



**HEIDELBERG PARK
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**
Prepared for City of Banyule
January 2021



3 Acres
Landscape Architecture



Acknowledgements:

This report has been prepared by Barrie Gallacher of CDA Design Group Pty Ltd, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, in collaboration with Paul Waddell of Three Acres Landscape Architecture. Valuable assistance has been provided by the following:

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Prepared by: Barrie Gallacher, CDA Design Group

Checked by: Paul Waddell, Three Acres Landscape Architecture

CDA Design Group
Ground Floor, 185 Faraday Street
Carlton Victoria 3053
Australia

T 03 9349 5866
E office@cdadesigngroup.com.au
W cdadesigngroup.com.au

Three Acres Landscape Architecture
G1 96 Pilgrim Street
Seddon Victoria 3011
Australia

T 0437 072 038
E info@threeacres.com.au
W threeacres.com.au

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Brief

This Conservation Management Plan has been prepared for the Banyule City Council as part of the process of developing a Master Plan for Heidelberg Park. The intent is to ensure preservation of heritage values and guidance for future management and development.

1.2 Location

Heidelberg Park's boundaries are formed by Rosanna Road and private lots to the west, Burgundy Street to the south, Beverley Road to the south-east and east, part of Louise Street to the north-east and private lot boundaries to the north and north-west between Louise Street and Brown Street. Short corridors from the park continue to Rosanna Road on the west containing Salt Creek and an extension of Darebin Road.

1.3 Methodology

Assessment of Heidelberg Park and the preparation of policies for the protection and management of its cultural significance have been undertaken with reference to the processes and criteria outlined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, and its associated guidelines.



Figure 1 - Heidelberg Park Location Plan

2.0 Current Listings & Planning Controls

2.1 Heritage Victoria

No listings in the Victorian Heritage Register.

2.2 National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

No listings in the National Trust Register or Significant Tree Register.

2.3 Banyule City Council

Land zoned:

- Public Park and Recreation Zone
- Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- Public Use Zone 1

The land is subject to:

- Inundation Overlay
- Design and Development Overlay
- Special Building Overlay
- Significant Landscape Overlay 1
- Environmental Significance Overlay 1 and 4
- Heritage Overlay 6: Warringal Village Precinct

Banyule Significant Tree Register includes 3 significant trees within the park (although one tree may have been replaced).

2.4 Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

2.4.1 Cultural Heritage Management Plans

Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP's) involve an assessment of a particular area of proposed ground disturbance activity to determine the nature and extent of Aboriginal heritage in the area, and provide recommendations for management and protection of the heritage identified during the assessment for the CHMP.

A cultural heritage management plan is mandatory for an activity if:

- All or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.
- All or part of the activity is a high impact activity.

If a plan is required, the responsible authority (i.e. City of Banyule) cannot grant a statutory authorisation (such as a planning permit) until it receives a copy of an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan. A planning permit cannot be granted for an activity that is inconsistent with the approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

2.4.2 Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

The areas of sensitivity were developed by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria through analysis of the known sites on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, data relating to where Aboriginal heritage is found in the landscape and also with reference to areas where cultural heritage has been threatened. The list of areas of cultural heritage sensitivity include the following:

- Registered cultural heritage places and land within 50 metres of the place.
- Current and prior waterways and land within 200 metres of the waterway.
- Parks (as defined in the National Parks Act 1975).

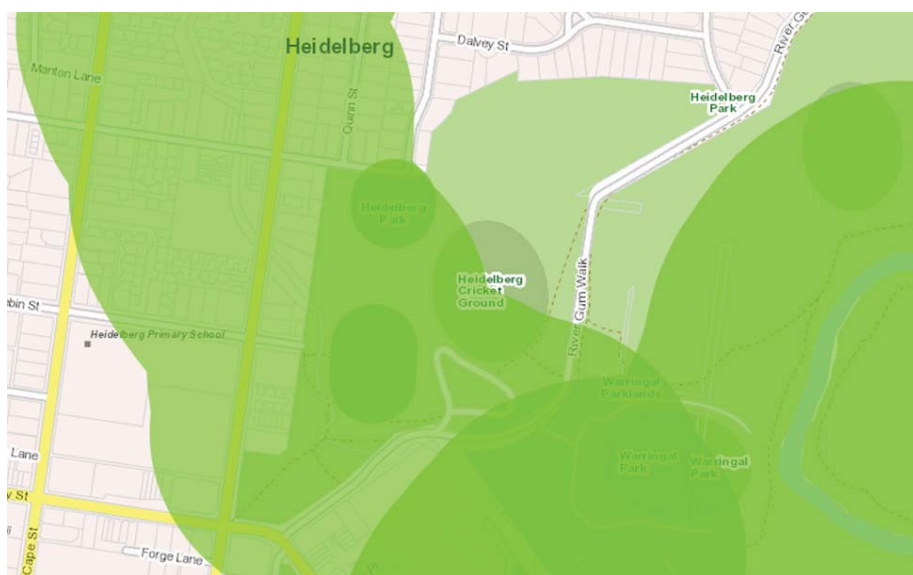


Figure 2 - Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
Source: ACHRIS online tool.

2.4.3 High Impact Activities

The Regulations also define what constitutes a high impact activity. The list of high impact activities is quite substantial, and includes

- Building or works for specified uses that would result in significant ground disturbance
- Construction of specified infrastructure that would result in significant ground disturbance.

2.4.4 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS)

The ACHRIS online tool identifies a large part of Heidelberg Park as an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. It included waterways and land within 200 metres of Salt Creek, a small sliver of land within 200 metres of the Yarra River, and at least three point locations on the north-south ridge leading up to Brown Street.

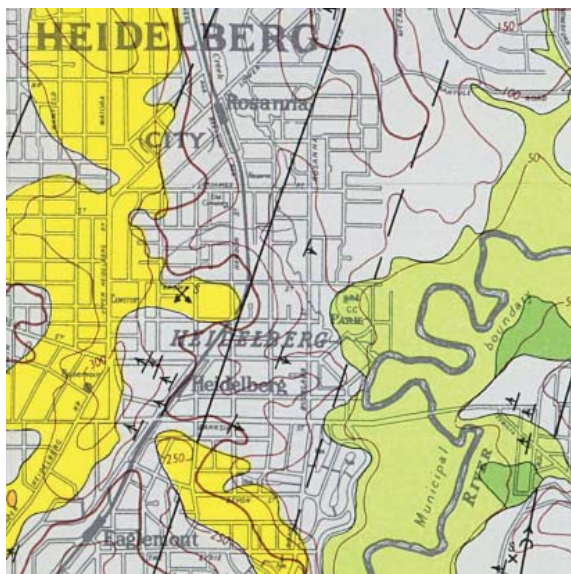
3.0 History

3.1 Geology and Landform

Heidelberg Park contains two very different landforms which are influenced by the underlying geology.

The western portion lies over a plateau of Silurian sedimentary rock (marine sandstones, mudstones and siltstones known as the Anderson Creek Formation with an age of 440 million years). This part of the park is hilly with a deep valley formed by Salt Creek, a minor tributary of the Yarra. A ridge line north of the creek extends up to Brown Street and forms a steep escarpment from 12m to 22m above the flat alluvial land to the east. The soils in this area are poor. Rock is exposed in the cutting to the rear of the amenities block and to the eastern side of a sharp bend in Salt Creek.

The eastern portion consists of more recent Quaternary alluvial soils laid down by the meanders of the Yarra River (2.5 million years ago to the present time). The base rock belongs to the Dargile Formation (380 MYA) which consists of marine siltstones and thin-bedded sandstone. A lower ridge to the north of the oval is an artificial mound constructed with imported soil (source unknown) in the late 1980s. The soils of the river flats are more fertile than the western section of the park.



- Quaternary Alluvial Flats
- Quaternary Alluvial Terraces
- Tertiary Marine and non Marine Sands, Clays and Gravels
- Silurian Mudstones, Siltstones and Sandstones

Figure 3 - Geology (Source: Geoscience Australia)

Figure 4 - Exposed Silurian rock to rear of amenities block

3.2 Original Vegetation

Bioregion and Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) benchmarks have been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) as a landscape-scale approach to classify the Victorian environment. They use a range of attributes, such as climate, geomorphology, geology, soils and vegetation to determine each classification.

The subject area is located in the Gippsland Plains bioregion. The subject site is located in an area that, prior to 1750, consisted of:

- Floodplain Riparian Woodland (EVC 56)
- Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)

Floodplain Riparian Woodland is generally characterized as open eucalypt woodland to 20 m tall over a medium to tall shrub layer with a ground layer consisting of amphibious and aquatic herbs and sedges. Creekline Grassy Woodland is generally characterized as eucalypt-dominated woodland to 15 m tall with occasional scattered shrub layer over a mostly grassy/sedgy to herbaceous ground-layer. Plains Grassy Woodland is generally characterized as open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types.

