

LANDSCAPES AT RISK LIST

Updated 13 June 2022: 'Watch & Action' List



Mount Gilead estate south-west of Sydney, near Appin looks bucolic here, with its windmill tower and landmark trees, but is to be surrounded by up to 10,000 houses in stages, as Sydney's urban sprawl reaches south along Appin Road. This area of land is vital as habitat corridors for a healthy koala population, leading some to concern over how these competing pressures and issues will be managed.

ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

WATCH

- **Anzac Parade – Rond Terrace ‘improvements’** – The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians are concerned that the National Capital Authority under COVID-19's cover, is presently building 6 flagpoles here, at the far (lake) end of Anzac Parade – with more ‘improvements’ to follow. No public consultation has occurred: no statement of heritage impact or due process done under the national Environment and Heritage law (this is a nationally sensitive area). Mistaken non-history is it seems being used: claiming this is ‘the Griffin vision’ – not so: Griffin had no military intentions or uses planned for his ‘stadium’ area: it was for leisure and contemplating democracy. Only in recent decades was a parade ground for military events installed, below Rond Terrace. Previous NCA attempts to put war memorials on Rond Terrace provoked outrage: see [New, dedicated world war memorials would be duplication \(smh.com.au\)](https://www.smh.com.au/news/new-dedicated-world-war-memorials-would-be-duplication/2019/07/26/)

- **Jerrara waste and energy proposal near Bungonia village** – community and Goulburn Mulwaree Council angry about a proposed \$600m ‘energy’ facility (which seems a waste incineration facility, of industrial scale) in a colonial rural landscape of significance. Council has threatened legal proceedings over permissibility. The Department of Planning characterise the project as ‘electricity-generating’, thus permissible. The community say otherwise.
- **National Library forecourt poplar groves** – the branch provided input into the National Capital Authority’s new tree management policy but fears its comments in support of replanting the dramatic, upright narrow Lombardy poplars have been overlooked. This exclamation mark of a tree, with buttery autumn colour, was deliberately used as landmark trees in key locations in the Parliamentary Zone, e. g. courtyards of Old Parliament House and in front of the National Library, to enhance an axial vista to its entry. These are now on the ACT’s weed list. The NCA claim they cannot plant this species, although replanting has been successfully done before and the ACT Government’s pest plant law has flexibility involving obtaining permission. The trees are ailing and need replacing. The proposal of upright Durmast oaks will only grow half the height of poplars, be stocky and hold their leaves through winter. Thus, they won’t have the same autumn colour, or effect. The poplars were a specific choice of National Capital Development Authority landscape architect, Richard Clough. Non-suckering rootstock is available for Lombardy poplars now, so this inflexibility seems unfortunate. See: [How the National Library can still have poplars and retain its heritage character | The RiotACT \(the-riotact.com\)](#)
- **Yarralumla former Forestry School** 1926+ campus of the Australian Forestry School, located in Westbourne Woods to capitalise on dendrology, mensuration, surveying and soils instruction using differing tree species planted 1914-24 by Charles Weston. Many of those trees are now ending their lifespans, but still serve as link to this early stage of ‘modern’ Canberra. In 1965 Forestry transferred to ANU, but the Commonwealth Forestry & Timber Bureau and the Forest Research Institute stayed here until CSIRO took over the site in 1975. CSIRO withdrew from forest research c2008. In 2002 the lease on the now 11ha precinct was sold by the Howard government to the Shepherd Foundation, who provide services to deaf children. CSIRO was allowed to sub-lease for 20 years, until 2022. The Shepherd Foundation have begun exploring ways to re-develop the land as a source of finance. Consultations with residents and community groups are underway. ACT Branch of AGHS will tour the site in February 2021.
- **Bungendore Diggers’ pines (?1920s), Gibraltar Street, Mick Sherd Oval** Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) grown from seed brought back by Diggers. Issue with Queanbeyan Palerang Council cutting down over 13 that over the last 5 years. The trees are acknowledged in the War Memorial registers. There has never been any acknowledgement by council of their significance or purpose and no replacement option or plans other than a few Japanese elms. The community has been desperate to avoid the removal, proving they are not diseased and requesting that if the trees die, they can remain. A suggestion they be replaced with new radiata saplings out of respect has not been considered (Vivien Laycock, 11/2020 enquiry).
- **Berry township and landscape setting, Shoalhaven** – historic Berry was part of the 1822 Coolangatta Estate of Alexander Berry and partner, Edward Wollstonecraft. Its 40,000-acre holding was prime dairy land, of which much remains. However rising tourist trade, day and weekend visitors/owners from Sydney, a Princes Highway bypass and a Council that seems to under-value its real ‘asset’: this lush farming landscape, as a sharp contrast to town boundaries, are eroding its integrity. There is a risk of precedent in questionable approvals, piecemeal strip development south to Bomaderry and sprawl as rural blocks are bought, and subdivisions not-otherwise-permitted are approved. Many heritage houses and areas lack statutory listing, making them vulnerable. Similar pressures on Milton and Kangaroo Valley townships in their

landscape settings. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) have classified the Berry District Landscape Conservation Area, but it lacks legal protection, careful planning, heritage leadership and active management. The English 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' classification is one option – strict zoning as 'rural' with non-variable minimum lot size, strict urban boundaries.

- **Australian War Memorial \$498m expansion** – near-doubling its floor space, with bulk intruding into the aspect of the lower slopes of Mt. Ainslie and changing the vista from the parliamentary triangle over the lake. Approval for significant tree removals appears to rest on insufficient study, analysis and assessment of surrounding landscape where the resultant heritage listing description inadequately protects the landscape. An alarming precedent. <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/australian-war-memorial-redevelopment-risks-glorifying-combat-20200714-p55bsr.html>

The Branch worked with the AWM on a guided tour of the grounds "*History in Nature - Plantings at the AWM*" in March 2019 when official enthusiasm was expressed for a landscape history, these grounds include terracing, tree and shrub plantings from 1930s plans by Emil Sodersten. Since then priorities have changed and the impact of recent clearing for the eastern car park on tree plantings – with some 60 trees removed - is disturbing enough, see:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/14/experts-deride-snake-oil-mental-health-claims-for-498m-australian-war-memorial-expansion> Now another 65 trees are for removal for the extension 'Vandalism' – Memorial declares war on its trees | Canberra CityNews and [block-3-section-39-campbell-australian-war-memorial](#)

- **Waring Gardens, Deniliquin (1880)** upgrade including the proposed removal of an 1885 *Wisteria* arbor (originally on an artificial island) over a cast iron fountain. Some locals are upset and lobbying to retain the *Wisteria* and rebuild a larger arbor. It is also proposed to remove a small stub wall on the town's main street, bounding the park. Despite the gardens being a state heritage register item, the need for prior Heritage Council approval was overlooked by Council.
- **Australian Capital Territory Plan variation 369 – Living Infrastructure** Plan tree cover controls – the territory government proposes 30% tree canopy cover and 30% permeable surfaces in urban areas. While laudable, plan detail says 15% (not 30) for medium density areas – precisely where green space and trees are the most precious. The branch made a submission recommending redrafting at 30% for all urban land. Info at: [Keeping our city cool - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate - Environment \(act.gov.au\)](#)
- **Wingello Park, nr. Marulan** – NSW Land & Environment Court upheld an appeal against a refused proposal to alter/extend this 1830s tablelands farmhouse complex – plus local and state heritage listing nominations to the NSW Heritage Council and Goulburn-Mulwaree Council. The branch (& Southern Highlands branch) wrote, supporting local listing. An interim heritage order was placed by Council. The owner has retained their heritage advisor and since modified their plans, which is good. Council has approved a modified development proposal. The owner appears now to support local heritage listing. A proposed NSW State heritage listing has been publicly advertised. Earlier info at: [Wingello Park application sparks council bid for heritage order | Goulburn Post | Goulburn, NSW](#)
- **Australian National Botanic Garden, Acton** – impacted by a dramatic hailstorm in January 2020, causing considerable damage and leaving parts of the garden closed to the public.
- **Namadgi Nature Reserve**, south of Canberra – over half of its area was burnt in 1/2020 bushfires. Info at: [Long-term bushfire recovery plan to heal Namadgi - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate \(act.gov.au\)](#)

- **Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, S. of Batemans Bay** – 80% of its plants were burnt by wildfires in 1/2020. Buildings including recently expanded visitors' centre were unharmed as was their seedbank, for the large Southeast Bioregion, with millions of seeds. The garden is recovering, thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers.
- **Bendora Arboretum**, south of Canberra – burnt in 1/2020 bushfires – one of the few government-planted arboreta (experimental forestry planting trials) left after previous bushfire seasons. Info at: [Bendora region finally opens since Orroral fire | Canberra CityNews](#)
- **Wandella Woods Arboretum, Cobargo** – burnt out in 12/2019-1/2020 wildfire, house saved. Significant private arboretum conifer collection was severely affected. 50% of broadleaved trees are showing signs of recovery, one year on... Report at: [Myers-One-Year-after-the-fire.pdf \(gardenhistorysociety.org.au\)](#)
- **Haig Park master plan** – Turner & Braddon (inner north), a formal strip 1km from Civic, dating to 1921-3 and Charles Weston's plantings as windbreak for city. Heritage listed. Proposal to turn it into another city garden with additional recreational facilities, formed paths, hard edges, paving, structures. Branch submission made – it seems a foregone conclusion is at play. Info at: [Haig Park - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate - Environment \(act.gov.au\)](#)

ACTION

- **Lake Burley Griffin and lakeshore landscape** – residential and commercial developments in fringe lands, e.g. **West Basin** (near New Action/ CBD – infill and rezoning for more city apartments) 25 March 2020 announcement of an agreement over ACT / Federal government land makes this 2.8ha of lake bed now ACT land, allowing unilateral ACT government redevelopment as city 'renewal', i.e. infill of those 2.8ha of lake, extension of public boardwalk from Henry Rolland Park a further 500m, later commercial and residential development. See <https://the-riotact.com/shock-and-outrage-at-west-basin-land-swap-with-curtin-horse-paddocks/365850>. This means loss of lakebed, erosion of lake's symmetry, infill of parkland and restricted public access. An application for reclamation and boardwalk was publicly exhibited in May 2020. See: <https://www.nca.gov.au/consultation/block-23-section-33-acton-acton-waterfront-phase-2-boardwalk-and-land-reclamation>. The National Capital Authority approved a tweaked scheme, with c200 extra trees, BBQs and boardwalk lighting after public backlash, but the works started in September 2020. 'Hundreds' of apartments are forecast.

Despite long silence or lack of evident support from the ACT and Federal governments for a decade, just before 'caretaker period' for the federal election, Environment Minister Sussan Ley announced **National Heritage Listing of Lake Burley Griffin, Kings and Commonwealth Avenue bridges** and nearby, Commonwealth-owned **parklands**, including Yarramundi Reach, Scrivener Dam and Stirling Ridge. While that is welcome news – it omits all lakeside lands belonging to the ACT government – which comprises the majority (e.g.: all lakeside lands outside the 'Parliamentary Triangle' and the Central Basin. For more information see: <https://www.westernadvocate.com.au/story/7730339/heritage-listing-for-lake-burley-griffin/> and here: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/canberra/programs/breakfast/nca-role-in-lake-burley-griffin-heritage-listing/13876980>

Threats remain, in quantity. Medium density development is proposed around Albert Hall, in Parkes – a key public building and site of many a Canberra social occasion since the 1920s.

The ACT government has been secretive on its site master plan, and public consultation. That plan was approved with no heritage listing nor did it require any consideration of impacts of changes it proposes on Canberra's national heritage values. A petition was presented to ACT Legislative Assembly in 12/2017. Both Labor and Liberal parties in that assembly have stated non-support for national heritage listing. Both seem keener on widening the Commonwealth Avenue bridge (more traffic, light rail), developing land and abandoning former, good, planning. AGHS has written to two ACT MPs seeking they reconsider. An ICOMOS letter to Ministers is at <http://australia.icomos.org/e-news/australia-icomos-e-mail-news-no-815/#4>.

- **Canberra Central National Area Trees' future** – National Capital Authority public consultation on preferred species of trees for the core, central part of Griffin's Canberra plan (including national institutions, their settings, the centre of Lake Burley Griffin, Parliamentary Triangle, Anzac Avenue vista to Parliament House, the 2 main bridges and avenues (Kings, Commonwealth) and Constitution Avenue north of the lake. The NCA manages 18,000 trees, much affected by drought. It is hoped listing on this at-risk list will aid NCA budget augmentation. The branch made a 2019 submission on NCA's tree master plan, seeking its implementation (\$\$) and improved management. The branch made a 2020 submission on the draft Tree Management Policy, which although having good intentions, lacks clarity and any priority to heritage value, lessons from past species experiments in making new selections for future replacements.
- **Nature in the City inquiry:** ACT Legislative Assembly – the branch representatives appeared before a public hearing of a Committee of Inquiry, presenting concerns about piecemeal development, lack of public commemoration of landscape designers, loss of green space, profit-driven development. Branch put in a plea that the government acknowledges the Urban Forest as crucial to nature by listing trees in streets, parks, reserves as public assets, maintained, and funded by Treasury budget provision.
- **Montague Island Nature Reserve – Kitchen Garden** – the branch commissioned a research report on the lighthouse-keeper's vegetable garden, which included a plan for its reinstatement. Branch volunteers helped reinstate it. Branch now corresponding with managers (NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service) to ensure the garden is recognised for its heritage values, while the NPWS renominates the nature reserve for 'Green List of Protected Areas' status.

