

Plan for the Reinstatement of the Kitchen Garden, Montague Island



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for

The Australian Garden History Society ACT, Monaro Riverina Branch

and

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1.0 Introduction

This report was commissioned in 2013 by the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS), ACT, Monaro, Riverina Branch with funding support from the national body of AGHS. Its aim is to assist staff from the NPWS Narooma Office to reinstate and better interpret the former kitchen garden that was tended by the lighthouse keepers, their assistants and families. The background to the brief includes the following statement:

The Branch Committee believes the project is a significant one that will contribute to Australians' understanding of the now-disappeared way of life of lighthouse keepers and their families. Most published work and conservation plans appear, to date, to devote little detailed attention to the landscapes and gardens made by the keepers. This project is the necessary pre-requisite to actual conduct of the restoration.

Tourism to the Island is increasing and the reinstatement of the kitchen garden will augment the interpretation of life on the Island and further enrich the visitor experience. An added advantage is that it will provide the opportunity for staff on the Island to supplement their own supplies with fresh produce.

1.1 Acknowledgements

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1.2 Montague Island Overview

Montague Island is located on the southern coast of New South Wales, 9 km off shore to the east of Narooma. Access is primarily by boat. The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is the owner of the site and is legislatively responsible for environmental land management and conservation of places of natural and cultural heritage value.

The lighthouse and residences were designed by the Colonial Architect James Barnet and built between 1880 and 1881. The island operated as a manned lightstation until 1986 when the lighthouse became fully automated. It was

Australia's first National Trust property, declared protected as a flora and fauna sanctuary in 1953. The NPWS took over management of the island in 1987. Montague Island was officially gazetted as a nature reserve in 1990, in recognition of its importance as a bird sanctuary, penguin rookery and fur seal colony.

Montague Island is nearly two kilometres long and about 700 metres wide. The main lighthouse precinct comprises the Lighthouse, Head Keeper's Quarters, two attached Assistant Keepers' quarters (northern and southern), inverter shed, oil store and workshop. Other historic elements on the island include a kitchen garden, a graves site, quarry, jetty, cranes and boatshed.

The lighthouse continues to function as a navigational beacon maintained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). Other activities on the island focus on educational experiences and university research programs. The NPWS maintains a resident field officer on the island year-round whose responsibilities include guided tours for visitors.

1.3 Previous Recommendations relating to the kitchen garden

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared in 2009 by HLCD, the Melbourne-based conservation architects and heritage advisers. The plan considers the kitchen garden precinct to be of high significance, stating:

- *There are opportunities for reinstatement of the old garden & kitchen garden precinct to assist with interpretation. The CMP recommends that further research is done into the type and appearance of original enclosures and composition of plantings, and also recommends research into the site and composition of any orchard that may have been on the Island.*
- *New cultural plantings (defined as those that are introduced to the Island as a result of human occupation) can be provided in replacement/restoration of the old kitchen garden precinct.*
- *Any new cultural planting must be isolated so it does not impact on natural vegetation (& to control spread).*
- *Any changes to the old kitchen garden precinct will need to be recorded, from existing conditions through to finished product. This information needs to be recorded and resulting information held onsite, with NPWS Narooma and with OEH.*

1.4 Heritage Status

Montague Island is included on the NSW State Heritage Register (no. 01000). The lighthouse only is included on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The lighthouse group is listed on the Register of the National Estate and is classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

A (minor) exemption to the Heritage Act (NSW) is required to enable digging and repairs to the enclosures to be carried out.

Relevant documents are:

- *Montague Island Nature Reserve Conservation Management Plan* HLCD Pty Ltd, 2009.
- *NPWS Lighthouses – Conservation Management & Cultural Tourism Plan*, Graham Brooks and Associates, 2001
- *Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management*, NPWS, November 1995 and Amendments July 2003.

1.5 Limitations

Research into vegetable gardens and common ‘everyday’ gardening in general is hampered by the paucity of information available. Reporting on the activity in the kitchen garden was not required as part of the official record and few visitors came to comment on the gardens or vegetation of the island. They were drawn by a fascination with the lighthouse and came to appreciate the wildlife and enjoy the hospitality of the families that lived on the Island. Visitors were universal in their thanks for the generosity of the Island’s inhabitants.

When Montague Island came under the purview of the National Trust it became a Flora and Fauna Sanctuary with an emphasis on protection. Although there are excellent photographs of birds, animals and the natural environment, there are none that include gardens.

2.0 History of the Kitchen Garden on Montague (Montagu) Island

For the early lighthouse keepers and their families the regular supply of stores was uncertain and vegetable growing became an essential adjunct to the basics that came by boat. Following the completion of the lighthouse and quarters in 1881, the first indication of gardening by the lighthouse keepers was the observation by a reporter from *The Sydney Morning Herald* in September 1883 that the keepers were always kept busy,

*...and the men, when not polishing at the lighthouse, are tending gardens which they have formed on the western slope of the granite.*¹

It is unclear where these gardens were located. The earliest plan of Montague Island, executed in 1881 following the construction of the Lighthouse and Quarters does not indicate vegetable gardens.² Heyligers and Adams identified two garden locations, both on the western side of the Island, based on a field trip in the 1990s – the current location which had been recently abandoned when they undertook their research and a site they identified as an ‘old garden site’ (Figure 1).³

¹ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 22 September 1883, p.9

² Montague Lighthouse Plan, National Australian Archives A9568 1/11/5
Barcode: 4957048

³ Petrus Heyligers and Laurie Adams, ‘Flora and vegetation of Montagu Island-past and present’, *Cunninghamia* 8(3):2004, p.284

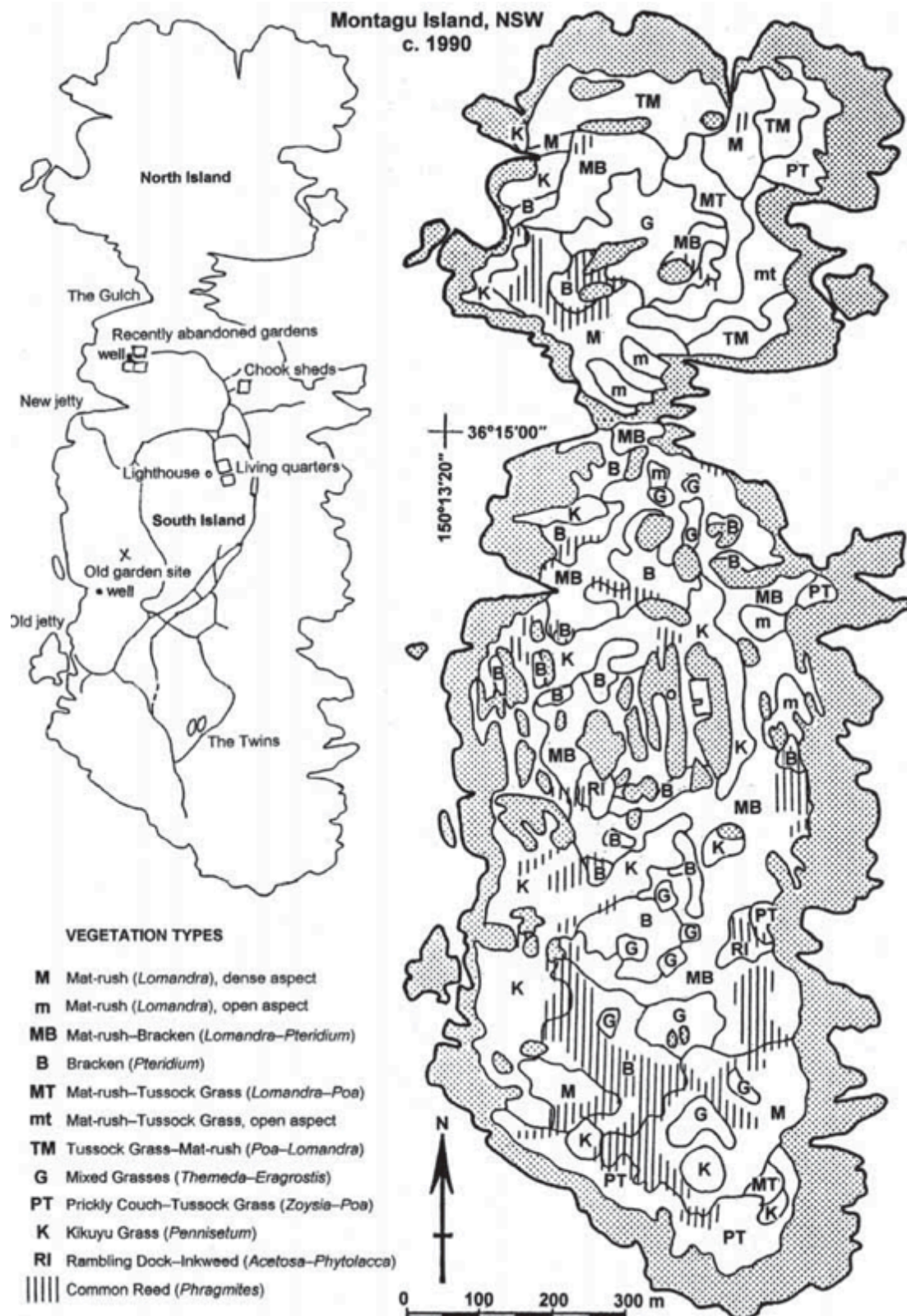


Figure 1: Montague Island in the late 1980s as published by Heyligers and Adams in 'Flora and Vegetation of Montagu Island- past and present,' *Cunninghamia* 8(3),2004.

In recent correspondence Heyligers states that the identification of the 'old garden site' was postulated on the basis that there was a fig shrub in the reeds

and the observation that following a fire on the Island a well nearby was revealed, which Heyligers concluded was evidence for a garden.⁴ This location seems consistent with the statement that gardens were on the western slope of the granite, although it remains conjecture. In an oblique aerial photograph taken by Stanley Fowler of this part of the island in 1936 there is the suggestion of old cultivation lines (Figure 2).

