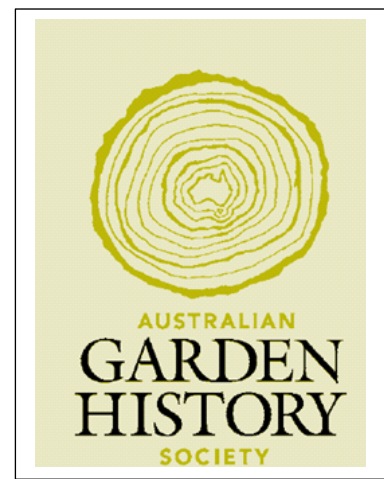


LANDSCAPES AT RISK LIST

Updated 7 July 2023: 'Watch & Action' List



Historic Rail Goods Shed (in red) is in the way of the proposed AFL Stadium at Macquarie Point, Hobart. Never mind views from the city to the state's war memorial, the Cenotaph in the Southern Queen's Domain, beyond, or from approaches coming towards the city. The apparent proposed height of the stadium is similar to the Grand Chancellor Hotel (to the left, near the water) (ABC News, 7/7/2023).

ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

WATCH

- **National & World Heritage Listing of Central Canberra as a designed, planned city landscape** – national listing was rejected by the former federal Environment & Heritage Minister, just before the 2022 election, despite support from the Australian Heritage Council in 2011 and an array of expert groups and individuals. What the new federal government's position is on the matter is unknown as yet. Commonwealth Heritage Listing of Lake Burley Griffin and some adjoining (federally owned, managed) lands has been achieved. But ACT government-owned lands adjoining the lake, and indeed, across central Canberra remain under threat by (until now) federal government indifference, ACT government development-mindedness and misinformation about what this might mean for future change and growth. In February 2020 the ACT government refused to work with the federal government on inclusion of key elements of Walter Burley & Marion Mahony Griffin's legacy, for National Listing. Very short-

sighted and a great pity. AGHS, Australia ICOMOS and the Burley Griffin Society among other groups waits for a more positive attitude at least in the federal government's quarter. In the meantime, ongoing threats to the National Triangle, Land and Water Axes, City Hill, West Basin and the national capital's symbolic role remain, and intensify.

- **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/2020/07/07/)
- **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.
- **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, much of which remains. But 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, 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 settings. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) have classified 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.
- **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 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 \(gardenhistorysociety.org.au\)](#)

ACTION

- **National Library forecourt poplar groves** – the branch provided input into the National Capital Authority’s new tree management policy but feared its comments supporting replanting the dramatic, upright narrow Lombardy poplars were disregarded. This exclamation mark of a tree, with buttery autumn colour, was deliberately used as landmarks 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. 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. What appears the issue is regular, ongoing maintenance – e.g.: removing suckers, monitoring.

The trees are ailing, need replacing. The proposal of upright tulip trees will only grow some the height of poplars, be showier in flower and leaf and less hardy in Canberra. Won’t have the same autumn colour, or effect. Poplars were a specific choice of National Capital Development Authority landscape architect (& AGHS member), Richard Clough. Non-suckering rootstock is available for poplars, so this inflexibility is unfortunate. See: [How the National Library can still have poplars and retain its heritage character | The RiotACT \(the-riotact.com\)](#). Pleasingly, the Minister has since stepped in and issued an ‘exemption’ allowing the poplars, again. Sense has prevailed.

- **York Park, Parkes** – a branch submission has been made on a heritage management report on this regular ‘grid’ planting of English (European) oaks (*Quercus robur*) near Parliament House.
- **Haig Park – Braddon Block 10, section 8: ‘Braddon Place’** – the branch has objected to proposed 9-storey residential development abutting **Haig Park** (1921-3) in inner north Canberra. This historic linear windbreak for the fledgling city has become a design and green landmark, with

its rows of tall evergreen trees. The proposal ignores the site's 2020 conservation plan, appears to lack rigorous heritage consultation and proposes a tiny buffer zone which won't protect the trees right next door – neither will excavating 2 levels of underground parking. Design modifications have been requested to mitigate adverse impacts.

- **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 \(act.gov.au\)](#)
- **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, it omits all lakeside lands belonging to the ACT government – which is the majority (e.g.: all lands outside the 'Parliamentary Triangle' and 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>.

- **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 Forest Research Institute stayed 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 toured the site in February 2021.

- **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 modified their plans, which is good. Council has approved a modified development proposal. The owner appears now to support local heritage listing. Proposed NSW State heritage listing has been publicly advertised and finalised recently – of a ‘house and garden’ excerpt, only. Earlier info at: [Wingello Park application sparks council bid for heritage order | Goulburn Post | Goulburn, NSW](#)
- **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 (150) 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](#)

- **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 \(act.gov.au\)](#)
- **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.
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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. The farm was bought by Whitehaven Coal who responded to a lively public media campaign to save the garden and open it for community access. So far so good. A public open day occurred in mid-2021, another good sign. See: [Visit Dorothea Mackellar's home 'Kurrumbede' - The Courier \(narrabricourier.com.au\)](#). Heritage NSW advertised the Heritage Council of NSW's notice of intention to list Kurrumbede on the NSW state heritage register, which has since occurred. Following through with funding for repair and conservation works to enable the property to be open to the public is the next step.
- **Liverpool Plains gas and coal mining threats** – In 2021 the NSW government paid \$100m to Chinese state-owned company Shenhua to withdraw its mining lease for the Watermark mine on prime agricultural land in the Liverpool Plains in the state's CW. Shenhua has since sold its 16,500 ha to twelve local farmers and an offshore buyer. The threat remains, as do related gas exploration licences for coal seam gas below the same plains.
- **Ravensthorpe coal mine proposal, near Singleton** – a coal mine proposal before the NSW Independent Planning Commission threatens this historic pastoral property. Nominated for possible state heritage listing for its Aboriginal and historic heritage values, including as the site of an 1826 frontier wars massacre of 18 Wonnarua Aboriginal people, the listing appears to be faltering with owner objections. The NSW Independent Planning Commission refused to approve the coal mine expansion project in 2022, due to its *'significant, irreversible and*

unjustified' impacts. Owner, coal company Glencore dismisses concerns of the Heritage Council of NSW, disputing the massacre location evidence. It plans to 'relocate' the homestead stone by stone, to reassemble it in nearby Broke (for some \$25m). Singleton Council voted to oppose state heritage listing after a briefing from Glencore in February 2023. There seems little consideration of the landscape and farm as having integral heritage value, to black and white. The NSW Heritage Council has recommended that the Minister state-list Ravensworth. We wait.

- **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](#)

- **[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: 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

- **Roto House, Port Macquarie – garden reinstatement** – the branch has been asked by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice and assistance with restoration of the gardens and parklands. Roto House reopens in May 2023 after being closed for several years, and will also house a cafe. Members are being asked to offer expertise and guidance in the garden restoration, taking into consideration limited budget and ongoing maintenance.
- **Old Teachers' College (aka CB Newling Centre), Armidale – rose gardens** – branch members have made a review of the original rose gardens here and an offer of branch assistance to source replacement rose bushes to replenish these.
- **'Beyond the Lawn' at Glen Innes Art Gallery** – a travelling photographic exhibition, first prepared to run in conjunction with travelling exhibition 'The Blade' by Richard Heathcote and the

Museum of Australian Gardening (which was held at New England Regional Art Gallery & Museum in 2021). Beyond the Lawn was researched and compiled by branch members Graham Wilson and Bill Oates, funded as part of AGHS's 40th birthday celebrations. The exhibition ran from 7-25th March 2022.