Northern NSW Branch

WATCH

- **Bloomfield Hospital, Orange** – some 500 trees are being cut down for a regional sports complex – the decision was delayed by the NSW Heritage Council (Bloomfield Hospital including its grounds is state-heritage-listed), calling for relocation of the stadium to better fit heritage elements and character. The mayor is keen to get the complex built, as it is fully funded by the state government. A risk of Bloomfield's parkland character being eroded, further. Info at: [Culling of 250 trees in Orange park recommended ahead of crucial meeting | Central Western Daily | Orange, NSW](#)

- **Kurrumbede, Gunnedah** – garden around a Federation era farmhouse once belonging to poet Dorothea Mackellar’s family, south of Gunnedah. Farm was bought by Whitehaven Coal who, have responded to a lively public media campaign to save the garden and open it up for community access. So far so good. A public open day occurred in mid-2021, another good sign. Info at: [Visit Dorothea Mackellar’s home ‘Kurrumbede’ - The Courier \(narrabricourier.com.au\)](https://www.narrabricourier.com.au). Heritage NSW recently advertised a notice of intention to list Kurrumbede on the NSW state heritage register (a very good thing).
- **Armidale Creeklands** – the Northern NSW sub-branch has joined and are supporting the community group ‘Visions for the Armidale Creeklands’, who are creating plans to redevelop and revegetate Dumaresq Creek which flows through the centre of Armidale. Some progress... Info at: [Visions for Armidale Creeklands](#)
- **Armidale Airport Rugosa Roundabout, New England Highway** – 2019 Northern NSW members’ planting of 170 *Rosa rugosa* bushes on a new roundabout on the highway entry to the airport and Saumarez. Despite drought, the bushes are establishing well. Volunteers are tending them. See: [New roundabout smells of roses thanks to Garden History Society - Armidale Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Saumarez, Armidale** – Heritage Rose Garden – despite drought, the Stage 2 garden (featuring rose breeders’ cultivars) plantings are thriving, with donations of water and plants (Heritage Roses in Australia), and extra shade pergolas, seating were completed in spring 2020. COVID in 2020 meant no volunteer access: AGHS held its first working bee on 7 February 2021. The cold frame has been restored, as have the property’s tools, which have been catalogued, thanks to the expertise of Richard Bird (‘The Old Mole’) and Jarrad Stevenson. Farmers’ Markets are held here every second Sunday for several months, meaning more visitors and interest. A revised ‘Rose Guidebook’ is near completion. More info at [Saumarez Homestead Gardens – National Trust](#)
- **War memorial coastal cypress pines, Tweed Heads** – interim heritage order, need replanting and care. These trees are a WW1 c1918 commemorative planting, and an endangered ecological community. Byron Shire Council has commissioned a heritage study of them, a good sign. Pressure on camping sites under and around them means they are losing ground to increasing numbers of campers, who used to be seasonal only. [Echo Daily news item](#).

After years of dispute, the NSW Land & Environment Court made a judgement which is a ‘win’: 7500m2 was saved for rehabilitation and replanting, and the parks corporation gets to keep 26 camp sites, instead of the 45 it wanted. A revised vegetation management plan with ongoing audits and monitoring are required. More at: <https://www.echo.net.au/2021/07/court-settlement-in-long-running-bruns-park-issue/>
- **Honour Avenue of Norfolk pines, Cudgen** - Tweed Shire Council support heritage listing it. Council at the urging of Progress Association in 2013 cut down 4 slash pines planted by a resident (active in the RSL and in getting the war memorial built), a Mr Kapel, in honour of his fallen Dutch storm trooper colleagues lost in WW2 (part of this avenue). These were replaced with a sole Norfolk Island pine, dedicated on Anzac Day 2013. This was to replace a diseased (now removed) old Norfolk Island pine in the primary school grounds, dedicated to a local soldier - [Tweed Daily News item](#) and [Echo Net Daily](#)

ACTION

- **Saumarez Recreational Vehicle area proposal** – on exhibition is a proposal to allow a parking and accommodation ‘pods’ and overnight (parking) area on site for RVs – in a different location than originally proposed, hard up against the Heritage Rose Garden and car park adjoining the Picking Garden. Submissions closed on 15 March 2022 – the branch has lodged an objection and has been seeking meetings with the Trust to discuss this.
 - **Armidale Airport tree felling** – Branch submission to Armidale Dumaresq Council concerned at extensive tree felling around the airport, requesting prior consultation before any more occurs. Info at: [Airport Business Park - Armidale Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.armidale.nsw.gov.au/airport-business-park)
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Queensland Branch

WATCH

- **Binna Burra Lodge (1933+) and O’Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat**, amid Lamington and Springbrook National Parks, **Border Ranges** – were destroyed by wildfires in 9/2019. State and regional funding have allowed some reconstruction and reopening by 8/2020. Gondwana Festival went ahead again in March 2021, but with low-key accommodation. 14 months and \$30m federal funding to fix the only access road into Binna Burra. Insurance quibbling and fundraising underway. See: [Binna Burra features in 'Tourism - Ready for Recovery' - Binna Burra Lodge](#)
- **Memorial Ave, Emu Vale – Warwick, Southern Downs**, of conifers. Identified in AGHS Qld. Heritage Gardens study and nominated for listing on the Qld. Heritage Register. Info at: <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/2014/03/heritage-gardens-queensland-survey/>
- **Memorial Avenue, Kurrajong and Oak Streets, Tannymorel** – of plane trees (*Platanus x hispanica*) honouring the fallen of World War 2 – plaques were unveiled 25/4/1949. Qld. Another Heritage Register nomination. Info at: <https://avenuesofhonour.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Tannymorel-AoH.pdf>
- **Hoop Pine Ave, Imbil Forest Station, State Forest, Sunshine Coast** – this important research site is barely maintained, and its budget and future are uncertain. Some information on it is at: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/imbil/about#features>
- **Queensland Performing Art Centre (1985) and Art Gallery, South Bank, Brisbane** – its designed landscape around buildings was the work of the late landscape architect and AGHS member, Barbara van den Broek, 1932-2001. It included ‘spillage planting’ of cascading plants to soften large planes of concrete, and break-out landscape areas. Info at: [https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/images/documents/artsqld/Queensland-Cultural-Centre-Conservation-Management-Plan---FINAL-June-2017-\(CMP-Conrad-Gargett\).PDF](https://www.arts.qld.gov.au/images/documents/artsqld/Queensland-Cultural-Centre-Conservation-Management-Plan---FINAL-June-2017-(CMP-Conrad-Gargett).PDF) Norwegian

design practice Snohetta and Brisbane firm Blight Rayner architecture won a design competition for a new (5th) theatre – announced by the Premier in May 2021. This will make Brisbane Australia’s largest such facility. Early works began in 2020 and should be finished by 2022.

- **[Thomas Park \[Bougainvillea Gardens\], Indooroopilly](#)** – Henry Thomas began planting bougainvilleas on here from 1898. By the 1940s it was known worldwide as a beauty spot. By 1956 he had 15 varieties of *Bougainvillea* growing here. He produced his own cultivars, including the hybrid, B. ‘Thomasii’. Sold to Brisbane City Council. Qld. Heritage Register listed in 2014 after a campaign. Now a forgotten Brisbane icon. [Plants worthy of attention in Thomas Park](#)
- **[Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba](#)** – the branch nominated the park for Queensland Heritage Register listing, with documentation prepared by Tania Metcher, with assistance from John Taylor, Wendy Lees, Roger Spencer and Stuart Read on its rare oak and tanbark oak (*Lithocarpus*) trees. The Park was listed on the Qld. Heritage Register in November 2018. Info at: <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=650083>

ACTION

- **Greenmount homestead, Pioneer Valley, Mackay:** the branch is funding a \$10,000 restoration project managed by member John Taylor in state-listed garden around a 1915 house, gifted to the city (Mackay Regional Council) in 1983 (with 1997 conservation study by member Catherine Brouwer, who has assisted with drawing up restoration proposals): replacing several trees and plantings, including commemorative plantings by dignitaries and guests near the house, rebuilding a dilapidated timber ‘Buddleja’ arbour and placing a small plaque. A branch visit to launch the project occurred in July 2021. The site is open to the public. More info: https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/104844/Greenmount_Brochure.pdf
- **Toowoomba, car park construction adjacent to 2 tall Bunya pines** planted c1870 on public land near the second (1881) Town Hall, which predates the current (1900) Town Hall: branch members have liaised with Council over long-standing neglect of these significant trees – both are crowded by other plantings or weed encroachment, and private car parking close to one tree. The 2nd Town Hall building was sold to the Catholic Church to fund construction of the 3rd (1900) Town Hall, in Ruthven Street. It was demolished in 1906, the site used for a school, it later demolished and the site now a Holden car dealership yard and parking. The branch is seeking proper fencing of both trees’ sites, removal of parking and de-compaction of root zones.

South Australian Branch

WATCH

- **Anembo, 19 St. Jude Street, Willunga** – current proposed demolition of an historic stone home and rambling 19th century cottage garden, the latter much extended from the 1970s-1989 by a sympathetic owner. *Anembo’s* 1860s second owner was Andy O’Brien, who did the Adelaide run for Cobb & Co. coaches. Its 1880s widow owner’s two sons carved their names into the large fig tree beside the house. This site has been visited on various occasions by AGHS, Heritage Roses in

Australia and the Herb Society, through the Australian Open Gardens scheme. Onkaparinga Council are advertising the demolition application at present. Change.org petition is at: [Petition · State Planning Commission: Stop demolition of 19 St Jude's Street Willunga · Change.org](#)

- [Ayers House, Adelaide – change of tenant](#) – this rare town house and garden on North Terrace (c.1846) has been leased, occupied and run by volunteers as a house museum since 1972 through the National Trust of Australia (SA), for the state government. In June 2021 Environment Minister sent the Trust an eviction letter, terminating a month-by-month lease and announcing it will be the new home of the History Trust, with \$6.6m investment. Some suggest that the National Trust (SA)'s public advocacy criticising the state government may be the cause. This may mean change for its spacious lawns and surviving garden, which is a rare thing in downtown Adelaide.

See: <https://indaily.com.au/news/2021/07/06/national-trust-fights-ayers-house-eviction-notice/>
<https://history.sa.gov.au/blog/statement-from-the-history-trust-of-south-australia-regarding-ayers-house/>

<https://www.change.org/p/premier-of-south-australia-keep-ayers-house-for-the-people-in-the-care-of-the-national-trust>

- [Bicentennial Conservatory, Adelaide Botanic Gardens](#) – overdue restoration and upgrade. After decades of little funding or maintenance, this (1991) prize-winning 1989-90 glasshouse designed by Guy Marron – and the largest single-span glasshouse in the Southern hemisphere - is due for \$9m for restoration and improvements. The branch is watching this roll out with some pleasure.
- [Romalo House](#) – Magill, near Penfolds Magill Estate: a recent planning permit allows subdivision and removal of 2 significant Moreton Bay figs, a hoop pine and a massive stone pine. The spacious grounds of this c1858 mansion (Home Park, later La Perouse) have been largely stripped of vegetation to make way for new housing. Since 1945 the home and garden of the Bonython family.
- [Old North Road](#) – land sale of a section of land to a Mining Company.
- [Urrbrae TAFE closure](#) – Adelaide, SA state government announced planned to close TAFE and Horticulture, Environment & Conservation programs in unique 'gardened' grounds of High School, part of a precinct including the Waite Institute and Waite Arboretum. A campaign and petition included AGHS branch submissions to Ministers for Education and Primary Industries. This succeeded – in 7/2019 the government announced TAFE will maintain its presence at the Urrbrae Campus and continue delivering horticulture training, after meeting savings targets and completing a review of how its training offering can be best delivered.
- [Waite Campus, University of Adelaide \(former Urrbrae House and grounds, including the Waite Arboretum](#) - A 31/1/2021 public rally and campaign is opposing the proposed demolition of former Urrbrae House's Gate House or Lodge, and several mature trees, as part of upgrading the Fullarton and Cross Roads intersection. The gate lodge and whole property is state heritage listed. See [Rally planned to save Urrbrae gatehouse, as Govt accused of being 'tricky' \(indaily.com.au\)](#).