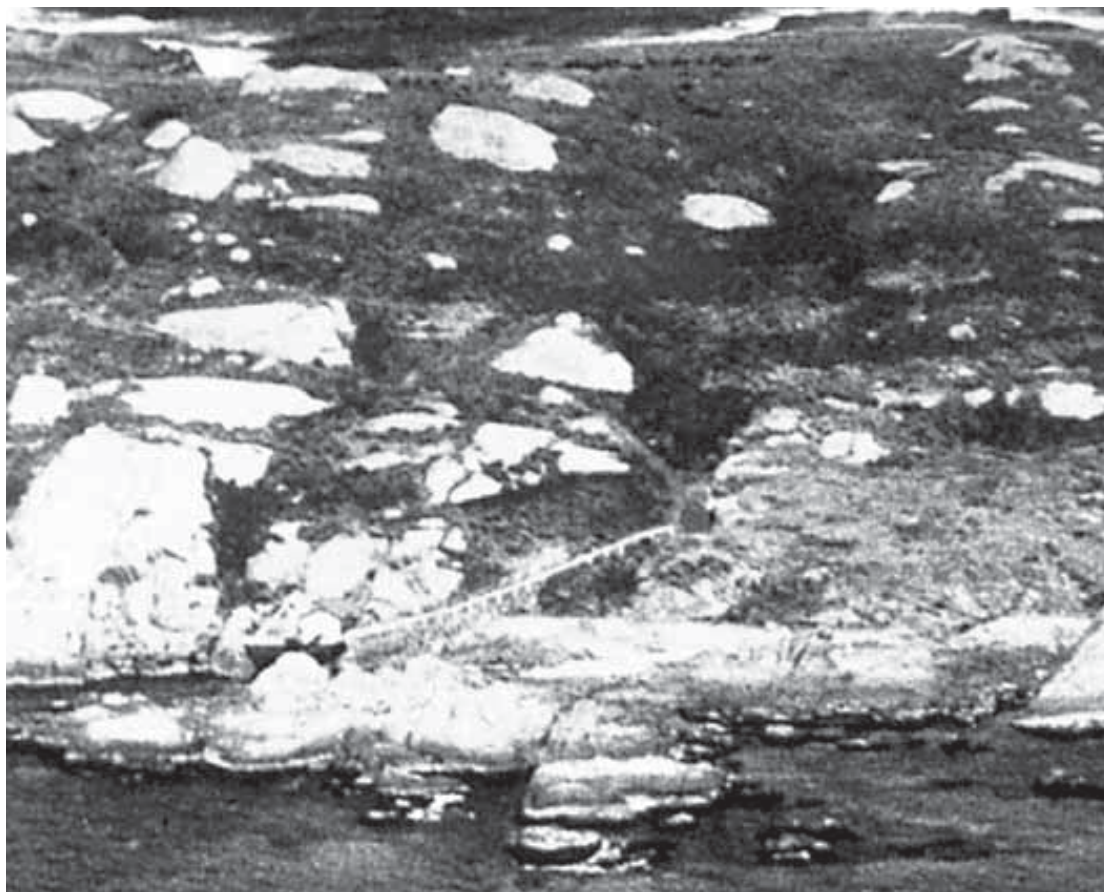


Figure 2: Faint horizontal lines in the area partway up the slope from the old jetty suggest the possibility of old cultivation lines. Rather than a vegetable garden this could also have been an area where a crop such as Jerusalem artichoke was grown to feed the pigs on the Island (CSIRO Stanley Fowler Image Collection Photograph taken from the west looking east toward the Island A2/72 CSIRO Archives reproduced in Heyligers and Adams Figure 7b; note the original of this photograph could not be located for this Report).

A second photograph of the same general area in 1936, indicates that any cropping had long ceased but also shows the bold outline of a fenced area which does not appear to be cultivated but may have been used to house animals. This may have been the 'old garden' site identified by Heyligers and Adams due to seeing a well revealed after a fire and noticing a fig tree (now gone). In 2013 old corrugated iron was in this area although it appeared to be stock piled.

⁴ Email communication P Heyligers to Laurelle Pacey October 2013

Steve Munday, who first lived on the Island with his parents in the late 1950s and returned there 1970-1980, believed that the original gardens and an old orchard were located towards Old Jetty Bay, although he also thought the current garden site dated from the 1960s.⁵



Figure 3: A fenced rectangle in the general area of a location identified as having a well and a fig tree, thus named as an 'old garden' site can be seen in this 1936 aerial photograph. (CSIRO Stanley Fowler Image Collection Part of A2/120 CSIRO Archives)

The first real evidence of vegetable growing on the island was recorded during a visit by keen amateur botanist and plant collector Dr F A Rodway. Dr Frederick Arthur Rodway (1880-1956), a medical practitioner from Nowra was the son of Leonard Rodway, the Honorary Government Botanist for Tasmania from 1896-1932. His collecting books and specimens are now part of the Library and Herbarium collection at Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

Rodway visited the Island on the 4th April 1932, signing the official Visitors Book to the Island.⁶ He recorded a Fig Tree and a pink flowered ivy geranium [Pelargonium] at the Head Keeper's House. Small cannas, small iris and violets

⁵ Montague Island Nature Reserve Conservation Management Plan Stage 1, HLCD Pty Ltd, for Depart Environment and Conservation NSW August 2008, p.44

⁶ Montague Island Visitors Book 1 1882-1932, NA c760, Barcode 425551

grew at the vegetable garden. In April the vegetables growing were tomatoes, peas, silverbeet, carrots and rosemary. Rodway noted a few rotten stumps of *Banksia integrifolia*, the remains of dead thistles and that one of the staff said a small wattle tree grew on the Island.

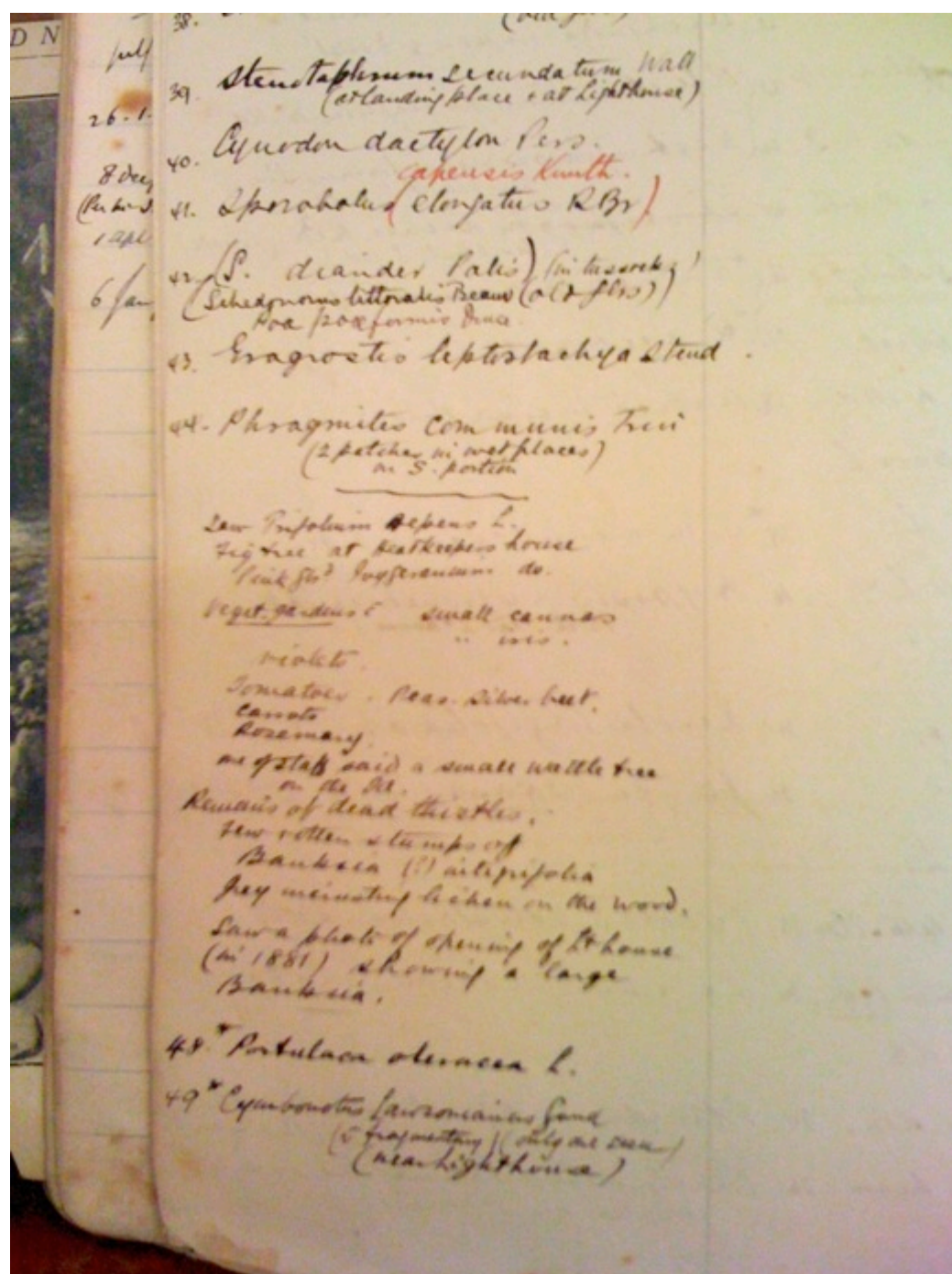


Figure 4: Rodway's recording of the species in the vegetable garden in his diary, April 1932 (RBG Sydney Daniel Solander Library, Manuscript Collection Acc. No: S019/1) Rodway's account of the vegetation of the Island was published in *The Australian Naturalist* in July 1932.

Four years after Rodway's visit Stanley Fowler's aerial photographs taken in October 1936 show a large, fenced area of vegetable garden, encompassing the current garden site.



