KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN

July 2011

Produced on Behalf of Macedon Ranges Shire Council

LAIDLAW & LAIDLAW DESIGN

Above image, print by William Crother Fitler c.1886 of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
(Source: Macedon Ranges Shire Council)

Front cover:
Left image, the Kyneton Botanic Gardens looking towards existing Rose Garden, April 2010
(Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design)
Right image, Kyneton Botanic Gardens looking towards the now National Trust registered Ginkgo biloba. *c.1905*
(Source: Ken Duxbury postcard collection, via Roger Cousens)

KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN

Established in 1858, during the boom which came with the gold rush, the Kyneton Botanic Gardens are located 80km north-west of Melbourne, and form part of a network of regional botanical gardens.

The Botanic Gardens never appear to have had a fully realised design, but nonetheless, have considerable botanical and historical value and are listed on the State Heritage Register.

This master plan provides a new direction for the Gardens. A direction that respects the Gardens' past but provides for its rejuvenation and ongoing management; making the Kyneton Botanic Gardens a relevant 21st century Botanical Garden.

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The Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

The Kyneton Community Park Committee

The Friends of Campaspe River

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1 Introduction

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are located 80km north-west of Melbourne in the midst of an area rich in history and with a strong garden tradition. Established in 1858, the Botanic Gardens at Kyneton contain a fine collection of mature trees in a picturesque setting adjacent to the Campaspe River, although, as with many regional Botanic Gardens, other uses have intruded over time. Now, with the return of the former Kyneton Caravan Park back to the Botanic Gardens, an opportunity exists to develop a master plan for entire Botanic Gardens site. This document provides a future direction for the Gardens, respecting its past, while promoting its development as a high quality Botanic Gardens relevant to 21st century expectations.

A master plan for any site is important in providing an agreed vision for the place that all managers and stakeholders embrace. This allows measured, coherent development, which builds on what has been previously undertaken, and which can in itself be built on by later works. Appropriate co-ordination of these works and a formal master plan provide a basis for seeking funding for capital works projects and increases to the recurrent budget, the end result being a sustainable staged and planned approach to growth.

Currently the Kyneton Botanic Gardens are a fine site providing a strong basis on which to grow and improve. However there are a number of factors which either limit the site's potential or affect any new proposals. Below is a summary of the opportunities and constraints affecting the site.

Opportunities

Current asset. The Kyneton Botanic Gardens provide an excellent framework which can be enhanced and built upon. They are an asset for local residents and a tourist destination.

Network of regional Botanic Gardens. Kyneton Botanic Gardens are part of Victoria's regional Botanic Garden network and are in close geographical proximity to a number of fine 19th century Botanic Gardens (e.g. Castlemaine, Malmsbury and Daylesford). This provides opportunities for tourism links.

Interface with local residential areas. A number of fine 'Victorian era' houses abut the Gardens on Clowes Street, providing an appropriate visual context. Additionally, the Gardens location in a residential area allows it to act as a neighbourhood park. The Botanic Gardens precinct is recognised in the Macedon Ranges Shire Council planning scheme.

Proximity to the Campaspe River Walk. The Campaspe River running along the site's southern boundary is a visual asset. The river's walking trail is well used and there is the opportunity for the Gardens to provide better links to the river walk, encouraging a new user group into the Gardens.

Proposed Community Park. This would encourage a completely new demographic and has the potential to encourage users to travel from further a field.

Path network. With better pathway articulation there is the potential to increase the number of visitors to the Gardens. The Gardens are under utilised, however there are a number of potential user groups (e.g. bike riders, runners, dog walkers) which provide the opportunity to increase the Gardens' patronage.

Potential for public events. The size and structure of the Gardens lend themselves to use for public events such as outdoor cinema, farmers markets and seasonal festivals.

Heritage registration. This registration applies to the entire site and has the potential to increase the profile of the Gardens and provides additional opportunities to apply for funding grants.

Tree collection. The Kyneton Botanic Gardens have a fine collection of 19th century trees. This collection is of botanical interest and provides tourism opportunities, especially in connection with other regional botanic gardens. Additionally, these trees make a significant contribution to the aesthetic value of the Gardens and form a fine framework on which to further enhance the botanical collection.

Removal of the caravan park. The removal of the caravan park provides the opportunity to bring the Gardens back to their original function, remove much of the unsightly infrastructure, reduce the pressure on the surrounding trees, and provide for new development sympathetic to a Botanic Garden.

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McKenna Memorial Drive. Whilst not an original feature, McKenna Memorial Drive brings cars, and therefore people into the heart of the Gardens, and has good potential for use as part of a tourist drive / trail. It also provides vehicle access for maintenance and parking within the Gardens, encouraging people to use parts of the site which may not otherwise be used.

Horticultural display and education. There is the potential for the Gardens to display high quality horticulture and provide educational information about plants, their uses and environmental tolerances.

Constraints

Lack of use. The Gardens are under utilised. Most visitation is from local residents (i.e. close neighbours) and keen day trippers with an interest in gardens. While the Gardens are under utilised it is hard to justify large capital expenditure.

Lack of profile. The Gardens generally lack profile amongst local residents and the broader public.

Budgetary constraints. The Gardens have a limited budget and staff allocation.

High cost of capital works. Capital works are costly and not covered by the Gardens' annual budget. This means that all projects would need to be more creatively funded (e.g. through grants). *Climate.* The climate of Kyneton involves hot dry summers, cold winters, severe frosts and, anecdotally, high winds. This is a significant constraint on planting design.

Lack of water. The Gardens have limited access to irrigation water and have been in drought conditions for the last ten years.

The mature tree canopy. The extent of the mature tree canopy is a considerable constraint on the establishment of new plantings, providing extensive competition for water, light and nutrients and limiting the amount of soil preparation which can take place. Additionally, some of the mature trees (especially the conifers) release chemicals into the soil to retard the growth of surrounding vegetation (allelopathy).

Ageing tree population. The ageing tree population means maintenance costs to keep trees in an acceptable condition (especially from a public safety viewpoint) will increase. Additionally, the Gardens are vulnerable to losing much of their tree canopy in a short time frame unless an appropriate tree replacement strategy is implemented.

Lack of design cohesion. It would appear that any original design, if followed, was only partially implemented and that subsequent works were not to an integrated, thought out design. This means the Gardens are fragmented and lack cohesion.

Existing infrastructure. The Gardens are well supplied with existing infrastructure (tables, chairs, barbeques, toilets, maintenance infrastructure), but unfortunately most of these are unsightly and visually intrusive.

Proximity to the Campaspe River. The Campaspe River is a major geological and aesthetic feature, but its proximity to the Gardens put some constraints on Gardens development and any proposals have to consider environmental impacts. The proximity to the Campaspe River also triggers most of the site as an area of Aboriginal "cultural heritage sensitivity", and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) involvement may be required for some development works[i].

Heritage Registration. All major works proposals legally require Heritage Victoria approval. This will increase the required lead time of any development (so that permits can be sought) and will impact the type or method of the development. There may also be a requirement from AAV for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

1.1 Vision

Vision statement for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

"The Kyneton Botanic Gardens is a place of beauty and horticultural excellence that respects its past and inspires and educates people about plants and their place in our lives".

1.2 Objectives

Conservation Management Plan. As a heritage listed site it is important that any future development for the Gardens be undertaken with a full understanding of Gardens' heritage significance and a knowledge of the appropriateness or otherwise of various works. This is best undertaken by the production of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Gardens, and as such the CMP needs to be the first recommendation of this master plan to be implemented.

Tree replacement strategy. As an integral and fragile part of the Gardens' character the tree canopy needs to be carefully managed and a tree replacement strategy is integral to this. Additionally, an understanding of the condition and relative heritage significance of individual trees is necessary to determine their impact on any future development works.

Aesthetics. The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are to be developed as a place of beauty, horticultural excellence and good design. This is to be carried through the design of new features and the reworking of the existing landscape.

Paths and Circulation. Circulation and access within the Gardens is poor with paths failing to connect and many parts of the Gardens, especially the parkland, not being serviced at all. The master plan addresses the inadequacies of the existing path system, restoring paths shown on the 1937 survey plan, providing good access and circulation through the Gardens, developing a path hierarchy, removing dead ends and providing better connections into and out of the Gardens.

Garden entrances. The other entrances to the Gardens are to be upgraded to improve their presentation, make them more inviting and more accurately represent the quality of the Gardens.

New Rose Garden. A new Rose Garden is to be established as a major feature of the Gardens. This is to have a contemporary design which still respects the heritage path system and will be a visitor draw card.

Community Park. A new Community Park is proposed. This will become a major regional play space with an emphasis on creative play and encouraging children and their carers to learn about and interact with plants.

Amphitheatre. A new Amphitheatre is proposed for the centre of the gardens, taking advantage of the existing retaining walls. This new space will become a focus for performances within the Gardens.

Shrubberies and planting design. The rich ornamental shrub layer previously present in the Gardens has now mainly been lost, and re-establishment of this layer is a key recommendation of the master plan. Coupled with this is developing a strong emphasis within the Gardens on good planting design.

Horticultural excellence. The Gardens are to position themselves as "botanic gardens", rather than just a regional park. This includes having actively managed plant collections, botanically interesting and diverse plantings and an educational role.

Potable water shortage. The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are to be connected to a recycled water supply which will need to be carefully managed due to salt build up in the soil and EPA restrictions. There are many approaches which can be used to address the potable water shortage issues, and a water management plan to integrate these is recommended.

Gardens' Patronage. Large scale capital works are difficult to justify while the Gardens usage remains low; therefore a major role of this master plan is to recommend measures to increase the Gardens patronage. This should be supported through capturing new user groups, appropriate marketing and major capital works projects.

1.3 Outcomes

This master plan was developed to achieve the following outcomes for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens:

- Kyneton Botanic Gardens will be an active botanical garden
- Kyneton Botanic Gardens will retain its existing botanical wealth and heritage value – and will enhance these aspects
- Kyneton Botanic Gardens will be a public park, a space for Kyneton residents and the wider public to visit, use and enjoy
- Kyneton Botanic Gardens will be relevant to 21st century expectations of a public park, with improved facilitates and a range of new landscape features which meet public expectations

1.4 Scope

This master plan addresses the development and management of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens for the next ten years, following which time a review is recommended. The Kyneton Botanic Gardens include the entire area bounded by Mollison Street, Clowes Street, Powlett Street, Pohlman Street (road reserve only) and the Campaspe River; including the formally laid out "true botanic gardens"[1], the former Kyneton Caravan Park, the surrounding parkland and river frontage.

The land immediately adjacent to the Campaspe River, including the Campaspe River walking trail, is outside the Botanic Gardens reserve and therefore was not part of the original draft of the master plan. However, between the production of the draft and final master plans the Campaspe River experienced severe flooding, resulting in the submergence of much of the river walk and the destruction of the boardwalk closest to the Fern Gully. As a result, the decision was made to divert part of the Campaspe River walk into the Botanic Gardens, and this portion of the River frontage therefore became subject to the master plan.

1.5 Process

Methodology

This master plan was produced in consultation with council staff, stake holders and the public. The following is an outline of this report's development:

- Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design held a briefing meeting with Macedon Shire Ranges Staff to discuss the project
- Background information was collected including a number of visits to the site, a review of the history and meeting with stakeholders and the public.
- A preliminary draft of the master plan concepts and strategies was developed and presented to Council staff for discussion and preliminary approval
- The draft master plan concept and strategies were developed further for presentation to stake holders and Council staff for discussion and approval
- The draft master plan was completed in consultation with Council for release for public comment
- The draft master plan was released for public comment
- A meeting was held between Macedon Ranges Shire Staff, Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design and stakeholders to discuss community feedback and changes to the draft master plan.
- The draft report modified as appropriate and the final report was issued

Public and Stake Holder Consultation

Public and stake holder consultation was undertaken as part of the production of this Master Plan. This included the following:

- Meeting with the Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, the Kyneton Community Park Committee and the Friends of the Campaspe River at the start of the process to discuss the project.
- Conducting a public consultation afternoon in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens to give the public the opportunity to discuss the project and express their views
- Meeting with the stake holder groups to present and discuss the draft report
- Provision of a full copy of the draft report and master plan to the stake holders for comment
- Making accessible a full copy of the draft report and master plan to the public for comment (provided at each of the service centres and via the council website)

[i] Department of Planning and Community Development, Victoria, April 2010

[1] This term is used through the report and refers to the formally laid out north-eastern portion of the Gardens, which contains many of the site's decorative features

2 Context

2.1 Site Description

Location and Context

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are located 80km north-west of Melbourne, at the southern end of the Kyneton township. Kyneton falls within the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, which also includes the townships of Gisborne, Woodend, Mount Macedon, Lancefield and Romsey. The Shire Council is responsible for the management and funding of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, as well as Malmsbury and Gisborne Botanic Gardens.

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are approximately 15 hectares in size and are bounded by the Campaspe River to the south, Mollison Street (a main road) to the east, and residential streets (Clowes and Pohlman Streets) to the north. Broadly speaking the Botanic Gardens are broken into two main areas, the true botanic gardens in the north-east corner, which are formally laid out and with and include a range of visitor facilities and other features; and the surrounding botanic gardens parkland, which includes the former caravan park and a broad stretch of treed parkland to the north west.

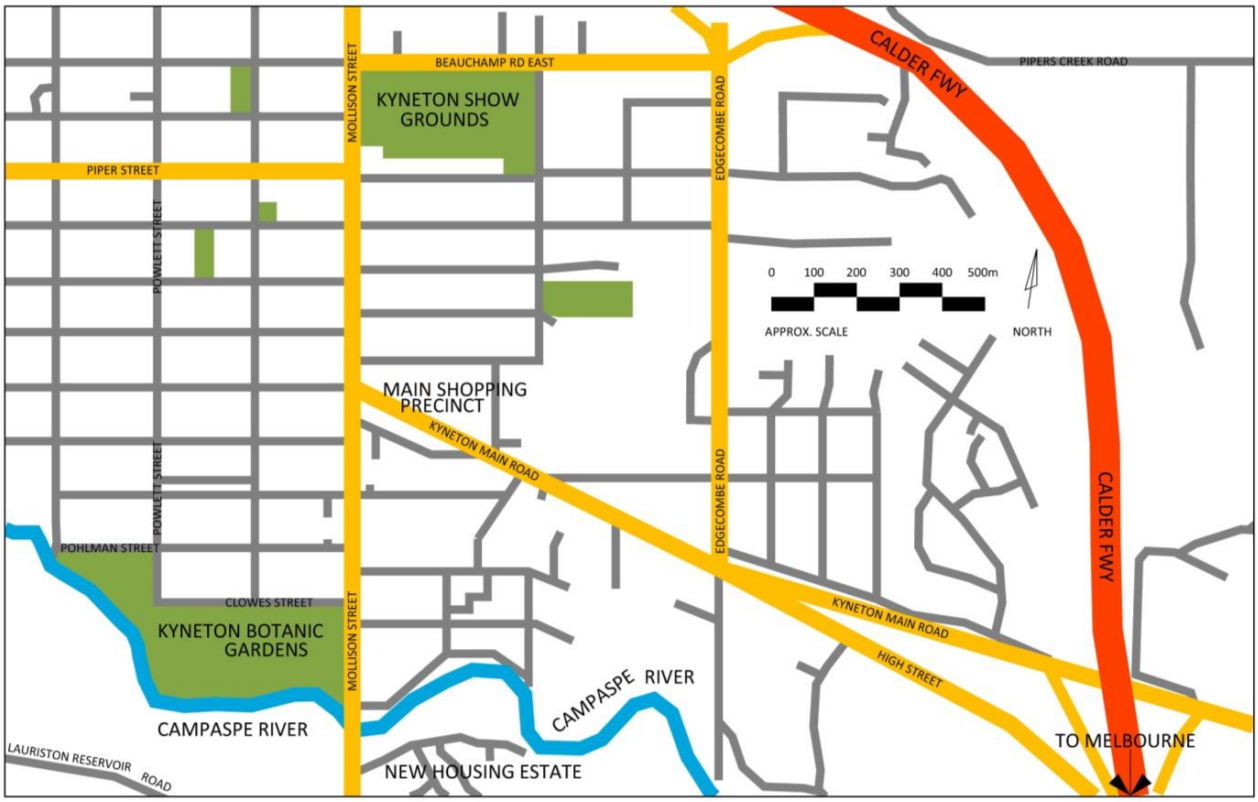

Figure 1: Context Plan

Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design. Plan based on information obtained from Google Maps

Climate

Kyneton is located at an elevation of 500m and has a strongly Mediterranean climate with cool winters and summers which are hot-dry with relatively low humidity, but cool nights. Traditionally the area experienced heavy frosts, with a long term average of 44 frost days per year[2] [i]. The heavy frosts (air temperatures have been recorded as low as -6.0° and ground temperatures as low as -9.0°) and hot dry summers are the major climatic factors limiting plant performance.