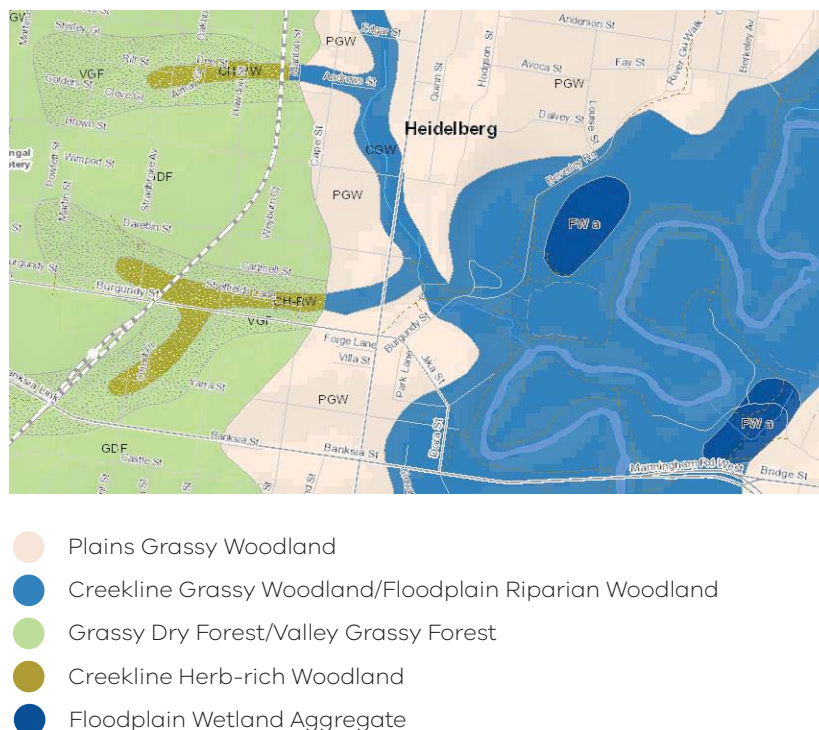


Figure 5 - Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes
Source - Online Biodiversity Interactive Map

3.3 Wurundjeri Country

This information has been drawn from the Banyule Thematic Environmental History Report, prepared in 2018 for Banyule City Council by Context. The Context report was produced in consultation with Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council.

The streams and hills of what is now the City of Banyule define the country both physically and spiritually for the Wurundjeri or Woiwurrung, who were one of the five tribes of the Kulin nation. This tract of land was relatively well-watered and abundant with life. Birrarung (the Yarra River) meandered through this country on its way to Port Phillip Bay. Tributaries of the Yarra include Plenty River, Diamond Creek, and Salt Creek which rises in Macleod and passes through Heidelberg Park.

The early colonial surveyors at Port Phillip in the 1840s were directed to use 'native names' wherever possible and the Aboriginal informants in the Heidelberg area, when questioned, presumably provided a local placename for Heidelberg that surveyors recorded as 'Warringal', meaning 'eagle's nest'.

The Banyule area supported a population of hunting and gathering people, who had a rich cultural life and interacted with neighbouring groups for trade, ceremonial and kinship purposes. Activity was concentrated around the watercourses, especially Birrarung, where fishing was an important contribution to peoples' diet. The flats along Birrarung were edged with billabongs that provided food and attracted rich birdlife. River Red Gums provided bark for making canoes and various tools and weapons.

People formed extended kinship groups (or clans) and lived together in a cluster of huts built from tree boughs and lined with bark. Many clans would come together for larger gatherings and other meetings took place at special ceremonial places. The nearby Bolin Bolin Swamp was such a place, where the seasonal eel migration attracted up to 1000 people each year.

There were a number of camping places and corroboree sites in Heidelberg that were in regular use at the time of white settlement and continued to be used through to the 1860s. With the advent of British colonialism in the Port Phillip area after 1835, the Wurundjeri were displaced and dispossessed of their traditional lands and forced to live on the margins of the colonial settlement. They lost access to their land and water and were denied the means of practising their culture in the manner that they had always done.

The colonial authorities sought to institutionalise the Wurundjeri, whom they often referred to as the 'Yarra tribe' and encouraged them to live in specially designed missions or reserves. One of these was William Thomas' Yarra School and Mission, near present-day Collingwood (1846–1852). Thomas often travelled with the Aboriginal people when they left the Yarra Mission for outlying camping places; these included a number of places near the Yarra River at Heidelberg, at Ivanhoe, at the junction of the Yarra and the Plenty, at 'the Plenty', and across the river at Bolin Bolin (Bulleen). As well as the 'Yarra tribe', Thomas also noted that members of the 'Goulburn tribe' (Taurunung) were often camped near Heidelberg in the 1840s. In 1863 many Aboriginal people of the 'Yarra tribe', along with others, moved to a new Aboriginal reserve at Coranderrk, near Healesville.

The Wurundjeri continued to live in the Heidelberg district during the first two decades of the Port Phillip settlement. Some Wurundjeri worked for local settlers in the late 1830s and possibly up to the 1850s. It is likely, for example, that Wurundjeri worked for Thomas Wills who was farming at Heidelberg. Wills was well acquainted with the Aboriginal people of Victoria. Amongst other ventures, he organised the Aboriginal cricket team's tour of England in 1868. The Aboriginal cricket team, which included players from Melbourne and across Victoria, were accommodated at Wills' house in Heidelberg and played cricket matches around Melbourne in the 1860s, including a match at Heidelberg Park in 1867.

There are many personal testimonies of settlers' descendants recorded in newspaper articles, generally as reminiscences of friendly relations. But there are also stories of the 'hostile' and 'war-like' behaviour of the local Aboriginal people. Some examples from the Heidelberg Park area are as follows:

- In 1840, the pastoral settler Armyne Bolden reported to the authorities that a number of armed Aboriginal men had gathered in his paddock at Heidelberg.
- In 1846, a number of weapons (guns) were seized from Aboriginal people who had gathered on the Yarra Flats at Heidelberg, presumably for the purpose of plotting an attack on the settlers.
- In the 1840s, John Dowling saw Aboriginal men picking up a number of 'arrows' (probably arrow heads) near the site of St John's Anglican Church in Heidelberg, but no explanation is given as to their use.

The Yarra River remained a key travel route for the Wurundjeri, and a means of access to less settled country further upstream (to the north-east). The Plenty River and the Darebin Creek were also important as trade routes, and as sources of food and fresh water.

The Wurundjeri continued to live in the Heidelberg area in the 1850s and 1860s, and possibly longer. The availability of public land along the Yarra River and the river flats would have been a key reason for this. Up until the mid-1860s William Thomas often makes reference to going to Heidelberg in anticipation of finding Aboriginals people camped there. It would also appear that there was an unofficial ration depot at Heidelberg in the early 1850s, where blankets and medicines were supplied to a small Aboriginal camp.

A number of places along the Yarra River at Heidelberg are significant for their association with a rich Aboriginal history. These include the Banyule wetlands and the Warringal Flats. There are also a number of scar trees or canoe trees remaining in the Banyule area.

3.4 The Heidelberg School

The Heidelberg area has been popular with artists since the late nineteenth century. Painters, etchers, sculptors and others have used the natural landscape and environment as inspiration for their work.

One of the area's most significant associations with an artistic community dates back to the late nineteenth century, when the suburb of Heidelberg was renowned for its association with the Heidelberg Art School, established by Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Louis Abrahams at an artists camp at Box Hill in 1885. Later members were Arthur Streeton and Charles Conder.

The group worked in a broadly impressionist mode. The undulating and lightly timbered landscape at Eaglemont and Heidelberg had qualities which were suited to the mood of impressionism, and the group delighted in recording swift, on-the-spot impressions of the changing light and the mood of the landscape.

Around 1890, the group were joined by Walter Withers. One of the most popular works that Withers painted, was 'A Bright Winter's Morning' in 1894. It depicts Rosanna Road in the 1890s. The work was painted from the rise above Salt Creek, at the intersection of Rosanna Road and Brown Street. The south-west corner of Heidelberg Park is visible in the top left part of the painting.



Figure 6 - *A Bright Winter's Morning*, Walter Withers, 1894. NGV.