Figure 5 : Looking east across the Island the vegetable garden in a broader context was photographed by Stanley Fowler in 1936 (Stanley Fowler Image Collection Part of A2/119 Part 2 CSIRO Archives)



Figure 6: A detail of the image above taken from the west looking east above shows divisions within the garden and areas being cultivated. A low horizontal division, possibly the extant stone wall runs north/south. The enclosure was big enough for areas to remain fallow or possibly to keep chickens.

Laurelle Pacey interviewed a number of people associated with Montague Island for her book, *The Lure of Montague*. Former boatman Ben Baddeley recalled that during the 1930s 40lb cabbages and huge cauliflowers grew on the Island and he would take them back to Hylands Hotel in Narooma.⁷ Accounts of huge spinach, huge sweet potato 'so big they couldn't fit into a sugar bag' and copious quantities of gooseberries conjure a picture of abundance.⁸

It is clear from recorded memories of the garden that its productivity ebbed and flowed in a direct relationship with the interest and commitment of the families that lived on Montague.

Fred Stubbs was the Head Lightkeeper from 1947-51 and his wife Mary occasionally recorded gardening activities in her diary, beginning on Friday 27 November 1947 soon after their arrival:

*Visited the garden and made ourselves known to the horse and cow. The chooks have survived the trip and they are now in a lovely big pen... (Sat 28.11.47) The gardens are in a pocket Nor-west of the station looks promising...*⁹

In August 1949 she spent an hour in the garden with Fred [Stubbs] who sowed carrots and parsnips.

Decades later Joyce(?) Stubbs recalled that the garden was 'pretty good in the wind', passionfruit grew well and she remembered the family growing cabbage:

*Well I remember planting some cabbages. And I went away and I never saw them but they said that one of the cabbages was the biggest one they'd ever seen. You couldn't grow beans for some reason. Peas yes, and somebody grew big carrots—the Tulks [Wilfred Tulk, Lightkeeper 1947?-1950] I think— and they just grew big—they weren't a big variety...*¹⁰

Wilfred and Jess Tulk spent 30 years maintaining the lights at various light stations along the coast.¹¹

⁷ Laurelle Pacey *The Lure of Montague* revised 2001, p 25.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 'Lighthouse Keeping: A Partnership, Report on the NPWS Lighthouses of NSW Oral History Project,' Kijas Histories for the Parks and Wildlife Group Office of Environment and Heritage, Revised May 2011.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Kijas Histories, *Life Under the Light, Lighthouse Families of New South Wales*, Office of Environment and Heritage, NPWS, p13.
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20110283LighthouseHistory.pdf



Figure 7: Mary Stubbs with Dot and Fay in one of the courtyards c.1949.(Stubbs Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)

Recent research by Laurelle Pacey indicates that the Lighthouse Keepers that followed the Stubbs 'let the gardens go until Holmes restored them in 1955.'¹² Max Holmes was Head Lightkeeper in 1956, the position that Jack Munday occupied from 1956-1960. The Mundays were keen gardeners although one recollection, at odds with most, is that they 'didn't bother with the vegetable garden ' (although this may refer to Steve Munday, lightkeeper 1977-81), adding credence to Steve Munday's recollection that the garden was a later addition, 'but kept pigs and they were kept in the "original" vegetable garden.'¹³

One explanation to the varying reports is that the Mundays may not have actively gardened the vegetable garden until after the arrival of the Lalors and the Hoods; the Lalors living on Montague 1957-1959 and the Hoods in the late 1950s. Pacey writes that Mari Munday recalled that the family grew all their own vegetables including 'huge spinach', buying in only potatoes.¹⁴ Oral histories by Kijas revealed that 'the Mundays and the Lalors were great friends throughout their

¹² 'Judith Cassell Report to Ivor Wyatt, 23 March 1956, AMSA Archives quoted in Laurelle Pacey, *The Lure of Montague*, revised edition 2013

¹³ Lighthouse Keeping, Kijas Histories op. cit. transcripts of interviews

¹⁴ Laurelle Pacey, *The Lure of Montague*, revised edition 2013

lighthouse life and after leaving the lighthouses lived near each other in Toukley.’¹⁵ The period spanning the late 1950s when the Munday, Lalor and Hood families occupied the Island appear particularly harmonious and also corresponds with the most glowing accounts of the gardens on Montague.

In the vegetable garden Jack Munday grew the vegetables and Marg grew the flowers (Figures 8-12). Two grand daughters of the Mundays were interviewed about their grandmother’s life on the Island and gardening. Jayne Hindle (nee Munday) recalled:

I think she really loved all of that and she had her veggie gardens and beautiful flower gardens in the courtyards and things so she really loved it.

Barbara Achison (nee Munday) endorsed this:

*...Grandma loved it...We’ve got photographs of these masses and masses of flowers that grew in the veggie garden. And in the courtyard and the window boxes they were just full of flowers. And Jack, Marg and Jack won prizes at the local show for the best cauliflower or something, broccoli head or something.*¹⁶

Judith Cassell, who was the National Trust’s liaison officer for Montague Island visited once a year and reported back to the National Trust. On her visit in 1957 she noted that the vegetable and flower gardens were being ‘extremely well tended.’ On this trip she had taken down a large parcel of dahlia bulbs and rooted plants which were divided between ‘Mesdames Munday, Laor and Hood.’¹⁷ Following her visit the following year between 21st and 28th November 1958, she included a section on Vegetable-Flower Gardens in her report:

These continue to be a big source of activity for the lightkeeper.

Throughout this summer Mr and Mrs Munday kept themselves in salads and all vegetables, potatoes excepted.

*The flower garden was flourishing. A friend of mine sent Mrs Munday a large parcel of dahlia bulbs prior to Christmas.*¹⁸

¹⁵ Notes with photographs from the Munday Family Collection, NPWS Head Office, Hurstville

¹⁶ Lighthouse Keeping, Kijas Histories, op. cit. transcripts of interviews

¹⁷ Judith Cassell, Report to the National Trust November 25 1957 National Trust Archives, Wyatt 13

¹⁸ Judith Cassell, Report to the National Trust 23.2.59 National Trust Archives, Wyatt 13



Figure 8: Jack Munday in the vegetable garden, spinach [silverbeet] in the foreground and peas just behind. Note that recycled timbers and corrugated iron was used for garden edging. It is likely that large mass in the back of the photograph was passionfruit. The Mundays were on Montague Island 1956-60(Munday Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)



Figure 9: Jack Munday in the vegetable garden at Montague Island holding an iceberg lettuce c.1958-9. This photograph shows that lower corrugated iron fences appear to have been used for divisions within the garden, a sturdy gate and small corrugated iron sheds (Courtesy of Munday Family Collection, NPWS published in *Life Under the Light, Lighthouse Families of New South Wales*).



Figure 10: A detail from the above photo confirms that the garden beds were edged, using recycled palings or weatherboards for delineating the beds. This photograph shows that the fence surrounding the garden was somewhat 'patched together' with recycled iron.



Figure 11: Garden detail from the image of Frank Munday holding a lettuce.



Figure 12: Marg Munday in the foreground and possibly Val Lalor behind in the vegetable garden c.1958-59. A hand pump on the well pump fed water into an old downpipe, which presumably was used to irrigate part of the garden. The pump was removed c.1970(Munday Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)

Cassell wrote a regular column under the name of 'Blue Gum' for *The Land*. She is said to have taken photographs of vegetables that were published in *The Land*, but these have not been found during research for this Report. However a long description of the gardens on Montague Island was published in the April 2 1959 edition of the paper. Little is written about the vegetable garden. 'Far down on a slope close to the shore,' wrote Blue Gum, 'Mrs Munday shares a small garden with another lightkeeper's wife'.¹⁹ The article (see Appendix 1) concentrates on the gardens associated with the residences and when combined with photographs of verandah gardening on Montague (Figures 13,14,15) is of significant interest for the interpretation of ornamental gardening on Montague Island.



Figure 13: The Head Lightkeepers residence c.1959 (Munday Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)

¹⁹ Blue Gum, *The Land* April 2 1959.



Figure 14: The courtyard Head Lightkeepers residence c.1959 (Munday Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)



Figure 15: Verandah gardening at the Head Lightkeepers residence c.1959 (Munday Family Collection NPWS Hurstville)

Judith Cassell does not mention the vegetable garden in her later reports to the National Trust. However she provides some explanation as to the planting of *Metrosideros excelsa* on the Island. In 1962 in reporting to Ivor Wyatt she wrote:

You may remember that the Department of Navigation and Lighthouses some time ago asked me to suggest tree plantings for the areas around their lighthouse stations in NSW.

*Accordingly, on my visit to Montagu in 1960, we planted twelve NZ Christmas Trees (Metrosideros excelsa) in various positions. Two have died, but the rest have made excellent growth...*²⁰

By 1972 the *Metrosideros* in the small gardens of the residences were over 15 feet in height.²¹

Wal Allen Lightkeeper from 1961-1965 was apparently very proud of his garden, where he 'grew anything and everything including many extra large vegetables. His daughter Narelle said he was once '“outdone by his sons who planted a few pumpkin seeds outside his fenced off garden patch, let them grow wild and were rewarded with at least one pumpkin weighing 17 lbs”.'²²

An aerial photograph from 1966 (Figure 13) shows the garden area soon after the Allens had left the Island.

²⁰ Judith Cassell to Ivor Wyatt, January 22 1962, National Trust Archives, Wyatt 13

²¹ Judith Cassell November 5 1972 National Trust Archives, Wyatt 13

²² Pacey, op. cit. Revised edition, 2013.