- **University of New England landscape management committee** – branch assistance is being provided to this committee on preserving the UNE's heritage gardens, promoting the re-establishment of rose gardens at **Booloominbah** mansion, the institute's historic home and administration centre. Advice and assistance about re-establishing a heritage rose garden at **Booloominbah** has also been given to the UNE.
- **Saumarez Recreational Vehicle area and Sustainable Tourism proposals** – on exhibition in 2022 was a National Trust of Australia (NSW) proposal for parking and accommodation 'pods' and overnight (parking) area on site for RVs. This was in a different location than originally proposed, hard up against the **Heritage Rose Garden** and carpark adjoining the *Picking Garden*. Submissions closed in March 2022 – the branch lodged an objection and sought meetings with the Trust to discuss this, seeking relocation and more care. Pleasingly, the Trust withdrew the initial *Sustainable Saumarez Homestead Tourism Project* application from Armidale-Dumaresq Regional Council. A September 2022 community forum updated parties, seeking input. A new development application was lodged after feedback from that forum and is on exhibition in March 2023. Several AGHS members attended the forum and the branch will make a submission on the new proposal. While better in some respects, it could be improved further, relocating one group of RVs further away from the Heritage Rose Garden, hardening proposed parking areas and taking care to avoid historic pine and other trees' root zones with new paths, footings.
- **Saumarez Heritage Rose Garden working bees** – branch members continue work here, monthly, supported by Armidale Lions Club, in cooperation with National Trust of Australia and staff members. Investigation of funding sources is underway to buy gravel mulch to lessen maintenance of paths, along with mulching rose beds and reducing overall water use.

Despite drought, the Stage 2 garden (featuring rose breeders' cultivars) plantings are thriving, with donations of water and plants (Heritage Roses in Australia), extra shade pergolas, seating completed in spring 2020. COVID in 2020 and 2021 meant no (or intermittent) 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, bringing more visitors and interest. A revised 'Rose Guidebook' is near completion: more info at [Saumarez Homestead Gardens – National Trust](#). December 2022 Open Garden event fundraising at **Kamarra**, Kellys Plains produced over \$2700 to pay for gravel mulch for the garden. An AGHS member has guided a national TV gardening program filming here.

- **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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Armidale Airport tree felling** – the branch made a submission to Armidale Dumaresq Regional Council concerned at extensive tree felling around the airport, requesting prior consultation before any more occurs. Info at: [Airport Business Park - Armidale Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Queensland Branch

WATCH

- **Atherton CSIRO Arboretum sell off** – home to an ancient cousin of eucalypts, *Stockwellia quadrifida*, found only on Queensland’s highest mountain, Bartle Frere. *Podocarpus dispermus*, a Gondwanan conifer whose bright red berries are spread by cassowaries and musky rat-kangaroos. And *Ficus crassipes*, a banana fig that starts life as a seedling in the canopy then sends roots to the ground. They’re among 500 mature trees at Atherton Arboretum, a CSIRO-owned haven to rare species from the nearby wet tropics, Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Northern Territory. The 3.64-hectare site was established in 1971 by the biologists Geoff Stocker, Bernie Hyland and Tony Irvine and became an important part of the Australian National Herbarium. CSIRO closed public access to the site in October last year, alarming an Atherton-based botanist, Gemma Horner, who thought it was important alert the community. Only in November 2022 did she hear CSIRO was planning to sell. They have confirmed the site has been “vacated in preparation for divestment”, and Guardian Australia understands that as a freehold site there would be no restrictions on its sale. See: [Locals alarmed as Queensland haven to rare tree species to be sold off by CSIRO | Queensland | The Guardian](#)
- **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

- **Bougainvillea Gardens, Indooroopilly** – a local resident keeps the branch informed of any threats to these wonderful suburban gardens featuring a big collection of bougainvilleas. Currently he’s noticed that any species type that fails is likely replaced with hybrid or smaller-growing cultivars. Member John Taylor has made representations to Brisbane City Council on this.
- **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 assisted 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 laying a small plaque. A branch visit to launch the project was in July 2021. The site is open to the public. See: 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

- **Theberton Cottage and garden site, West End, Adelaide –**

An archaeological site recently state-heritage-listed as despite a brewery being built on top of it after it was demolished in 1926, the footings, an underground room and outbuilding and layout of a formal town garden of 1833??, for Colonel Light, first Surveyor-General of South Australia and founder of Adelaide, and his partner, Maria Gandy. Light was the first colonist to choose a section, namely section 1 of the Hundred of Adelaide. Current archaeological testing is revealing how intact this 'first town garden' of this state is. It is hoped it can be retained, conserved and interpreted as part of new use and redevelopment of its wider site. More on the listing at: <https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Heritage/SA-Heritage-Register/26527/Theberton-Cottage-confirmation-summary.pdf>

- **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 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 government may be the cause. This may mean change for its spacious lawns and surviving garden, 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>

A change of state government saved the Ayers House Museum from becoming an office block.

- **[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>.
Alas, the Urrbrae Lodge gatehouse will be demolished for a turn-left traffic lane.
- **[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 passive recreation, risking its National Heritage List values and essential character. The proposed planning changes include allowing 15-20 storey buildings, sub-division and a range of new uses. A 12/2018 Stadium Management Authority proposal (with state funding) for a boutique hotel at Adelaide Oval, despite Adelaide City Council’s objection and submission to Premier. The current Parklands Event Management Plan is skewed towards profit-making. The branch is monitoring the situation. There is further pressure on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site for a new, second hospital (*see separate entry*), 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 or 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/urrae-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



Above) artist’s impression of new Mounted Police Barracks site (in the south of *Adelaide’s Parklands*, showing how it would dominate what is now revegetated green public open space. The proposed area is larger than Adelaide Oval Stadium.

- **SA Women’s & Children’s Hospital on Thebarton Police Barracks site** – a new \$2.8b hospital will be built on the state heritage-listed Police Barracks site on Port Road, to ‘future-proof’ Adelaide’s medical precinct. The government dumped plans for a new WCH on a smaller site west of Royal Adelaide Hospital. The barracks site is larger and allows for expansion, but at the cost to (of) its 10 state heritage listed buildings, layout, functions and associations. The site has housed SA Police’s mounted police since 1838. Demolishing a state-heritage-listed precinct is a poor precedent, making a mockery of heritage listing, when pragmatism or competing values arise. Due process in carefully comparing alternative sites and balancing competing values are the key. AGHS SA branch has sent an objection and sought and gained a meeting with the Premier. In a letter of 8/6/23 the Premier claims that the new WCH will see more than 30,000 sq.m. of inaccessible Parklands restored and open to the public. This sounds good, but at the expense of heritage.
- **More Adelaide Parklands ‘grabbed’ for SA Mounted Police Horses** – (see above). A swathe of City South Parklands (*Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra* part of *Veale Park / Walyu Yarta*) will

disappear to re-house the proposed new SA Mounted Police barracks. An 8ha site (as big as Adelaide Oval Stadium) on the corner of Greenhill Rd. & Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue was chosen (over a dozen others) in March 2023, supposedly as it best suits 'operational needs' and has least impact on parklands users. Lord Mayor Jane Lomax said a site outside the parklands must be prioritised. AGHS SA branch objected to the Premier and met him on 1st April to put its views. This totally disregards the National Heritage Listing of Adelaide Parklands – as public open space. See: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/places/national/adelaide-parklands>
And see policy 3.7 – with which this proposal does not comply.

Happily, this advocacy has worked - the Premier wrote to AGHS on 8/6/23 advising the government has decided not to approve this site, identifying two alternatives at Adelaide Airport or Gepps Cross. *Mirnu Wirra Park* will remain as public parkland.