3.5 Chronology (post 1835)

1839: The area now occupied by Heidelberg Park was marked on an early Victorian Lands Department map as part of a survey designed by the Deputy Surveyor-General, S.A. Perry, and laid out by assistant surveyor, T.H. Nutt. (Warringal Village Heritage Guidelines)

1850s: The cricket ground was in use during the 1850s. (The Argus, 5 January 1857) Horse racing also took place from the 1850s, but later declined due to accidents resulting from the small size of the track.

1861: Local sportsman Thomas Wills organised an Aboriginal cricket team from his home in Heidelberg.

1867: Cricket match organised by Thomas Wills for the Aboriginal team on the Heidelberg Cricket Ground (Australasian 2 Feb 1867). It was already a place for picnics and social gatherings.

1872: Park gazetted for public recreational purposes. (Victorian Government Gazette)

1876: Heidelberg Football Club established (Australian Rules), one of the oldest football clubs in the country. The club played on the cricket ground but moved across Beverley Road to Warringal Park during WWII. (Wikipedia).

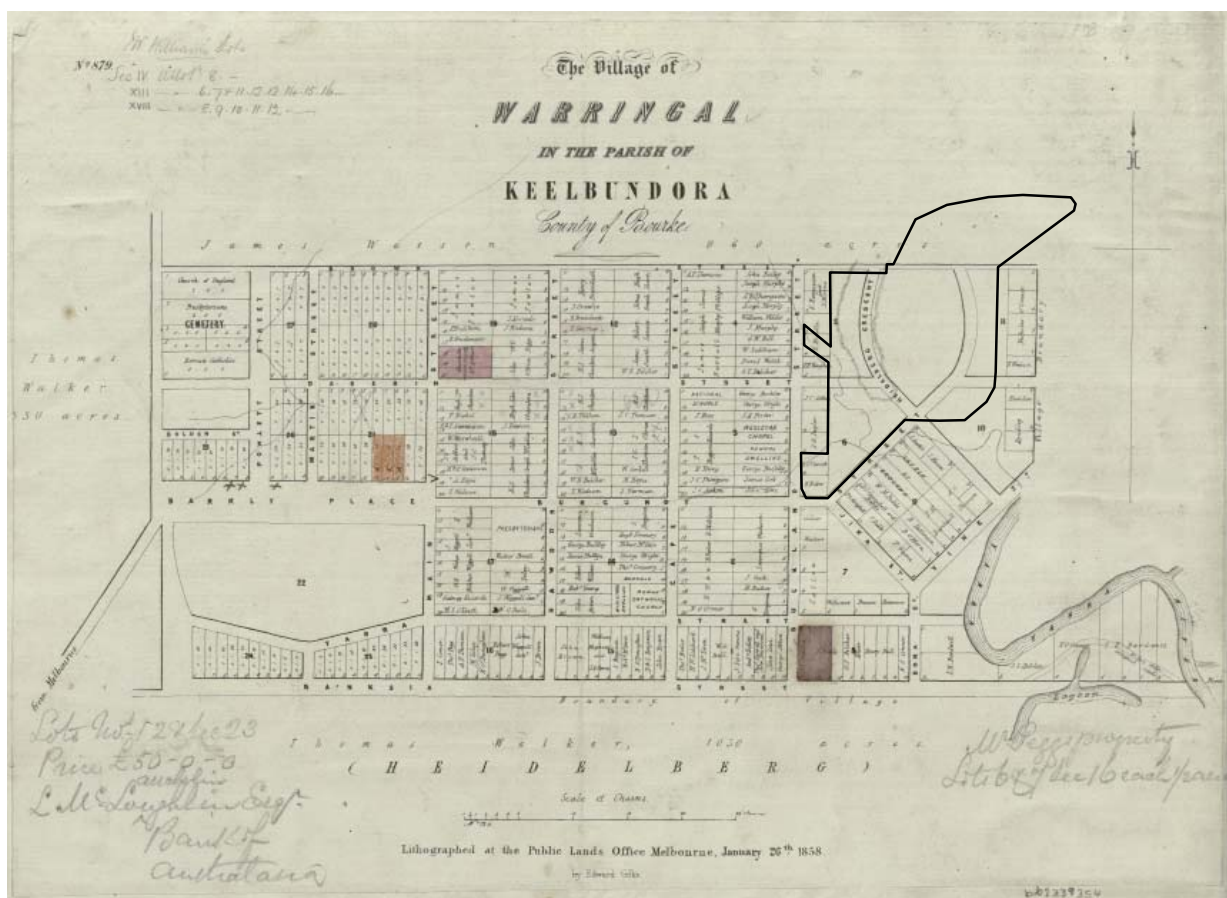


Figure 7 - Warringal Village Plan 1858



Figure 8 - Picnic at Heidelberg to the Inmates of The Yarra Bend. Wood Engraving, published in the *Illustrated Melbourne Post*, 24th Jan 1867.



Figure 9 - Heidelberg Football Club team photo in front of the original timber pavilion south of the oval.

1880: William Guilfoyle (Curator, then Director, of Melbourne Botanic Gardens from 1873 to 1909, designer of many parks and private gardens) approached by Council's Chief Secretary to "advise with the surveyor in laying out Heidelberg Park". Guilfoyle visited the site and recommended Robert Whitworth to lay out the work under his instructions. (The Argus, 27 April 1880, p.7) Robert Percy Whitworth was a journalist, author, map-maker and garden draftsman. He had previously prepared garden plans for Guilfoyle in other locations, e.g. Koroit and Hamilton Botanic Gardens plus Stawell hospital gardens (Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens). His fee quoted for preparation of the Heidelberg Park plan was £6/10/-. It is not known if the fee was paid; no plan for the layout has been found.

1881: The initial planting and development of Heidelberg Park was carried out by Peter Fanning, a former tenant farmer at "Banyule", Heidelberg Road Board Member, horticultural enthusiast and devoted citizen of Heidelberg, who later served a term as Shire President. It is presumed that he followed the Guilfoyle/Whitworth plan. Fanning was awarded an "honorarium" of £15 by the Council and thanked "for his skilful and attentive manner in which he had carried out the ornamentation and planting" (The Argus, 12 August 1881, p.3).

1880s: The Gardens were separated from the rest of the park by a post and three-rail fence; this appears to have been a triangular enclosure from Burgundy Street to the Darebin Street extension and the rear of properties to Rosanna Road. Curved gravel paths edged with low box hedges had been laid out. There was a heavy planting of trees and shrubs; planting was dominated by conifers with a sub-theme of deciduous trees. Shrubs included pampas grass on the banks of Salt Creek. Ornamental bridges were constructed over Salt Creek. (Heidelberg Conservation Study, p.227)



Figure 10 - View of Original Bridge over Salt Creek (1880s)

1883: Heidelberg Park was threatened with extension of a new railway line from Alphington and was described as a popular place of resort and "one of the most beautiful places in the colony". (Mercury and Weekly Courier, 17 February 1883, p.2).

1889: The Shire Offices were located in the most westerly part of the gardens, facing south on to Burgundy Street, and separated from the road by a post and four-rail fence. The weatherboard building was relocated in 1909 to a site further west at Burgundy Street and Studley Road near the railway station. The land at the corner of Burgundy Street and Rosanna Road was not part of the original Heidelberg Park area but was incorporated into the Gardens in 1915. (Heidelberg Conservation Study, p.229)

c.1890: Picket fence constructed to the cricket ground. An early pavilion was located at the southern end of the cricket ground among a group of conifers. (Heidelberg Conservation Study, p.227) Other fences and gates were erected around the park. Heidelberg Gardens were crowded by Easter picnickers with planting bed damage reported to the Council (Mercury and Weekly Courier, 10 April 1890).

1899: Salt Creek was lined with bluestone pitchers as part of a drainage scheme for Heidelberg Village (Mercury and Weekly Courier, 1899, p.3).

1907-1908: The park hosted picnics for families, businesses and social groups. Photographic prints feature families at a picnic and games day. Activities included skipping, running races, sack races, three-legged races, picnicking, and group portraits.



Figure 11 – Cricket ground with picket fence and original pavilion (postcard ca 1900 – ca 1909)



Figure 12 - Geo. Kinnear & Sons 2nd Annual Picnic held at Heidelberg, 26th February 1908. A building from the previous postcard image can be seen in the background.