[2] Climate statistics are based on the Macedon Ranges Forestry weather station, see foot note on following page

In recent years prolonged drought has damaged some of the Gardens' mature plantings. A severe drought in 1982 originally stressed a number of trees, with this damage being exacerbated by the current drought. This, combined with a possible canker and old age, has led to the decline of a number of the Gardens' older conifers. It is possible that given climate change some previously planted species will not be appropriate in the future. Annual rainfall over recent years has averaged approximately 780mm in the nearby Macedon Ranges Forestry weather station. Rain fall in Kyneton would probably be a little lower than this, but no official rainfall statistics are available post 1969 (see footnote). Anecdotally, Kyneton is also subject to strong winds.

Anecdotally, Kyneton experiences a very heavy frost approximately every five to seven years. This frost kills any plants which are not extremely cold hardy, and restricts the suitability of many species for use in long term plantings.

Table 1: Climatic Data for the Macedon Ranges Forestry weather station[3]

	December	March	June	September	Annual	Data based on years
Mean max. temp	21.7°	20.0°	8.6°	12.1°	15.6°	1887-1999 (long term)
	22.4°	22.4°	10.8°	13.6°	17.6°	1981-1999 (recent)
Mean min. temp	9.8°	10.0°	3.5°	4.4°	7.0°	1887-1999 (long term)
	8.3°	9.3°	3.2°	3.6°	6.3°	1981-1999 (recent)
Mean rainfall	57.2mm	54.1mm	83.8mm	87.6mm	839.2mm	1873-2010 (long term)
	62.8mm	42.3mm	80.2mm	81.6mm	777.5mm	1981-2010 (recent)
Lowest ground temp	-5.3°	-3.1°	-7.7°	-7.9°	-9.0°	1969-1999
Year	1996	1997	1973	1970	1974	
Mean No. frost days	0.9 days	0.9 days	6.6 days	6.2 days	44.3 days	1969-1999

Topography and Soils

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens have an undulating topography, sloping towards the Campaspe River, with the steepest portions of the site being in the south-east corner. Soils are generally fertile, organic clays which are shallow and stony on the bluffs (including surface rocks), with the river flats having black soil which is both deeper and wetter. The soils within the Gardens are generally well drained with good water holding capacity and high nutrient levels. The Campaspe River, along the site's southern boundary, is a major geological feature.

Campaspe River

The Botanic Gardens are adjacent to the Campaspe River, which flows into Lake Eppalock, a major water source for the municipality[ii]. The proximity of the Botanic Gardens to the river will limit the use of recycled water for irrigation purposes, as the flow of nutrient rich waters into the river would breach EPA guidelines[iii]. The proximity to the river will also impact plant selection, with the use of weedy species such as willows being highly inappropriate.

From a recreation perspective, the proximity of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens to the Campaspe River provides an opportunity to merge the use of the two areas. The Campaspe River Walk is extensively used by walkers and there is a distinct opportunity for the Gardens to capitalise on this by linking into the existing river trail.

Finally, the proximity to the Campaspe River is a trigger for the site under Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) guidelines[iv]. This means that the majority of the site is an Aboriginal place of "cultural heritage sensitivity" and that a permit may therefore be required for works.

Management

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens is owned, managed and funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, which is also responsible for the Malmsbury and Gisborne Botanic Gardens. Currently the Shire employees 1.5 people to maintain the three sites, although 80% of their time is spent at Kyneton. The current budget for the management of the site is in the order of $120,000 per annum. This figure is all inclusive and covers labour, water cartage, materials and other management costs.

[3] Climate statistics are based on the Macedon Ranges Forestry weather station, which is just over 20km from Kyneton and has a nearly identical elevation. The Kyneton Post Office weather station was closed in 1969 and only collected limited data.

KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTERPLAN
SITE ANALYSIS DRAWING:

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EXISTING CONDITIONS

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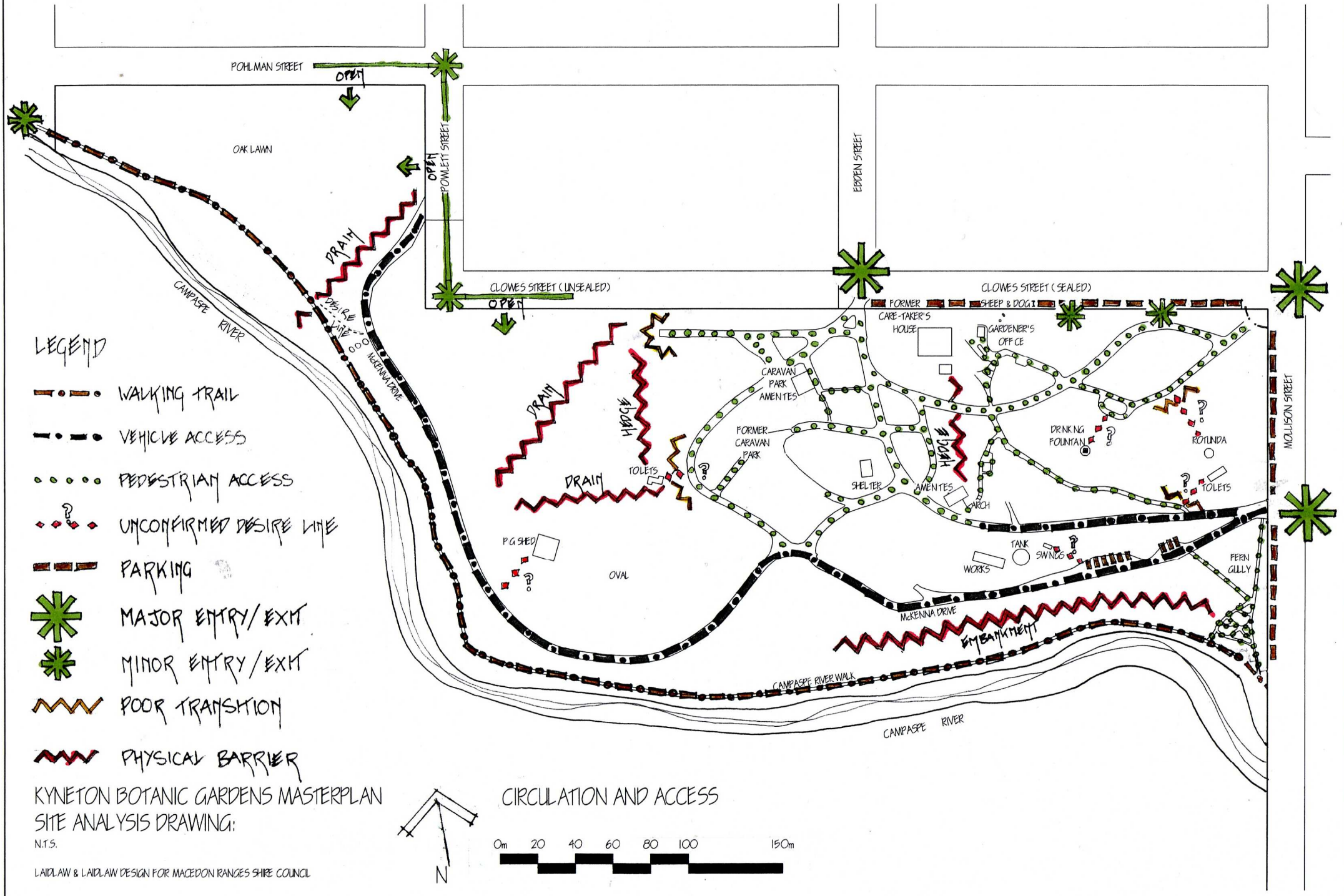

KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTERPLAN
SITE ANALYSIS DRAWING:

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

N.T.S.

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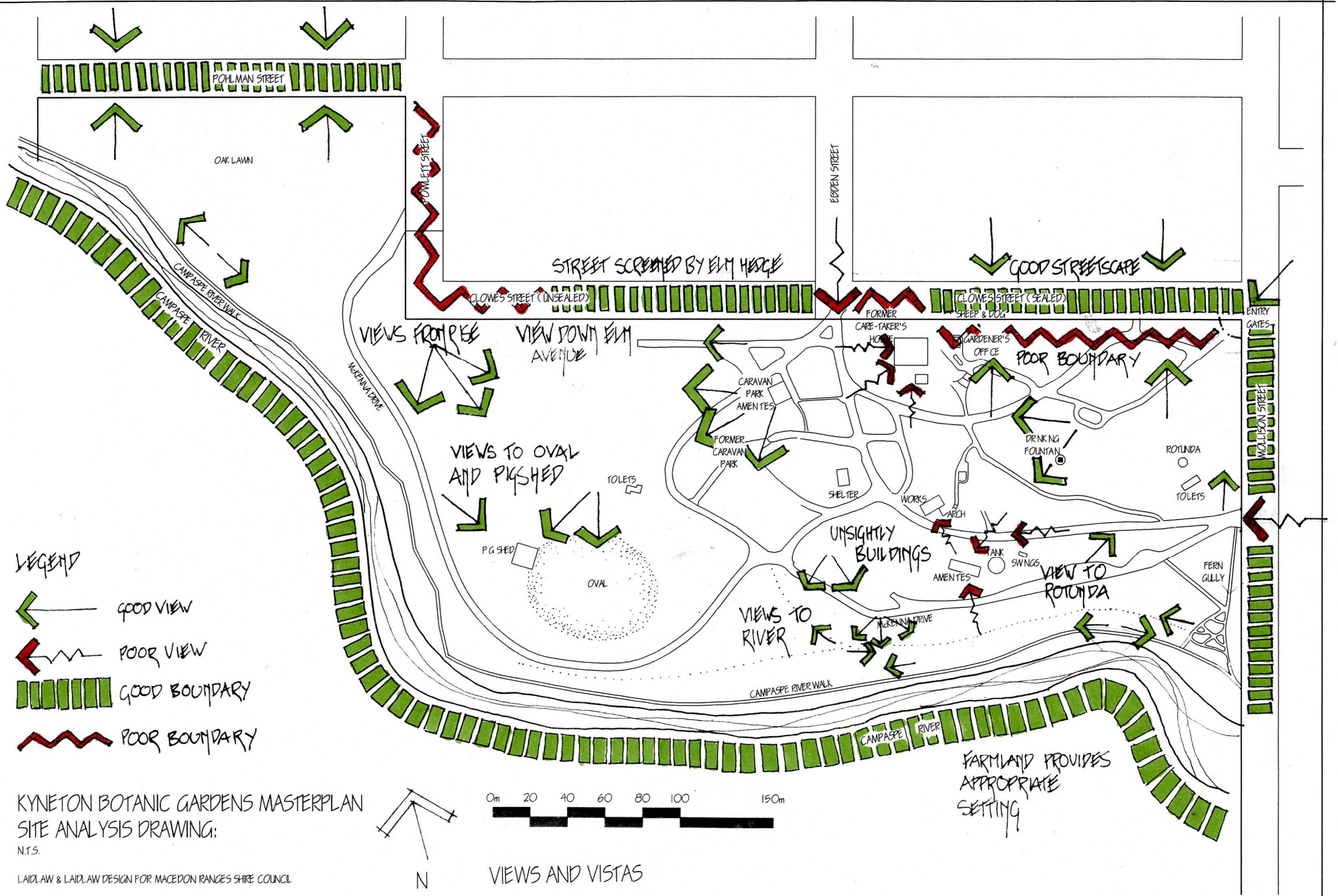

KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTERPLAN
SITE ANALYSIS DRAWING:

N.T.S.

LAIDLAW & LAIDLAW DESIGN FOR MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

VIEWS AND VISTAS

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2.2 Historical Context

Botanic and Public Gardens

The European colonisation of Australia corresponded with a time of increased botanical and horticultural interest within the British Empire. Previously unknown species of plants were being collected from newly discovered portions of the globe, and Botanic Gardens were being established as adjuncts to educational institutions in England (at Oxford) and on the Continent (such as at Pisa and Padua)[v]. With the abundance of new species being introduced to horticulture, plant collection and display, especially of the new and unusual, became somewhat of a British national passion.

In the south of England this enthusiasm for plant collection centred around Kew[vi], encouraged by Royal patronage. By the time Australia was settled[vii] Kew had become a scientific centre, spurred on by both economic and scientific pursuits. The influence of Kew became critical in the establishment of Botanic Gardens in Australia, and by the 1850s, major Botanic Gardens had been developed in Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne and Brisbane[viii].

In their original context, Botanic Gardens were scientific centres, where plants were displayed according to various botanical systems, rather than as objects of ornamentation. Herbariums for the collection of pressed specimens were attached, as were botanical libraries[ix]. In the Australian context however, Botanic Gardens developed a greater emphasis as pleasure grounds and places of public use and enjoyment. This was exemplified by the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, where Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's traditional scientific structure was remodelled by William Guilfoyle on picturesque principals, forming the basis of the Gardens we know today.

This approach to providing Gardens which were more than just scientific displays, was in itself likely to be a product of the times. During the 19th century public parks were widely established to provide relaxation and enjoyment to all city residents, a concept which was new at the time of European settlement in Australia. These green spaces were seen to have moral and health benefits, providing respite from the overcrowded, dirty and smelly cities, and allowing all classes of people to mix freely[x].

Victoria's Regional Botanic Gardens

In the Australian context, the phenomenon of widespread regional Botanic Gardens is uniquely Victorian, where virtually every country town and city of any consequence developed its own 'Botanic Garden'[xi]. These gardens were generally established at the initiative of residents, rather than as a result of any formal government policy or funding. The Gardens were generally established when local residents formed a committee and petitioned the government for a land grant. If suitable land was available, and the request was suitably justified, the government "was inclined to consent"[xii].

A number of factors are likely to have contributed to the widespread establishment of regional Botanic Gardens. The Victorian fervour for plants and open spaces as described above, the popularity of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and the copy-cat effect as other regional towns developed Botanic Gardens are all possible contributors to the phenomenon. By the 1860s Botanic Gardens had been established at Koroit, Geelong, Ballarat, Williamstown, Daylesford and Port Fairy[xiii]. In the central goldfields region Botanic Gardens at Buninyong (c.1853), Bendigo (c.1854), Daylesford (c.1854), Malmsbury (1855), Ballarat (1858), Kyneton (1858), Castlemaine (1860) and Creswick (1861) were all established during this period[xiv].