- **Supporting the Heritage Rose Trail** – a future project for the in supporting this project, whereby the dispersed collection of roses from the garden of the late David Ruston of Renmark, S.A. will be re-planted in a series of publicly-accessible gardens along the Mount Lofty Ranges (around Adelaide). The branch is proposed to work with the S.A. branch of Heritage Roses in Australia, to help look after part of the China and Tea rose collection proposed for Marble Hill.
- **Opposing new South Australian planning & infrastructure laws** – the branch has joined like-minded groups like the National Trust of Australia (S.A.), Adelaide Park Lands Association, Protect our Heritage SA – 2022, Community Alliance SA, Help save South Australia's history from demolition, and '20 Metre Trees', attending meetings, protests, lobbying politicians, councillors, writing letters to newspapers, phoning into talk back radio, signing petitions to Parliament. A first-term Premier has been tossed out. A change of government has occurred. Some success?
- **Museum of Australian Gardening at Carrick Hill** – the branch was a co-sponsor of the travelling exhibition organised by member, Richard Heathcote, *'The Blade – Australia's love affair with lawn'*, which has travelled around Australia, most recently to Canberra and Armidale.
- **The Cedars garden, Hahndorf** – members continue volunteer work helping recreate the (Hans and Sally) Heysen rose garden at The Cedars. This wonderful property is open to the public as a museum to a very creative family.
- **[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** – branch members continue working as volunteers here, helping establish its cottage garden and advising volunteers on 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/>
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Southern Highlands Branch

WATCH

- **Sydney Fish Markets / Bridge Road v Wentworth Park** – total rebuilding of Sydney’s Fish Markets, now ‘suspended’ in Blackwattle Bay, and providing ‘integrated (drop-off/taxi/Uber) entry’ at floor level requires raising a stretch of Bridge Road and pruning an entire line of grand, notable Moreton Bay fig trees lining the ‘bay edge’ of *Wentworth Park*, an historic park, once part of Lyndhurst estate. AGHS is considering making an objection to the proposed raising of the road and required, ongoing tree pruning. For more info, see [The Glebe Society](#)
- **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) sold** – the branch is watching what happens next as the NSW government placed this pre-1840s convict era State Heritage Register-listed jail on the 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. It sold for \$7m to the Blue Sox Group – who propose a boutique hotel, retaining the grounds, with a café, restaurant, bar, community and event areas, spaces for small businesses, galleries, etc. The Berrima Residents’ Association are disappointed that this opportunity for community ownership and control has been lost.

- **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. State listing has since been achieved, albeit with a small curtilage, chiefly the homestead complex, garden and outbuildings.
- **St. John’s Anglican Church Glebe, Camden** – A branch representation was made to NSW Premier over this 1836+ church’s sale of an adjacent glebe paddock to a developer proposing aged housing units. This land was gifted by the Macarthur family to the church. The Premier’s reply was for AGHS to contact the owner. The site has since been listed on NSW State Heritage Register, so any works proposed need Heritage Council approval. It is one of the most complete parish church groups in NSW: with clear open space between rectory and church: aka ‘horse paddock’. There has been considerable pressure to sell both rectory and paddock for a new ‘worship centre’ there. Community protest has stalled both plans to date, plans that go against the terms of the original land’s gift to the community.
- [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. Its heritage *Camellia* collection has been identified with Camellia Ark Australia members and has hosted one successful public program, on pruning mature camellias.
- **Invergowrie, Exeter** – Paul Sorensen garden’s future – after long for-sale period, it has sold and new owners are taking advice and doing works in the garden. Issue of non-continuity of garden staff, erosion of heritage values. There was a 2019 auction of the contents of the 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 \(erbg.org.au\)](#)
- [Kenmore Hospital \(fmr.\), Goulburn](#) – lack of interest in this 1895 purpose built psychiatric hospital complex by its new overseas owner, a recent fire in one major contributory building, and ongoing uncertainty over the site’s future uses, and income. The property is increasingly neglected and deteriorating, at risk of rezoning, unsympathetic infill, loss of its Victorian landscape character. There are ongoing issues of vandalism and damage to a site which includes significant trees, sports ovals and planting. 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 for it.

ACTION

- **South East and Tablelands Regional Plan – 13,000 extra dwellings by 2041** – the branch made a 14-page submission objecting to the proposed 55% increase in housing, particularly its impact

on loved Southern Highlands landscapes and historic towns and villages. The branch is working closely with Wingecarribee Shire Council, seeking additional and more-detailed heritage listings 464 new heritage items – including landscapes such as the Sutton Forest cultural landscape, 13 new or extended heritage conservation areas, state listing of the town of Berrima, more detailed policies for housing infill, increased density, Seniors Living – seeking space for gardens, open spaces, parks, etc. The branch will continue to monitor progress.

- **Gardens & Landscapes of the Southern Highlands – then and now** – a garden history exhibition collaboratively prepared by branch member Bud Tensing and others with the Berrima & District Historical Society and Highlife magazine has, despite COVID hiccups, opened in March in Berrima’s museum showcasing old and young gardens, bushfire, tourism to beauty spots in the district, Bowral’s Tulip Time festival, artists and activists such as Tim & Keva North, and commercial gardens (seed, bulb and flower farms) of Exeter. High resolution LCD screens with slide shows of photographs, displays of historic materials and artworks make this a rich, varied show and a major achievement of branch members. The exhibition runs through 2022.
- **Chris Betteridge’s ‘Landscape Character Study of Bowral Public Spaces’** report to Wingecarribee Shire Council, presented to Council in September 2021. The branch published the study in book form to better convey it to Council staff. This is a good model for other district towns.
- **The Walden Estate, Bowral** – branch member Bud Tensing did extensive research for the owner. The original Walden was built in 1915 on 5.5ha – described in 1922 as ‘one of the show places of the state’. It was rebuilt by A.B. Smith’s daughter in c1950 and retains 1.3ha of garden.
- **5 Earl Street, Bowral** (on adjoining Mt. Gibraltar) – the branch objected to proposed subdivision of this 12 ha bush block, flagging high bushfire risk, and prominence – any housing would result in a large visual scar on the mountain’s eastern flank (backdrop to Mittagong). Branch urged Council to buy the property and add it to the adjacent reserve. As well as habitat values for koala and greater gliders, Mt. Gibraltar has state heritage-listed trachyte quarries, from which stone for many a renowned Australian city building comes. The first proposal for 3 new houses was refused. A second was lodged in August 2022 for a single new house.
- **Bowral Swimming Pool** – the branch wrote to Council about proposed garbage collection and the parking area adjacent to the **Vietnam War Memorial and memorial Cherry Tree Walk** and parkland alongside. Thanks to broad opposition, Council have since cancelled the project.
- **Bowral Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk** – about 75 of the walk’s 523 ‘Tai Haku’ (great white Japanese cherry) trees need replacing. Wingecarribee Shire Council is responsible for the memorial and a \$61k grant has been received to modify the memorial, which has raised some public and veterans’ concerns. In August 2023 a service will be held for the 50th anniversary of the end of Australian involvement in Vietnam. AGHS’s branch has offered help on landscaping changes and funding some of the costs.
- **Myrtle & Elizabeth Streets, Moss Vale** – the branch objected to proposed development, encouraging Council (which has begun act) to include 2-6 Myrtle Street, Bowral within the existing heritage conservation area, and list new local heritage item, Karingal, at 26 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale in Council’s planning controls. Council is acting on these issues, pleasingly.