Consider signing the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/dit-save-the-waite-lodge-and-trees>

- **[Adelaide Parklands](#)** – pressure for active recreation (Grand Prix, events, income-generation, AFL headquarters, riverbank Arena stadium proposals) and transport (new busway) at the expense of balanced management and defence of passive recreation, risk to National Heritage List values and character. The proposed planning changes include the possibility of 15-20 storey buildings, subdivision and a range of new uses. 12/2018 Stadium Management Authority proposal (with state funding) for a boutique hotel at Adelaide Oval, despite City Council objection and submission to Premier. Current Parklands Event Management Plan is skewed towards active profit-making. The branch is monitoring the situation. There is further pressure on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site for a new, second hospital, transit hub and new sports arena, 15m from the river - impacting on enjoyment and use of riverbank surrounds. The latest proposals ring it with motorways, preventing any ground connection between patients, visitors or the community through the parklands. See [Banking on the River \(indaily.com.au\)](#) and [New Stadium — Adelaide Park Lands Association \(adelaide-parklands.asn.au\)](#)
- **Adelaide's Urban Squares (4 + 1: North Adelaide)** – same issue with Parklands Event Management Plan which actively promotes events and profit-taking off public open space. Recent draft Whitmore Square master plan favours profit-based events, giving conflicting descriptions of their scale: small-medium (to 7500 people) or medium-major (over 10,000), until 1am, any day/night, selling alcohol from 11am. This risks damage to the square's fabric and integrity (it cannot support 10,000 people) and risks privatising key historic urban (and garden) spaces from non-paying citizens' passive recreation.
- **Claremont House, Urrbrae** – the branch is concerned at risk to the garden. Info at: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/gardens/>. 1890s gatehouse to be dismantled and rebuilt nearby cf bulldozed for a \$61m intersection upgrade – a compromise taking months of protest for the SA Government to agree to. Info at: <https://indaily.com.au/news/2021/03/15/urrbrae-gatehouse-to-be-moved-not-demolished/>
- **[Mount Lofty Ranges - National Heritage Listing](#)** and UNESCO World Heritage listing for the “working agrarian landscapes” -- vineyards and farmland in the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale. Urbanisation, fragmented management, infrastructure upgrades, uncoordinated management by various parties (though improving).
- **[Adelaide Botanic Garden](#)** – lack of state heritage listing beyond selected structures. In contrast, Adelaide's Parklands are on the National Heritage List and holistically managed. [Heritage Database](#)

ACTION

- **[Martindale Hall, Clare Valley](#)** – an iconic 1880 mansion and estate, featured in a classic 1970s film, *'Picnic at Hanging Rock'*. Uncertain future as state government considers selling it to private investors. National Trust (SA) are campaigning to prevent its conversion into an exclusive luxury resort. The Trust has announced a proposal to preserve the Hall, promote its heritage and ensure it stays in public hands, accessible to all. ([Ref Page 6](#)) [SA Government CMP](#).

SA Environment Minister Spiers has introduced a bill proposing abolition of the existing M.H. Conservation Park, extinguishing the charitable trust when it was gifted to SA's people, and vesting all power in the Minister, including long-term leases. And vesting the SA Planning Commission as relevant authority on any development. A Get-Up SA campaign is at: [Petition update · Another threat to iconic SA heritage - Martindale Hall this time! · Change.org](#)

- **Charles Sturt Memorial Museum, Grange** – committee advising volunteers on restoring its garden. Info at: <http://www.charlessturtmuseum.com.au/>
- **Mitcham Railway Station Garden** – the branch is having discussions with Council and Friends group re significant trees protection. Review at: <https://playandgo.com.au/nellies-garden-mitcham-railway-station-review/> and more at: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofmitcham/posts/our-volunteers-have-been-hard-at-work-this-month-mulching-the-succulent-and-nati/3480888435259896/>
- **Grove Hill** – private garden, site of former 1846+ nursery – Branch liaison re assistance to owners. Info at: <https://www.grovehill.com.au/our-story> and in book: <https://gardendrum.com/2021/02/23/adelaide-hills-gardens-a-review/>

Southern Highlands Branch

WATCH

- **Bannaby and Taralga cultural landscape** – NSW energy utility Transgrid has proposed Hume Link transmission lines – connecting the Snowy Hydro 2.0 scheme with a new substation at Wagga Wagga and upgraded substations at Maragle and Bannaby, NE of Goulburn. The eastern-most part of this will either bisect colonial farm landscapes including historic Bannaby and Cross Stations, state heritage listed Hillasmont estate, and which may bisect Tarlo River National Park. The Bannaby Residents Action Group are demanding Transgrid consult landowners, and seriously consider alternative routes, such as simply following existing power lines.
- **Berrima Gaol (former) for sale** – the branch is watching what happens next as the NSW government placed this pre-1840s convict era State Heritage Register-listed jail on the real estate market, by expressions-of-interest. It is at the heart of this colonial town, once on the main Great South Road (since bypassed). The land includes a grant forecourt with gardens, a Federation style Governor's residence, and Deputy Governor's residences and gardens – these former two both facing the town's main street, and vegetable garden areas.
- **Berry township and immediate rural surrounds** – the branch received a request from the Berry & District Historical Society to place the town and its rural surrounds on this Landscapes at Risk list, noting that Shoalhaven City Council are disregarding its own conservation area heritage controls and approving questionable infill, subdivision and creating some very poor precedents, eroding the town's distinct historic character, and setting.
- **Bowral Austral Brickworks closure** – on the town's west. This presents a major opportunity for a second railway crossing south of the CBD, a 20ha city park and lake. The Berrima Residents' Association are lobbying for this, asking Council to support a park (cf urban infill). Meanwhile, the government has announced funding for a new brickworks at Berrima – see: [\\$80 million investment for Southern Highlands - \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

- **Wingello Park, nr. Marulan** – this branch has been active as well as the ACT, Monaro, Riverina branch, on this same issue – see ACT branch item report, above.
- **St. John’s Anglican Church Glebe, Camden** – A branch representation made to NSW Premier over church’s sale of glebe paddock to a developer proposing aged housing units. This land was gifted by the Macarthur family to the church. Premier’s reply was to contact the owner. Site since listed on NSW State Heritage Register, so any works proposed go to the Heritage Council.
- **[Retford Park, East Bowral](#)** – impact of subdivision of grounds on its character, budget and guidance, consistent management (retaining excellent garden staff) with new ownership by the National Trust (NSW). Still lacks State Heritage Register listing, despite a conservation management plan, prepared with that understanding. Proposed regional gallery for the stables – awaits funds, approval. Heritage *Camellia* collection identified with help of Camellia Ark Australia members and hosted one successful public program, on pruning mature camellias.
- **Invergowrie, Exeter** – Paul Sorensen garden’s future – after long for-sale period, it recently sold and new owners are taking advice and doing works in the garden. Issue of non-continuity of garden staff, erosion of heritage values. 2019 auction of the contents of house.
- **Gleniffer Brae, Keiraville** – University of Wollongong proposal for Arts Faculty use – infill buildings, car parking impacts on the remaining Paul Sorensen designed garden and its better care. Wollongong City Council also propose changing zoning to allow a function centre use in the mansion. Concerns of implications of that change. Conservatorium Lease expires in 2023. Risk of fragmented management of site with adjacent (1960s+) Wollongong Botanic Garden.
- **[Hillview, Sutton Forest](#)** – erratic garden maintenance, fragmented estate management, income / sustainability of current hotel use, under lessee. Seeming permanency of ‘temporary’ sculpture park use. [Domain news item](#)
- **[Milton Park, East Bowral](#)** – fragmented ownership of house/hotel and estate. Insufficient grounds budget. In 2016 Council refused proposed adjacent housing expansion affecting views into and out. NSW Heritage Council has since listed part of site on NSW State Heritage Register. The local planning panel has just refused further subdivision of the site’s setting: a 1985 consent allowed developers to create two small ‘villages’ on its land. This current subdivision proposal was for one of those villages. Objectors fear further fragmentation and poor coordinated management. Modifications to past subdivision approvals and civil works to make sites ready for ‘village 2’ are proceeding, and there are concerns about its visual impacts, compatibility and cumulative change to a low-key, unified rural character and outlooks, which have long been the norm, here.
- **Southern Highlands Winery** - Development application re-submitted to Council for Tuscan style resort (cnr. Oldbury Road/Illawarra Highway, opposite *Hillview*, Sutton Forest), inappropriate in this landscape. Branch submissions made on original and re-submitted proposal. Council did not support it and the applicant withdrew it. Council asked them for community consultation.

- **Berrima Village in its Rural Setting** – Council approved a proposed rezoning of Berrima Heritage Conservation Area, allowing smaller lot infill in the otherwise large-lot rural and bushland setting of this historic town. This reverses good planning it has held to since the 1960s. The branch made objections. A local community group has nominated the village for possible State Heritage listing. Its prioritisation and progress will be worth watching – Haberfield garden suburb has been nominated for 10 years yet is now beginning to progress through public exhibition; Morpeth village (Hunter) remains stalled by local politics.
- **Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, S. of Batemans Bay** – 1/3 burnt by bushfires in 1/2020. More recently built buildings including recently expanded visitors' centre luckily were unharmed. Update at: [Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens » Garden Closed \(erbg.org.au\)](https://erbg.org.au)
- **[Kenmore Hospital \(fmr.\), Goulburn](#)** – lack of interest by new owner, a recent fire in one building, ongoing uncertainty over future uses, site income. The property is increasingly neglected and deteriorating, at risk of residential rezoning, unsympathetic infill, loss of landscape character. Ongoing issues of vandalism and damage. Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the Heritage Council of NSW are following up with owners. [ABC News Item](#) and [Canberra Times article](#)
- **[Kameruka estate, Candelo](#)** (Bega Valley) – for sale again, risk of subdivision and fragmentation, lack of an interested owner, lack of SHR listing or landscape-level protection - Local Press [Tooth descendant sells Kameruka](#) and [Kameruka Estate for sale as three lots](#). Kameruka's historic private golf course is also under threat from its owner, who is planning rezoning and subdivision of that part of the estate. Local and state heritage register nominations have been made.

ACTION

- **Balmoral post-bushfire recovery** plantings – a successful online book sale run by the branch led to a donation of a \$500 Wariapendi Nursery gift certificate to the Balmoral Village Association. This will help homeowners re-establish gardens destroyed in the 2020 fires. Another \$500 will fund advanced trees to be planted near the tennis court at the Community centre, c/o the branch to shade the village meeting place. A plaque will go in the tennis building to acknowledge these contributions.
- **Frensham School – development impacts** on bush 'farm' block – the branch has made an objection to Council over proposed trails, a 'fire pit' and other development considered inappropriate in a bush block and native vegetation area in the western part of the grounds.
- **Bowral Library garden revival** – branch members have worked with Wingecarribee Shire Council to source and provide heritage camellia cultivars which have been added to a refreshed garden outside the library. An interpretive board explaining their history is being created. Members have also donated books to the library's 'garden history' collection. 8 heritage camellia cultivars have now been planted, representing mid-late 1800s cultivars. Members are collaborating with Camellia Ark Australia over a story board for Bendooley Place, along with the International Camellia Society offering to allow Council to use QR code signs for each, giving e-readers access to diverse information about each cultivar.
- **Harpers Mansion, Berrima – Camellia Walk** – the branch attended the unveiling by Dr. Stephen Utick (of Camellia Ark Australia) of this new feature in this garden around NSW National Trust

property – in a modern, but sympathetic garden. The walk features historic cultivars of Camellias, many developed at Camden Park, in SW Sydney in the mid-19th century and story boards explaining their history, bringing yet more garden interest to visitors, here. A branch member is editing a new history of Harpers Mansion prepared by Chris Thompson which the branch looks forward to helping to publish.

- **NSW Heritage Act Review** – the branch made a submission to this, first major review of the state's key (and from 1977) legislation about heritage. We await the government's response.
- **Yarrabin**, 32 Kangaloon Road, Bowral is a 1951 house in woodland garden adjoining a 1949 house and more formal garden, **Beatrice Park**, cnr. of Bendooley Street. In July 2020 neighbours were told *Yarrabin* had sold for development as seniors' housing villas, which meant losing house and garden. Wingecarribee Local Environmental Planning (LEP) 2010 allows seniors' housing in residential zones including heritage conservation areas. This is based on State planning policy applying across NSW except for Greater Sydney where there is a current moratorium in heritage conservation areas. Bowral is outside Greater Sydney.

Council agreed to an Interim Heritage Order in August 2020. While that is applauded, the threat remains because medium density seniors' housing is permitted in all residential zones including long-established areas, where most heritage items and historic gardens are. Such housing can be built on a block of land as small as 1000m² and 20m wide and in heritage conservation areas. While Council has discretion, all refusals are appealable to the NSW Land and Environment Court, where many decisions go in favour of development. The branch attended and made submissions to court hearings over Aitken Road, where 4 properties in the conservation area owned by the Catholic church are slated for 'seniors living' redevelopment.

Council has since listed *Yarrabin* as a local heritage item, now part of an extended heritage conservation area: both a good step. Former owner Keva North, Bud Townsing and Dennis McManus have produced a book on *Yarrabin* which the branch planned to launch there, in September 2021. COVID restrictions forced postponement of that event. Dennis has an article on *Yarrabin* in the July 2021 AGHS journal.

- **Station Street upgrade, Bowral** – The concept plan exhibited by Council in September 2017 required removing 159 street trees including 5 from the northern entrance avenue (of pin oaks planted by school children and representatives of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts at a community celebration on Coronation Day 1937), plus 4 historic dry-stone trachyte stone walls and a rare hedge of heritage camellia cultivars between the railway station and Street, and several old elms at the southern end (Bowral Street).

The Branch was actively involved in stopping this project. Representatives met Council and local members, engaged government agencies, lobby groups, garden clubs, the National Trust, media, and community. Submissions were made to Council and through its Heritage Committee. A petition of over 3,200 signatures was presented to NSW Parliament in 2018 after Council voted to proceed despite wide community opposition and when it did not have control over all land required. At the request of its local branch, the northern entrance avenue landscape, including pin oak avenue and camellia hedge was classified by the Trust in April 2019.

2019 research into the camellias revealed they are significant - some rare and one 'Jouvan' extremely rare in Australia, and the hedge is believed to be the only street tree planting of *Camellia japonica* in NSW, possibly Australia. The originals were planted in 1936 by Berrima

District Horticultural Society as part of a beautification scheme to hide ugly fences and back yards from passengers alighting trains. There have been at least 2 other plantings, as some cultivars were not available (here) until the late 1940s and one the 1960s. These have survived despite neglect. During the 2017/2020 drought members did hand watering. A request from the branch for permission to mulch and weed around the camellias, is still with Council.

Fearing rare cultivars would be lost when the camellias were removed, branch members and Camellia Ark Australia helpers struck cuttings in 2018 and there are now many healthy plants to be planted in safe environments like **Retford Park**, **Harper's Mansion** and **Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens**, which already have heritage camellia collections.