These Botanic Gardens were, for the most part, pleasure gardens, although in early times plants were carefully labelled, and the gardens had a role to play in trialling new species, especially through the work of von Mueller. Today many of the botanic gardens are almost indistinguishable from public pleasure gardens[xv], although they contain fine tree collections, albeit with a strong bias to Victorian era tastes.

2.3 History of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

The following history of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens draws on the existing work of others, especially Roger Cousens, Larina Strauch, John Hawker, Georgie Shea and the Kyneton Historical Society.

The township of Kyneton was originally surveyed in 1849, being named after a village in England. By March 1852 the population of town was three hundred, a figure that by December of the same year had reached two thousand, due to the discovery of gold in the nearby regions of Bendigo, Castlemaine and Clunes. Kyneton was on the road from Melbourne to the goldfields, and established itself through the supply of goods to those travelling to the diggings. The result was a boom period for the town in the 1850's and 60's, and as with many Victorian regional towns developing prominence, the decision was made to establish a Botanic Garden.

Figure 2: Kyneton Botanic Gardens 1888 – the earliest sourced image of the Gardens.
Source: Smith photo, Kyneton Historical Society Archives (via KBG website)

The site of the current Kyneton Botanic Gardens was temporarily reserved as public gardens on the 9th of August, 1858. At this stage the site only included the area bounded by Mollison, Powlett and Clowes Streets and the Campaspe River, and was selected after the original site, adjacent to the Mechanic's institute, was found to be "*unsuitable and quite inadequate for the purpose*"[xvi]. Council ran a competition for the design of the Gardens which was won in March 1861 by Stuart Murray, a local surveyor, architect and civil engineer who went on to achieve prominence in a number of fields; holding government positions, drafting legislation, designing irrigation schemes and founding the Victorian institute of Surveyors. The prize for the winning design was £15 and although this was awarded Council procrastinated over the plan's execution, concerned over costs and the extent to which trees should be planted and paths laid out. Murray's original plan for the Gardens has been lost, and while there is no evidence that it was ever implemented, Murray was a prominent local citizen with an imperious manner[xvii], and there is no reason to believe that the early works did not adhere to his design. The existing layout and earliest extant plan[4] of the Gardens do suggest however that any plan was only partially realised. Other accounts which link Baron von Mueller and Latrobe Bateman to the design of the Gardens are improbable with no supporting evidence.

In May 1863 the Kyneton Botanic Gardens received a large quantity of trees and shrubs from the Government. On the 19th of May, 1863, the inauguration of the Gardens was marked by the planting of three trees to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra. Two of these trees, a pine and ash, no longer appear to be present (indeed it would be unlikely that these species would survive 150 years), however an Oak tree planted by Councillor Jarrett at this event and dedicated to Queen Victoria still remains.

The establishment of the Gardens over the following two years appears to have had a difficult start, with complaints between 1864 and 1867 that the Gardens were a "*weedy waste*", showing "*shocking neglect*"[xviii]. A grant was received from the Government for £20 in 1864, and appears to have been spent on a fence. Despite this, the Gardens were reported to be ravaged by goats, with up to sixty reported to be feeding on the trees[xix].

The main landscaping of the Gardens appears to have been carried out in 1866. Under the supervision of the town surveyor, a Mr Farquahar, trenching and planting took place. The citizens of Kyneton were asked to donate plants, as the Gardens had been too late in applying for donations from the Melbourne and Geelong Botanic Gardens. On the 5th of August 1867 the Kyneton Botanic Gardens were permanently reserved as a public garden[5].

[4] 1937 Sewerage Authority Map. Page 19

[5] Different accounts show some discrepancies in the various reservation dates for portions of the Gardens. The account listed in this report is based upon on a concerted effort to interpret the original reservation plans (from Roger Cousens), but this was difficult and there may be some inaccuracies.

From around 1868 the Gardens were cared for by a curator and at least part time assistants. During the 1870s additional planting took place using donations of plants from Ferdinand von Muller, and from Council and Government grants totalling £2,412. In June 1880 the bluestone wall along Mollison Street was constructed, while a contemporary document states that the Gardens were surrounded by a substantial picket fence internally lined with hawthorn[xx]. None of this fence remains, although there is still Hawthorn hedging along site boundaries. From this time, the use of the Gardens for functions and gatherings indicates that they were in good order, despite complaints about swagman camping beneath the Mollison Street bridge[xxi]. Contemporary images from this show the garden to be well planted, with a mix of trees, shrubs and decorative plants.

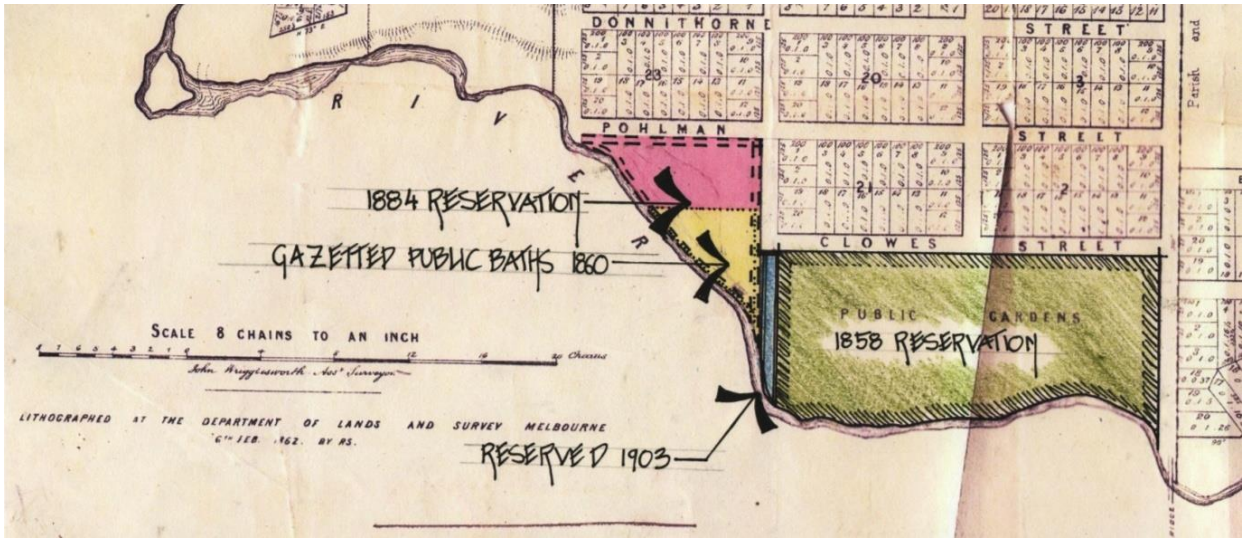

Figure 3: Reservation dates for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.
See also footnote. ***Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design***

In 1884 a further three acres of land was reserved for public recreation. In January of 1902, the earlier reservations were revoked, and the land temporarily reserved as public gardens. A request to close the extension of Powlett street running down to the Campaspe River was approved in March of 1903, bringing the Gardens to their current extent (see Figure 3).

As the popularity of the Gardens increased further facilities were added. This included swings and a see-saw in 1889, public toilets (replaced in 1952) and a new gate to provide entry for prams. In 1902 a drinking fountain was erected using £60 bequeathed for this purpose by a Spring Hill farmer, Isaac Smith. The fountain was installed adjacent to the play equipment and is still present; albeit extensively repaired following vandalism, and missing its original capping. Some time prior to 1905 a rotunda was constructed in the eastern portion of the Gardens. This structure still present[6], although it has been extensively repaired, and rebuilt twice[xxii]. Added in 1907 was a rose bed and arch, gifted by the Women's Work Exhibition.

In 1895 Mr. Ferguson from the State Nursery in Macedon proposed a fountain and fernery in the south-east corner of the site, close to the Campaspe River; and a gate on the river end of Mollison Street. The State Nursery had used the portion of the Gardens later occupied by the caravan park as a trial area for about 20 years from the 1870s. A c.1906 photograph of the Gardens shows the Fern Gully to be well developed and prospering.

[6] Anecdotally, the rotunda was relocated within the Gardens at one period, and although no evidence has been found for this the context of the rotunda as it appears in the only located early photograph (Figure 53) is different to that of the current building (note the proximity of the paths).

Figure 4: Planting of the Oak tree by William Thomson on the 9th of August 1902, Edward VII's coronation day.
Source: Kyneton Museum (via KBG website)

During World War One the Gardens were used for many military parades, with Anzac Day ceremonies being held in the Gardens until 1920. From contemporary photographs, the Gardens appear to be well planted and kept at this time, with the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne commenting on the Gardens' "arboreal wealth"[xxiii] in 1922. It was at this time that the curatorship of the Gardens was under the tenure of Edward Gray. Mr Gray served at the Gardens for over 46 years[7], firstly as under-curator from 1887 until 1903, in which year he accepted the curatorship of Port Fairy Botanic Gardens, then transferring to Footscray Botanic Gardens in 1904. In 1906 on the death of Orames, the Kyneton Botanic Gardens curator, Gray returned to take on the curatorship. He remained at the Gardens until he resigned due to ill health in 1937, dying later the same year. Gray also wrote a regular gardening column for the Kyneton Guardian and spoke on gardening. In a 1930 article for the Australian Rose Annual he described a number of "old time" roses that were growing in the Gardens[8].

Figure 5: Undated, c.1911 photograph of gentleman and boys within the Gardens
Source: Kyneton Historical Society, via Roger Cousens

[7] There is conflicting information on the length and timing of Gray's curatorship. Differing sources suggest that 1) he was curator from 1887 - unlikely, given that he would have been 18 years old at the time, 2) he started his curatorship in 1905, and 3) that he was only curator until 1909. The account given in this report is considered most likely to be correct.

Figure 6: The Ferngully, c. 1905. Note the same triangular layout as is currently present.
Source: Kyneton Historical Society (via KBG website)

Other Gardens features dating from the Gray period, although no longer present, include a fish hatchery (1925), a lily pond (date unknown), and a memorial rose garden in memory of the rose breeder Alistair Clark (date unknown) and the Mollison Street entrance gates. These memorial wrought iron gates, donated by Mr R D Elliot and his sisters in memory of their parents, are still present at the Mollison Street and Clowes Street corner. The gates were installed in 1936, being designed by Stephenson & Meldrum of Melbourne and made by Cr C R Caslake of South Yarra[9] [xxiv]. The blue stone pillars were made by a local stone mason, W. T. Jones and Son[xxv].

Figure 7: Kyneton Botanic Gardens c.1905, illustrating the Gardens former botanical splendour.
Source: Margaretaret Dearricott, Rose Serious Postcard P.1550

[8] These included 'La France', 'John Hopper', 'General Jacqueminot', 'Empress of India', 'Glory of Waltham', 'Black Prince', 'Mrs J Laing', 'Paul Neyron', 'Ulrich Brunner', 'Victor Verdier', 'Dr Hogg', 'Souvenir d'Elise Varden', 'Solfaterre', 'Lord Tarquin', 'Provence' or 'Cabbage Rose' and 'Madame Berard'.
[9] Heritage Victoria's records state the gates "the gates were designed by artist Tom Levick and made by locals George Fowler and a Mr. Wherrett." and sites their source as being a leaflet *Kyneton Victoria Australia: Brief history of the town and the botanic gardens*, Prepared for the Visitor Information Centre, Kyneton. It has not been established which version is correct.

By 1941 a number of pines within the Gardens were dying and/or dangerous and required removal. The trees were felled, and money raised through the sale of the wood was used to construct a new playground. In 1959 a proposal was made to construct a caravan park within the Gardens. This met with strong public opposition, but was nevertheless approved and the caravan park opened in 1961. In order to allow this, the Council successfully petitioned the Government to revoke the "public garden" reservation, and temporarily reserve the site for "public gardens, recreation and tourist camping". To service the caravan park paved roads (1969), bluestone terraces, a caretakers residence, toilet and cleaning block were constructed.

Figure 8: December 1953. Note that the bluestone edging was not present at this time.
Source: State Library of Victoria.

In c1985 funding was provided for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, as part of the Victoria's 150th anniversary. These were used for extensive arboricultural work, new tree planting and to repair the Fern Gully (which has since re-fallen into disrepair). A concept plan was also drawn up, but never adopted.

In 2008 the Friends of Kyneton Botanic Gardens (established three years earlier) nominated the site to the Victorian Heritage Register in celebration of its 150th anniversary. Later that year the site was added to the Victorian Heritage Register, being of historical, scientific (botanical) and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

In April 2010 the Kyneton Caravan Park was closed after nearly 50 years of operation, with a master plan commissioned to incorporate the site back into the Botanic Gardens.

Figure 9: Souvenir Postcard Booklet of Kyneton, c. 1923
Source: State Library of Victoria

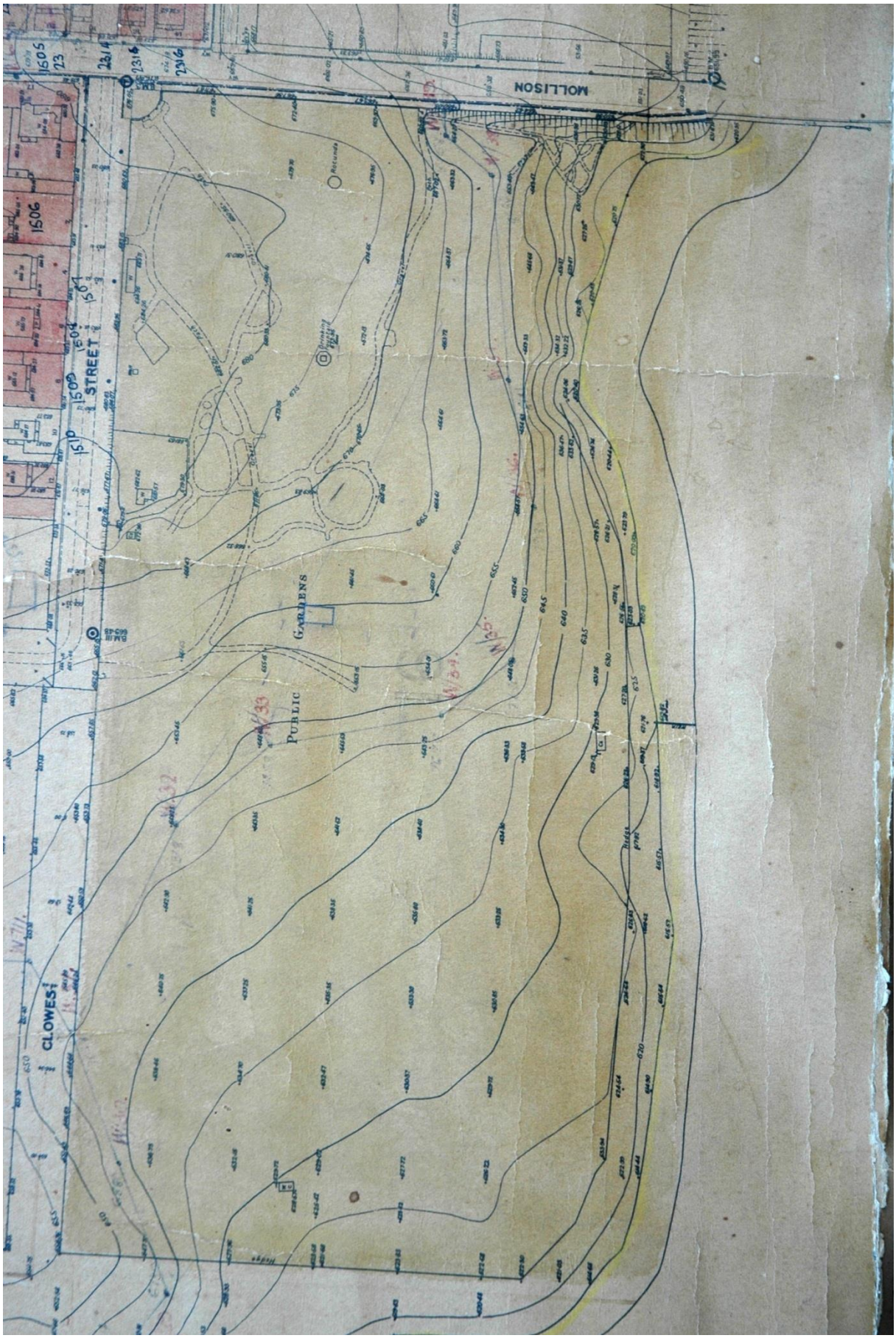

Figure 10: The 1937 Sewerage Authority map, being the oldest known plan of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.
Source: Map held by Kyneton Historical Society, image courtesy Roger Cousens