- **Lot 5, Earl Street, Mittagong** – the branch objected to proposed subdivision, on grounds it would damage surrounding pristine woodland critical to wildlife, including as a wildlife corridor. Council has since refused the current application.
- **Southern Highlands Botanic Garden, East Bowral** – the branch has written several letters of support for the young SHBG to help with fund-raising for its new Education building.
- **Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2021 review** – branch member Laurel Cheetham is on Council’s heritage advisory committee, which has recommended adding 463 new heritage items and 13 new or extended heritage conservation areas to area planning controls. Council is working on an amendment to its plan for the Planning Panel to review in due course.
- **Balmoral post-bushfire recovery plantings** – a successful online book sale run by the branch led to 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. That \$500 plus another \$700 – all raised by a book auction organised by a branch member will fund advanced trees to plant near the tennis court at the Community centre, to shade the meeting place. A plaque will go in the tennis building to acknowledge branch contributions.
- **Frensham School – development impacts** on bush ‘farm’ block – the branch objected to Council re proposed trails, a ‘fire pit’ and other works considered inappropriate in a bush block and native vegetation area in the western part of the grounds: a fragile, protected habitat area.
- **Bowral Library garden revival** – branch members worked with Wingecarribee Shire Council to source and provide 8 heritage *Camellia* cultivars added to a refreshed garden outside the library. Members donated garden books and archived branch records to the library’s local history collection, for public access. Members collaborated with Camellia Ark Australia on an interpretive board explaining their history, prepared by historian Linda Emery, International Camellia Society (ICS) expert Dr Stephen Utick and branch member, Lyn Barrett. This faces Bendooley Place. Council have used ICS-approved QR code signs for each cultivar, giving e-readers access to diverse online information about cultivar origins and histories. The camellia plants were planted in November 2021. An event to celebrate completion of the project was held in August 2022 with Council’s administrator and general manager doing the honours.
- **Harpers Mansion, Berrima – Camellia Walk and new garden book** – the branch attended the unveiling by Stephen Utick of this new feature of this National Trust property – in its modern, sympathetic garden. The walk features historic cultivars of camellias, many developed at *Camden Park, SW Sydney* in the mid-19th century with story boards explaining their history, bringing more interest to visitors. A branch member Meg Probyn has edited a new publication tracing the history of Harpers Mansion’s garden since its (re-)creation in 1985, written by head volunteer, Chris Thompson, which the branch financially supported, to ensure its publication. This book is a diplomatic story of tensions between ‘experts’ and ‘volunteers’, head office and locals: worth reading and with much wider relevance than just one village and one garden.
- **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, meaning loss of house and garden. Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 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 2020. While good, threat remains as medium density seniors' housing is permitted in all residential zones including where most heritage items and historic gardens are. Such housing can be built on a block as small as 1000m² and 20m wide and in heritage conservation areas. While Council has discretion, refusals are appealable to the NSW Land and Environment Court, where many decisions are pro-development. The branch attended and made submissions to hearings on Aitken Road, where 4 sites in a conservation area owned by the Catholic church are slated for 'seniors living'.

Council has since listed *Yarrabin* as a local heritage item, now part of an extended heritage conservation area: both good news. Former owner Keva North, Bud Townsing and Dennis McManus produced a book on *Yarrabin* which the branch planned to launch there, in 2021. COVID restrictions forced postponement. See article on *Yarrabin* in the 7/2021 journal.

- **Station Street upgrade, Bowral** – The 'bypass' concept plan exhibited by Council in 2017 required removing 159 street trees including 5 from the town's northern entrance avenue (pin oaks planted by school children, Girl Guides & Boy Scouts at a community celebration on Coronation Day 1937), plus four 1930s dry-stone trachyte retaining walls, a rare hedge of 18 heritage *Camellia* cultivars between the railway station and Station Street, and several old elms to the south (Bowral Street). The Branch was active in stopping this project.

Branch 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 it not having control over all land required. At the request of its local branch, the northern entrance landscape, including pin oak avenue and camellia hedge was classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in April 2019.

2019 research into the 18 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, the significance of the avenue and hedge and downplays their heritage, aesthetic and environmental value.

With suspension of this Council in March 2021 and an Interim Administrator, Viv May, documents disclosing facts Council was hiding are public. AGHS 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 and remove the project from its Delivery, Operational Plan and Capital Works Programs. A further report on landscaping Station Street will be prepared and dead limbs on the oaks be removed. In June 2021 Mr May stated 8 oaks will see preparatory work and the *Camellia* collection will remain, allocating \$300k to restore stone retaining walls and four 1935 electric streetlamps. Council has since reinstated its heritage committee, with 4 AGHS 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. Mr May approved restoration of the Station Street precinct in early 2022. Bill Parker of Camellias-R-Us and team did significant renovative pruning in April and started extensive undergrowth clean-up of the garden terraces. Negotiations with Transport for NSW are underway by Council, to agree on area restoration works. The branch is liaising with Council's horticulturist to ensure the camellias' history is appropriately acknowledged. Work is now progressing well: the dry stone wall restoration of terraces is complete, conduits for mains water installed and final landscaping and planting started in February 2023. This is a 'win' for garden history.

- **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.

Berrima Residents Association (BRA) prepared an MOU with Transport for NSW to manage the site over 25 years and pay for mowing. The branch offered to fund a landscape assessment to inform a maintenance plan. Council and RDC are considering this. Hume Coal who own a large area of Remembrance Drive are considering it. The branch is recording the plantations, ready for a conservation management plan, with BRA. An inspection has been done and working bees (last, in February 2020) to remove rubbish & mulch trees. BRA has taken ownership of the

project. Next is redesigning signs with 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 plantation borders Mereworth farm, a 1300ha. 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), no integrated management. The branch is working with Boral to remedy this and commissioned a tree survey and Management Plan, completed, 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 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 maintenance, plaque, and buffer plantings. A community engagement meeting for March 2020 was delayed with COVID-19, but proceeded in July 2020. 2 branch members visited Boral's HQ in Sydney in 2021 to express concerns to their environment officer. The company's response is awaited.
- **Sutton Forest Cultural Landscape v Hume Coal Mining proposal** – many heritage gardens were potentially adversely affected by bore water draw-down, likely subsidence, visual and physical impacts (air and noise pollution). A 'State Significant' project for a large underground coal mine (over 22 years), surface infrastructure including rail line extension cutting into Sorensen plantings outside East Berrima cement works, a new rail bridge over Old Hume Highway, existing Hume Highway and huge spill dumps for 25 years etc on *Mereworth*, Sutton Forest. The Branch nominated SFCL for local heritage listing. It made a submission and attended 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 outweighing claimed 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 1963+ garden for then owner Mr A. Oxley. Various issues of management arose with more recent owner Hume Coal, its use as a farm, and major threat from a proposed 25 years' worth of mass deposition of mining fill, lake/tailings pond and other surface infrastructure close to an existing rail corridor at East Berrima Cement works (a spur line), plus a possible threat to the site's water supply. The branch objected. A June 2021 Department of Planning assessment report recommended refusal: the verdict went to the Independent Planning Commission, which refused it on 31 August 2021. Mereworth (1300 ha) was put on the market and sold to a local, private owner in November 2021. They on-sold it in May 2022 to Mereworth Pastoral P/L, owned by Roy & Anthony Medich. Their plans or attitudes to heritage listing are unknown. The same owners own...
- **The Maltings**, a huge, neglected former industrial complex on the railway line at Mittagong, which is subject of a \$68m proposed mixed use development under consideration by the Southern Regional Planning Panel. 2 stages of development are proposed: 1) adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, adding new elements for an exhibition space, boutique hotel, bar, etc. (2) potential residential accommodation, tourist and visitor accommodation and / or seniors' housing on the eastern part of the site. While this major site may suit such uses, the detail is yet to be seen.