A modified design, agreed to by State agencies in 2019, required removing all trees on the west side of the avenue, 7 camellias and the elms. On 25 March 2020 Council approved removal of the oaks in the first stage, with no community consultation. A rescission motion stalled this but was lost in an 'emergency closed meeting' on 27 March. The report made no mention of heritage or environmental impacts, in fact the assessment required was not completed until early 2021, and this, now public, disregards historic facts and the significance of the avenue and hedge and downplays their heritage, aesthetic and environmental value.

With suspension of Council in March 2021 and an Interim Administrator, Viv May, documents disclosing facts Council was hiding are public. Members met May and Acting General Manager, briefing them on the significance of avenue and hedge. On 12 May 2021, the Administrator adopted a report recommending Council no longer proceed with the project and remove it from its Delivery, Operational Plan and Capital Works Programs. A further report on landscaping Station Street will be prepared and dead limbs on oaks removed. In June 2021 May stated 8 oaks will see preparatory work and the camellia collection will remain, allocating \$300k to restore trachyte stone retaining walls and 4 1935 electric streetlamps. Council has since reinstated its heritage committee, with 4 branch representatives on it.

The process of recognising the avenue and camellias' significance in Council's Local Environmental Plan now begins, with preparation of nominations. A report is in preparation on sound long-term management for the avenue, hedge and retaining wall repairs.

- **Hopewood estate, Bowral** – the branch has organised Camellia Ark Australia to visit and identify the garden's camellias for the owners. An oral history interview with one of its owners is done.
- **Tiranna, Goulburn** – the branch held a helping hands picnic & garden working bee in late 2020.
- **Rural Tourism Policy** – the branch made a submission to Council, requesting it exclude land in the Heritage Conservation Area of Berrima village from intensification.
- **Berrima Remembrance Driveway plantations (now 'Berrima Remembrance Grove')** - under stewardship of the Remembrance Driveway Committee (RDC), who propose to remove nine 1956 memorial plaques from the 15-hectare site planted by Paul Sorensen, Claude & Isobel Crowe under then Vice President of RDC, Sir Cecil Hoskins. The plantings are at the southern entry to Berrima (on the Old Hume Highway). The site neglected since 1997. A key concern is who pays to maintain, at c\$3000 per year. The branch called a 2019 community meeting on this. Colleen Morris presented on landscape, Charlotte Webb on plantings, AGHS on its original aims.

The Berrima Residents Association (BRA) prepared an MOU to manage the site over 25 years and pay for mowing. The RDC chair has signed this, it is with Transport for NSW. The branch offered to fund a landscape assessment to inform a maintenance plan. Council and RDC are considering these offers. Hume Coal who owns a large area of Remembrance Drive are considering the RDC proposal. The branch is recording the plantations, ready for a conservation management plan, with BRA. An inspection has been done and working bees (most recently in February 2020) to remove rubbish, mulch trees. BRA has taken over ownership of the project. Next is to redesign signs to reflect the new name: 'Berrima Remembrance Grove' and status – both changes were conditions of the MOU. The MOU has since been signed and the site officially handed over to BRA. Talks continue with stakeholders on ongoing maintenance. One of the plantations borders Mereworth farm, a 1300 hectare holding which changed hands in late 2021.

- **Boral Cement Works, New Berrima** – Paul Sorensen-designed rare industrial landscaping, erosion of scheme (tube stock native planting infill, supposedly to be removed). Lack of recognition of design / character, archival research / Boral website history makes no acknowledgement of it, no integrated management. The branch is working with Boral to remedy this and commissioned a tree survey and Management Plan, completed, and handed over in 2019 with local press coverage. This gives Boral's garden team a seasonal maintenance schedule. The branch is on the working group developing a master plan for a native vegetation plantation. Boral are stalling on budget but have started mowing and cleaning up. Branch representatives met Boral HQ in Sydney to present maintenance plan and planting lists, discuss Boral Remembrance Grove maintenance area, plaque, and buffer plantings. A community engagement meeting scheduled for March 2020 was delayed with COVID-19. Another meeting was in July 2020. See next item for threat posed by proposed rail Branch line extension to service (adjacent) Hume Coal Project.
- **Sutton Forest Cultural Landscape v Hume Coal Mining proposal** – many heritage gardens are potentially adversely affected by bore water draw-down, likely subsidence, visual and physical impacts (air and noise pollution). A 'State Significant' project for large-scale underground coal mine (over 22 years), surface infrastructure includes rail line extension (cutting into Sorensen plantings outside East Berrima cement works, new rail bridge over Old Hume Highway, existing Hume Highway and huge spill dumps for 25 years etc on *Mereworth*, Sutton Forest. The Branch has nominated SFCL for local heritage listing. It made a submission and attended public hearings of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) and a site inspection. A June 2021 Department of Planning assessment report recommended refusal. See: [\(12\) Hume Coal Project – Posts | Facebook](#). The IPC on reflection refused both projects on 31 August 2021: Hume Coal and supporting Railway upgrade, citing that = impacts outweighed benefits. A most pleasing result: [Independent Planning Commission - Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project \(SSD 7172 & SSD 7171\) - second referral \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Mereworth, Sutton Forest** – Paul Sorensen designed 1960s garden – issues of management by its new owner Hume Coal, use and as a farm, major threat from proposed 25 years' worth of mass deposition of mining fill, lake/tailings pond and other surface infrastructure due close to rail corridor at East Berrima Cement works (spur line), plus a possible threat to the site's water supply. The branch made an objection. A June 2021 Department of Planning assessment report recommended refusal: the verdict is with the Independent Planning Commission, which refused the proposal on 31 August 2021. Mereworth (1300 ha) was put on the market and sold to a local, private owner in November 2021. Their plans or attitudes to heritage listing are unknown.

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

WATCH

- **Haberfield – Deakin Avenue brush box tree avenue v Army land drainage upgrade** – without community consultation, the Department of Defence, in preparing to sell excess land near Hawthorne Canal, lodged a construction certificate (CC) - to upgrade stormwater drainage. This at present requires major trenching down Deakin Avenue, likely to severely impact the best tree avenue in all of Haberfield – a rare Federation era Garden Suburb and heritage conservation area (nominated for NSW state heritage register listing). There has been no heritage assessment of the trees, nor a heritage impact statement of the works on them. Defence plan to start as possible: Inner West Council's determination of the CC is imminent. In 2003 Defence lodged a 22-lot housing subdivision for this land – rejected by Council unless drainage of the low-lying site was remedied. The branch is considering making a submission. AGHS is also aware that the Haberfield Association are in protracted discussion with this Council over a number of street tree issues across the suburb – replacing ailing trees or gaps not with original shade tree (chiefly native, evergreen) species. It appears that Council has a way to go yet in fully understanding how integral to Haberfield its street tree planting (many in the actual road surface) is.
- **Durham Bowes / Mountainview, Richmond v new duplicated Richmond Bridge** – the federal and NSW governments are funding an additional Nepean River bridge at Richmond bypasses it and North Richmond town centres. The preferred route option cuts down Inalls Lane, the quiet rural lane fronting Durham Bowes (aka Mountainview), a state-heritage listed colonial farmhouse and garden. Community feedback closes 5 July 2021. A southern option would avoid any damage to this wonderful old garden and homestead, among other things. More is at [Richmond Bridge duplication and traffic improvements Community update \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/richmond-bridge-duplication-and-traffic-improvements-community-update)
- **Greater Sydney Parklands Authority & Trust: mega parks authority** – the NSW Planning Minister exhibited a White Paper outlining draft legislation, structure and governance for a new authority to run a suite of the city's most significant parks: Centennial Parklands, Parramatta Park, part of Callan Park / Rozelle Hospital grounds, the Western Sydney Parklands and Fernhill Estate, Mulgoa. The paper proposes abolishing individual trusts and having one Trust for all parks. Risks of standardisation (one-size-fits-all) seems likely to disregard heritage values and particularity, i.e., will erode these parks' unique heritage, contexts, communities. The draft legislation's only mention of heritage is in objectives, biodiversity only under bio-banking, environment only under planning matters. Strong emphasis on commercial uses, selling 'surplus' lands to fund parklands. Submissions on the draft legislation bill for the GSP Trust closed 29 October 2021. See: [Greater Sydney Parklands White Paper | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/greater-sydney-parklands-white-paper-planning-portal). After strong community opposition and MP concerns, the bill went to an inquiry in the Legislative Council in January 2022. The Alliance for Public Parklands urges dropping the bill entirely and adopting a federated, community model and individual park Trust Acts, cf centralised, top-down model proposed. The committee report is due on 21 February 2022.

- **Whitlam house and garden, Cabramatta** – 1956 flat-roofed modern suburban house and garden in which Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister in 1972 and raised a family with Margaret. Lacking any heritage listing, it came on the market and happily was bought by a group of Labor Party stalwarts. The federal government is offering \$1.3m to Western Sydney University's Whitlam Institute to restore and open it as a house museum. Sounds positive, but should be listed on National, State and local heritage lists, and subject to a conservation plan, including its suburban garden and treatment. We watch this space with interest. Info at: [Whitlam Cabramatta home to be restored and preserved as national heritage asset — Whitlam Institute](#)
- **Royal National Park, Southern Sydney** – draft plan of management on public exhibition until 2 August 2021 along with a draft mountain bike plan – this is a contentious land-use issue - [Royal parks Draft Plan of Management: public consultation | NSW Environment, Energy and Science](#)
- **Middle Head and Georges Head fortifications, Sydney harbour** – new walking track linking historic precincts, to the broader Bondi – Manly walk. More info is at: [9 News Sydney - Middle Head scenic stroll | Facebook](#)
- **Overthorpe, Double Bay** - Sir John Hay's mid-1800s private botanic garden, retained and adapted around a Federation era mansion – that in turn replaced by 1980s flats. The garden is state-heritage-listed and threatened by adjacent development to double the permissible height limit, which will overshadow it and dwarf its setting. November 2020 Local Planning Panel hearing. Await the outcome. Ongoing issues with holistic management: garden needs editing, replanting. A heritage plaque was placed on footpath outside by Woollahra Council noting Hay and the garden. [More information on Sir John Hay](#)
- **2A O'Connell Street, Parramatta v St. John's Anglican Cemetery** – 69 storey tallest-tower in Parramatta application (seeking to dispense with height controls for the site and intrude into flight paths), right near St. John's Anglican Cemetery, our oldest public cemetery.
- **Bicentennial Square v Parramatta Square, Parramatta:** a meeting space since the 1810s when Governor Macquarie's blanket feasts with local Aboriginal people were here, its significance is now dwarfed by 'Parramatta Square': a \$3.2b corporate (30,000 workers, once 'full') hub, including 90, 45 and 43 storey towers approved and in construction, near and adjoining Parramatta Town Hall and St. John's Cathedral, dwarfing them and changing their setting to uber-urban. The spire of St. John's will no longer mark a 'landmark' seen south on Church Street (Sydney's second city's main street), nor from various angles across city rooftops. 5 Parramatta Square now in construction will be a relatively low-rise new Council Chambers, library and performance spaces, adjoining the old town hall. It opens in mid-2022. The Anglican Church of Australia have announced plans for two further towers of 46 stories and 8 stories, immediately to the west of St. John's Cathedral – the latter an aged care centre and student accommodation. See: [Parramatta Square | City of Parramatta \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and [www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/parramatta-square-metro-hilton-hotel-to-transform-city-with-building-boom-full-list/](#)
- **Willow Grove, Phillip St., Parramatta** – one of the city's last Victorian urban villas and garden esd dismantled and stored 'in Western Sydney' to be rebuilt elsewhere (it remains unspecified where) for the new Powerhouse Museum to take its site on the Parramatta River. Its significance in situ and social value as a place many district babies were born was ignored. The government announced design competition winners, despite a Union Green Ban on the site

(lifted 24 August 2021) and backdown on moving the whole Museum from Ultimo. The government remains committed to building. The garden and open space disappear. A court injunction lodged to stall demolition/dismantlement work was dismissed in the NSW Land & Environment Court (LEC). An appeal was heard in the Supreme Court in July to review the LEC decision. News at: [Willow Grove could end up in storage for years after deconstruction, will be stored on pallets \(smh.com.au\)](#) and [Ten news Willow Grove Green ban picket line .MOV - Google Drive](#)

- **Wollemi National Park**, Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area – a lucky near-miss in recent wildfires, which burnt some 80% of the national park. Special NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service team made extraordinary efforts which saved the key wild groves of Wollemi pines. Work is now underway on ‘satellite’ plantings higher up, as insurance against climate change and fire risk to existing populations. See: [Wollemi National Park | NSW National Parks](#)
- **Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah** – some quarter of their living collection was burnt in summer bushfires, and part of the surrounding bush conservation area. Botanic Gardens staff efforts limited the damage. The gardens have reopened but recovery will take time. Info at: [Stories from the Garden - The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Campbell’s Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath** – bushfires burnt part of the site, damaging 1/3 including its *Rhododendron* species collection and conifer collection. 2/3 has reopened in 1/2020. Good winter and spring rains have meant reasonably quick recovery. Info at [The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens - Blackheath \(rhodogarden.org.au\)](#)
- **Wirrimbirra Wildlife Sanctuary, Bargo** – National Trust (NSW) property was badly hit by summer bushfire, affecting 90% of its vegetation, destroying memorial gardens, fencing and heritage items including the Field Studies Centre (5 buildings, lab, classroom). All the sanctuary’s dingoes were rescued unharmed. Efforts to rebuild and start again are underway. A proposal to extend underground coal mining underneath Wirrimbirra was recently rejected in the courts (for now).
- **Mt. Gilead, Appin** – State Heritage Register listed, with only the core of farm (homestead, garden, dams, core paddocks) as curtilage. Lend Lease and vendor owner refused larger options. Surrounds set for staged development of up to 11,000 houses over east, north and south paddocks to Appin Road. Campbelltown Council pushing for North-South Rail Link through the property to Macarthur – this is yet to go to the state government. Transport for NSW have chosen the preferred route for stage two of the Outer Sydney Orbital (Appin to the Hume Highway which thankfully skirts Mount Gilead and Appin village to the south. Council approved Lend Lease going to ‘gateway’ with Dept. of Planning, i. e. rezoning exhibition for stage 1 ‘Figtree Hill Estate’, of 1700 homes. Media reports note koala habitat corridors in the district, a rare east-west link between the Georges & Nepean Rivers, in key healthy koala habitat – housing will not help that animal’s threatened status. [Property Observer news item](#) , [Macarthur Advertiser news item - Large development south of Rosemeadow now one step closer](#) and [Macarthur Advertiser news item - Massive land release in Menangle Park and Mount Gilead](#)
- **Meadowvale, Appin** – directly adjoining Mount Gilead, lacks State Heritage Register listing (despite recommendation in 2000), it is to the south of **Mt. Gilead** and adjacent **Beulah** colonial farm estates. Similar threats to Mount Gilead (see above item). Two outbuildings mysteriously burnt down in 2017. Risk of sale, rezoning and similar outcomes to those sought for Mt. Gilead to its

north. Threat of urbanization engulfing both. Same threats (rail, road corridor bisection) as Mount Gilead. Loss of rural landscape, intact grants, wildlife corridors and historic gardens.