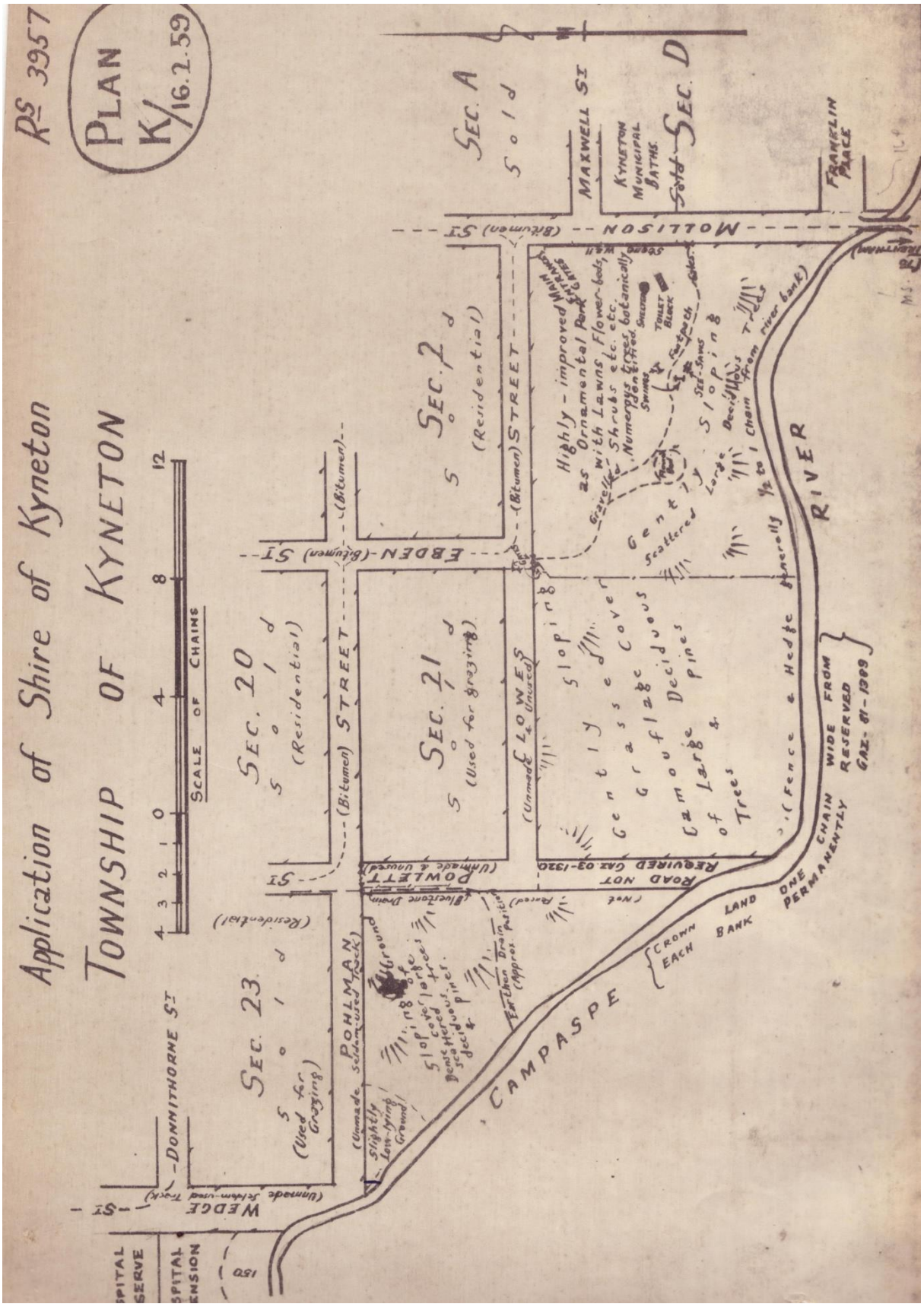

Figure 11: A 1959 plan of the site, possibly produced to accompany the caravan park application.
Source: (source of image), image courtesy Roger Cousens

2.4 Heritage Significance

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria, with this being formally recognised by the inclusion of the place on the Victorian Heritage Register. The Gardens are recognised as being of historic, aesthetic and scientific (horticultural) significance.

It is not the purpose of this master plan to undertake a full heritage analysis of the site, but a preliminary analysis is provided as a guide to the relative heritage significance of elements within the Gardens, and their treatment within the master plan. This analysis is based heavily on the Heritage Victoria Registration, especially in relation to the elements of significance.

The primary problem in assessing the relative heritage significance of elements within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens lies in the lack of information on the layout of the Gardens prior to 1937. The original Murray Plan for the site has been lost and reports that Ferdinand von Mueller or Latrobe Bateman designed the Gardens are unsubstantiated and unlikely. As such, there is little evidential information on the structure and design of the Gardens during its period of significance. There is however a wealth of historical photographs, although in many cases the location and directions of these photos are not obvious. As the Gardens now stand they do bear a resemblance to the earliest known plan of the site, the 1937 Sewerage Authority map, and this has been taken as a reference point for determining the relative significance of various elements.

Period of Significance

Although reserved in 1858, the Gardens period of significance lies from 1863 until 1905 – from the commencement of planting until the completion of most major features.

Inception 1858 – 1880

Although established in 1858, planting in the Gardens did not commence until 1863, with the main landscaping apparently not properly commenced until 1866. By 1872 extensive planting had taken place, with trees, shrubs and groundcovers extensively described in a document from that year, although it was noted that "*much remains to be done in the way of the formation of the walks and roads and completing the planting*"[xxvi]. In 1873 additional planting grants were received and the Bluestone Wall along Mollison Street was constructed in 1880, replacing an earlier picket fence. At this time the Gardens only extended as far west as the now closed Powlett Street Extension.

Consolidation 1881 – 1905

During this time the Gardens were used for gatherings, and photos and contemporary accounts indicate that they were well planted and in good order (check). Numerous visitor facilities and garden ornamentation were added during this time including the rotunda, drinking fountain and Fern Gully.

From 1884 the Gardens were extended to include the entire triangular area bounded by Pohlman, Powlett and Wedge Streets and the Campaspe River. This included the triangular area adjacent to the river previously gazetted for use as Public Baths. In 1903 the Powlett Street extension was closed, bringing the Gardens to their current extent.

Elements of Significance

Elements of Primary Significance

Elements within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens of primary significance are those which date from the Gardens' period of significance (i.e. 1858-1905) and which are substantially intact.

- Mollison Street Bluestone Wall (1880)
- Fern gully (1895 - pre c.1906)
- Gardeners' Office (c.1900)
- Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain (1902)
- Oak Ring (possibly c. 1880)
- Tree collection dating from this period (extent would need to be independently established)

- The Hawthorn Hedge (possible c. 1880)
- Paths as illustrated on the 1937 Sewerage Authority Map[10]

Elements of Secondary Significance

Elements within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens of contributory significance are those which either do not date from the Gardens' period of significance (i.e. are post 1906) or which have been substantially modified.

- Well (date unknown)
- Rotunda (c.1905)
- Mollison Street Entrance Gates (1936)
- Two Memorial Pillars (1965)
- Tree collection dating from post 1906 (extent would need to be independently established)

Elements of Significance in the Broader Context

Elements within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens which are of significance in the broader context are those which are in themselves of heritage significance, but which have been relocated into the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, and therefore would continue to retain their significance if moved elsewhere.

- Pig Shed (brought to the site from the old Sale Yards in 1972[xxvii])

A board containing specimens of timber from various trees in the Gardens is also included on the Victorian Heritage Register, but located away from the Gardens at the Kyneton Arts Centre.

Remaining Elements

It is likely that additional elements within the site (for example the Oak rows) are also of significance, but a full heritage study would be required to substantiate this. Additionally, this report has not identified which are intrusive to the heritage significance of the place. Section 8.1 should be referred to for further information on identifying these elements.

Statement Of Significance

It is not within the scope of this master plan to develop an independent Statement of Significance for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. As such, the following Heritage Victoria Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance has been used to inform the development of the master plan. It should be noted that this statement has not be updated following the removal of the Kyneton Caravan Park.

What is significant?

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens, originally of 18 acres, was temporarily reserved for a Botanic Gardens in August 1858, replacing the 2.5 acres reserved in March 1858 next to the Mechanics Institute, which was considered inadequate by the Council. A further 3 acres was reserved in 1884, then an additional 5 acres in 1902, and more land from the closure of the road reserve was added to the Gardens in 1903, to give a total area of about 24 acres. The Gardens are situated on the banks of the Campaspe River between the railway station and the centre of the town. In 1861 Mr Stuart Murrray, a local engineer, surveyor and architect, won a prize of £15 for his design for the gardens. Murray went on to design the Goulburn Weir and Victoria's early irrigation schemes. One of the first events to take place in the Gardens was the planting of three trees, including an Algerian Oak planted by Cr Jarrett on 19 May 1863 and dedicated to Queen Victoria, which still grows near the Ebden Street entrance. The first plants were provided by the community and during the 1870s more were obtained from Ferdinand von Mueller of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

The upper level of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, known as the Kyneton Public Gardens, is formally laid out with garden beds and mature trees, and features an 1880 bluestone wall, the 1936 commemorative entrance gates, c1900 gardener's office,1902 drinking fountain, c1905 rotunda, a shelter and two bluestone memorial pillars marking the entrance to McKenna Memorial Drive. The gardens contain a fine collection of mature trees including elms, firs, cedars, sequoias and a collection of outstanding and rare oaks. The middle section now contains a caravan park, introduced into the reserve in 1959, and the lower level contains specimen trees, a fernery, English Hawthorn hedges along the river, an oval and a pavilion relocated from the Kyneton saleyards during the 1970s.

Edward Gray, who had been employed there as a gardener for fifty years and was appointed curator from 1906 to c1909, prepared a display board inlaid with specimens of timber taken from seventy of the six hundred trees then growing in the Kyneton Public Gardens. The

[10] For the purposes of this Master plan the paths have been deemed significant if they predate 1937, the oldest available record of their structure. A full conservation analysis may be able to more accurately determine the relative significance of the path structure.

specimen board was given to the Kyneton Council by his widow in trust for the residents of the State. Amongst the samples displayed are some taken from an American Red Cedar and from a Chinese Cypress. This specimen board is at present located in the former Congregational Sunday School (now the Kyneton Arts Centre).

How is it significant?

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are of historical, scientific, and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens, established in 1858 soon after the discovery of gold in 1851, are historically significant as one of the earliest regional botanic garden established in Victoria. They are associated with the post-gold rush history of Victoria, when towns which had grown as a result of the gold discoveries aspired to becoming major provincial cities, with art galleries, botanic gardens, mechanics institutes and other cultural institutions befitting their status. Botanic Gardens had been established in Melbourne in 1846, Portland and Geelong in 1851, White Hills in 1854, Williamstown in 1856 and at Ballarat, Malmsbury and Hamilton in 1857.

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are of aesthetic significance for their setting, on an undulating site sloping down to the Campaspe River, for the collection of significant plants, with mature trees of contrasting forms and colours, for the pinetum, for the fernery, and for the garden structures, including the bluestone wall, the entrance gates, the gardener's office, the rotunda, the drinking fountain, two memorial pillars, the shelter and for the contrast between the formal and informal areas. A prominent and unusual design feature is the large "Oak Circle", bordered by a privet, japonica and hawthorn hedge encircling rare oaks, and the single and double Hawthorn hedges lining the Gardens boundary along the Campaspe River.

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are of scientific (botanical) significance for their collection of plants, especially the oaks and conifers, characteristic of late nineteenth century Victorian gardens, and including some rare and outstanding individual specimens such as Araucaria bidwillii, Abies nordmanniana, Cedrus atlantica f. glauca, Chamaecyparis funebris, two Quercus agrifolia, 1863 Quercus canariensis, Quercus leucotricophora, Quercus macrocarpa var. olivaefolius, 1902 Quercus robur, 3 Quercus suber, Quercus robur 'Concordia', Crataegus coccinoides, Quercus ilex, Juniperus oxycedrus, Prunus lusitanica 'Variegata', Cupressus lusitanica, Ginkgo biloba, Pinus wallichiana, Sequoia sempervirens, and Sequoiadendron giganteum. The planting includes Victoria's only known Quercus douglasii, and Victoria's largest and finest Jubaea chilensis, a palm now threatened in the wild. In the "Oak circle" is a rare Quercus alba, grafted onto Q. robur, Quercus canariensis x Q. robur, Quercus castaneifolia (hybrid), Quercus palustris, and 2 stumps of other grafted oaks.

2.5 Planning Controls and Local Government Policies

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens are governed by a number of controls under the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Planning Schemes. Full text for the zoning and overlays can be obtained from the Shire. The following provides a brief outline of the implications of each of the overlays, but the original text should be referred to before deciding whether a planning permit is required.

Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) Schedule 1

Kyneton Botanic Gardens is zoned "Public Park and Recreation". The main implication of this for the Botanic Gardens is that a permit is required to "construct a building or carry out works" except for a number of works commonly associated with parks and gardens (e.g. paths, seating, shelters, barbeques, landscaping). The main works the Gardens may wish to carry out which would require a permit under the zoning are to construct a fence over 1m in height, or a playground over 10m^2. The relevant schedule to the zone makes no specifications.

Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) Schedule 4 – Eppalock Proclaimed Catchment

The Environmental Significance Overlay covers the entire gardens and the surrounding area and aims to protect the water quality and yield in the Lake Eppalock Catchment area. The two main impact of this on the Kyneton Botanic Gardens are that technically a permit is needed to remove any vegetation, even if it is dead and that a permit is required to "construct a building or construct or carry out works".

Heritage Overlay

Two schedules to the Heritage Overlay apply to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, HO19 covering the botanic gardens precinct, and HO165 covering the Gardens themselves and corresponding to the Heritage Victoria Registration (see section 2.6). The Heritage Overlays do not impact on the management of the Gardens as they are overridden by the Victorian Heritage Register.

Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO) and Schedule

The lower portions of the Gardens, adjacent to the Campaspe River fall under a Land Subject to Inundation overlay, which covers land affected by a 1 in 100 year flood. The main works the Gardens may wish to carry out which would require a permit under this overlay are the construction of bicycle paths and trails, public toilets, decks and disabled access ramps.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Policies

The management and development of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens is potentially impacted by a number of Macedon Shire Ranges Council policies and strategies. Recommendations made in this master plan are consistent with these documents, and any works undertaken as part of the implementation of this master plan should have consideration for any relevant policies and strategies.