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

WATCH

- **Hambledon Cottage, Harris Park, Parramatta – adjacent development** – proposed medium-high rise housing directly behind historic *Hambledon Cottage* will have overwhelmingly negative impact on both the cottage’s setting and its surrounding garden and parkland landscape. It will degrade the visual connections between Hambledon, nearby *Elizabeth Farm* and *Experiment Farm Cottage* – severing sight lines between these important early colonial sites. The state government is currently reviewing the development application.
- **Warragamba Dam raising proposal – impact on Blue Mountains World Heritage Area** – state government ‘critical state-significant infrastructure’ project proposal to raise the dam wall by 14m, to facilitate flood mitigation on the flood plain below. See: https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSI-8441%2120221107T011836.671_GMT. Doing so goes against environmental impact assessments, would flood large areas of World Heritage listed forested land in valleys behind the dam, and thousands of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Outcry (2500 objections) over the proposal’s impacts on advertising the first environmental impact statement (EIS) led to a revised EIS, submissions on which close 12 December 2022.

More information is at: [Make a submission - GIVE A DAM](#). In a major flood, a higher dam wall still won’t protect the flood plain below: nor in particular, poorly sited development on the Hawkesbury-Nepean flood plain. That flood plain drains not one but four river catchments: only one would be ‘fixed’ by the dam proposal. Roads are inadequate to guarantee safe, fast evacuation. With a state election due in March-April 2023, this matter looks to be a ‘hot issue’ in some electors’ minds. A United Nations report assessing the state of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area listing has raised concerns about the dam-raising project’s impacts on the area’s diverse heritage values.

- **Sydney Central Station environs – and western forecourt** – state government proposals to part-demolish and build over (the Atlassian tower) the former Post Office building flanking the western forecourt (a low-key sloping lawn and garden with ‘carriage loop’ outside Central’s western pedestrian entry and clock tower, has been controversial enough. As are plans to ‘build over’ the tracks of Central Station Terminus (admittedly partly for new green space plazas, around some 15 new buildings, 18 to 39 stories high). And another high-rise cluster of towers (TOGA tower and more) to the west, facing George & Regent Streets. And yes, 850 dwellings, 15% ‘affordable’, another 15% ‘diverse’. All up they claim to bring adaptive use of the former Parcels Post Office, hotel facilities, retail floor space, and improved public plaza linking Railway Square and Block B, Lee Street Tunnel and Devonshire Street Tunnel. But in doing so, may destroy the distinctive character, memory and easy outdoor connections of and to Central’s Grand Concourse and diminish views of its signal clock tower and station building. Too many towers, too close, too-narrow new streets and unclear links? See [‘Central Place Sydney’: National Trust opposes 40 storey high-rise \(cityhubsydney.com.au\)](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/central-place-sydney) and www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/central-station-s-11bn-revamp-risks-repeating-barangaroo-s-mistakes-20230117-p5cd8a.html
- **Royal Sydney Golf Course redevelopment** – 1922 championship golf course in Rose Bay, in ‘parkland’ style, proposed for major ‘reimagining’ into a ‘links course’. That requires poisoning c17.8ha of grass, 910 truck movements/1800 trips in/out, 595 mature trees being removed... much replanting, but of shrubbier stock (to not interrupt camera sightlines for TV coverage). There was public outcry over the loss of so many trees, their habitat value for wildlife and some critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. 284 submissions to Woollahra Council (5 in support). The course’s role as pollution filter and air-conditioning to its suburb was raised. The club withdrew its initial plans and rethought. Revised plans were submitted in April 2021. They still require 595 trees to go. A petition with 1227 signed objections was lodged. A year later, Council refused the proposal. The club appealed to the Land & Environment Court, which upheld the appeal and Woollahra Council approved the plans, with conditions: another 2185 native trees were added, 14ha of turf is to be replaced by native grasslands and biodiversity compliance will be beefed up. Works begin early 2024.
- **Glenlee and surrounds, Lugarno** – this rare inner-city 2.5ha bushland site on the Georges River is threatened with a subdivision proposal for 31 house lots. This would mean demolition of its 110-year old homestead and garden, evidence of oyster farming and boat sheds, intact evidence of long Aboriginal occupation and use, a forested site of natural habitat value and more. Georges River Council’s interim heritage order (temporary protection for the site) is before the NSW Land & Environment Court. The IHO expires in February 2023. The site needs heritage listing and careful ongoing management for its heritage values.
- **Bidura Children’s Court complex, Glebe** – at the front, an 1860s suburban villa in garden setting, designed and built for renowned architect Edmund Blackett and family. Behind, a Government Architect-designed brutalist style mid-century Children’s Court complex, sold in 2014, proposed for demolition and redevelopment as residential units. These will dominate the villa and offer little by way of additional ‘garden’ or open space as compensation.
- **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

requires major trenching down Deakin Avenue, likely to severely impact the best tree avenue in Haberfield – a rare Federation era Garden Suburb and conservation area (long-nominated for NSW state heritage register listing). There has been no heritage assessment of the trees, nor any impact statement of the works on them. Defence plan to start as possible: Inner West Council's determination is imminent. In 2003 Defence lodged a 22-lot housing subdivision – rejected by Council unless drainage of the low-lying site was remedied. The branch is considering making a submission. AGHS is aware that the Haberfield Association are in protracted discussion this Council over street tree issues – replacing ailing ones or gaps not with original shade tree (chiefly native, evergreen) species. It appears Council has a way to go in fully understanding how integral Haberfield's street trees are (many in the actual road surface). The Federal government is proceeding with the sale of the 22 lots, for housing... Watch this space.

- **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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Greater Sydney Parklands Authority & Trust: mega parks authority** – the NSW Planning Minister has created 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. A white paper proposed abolishing individual trusts - with one Trust for all. This risks standardisation likely to disregard heritage values and particularity, i.e., erode these parks' unique heritage, contexts, communities. The enabling legislation's only mention of heritage is in objectives, biodiversity only under bio-banking, environment only under planning matters. It has strong emphasis on commercial uses, selling 'surplus' lands to fund parklands. See: [Greater Sydney Parklands White Paper | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

After strong community opposition and MP concerns, the bill went to an inquiry in the Legislative Council in 2022. The Alliance for Public Parklands urged dropping it entirely and adopting a federated, community model and individual park Trust Acts, cf a centralised, top-down model. The committee report emerged in February 2022. Happily, individual park trusts were permitted for *Callan Park*, *Parramatta Park* and *Fernhill*: a 'win' of sorts – but who gets elected onto these trusts – what 'heritage' skills are there, what weighting do members have, and what notice will the government take of their advice: all are unknowns, yet. The trust memberships are now here: <https://www.gspengagement.com.au/community-trustee-boards>

- **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: a small 'win'. [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 airport 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 Governor Macquarie blanket feasts with local Aboriginal people here, its significance now dwarfed by 'Parramatta Square': a \$3.2b corporate (30,000 workers) hub, including 90, 45 and 43 storey towers approved and in construction, near and next to Parramatta Town Hall and St. John's Cathedral, dwarfing them and changing their setting to uber-urban. The spire of St. John's is no longer a 'landmark' seen south on Church Street (the main street), nor from various angles. 5 Parramatta Square (aka PHIVE) completed in late 2022 is a relatively low-rise new Council Chambers, library and performance spaces, adjoining the old town hall.

