Investigate the use of security gate at night to eliminate inappropriate use at night
 19. Keep hedges to a level which allows views into the gardens from the street
 20. Investigate the relocation of the Swagman to edge of the lagoon
 21. Should additional memorials need to be located into the gardens, the area along Anzac Diggers Ave may be suitable
 22. Investigate the lifting of paving under fountain and relocate planting as per the original sunken garden plan (Refer to plan of management)
 23. Keep Waterlilies in check to allow for areas of open water across the lagoon

8.0 Plan Implementation

| Section in plan | Priority | Responsibility | Funding Sources | Cost components |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| Anzac Parade | Highest * | Asset services | TREENET/Council/Veteran Affairs | Remove Trees, connect irrigation, plant trees, plaques, lighting |
| Lagoon Path | Medium | Asset services | Council/CMA waterways funding grants/Cultural grants | Remove old path, implement new path, rock, planting, boardwalk |
| Lagoon Edge | High | Asset services | Council/CMA funding | Removal of all non-native vegetation, replace vegetation |
| Playground | Low | Asset services | Council/Recreation grants | Equipment, soffit, relocation of old equipment |
| Rotunda | Medium | Asset services | Council/Philanthropy | Reposition back on site, build or repair structure at CSU, relocate Churchill memorial & tree |
| Entrance | High | Asset services | Council | Removal of wall & relocation of trees, bookleaf wall, lettering/name, planting |
| Memorials | Low to High | Asset services | Council/RSL/Veterans Affairs | Upgrade areas cracked and broken, allow \$2K for memorial |
| Planting | Low to High | Asset services | Council | Removal of entire planting beds, replant entire beds |
| Lighting/Security | High | Asset services | Council | Gates to archway memorial, lighting to Anzac Ave, additional lighting to Sunken Garden, reorientation of sunken gardens |
| Tree Management | High | Asset services | Council | Removal of trees, replacement trees |
| Swaggy Relocation | Low | Asset services | Council | Pipes/remove/reconnect, structure shifted |
| Senses Garden | Low | Asset services | Council | Investigate cracking under pavement, possible extent of works unknown |
| Assets | Low | Asset services | Council /Philanthropy** | Seats, picnic tables, bins |

*Needs to be implemented well in advance of centenary of Gallipoli

**If people want to donate a seat it is of a certain type

9.0 References

Aitken, R. & Looker, M. 2002, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*, 1st edn., University Press, South Melbourne.

Gilmore, M. (Dame). 1963, *Old Days: Old Ways: a Book of Recollections*. Angus & Robertson, Sydney

Kerr, J. S. 2004, A Conservation Plan

National Trust of Australia, (NSW) Parks and Gardens Conservation Committee, 2003. *Interwar gardens, a guide to the history, conservation and management of gardens 1915-1940*.

The Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga

Bannister R, 1998 Managing Wollundry Lagoon and its precinct; A report to the Wagga Wagga City Council.

Ryan, W 2004 Report on the health of the trees in the Victory Memorial Gardens

The following documents by Wagga Wagga City Council:

WWCC, Urban Stormwater Management Plans, Volume 2 Turvey Park Catchment

WWCC, Draft Natural Resource Management Plan

WWCC, 1992, The Short Report Wollundry Lagoon

WWCC, Native vegetation and threatened species of the city of Wagga Wagga

WWCC, DCP Chapter 12 Open space zone and Chapter 16 Urban and Rural DCP

Heritage Provision

Vision 21

WWCC, 2004, Social Plan

WWCC, Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2005-2015

WWCC, Tree Management Policy

WWCC, 2001 Managing Urban Salinity