2.6 State Government Controls

The primary State Government Planning control is the Heritage Victoria Registration of the site (HR1994). This registration takes precedence over the local Heritage Overlays (as described above), as no permit is required under a Heritage Overlay for a place on the Victorian Heritage Register. The State Heritage Registration for the site covers the entire site. A full copy of the registration may be obtained from Heritage Victoria.

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[i] Data based on Macedon Forestry Weather Station, Bureau of Meteorology Climate Statistics (www.bom.gov.au)
[ii] MRSC planning scheme, schedule 4 to the environmental significance overlay
[iii] Advice from MRSC
[iv] Department of Planning and Community Development, Victoria, April 2010
[v] Aitken and Looker, 2002, page 98
[vi] Thacker, 1994, page 233
[vii] Aitken and Looker, 2002, page 521
[viii] Aitken and Looker, 2002, page 98
[ix] Aitken and Looker, 2002, page 98
[x] Fitzroy Gardens HVic registration (H1834) and Aitken and Looker, 2002, page 490
[xi] Watts, 1983, page 54
[xii] Watts, 1983, page 56-57
[xiii] Watts, 1983, page 54
[xiv] Dates from HVic registrations, http://www.ballarat.com/botanicgardens/gardens/history.htm and Roger Cousens
[xv] Watts, 1983, 59
[xvi] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xvii] Yule, 1974, page 323
[xviii] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xix] Shea, 1995
[xx] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xxi] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xxii] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xxiii] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xxiv] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[xxv] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website and Heritage Victoria file notes, unpub.
[xxvi] Kyneton Observer, 4th April 1872
[xxvii] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website

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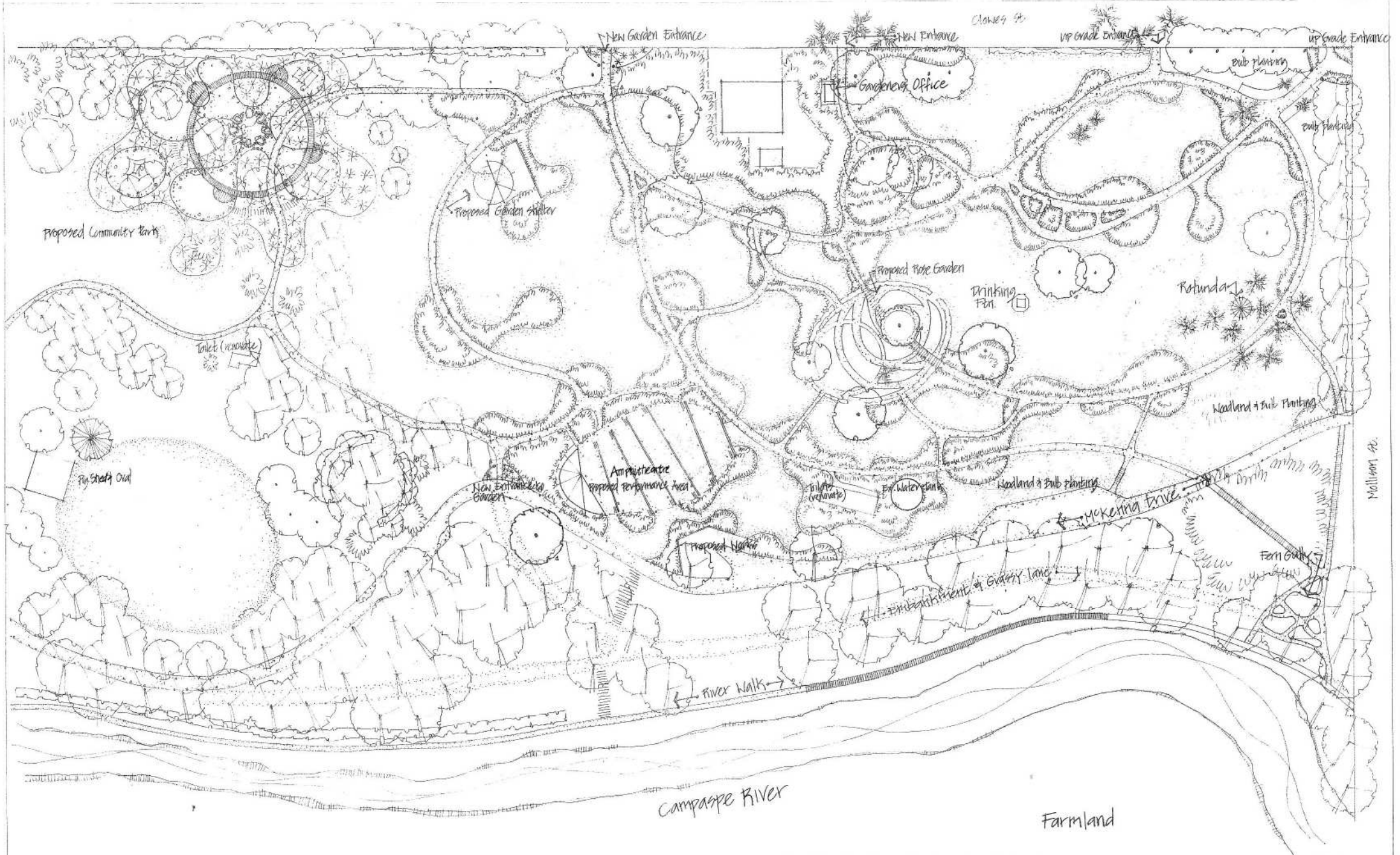
3 Master Plan Drawings

35 Yellowgum Road, Hoddles Creek, Victoria, 3139 ph: (03) 5967 4558 e: laidlawlaidlaw@bigpond.com.au abn: 42 180 283 161



KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN

PLAN 1: TRUE BOTANIC GARDENS AND FORM

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

PRODUCED BY LAIDLAW & LAIDLAW DESIGN

0m 10 20 30 40 50 100m

35 Yellowgum Road, Hoddles Creek, Victoria, 3139 ph: (03) 5967 4558 e: laidlawlaidlaw@bigpond.com.au abn: 42 180 283 161

KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN

PLAN 2: ENTIRE SITE Scale 1:1000 @ A1 / 1:2000 @ A3

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

PRODUCED BY LAIDLAW & LAIDLAW DESIGN landscape architecture, cultural heritage, horticulture, arboricultural consultancy
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4 Access, Use and Circulation

4.1 Public Use

Current Situation

The Botanic Gardens are primarily used by residents who live in the immediate neighbourhood and day trippers with a specific interest. The geographical location of the Gardens, away from the centre of town, limits their use by the wider Kyneton public, but there is considerable potential for increasing the Gardens' patronage, especially through capturing new user groups.

Large scale capital works are difficult to justify while the Gardens usage remains low; therefore a major role of this master plan is to recommend measures to increase the Gardens patronage. As visitor numbers increase the Gardens will be better placed to successfully apply for financial grants.

Incidental users primarily use the area along the Clowes Street frontage, where parking and facilities are good. There appears to be little use of other parts of the Gardens with the exception of the Campaspe River walk. Much of this walk was submerged / damaged in flooding in 2010/2011, but this master plan has been produced based on the assumption that repair works will be carried out and use will return to previous levels.

The proximity and popularity of the Campaspe River Walk is an excellent opportunity for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. This walking track is heavily used, and by a different user group to those that enter the Gardens. Despite its popularity, the River Walk is not circular, and a loop track through the Gardens could increase the use of both. If this trail included the Fern Gully, with its long flights of bluestone stairs, there is also the capacity for the Gardens to encourage the more active exercisers, like the Grey Garden off the Tan in Melbourne, or Jacob's Ladder in Perth. Other proposed developments, the Amphitheatre, Rose Garden and Community Park provide excellent opportunities for the Gardens to capture new user groups.

Recommendations

1. Increase the patronage of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

A primary recommendation of this report is that the managers of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens actively work to increase the Gardens' patronage. This should be supported through capital works, capturing new user groups and capital works projects as detailed in this master plan.

Opportunities which should be explored to achieve this aim include:

- Holding performances in the park such as theatre, movies and music concerts (facilitated by the new Amphitheatre)
- Encouraging the use of the Gardens by school groups
- Establishment of a farmers market
- Holding of a harvest food festival / longest lunch
- Weddings and other functions
- Linking in with the Daffodil Festival (facilitated by the new bulb displays)
- Using the Oval as an event space
- Encouraging the use of the Gardens by exercisers (facilitated by the new links to the Campaspe River Walk)
- Actively marketing the Kyneton Botanic Gardens as a place for events
- Marketing of the parkland as a place for off-leash dog walking
- Continue to hold the Teddy Bear's picnic in the Gardens
- Developing opportunities to link in with the network of regional botanic gardens
- Include the Botanic Gardens on any tourist walking or driving tours
- Encourage heritage and gardening tours (e.g. National Trust tree tours, Macedon Ranges open gardens)
- Discuss options with Tourism Victoria for a cross-shire self-guided tour/brochure of the botanical gardens of the goldfields
- Have the Gardens listed on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website as an event space

2. Increase the profile of The Gardens

The profile of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens should be increased by marketing the Gardens and using them for events. This should include piggybacking on other local events and festivals such as the Kyneton Daffodil Festival. The capital works proposed for the Gardens should augment the Gardens ability to do this, with the new Amphitheatre providing a performance space and the Rose Garden and Community Park providing tourism and marketing opportunities.

3. Implement the recommended capital works projects aimed at increasing the Gardens patronage

A number of capital works projects are recommended which if properly implemented will facilitate increased use of the Gardens and become marketing tools. Specific capital works which will increase the profile and use of the Gardens are as follows:

- Upgrades to the entries, path system and signage will ease access and circulation and encourage the use of the park by exercisers and incidental users
- The new Rose Garden will provide a tourism and marketing opportunity
- The new Community Park will encourage the use of the parkland by families and will increase the catchment area for Gardens' users
- The new Amphitheatre will provide a formal performance space (N.B.: performances should still be encouraged prior to the construction of the Amphitheatre)

Actions

1. Actively market the Gardens
2. Actively encourage the use of the Gardens for events, including exploring new opportunities
3. Upgrade the path system and link in with the Campaspe River Walk
4. Upgrade the Gardens' entrances
5. Improve the Gardens' signage

4.2 Circulation

Current Situation

Circulation within the Gardens is poor, with a general lack of cohesion. The path system does not allow visitors to systematically explore the entire site without doubling back on themselves or having to leave the path ways. Some areas of the Gardens, particularly the parklands, are not serviced by any paths, while other pathways terminate in dead ends. This is especially problematic in the former caravan park. Infrastructure from the caravan park blocks circulation from the true botanic gardens to the surrounding parkland, with its removal pedestrian flow between these two areas can be greatly enhanced.

Links into and out of the Gardens, as discussed above (section 4.3), are poorly realised, with a number of entrances not connecting to the path system. The Fern Gully circulates well within itself, but the area is in poor condition and does not connect well with the rest of the site.

Vehicle access within the site dominates and it is possible to rationalise this to reduce its impact. McKenna Memorial Drive, on the other hand, works very well in cleanly providing vehicle access through the site in an unobtrusive way.

A constraint on the modification of the existing path system is the heritage registration of the site. This registration covers a number of paths, especially within the former caravan park, which appear to be of relatively recent origin and are likely to be of little or no heritage significance. The removal of these paths will need to be approved by Heritage Victoria, and a Heritage Impact Statement relative to their removal may need to be produced.

Recommendations

1. Rationalise and connect the path system in line with the master plan drawings

The master plan for the site rationalises and connects the path system, acknowledging the earlier layout of the Gardens while providing better access and circulation throughout the Gardens. The revised path system:

- Restores pathways shown on the 1937 survey plan but since lost
- Provides a circulation route through the Gardens

- Provides access to additional parts of the garden
- Formalises desire lines
- Provides better connections into and out of the Gardens
- Connects Gardens' features
- Removes dead ends
- Restores the link between the true botanic gardens and the surrounding parkland
- Capitalises on McKenna Memorial Drive as a vehicle access point
- Reduces the dominance of vehicles within the Gardens
- Establishes a hierarchy within the path system
- Provides a number of linkages to the Campaspe River walk
- Diverts the eastern end of the Campaspe River walk into the gardens and along the picturesque former carriage way, now a grassy track. This replaces the section of the river walk which was severely damaged in the 2010/2011 floods.

Figure 12: The former carriage way which will become part of the river walk
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

The upgrading of the path system is a major capital works project for the Gardens and should be staged. It is recommended that as individual paths require upgrading or resurfacing that they be modified in accordance with the master plan. Paths should also be upgraded as part of other capital works projects such as the new Rose Garden, the Community Park or the installation of new garden beds. Additional upgrade works should be undertaken as funds become available, with priority given to pathways which address the access and circulation issues identified in this report.

Section 7.1 should be referred to for details on the materials and hierarchy of the path system.

2. Comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

All new features within the Gardens should be designed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. This includes toilet blocks, shelters, the Community Park, Amphitheatre and Rose Garden. Where possible general pathways should provide for disabled access and be designed and maintained to meet the relevant Australian Standards (AS1428 suite).

Actions

1. Upgrade the path system to reflect the master plan drawing.

4.3 Entries and Exits

Current Situation

Figure 13: Castlemaine Botanic Gardens' main entrance gates.
Gardens such as Castlemaine Botanic Gardens and the Fitzroy Gardens have good examples of inviting Garden entries. *Source: Heritage Victoria*

The majority of site entrances, especially to the true botanic gardens, are poor and do not reflect the quality of the Gardens which lie beyond. With the exception of the entrance gates at the Mollison Street / Clowes Street corner, which are valuable asset to the site, the remaining entrances are visually cluttered and / or uninviting.

The entrance gates to the Mollison and Clowes Street Corner are fine structures, and a valuable asset to the site. These form a good basis for developing a high profile and quality Gardens' entrance. The two smaller entries from Clowes Street also have good potential, being of an appropriate scale with pleasant views into the Gardens beyond. They are however cluttered with signage, with as many as four different signs (some repeating the same information) at the one point.

The entrance to the site at McKenna Memorial Drive is broad in scale, and lacks any separation between vehicles and pedestrians. This entrance is cluttered with signage, and appears more like a road way (which it is) than an entry point into the Botanic Gardens. The former caravan park entrance (opposite Ebden Street) suffers similar problems, especially in relation to scale. This entry lacks the intimacy and human scale of the entries further along the Clowes Street and is visually cluttered with signage and former caravan park infrastructure. This entry does however have good potential, especially as it is adjacent to the 1863 Oak and aligns with Ebden Street.

Kyneton Gardens' entrances. All poorly presented except for the Mollison Street entry gates. ***Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design***

Figure 14: Eastern Clowes Street Entrance

Figure 15: Main entrance (Mollison Street)

Figure 16: McKenna Memorial Drive Entrance

Figure 17: Former caravan park entrance.

Adjacent to the Campaspe River there are few entrances from the walking trail into the Gardens. The area adjacent to the Clowes and Powlett Street corner provides easy access into the Gardens , but there is little in the way of site boundary definition, and the area does not do justice to the Gardens beyond.

An additional problem with the entrances is their lack of connection to the existing path system. The McKenna Memorial Drive entrance, former caravan park entrance, western Clowes Street entrance and steps from the Campaspe River Walk all fail to connect to pedestrian pathways within the Gardens. Car parking is available along Mollison and Clowes Street, around the True Botanic Gardens and in good proximity to the entrances, but this, together with the limited parking provided along McKenna Drive, is not always connected to the path system.