In November 2022 St. John's Cathedral Church Hall awaited demolition approval (despite 406 submissions, 60% objecting) for 1 of 3 towers the Anglican Church announced plans for - 46 and 8 stories, west of St. John's Cathedral – the latter 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/](#) . A Sydney Metro West station 5-tower scheme on top of nearby Macquarie and George Street blocks gouged a large hole in central Parramatta and, once 'towered', will add to urban, overscale 'neighbours' to modestly scaled heritage streets. At risk is a sense of Parramatta's 18th and 19th century town. See: <https://www.urban.com.au/news/nsw/first-look-designs-revealed-for-towers-above-parramatta-metro-station>

- **Willow Grove, Phillip St., Parramatta** – one of its last Victorian urban villas and gardens - dismantled and stored 'in Western Sydney' to be rebuilt off-site (it remains unclear 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 (lifted 24 August 2021) and backdown on moving the whole Museum from Ultimo. The government remains committed to building and demolition has commenced. Its garden disappears. An injunction to stall demolition was dismissed in the NSW Land & Environment Court. An appeal was heard in the Supreme Court in July to review that decision. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) has pulled out of the advisory committee on reconstructing Willow Grove, citing that it is not practicable.

See: [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. It seems likely that less conifers (flammable) and other species will form the bulk of the new plantings. 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, but only the core of farm (homestead, garden, dams, core paddocks). Lend Lease and vendor owner refused larger options. Surrounds are set for staged development of up to 11,000 houses over its paddocks to Appin Road. Campbelltown Council pushing for North-South Rail Link through the property to Macarthur. Transport for NSW have chosen the preferred route for stage 2 of the Outer Sydney Orbital (Appin to the Hume Highway which skirts *Mount Gilead* and Appin 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 its 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.
- **Tarwyn Park, Bylong** becomes a coalmine for c2 years. A petition supporting state heritage listing: for the site that ‘water man’ Peter Andrews did his initial and ongoing experimentation on, in the

Hunter Valley. Korean KEPCO Mining Co. bought it in 2010 and propose to mine most of the site and setting, open cut and underground. It has bought some 13,000 ha in all. This, in addition to the Mount Kenny mine 7km north of Bylong, which locals protested and fought against. A 2009 mining license was cancelled after an ICAC corruption inquiry and 2021 prosecutions.

KEPCO now propose to mine 75 square km., which would ruin the valley's scenic and rural qualities and uses. The school and local store have closed. The NSW Independent Planning Commission rejected this proposal in 2019, citing impacts on heritage and climate change. A judicial review in the NSW Land & Environment Court in 2020, which Bylong Valley Protection Alliance fought, was rejected. The NSW Court of Appeal rejected another appeal by KEPCO in 2021. In February 2022 the High Court refused to hear another appeal against IPC's refusal. In June 2022 Treo Resources withdrew its application for metals exploration, once it learned the National Trust of Australia (NSW) has listed the valley as a heritage conservation area. KEPCO or another operator may lodge another proposal. An exploration licence has been granted for diamonds, rubies and sapphires.

- **[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 this took 17 years. Its 2 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 its direct west, (8 lanes of traffic and a railway line) 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. The 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 on less-destructive options. More info? Call: 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'. In the meantime an over-scaled restaurant / function centre proposal for The Priory, a property across the road from Gladesville Hospital with similar heritage landscape values, has been rebuffed in its first form, but is likely to be modified and re-lodged.
- **[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 remain 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](#). The state government is appealing for partners to occupy and redevelop heritage buildings in the new complex. Light rail construction through Parramatta (& here) is underway and meant removal of mature Moreton Bay figs lining the eastern edge of the former Parramatta Jail. 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 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 construction of a new War Memorial Swimming Centre in its 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](#). A new Super-Parks Agency announced in July 2020 includes managing Parramatta Park. Recently the government announced the transfer of title of Wistaria Gardens (Cumberland Hospital West) to Parramatta Park’s management, which has some benefits in its better management and presentation. Wistaria Gardens badly needs hands-on attention and better ongoing management. This latter move appears to be a step in the right direction.
- [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

- **Wingello Park, near Marulan** – the branch made a submission supporting state heritage listing of this colonial farm property, on the Hume Highway (old Great South Road). Owner objection led to a smaller (‘house and garden’) area of listing curtilage, but this is still a win for heritage.

- **Barrack Point heritage trees, Kiama** – the branch lodged an objection to Shellharbour Council about damage of proposed development on locally heritage listed trees, seeking broader conservation management of local landscape character. This had some mitigating impact.
- **Badangi (Berry Island Reserve and Wollstonecroft Foreshore Reserve)** – the branch lodged a letter of support for the proposed NSW state heritage listing of this cultural landscape abutting the northern side of Sydney Harbour, west of the bridge.
- **Bradfield Park North, North Sydney** – cycleway off-ramp off Sydney Harbour Bridge. Transport for NSW propose several options (all poor) for a 3-4m wide cycleway off the bridge through the park, cutting across heritage features (Stairs, Burton Street archway, Milsons Point Railway Station entry & forecourt, coming to ground in its northern section. These have grave impacts on the character, elements and views of, and in, the park. The Branch made a submission. North Sydney City Council seek a halt and collaborative work on less-destructive options.
- **Greater Sydney Parkland Trust legislation** – the branch lodged an objection to the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment and MPs to the draft bill exhibited in 2021. The draft bill fails to protect heritage and the environment and seems bent on commercialising 5 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 \(alliance4parks.org\)](https://alliance4parks.org). Public protest led to some watering down of the ‘one size fits all’ board to serve all parks – with separate park boards in preparation for *Centennial Parklands*, *Callan Park* and *Parramatta Park*.
- **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 for 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, commercial use(s) and public access, 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. Disturbingly, the recommendations include a ‘categories’ system, which risks ‘dumbing down’ protection and oversight of state-significant heritage, by ‘type’ – the detail remains to be seen in new legislation. The committee’s final

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 legislation (clarifying roles of ‘Greater Sydney Parklands Authority’ and Minister seem to commercialise this and other parks) - of concerning. Private club intrusions (Glover St., Waterfront & Balmain Rd. ‘ovals’), over-scaled sports lights, parking, unapproved, uncoordinated signs, poor funding... The NSW 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 local park). The government funded a Waterfront oval upgrade, flood lighting. [InnerWestCouncil - Community-Issues](#) and [Masterplan link](#). The latest is a 32.5m tall telco (TPG) tower just east of *Callan Park*. Neither parkland custodian (Greater Sydney Parklands Authority, or NSW Health) has deemed to make any objection. AGHS Sydney Branch has lodged an objection – to its visual impact, scale and proximity. This is taller than a 26m tall hoop pine in the grounds, which itself is visible across the waters of Iron Cove.

Since 2020 Greater Sydney Parklands Agency manages most of *Callan Park*, with \$10m initial. Sounds good but that may 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 here in decades. But 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 (Asylum) complex at c\$14m extra. Plans soon for exhibition. NSW Ambulance Service HQ has left the site, so the future of its site is uncertain. See: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-parkland-trusts-to-be-folded-into-super-agency-20200715-p55c7f.html>. See [Guide to the Bill | NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment](#)

- **Yasmar estate working bees** - Haberfield – neglect and inaction by State Government owner/manager: which keeps changing – Property NSW are its latest incarnation. Some garden condition improvement has been made by a volunteer group (led by AGHS member Gina Plate and including others) who have worked here weekly for 4 years, on weeding and repair works. After lobbying, including by the Branch, new WestConnex tunnel vents, increased traffic and density were built further away from Yasmar’s south boundary and front fence. Some tree maintenance work has occurred and more is proposed, which is good.