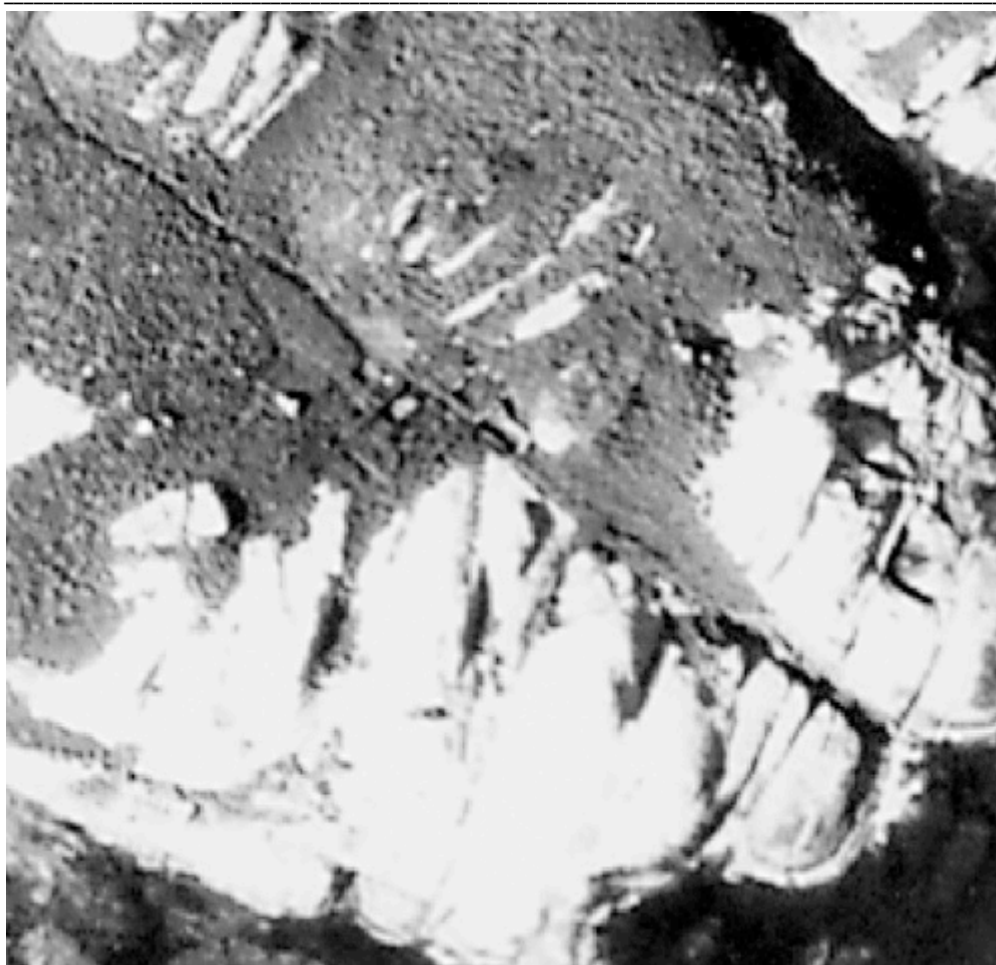


Figure 16: The garden on 13 May 1966, (top of the photo is SW) indicating that it still occupied approximately the same area as shown in 1936 although some areas appear to be less maintained. (copyright LPI- NSW Department of Finances and Services Photo 1966 NSW 928/5167 Panorama Av Bathurst www.lpi.nsw.gov.au)

By 1971, when the Hampsons had their first placement on Montague they had difficulty in locating the garden as it was overgrown and full of bracken. The well was not used because little penguins would frequently fall into it and die.²³ Bruce Conley was Head Lightkeeper from 1972 to 1980 and after getting rid of the rabbits from the enclosure, he and Mary Conley re-established the garden, growing a bit of everything although they found watering a problem because the pump had been removed.²⁴ The earlier aerial photographs indicate that the garden was fenced and almost certainly with corrugated iron. Re-roofing started in 1901/1902 when the main roofs of the quarters were replaced with terracotta tiles, some re-roofing of the lighthouse quarter was undertaken in the 1920s, iron was replaced in the 1930s, and all iron was replaced with asbestos in 1959/60 providing a good source of re-cycled iron for fencing.²⁵ By 1972 the corrugated iron fence must have collapsed and it is likely that the size of the enclosure was reduced at this time when a fence was re-erected.

²³ Pacey, op. cit. revised edition 2013.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Pacey op. cit. p.13

Mary Conley recalled:

*They put galvanised fencing all round the garden for us, and we dug up and put tomatoes and lettuce and all that sort of thing. What we didn't know was they fastened a rabbit in there. Now, every time you went down to see how our lettuce were going they were eaten. We found the burrow... we had tremendous crops of tomatoes out there.*²⁶

There was a close relationship with the people of Narooma and the Conleys returned favours with a bucket of tomatoes. One would expect that they exchanged seedlings of commonly grown vegetables as well. Chokos, Isabella grape, passionfruit and Jerusalem artichoke were grown in old Narooma gardens.²⁷

When John Hampson returned as Head Lightkeeper 1980-1985 he and his wife grew their own vegetables and it is reported that in 1986 both Lightkeepers had their own vegetable gardens.²⁸

The garden deteriorated from the mid-1980s onwards, being quickly overgrown with Kikuyu as soon as regular maintenance ceased. Photographs from 1989, held by NPWS Narooma, show the garden overgrown with Kikuyu and the fences collapsing, a situation unchanged in 1992 (see Appendix 2).

Over the past 20 years changing attitudes to the presentation of culturally significant sites under the management of NPWS has seen an increased acknowledgement of the value of everyday life in the interpretation of cultural heritage. A CMP for Montague Island in 2008 was the first stage in the process towards planning for the reinstatement of the Kitchen Garden.

²⁶ Kijas Histories op. cit.

²⁷ Personal communication 2013 with Richard Clough whose parents lived in Narooma.

²⁸ Pacey, op. cit., 2013

3.0 Light Keepers' Gardens: Montague Island in Context

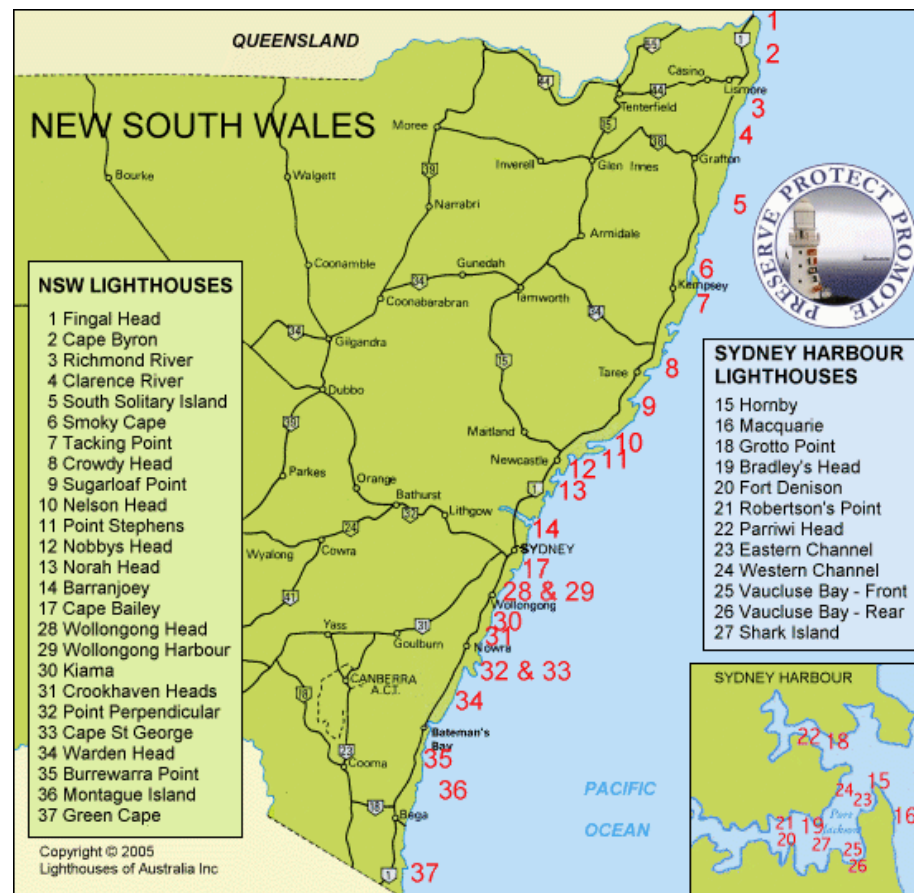


Figure 17: NSW Lighthouses (copyright Lighthouses of Australia Inc www.lighthouses.org.au)

The recently published novel *The Light between Oceans*, set on Janus Rock off the south west coast of Western Australia, is evocative of the isolation experienced by light keepers and their families.²⁹ In common with the majority of accounts of life in lighthouses it speaks of the rhythm of a life that revolves around the keeping and maintaining the light, the rigorous ritual of logbook entries, and of a place exposed to nature's elements. Also in common with factual accounts of lighthouse life is the cursory, rarely embellished reference to the vegetable garden that was an essential adjunct to the stores delivered to these remote localities.

In 1849 Captain Stanley of the HMS Rattlesnake visited 'the Lights of Bass's Straights', reporting on his journey. At Shortland's Bluff, two miles within the entrance of Port Phillip (Vic), fresh water could be obtained and the soil was 'capable of producing a sufficient quantity of vegetables for the use of light-keepers, and of persons connected with the pilot station.'³⁰

²⁹ M L Stedman *The Light between Oceans*, Vintage Australia 2012.

³⁰ 'The Lights of Bass's Straights', Report of Captain Stanley, HMS Rattlesnake, *SMH* Monday 29 January, 1849, p.3.