- [Oran Park estate](#) – loss of farm and garden outlook and approaches, with a new suburb abutting the homestead group, poor conservation of its garden and transformed setting. The property has changed hands of developers, lacks integrated management or a future use (homestead and garden). Badgery's Creek railway line and station are proposed, in a rapidly urbanising context. [Catherine Park House link](#), [Camden History – Oran Park](#) and [Statement of Significance](#)
- [Western Sydney Airport rail line](#), urbanisation (from Edmondson Park north to St. Mary's, east of Penrith) will adversely impact the south-east part of **Orielton** estate. The state government says it will be underground under **Harrington Park** and part of **Oran Park** estate and possibly **Maryland Estate** next door to the north. [ABC News 16 April 2014](#)
- [Glenlee, Menangle Park](#) – impacts of a planning proposal approved for public exhibition in June 2021 and proposing rezoning its rural context for residential subdivision, in addition to a proposed, adjacent elevated arterial road cutting into its key south-west vista, nearby industrial development, proposed associated sound walls obscuring key views in and out of the property – Glenlee is sited for an expansive vista of the Razorback Range. The property may also be affected by the Appin Link Road proposal, to the Hume Highway, depending which option is pursued. [History](#) – [Government Statement of Significance](#) – [News item on proposal](#).
- [Maryland, Cobbitty](#) – has now gained State Heritage Register listed, although it took 17 years. Its two owners support listing, pending rezoning and urbanization around it – which will mean new arterial and local roads, local shops, a school and playing fields and (eventually) 7000 houses and no paddocks. Key views to and from the homestead group on its hill have been respected, and location of new open spaces is good, allowing views and a sense of space. Western Sydney Airport rail link extension may impact Maryland, as may tunnelling for stage one of the Outer Sydney Orbital project. Rezoning controls (to suburban) were advertised in 2020 – and are yet to be finalized. [Camden History Notes blogspot](#) and [Camden Advertiser news item](#)
- [Hurlstone Agricultural High School](#). Listed on the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register in 2009; largely intact colonial landscape entirely constituted from lands granted in 1809. The longest continuously cultivated agricultural and pastoral lands in Australia. [Sydney Morning Herald news item](#) Landscape adjoins **Macquarie Field House** - NSW Land & Environment Court appeals twice over proposed residential subdivisions of its farm's south and south-east flanks.
- [Sorensen's Nursery, Leura](#) – medium-density housing has eroded extent of site and its character, Blue Mtns. Council compliance issues saga with changing owners - little/no maintenance of arboretum/nursery site, the house still appears to be unused. [Blue Mountains City Council Development Plan and Sorenson Biography](#).

Its current owners lodged an application seeking to vary the zoning uses permitted, to allow a café and nursery on part of the site – which seems a positive outcome. This has now been approved, which bodes well for some revival and heritage interpretation of this important site.

- **Denbigh, Cobbitty** – severe impact on rural setting of proposed stage one of Outer Sydney Orbital mega-project to the direct west, bisecting its key valley close to (west of) the homestead complex and changing the farm’s viability and quiet, rural character, even with advancing suburbia. The Northern Road upgrade to 8 lanes to the farm’s east is also forecast. AGHS has visited and enjoyed Denbigh several times, including the 2004 conference.
<https://www.osomacarthur.com/> <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors/oso>
- **Lewers Bequest & Penrith Regional Gallery, Emu Plains**– (delay/block on State Heritage Register listing by the Board. Needs better garden resourcing & management. A conservation management plan is overlooked. This could be used to train up and use garden volunteers, build awareness about this special place to visitors and beyond. [About the-lewers-bequest](#)
- **Western Sydney University Richmond campus (Hawkesbury Agricultural College)** – master plan for infill, lack of landscape listing or respect: removal of shrub layer for safety concerns, poor management. Lacks State Heritage Register listing. [Campus info](#) [Hawkesbury Gazette news item](#) and [Hawkesbury Harvest Campus Tour Guide and Map, incl. history](#)
- **Avenue of Honour, Freshwater, Manly** – ongoing overhead powerline pruning, poor management, lack of replanting gaps, community group has lobbied for and is achieving change, now for the better. Heritage Council may reconsider state heritage listing, given recent better management, condition. [Friends of Freshwater Facebook page](#) [Daily Telegraph April 16 2015](#)
- **Tempe House, Tempe** – surrounded by high rise apartments, illegal tree removals, poisoning, erosion of garden/surrounds, lack of coordinated prioritised management. Introduction of monthly weekend markets could be a good thing to raise awareness of site. Historic Houses Association of Aus. Ran a successful heritage festival day there in August 2019 – a good move raising community interest in this complex site. [Council link](#) and [The Leader news item](#)
- **Centennial Park, Bathurst** – Regional Council commissioned a report on future options which include a community cultural centre, i.e., infill, of a more modest upgrade and new WCs. Cost is \$4.4m, risk is Council doing nothing. Community is pushing for staged works, the priority being to install irrigation and undertake new tree plantings.
<http://www.westernadvocate.com.au/story/4525761/a-provocative-decision-poll/?cs=115>
- **Shubra Hall, Croydon** – lack of inclusion of wider school open space outside the small State Heritage Register listing curtilage. [Statement of Significance](#) Then Planning Minister Rob Stokes’ [Media Release](#)
- **Belmont Park, North Richmond** State Heritage Register listing only covers its buildings and immediate grounds, not the expansive, historic estate or key views in and out, nor even founder Archibald Bell’s grave site on the estate. [Department link](#) and [Property Observer article](#)
- **Bradfield Park North, North Sydney** – cycleway offramp off Sydney Harbour Bridge. Transport for NSW propose several concept options (all poor) for a 3-4m wide cycleway off the bridge through the park, cutting across heritage features (Bridge Stairs, Burton Street archway, Milsons Point Railway Station entry

and forecourt, coming to ground in its northern section. These will have grave impacts on the character, elements and views of, and in, the park. The Branch will be making a submission. N.S. City Council are seeking a halt and collaborative work with Council on less-destructive options. Let the Minister for Transport, Rob Stokes and MP for North Shore, Felicity Wilson know your concerns before 25 March 2022: their contact details are here [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Business Projects/Government Projects/Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycle Ramp](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Business_Projects/Government_Projects/Sydney_Harbour_Bridge_Cycle_Ramp). More info? Call NSCC: 9936 8100 / email: council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au. **18 Wyatt Avenue and the Appian Way, Burwood**, – Burwood Council’s existing heritage conservation area needs further expansion to the north to protect these key features. Incremental medium and even high-density infill is gradually changing their character, integrity. A current development application for 18 The Appian Way (the house at its entry off Burwood Road) is for a childcare centre, requiring changes that are totally inappropriate, here.

- **[Gladesville Hospital, Gladesville](#)** – lack of State Heritage Register listing, grounds conservation, holistic site management. [Masterplan](#). This is one of ten nominations seeking NSW state heritage-listing, lodged by Institute of Landscape Architects (NSW) in December 2018. Most are harbour-side parklands, part of Sydney’s ‘Green Necklace’. All appear to be on ‘go-slow’.
- **[Yobarnie Keyline Farm, North Richmond](#)** inadequate curtilage on State Heritage listing, inadequate development controls mean gradual erosion and removal of key landscape features for ‘Redbank’ residential development – adjoining Nevallan P.A. Yeomans Keyline system demonstration farm is now for sale with expectation of further residential rezoning <http://www.redbankrichmond.com.au/>
- **[St. Leonards Park, North Sydney](#)** – 1830s+ early public park – at risk of Western Harbour Tunnel filtration building plonked in its south-east corner, and ventilation stack nearby to east. [North Sydney Council: Stop development of an indoor sports centre in St Leonards Park](#) Also background threat of [St. Leonards Park, North Sydney - sports complex proposal](#) to dig up 1/3, bury an underground sports complex, grass roof (feasibility study for sports complex) - [Save St Leonards Park Facebook](#) page
- **[Arncliffe Market Gardens](#)** West Botany Street, Arncliffe – proposed loss of 35% of state-heritage-curtilage for subdivision to create a golf fairway on a proposed relocated Kogarah Golf Course. Cook Cove South Precinct State Significant DA includes rezoning to allow other land for medium density housing, moving golf course (part onto gardens), public domain and shared Cooks River and Muddy Creek paths. Market gardens have been in almost continuous use since the 1840s.
- **[Yurulbin Park, Birchgrove](#)** – designed by Bruce Mackenzie and built 1972-7, a post-industrial site remade as ‘natural’ parkland on Sydney Harbour. Under threat from Western Harbour Tunnel & Warringah Freeway upgrade, a state significant project, requiring temporary construction site here, removing some 55 trees and alienating the park for some time (plus from noise, vibration, health impacts). This Park is one of 10 ‘green necklace’ landscape harbourside sites nominated for state heritage listing by the Institute of Landscape Architects, but not listed. EIS off exhibition on 30 March. <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/western-harbour-tunnel-beaches-link/index.html>

- **Broughton Hall Day Clinic (former)**, Lilyfield. Purpose-designed clinic for psychiatric care, with mid-20th century (1962) modernist landscape. This comprises a (largely intact) terraced landscaping – inner courtyard (former ponds) and street-side octagonal concrete planters, to support psychiatric care. This collection may be unique in Australia. It was part of the forefront of community mental health ... innovative in its time and could still be so and a model in delivering mental health care. Stalled Broughton Hall water-garden restoration. Since 2008 it has been a campus for the University of Tasmania, which has made various improvements. Interiors have been updated to a very modern, computerised campus. But its modernist gardens appear invisible to the University and at risk of neglect and change.
- **Macquarie University campus landscape, Macquarie Park** - designed by Prof. Richard Clough – Student Union quadrangle's great lemon-scented gum 'forest' cut down in name of safety, multiple unsympathetic infill (one building blocking the main visual/circulation axis). Lack of heritage listing and owner opposition, master plan guiding development. Identified in 2013 Heritage Council 'modernism' study as a priority to state-list. No action to follow that up. See: http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8755
- **Clydesdale estate, Marsden Park** – bisection of its rural curtilage by proposed stage one of Outer Sydney Orbital - 8 lanes of traffic, freight rail lines, sound walls through middle of farm. Adjacent planning proposal and applications for rezoning, large-scale cut and fill for flood-free housing on much of its rural setting to east and south, subdivision and houses along its drive. Site has no Heritage Council-endorsed conservation plan. [Sydney Morning Herald November 18 2015 Marsden Park Precinct – Rezoned Precinct Plan](#) <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors/oso>
- **Camden Park, Menangle/South Camden** – proposed stage one of Outer Sydney Orbital will (just) skirt estate's southwest and join the Hume Highway to its southeast, past Menangle – having negative impact on its until-now quiet rural setting, the rural viability, and the character of valley. AGHS has visited and enjoyed Camden Park several times and will visit again in 2022 on deferred 2021 conference tours. Public submissions closed in 2019. <https://www.osomacarthur.com/> <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/corridors/oso>
- **Redstone (Winter house) and garden, Telopea** – District Master Plan threat of over-dominating towers on north and north-east sides of Burley Griffin designed house and garden from 1935. Some damage (cracking, movement) from digging to build a cycleway behind the property.
- **Cumberland Hospital, Parramatta (fmr. Female Factory)** – North Parramatta Urban Activation Precinct master plan/ infill proposed (up to 17 stories, some inside the grounds), proper conservation of grounds, holistic ongoing management, due to North Parramatta Urban Activation Precinct Master Plan rezoning approved by state government despite public opposition. Rezoning is approved - [North Parramatta Residents Action Group](#) and [ABC News item](#). State government are appealing for partners to occupy and redevelop heritage buildings in new complex. Light rail construction through Parramatta (and this site) is underway and has meant removal of mature Moreton Bay figs lining the eastern edge of the former Parramatta Jail complex. A community push is on for World Heritage Listing of the Female Factory Precinct, but whether this would gain state government support, given the above, is unclear.