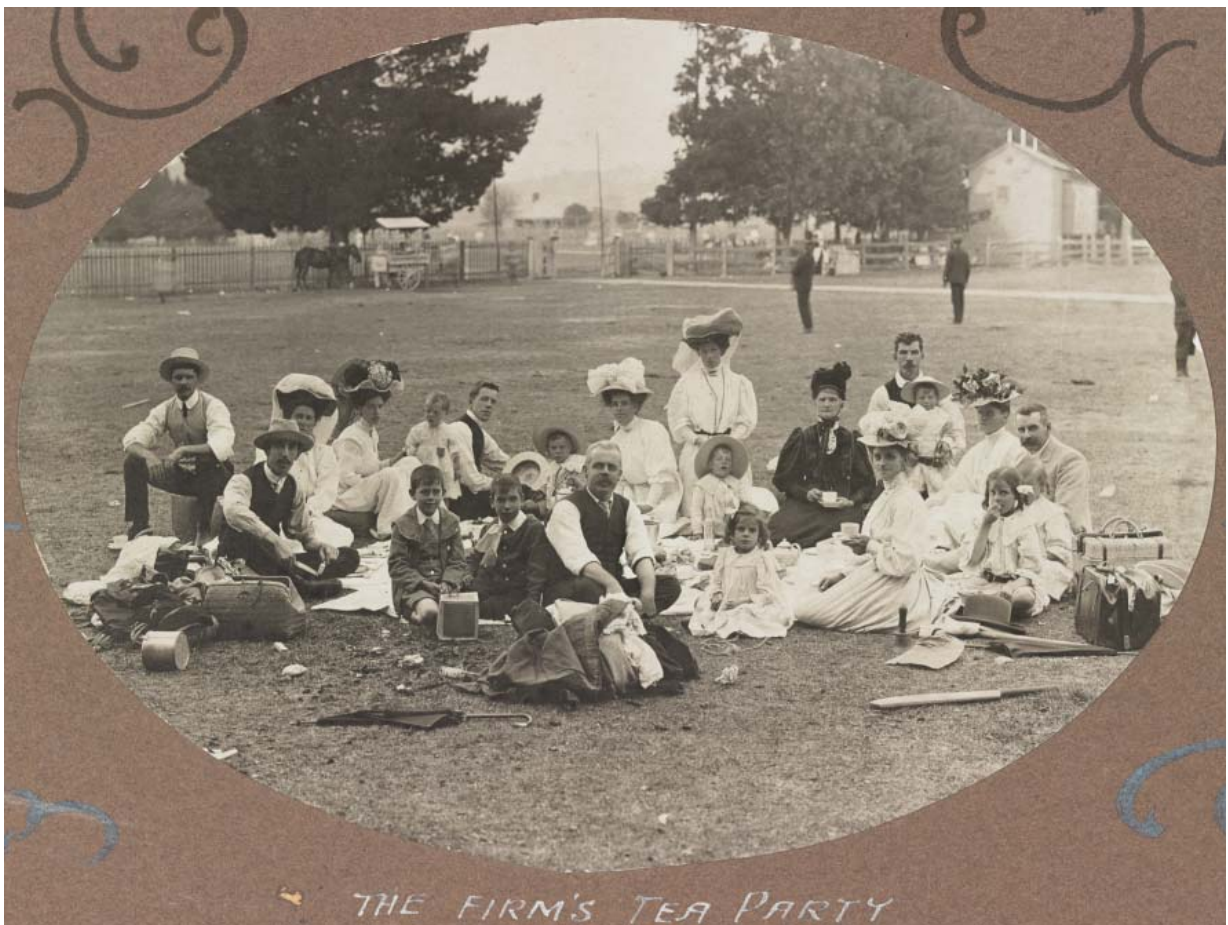


Figure 13 - Geo. Kinnear & Sons 2nd Annual Picnic held at Heidelberg, 26th February 1908. A building and group of conifers from the previous postcard image can be seen in the background.



Figure 14 - Geo. Kinnear & Sons 2nd Annual Picnic held at Heidelberg, 26th February 1908. The edge of the escarpment and conifer tree plantings can be seen (looking south).



Figure 15 - Geo. Kinnear & Sons 2nd Annual Picnic held at Heidelberg, 26th February 1908. The edge of the escarpment with an exposed rock-face can be seen through the conifers (looking west).



Figure 16 - Geo. Kinnear & Sons 1st Annual Picnic held at Heidelberg, 23rd March 1907. Oval fencing and a group of conifers can be seen (looking north-east).



Figure 17 - The Park at Heidelberg (postcard ca 1900 - ca 1909)

1915: The Gardens were refurbished with new buffalo grass lawns and borders planted with trees, shrubs and annuals. New walks were gravelled which would have included paths to the south-western corner after removal of the Shire Offices. Box hedges lining the paths were replaced by blue-stone edges. Possible fence removals? (Heidelberg Conservation Study, p.229) Peter McEwen is attributed with grafting two elms to form the "Wishing Tree" at the eastern park entry off Burgundy Street (Heidelberg Historical Society – pers. comm.).

Pre1931: The original pavilion to the south of the oval was replaced by a more elaborate building to the west at the base of the slope; it may have been moved west after flooding of the river flats and oval.

1934: Major Yarra River flood.

1936: West Heidelberg Football Club established.

1950s: New cricket/football pavilion and clubrooms constructed to the north of the previous building.

1960s: Marching girl practice was undertaken in the open area north-east of the oval. This space is identified by Council officers today as the 'Marching Common'. The sport of marching had its origins during the Depression of the 1930s when teams were formed to keep young women fit and healthy. The sport became more organised during the 1940s with a system of scoring developed to ensure teams could compete against one another. Points were deducted for lack of precisions, dressing, movement and length of pace. At its peak marching competitions drew large crowds of spectators.



*Figure 18 - Entry off Burgundy Street with grafted Elms.
Note picket fence to rear with gate (c1915).*



*Figure 19 - 1934 flood with second timber pavilion
to south-west of oval*



Figure 20 - Victorian Girls Marching Association, Heidelberg Member, Vintage Pin.

1980s: Construction of the amenities block and maintenance shed to the south-west of the oval. Southern area converted to a gravel car park.

1984: City of Heidelberg Jubilee celebrations.

Post-1985: Mound constructed to north of oval – a recommendation from architect Grahame Shaw (Heidelberg Conservation Study, p.229). Note that the oval configuration and fencing has changed several times.

1985: Shire offices plaque installed on bluestone pillar beside path at corner of Rosanna Road and Burgundy Street.

1986: Cricket/football pavilion reconstruction with extension.

1988: Bi-centennial celebrations. Tree trunk carved into a seat by Kevin Gilders for Banyule Festival.

1997: Rotunda constructed in south-western corner, a result of a competition won by Ross & Cric Henry, designers. (pers. comm., Heidelberg Historical Society).

1999: Amenities block mural and plaque celebrating Banyule Festival.

c. 2000: Car park construction or sealing.

2005: The county fair scene in the movie *Charlotte's Web* was filmed on Heidelberg Oval.

2010: Three footbridges replaced.

2017: Irrigation system installed to oval.

2018: 2.5m wide concrete bike path constructed by Council from the south-eastern corner of Brown and Hodgson Streets down to the car park (following a previous "goat track") then across to Beverley Road and Warringal Park; a narrower path extended north along Beverley Road. A further path constructed at the same time led to the north-western corner of the park on Brown Street (this is on part of the site of the original "goat track" leading up the embankment from behind the cricket pavilion).

c. 2018: Tree planting, bollards and chains installed along Beverley Road and around the car park.

4.0 Physical Analysis

4.1 Soft Landscape Elements

4.1.1 Development History - Western side of Park

The original area of the park defined by Burgundy Street to the south, the rear of properties fronting on to Rosanna Road and the ridgeline/escarpment to the west was developed by Peter Fanning, commencing in 1881. This area appears to have been fenced off as far as the Darebin Street extension and included the Salt Creek Valley with its smaller tributary to the south-west. Works included paths leading from Burgundy Street at the eastern end and from the south opposite St John's church. A third path connected to the Darebin Street extension. The path intersections coincided with two bridges over Salt Creek. The timber footbridges have balustrades with saltire or diagonal cross-bracing to three panels. The gravel paths were edged with low box hedges. An elongated triangular planting bed was formed in the centre of the Darebin Street path where it joined the east-west path. Scattered conifers and evergreens dotted the landscape. Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) was planted to the south of the bridges along the banks of Salt Creek.

In 1889 the Shire Offices were constructed on the allotment at the corner of Rosanna Road and Burgundy Street and facing south to Burgundy Street. Four large trees may have been planted around the offices at this time.

In 1899 the base and sides of Salt Creek were lined with bluestone pitchers as part of a local drainage scheme for the Heidelberg Village to the west of Rosanna Road. The bluestone bridge abutments may also have been constructed at this time.