Gardens were perceived as a civilising influence in rugged settings that often approached the sublime. In 1889 when the Marine Board inspected Crowdy Head Lighthouse north east of Taree, NSW, it was commented that 'Mr Witnall, the chief lightkeeper has done much to tone down the wild aspect of the place by cultivating a capital garden.'³¹ And like the account of the light keepers' activities on Montague Island in 1883 continual busyness is a recurring theme in accounts of the islands. After visiting Montague Island in 1883 the Marine Board called in at newly constructed Green Cape. There all the staff were married men in 'very snug quarters' and already enclosures for gardens had been fenced in for them.³²

In 1898 H.R.Carleton noted that at the new lighthouse on Point Perpendicular, Jervis Bay:

*Each cottage has a fair allowance of garden ground enclosed by concrete block walls 7' high, and having concrete paths and edging to the soil beds, the soil for which to a depth of 18" is carted from a distance.*³³

Just how successful these efforts were is unclear as the high walls that surround keepers' cottages combined with the usual windy locations often produce a turbulence within the courtyards that is not conducive to gardening. Later in the mid-20th Century the Tulk family had a garden at Point Perpendicular but 'it was a couple of miles from the houses because there was a little bit of a stream or a spring and the soil was okay. There was no soil around Point Perpendicular.' The family had a 'lean-to' there so they could picnic while at the garden where they grew root vegetables– sweet potatoes, carrots, parsnips 'because the spray killed a lot of things.'³⁴

³¹ *Evening News* Monday 21 October, 1889, p3

³² *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 22 September 1883, p.9

³³ H.R. Carleton, 'New South Wales Lighthouses', *Journal and Proceedings of Royal Society of New South Wales* for 1898, vol.32, 1898, pp106-107.

³⁴ Interview by Kijas Histories for the Parks and Wildlife Group, Office of Environment and Heritage, Revised May 2011



Figure 18: At Point Perpendicular c.1940: Mercedes and Norma Tulk with their dog 'Sausage'. Norma and Mercedes Tulk went to the garden, which was about 30 minutes walk away and the Copperhead snake was standing on its tail, ready to strike Mercedes, but was killed by Norma. (SLNSW At Work and Play-original item no BCP 01925)

Between 1930-1935 the Tulks lived on South Solitary Island, north east of Coffs Harbour, where the only vegetables grown in that period were sweet potatoes.³⁵ Mrs Tulk also planted hydrangeas, two of which were still there in 1994 when Associate Professor Ian Jack visited the island.³⁶ Mrs Mercedes Sauerstein (nee Tulk) recalled a slightly later period at South Solitary. She grew flowers in the garden, which was protected from the persistent sea-spray with hessian blinds held up by poles over a frame. She remembered two coral trees, which later died, and apparently the community on Solitary was able to maintain 'beautiful lawns.'³⁷

³⁵ Norma Tulk interviewed by Assoc Professor Ian Jack 2 October 1995.

³⁶ I am indebted to Ian Jack for this information.

³⁷ Interview with Mercedes Sauerstein conducted by Ian Jack, 3 October 1995

When *The Australian Women's Weekly* visited South Solitary Island in 1946 they noted that vegetable growing was difficult there:

*Tom McKinnon is also carefully tending a small vegetable garden surrounded by a high fence to keep off the spray but it is difficult to grow much on the island and there isn't always water to spare.*³⁸

A journalist for the *Sydney Morning Herald* Women's Supplement interviewed two light keepers' wives for an article in 1938 – Mrs Warren, by then 78, with a long experience of being stationed at various lighthouses living in her widowhood at the Macquarie Lighthouse and her daughter-in-law. The young Mrs Warren, a city girl before her lighthouse experience, had lived at Seal Rocks and Green Cape, the latter of which she found particularly lonely. At Green Cape her 'greatest worry' was to find fresh food for the family but fortunately her husband 'made a splendid vegetable garden.'³⁹

Green Cape has the reputation as the windiest place in NSW with one of the lowest rainfalls. Later 20th century light-keepers even tried hydroponic gardening there.⁴⁰

Mrs James O'Brien was interviewed soon after her husband was appointed head light-keeper at Sugarloaf Point for an article published in *The Land* in December 1954. She had lived at five lighthouse stations over the previous decade. South Solitary Island she found very lonely and barren saying 'no plants grow on it, only a little grass and a few rabbits.' This was followed by appointments at Cape Byron and Norah Head, both easier postings due to their proximity to nearby towns although the snakes at Cape Byron gave her cause for concern. At Smoky Cape near Kempsey there was 'water laid on to the garden and they had lovely flowers.' She found the isolation at Montague Island difficult and the weekly supplies of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables often inconsistent due to inclement weather, which meant she kept big supplies of tinned food. However, Mrs O'Brien remarked that 'apart from these difficulties, I loved the Island, it is both beautiful and healthy.'⁴¹

Jayne Hindle (nee Munday) recalled at Smoky Cape the vegetable garden was in the yard, 'where the two frangipani trees are.'⁴² Larger trees, like the frangipani at Smoky Cape, seem to have been relatively unusual, possibly due to the lack of permanence of the light-keepers in any one place although the windy locations were also a factor. At Port Stephens, the native bush in the middle of the island created a natural windbreak, enabling the lighthouse families to establish fruit

³⁸ *The Australian Women's Weekly*, Saturday August 31, 1946 p.19.

³⁹ 'Women live on Romance in the Constant Roar of the Sea', SMH Women's Supplement Tuesday 8 February, 1938.

⁴⁰ *Life Under the Light* op. cit. p.32.

⁴¹ 'Women's Interests: Lighthouse Living Has Housekeeping Difficulties, Lonely Women, But Courageous,' *The Land*, Friday December 17 1954, p.36.

⁴² Kijas Histories op. cit.

trees in protection.⁴³ The lack of trees around the light stations was of sufficient concern for the Department of Navigation and Lighthouses to ask Judith Cassell for a recommendation of suitable species for planting –*Metrosideros excelsa* associated with light stations were planted at her recommendation.

The vegetable and flower gardens established by keener gardeners were largely ephemeral, although remnant plantings of Arum lily and banana on Montague Island indicate that some plants survived despite neglect. As the margins of towns edged closer to some of the light stations and supplies became more readily available the need for vegetable gardens diminished. Montague Island has one of the gardens where the need for fresh produce assumed importance and there was a repeated desire to keep the garden productive over a very long period of time. Of the lighthouses that comprise a complex of buildings, apart from Montague Island only the complex at Green Cape also includes obvious gardens and a cemetery.⁴⁴ The CMP (2008) states:

Montague Island appears to be a slightly more extensive lightstation with the greatest amount of ancillary buildings and other features in comparison with the other Complexes. This is explained by its isolation and need for self-sufficiency.

One of the 'features' is the kitchen garden. More recent interest by NPWS staff in growing vegetables to supplement the supplies they bring from the mainland echoes a practice established by the light keepers when they first arrived in the 1880s.

⁴³ *Life under the Light*, op.cit. p.16

⁴⁴ HCLD, CMP (2008) op. cit. p.63

4.0 Physical Description of the Remnant Garden



Figure 19: An aerial photograph of the remnant vegetable garden; north is to the top of the photograph (courtesy Narooma NPWS).

The vegetable garden lies to the north west of the lighthouse and the lightkeepers' cottages and 150metres north east of Jetty Bay in a broad shallow depression between rock outcrops. It comprises of two sections, one being an area surrounded by a dilapidated wood and corrugated iron fence that partly encompasses a well. A very small stone retaining wall or edging close by and additional fencing is indicative that the garden formerly occupied a much larger area, which accords with the evidence in the aerial photographs from the 1930s and 1960s.

The area has some hazards that comprise of rusting corrugated iron, some semi-buried, wire and a small amount of asbestos. The corrugated iron enclosing the garden is stamped 'LYSAGYT-ORB-AUSTRALIA' indicating that it was manufactured between 1921 and 1950. All the iron of the roofs of the buildings was replaced with asbestos in 1959.

NPWS staff measured the discernible outline of the garden (note this is smaller than the area on the 1930s aerial photo). The roughly rectangular southern area is approximately 15m X 7m and is the section of the garden that appears to have been more recently maintained. A rectangular timber and wire enclosure has been erected around the well on the outside of the garden fence, although the well is open on the inside. The northern area includes a banana clump with an area of approximately 235 square metres that demonstrates visible evidence of cultivation.