- [Darlington and Camperdown Campus, University of Sydney](#) – infill/expansion per Master Plan, progressive loss of open space and trees. Its landscape (grounds) conservation management plan is overlooked. Fragmented management (18 separate building conservation plans; disregard of single ‘landscape’ conservation plan for entire campus. Only recently state heritage listed: University and adjacent **Victoria Park**. Construction of Chau Chak Wing extension to Macleay Museum – an intrusive post-modern ‘block’ with a major adverse impact on the site’s public face to and entry off Parramatta Road. [Architecture.org.au/news item on Masterplan](#)
- [Moore Park, Anzac Avenue \(Honour Avenue\) and Allison Road](#), mature fig avenues gouged and some removed for light rail, lack of consideration of realignment, State Significant project to fast-track: [ABC News Item](#) and [NSW Government site ‘My Sydney’ update](#). Government approved knock-down (now rebuild) of Allianz Stadium, land-grab for ancillary elements. Ongoing debate about the community wanting overflow event parking removed from grassed areas of park near Stadium / Fox Studios. Secrecy re contracts (construction?) issued or not. New Super-Parks Agency announced July 2020 includes managing Centennial & Moore Parks. <http://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/backlash-grows-over-nsw-governments-2-billion-stadium-scam/news-story/b06ef337c76ca8a4828e9c6d18b39142>.
- [Parramatta Park, Parramatta](#) – rapid approvals of towers dominating its setting (city to the park’s east; Westmead master plan could do likewise to west) above and beyond planning controls, absence of Federal Government leadership. Master plans for park precincts and threat of relocation of demolished War Memorial Swimming Centre onto Park’s south, on Mays Hill/former golf course. Parramatta Stadium upgrade removed c85 trees and over-urbanized Domain land. The trust seems to de-favour heritage in management. [Parramatta City Council major developments](#) link and [Daily Telegraph news item](#). New Super-Parks Agency announced in July 2020 includes managing Parramatta Park. It remains to be seen what this may mean.
- [Juniper Hall, Oxford Street, Paddington](#) Proposal for major redevelopment of an art gallery, rear extension. Previous version of DA refused by Heritage Council. New DA lodged, not finalized.

ACTION

- **Bradfield Park North, North Sydney** – cycleway offramp off Sydney Harbour Bridge. Transport for NSW propose several concept options (all poor) for a 3-4m wide cycleway off the bridge through the park, cutting across heritage features (Bridge Stairs, Burton Street archway, Milsons Point Railway Station entry and forecourt, coming to ground in its northern section. These will have grave impacts on the character, elements and views of, and in, the park. The Branch will be making a submission. N.S. City Council are seeking a halt and collaborative work with Council on less-destructive options. Let the Minister for Transport, Rob Stokes and MP for North Shore, Felicity Wilson know your concerns before 25 March 2022: their contact details are here www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Business_Projects/Government_Projects/Sydney_Harbour_Bridge_Cycle_Ramp. More info? Call NSCC: 9936 8100 / email: council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au.
- **Greater Sydney Parkland Trust – draft bill** – the branch sent an objection to the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment and MPs over the bill exhibited in October 2021. The draft fails to protect heritage and the environment and seems bent on commercialising five iconic

(and historic) Sydney Parks: Callan Park, Centennial, Moore & Queens Parks (treated as one), Fernhill Estate, Mulgoa, Parramatta Park and the Western Sydney Parklands. It does not represent community views expressed in the white paper, pushing a 'one-size-fits-all' approach (for very diverse parks), distancing, not requiring, community consultation, nor insisting on high-level and equally-weighted heritage expertise alongside commercial and property nous. For an overview of community concerns, see [Alliance for Public Parklands \(alliance4parks.org\)](http://alliance4parks.org).

- **Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area** – state heritage listing – the branch has written to Inner West Council supporting NSW state heritage register nomination and listing of the Federation era 'garden suburb' of Haberfield. Council has been undertaking extensive community consultation, including owners, before forwarding the nomination to Heritage NSW.
- **Ashfield Park plan of management** – the branch joined with the Ashfield & District Historical Society to make a joint submission to Ashfield Council expressing concerns over the draft plan. This Federation/late Victorian Park is on Parramatta Road, directly opposite State Heritage Register listed Yasmar estate and (around it) the Federation era garden suburb of Haberfield.
- **Heritage Act 1977 reform** – risk of diluting or stripping heritage powers, fast-tracking and over-simplifying development and heritage impact assessments, an overly-narrow focus on servicing private owners of items, commercial use(s) and public access to places, of conserving heritage places themselves and servicing the community who protested and fought to have an Act in the first place, and who expect their conservation. NSW, or the community are not, apparently 'customers', merely 'stakeholders'. The branch made a submission. The committee's report is at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2814#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>
- **Callan Park and Broughton Hall estate, Lilyfield** – a government white paper and now draft bill (clarifying roles of the 'Greater Sydney Parklands Authority' and Minister – i.e., seemingly commercializing this and other sites) is concerning. Private club intrusions (Glover St., Waterfront & Balmain Rd. 'ovals'), over-scaled sports lighting, parking, unapproved, uncoordinated signs, poor funding. State government consulted the public on a Landscape Structure Plan proposing 30% of buildings be demolished to 'open up' links & vistas, new paths through (as though this just a harbourside park). The government funded a Waterfront oval upgrade, flood lighting. [InnerWestCouncil - Community-Issues](#) and [Masterplan link](#). A 7/2020+ Greater Sydney Parklands Agency manages most of Callan Park, with \$10m initial funding. Sounds good but that could all go on recreation, sports/paving, security, and none on heritage. The planning minister announced Stage 1 implementation in 2021 of LSP – foreshore area (Bay Run, Waterfront Oval area) upgrade - \$14m – the largest funding on site in decades. There is none for stages 2 – 4. It seems the government will rely on commercial leases to 'self-fund'. NSW Health are preparing plans to renovate Kirkbride, the main complex (Asylum) at c\$14m extra. Plans expected for exhibition. NSW Ambulance Service HQ slated to move off site, leaving the future of its part of the estate uncertain. See: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-parkland-trusts-to-be-folded-into-super-agency-20200715-p55c7f.html>. The draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust bill 2021 is on exhibition until 29 October 2021. It appears to relax rules on coffee carts, drinks, events and lengths of leases... See [Guide to the Bill | NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

- **Yasmar estate**, Parramatta Road, Haberfield – neglect and inaction by State Government owner/manager: which keeps changing – Property NSW are the latest incarnation. Some garden condition improvement has been made by a volunteer (including AGHS members) group who now have regular access. After lobbying, including by the Branch, new WestConnex tunnel vents, increased traffic and density were built further away from its south boundary and front fence. Some tree maintenance work is proposed, which is welcome. The branch has commented on a draft arborist’s report has been prepared on its trees, for Inner West Council. The federal government recently knocked back a Haberfield Assn. national heritage nomination. An Aboriginal land claim has been lodged for the property – although how long this takes to resolve is unknown.
- **Fernhill estate, Mulgoa** (S. of Penrith) – key colonial estate bought in 2018 by state government, to protect it v proposed rezoning for cemetery and residential use. NSW Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment are reviewing planning controls. The branch made a submission seeking conservation, restoration of Fernhill and sympathetic management, cf wholesale change. The new Greater Sydney Parkland Agency announced in July 2020 includes managing Fernhill. Its moves to define the mix of uses allowed, public access etc are being watched. Rising pressures for subdivision by neighbours wanting to cash in on Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis infrastructure and rezoning, nearby. Info (white paper) at: [Greater Sydney Parklands White Paper | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](#). Despite developing a conservation management plan (CMP) more than 2 years ago, this has not been finalised. Now a draft Landscape Management Plan (LMP) is due out for exhibition in December. It is hoped the CMP would drive and inform any LMP. That remains to be seen.
- **Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and Domain** lost Domain land and open views on ‘land bridge’ to build Art Gallery of NSW’s ‘Sydney Modern’ extension, now underway – the government agreed to part-fund it, donations required for shortfall. Gardens management line is unclear in the New Super-Parks Agency announced in July 2020, that includes managing Centennial Parklands (which were previously joined to RBG Sydney in one agency). The Gardens themselves are suffering wholesale change at ground level, widespread bed ‘revitalisation’, removal of old, rare trees, increasing amounts of ‘municipal’ massed bedding, loss of diversity and of wholistic management. Botanic Garden & Domain master plan over-commercialisation, pressure to double the no. of events, privatize public open space, new orientation structures, moving scientists and herbarium off-site to Mt. Annan – new management appointments are spruiking the master plan - [Sydney Morning Herald news item](#) and [RBG Sydney Major-Projects](#) link. http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6471
- **Tarwyn Park, Bylong** becomes a coalmine for approximately 2 years. A petition supporting state heritage listing: this is the site that ‘water man’ Peter Andrews did his initial and ongoing experimentation on, in the Hunter Valley. Kepco Mining Co. are keen to mine most of the site and its setting. Send a message to Hon Josh Frydenberg MP Minister for the Environment & the Prime Minister. [SIGN THE PETITION NOW](#)
- **Varroville farm, St Andrews** Rezoning of surrounding farm for [a new cemetery](#) use, destruction of rural context, no (then) SHR listing for this wider land (former farm) and delay in acting on proposed curtilage expansion - [Macarthur Cemetery Masterplan](#). Impact of now-approved landscape style’ cemetery, Macarthur Memorial Park impact on character and management. Stalling on expanding Varroville’s State Heritage Register listing to include some or all its surroundings (once its paddocks). The branch made submissions opposing cemetery use. An

August 2021 talk by heritage consultant Geoffrey Britton on Varro Ville estate's landscape will be much looked-forward to. Geoffrey has made a particular study of this estate landscape.

Tasmanian Branch

WATCH

- **Longford Village green, new toilet block** – Northern Midlands Council proposed a new toilet block (in a park with two, already) directly in front of Kilgour, an historic house and garden at one end of the green. Other options exist: such as extending the existing ones, or another site on the green less intrusive to historic views and spaces. Community protest led to a withdrawal of the planning proposal and talk of community consultation. All good, for now.
- **Westbury village, new Jail, proposed unit infill at Fitzgerald's Inn** – historic village and setting are threatened by fast-tracking of a major new jail facility. A recent approval for three-unit infill on land adjoining this 1830s Inn, adversely affects adjacent historic cedar, cypress and other tree plantings lining the town's main street and oval. Heritage issues of this space and trees have been ignored and an appeal to Heritage Tasmania deflected, as the adjacent lot is outside the Inn's curtilage on the state listing. Heritage Tasmania have an active program of 'down-sizing' state-listed curtilages of rural properties, asserting that they are 'architecture', not farms! Tasmanian Planning Commission hearings early December 2020.
- **Eskbank & Perth Midland Highway bypass** – works underway – include cutting off *Eskbank* (fmr. *Scone*)'s drive where it meets the old Highway next to the bridge over the Esk River. A relocated 'end' is proposed, connecting to a roundabout. Not a great outcome for a great estate.
- **[Lauderdale Cottage, Hobart](#)** and its environs (house, garden and remnant orchard) – use and management. Past proposals for inappropriate urban infill development have not succeeded, fortunately. Current proposal for using wider property as a market garden and installing an 'Agrarian Kitchen' type food outlet. Recently bought by owners who wish to reinstate the orchard and garden. They've joined AGHS which augurs very well!
- **Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape** (National Her. (NH)-Listed place) - state government proposal to re-open and increase use of 4WD tracks closed after research demonstrated unacceptable impacts on Aboriginal heritage; government taken to court by Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre; currently an EPBC referral, with a review in late 2017 asking for more information on the impacts to natural values.
- **Recherche Bay** (north peninsula is an NH-listed cultural landscape) - a proposed floating hotel in the form of a long chain of anchored pods across the bay, has passed a significant way through government EOI process. This will have significant impacts on the landscape, local use, and access. It has been designed to avoid impacting land, but in this case, there is plenty of private land with no/minimal special values where a hotel would be much more appropriate.

- **Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area** - a number of new resort developments are proposed, including in remote, wilderness (other than past Aboriginal use) areas with a range of impacts; being assessed through the government EOI process, many are some way through this, likely to be assessed in house by Parks Service with no consultation or option for appeal. Also, a considerably weakened Management Plan.