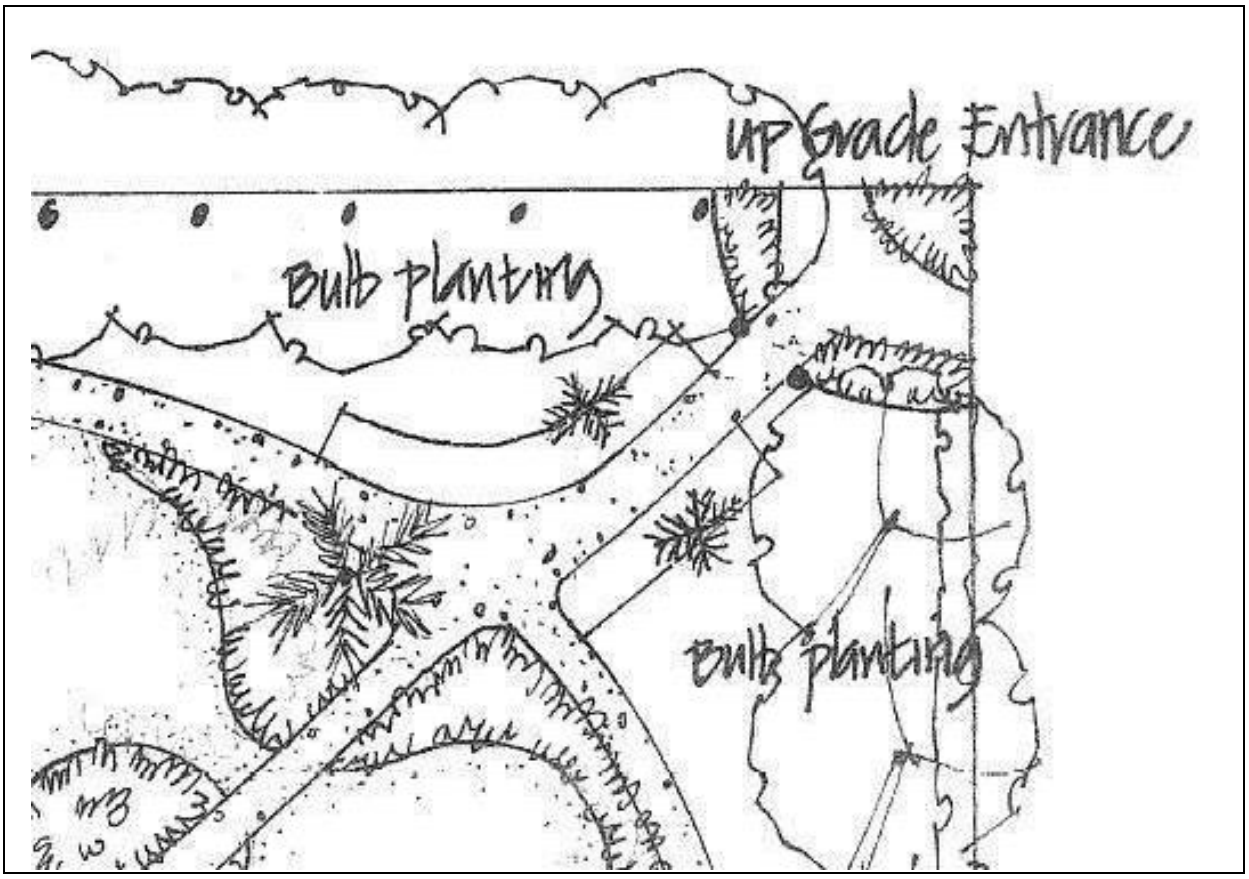
While the entrances to the Gardens have substantial problems at present, these are relatively simple to rectify, and improving the presentation of the entries would be a good start towards encouraging more people to use the Gardens.

Recommendations

1. Improve the presentation of all entrances

All entrances to the Botanic Gardens should be upgraded to more accurately reflect the Gardens beyond. The entrances should also split pedestrian and vehicle access and should be connected to the internal path system.

2. Develop the Mollison Street entrance as a show piece of the Gardens



Drawing 6: Mollison Street entrance gates and surrounding entry treatment

The Mollison Street entrance should be improved to make it a show piece of the Gardens. This is to be achieved through the appropriate maintenance of the existing structure and through the addition of new decorative garden beds.

It is recommended that the entrance gates be appropriately maintained and that the iron railings to the rear of the gates be removed (see page 75).

New garden beds are to include two running in front of the iron fence on either side of the gates and a new garden bed to the Clowes and Mollison Street corner. Planting to the garden beds should be low (up to 1m), and should reflect the planting design principles outlined in section 6.4. Plant selection should be botanically interesting and consistent with the Gardens' planting themes. It is important that planting at this entrance is successful, and it is therefore recommended that more experimental plantings be avoided in this location. The major entrance sign should be incorporated within the outer garden bed (closest to the street corner). If funds permit consideration should be given to providing feature uplighting to the entrance gates.

The thin garden beds flanking the entrance paths are to continue to be used for annual bedding displays. If these are considered to be too high maintenance then they are to be replaced with picturesque, dramatic planting with a similar character to more traditional bedding displays. Planting within these beds should be kept low.

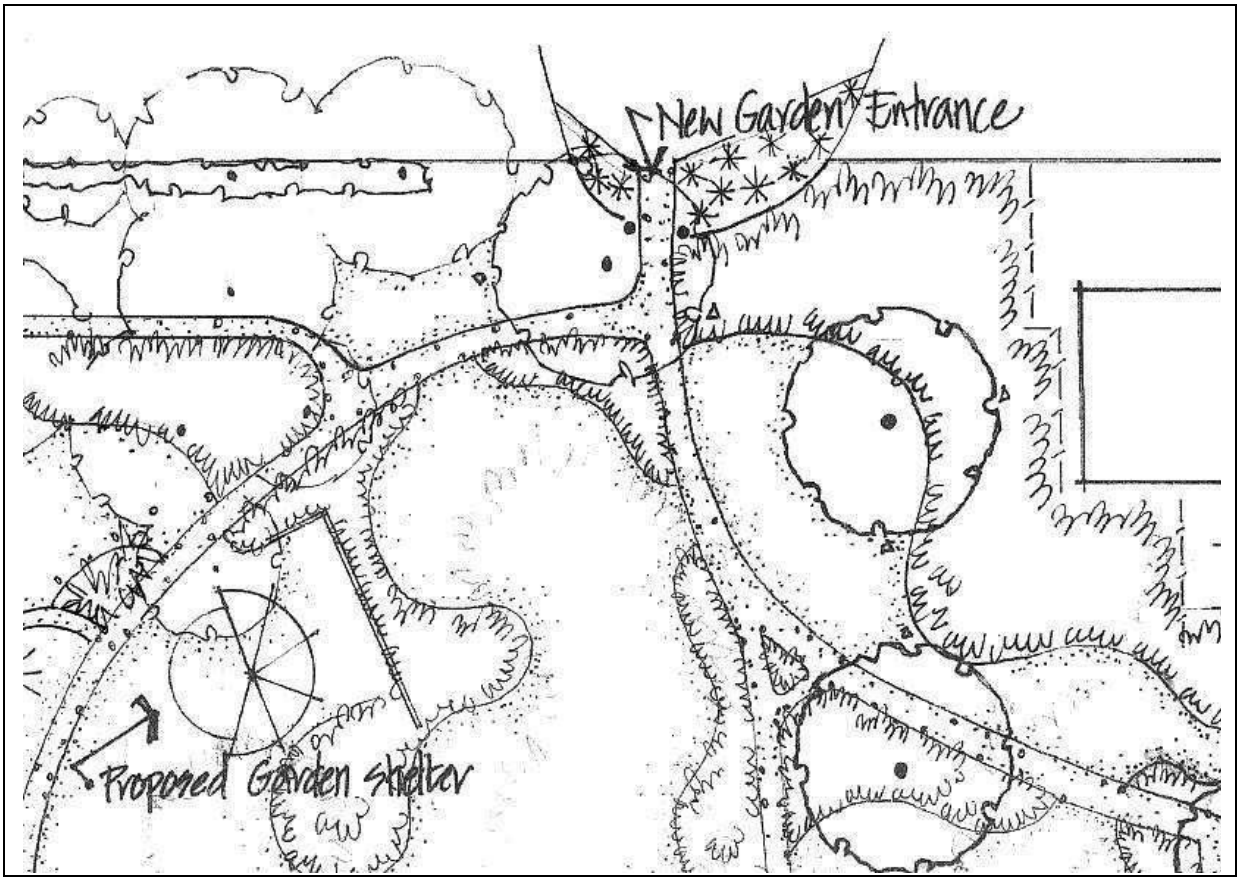
The planting beds within the entrance should tie in with the those outside the gates and should also be of a high quality. Planting within these beds should be taller than that outside the Gardens and should be strategically used to direct views. The existing Chilean Wine Palm should be highlighted as a feature of this area, and it is recommended that existing vegetation which impinges on the views of the palm be cut back or removed. If funds permit the Palm, should also be uplit.

The major sign within the Gardens is to be placed on the southern side of the entrance path junction. This sign is to be a replacement for the existing history sign, updated to correct any inaccuracies and to reflect the current status of the Gardens (see sections 7.9 and 9.2).

All tables and chairs should be relocated from beneath the avenue of cedars and placed with the Gardens parkland. The area beneath the Cedars should be mulched and maintained in a weed free condition, with planting beneath the trees being restricted to spring flowering bulbs due to problems with competition. All other garden plantings should be removed. In the unlikely event that the Cedars require removal within this master plan period they are to be replaced with the same taxa, and lawn and bulbs are to be established beneath the new trees. Bulbs are also to be planted in drifts below the elms south of the entrance. These drifts should be in accordance with the recommendations made in section 6.3.

As the Gardens major entrance and a showpiece, maintenance to the Mollison Street entrance should be higher than other parts of the Gardens.

3. Improve and upgrade the former caravan park entrance



Drawing 7: Former caravan park entrance and surrounding treatment

The entrance to the former caravan park is extremely unsightly and is to be upgraded. Vehicular access is no longer required through this entrance, and therefore it is recommended that the size of the entrance be down graded to give it a human, pedestrian scale. The entrance is to be reduced in width and the bitumen roadway removed and replaced in accordance with section 7.1.

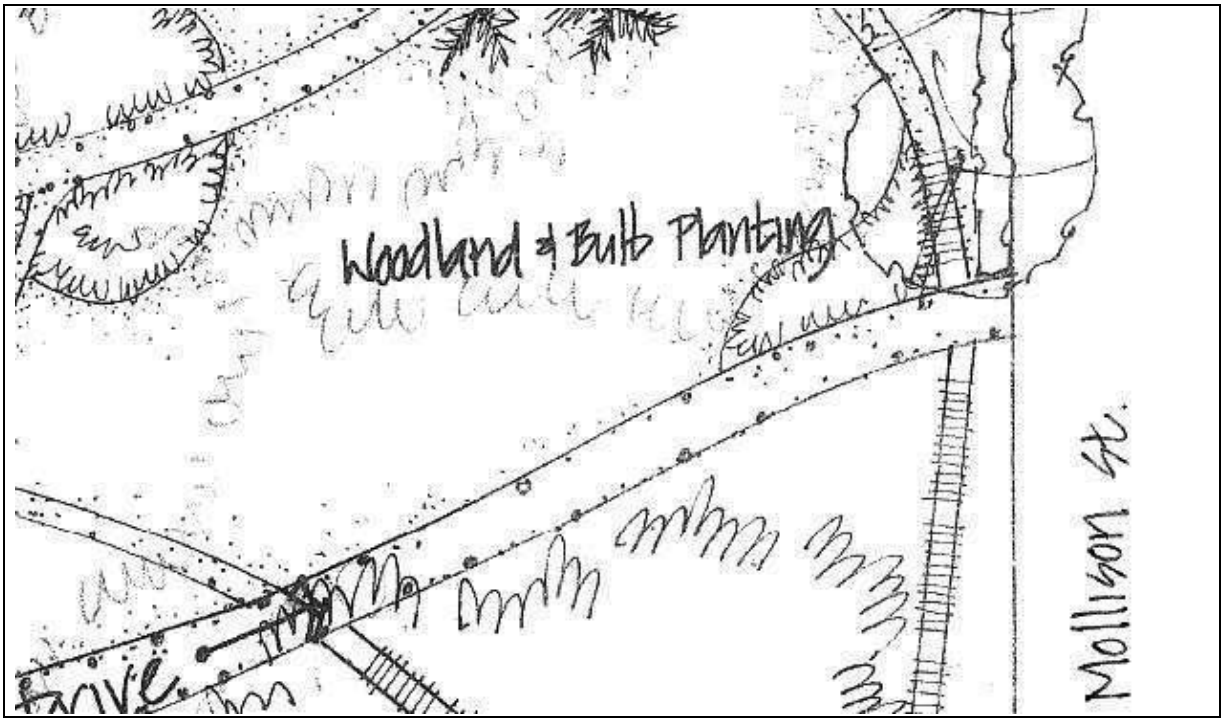
A new decorative entrance fence is to be established, possibly with stone pillars and wrought iron and paving details. New garden beds are to be established outside this fence. This planting should be decorative in nature and adhere to the planting design principles outlined in section 6.4. Bicycle racks are to be installed inside this fence.

The boundary fence east of the entrance is to be replaced with a picket fence in accordance with section 4.4 and thick planting is to be established to appropriately screen out the former care takers residence. The 1863 Oak and 1905 Oak are to be maintained and

highlighted as features of this area. If funds permit consideration should be given to uplighting the 1863 Oak so that it is visible from the street.

This entrance to the Gardens will be a major feeding point for the parkland and Community Park. As such, it should be appropriately maintained, but not to the same level as the Mollison Street entrance.

4. Improve and upgrade the entrance to McKenna Memorial Drive



Drawing 8: McKenna Drive entrance and surrounding entry treatment

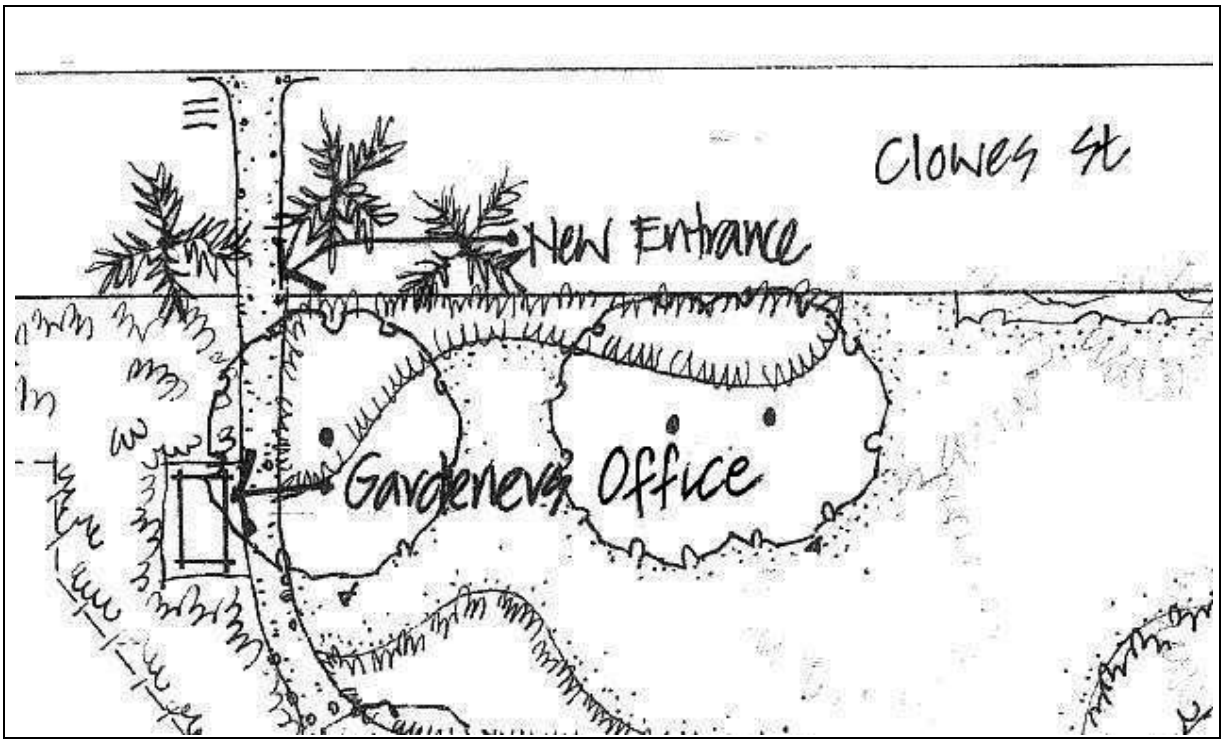
The entrance to McKenna Memorial Drive is poor, and reads more as a roadway than an entrance to the Botanic Gardens. This is to be addressed through reducing the width of the entrance and removing the upper bitumen access road into the Botanic Gardens. McKenna Drive is to be maintained as a through road.