In 1915 the Shire Offices were relocated further west in Heidelberg and the land was incorporated into the Park. A new path connected the existing paths to the south-western corner at the intersection of Rosanna Road and Burgundy Street. The Gardens were refurbished with new lawns and borders planted with trees, shrubs and annuals. Box hedges lining the paths were replaced by bluestone edges to reduce maintenance. Two elms were planted and grafted to form the "Wishing Tree" at the eastern park entry off Burgundy Street; this entry had a timber picket fence and elaborate gate. Many cedars were planted along the new south-western path.

The 1931 and 1945 aerial photos showed the extent of tree planting at those times; dense tree planting occupied the southern section of the western side of the park with trees more widely spaced to the north. A pathway appeared to frame the northern side of ornamental planting beds adjacent to Burgundy Street; this path has since been removed. There was also a narrow track from the side of the (then) sports pavilion leading up the escarpment to the north-western corner.

Further tree planting has taken place from the 1950s to the current day with a mix of native and exotic species. Planting beds in the south-west have been refurbished at the path junction north of the two bridges, to the northern side of the path to the south-western corner, and to the Burgundy Street frontage. A rose garden has been developed near the intersection with Rosanna Road. A rotunda was built in 1998 on the sloping lawn below Burgundy Street.

A 2.5m wide concrete shared path was constructed in 2018 from the southern end of the carpark to the Brown Street/Hodgson Street junction. Seats and drinking fountains were installed along the path. Three bridges over Salt Creek were replaced in 2000.

4.1.2 Planting Analysis - Western side of Park

The tree planting appears to have been carried out in four stages. Tree data from the arboricultural report can be interpreted to assume that trees with the largest trunk diameters would be remnants of the earliest plantings, although as different species have different growth rates, this may not necessarily be a correct assumption. Four planting stages are proposed as follows:
Original planting phase of large numbers of conifers with a scattering of deciduous oaks from 1881.

The planting pallet of dark conifers and dark-leaved oaks is a reflection of planting fashion in the late Victorian period. Trees are placed along the Burgundy Street frontage and to the southern side of the path leading in from the east; otherwise, trees are placed randomly to fill spaces, rather than defining spaces. Many have been planted too close to each other to allow trees sufficient space to develop their form (but this may not have been a consideration 140 years ago!). Trees are spaced further apart towards the northern end, possibly a later planting as funds became available; conversely, tree dimensions in this area may reflect the poor soil.

The main exotic conifer species are Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*), Canary Island Pine (*P. canariensis*) and Monterey Cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* (syn. *Cupressus macrocarpa*)). Australian native conifers include Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), Hoop Pine (*A. cunninghamii*) and a single specimen of Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*). The oaks are mainly English Oak (*Quercus robur*). The four trees on the Shire Offices' site may have been planted around the same time as the Park developed by Fanning; these include three Deodar Cedars and an Algerian Oak (*Q. canariensis*). Peppercorn Trees (*Schinus areira*) also appear to date from this early planting period. It is assumed that there was little understorey planting except in planting beds for display purposes. Trees would have been planted in grass.



Figure 21 - Mixed conifers to the western side of the park



Figure 22 - Conifers east of Salt Creek

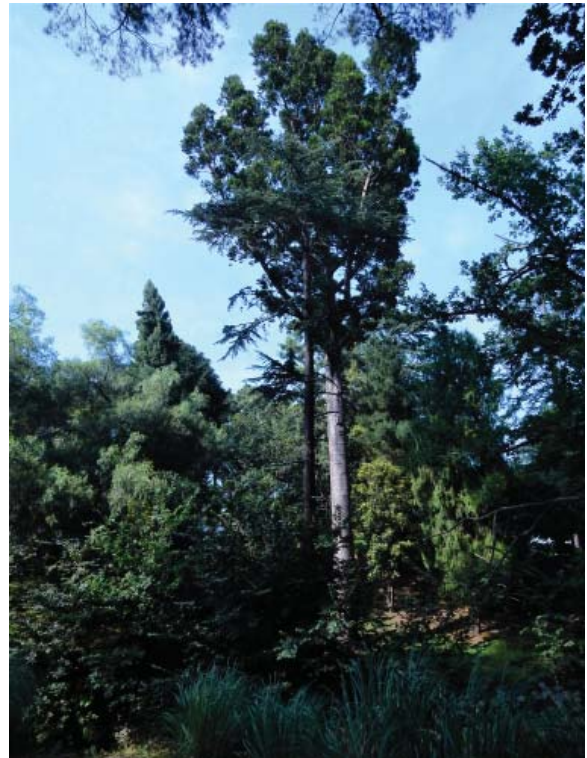


Figure 23 - Kauri Pine south of Salt Creek

The second phase of planting commences from the 1915 redevelopment after inclusion of the former Shire Offices' parcel of land within the park, and the post WWI period up to the 1930s. Trees planted along the new south-western pathway are almost exclusively Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) or Blue Atlas Cedar (*C. atlantica* f. *glauca*). The rows of these trees approximately parallel to the path direct visitors down towards the bridges and demonstrates a stronger design intent than the earlier apparently random plantings.

The pair of grafted English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) forming a gateway at the eastern end of the path off Burgundy Street belongs to this period. New lawns and border planting beds were established. Stone edging replaced the original box hedges lining pathways. Smaller trees typical of the 1920s were added to the park in border planting beds and to fill gaps; these include Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), California Palm/Cotton Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia*) and Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*). The large Maiden's Gum (*Eucalyptus maidenii*) against the Rosanna Road footpath would date from this period. Other trees include Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) and Bhutan Cypress (*C. torulosa*). Smaller trees in remnant planting beds include Irish Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) and Canary Island Strawberry Tree (*A. canariensis*). There may have been additional infill planting of Cedars and Oaks in this period.



Figure 24 - Cedars adjacent to paths leading to the south-western entry



Figure 25 - Wishing Tree (grafted elms) at entry off Burgundy Street



Figure 26 - Triangular bed to path junction near Salt Creek bridges

The third phase of planting includes the post WWII period from 1950s to the 1970s. Trees tended to be a combination of deciduous exotics or natives used as infill planting with a trend away from the use of conifers; these trees lacked the grand size of the original conifers. Exotic species included trees such as Desert Ash, Golden Ash, English Oak, English Elm, Kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) Photinia species (*Photinia glabra* and *P. serratifolia*). Native species included Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) and Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*).

The final phase of planting from the 1980s to the current day continued the use of smaller trees: Ornamental Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), White Poplar (*Populus alba*), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), Golden Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Lutescens'), River Sheoke (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), etc. Indigenous trees have self-seeded along the creek, including Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) and Acacia species, but these have to compete with weedy plants such as Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Cotoneaster and Firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.).

4.1.3 Ornamental Garden Bed Remnants:

- Agapanthus – common to most areas and along Salt Creek, Pampas Grass;
- Formal planting to triangular bed in path north of bridges and to NW side of path to SE corner – triangular bed: *Buxus sempervirens*, *Rhododendron* sp., *Prunus* 'Cheal's Weeping', – NW path bed: *Buxus sempervirens*, *Rhododendron* sp., *Camellia*, + large leaved species.
- Planting to original entry path off Burgundy Street: *Hebe*, *Rhododendron*, *Choisya ternata*, *Lo-mandra* sp.;
- Planting remnants to sloping embankment above Wishing Tree: *Agapanthus*, *Arbutus*, *Spiraea*, *Osmanthus heterophyllus*;
- Planting bed to slopes below Burgundy Street each side of Salt Creek: *Choisya*, *Spiraea*, *Canna*, *Dianella*, *Agapanthus*;
- Planting bed parallel to Burgundy Street: *Agapanthus*, *Spiraea*, *Viburnum*, *Convolvulus cneorum*, *Hebe*, *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Pyrus calleryana*;
- Planting bed around rotunda: *Ajuga reptans*, *Helleborus* sp., *Rhododendron* sp. (*Azalea*),
- Rose bed: *Rosa* spp., *Agapanthus* (modern).
- The park was referred to as a "botanic garden" in the 1880s and 1890s but there is no record of the plants used.

The park was referred to as a "botanic garden" in the 1880s and 1890s but there is no record of the plants used.

4.1.4 Development History - Eastern side of Park

The eastern side of Heidelberg Park has very different topography to the western side as it has been developed on the Yarra River flats below a long, curving escarpment. The escarpment may have provided a limit to early meanders by the river. The height of the escarpment varies from 22m above the river flats in the north to 12m at its southern end. The escarpment contains dense vegetation, much of which is environmental weeds which appear to have been self-seeded. Beverley Road forms the eastern boundary of the park with a change in direction to the north-east past a wetland in the Warringal Parklands. The northern section of the park is an open grassed area with scattered trees. This is separated from the oval further south by an artificial mound or ridge which extends south-east from the escarpment.