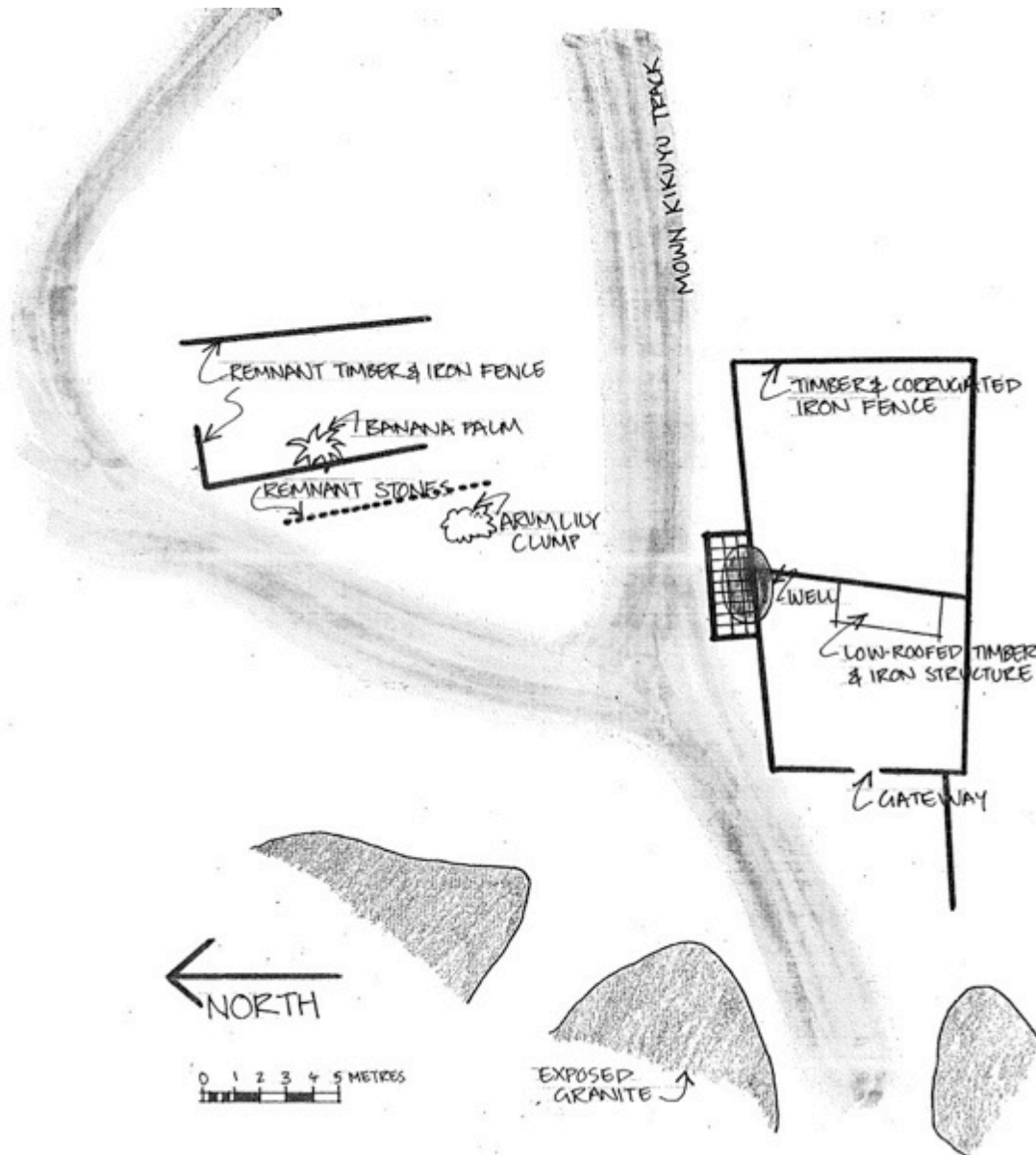


Figure 20: A sketch plan of the garden area (Courtesy: Jane McKenzie, NPWS)



Figure 21: An overview of the southern part of the garden; the rectangular enclosure for the well can be seen on the outside of the fenced area.



Figure 22: A broad view back toward the lighthouse precinct showing both remaining sections of the former garden area.



Figure 23: Looking from the northern end of the former vegetable garden toward the southern rectangular area. Note the clump of banana and arum lilies.



Figure 24: The northern section of the former vegetable garden. *Tetragonia tetragonioides* (New Zealand Spinach or Warrigal Greens), which grows over many parts of the Island, can be seen in this photo.

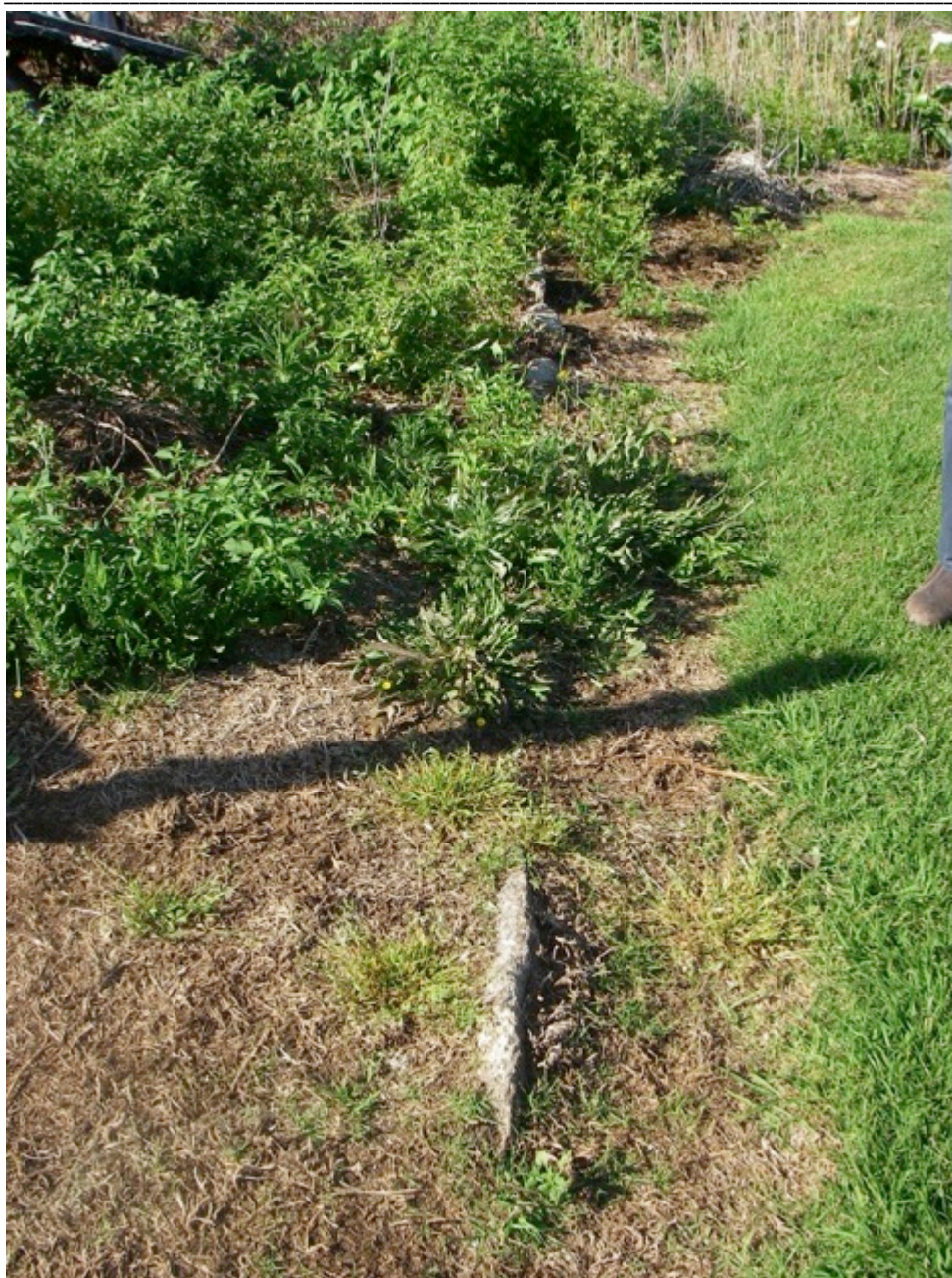


Figure 25: A line of low stone garden edging that appears to define the western side of the garden area to the north.



Figure 26: A view across part of the former garden area.



Figure 27: Disintegrating corrugated iron in the former garden area. The pink flowered perennial Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) and Warrigal Greens or New Zealand Spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*) grow around the garden area.



Figure 28: The well is covered with mesh outside the garden



Figure 29: The well area from within the garden. This is designated by a semi-circle on the measured plan of the garden.



Figure 30: The well area is enclosed on the northern side of the garden. (Photo courtesy Laurelle Pacey)



Figure 31: The southern section of the former garden showing the small garden shed that may have been used to provide shelter for chickens.

In the area to the west of the vegetable enclosures there is a clump of Arum Lily. This is consistent with the small westerly extension of the garden that can be seen in the Stanley aerial photograph.



Figure 32: Note the westerly extension to the vegetable garden in the foreground and the strong line across the garden at that stage. There is no shed at this stage and the exact location of the well is unclear although the small pale area in the enclosure may signify the well. The arrow indicates North. (CSIRO Stanley Fowler Image Collection detail A2/119 Part 2)

5.0 Significance of the Montague Island Kitchen Garden

In comparing Montague Island to other lightstations along the NSW coast, CMP (2008) states:

As a result of their siting in rugged and sometimes isolated coastal settings, all of the Lighthouses [of the six first-order lightstations] are in locations of exceptional natural beauty, and this equally enhances their significance. However, the siting of lighthouses on islands, as demonstrated by Montague Island and South Solitary Island, increased the need for the lightstation complexes to be as self-sufficient as possible and resulted in a more cohesive and comprehensive grouping of buildings and features. Their isolation has also restricted later development and both island complexes have been altered very little since establishment.

In comparison with other New South Wales lightstations, Montague Island is significant because of its important contribution to Hixon's strategy to improve the maritime safety of New South Wales and because of its design by James Barnet. These characteristics are similarly shared by five other lightstations in New South Wales. Macquarie Lighthouse is considered more significant historically; however, the Montague Island lightstation is a particularly good example because of the more extensive nature of the complex, including the graves site, gardens, jetty sites and ancillary buildings, which demonstrate its self-sufficiency. It is also a particularly intact example of a lighthouse complex.

5.1 Statement of Significance

The kitchen (vegetable) garden on Montague Island is of high significance as a rare surviving example of a garden associated with an intact and extensive lightstation complex of State significance for New South Wales. It is of significance for its connection with the way of life of light keepers over a long period from at least 1883–1985 and its capacity to demonstrate the self-sufficiency of the inhabitants of the remote Montague Island Lightstation.

6.0 Relevant Documents that Guide the Reinstatement of the Kitchen Garden

6.1 Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management (1996) Amendments 2003

The POM includes the following:

Section 2.2.2

The Montague Island Lightstation and its settings are listed on the State Heritage Register. The NPWS manages its responsibilities under the Heritage Act 1977 under delegation from the Heritage Council NS.W

Section 4.1.2

A quarantine protocol will be prepared as a high priority to prevent the introduction of inappropriate organisms to the island.

Section 4.2 Cultural Heritage

Relevant Policies:

- The historic places of Montague Island will be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS and the Montague Island Conservation Plan.*
- All work involving ground disturbance will be preceded by a survey for historic places and relics.*
- Exotic plantings (other than grass) in the old garden area will be maintained. Wildings which escape from the old garden area will be eradicated.*

Actions:

- The old garden area will be cleared of kikuyu and fully recorded.

6.2 Final Montague Island Conservation Management Plan (2008)

This document identified the archaeological potential of the garden site as High but its Research Potential as Low archaeological potential. This indicates that any findings will have little potential to provide evidence of an alternative view of life on the Island that would not be available from other sources.