ACTION

- **Longford Village green, new toilet block** – Northern Midlands Council proposed a new toilet block (in a park with two, already) directly in front of Kilgour, an historic house and garden at one end of the green. Better options exist such as extending the existing ones, or another site on the green less intrusive to historic views and spaces. The Branch made a submission on the afternoon of the Council meeting to decide the issue. This and community protest led to a withdrawal of the planning proposal and talk of community consultation. All good, for now.
- **Mount Wellington / kunyani Cableway Company tourism proposal, Hobart** – a ‘prohibited use’, with major adverse impacts on the mountain’s rich natural and cultural values. Likely a white elephant with tour boats unlikely to support it, long-term. And a dangerous precedent for ‘big thing’ projects, state-wide, fast-tracked in times of public distraction of COVID under the guise of ‘tourism’ and ‘jobs’. Big construction, operation, and visual impacts on a sensitive and seminal site for the city. A clear conflict of interest: a Tourism Tas. Mt. Wellington Trust member is the largest shareholder in the cable car company. Government secrecy over the proposal. The Branch lodged an objection citing issues including the impact assessment lacking a heritage assessment or management plan, no consultation with the Aboriginal community, the need for comprehensive view impact assessment, demonstrated economic viability and more. Hobart City Council has refused the application. The proponents have lodged an appeal. See: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-19/hobart-cable-car-final-bid-submitted-to-council/100149824> and more recent, re ‘down-scaling’ to seek approval: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-15/mount-wellington-cable-car-project-developer-scales-down/100621118>
- **Living City Devonport stage 2 – redeveloping foreshore parkland** along Victoria Parade and Formby Road – claimed to be the largest urban renewal project ever in Tasmania, Devonport Council propose to fell mature trees, urbanise a key city/river-front landscaped green open space with sculpture park, play space, geowalk, amphitheatre, geogarden, art axis, etc. Branch has made objections and seeks the possible relocation of commemorative statues of Dame Edith and Joseph Lyons from the park to *Home Hill* (their former suburban Devonport home, now a house and garden museum in the city’s outskirts. It seems Council are now reviewing their plans. More info: <http://www.livingcitydevonport.com.au/LIVING-CITY-Devonport> and <https://www.livingcitydevonport.com.au/waterfront-precinct/>
- **Cambria estate tourist resort**, Swansea – \$100m rezoning of 3000-hectare ‘Cambria Green’ planning proposal with major adverse impacts on early and intact colonial farm estate, orchards, garden, rural setting, views to and from it. Once this was home to artist, writer, Louisa Meredith, and it has been visited by AGHS. The 3000-ha estate is proposed for a large tourism complex, airfield, ‘sky hotel’, multiple lodges, palliative care unit(!), spa, golf course... The scale, impacts and inconsistency of integration of key documents exhibited are issues, as is the rigour of assessments and what seems fast-track consideration by the state. The branch objected, as did Australia ICOMOS. Council approved it to go to Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC). The

branch wrote to each commissioner and made an objection. TPC was evasive on the timing, content and terms of consideration which were limited to land zoning, deflecting detail to Council and later stages. The branch held a public lecture in June 2019 on Cambria's rare landscape heritage values, in Swansea Community Hall. Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Mayor has since departed, as has the CEO. There are lingering fears of Council amalgamation.

The TPC held hearings in late 2019 and dismissed Stage 1, deciding not to approve the amendment, based on evidence. Owner's consent was not clearly provided. An appeal was lodged with the Supreme Court. 4 weeks after that started, the government announced release for public comment of its proposed 'Major Projects' law. The Premier, Planning Minister and Treasury are silent on whether they have met the purported 'owner' (i.e., developer). This law could lead to Cambria being declared 'State Significant', i.e., side-stepping planning and fast-tracking through recent, arbitrary criteria, without due consideration of heritage impacts.

https://myaccount.news.com.au/sites/dailytelegraph/subscribe.html?sourceCode=DTWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&mode=premium&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailytelegraph.com.au%2Fnews%2Fnational%2Fplanner-fears-developers-may-sell-off-rezoned-east-coast-land%2Fnews-story%2F6a8beeb31fac50ca0724c30af3e304bd%3Fmk%3D91808b2d25c4fd72147164c7a751155d-1524970977&memtype=anonymous&v21=cta-an&v21suffix=cta-an

A Supreme Court appeal hearing in December 2020 overturned TPC's refusal, ordering that the applicant's proposal be re-lodged for hearing by a TPC '*differently constituted*', due to the TPC's severe criticism of the proposal in its judgement. Despite huge community opposition, it seems this judgement strengthens the developer's hand seeking zoning changes to enable subsequent, staged applications. Further 'Directions Hearings' have been scheduled for Hobart in mid-2021 and autumn and mid-2022.

- **Home Hill garden, Devonport** – Branch liaised with Council and held stakeholder meetings finalising a landscape management plan (LMP) to restore and adapt the grounds (the garden of Joe Lyons, Tasmania's first and only Prime Minister and his wife Dame Enid, Australia's first female MP and cabinet member and their large family) for increased public access and interpretation. The Branch met in August 2019 to revive activity and hopes to begin implementing recommended tasks after Council adopts the LMP. Council approved the LMP in August 2020, enabling funds and its implementation, hopefully to commence in late 2020. A recent donation will go towards plants. Council have since committed \$25,000 of federal funding to restore part of the garden, but no action yet...
- **Hobart tower (hotel) proposals**, lack of adherence by state government to City Council height controls, impact on **the Domain** and **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**, setting of low-rise city viz Mt. Wellington. Over-dominance, shadowing and wind impacts on historic Hobart city squares and parks and context of historic suburbs: scale, etc. One example at: <https://www.commercialrealestate.com.au/news/singapores-fragrance-plans-hobarts-first-skyscrapers-28124/>
- **Planning system reform** - 1 set of zones/controls state-wide, Major Projects quasi-planning system being rammed through parliament despite considerable opposition. Both will have marked adverse impact on World, State and local heritage conservation areas, new development near heritage items, with a general lack of scrutiny. Listings lack due recognition of the variety of landforms, climates, regional distinctiveness. There is a need for planning controls to reflect this diversity, or risk considerable damage to what makes Tasmania unique. <https://www.planningreform.tas.gov.au/> (and see 'What do the planning reforms include?')

- **Progressive de-listing (review of State Register) 23,000 ha of rural lands around state heritage items** – reputedly with ‘no heritage values’. It is puzzling how farms whose core activity remains farming and whose income supported building houses and gardens can have no ‘heritage value’ beyond their architecture? What about their gardens, orchards? Lack of heritage landscape expertise on Heritage Council or weight given to these matters by Heritage Tasmania. Resourcing and staff issues in Heritage Tasmania. [Tasmanian Times news item](#)
 - **Midlands farms (early Norfolk Plains land grants)** - many long-held in same family, e.g., [Panshangar](#), [Brickendon](#), [Rhodes](#), threats from increased industrial ‘Food Bowl’ push for more pivot-irrigation infrastructure, unregulated blue gum plantations blocking landscape views.
 - **[Chudleigh Valley, Mole Creek](#)** - unregulated plantations, forestry, fragmented management. See 2009 article at <https://news.mongabay.com/2009/07/a-tasmanian-tragedy-how-the-forestry-industry-has-torn-an-island-apart/> and 3/2020 letter to the Editor by local MP, at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b88ab8475f9ee54716edac5/t/5e703561e7ab2450d47493e2/1584412014011/2020_03_March_low_res.pdf
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Victorian Branch

WATCH

- **[Horsham Botanic Gardens and Koroit Botanic Gardens elm trees](#)** – Branch bequest from Friends of the Elms to spend on elm conservation, has resulted in allocations of funds to these two regional botanic gardens in the Western District. Tree work on their elms has commenced.
- **[Tintaldra Avenue of Honour, Upper Murray River](#)** – an 1918 commemorative avenue of pines to WW1 servicemen, badly damaged in 2019-20 bushfires, is to be recreated with federal grant funding of \$128,700 (Border Mail, 22/11/2020). Info at: [Tintaldra Community Recovery Committee - Upper Murray Recovery](#)
- **[Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park, Dandenongs](#)** - conservation plans – Cardinia Shire has these as feed-in documents for a master plan for the overall site. The focus for Nobelius Heritage Park is as passive recreation space, compatible with its historic character. Digital interpretation of the sites as well as signs are proposed, as is the importance of forestry management of the site’s botanical fabric. The plans were made available to the public in 2020: see [Nobelius Heritage Park Conservation Management Plan 2020 | Cardinia Shire Council](#). Updates came out in early 2021 including a preliminary report on Aboriginal cultural heritage management, noting associated Aboriginal pathways through the area. All inform a masterplan.
- **[Maribyrnong City Tree Register](#)** – planning scheme amendment underway to apply permanent protection controls to trees listed on the significant tree register, by environmental significance overlay – applies to neighbouring properties in the trees’ canopy and root zones too. Info at: [Amendment C163 - Permanent protection of significant trees - Maribyrnong](#)

- **Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park** – draft conservation management plans prepared as part of master planning by Cardinia Shire in early 2021. Branch submission made, supporting passive recreation for Nobelius Heritage Park, as most are compatible with its heritage values. The rarity of its botanical collection in (wider) forested area management is one issue. The Shire has since released preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management investigation, showing Aboriginal pathways on early maps of the area. This will inform the guiding Strategic Plan and master planning stage of work. Design work to start in third quarter of 2021.
- **Towong Hill station, Towong**, NE Victoria (Alps) – homestead gutted in recent bushfires – damage to the garden is unknown. Property is a local heritage item. Article at: [Towong Hill Station homestead destroyed in Upper Murray bushfire | The Border Mail | Wodonga, VIC](#)
- **Budj Bim World Heritage Area, Western Victoria** – part of 6600-year-old wetland aquaculture system impacted by recent bushfires. Info at: [World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape](#)
- **Footscray Park – sports pavilion and soccer fields proposal** - Melbourne Victory’s controversial project to develop its western lawns as 3 soccer fields, 500-seat pavilion, and grandstand and 10 lighting towers – was defeated in November 2019. A good result after months of debate. Maribyrnong Council voted to refuse it as private club benefit impacting a significant landscape. Info at: [The proposal – Save Footscray Park](#)
- **Melbourne Domain Parklands draft Master Plan** – the branch made detailed comments on balancing competing demands on this major site with significant plantings, layout, and associations. Coordinating competing interests and values is vital, prioritising heritage values and gaining agreement across stakeholder groups. Master Plan endorsed on 19 February 2019: info at: [Domain Parklands Master Plan | Participate Melbourne](#)
- **Djab Warrang trees and Western Highway duplication project (Buangor - Ararat)** – the state government approved a 12.5km highway upgrade sparking a string of court battles and protests over bulldozing of hundreds of sacred ceremonial (some, birthing) trees, hundreds of years old. Court challenges delayed works. Activists established a campsite Heritage Protection Embassy beside the highway in 2019. The Victorian Ombudsman is scrutinising the government’s approval decision, particularly concerns raised about protecting sacred Aboriginal sites. More than a dozen other sacred trees have already been spared in a deal struck with traditional owners. On 26/10/2020 the ‘Directions Tree’ (a huge yellow box) was removed, amid strong protests. A Court injunction has halted works till 19/11/2020. Info at: [Sacred Djab Wurrung Directions Tree Cut Down To Make Way For New Victorian Highway | Marie Claire Australia](#) and [An open letter from 1,200 Australian academics on the Djab Wurrung trees \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- **Ballarat Botanic Garden** – construction of a replica 1887 fernery is planned – one of the original garden’s highlights. Plans for replica are before Heritage Victoria. Info at: [The Fernery Redevelopment Project - FBBG](#) and [The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery – Construction commences | Balance Architecture \(wordpress.com\)](#). The fernery has been re-built and is being progressively re-stocked with appropriate plantings – very good news indeed!

- **Cruden Farm**, Langwarrin – The Keith & Elisabeth Murdoch Trust lodged a planning application to subdivide 15.8ha off 54ha site, rezoning to build up to 116 houses on east and south. This is claimed to support maintenance and opening the garden to the public. Frankston City Council deferred the matter late 2017, seeking information. A possible outcome is public exhibition of an amended scheme. Another is this going straight to the Minister, avoiding public scrutiny. State government said in 9/2017 it will not alter urban growth boundary (which this requires). Await re-consideration and possible exhibition.
- **[SaveStKildaRoad instagram and Twitter](#)**. Planning permit issued for a temporary construction site on Edmund Herring Oval, supporting structures and removal of trees. Another to remove trees, kerb, and guttering, alter road and tram layout, establish construction area and station box.
- **H.V. McKay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine** – neglect by Brimbank Council, one of the last industrial gardens in Australia and Victoria's oldest. The Friends are negotiating a Strategic Management Plan with Council. Development Plan appears to use the gardens as 'borrowed' open space, may impact on their infrastructure, especially south boundary, and excision of land. The branch invited by Council to be part of a management group overseeing adopted Management Plan. The branch visited the gardens in May 2021. More info at: [HV McKay Memorial Gardens | Brimbank City Council](#)
- **[Hanging Rock, Mt. Macedon](#)** - campaign to prevent threat of development [10/09/2015 SCHEDULE 1 TO THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY ...](#)
- **[Avenue of Honour, Corindhap](#)** – near Rokewood. Photographic evidence sent to [www.Treenet.org](#)
- **[Horsham Boer War Memorial Avenue](#)** – a branch letter sent to RSL/ Information to NTA (Vic.).
- **[Port Fairy Botanic Garden](#)** – neglect of garden, the focus is on the Holiday Park adjacent to it.
- **[System Garden, Botany Dept, Melbourne University](#)** – the Heritage Council did not list it on the Victorian Heritage Register due to changes made since the 1970s. The branch made submissions to the University on a strategic development plan addressing all stakeholder needs, which seem overlooked. Master plan not yet made public and University's management commitment to the site is unclear. First stage of master plan accepted by university but commitment to full plan uncertain. Work done to re-establish some hedging to assist with student traffic. [News Item](#) [Facebook page](#) [Trust Advocate article](#). Write your support for conserving and interpreting this important historic garden via the new master plan, to vc@unimelb.edu.au.
- **[Sunbury Rings Cultural Landscape, Sunbury](#)** - planning proposal for residential subdivision, infill and new Jacksons Creek crossing which would bisect the landscape. [News item](#). Planning Panel hearing October 2017.