The park was officially gazetted for public recreational purposes in 1872 although various events had been held on the river flats prior to this time from the 1850s. It is assumed that grass to the oval and surrounding areas had been managed by the use of grazing stock. Two stands of mixed conifers plus deciduous oaks and elms south of the oval appear to date from the 1880s and would have been planted by Peter Fanning. A picket fence had been erected around the oval to define its shape in the 1890s. The oval was ringed by a racing track. This fence was replaced at a later time by timber posts with a triangular top rail barrier. A small pavilion had been constructed in the northern-most band of trees south of the oval, also in the 1890s; this would have served both cricketers and the Heidelberg Football Club (established in 1876).

Severe flooding of the river flats may have influenced the relocation of the original pavilion to higher ground at the base of the escarpment, south-west of the oval. The location of the second pavilion can be seen on the 1931 aerial photograph. The photograph also shows a track leading from the pavilion to the oval and a second track from the pavilion up the escarpment to the north-western corner of the park at Brown Street. A photograph from the 1920s shows a group of people walking up the steep grassed embankment.



Figure 27 - 1920s view of southern end of oval and track up escarpment (Margaret Wilson postcard collection).



Figure 28 - 1931 aerial photograph

The 1931 aerial photo shows dense vegetation on the escarpment from a line north of an extension of Brown Street; south of this line, the vegetation is less dense, extending to about halfway down the western side of the oval. There is a narrow triangle of trees to the south of the Brown Street extension providing partial enclosure of the oval. The oval is smaller than the current area and contains two cricket pitches.



Figure 29 - 1945 aerial photograph

The 1945 aerial photo shows that little has changed to the eastern side of the park from the 1930s, obviously due to development stopped for WWII. One cricket pitch has been removed.

A new pavilion was constructed further north, and closer to the oval, than the previous pavilion site in the 1980s. A public amenities block was constructed to the south around the same time.

An artificial mound was constructed in the late 1980s to the northern side of the oval and planted with Monterey Pines and a mix of eucalyptus species. (Source of fill material is unknown.)



Figure 30 - Large radiata pines on the artificial spur north of the oval

Recent developments include construction of the southern car park, continuation of the 2.5m wide concrete shared path from the western side of the park across Beverley Road to Warringal Park (2018) and a narrower concrete path along the eastern side of the oval following Beverley Road to the northern end of the park. A public barbecue with picnic tables has been provided in the south-eastern corner. New barrier fencing with square bollards and chains has been constructed along Beverley Road and the eastern end of the car park, as well as protective fences around the two large Bunya Bunya Pines. The trunks of three felled trees have been placed horizontally to the north of the path to Warringal Park and a fourth trunk has been carved into a seat.

4.1.5 Planting Analysis - Eastern side of Park

The earliest plantings from the 1880s include two groups of trees to the south-east of the oval and south of the car park along Beverley Road. Ten of the larger trees (trunk diameter) include a mix of conifers (*Araucaria*, *Cupressus*, *Pinus*) and deciduous trees (*Quercus*, *Ulmus*) with the tallest tree in the park being a Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), estimated at 35m high. Trees that are smaller than the earliest plantings suggest possible planting dates of around 1915 to 1920, the most frequently planted being Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*); other species include English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Peppercorn Tree (*Schinus areira*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Algerian Oak (*Q. canariensis*).

The long triangular tree group to the north-west of the oval is dominated by English Oak (*Quercus robur*). This group was planted before 1931.

Trees to the artificial mound's ridge include a row of five very large Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*): the trunk diameters average around one metre in diameter. As these trees cannot have been planted before 1985, the planting conditions in the artificial mound must have been very much to their liking. A variety of eucalypts are planted to the sides of the mound.

Trees in the area north of the mound would have been planted at this time. More recent plantings include the Red Oaks (*Quercus rubra*) in the car park and other exotic deciduous trees along Beverley Road.



Figure 31 - Weedy escarpment to the northern end of the park

4.2 Hard Landscape Elements and Structures

4.2.1 Bridges

Two wooden pedestrian bridges were originally constructed over Salt Creek at the southern pathway junctions, as seen in an early image, after Fanning laid out the park in 1882. These had balustrades with diagonal (or saltire) bracing but have been replaced at an unknown date. Other bridges were constructed at the eastern end of the Darebin Street extension and to Burgundy Street; dates of construction of these are also unknown. All bridges span over the creek with steel girders and all have bluestone abutments.



Figure 32 - Modern bridge over Salt Creek



Figure 33 - Damaged bluestone lining to Salt Creek



Figure 34 - 1997 rotunda

The three pedestrian bridges have unattractive steel balustrades and rails to comply with accessibility requirements.

4.2.2 Bluestone-lined Channels

Salt Creek has been lined with rough-hewn bluestone. The base and sides of the channel were constructed in 1899 to ease drainage problems in the adjacent village. The main creek has a secondary arm from a drain under Rosanna Road with flood-prevention structures. The bluestone lining is in fair to poor condition, particularly in the northern section where portions have been washed out.

4.2.3 Bluestone Retaining Walls

Bluestone retaining walls are located on the northern side of path parallel to Burgundy Street, and the western side of Salt Creek near the Burgundy Street bridge.

4.2.4 Memorial Plaques

A Shire offices memorial plaque is mounted on a bluestone cairn at the south-western entry off Rosanna Road.

4.2.5 Rotunda

Rotunda – octagonal, timber-framed with steeply-pitched corrugated steel roof, timber floor and surrounding planting bed. Eight pairs of timber posts are connected by timber arches. A surrounding timber balustrade consists of pairs of crossed diagonal or saltire panels.

4.2.6 Cricket Pavilion

The cricket pavilion consists of pavilion and change room facilities with a low-pitched skillion roof to the rear. The veranda is steel-framed, and there is open steel balustrading with saltire or diagonal panels (similar to the original footbridges to the west of the park). There are horizontal base boards below the decking. The front section has north/south gable roof with finials at both ends, a gable projection to the eastern face. The eastern gable has vertical timber battens on a compressed cement sheet with a central finial.



Figure 35 - Original pavilion constructed in the 1950s, modified and extended in 1986.



Figure 36 - Mural to amenities block for 1999 Banyule Festival

4.2.7 Oval

The current oval has pipe rail fencing, AFL goal posts, new cricket nets; a synthetic turf pitch, flood lighting towers, two corrugated iron coach shelters, and an automatic irrigation system.

4.2.8 Amenities Block

The amenities block has a mural and maintenance equipment storage to the rear.

4.2.9 Furniture

Modern stainless steel BBQs are located near the carpark.

Timber picket fencing around the SW garden was probably removed in the 1920s. There is currently barrier fencing of square bollards with chains along Beverley Road and some around mature Bunya Bunya Pine trees.

Path lighting consists of unattractive light fixtures in poor locations.

There is a range of seating, including:

- Steel framed seats with armrests and timber slats (City of Melbourne design);
- Picnic tables with bench seats;
- Timber seats with steel bases to the south of pavilion; &
- Logs/felled trees with carved seating.

There are two versions of painted metal enclosures for wheelie bins. Generally, there are brown bin enclosures in the western section, and blue in the eastern section.

4.2.10 Car Parking

There is extensive parking on asphalt surfaces to the south of the oval. A small area of 90 degree parking is located on Darebin Street on the western side of the park.

5.0 Assessment

Heidelberg Park was one of Melbourne's earliest suburban parks and the oldest substantial park in the City of Banyule. The Park has a long history of public use, including for cricket, football, horse racing, picnicking, marching girls' training and social events such as fairs, festivals and family reunions. Many of these events took place before official gazetting of the Park in 1872. The cricket ground was the site of an historic match in 1867 organised by Thomas Wills with the Aboriginal cricket team prior to embarking to play in England. After development in 1881, the "Heidelberg Gardens" in the south-western corner gained a reputation as a "popular place of resort" and considered to be "one of the most beautiful places in the colony".

William Guilfoyle was invited to design the Park in 1881 due to his successful transformation of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens into a picturesque pleasure garden. Guilfoyle certainly visited the site but his connection with the actual construction is doubtful. Guilfoyle had been censored by his superiors in the Lands Department for being away from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens too often with his private design consultancies. It is assumed that, for this reason, he put forward Robert Whitworth's name to draw up a plan as they had several previous collaborations on private garden designs in Melbourne and the Western District of Victoria. Peter Fanning seems to have taken all the credit for the gardens' construction, presumably following Whitworth's plan. There is little Guilfoyle influence that is obvious in the layout as the topography of the Salt Creek valley only permitted three paths, two pedestrian bridges, several planting beds, plus hundreds of randomly-placed conifers with an understorey of oaks; the tree placement lacks any sense of design - the trees fill spaces and don't define them.