Policies:

- *There are opportunities for reinstatement of the old garden & kitchen garden precinct to assist with interpretation. The CMP recommends that further research is done into the type and appearance of original enclosures and composition of plantings, and also recommends research into the site and composition of any orchard that may have been on the Island.*
- *New cultural plantings (defined as those that are introduced to the Island as a result of human occupation) can be provided in replacement/restoration of the old kitchen garden precinct.*
- *Any new cultural planting must be isolated so it does not impact on natural vegetation (& to control spread).*
- *Any changes to the old kitchen garden precinct will need to be recorded, from existing conditions through to finished product. This information needs to be recorded and resulting information held onsite, with NPWS Narooma and with OEH.*

The research undertaken for this Plan addresses the policy concerning further research into the garden and records the state of the garden in 2013.

6.3 Statutory Framework

In addition to the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NSW) 1974, the Native Vegetation Act 2003 (NSW), the following Acts are relevant to the work proposed:

6.3.1 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The Heritage Act 1977(NSW) aims to conserve the environmental heritage of NSW. Montague Island is an item included on the State Heritage Register. Under Section 57(1) of the Act, Heritage Council of New South Wales approval is required to undertake works to a place included on the SHR.

Reinstating the garden, including the reinstatement of fences, introduction of raised ('no-dig') garden beds and plantings, will require an Application for an Exemption under Section 57 for Minor Works (Standard Exemption No. 7) to be submitted.

6.3.2 Management of Archaeology under the Heritage Act

Under the provisions of the Act, Heritage Council of NSW approval is required to excavate or disturb land on the SHR and where there is reasonable knowledge of relics being disturbed. To gain approval an application must be made to the Heritage Council under Section 60 of the Act. Excavation Permits are issued in accordance with appropriate professional assessment, standards and procedures. If it is determined that excavation will not adversely affect potential archaeological relics, then an application for Exemption from the s60 process can be made under s57(3) of the Act.

7.0 Reinstatement of the Garden

7.1 General Policies

- 7.1.1 All work, including changes to the garden area, should be recorded consistent with the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning guidelines for photographic recording of Heritage Items.
- 7.1.2 A copy of the recording should be lodged with the Heritage Council of NSW, the Australian Garden History Society and NPWS.
- 7.1.3 Decontamination of the site of asbestos should be in accordance with the EPA Act 1979(NSW).
- 7.1.4 Wherever possible recycled materials (aside from nails and bolts) are to be used in all repair and reconstruction.
- 7.1.5 Use vegetable seeds that are heirloom varieties commonly grown from the period being interpreted.

7.2 Underlying Principles for the Reinstatement of the Garden

The aim of the reinstatement of the kitchen garden is to interpret a past way of life– the lightkeepers’ of Montague Island in particular and lightkeepers’ around the coast of NSW and Australia more generally. Part of the way of life was to ‘make do’ with the materials at hand.

While interpreting the earlier extant of the garden, from the analysis of the history of the garden, the best surviving evidence for the area to be reinstated is that which dates from the 1970s. Under the current operational situation this is a more suitable size from a management perspective. It may also be possible to interpret the less defined area of garden to the north by safely re-erecting the current fence and mass planting with a crop such as Sweet Potato or Pumpkin. This area could also be used for compost making.

Due to the long span in the history of the garden the change in cultivars grown is considerable. However the vegetables grown should be heirloom varieties known to have been available 1885-1970. Brunning’s *The Australian Gardener* 20th edition 1924 includes varieties grown in the early twentieth century and *Yates Garden Guide*, published at regular intervals, and *Yates Calendar* are both good references. Editions from the mid 20th century are relatively easily obtained second-hand. Both Brunning’s and *Yates Garden Guide* also include good guidelines for crop rotation.⁴⁵

There is photographic evidence that the vegetable beds were edged or slightly raised. To interpret this and to avoid excessive disturbance of the underlying soils, the planted vegetable beds will be raised and constructed from recycled materials. Initially a ‘no-dig’ garden should be established, although compost made on the Island can be utilised.

The current caretakers could dedicate an area to grow herbs and vegetable varieties and cultivars that are now part of our preferred diet (such as Rocket). If this option is taken, the differences should be highlighted as part of the education and interpretation program. This area must be clearly defined and interpreted so is no confusion between it and the vegetables that the former lightkeepers are known to have grown. For example, lettuce for most households until the late 1970s meant Iceberg Lettuce, whereas today there are many varieties of lettuce grown.

Often paths in vegetable gardens were only 2ft (approximately 60cm) wide. Some wider paths will be required for access for guided tours.

⁴⁵ See also www.abc.net.au/gardening/vegieguide/crop_rotation.htm

7.3 Vegetables and flowers named in accounts of Montague Island Vegetable Garden

Year	Name of Vegetable	Ornamental	Reference
April 1932	Tomato	Canna	Dr Rodway's diary
	Pea	iris	
	Silverbeet	violet	
	Carrot		
	Rosemary		
1930-40s	Cabbage		Pacey <i>The Lure of Montague</i>
	Cauliflower		
	Spinach (likely Silverbeet)		
	Sweet Potato		
	Gooseberries		
1949-51	Carrot		Mary, Fred and Joyce Stubbs
	Parsnip		
	Passionfruit		
	Cabbage		
	Pea		
1956-60	Spinach (appears to be Silverbeet)	Dahlia	Munday period
	Iceberg Lettuce		Photograph of Jack Munday
	Onion, Spring Onion		Photograph of Jack Munday
	Pea		Photograph Munday collection
	All salad and vegetables except Potatoes [Salad was likely tomatoes, iceberg lettuce, spring onion, cucumber- apple and green, beetroot, celery]		Judith Cassell
1961-65	All vegetables Pumpkin		Wal Allen family
1973-80	Tomato		Conley oral history
	Lettuce		

7.4 Guidelines for the Reinstatement of the Garden



Figure 33: This aerial photograph shows the area formerly occupied by the much larger vegetable garden enclosure, north is to the top of the photograph (courtesy NPWS Narooma).

7.4.1 Preparation

- Remove small fragments of disintegrating corrugated iron, wood, asbestos, any partially buried rusting wire and other potentially dangerous fragments from the kitchen garden area. This should be undertaken across the full extent of the area occupied by the earlier kitchen/vegetable garden enclosure.
- Retain Arum Lily and perennial sweet pea, self-seeded vegetables and protect banana clump in this process.
- Monitor this process for any evidence of the location of the former fence around the larger garden.
- Gently reveal the low line of garden edging stone in the northern section of garden.

There are no known archaeological remains of local or state significance within this area. However, should historical archaeological relics be found then works should cease immediately and the remains assessed by a qualified archaeologist and the Heritage Council notified. Works should not proceed until approved to do so has been provided by the Heritage Council of NSW or its delegate.

- Remove regenerating shrubs from the former kitchen garden area and control Kikuyu and New Zealand Spinach.
- Test soil for contaminants.
- Undertake weeding, but being careful to leave in-situ any elements such as parts of fence posts which indicate previous structure.
- Retain the old 44gallon drum. Drums like these were used for the preparation of liquid manure.
- All preparation work is to be undertaken by NPWS staff or contractors.

7.4.2 Implementation

- Repair or reconstruct all extant fences, including the partially collapsed section in the northern garden area as this acts as a windbreak for the banana clump. Ensure there is sufficient height for good protection from prevailing winds. Install gates to the vegetable garden in the fences.
- Repair small shed within the garden, if required. This could be used for storing implements, bins of dolomite, blood and bone, hose etc.
- Establish an area for compost making and erect bins using recycled wood and corrugated iron. This should preferably be in the northern section.
- If possible re-use the 44 gallon drum for making liquid manure. If this is not feasible, retain the drum as part of the interpretation of past gardening practices.
- Construct an enclosure around the full extent of the well to a design that will prevent penguins from accessing the well area. Install a finer grade removable mesh cover that will prevent penguins from falling into the well. Recycled bricks or stone could be used to construct a more regular circular capping for the well walls.

Irrigation

- Install a small diesel pump on a removable pre-cast cement slab adjacent to the well to facilitate watering the garden. The pump should be covered by a semi-open enclosure to protect it from rain but be accessible for ease of operation. Installation should be guided by the following criteria:

- a) located abutting the well enclosure on one side and the garden fence on the other to help minimise its appearance.
 - b) the height of the enclosure should be no higher than the existing corrugated iron fence.
 - c) the enclosure should be timber-framed and clad with aged (salvaged) corrugated iron to match the existing fence.
- Install a tap in association with the pump. This will require explanation in the interpretation program as the photograph of the old pump indicates that water was pumped to a recycled metal downpipe that appears to have been part of a system rigged up for distributing water to the garden beds.
 - Investigate whether the former hand operated pump (removed prior to 1972) can be located and re-purchased. Alternatively source a hand pump, which looks similar to that in the photograph (Figure 12). The hand operated pump is principally for the interpretation of the former maintenance of the garden. Acquire metal watering cans for use in the garden and as part of the interpretation of the place. The use of the hand pump in conjunction with the watering cans could provide an activity-based means of interpreting the life of the light keeper.