The branch has commented on a draft arborist’s report on its trees, for Inner West Council. A new safety fence around the sunken garden (possibly an old sunken glasshouse) has been built. The federal government recently knocked back a Haberfield Assn. national heritage nomination. An Aboriginal land claim has been granted, vesting 2/3 of the property to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). Their plans for the site are yet to be known. The Branch has donated funds for plant labels, which were recently installed in the garden. The Friends of Yasmar have contacted the LALC seeking to work together and continue to improve the garden for community enjoyment. See the group's facebook page at www.haberfield.asn.au.

- **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 and sympathetic management, cf wholesale change. The new Greater Sydney Parkland Agency as of July 2020 is now 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) was exhibited in December 2021. It was hoped (but does not seem) the CMP would inform the LMP. That is not so, and what next, remains to be seen. Transport for NSW and the GSPA have been doing public consultation on Mulgoa Road improvements, including outside Fernhill and through the Mulgoa Village. If this means slowing traffic and maintaining the valley's rural character that would be good – it is feared it means higher speeds, wider pavements, and further 'suburbanising' of this rare colonial rural valley's and road's character.

- [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, which opened on 3 December 2022 – the government funded \$244m, donations met a \$100m shortfall (and more is coming). The Botanic 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 the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt. Annan – new management appointments are spruiking the master plan.

This master plan includes work to repurpose the now-redundant ex-herbarium (Robert Brown Building), with facilities for the Research Centre of Ecosystem Resilience, happily, retention of the Daniel Solander Library, and establishment of exhibition, education, seminar and function spaces for talks/events. Works start in February 2023. The Domain Depot and (c.1835 Gate) Lodge revitalisation works are also coming – refurbishing both – works start later in 2023 - [Sydney Morning Herald news item](#); [RBG Sydney Major-Projects](#) link. http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6471 and [NSW Coalition's arts catastrophe – Culture Heist](#)

- [Varroville farm, St Andrews](#) Rezoning of surrounding farm for [a new cemetery](#) use, destruction of rural context, none, (then some) SHR listing for this wider land (former farm) and delay in acting on a 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. The government has not supported expanding Varroville's curtilage, stoking fears its setting will be compromised by inevitable commercial cemetery development, no matter how 'ecological'.

Tasmanian Branch

WATCH

- AFL Stadium for Hobart's Queen's Domain** – Prime Minister Albanese promised and has given \$240m to Tasmania for a stadium to house a (new) AFL team, enabling the state to enter national AFL competition events. The site is Macquarie Point adjoining the *Queen's Domain*. This was laid out in 1826-28: core public open space, 'front and centre' entering Hobart over the Tasman Bridge (e.g.: from the airport) or north-west (highway). It runs directly against recommendations in 1999 & 2009 studies AGHS member Gwenda Sheridan did for Hobart City Council on the heritage of and planning for the *Domain, Government House* and *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens*, identifying it as a highly significant cultural landscape. The *Southern (Lower) Domain* has Tasmania's *State War Memorial Cenotaph* and its lovely setting.

It appears the state government will declare the project 'state significant', side-stepping open public consultation, with decision-making behind closed doors. To date there are no plan or plans in the public domain. The federal government has changed the scope of Infrastructure Australia's work – excluding assessing 'social infrastructure' like this – so the project will not go through that body, to check its viability, business case, etc. A state government analysis released in January found the Macquarie Point Stadium would generate a loss of \$300m over 20 years' operation. Astounding waste of public money. This in comparison to the National Heritage Listing of *Sydney's Domain* and Macquarie Street Government precinct and care taken over it. Or to *Adelaide Parklands'* National Heritage Listing (although that is coming under threat, too – see **South Australia**). A public rally opposing the stadium is on 13 May 2023 in front of Parliament House, Hobart. In July 2023 there were calls to save an historic Rail Goods Shed which is in the way of the proposed stadium structure. This c1915 shed could be given state heritage listing this year. That (and whether it stays, or is moved) are matters for the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The opposition have asked if it might be demolished suddenly before an assessment can occur. A 2015 report for Macquarie Point Development Corp. found the shed met 7 of 8 state heritage assessment criteria. AGHS is keeping a close watch on this one.



Above) ironic that this great sign is in *Hobart's Queen's Domain* – but also, soon could be a whopping stadium and no doubt, huge lighting towers for night AFL events – a major visual and noise intrusion. And high density housing also right alongside... (Gwenda Sheridan photo).

- **University of Tasmania’s Sandy Bay Campus sell-off** – despite widespread community opposition, petitions and protests, the University management seem determined to sell off the site they were gifted by the people of Tasmania, get it rezoned and sold for private housing. Their proposal has been blocked in Court recently, but no doubt, another attempt will follow. Meantime, the University announces it is undertaking further public consultation on the matter. That this site was (a) free, (b) public land including open space, (c) purpose designed and built for education and healthy student interaction and ‘life’, and exactly what kind of poor substitute shifting students into rented, disparate city buildings, unconnected by busy streets full of traffic and with no dedicated connecting open spaces, is rather the point in contention. More info is at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-20/tas-wed-am-utas-master-plan/100550838> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-14/utas-sandy-bay-campus-redevelopment-on-hold-new-consultation/101237052> and <https://www.saveutasampus.com/>
- **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. Tasmanian Planning Commission hearings early December 2020 See next item.
- **De-listing State-listed Rural Landscapes** - Since a 2014-15 review of rural sites on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, Heritage Tasmania have an active program of ‘down-sizing’ state-listed curtilages, asserting that these are ‘architecture’, not farms! And that their farmland (from which the income to build houses, barns, infrastructure, etc – is of ‘no or negligible heritage value’! The Dept. of State Growth annual report 2017-18 called this ‘Red Tape Burden’, noting over 30,000 ha. of listed farmland had been removed from the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
- **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 Heritage (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

- **National Trust Tree Register goes 'statutory'** – the branch is getting involved in seeking legal protection of significant trees listed by the National Trust – which of itself is only a community information, not a protection, mechanism.
- **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.
- **Sandy Bay Road garden, Hobart** – the branch made a submission to Hobart City Council objecting to clearance of a heritage garden. This unfortunately was unsuccessful: it being approved.
- **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. There is a clear conflict of interest: a Tourism Tas. Mt. Wellington Trust member is the largest shareholder in the cable car company. Also there is 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 as well as signs are proposed, as is the importance of forestry management of the site’s botanical fabric. Plans were made public in 2020: see [Nobelius Heritage Park Conservation Management Plan 2020 | Cardinia Shire Council](#). Updates came in 2021 including preliminary report on Aboriginal cultural heritage management, noting associated Aboriginal pathways through the area. This will inform the Strategic Plan and master plan stage. Design work started in late 2021.

A branch submission was made, supporting passive recreation for *Nobelius Heritage Park*. The rarity of its botanical collection in (wider) forested area management is one issue. The branch led a tour of the park in September 2022, including museum displays of nursery records. After discussion, work is underway by the museum to digitise some sample material from one year’s dispatch ledgers. AGHS will be involved and others with specialist skills. This bodes well for nursery and horticultural researchers and could be made available online.