The Salt Creek valley did have picturesque qualities with the informal path layouts, decorative timber bridges and planting beds with such Victorian favourites as Pampas Grass. There would have been fine views of the Yarra floodplains to the east from the ridge above the oval before tree canopy growth closed out this opportunity. Later landscape embellishments of the Wishing Tree, the rows of Cedars in the south-western corner, and the growth of tall conifers added to the aesthetic attraction. The utilitarian nature of the cricket pavilion and the amenities block contribute little to the park's aesthetic character; however, the artificial mound to the north and the embankment to the west provide a sense of enclosure to the cricket ground.

It is surprising that a limited range of conifers was employed in the original planting scheme; either species were not available at the time, or have subsequently died due to less-than-desirable soil conditions. The use of evergreen conifers and deciduous trees with dark green foliage was in keeping with fashions of the Victorian period. None of the tree species used are particularly rare or of outstanding size. Close planting of conifers has contributed to their height through competition for light. In relation to the early garden design, there was no evidence of the Victorian era's obsession with ferns or rockeries.

The Edwardian or Federation period from 1915 employed a different range of trees, shrubs, roses and expanses of lawn; planting beds were moved to the perimeter. The Wishing Tree entry belongs to this era, demonstrating an unusual style of horticultural grafting, known as "in-arching". Fences were removed at the end of this period and rock edging replaced box hedges to pathways to reduce maintenance.

A comparison with inner city parks constructed prior to 1880 is useful. Many of the parks circling inner Melbourne were designed by Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Clement Hodgkinson. Prior to the development of the lawn mower, parks such as Fitzroy Gardens were heavily planted with Blue Gums and conifers (possible link with Heidelberg?) before the development of lawn mowers, and paths were fenced off to restrict access among the trees. Fitzroy Gardens was compared unfavourably at the time with the Guilfoyle-designed Melbourne Botanic Gardens which was considered to be more of a pleasure park; many of the trees were eventually removed and the parks were laid out with lawns, straight formal paths, and lined with avenues of mainly deciduous trees, as well as plaster casts of sculpture. There were also garden beds with extensive horticultural displays. Treasury Gardens, Flagstaff Gardens and Carlton Gardens followed the same design pallet. It is of interest to recognise that the 1880 Melbourne Exhibition in Carlton Gardens was developed just prior to Heidelberg Park's development. Clearly, the City of Melbourne had more funds to spend than the City of Heidelberg, and Heidelberg's park, at least in the south-western corner, was on a much more modest scale.

Other suburban parks of a similar size to Heidelberg Park were developed as Melbourne expanded to the south and east. One of the earliest was Alma Park, St Kilda (1860s), laid out by Clement Hodgkinson, and included a mix of conifers and retained eucalypts. Caulfield Park (1879) was developed in a similar time frame to Heidelberg Park but was of a very different nature due to its flat terrain. Footscray Park (1911) on the banks of the Maribyrnong had an Edwardian theme. Wattle Park, Burwood (1934), was a later development by the Tramways Board to provide a destination at the end of a tram route and was dominated by native vegetation.

6.0 Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Heidelberg Park extends from Rosanna Road in the west and Burgundy Street in the south. It includes the valley of Salt Creek. A steep ridge or spur separates the south-western corner from the river flats containing the sports oval to the east and defined by Beverley Road. The Park was gazetted for public recreational use in 1872 but the river flats had been used for sporting events and other social gatherings prior to this. The south-western corner was laid out in 1882, possibly to a design influenced by William Guilfoyle, and planted heavily with a mix of conifers and smaller deciduous trees. Garden beds were developed and two ornamental timber bridges spanned Salt Creek. It gained a reputation for one of the most beautiful places in the colony. The park has been heavily used for festivals, community celebrations, marching girls training and sporting events.

How is it significant?

Heidelberg Park is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance for the City of Banyule.

Why is it significant?

Heidelberg Park is historically significant as one of the first suburban parks in Melbourne, for its association with Thomas Wills and the 1867 Aboriginal cricket team, and for an association with Guilfoyle who visited the site in 1882 to provide advice on design.

Heidelberg Park is aesthetically significant for the landscape of the steep Salt Creek valley and the large number of surviving tall conifers with a sub-theme of deciduous exotic trees from the 1880s. The 1915 grafted elms forming the "Wishing Tree" entry to the park off Burgundy Street east are an example of an unusual horticultural practice. The steep embankment or ridge line separating Salt Creek from the rest of the park provides an attractive setting and a sense of enclosure for the sporting ground to the east.

Heidelberg Park is of social significance for its continuous use as an active recreation site since the 1850s, including by horse racing, sporting teams, picnicking, festivals, celebrations and other community activities.

7.0 Conservation Policies

7.1 Introduction

The following conservation policies have been developed to provide direction and guidelines for the conservation of the heritage significance for Heidelberg Park. The City of Banyule has the responsibility for implementing these policies, which should form the basis of consideration for any current or future works. The following policies are not exhaustive with regard to works; rather they seek to identify priorities for immediate and future works and to set a framework for an overall strategy for the conservation of the park and its elements.

7.2 General Policies

These general policies are intended to provide a basis for which the specific policies for individual elements of the park have been formulated. Those elements identified as being of significance should be retained and conserved in accordance with the conservation policies of this plan, and should be considered in, and form the basis of, future management of the complex.

Heidelberg Park is made up of elements that provide demonstrable evidence of its significance. Individually and collectively these elements contribute to the overall cultural significance of the park. Acknowledgement of their significance should be the basis of, and a guide to, the future approaches to conservation works, management, interpretation, adaptation and development of the complex. Specific conservation objectives should be:

- Retain and enhance the existing cultural heritage values of Heidelberg Park;
- Retain the sense of place of the park and its environs;
- Retain all fabric identified as of primary significance;
- Preferably retain all fabric of contributory significance. However, sympathetic alterations and additions could be made if it would enable appropriate adaptive re-use or development.

The guidelines contained in the Burra Charter should be used to determine the acceptability of any proposed conservation works and/or adaptive uses of the complex.

7.3 Significant Areas and Elements

The two main periods of significance are the Victorian (1881-1900) and Federation (1901-1920) eras.

In the development of the conservation policy, it is usual to assign levels of significance to garden and landscape elements in order to provide guidance with regard to conservation actions. These levels of significance are primary, contributory and little or no significance.

Primary Significance

Elements of primary significance are those that are of individual aesthetic, historical or social significance. They are essential to an understanding of the heritage significance of the Heidelberg Park and are largely intact. These include:

- Mature conifers to the surrounds of the Salt Creek valley and west of the ridge line;
- Mature conifers to the south-east of the oval;
- Mature deciduous trees to the surrounds of the Salt Creek valley and west of the ridge line;
- Mature deciduous trees to the south-east of the oval;
- Mature 1915 cedars to the south-western extension of the gardens;
- Mature garden setting including the lawn to the south-western area of the gardens;
- The 1915 grafted elms forming the Wishing Tree entrance off Burgundy Street;
- The oval and its setting.

Elements of primary significance should be retained and conserved.

Contributory Significance

Elements of contributory significance are those that are important in contributing to the cultural significance and interpretation of the park, or elements that are original but have been altered, or are elements of historic interest. These include the:

- Mature trees not listed above. These include trees planted from 1915 until the 1950s;
- Pathways following original alignments to the south-western corner;
- Planting beds to the south-western corner to Burgundy Street and along pathways, but not the plants;
- Bluestone lining to Salt Creek and bridge abutments;

Elements of contributory significance should preferably be retained and conserved.

Little or No Significance

Elements of little or no significance are those which were originally minor in nature, are of more recent origin, or which have been substantially altered. These include:

- Trees planted since the 1950s;
- Self-sown indigenous trees within the park's precincts including along Salt Creek and to the oval embankment;
- Remnants of planting beds in the south-western area;
- Fencing including cyclone fencing, bollard and chain barriers;
- Shared pedestrian and cycle pathways;
- Bridges;
- Sports pavilion;
- Elements associated with the oval – lighting, cricket practice nets, cricket pitch, shelters, pipe railings, scoreboard;
- Amenities block;
- Rotunda;
- South-eastern car park;
- Furniture including seats, picnic tables, barbecue, lighting.

Elements of little or no significance may be retained, altered or removed as required.