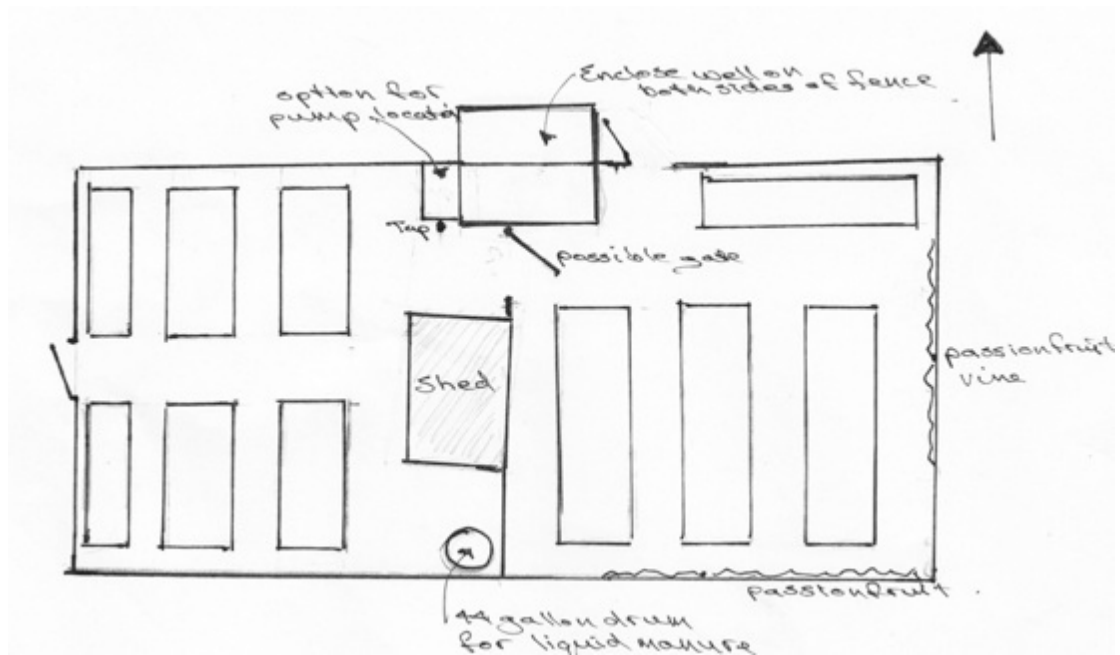
Garden Bed Construction

- Beds are to run in a north/south direction and ideally should be constructed using imperial measurements (feet and inches) ie: beds should be a maximum of four feet wide (122cm) to allow easy access to the middle of the bed by 8 inches (just over 20cm) high.
- Raised garden beds can be constructed using wood or a combination of wood and corrugated iron, as seen in the photographs of the Munday family. The 'look' should not be too perfect- this was 'making do'. The construction technique should emulate mid-twentieth century practices with recycled wooden posts for the corners as well as using extra post supports along the sides.
- The suggested plan is a concept plan only. A final layout will be dictated by the recycled materials available, as was the case in the past.
- Plant passionfruit vines against the fence on at least one side of the garden.

Further Interpretation

- Endeavour to interpret the full extent of the garden as seen in the 1930s photograph. One option is to mark the full extent of the garden with corner posts.

7.4.3 Concept Plan for the Reinstatement of a kitchen garden for the southern section of the remnant garden



7.4.4 Seed List Matching Old Catalogues with Currently available Seed

Year	Name of Vegetable	Varieties (that are still available)	Reference
1932	Tomato	'Burwood Wonder'[Eden Seeds has a 'Burwood Prize'] Australian Large Red [Eden Seeds has Australian Red]; 'Bonny Best' (Eden Seeds); Money Maker; Ponderosa (Eden Seeds has Ponderosa Red) Red Cherry [possibly 'Cherry Cocktail']	E.F. Cook <i>Vegetable Growing in Australia</i> , 1923 Yates Annual 1930
	Pea	'Greenfeast' 'Telephone' 'Sugar' or Edible Podded Dwarf and Tall	<i>Vegetable Growing in Australia</i> , 1923 Yates Annual 1930
	Silverbeet	Lucullus (Eden Seeds)	<i>Vegetable Growing in Australia</i> , 1923
	Carrot	Early Nantes [Eden Seeds has 'Nantes'] Yates 'Manchester Table', 'Early Chantenay' 'Half Long Danvers' [Eden Seeds has 'Danvers']	<i>Vegetable Growing in Australia</i> , 1923 Yates Annual 1930
	Rosemary	Must be the old culinary Rosemary, not one of the modern cultivars	
	NB: New Zealand Spinach, which grows wild on Montague Island appeared in vegetable growing guides under 'Spinach'.		
1930-40s	Cabbage	Red Dutch (Eden Seeds) Savoy (Eden Seeds has 'Vertus'(Savoy))	<i>Vegetable Growing in Australia</i> , 1923

	Cabbage	'Early Jersey Wakefield' (Eden Seeds- this is a Sugarloaf)	Yates Annual 1930
Year	Name of Vegetable	Varieties (that are still available)	Reference
1930s-40s	Cauliflower	Yates 'Phenomenal early'	Yates Garden Guide 1949
	Spinach	Yates 'Prickly seeded' (Yates re-issued this in an heirloom collection tin)	Yates Annual 1941
	Sweet Potato	Bush 'Port Rico' (yellow/gold) 'Farmer's Special' (white flesh- more common in the 1940s)	
	Gooseberries	Diggers Club stock Gooseberry Yorkshire Champion	
1949-51	Carrot	Yates 'Manchester Table', 'Early Chantenay' Also see above)	Yates Garden Guide 1949
	Parsnip	'Hollow Crown'	
	Passionfruit		
	Cabbage	See above	
	Pea	See above	
1956-60	Spinach (likely Silverbeet)	Silverbeet 'Fordhook Giant' (Greenharvest seeds)	Yates c.1960
	Lettuce	'Great Lakes', 'Iceberg', 'Webb's Wonderful' (Eden Seeds)	Yates 1956
	Onion or Leek	Leek 'Musselburgh' (Eden Seeds)	Yates 1956
	Pea	'Greenfeast'; 'Telephone Pole'; Yates 'Earlicrop'	Yates 1956
	All salad and vegetables except Potatoes [Salad was likely tomatoes, iceberg lettuce, spring onion, cucumber- apple and green, beetroot, celery, radish]	Tomato: Grosse Lisse; Beefsteak; Rouge de Marmande; Super Sioux ; Burwood Prize 'Egg' shaped Tomatoes were popular these were Roma 'San Marzano' Cucumber "Apple Cucumber"; 'Long Green' Radish 'French Breakfast.' Beetroot 'Early Wonder' (Eden Seeds)	Yates 1956

		Celery 'Golden Self Blanching' (Eden Seeds) Radish 'Long Scarlet' (Eden Seeds)	Yates Annual 1941
Year	Name of Vegetable	Varieties (that are still available)	Reference
1956-60	Cabbage Cauliflower Carrot	Yates 'Sugarloaf' Cauliflower 'Phenomenal Early' Carrot 'Topweight'; 'Manchester Table'; Early Chantenay Also see seeds in earlier years	Yates 1956
1961-65	All vegetables Pumpkin	Pumpkin 'Queensland Blue'; 'Butternut'; Turk's Cap; 'Australian Butter' (Greenharvest seeds)	Yates 1956
1973-80	Tomato	Grosse Lisse Above plus 'Tiny Tim'	Yates 1965
	Lettuce	Above varieties plus 'Green Mignonette', 'Brown Mignonette' (Green Harvest Seeds)	Yates c.1960

<http://greenharvest.com.au/index.htm>

www.edenseeds.com.au/

www.yates.com.au/products/seeds/vegetables/

www.diggers.com.au/

www.tomato.seedsaustralia.com.au

Yellow Pear Tomato is an old tomato that appears in the Yates Annual but it was a very unusual tomato and most likely would not have been grown on Montague Island.

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APPENDIX 1

Extract from Blue Gum's Column in The Land 1959

April 2 1959.

their villas and refreshing their Plane trees, which they would often do with wine instead of water.

"So prized was the very shade of this tree that when later they transplanted it into France, they exacted a solarium, by way of tribute, from any of the natives who should presume to put his head into its shade."

● **Flower Lovers On Montagu Island**

ON this lighthouse station off the South Coast of the State, the three residences which house the three lightkeepers and their families, are situated on the summit of the southern end of the island.

Here because of the harsh southerlies which sweep in on to the small front grounds of each home, it is impossible to grow flowers.

While, in the back there is room for one flower bed and some tubs of plants, this area, under good lawn, is mainly used as a drying ground for laundry.

But the wife of each lightkeeper has found a way out whereby she may have plants about her: she grows them in her glassed-in verandah.

Particularly would I like to pay a tribute to Mrs. Jack Munday, wife of the head lightkeeper, for the manner in which she has transformed her glassed-in verandah into a veritable conservatory.

A great plant lover, she has, to quote her, "gathered this collection from everywhere."

● **Variety Of Plants**

YOU find it somewhat bewildering to take, through the entrance gate to this home, thoughts of the Island's great granitic boulders, its lighthouse close by, and its encirclement of sea, and then to be suddenly confronted by all this array of growth.

Here are Elkhorns, Stag-horns and Birds' Nests Ferns which Mrs. Munday found at Toukley when her husband was stationed there.

There are several pots of our own maiden hair as well as the New Guinea variety, asparagus ferns and other indoor plants.

Then there are Montagu's own ferns, the running maiden hair, "the soft fern," 4 to 5ft. high, the hardy rock ferns.

The scene is not lacking color. For here has been introduced the bluish foliage of cacti, the pink of tall begonias, the red of the Tom Thumb fuchsia trained over a wire frame, and even the deep orange of the Thunbergia vine.

Most of these plants are in drums or tins painted a rich, mid-green, and the whole effect is one of good harmony.

Far down on a slope close to the shore, Mrs. Munday shares a small garden with another lightkeeper's wife.

How she manages it, is a miracle, but I have never yet seen her wall vases without flowers. There are always flowers for the dining table.

"Flowers make a home," she says.

But hers would not be there if, in that sea-girt island, so often swept by gales, she did not carry a great love of them in her heart.

● **Fertility of Native Tree Seed**

"F.J." Narroon: In reply to your enquiries on the length of time certain tree seeds may be stored, this time span varies according to species.

Again, to keep them in perfect condition and so help them retain full fertility, seeds must be stored under dry conditions where they will not be subject to changes of temperature, inroads of insect pests, etc.

Placing them in glass containers with fairly firm screw-on lids, is a good method.

Fully ripened Eucalypt seed may be stored for up to six years.

Kurrumbidgee seeds should be sown about one to two years after collection. Germination percentages of



THE RED BOX.—A fine specimen mutilated on one side, also most soils in these areas report

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APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN FROM 1989 AND 1992 (courtesy: NPWS Narooma)



The view looking south-west across the garden toward Mt Dromedary on the mainland 17 April 1989.



The view looking north-west across the garden 17 April 1989.



A view from the west looking in a south-easterly direction across the garden toward the Lighthouse in 1992.