The presentation of the drive is to be improved by reducing its physical and visual width. The upper bitumen roadway into the Botanic Gardens is to be removed and realigned with a narrow, gravel path as per the master plan drawings and section 7.1. An additional pedestrian path is proposed on the southern side of the McKenna Drive entrance to separate pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

The two memorial pillars are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, but are likely to be of low significance. If permitted by the Conservation Management Plan it is recommended that the southern pillar be moved further north to reduce the width of the entrance. Page 73 should be referred to for further details. The entrance to McKenna drive is an unsightly cacophony of signs. The necessity for these signs should be reviewed and where possible signage removed to reduce the visual clutter. Removal of the top roadway should reduce the need for some of these signs. Note: Road signage should only be removed where safe to do so and with the permission of the appropriate authority.

An additional link pedestrian path is to be brought into the entrance from near the rotunda. A garden bed is to be established around this path and should be planted in accordance with the planting design principles outlined in section 6.4.

5. Upgrade the treatment of the Clowes Street entrances



Drawing 9: Clowes Street entrances and surrounding entry treatments

The eastern Clowes Street entrance is to be upgraded and the western entrance closed and replaced with a new entrance adjacent to the Gardeners' Office. The presentation of both entrances is to be improved using small copses of palm trees established in the road reserve adjacent to each of the entrances. These palms are small in scale and typical of Victorian era plantings. Signage at both these entrances is to be simplified and rationalised as per section 7.9. The aim of this should be to reduce the number of signs and their visual impact. Both entrances are to connect into the path system, with pathways to extend out of the garden to meet the kerb. Bicycle racks should also be installed inside the fence in accordance with section 7.4.

6. Add garden beds to the McKenna Memorial Drive exit / Powlett Street frontage

The Powlett Street frontage to the site should be augmented by garden beds, intended to break up this area, define the exit to McKenna Memorial Drive, direct views and provide a sense of mass and void. Planting to these beds should be substantial in scale and adhere to the design principles outlined in section 6.4. These beds are located in the parkland and should not be highly decorative or require excessive maintenance. Care should be taken in the design of the beds to ensure vehicle site lines remain clear.

7. Develop a new Gardens Entrance at the western end of the Amphitheatre

A new entry to the Gardens is to be established at the northern point of McKenna Memorial Drive, beneath the western end of the Amphitheatre. This entrance captures users from the Campaspe Rive Walk, and links the grass walk along the river into the Gardens, making it a feature of the site.

8. Upgrade the Gardens' entrance at the western end of Oak Park

The transition of the Campaspe River Walk into Oak Park is to be upgraded to provide a sense of arrival into the Botanic Gardens and a visual link to let walkers know they have entered the Botanic Gardens precinct. This would be achieved by new signage and other garden furnishings such as bollards and possibly seating.

Actions

1. Upgrade the Mollison Street entrance
2. Remove the bitumen path and upgrade the former caravan path entrance

3. Relocate the western Clowes street entrances and add palm plantings to the Clowes Street entrances
4. Add decorative garden beds to the McKenna Memorial Drive exit point
5. Upgrade the McKenna Memorial Drive entrance
6. Establish a new entrance point in the centre of the site (west of the Amphitheatre)
7. Upgrade the Gardens' entrance at the western end of Oak Park

4.4 Boundary Treatments

Current Situation

The boundary treatments to the Gardens are generally good, providing an appropriate setting and a sense of enclosure. The northern boundary of Oak Park forms an excellent visual connection between the Gardens and the adjacent Victorian era residence. The lack of roadway between these two areas gives a delightful sense of the house sitting within the Gardens. Adjacent to this, the Garden boundary with Powlett and Clowes Street lacks definition, with the area being open, cluttered with signage and with a distinct lack of mass and void. Further along Clowes Street this is rectified by the presence of an elm hedge which provides excellent screening and a good sense of enclosure within the Gardens. The remainder of the Clowes Street Frontage is low key, providing good visual connection between the Victorian era street scape and the Gardens.

Kyneton Botanic Gardens' boundary treatments. *Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design*

Figure 18: Oak Park northern boundary with excellent visual connection to residence

Figure 19: the Powlett Street interface lacks definition

Figure 20: the Campaspe River and farmland beyond along the site's southern boundary

Figure 21: The elm hedge adjacent to Clowes Street provides an excellent sense of enclosure

The blue stone wall along Mollison Street is a fine structure which provides the Gardens with an appropriate sense of grandeur and separation from Mollison Street (a main thoroughfare). At its southern end the fern gully falls away and is considerably lower than Mollison Street. This creates a sense of enclosure in the Fern Gully and provides a shady, protected micro climate.

The Campaspe River runs along the site's southern boundary and is a dominant visual feature. The river is highly picturesque, with a number of fine views from the Gardens to the river and the farm land beyond. This adjacent land is zoned for farming, and is currently protected from sub-division under the planning scheme.

Kyneton Botanic Gardens' boundary treatments. *Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design*

Figure 22: the Mollison Street blue stone fence provides an appropriate sense of grandeur

Figure 23: Varied boundary treatment adjacent to the former caravan park entrance

Recommendations

1. Replace the fence along Clowes Street with a timber picket fence

The timber and chain wire fences along the Clowes Street frontage do not compliment the era of the Gardens and were probably a 1960s addition. It is recommended that the entire Clowes Street frontage to the extent indicated on the Master plan drawing be fenced with a timber picket as was present in the late 1800s. This fence should be a historical reconstruction if possible. The existing hedges within the fence should be retained and extended to cover the entire Clowes Street frontage, with the exception of the area beneath the existing Cedars.

The installation of this fence is likely to be a considerable cost to the Gardens and may be staged. Priority should be given to the length running from the former caravan park entrance to the Mollison Street corner.

2. Strategically manage vegetation to direct views to the Campaspe River

Vegetation between the Gardens and the Campaspe River should be strategically managed to maintain and frame views to the river. In particular, views to the river should be provided from key points within the Gardens (e.g. rises, path junctions, features). Vegetation management should be achieved through the judicious pruning and removal of existing vegetation and in careful design of any new vegetation plantings.

3. Provide definition to the Powlett Street frontage

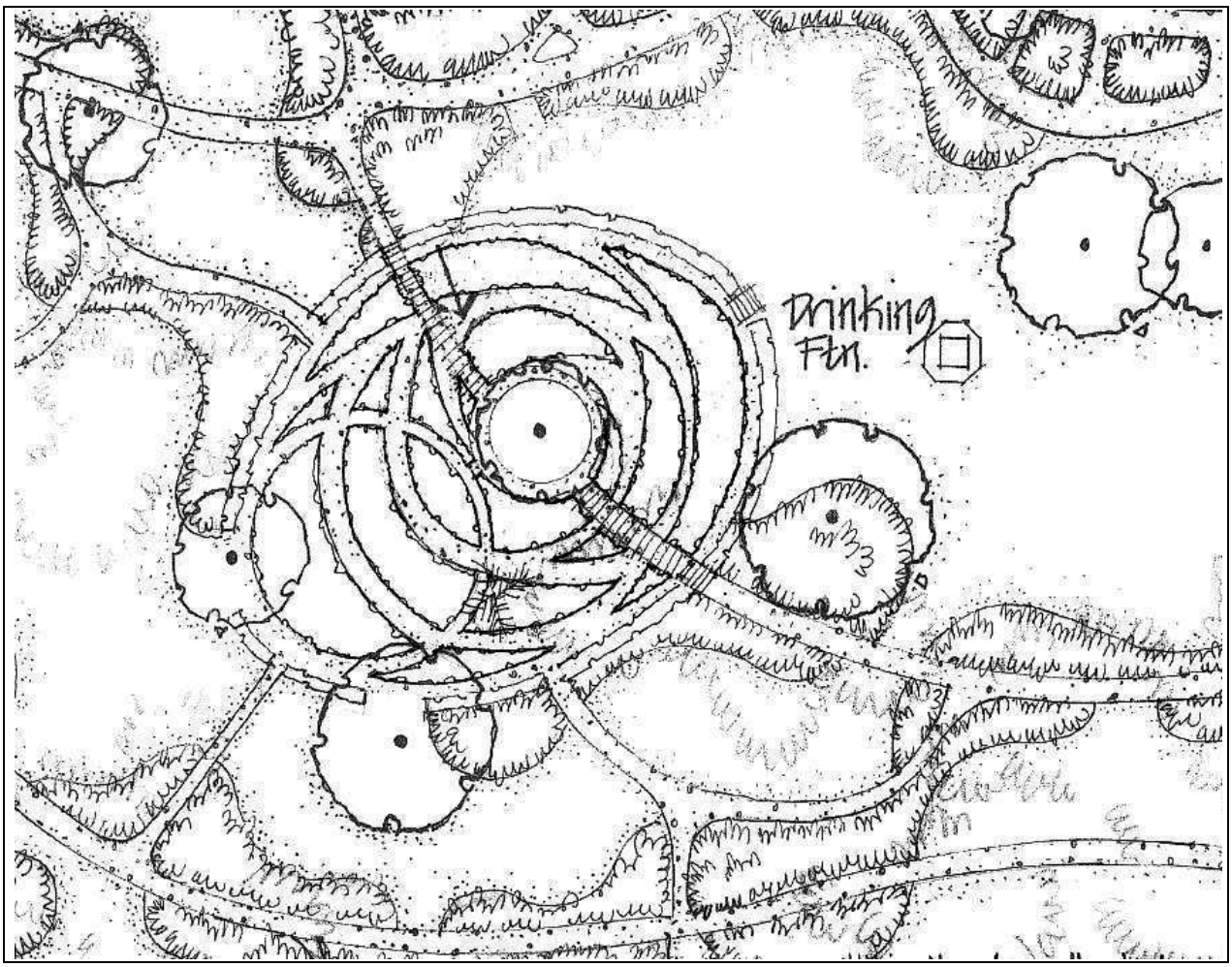
New garden beds are to be provided in this area to create a sense of mass and void and to provide better definition of the boundary. Signage in this area should also be rationalised, and appropriate entrance signage provided. This will be especially important once the new Community Park is established. Section 4.3, recommendation 6 should be referred to for further details.

Actions

1. Replace the Clowes Street fence
2. Strategically clear vegetation to provide views to the Campaspe River

5 New Landscape Projects

5.1 Rose Garden



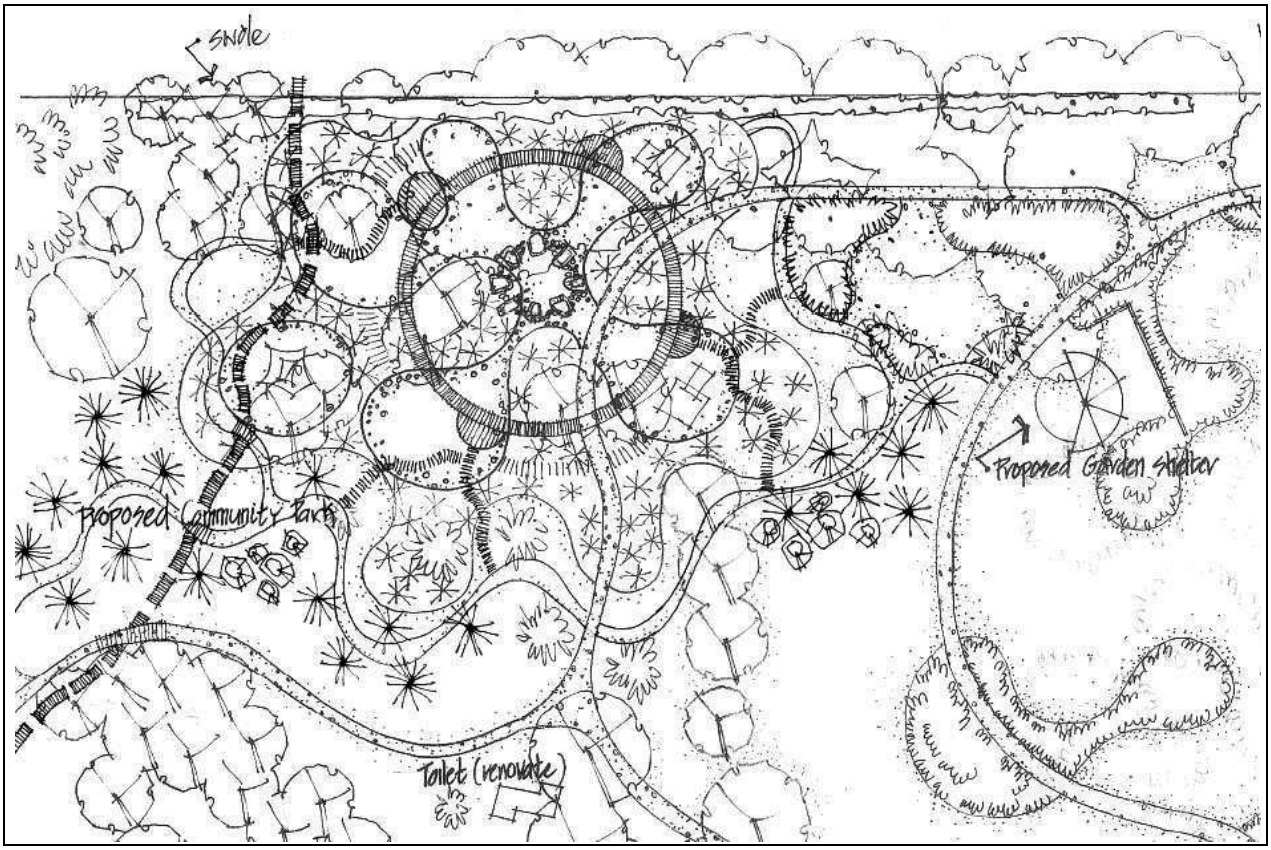
Drawing 10: The new Rose Garden

A new Rose Garden is proposed, replacing the existing rose garden and becoming a major feature of the Gardens. This new garden is to be contemporary in shape and design, while still incorporating the 1937 path layout and the existing significant trees. The existing rose collection will be relocated to within the new design. A new, contemporary steel arbour featuring climbing roses is proposed along the main walk into the Rose Garden. The entire Rose Garden and all associated features are to exemplary examples of good contemporary garden design and will require the involvement of professional designers. The design of the Rose Garden should compliment the existing Botanic Gardens.

Themed plantings within the Rose Garden should provide a point of difference to other rose gardens within botanical gardens (e.g. Melbourne, Geelong and Benalla). It is recommended that collections focus on Australian developed roses, especially those from local breeders such as Alistair Clarke. Additionally, the emphasis should be on early breed roses and ones previously known to have been grown in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, rather than new cultivars.