ACTION

- **Kamesburgh Gardens, Brighton** – the branch has been approached by a former (1980-96) gardener at this large suburban Victorian estate garden, noting he holds some records of it. The branch is liaising with him, helping with research, hoping he will write an article for the AGH journal and also that a branch visit to Kamesburgh Gardens can be organised in the future.
- **Royal Park conservation management plan** – in June 2021 the City of Melbourne released a draft history section of this plan. The branch reviewed it and provided comments to Council's Parks and City Greening division. The history lacks Aboriginal history and use, pre-colonial era. Consultation with traditional owners is underway, but the results must be melded into the work. The branch flagged interest in seeing a more advanced draft plan.
- **Wombat Park, Daylesford** – the branch nominated this major historic garden to the Victorian State Heritage Register in 2019. It is well known from past visits and working bees. It has since been on the real estate market for sale by tender: applications closed in December 2020, but the outcome took time to learn – a sale was abandoned early in 2021. A public auction was held on 3 December 2021. Heritage Victoria planned to re-start nomination evaluation in May 2021 with COVID easing. This did not occur, and ongoing outbreaks scotched opportunities. The branch is encouraging remote assessment, given thorough documentation and while current, cooperative owners are there. The nominations process is staged, including 60 days for objections or submissions, formal board decision. That seems unlikely to occur before the auction, although bidders will be aware of the nomination. The branch prepared an article for AGH journal on advocacy here over time, highlighting how this has been done. An AGHS pictorial essay on Wombat Park has been uploaded on the AGHS website.
- **St. Kilda Boulevard outside the National Gallery of Victoria** – a collaborative City of Melbourne and National Gallery of Victoria proposal with Heritage Victoria to install 29 LED installation screens and upgrade lighting in this most-public linear landscape. Double-sided screens singly or in groups display artworks and the whole is proposed for 25 years. Adjoining this boulevard is the Nationally-Heritage listed Domain Parklands. A branch objection was lodged with Council, copy to Heritage Victoria. In October 2020 Heritage Victoria approved it with conditions, despite noting its incompatibility. Conditions restrict the project life to 5 years (from the 25 proposed), with 5 more possible as an extension. LED displays are restricted to the artwork currently proposed (or by a further permit application, if otherwise). The branch has recommended public consultation be added to the permit conditions at the 5-year point. Heritage Victoria are deflecting such matters to Melbourne City Council.
- **Review of Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens world heritage management plan** – the branch made a submission re Victoria's only World Heritage listed garden, seeking sound management of its heritage values and resisting pressures for other needs and users. Public submissions from 2020 are online to view at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/rebcgreview>. Further public comments on the review of submissions were called for until September 2021. The review identified gaps, omissions and risks needing addressing in the 2009 Strategy Plan and its implementation to conserve the gardens. The branch lodged a brief, complementary response, and also made comments on the Carlton Gardens master plan, re the southern entry treatment and style approach to amenities in the northern part of the gardens.

- **Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Master Plan** – the branch is preparing a submission on this major guiding document over the gardens next 20 years. Info at: [Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens: 20-year master plan revealed \(news.com.au\)](https://www.news.com.au/melbourne-royal-botanic-gardens-20-year-master-plan-revealed/news-story)
- **Footscray Park, Melbourne Master Plan** – the branch wrote to Maribyrnong Council re a proposal to amend 2011 Master Plan as a step towards granting a lease to Melbourne Victory to develop western lawns into 3 soccer fields, 500 seat pavilion, grandstand and 10 light towers. The Park is Victorian Heritage Register item as public open space – a rare thing in the Western suburbs. A committee member attended a recent public meeting with Councillors and other objectors. AGHS has visited the park in conferences, walks, and talks. Council rejected the draft masterplan as presented, in August 2019, see: [Footscray Park Masterplan: Council decision - Maribyrnong](#)
- **Heide (gallery of modern art) and site Master Plan** – The branch sent a letter of support for plan underway for 40th anniversary, in 2021. It requested consultation as part of public consultation. Site on State Heritage Register and unique. Both architects & landscape architects engaged. 2019 article at: [Carmody Groarke, Openwork appointed to masterplan Heide Museum of Modern Art | Landscape Australia](#)
- **[Camperdown Botanic Garden \(CBG\) & Arboretum / Holiday Park](#)** – CBGA Trust lodged a VCAT appeal against Corangamite Shire Council approval for 5 new buildings in (impacting) the Arboretum. Council allocated \$200k for a toilet block in the failing caravan park alongside, a blight on the setting and trees. All 5 buildings have heritage and planning permits, but with strict conditions requiring Tree and Landscape Management Plans, signage acknowledging that they sit in the CBG and Arboretum. VCAT appeal hearings in 9/2019 (deciding Council did not need a permit for 2 amenity blocks for the caravan park as they were open to the public) and 1/2020 (against a permit for 2 new cabins and games room). The latter's permit expired in 12/2019.

The Garden's 2019 150th anniversary was an opportunity to promote passive recreation, value for tourism and work done reviving it. A new stakeholder reference group is over-represented with commercial interests. AGHS gave a \$: \$ grant of \$10k to revive and develop the shrubbery. Council has appointed a part-time gardener: a positive step. <https://www.avonadvocate.com.au/story/5464883/group-vows-to-fight-plan-for-20000-toilet-block/> [News story](#)

Council is reluctant to fund implementation of CBG conservation plan recommendations, citing the park's outstanding lease. Another access road is now proposed through the arboretum's entrance gates, impacting on trees and integrity. AGHS in late 2018 approved a grant to the CBGA Trust to reinstall two borders on the gardens' eastern side, with plantings informed by Guilfoyle's 1910 plan. The Trust has endured a long process to gain Council's approval, so work can start, in 2020! AGHS grant funds will now be released to enable this worthy project.

Council are now consulting the public about re-opening the adjacent Arboretum, in stages. This is a positive step: comments and feedback are sought, by 22 December 2021: see <https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say/Camperdown-Arboretum>
- **Faulkner Park, Melbourne** – Victorian Heritage Register item, City of Melbourne-proposed improvements - removing basketball court, new sports court, drainage, tree removals, new trees, 2 new paths in the park's east. The branch lodged an objection based on impacts of sports courts on park's heritage layout and character. Heritage Victoria (HV) refused a permit. Melbourne City Council requested HV review that. The branch made a further submission. The Heritage Council hearing was in October 2020 and a decision in December set aside the earlier

refusal and approved it with conditions. This despite finding that the master plan and conservation management plan are over 5 years out-of-date. Melbourne City responded to this issue noting a current internal review of heritage management processes. Whether the public learn the outcomes of this review is now a question. <https://msyrg.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-BULLETIN-HISTORIC-FAWKNER-PARK-HERITAGE-UNDER-THREAT-as-pdf.pdf> <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/permits/currently-advertised-permits>

- **Smith's Nursery, Riddle's Creek** – VHR-listed, 1863: one of oldest in Victoria. A planning permit has been advertised to subdivide it into 6 lots and create a reserve, install services, remove, and prune vegetation. A branch submission made, recommending part be public reserve, subject to a vegetation management plan and interpretation of key plantings and Aboriginal significance. <http://www.trustadvocate.org.au/new-public-reserved-planned-at-the-former-smiths-nursery/>
- **Melbourne Metro Rail Project** – Loss of 103 trees and landscape amenity along St Kilda Road/Domain. Branch support provided to [National Trust Victoria's campaign](#) to minimise impact on this significant boulevard from tree, kerb and guttering removal, tram and road realignment. Submissions made to Heritage Victoria and Vic. Rail Authority to minimise impact, but these were ignored. National Heritage Listing of Domain announced in February 2018 but does not affect previous Metro approval.
NOTE: Keep an eye on <http://www.trustadvocate.org.au/tag/heritagevictoria/> for more.

West Australian Branch

WATCH

- **Anzac Cottage, Kalgoorlie Street, Mt. Hawthorn** – Branch monitoring condition and management and offering advice as the Vietnam Veterans' Assn. which has managed this 1914-18 era house and garden, proposes handing it back to the City of Vincent Council. News at: [\(11\) Friends of ANZAC Cottage Inc | Facebook](#)
- **Woodbridge House, Woodbridge** – Branch discussing possible garden interpretation projects with National Trust of Australia (WA). Info on the site is at: [Woodbridge – National Trust](#)
- **Pensioner Guard's cottage garden, Bassendean** – Branch to advise Council and liaise with successful landscape architect on layout and content of a to-be-revived garden. WAHR and NTA-listed site. Info at: [Visit the last Pensioner Guard cottage – National Trust](#)
- **Burrup Peninsula, Moora Joorga**, Kimberley Coast, a rugged rocky landscape with literally hundreds of these rocks covered with amazing Indigenous artwork: some of the oldest rock art in the world. Suggested for World Heritage listing but no federal (or WA) government support. WA government push for major industrial port/hub, mining, land clearance with direct impacts. Info at: [064915.pdf \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](#) and [National Heritage Places - Dampier Archipelago \(including Burrup Peninsula\) | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#)

- [Wallcliffe House](#), Margaret River – ruined after a fire, possible reconstruction? Or new build, its future remains uncertain. [News item](#)
- [Stirling Gardens, Guildford](#) – The central town square, part of the original c1829 town planning scheme is currently at risk because of pressures to upgrade and modernise this space. e.g., increasing parking and incorporating modern recreational facilities that would dilute the square’s heritage value. Needs community and stakeholder consultation.

ACTION

- WA Heritage Act – a branch submission made on a proposed new law, objecting to its emphasis on the built environment and lack of attention to garden history and the settings of buildings.
- [Hyde Park, Vincent](#) – branch liaison with W.A. Heritage Office raising concern with a proposal for a commercial café in the gardener’s storage shed on the park’s western side, against the recommendations of its 2003 conservation plan. This would attract traffic, rubbish, require extra paving and likely future expansion, possibly threaten significant 120-year-old Moreton Bay figs and London plane trees. City of Vincent Council is seeking community input. The branch met the mayor and are pursuing the local MP. [HYDE PARK PRECINCT – SCHEME MAP 12 - City of Vincent](#). In May 2021, the City of Vincent decided to continue with its proposal.

The same proposal was touted in 2014 and due to ratepayer concerns a public meeting was called, which decided to trial a coffee van instead - for the last 6 years this has been there. Research showed the land was set aside for Recreational Purposes solely and the branch brought this to the attention of Council. In a meeting with the mayor the branch Chair put forward that the 2003 Conservation Plan graded the area as of considerable significance.

Submissions were made to the Heritage Council of Western Australia. The local press was supportive and published an article based upon the branch’s stand. At two Council meetings in May 2021 the Chair put forward the case why the City should not proceed, but unfortunately Councillors were not swayed, resolving to seek expressions of interest to then select a tenderer. The issue is now with the Heritage Council who have final say. The branch wrote to the Council in April 2022 and to the Minister for Lands, asking if his conditions were met.

- **Azelia Mey homestead museum, Manning Park, Hamilton Hill** City of Cockburn – the branch has been requested to provide guidance for the conservation plan for this 1975 park, the location of 1920s *Azelia Ley homestead* and the historic ruins of 1860s *Davilak House*. The Park has many 19th century trees and some original plantings from the time it was the Manning family property. Info at: [Manning Park - City of Cockburn](#) . Branch members provided input into interpretation of the site, based on scrutiny of an historic sketchbook watercolours (in the Battye Library) and present plant species, i.e.: approximate age and planting dates, style relevant to the house’s period. A juniper stand identified (previously mistakenly called ‘pines’): junipers are rare in Perth. Significant plants to be propagated and Council may involve Challenger TAFE students.
- [King’s Park, Perth & John Oldham Park, Mounts Bay road](#) – A designed landscape as part of the Mitchell Freeway interchange. Threats from development on foreshore of Swan River (Elizabeth Quay) and 2014 Tourism WA-proposed cable car between the Quay and **Kings Park** (1895). <https://thewest.com.au/news/perth/kings-park-chief-rejects-cable-car-proposal-ng-b88524848z>. Huge pylons needed would visually intrude and those in Kings Park will compromise the space, including its War Memorial and Pioneer Women’s Memorial. The

proposal needs community and stakeholder consultation. It requires State Government approval of a feasibility study. <https://thewest.com.au/news/perth/kings-park-chief-rejects-cable-car-proposal-ng-b88524848z> <http://www.friendsofkingspark.com.au/support-us/proposed-perth-cable-car/>

The branch lodged an objection. Channel 7 breakfast radio host Basil Zempilas was toying with running for October 2020 Mayor of Perth elections, spruiking he will push to build the cable car and for **Langley Park** to be made '*more interesting*' by landscaping some of its grassed expanse. Elections are pending finalising an inquiry into the City of Perth, which was suspended in 2018. Public response muted as it is at proposal stage and pending elections. The Branch wrote to the National Trust (WA), Heritage Council of WA and Minister for Lands – no response received. <https://www.pressreader.com/australia/the-west-australian/20191123/281767041067201>

- **Strawberry Hill Farm / Barmup, Albany** - possible future uses, redevelopment in vicinity of the orchard, which is of state significance. The branch is in discussion with National Trust of WA about partnership to celebrate bicentenary of arrival of British at King George Sound in 1826 (and founding the farm). Full-time gardener given 3 months by Trust (restructure). Branch submission on this, concerned at reliance on volunteers. Info at [Strawberry Hill / Barmup – National Trust](#) and photos at: [Strawberry Hill Farm Albany WA \(findalbany.com.au\)](http://findalbany.com.au)
- **Wirra Willa gardens, Armadale** – the branch made a submission to WA Heritage Council on the poor condition of garden. WA State government reply notes no compulsion on owners of gardens to maintain them, although grant funding is available to help. Armadale City Council says it is powerless or appears reluctant to act, awaiting a DA before it considers requiring any action of the owner. Info at: inHerit - State Heritage Office and [DOCUMENTATION OF PLACES \(stateheritage.wa.gov.au\)](http://DOCUMENTATION OF PLACES (stateheritage.wa.gov.au))