7.4 Setting

The Heidelberg Park's setting of two distinct landscape types (Salt Creek valley and ridge line plus the river floodplain) should be retained. The sloping south-western lawn should remain relatively open. The view towards this corner and the view of the oval with its dramatic enclosure formed by the western embankment should not be obscured by new landscape elements or features as they are seen from both Burgundy Street and Beverley Road.

7.5 Future Development

There are constraints in relation to future development of Heidelberg Park. The site has a heritage overlay and the local community considers the place to be of heritage value.

- Inundation Overlay
- Design and Development Overlay
- Special Building Overlay
- Significant Landscape Overlay 1
- Environmental Significance Overlay 1 and 4
- Heritage Overlay 6: Warringal Village Precinct

A planning permit will be required for any works which may affect the significance of the Heidelberg Park, including removal of any trees.

Future development should be undertaken in a co-ordinated and planned manner in accordance with an agreed master plan.

Certain parts of the site may be suitable for future development and these should be identified during the preparation of a master plan. Some areas available for future development are constrained by accessibility, site gradients, proximity of large trees and heritage conservation requirements.

7.6 Risks

The following risks need to be taken into consideration for protection of the park's heritage assets:

- Climate change – climate change and associated drought will affect vegetation with reduced rainfall resulting in loss of soil moisture. Damage from storm events is likely to increase, particularly with the large number of mature and senescing trees. Intense storm events may also result in soil erosion in steep areas.
- Fire – drier conditions increase the risk of fire resulting from lightning strikes or arson; this has the potential to cause large-scale destruction of the conifers on the western side of Heidelberg Park.
- Vandalism – includes deliberate damage to buildings, vegetation and site furniture. Graffiti to buildings and site furniture is also of concern.
- Flooding – possible flooding of the oval, car park and surrounds and the Salt Creek valley.
- Insect and pathogen attack to vegetation.
- Weed invasion of non-maintained areas.

7.7 Interpretation

Visitors to the park should be informed about the heritage values of the park and be encouraged to protect and maintain them. Interpretation signage at main park entries is of particular importance. Advances in digital technology need to be recognised. For interpretation strategies. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of digital interpretation systems, such as "augmented reality", within an overall interpretation scheme.

Interpretation includes providing labels to representative trees.

7.8 Adoption and Review

Banyule City Council, the managers of Heidelberg Park, should adopt and implement the policies in this Conservation Management Plan. The conservation policies should be subject to review at five-yearly intervals. Should circumstances affecting the park change within this time, the policies should then be reviewed.

7.9 Repairs and Maintenance

All repairs and maintenance should be carried out with regard to the significance of the place and the conservation policies of this Conservation Management Plan. Regular maintenance of the various elements identified in this report will ensure that the significant fabric does not deteriorate and that it is properly conserved. Primary and contributory elements and their fabric should be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter and the conservation policies of this report.

To achieve a proper maintenance regime, a cyclical inspection and maintenance program should be put in place to ensure that the gardens and other significant elements are kept in good condition to slow deterioration of their fabric. An important pre-requisite for the development of a maintenance program is the engagement of an arborist, experienced in dealing with heritage sites, to assess the ongoing condition of all trees and to recommend any associated works. All tree pruning must be done in accordance with AS4373 Pruning of Amenity Trees. As previously noted, no trees can be removed without first obtaining a City of Banyule Planning Permit. General maintenance (mowing, weeding, mulching, watering, clipping of formal hedges, rubbish removal, re-surfacing of paths, repair and replacement of drains, erosion control works, cleaning of drains, etc.) can be carried out in accordance with the conservation policies of this report and without the assistance of a conservation specialist.

7.10 Conservation Works

The program of works has been divided into two levels of priority – Essential and Immediate Works and Future Works.

Essential and Immediate Works should be undertaken immediately to ensure safety for the users of the site and the physical integrity of the existing fabric. Future Works are less urgent and are not necessarily fundamental to ensuring the physical integrity of existing fabric and may include reconstruction and other works that enhance the appearance and useability of the place. Future Works are recommended where funds permit.

7.11 Essential and Immediate Works - Level 1

7.11.1 Trees

Refer to the Arboricultural Assessment and Report by Tree Logic (26/11/2019). This report includes conditions and permit requirements for tree works relating to City of Banyule's Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1) and Environmental Significance (ES01). It also includes current condition reports for each identified tree, recommended tree protection zones, and recommended works for management purposes including cabling, pruning, lopping or removal for safety reasons.

Attention is drawn to paragraphs 4.2.3 Tree Retention and 4.2.4 Tree Replacement, in the above report, in relation to retention of trees planted in groups and the consequences of selective removal.

Construction of any new buildings or structures plus cable trenching for new services must be designed to occur outside any tree protection zones.

Tree trunks should be surrounded by circles of organic mulch with a minimum radius of 1.5m and depth of 100mm – to conserve moisture, to control weed growth, to eliminate competition from grasses, to reduce root compaction, and to protect trunks from mower damage.

Note that retention of an arborist's services may be required to assess damage after severe winds or storm damage, and should also be required to visit the site to report on trees at regular annual intervals.

7.11.2 Weed Control Measure

Refer to Banyule Weed Management Strategy 2006. Consideration should be given to control and removal of all native and exotic weeds along Salt Creek, both in the channel and along the embankments. These include but are not limited to: Agapanthus, Casuarina cunninghamiana, Elm, Oak and Poplar suckers, Pittosporum, Hawthorn, Prunus, Blackberry, Ivy, Fraxinus, Firethorn, Privet, Tradescantia, Bridal Creeper, Broom, Cotoneaster, Boxthorn, etc. Once cleared, these areas should be mulched and re-planted with local indigenous species: for examples of suitable plants, refer to "Banyule's Indigenous Plants" brochure.

Consideration should also be given to control and removal of all native and exotic weeds from the eastern side of the oval embankment. These include but are not limited to: *Quercus robur*, *Pittosporum*, Hawthorn, Prunus, Blackberry, Ivy, etc. Immature oaks should be removed or thinned and larger oaks retained. The slope should be mulched after clearing and removal of debris.

7.11.3 Preparation of Appropriate Maintenance Program

This should include a detailed listing of all maintenance tasks with frequency of actions, including monitoring, for a 5 year period.

7.12 Future Works - Level 2

7.12.1 Tree Replacement

Refer to the Arboricultural Assessment and Report by Tree Logic (26/11/2019). Prepare a strategy for long-term replacement planting of trees. Replacement will be required where trees have suffered severe storm damage, are in serious decline due to senescence or disease, or have died. Trees shall be replaced with the same species, where practicable, except those which have serious weed potential. Trees do not have to be replaced in the exact locations, because of remnant roots, soil nutrient depletion, and possible contamination if trees were diseased. The selection of species for their drought tolerance due to climate change may take priority over trees which are more suited to wetter climates.

7.12.2 Renovation of Garden Beds

Re-forming and replanting of garden beds to the south-western corner. Preference should be given to the use of plant species available to the nursery trade in the period from 1880 to 1920. Two Five Mile Press publications by Peter Cuffley include some appropriate planting lists: "Traditional Gardens in Australia" (1991), and "Cottage Gardens in Australia" (1994). Perennial plants are preferred to annual plants to reduce maintenance requirements. The use of drought tolerant species should be considered. Steel edging to beds is preferred to timber edging.

7.12.3 Protection of Fabric

Repairs should be carried out to the bluestone lining of Salt Creek to prevent further erosion. Replacement of pitchers by concrete is not acceptable.

7.12.4 Reinstatement of Missing Paths

Consider reconstructing the missing gravel path to the southern side of the lawn and northern side of garden beds parallel to Burgundy Street.

7.12.5 Bridge Balustrades

Prepare design strategies to replace the bridge balustrades with a more aesthetic appearance similar to the original timber pedestrian bridges, without compromising safety.

7.12.6 Pavilion

Regular painting to cover graffiti and preserve surfaces. Replace window screens.

7.12.7 Amenities Block

Consider reconstruction to upgrade facilities. Note that the mural is in fair condition and will need restoration if to be retained.

7.12.8 Entries

Upgrade with entry "statements" or gateways plus interpretive signage.

7.12.9 Lawns

Areas such as the north-western corner with lower use can be mown less frequently.

7.12.10 Furniture

All furnishings (seats, picnic tables, barbecue, waste containers, lighting, etc.) should be utilitarian and of consistent design but should not be not mock "heritage".

7.12.11 Lighting

Lighting strategy to be prepared to review existing and ensure safety requirements for main pathways.

7.12.12 Interpretation

Entries and tree labels, directional signage.

7.12.13 Adoption and Review of Policies

Review every 5 or 10 years.

8.0 Bibliography

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