- **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](#)
- **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

- **Longacres garden, Dandenong Ranges** – branch working bees to assist the owners, in this garden created by artist Arthur Streeton and his family.
- **Mooleric garden, Birregurra** – branch working bees are also occurring since December 2022 at the request of the new owners.
- **Turkeith garden, Birregurra** – branch working bees have occurred here for some time.
- **Belmont garden, Beaufort** – branch working bees have occurred here for some time.
- **La Mode, Morwell** – the branch was contacted by a local resident concerned that former plantings, attributed to Edna Walling, were not being respected. Research indicated that despite newspaper references in the 1940s, no archival material could be found supporting this claim – it could be that Walling had only informal involvement in this garden.
- **Yantaringa gardens, Ivanhoe** – the branch had an inquiry seeking what assistance it could provide to renovate this garden associated with the original property of Sir Herbert and Annie Olney. It has possible Edna Walling associations – but these couldn’t be substantiated. The branch held a most successful working bee in the garden in May 2022. The formal water feature and bowling green gazebo / viewing shelter have been stripped of ivy and other invasive growth to reveal these appealing structures. Plans are afoot for a photographic recording of this garden.
- **Buninyong Botanic Gardens reserve** – branch comments were made to the City of Ballarat over plans for works to strengthen the dam wall in the reserve’s centre, and enlarge this dam with little regard for the significance of nearby plantings. A new engineer and an independent consultant’s advice have been engaged, and a local group is also now more closely involved.

- **Titanga, near Lismore** – a garden history booklet has been written by branch member, Tim Gatehouse and was launched at an event on site in September 2021.
- **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. The branch has checked its records and met a Bayside Council parks officer on site. A branch visit is planned for December 2022.
- **Royal Park conservation management plan** – in June 2021 Melbourne’s Parks and City Greening division released a draft history section of this plan. The branch reviewed it and provided comments. 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 – a sale was abandoned early in 2021 and public auction held in 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 then cooperative owners. The nominations process is staged, with 60 days for objections or submissions, formal board decision. 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. The branch has written to the new owners introducing AGHS and encouraging them to interact as they consider changes. Heritage Victoria hasn’t progressed.
- **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 all is proposed for 25 years. Adjoining this boulevard is the Nationally-Heritage listed Domain Parklands. A branch objection was lodged to both authorities. In October 2020 Heritage Victoria approved it with conditions, despite noting its incompatibility. Conditions restrict project life to 5 years (from 25), with 5 more possible as an extension. LED displays are restricted to artwork currently proposed (requiring a further permit application, if proposed). The branch has recommended public consultation be added to 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. 2020 public submissions can be viewed at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/rebcgreview>. Further public comments on the review of submissions were gathered in late 2021. The review identified gaps, omissions and risks needing addressing in the 2009 Strategy Plan and its implementation. The branch lodged a brief, complementary response, and comments on Carlton Gardens master plan, re the southern entry treatment and style approach to amenities in the northern part. A full set of documents has been assembled for the site now, and of particular note is part 4: Carlton Gardens. Public comment on this documentation was sought by March 2023, with the

branch considering making a submission. One concern is authorities' ongoing commitment to the Melbourne International Garden (Design) Show in this setting, taking months each year.

- **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](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/news/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](https://www.landscapeaustralia.com.au/news/carmody-groarke-openwork-appointed-to-masterplan-heide-museum-of-modern-art)
- **Camperdown Botanic Garden (CBG) & Arboretum / Holiday Park** – CBGA Trust lodged a VCAT appeal against Corangamite Shire Council approval of 5 new buildings, 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 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 unfortunately over-represented with commercial interests. AGHS gave a \$10k grant 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-200000-toilet-block/>
[News story](https://www.avonadvocate.com.au/story/5464883/group-vows-to-fight-plan-for-200000-toilet-block/)

Council is reluctant to fund implementation of CBG conservation plan recommendations, citing the park's outstanding lease. Another access road is 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 2 borders on the gardens' east, with plantings informed by Guilfoyle's 1910 plan. The Trust endured a long process seeking Council approval, for work to start in 2020. AGHS grant funds have been released to enable this worthy project.

Council consulted the public on re-opening the adjacent Arboretum, in stages. This is a most positive step: public comments were sought by December 2021: see <https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say/Camperdown-Arboretum>.

Since, Council has removed cattle, old tree guards and internal fencing. Grass has been mowed and with a state grant of \$83,000, new perimeter fencing around the whole 25 hectare Botanic Gardens & Arboretum site, tree work, picnic furniture and bins, and some new tree plantings

made. All most positive steps. To come are a car parking area off Park Road, pedestrian paths, picnic shelters, seats and more tree plantings. AGHS attended a community event to mark the re-opening of the arboretum was in September 2022, represented by member, John Hawker.

- **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

- **UWA St. George's Residency Hall, car parking v front garden** - the branch is monitoring the development of expanded car parking encroaching on the front garden of this site, and impact on specimen trees – particularly one significant English oak.
- **Historic Guildford landscapes** – as outlined in the 8/2022 Branch newsletter, this early colonial settlement at the confluence of the Swan and Helena Rivers retains traces of its rich history and First Nations heritage. House extensions are threatening open space on blocks, incrementally along streets. Gardens and plantings are subject to fashion 'whims'. 8 species of *Phytophthora* fungi, chilli thrip, gall wasps and shot hole borer threaten heritage plants. Significant tree protection and heritage landscape as a priority in 'heritage' government minds are lacking.

- **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 was originally twice its current size and has seen many heritage battles over the years, including removing magnificent sugar gums planted to celebrate Queen Victoria’s 1897 Jubilee. It is 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. The new proposals need community and stakeholder consultation. A local referendum ruled that no part of the square could be exchanged for an Anglican rectory or, more recently, accessioned for parking. The branch continues to advocate for and support the Guildford community over Stirling Gardens and broader heritage conservation issues.

ACTION

- **‘Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism’ – new book** – the branch publication is in its final stages of editing, due to go to print soon. This is a major achievement.
- **Updating ‘A Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia’** – the branch has made a grant application to the W.A. History Foundation to redesign and re-format this useful publication.
- **Guildford Street trees** – the branch wrote to the City of Swan, endorsing their policy of reinstating missing sugar gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) in areas of the town where they were the original street tree plantings.

- **Landscape Architecture student lectures** – for 2 years running, chair John Viska has been invited to talk on Conservation Plans to 3rd year landscape students at the University of W.A.
- **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 WA Heritage Office raising concern with a proposal for a commercial café in the gardener’s storage shed on the park’s west side, against recommendations in 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. The 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. At a February 2023 Council meeting, the branch chair moved that a new conservation plan be prepared for Hyde Park with funding from the WA Heritage Council, to identify changes made by the café and management suggestions for the park. A *Polyphagus* beetle has been identified in the park, affecting mature plane and fig trees, some near the new kiosk.

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 – which has been there for the last 6 years. Research showed the land was set aside for Recreational Purposes solely and the branch brought this to Council’s attention. 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 W.A. The local press was supportive, publishing 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 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. The City of Vincent in August 2022 started works, modifying the toilet block for a café/kiosk. Despite the Mayor’s insistence 120 year-old trees would be protected during works, a heavy truck drove across the root zone of trees as well as a turtle-nesting site. This has been brought to Council’s notice.

- **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 would visually intrude and those in Kings Park 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 toyed with running for 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 the National Trust of Australia (WA) re partnership to celebrate the bicentenary of arrival of British at King George Sound in 1826 (and the founding of this farm). Its full-time gardener was given 3 months by the Trust (in a restructure). The branch made a submission on this, concerned at its reliance on volunteers, given the importance of the property. 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 this rather unique WA 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 said it was powerless (and appeared) reluctant to act, awaiting a DA before it considers requiring any action of the owner. Council has since acquired the property and AGHS W.A. branch are hoping to have input into encouraging preparation of a conservation management plan to guide best next steps and its best ongoing management. Info at: [inHerit - State Heritage Office](#) and [DOCUMENTATION OF PLACES \(stateheritage.wa.gov.au\)](http://documentationofplaces.stateheritage.wa.gov.au)