The Rose Garden should be promoted and marketed as a tourist destination.

5.2 Community Park



Drawing 11: The Community Park

The Kyneton Community Park Committee is proposing a park to be located within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. This master plan nominates a location and nominal design layout for this space at the western end of the former Kyneton Caravan Park.

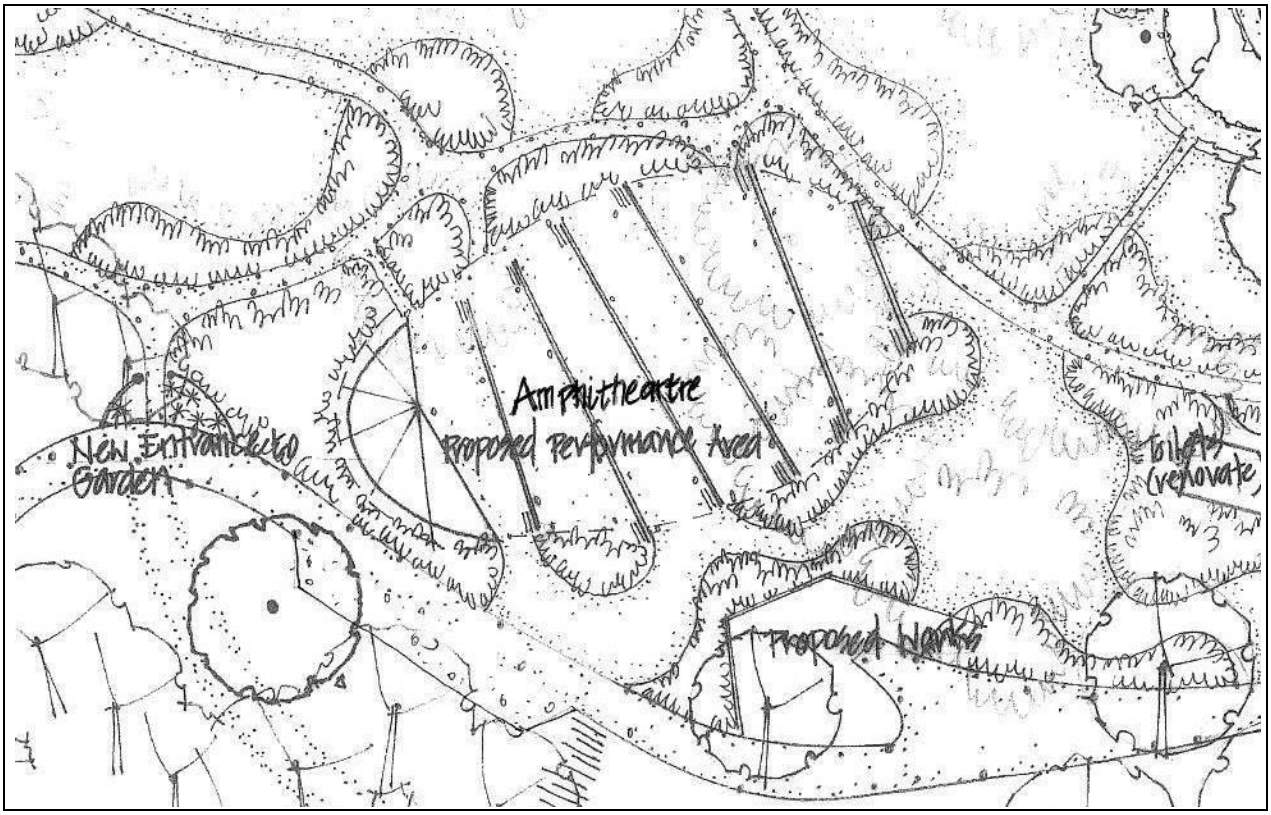
Design principals for the Community Park should have an emphasis on creative play and connecting children and their carers to plants. Extensive space should be provided within the park for planting, with this being developed in such a way as to foster an interaction between children and the plant material. This approach provides a point of differentiation from other regional parks, and maintains the appropriateness of the park within a botanic garden and ties it to its location. The space should aim to develop a garden for children and their carers to play and interact within, rather than focusing on the area simply as a play space.

The design of the park should be developed with a preference for natural materials such as rock, stone, sand and timber. Any built structures should be custom designed or carefully selected to meet this aim. Some synthetic materials would be appropriate, but structures should recede visually, and brightly coloured, off-the-shelf play equipment is not being appropriate for this space. The park has been designed to incorporate the Garden Shelter and provision is also made for a Pétanque terrain.

Planting design within the new park should adhere to the design principals outlined in section 6.4 and should have a special emphasis on plants which are both durable and evoke children's imagination. The new park will require the involvement of professional designers with a background in children's play spaces, intergeneration spaces and Botanic Gardens.

The new Community Park must be designed to protect the existing trees and preserve the heritage significance of the Gardens.

5.3 Amphitheatre



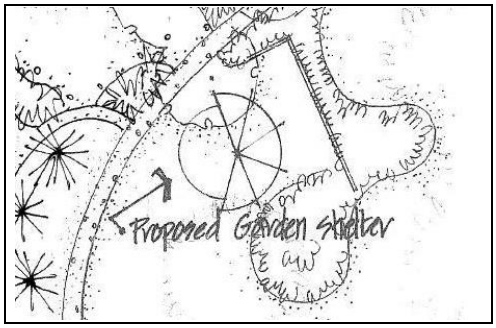
Drawing 12: The Amphitheatre

A new Amphitheatre is proposed for the southern portion of the former caravan park and utilises existing caravan park infrastructure. The proposal is for a tiered seating area incorporating the existing retaining walls, with a new covered stage at the lowest point. Power would be provided to the stage to allow lighting and amplification. The stage and performance area will require the input of an architect.

The existing blue stone retaining walls are to be retained to form the tiered seating around the Amphitheatre stage and will need to be modified as determined by the detailed design. New planting is to be provided around the Amphitheatre to define and structure the space. The entire area is to be professionally designed and should compliment the existing Botanic Gardens.

The Amphitheatre is to be established for use as performance space within the Gardens and should be marketed and promoted as such. Frequent use of the Amphitheatre should be encouraged, and will provide an opportunity to supplement the budget of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.

5.4 Garden Shelter



Drawing 13: The Garden Shelter

A new Garden Shelter is proposed on the location of the demolished former caravan park amenities block. The slab and retaining walls associated with the amenities block are to be retained and should be incorporated into the design of the Gardens Shelter. The shelter should be professionally designed by an architect and should compliment the existing Botanic Gardens, in particular the Community Park and Amphitheatre. Detailed design of this area should include both the shelter and its integration into the surrounding landscape. Visitor facilitates including seating, bins, taps, barbeques and possibly a coin heater should be provided at this point.

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6 Vegetation Management

6.1 Living Collections

Current Situation

Many of Victoria's botanic gardens established in the 19th century are now little more than pleasure grounds, with their role as Botanic Gardens with living collections being largely ignored. For these gardens to regain their relevance as "Botanic Gardens", greater emphasis must be placed on management of the living plant collections. According to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Living Plant Collection Plan, "*It is an essential feature of botanic gardens that they contain accurately identified, documented and labelled collections of plants for the purposes of conservation, reference, research, interpretation, education or pleasure. This is one feature of botanic gardens which distinguishes them from other public gardens and parks, and highlights their role as a valuable scientific and cultural resource*." Additionally, Botanic Gardens may have a role to play in the trialling of new species.

Figure 24: *Quercus leocotrichophora* and *Chamaecyparis funebris*, both on the National Trust Significant Tree Register
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Kyneton Botanic Gardens have good botanical diversity, and a particularly fine tree collection. The *Kniphofia*, *Viburnum*, *Quercus* and *Pinus* genera are all strongly represented, and have the potential to form the basis of botanical collections. Additionally, the strong climatic variations experienced in Kyneton give the site good potential for the establishment of plant trial collections. Despite all this potential, the Kyneton Botanic Gardens have not nominated any collections to the Australian Botanic Gardens Directory[i], do not have any registered with Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia, have no collection policy, very limited plant labelling and only a limited educational role.

Recommendations

An objective of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens is to position itself as a "Botanic Garden", not just a regional park. For the Gardens to achieve this, it is recommended that they actively manage plant collections and play a greater role in public education.

1. Actively Managed Plant Collections

It is recommended that the Kyneton Botanic Gardens develop a "Living Collections policy" to guide the establishment and management of its plant collections. The following points should be considered in the development of such a policy:

Determining the focus of collections

- The Gardens already have good botanical diversity which can be used to form the basis of any formal plant collections. The genera of *Kniphofia*, *Viburnum*, *Quercus* and *Pinus* are all well represented, as are tree conifers of varying other genera.
- The climate of the Gardens is relatively harsh. Collections should focus on plants able to tolerate hot dry summers, cold winters and extended dry periods
- The Gardens should work towards having collections registered by the Garden Plan Conservation Association of Australia.
- New collections should be locally relevant. Examples of this could include building on genera already present in the Gardens or local area, focusing on Victorian era plants, focusing on genera which are consistent with visual character of Kyneton and / or establishing collections of plants with local relevance (e.g. *Narcissus* - Daffodils, locally indigenous plants). Collections may also follow non-taxonomic themes such climatic, environmental or cultural collections.
- Consideration should be given to establishing collections which are relevant to domestic gardeners (i.e. focus should not just be on large trees)

Managing the plant collections

- Collections should be maintained in accordance with good horticultural practices
- Collections should be enhanced through the acquisition of the new taxa

- Up to date records should be kept of the provenance, identification and location of all plants in the Gardens. This should preferably be in electronic format (with appropriate back up)
- All plants should be accurately and clearly labelled
- Where appropriate, plant material should be shared with other gardens, nurseries or private growers

2. Plant Trials

In the past, the Kyneton Botanic Gardens were the site of trials for the State Nursery in Macedon. It is recommended that the Gardens again play a role in trialling plants, especially those which are uncommon in the Kyneton region but which are likely to perform well. Such trials have the potential to be of broad advantage to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, local residents and developers. Such information could be especially timely given the urban growth of nearby townships such as Gisborne. All plant trials will need to be supported by accurate record keeping.

3. Botanical diversity

While an emphasis should be placed on specific plant collections, general planting within the Gardens should also be botanically diverse and interesting. Plants should be selected on their ability to perform under the prevailing conditions, with a particular emphasis on the more rare and unusual. Using plants which are uncommon and have a strong "wow" factor should give a greater public perception of the site as a Botanic Garden, as opposed to just being another public park.

4. Education

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens should play a greater role in public education. This could be achieved through better labelled plants, more appropriate collections, a range of garden tours and better visitor interpretation.

It is recommended that he Gardens also develop school education programs, with tours and activities aimed at introducing children to plants and their importance in our lives.

Actions

1. Develop a "Living Collections Policy"
2. Develop and maintain collections in accordance with this policy
3. Establish plant trials
4. Develop a greater role for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens in public education

6.2 Tree Canopy

Current Situation

The tree canopy is arguably the Kyneton Botanic Gardens greatest asset, with the site containing an extensive number of large, old, rare and beautiful trees. Seventeen of trees or groups within the Garden are listed on the National Trust Significant Tree Register, one of largest collections of registered trees in the state[11] [ii]. Many of the Botanic Gardens' trees are in relatively good condition given their age and drought conditions, although the standard tree management problems faced by ageing gardens are starting to emerge.

Figure 25: Oak Park
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Many of Victoria's older gardens are facing the problem of the senescence of many of their original trees within a relatively short time frame. This is due to two reasons; firstly, many of the trees were planted over a short period of time, leading to little variation in the age of the population. Secondly, many of the trees popular during the Victoria era are being proven to have a life expectancy of approximately 80 to 120 years in this climate, this being especially problematic for poplars and non-Araucariaceae conifers. This puts many 19th century gardens at risk of losing much of their character and charm as their trees are lost. It also puts a heavy cost burden on managers, as older trees (and their young

[11] Behind The Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park (44 trees or groups), the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (35), *Alton* in Mt Macedon (24) and the Ballarat Botanic Gardens (19).

replacements) are more expensive to maintain, especially given the increased risk posed by trees as they decline. Implementation of a tree replacement strategy reduces these problems, but for it to be fully effective it needs to be commenced early in the Gardens' life.

Kyneton Botanic Gardens is fortunate, as it is not yet at the stage where the majority of the plantings are starting to senesce (die), although problems are already being faced with the older conifers, especially the Redwoods and Cedars. The majority of the trees within the Gardens are of a similar age and are well into maturity, and therefore it is highly recommended that a tree replacement strategy be developed and implemented without delay.

Although the tree canopy within the KBG is in relatively good condition, the site still has an obligation to manage the trees in respect to public safety. The age of the majority of the plantings makes this especially important, as a tree's structural integrity declines as it ages. Additionally, good arboricultural management can prolong the life expectancy of trees, and is therefore highly desirable in a site with such good arboreal wealth.

Recommendations

1. Regularly assess trees and carry out required maintenance works.

Regular arboricultural assessments are undertaken for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens covering all the mature trees. The aim of these inspections is to identify required maintenance works and manage risk. In the past these inspections have been carried out approximately every two years, but from now on will occur on an annual basis.

It is recommended that these inspections be continued and that recommended maintenance works be carried out.

2. Manage Risk

It is important that the Macedon Ranges Shire Council manage the risk posed by trees within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. Failure to do so could lead to damage to people or property and costly insurance payouts to council. The tree assessment as described above will allow council to identify problems and prioritise works. It is also important that adequate funds are available in the budget for identified works to be undertaken.

3. Undertake a specific arboricultural assessment report

Separate to the regular arboricultural reports described above, it is recommended that a specific arboricultural report be available for use as the basis for the Conservation Management Plan (see section 8.1 and page 79) and the Tree Replacement Strategy (point 4, below). This report should include all the information found in the general arboricultural assessment, with the following additional points:

- Assessment of all trees, including recent plantings (these will be important for the development of a tree replacement strategy). This also includes all trees within the surrounding parkland and on the embankment to the Campaspe River
- Accurate mapping of tree location
- Correct identification, wherever possible this should be at least to species level. It is especially important that trees of unusual taxa be properly identified.
- Tree age
- Tree amenity value
- The predicted Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) of the tree

4. Develop and Implement a Tree Replacement Strategy

It is recommended that a tree replacement strategy for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens be produced and implemented without delay. Failure to do so could lead to the wide scale loss of much the Gardens tree canopy in a relatively short time frame; as has happened elsewhere in Victoria.

The tree replacement strategy should be based on the specific arboricultural assessment described above and the conservation management plan (see section 8.1), and should consider the following points:

- The replacement strategy should give due consideration to the heritage value of the site. This does not necessarily mean replacing trees "same for same" (indeed this may be inappropriate), but consideration should be given for the existing character, style and species distribution.

- The replacement strategy must consider the problems posed by the existing tree canopy. Establishment of new plantings under existing trees is not advisable, even if it is possible, as the resulting trees will not be strong, healthy specimens which are an asset to the Gardens.
- From time to time it may be necessary to remove a relatively healthy tree in order to establish new plantings in an area. This is especially important for avenues and rows, where all plantings should be of a single age
- The replacement strategy should show tree removal over a number of time frames (e.g. immediate, 5 years, 10 years, long term retention), but should include enough flexibility to allow for changes
- The replacement strategy should aim to establish a mixed age population in the tree canopy. Generally speaking the age break down of 10% young, 20% semi-mature, 60% mature and 10% over-mature[iii] is considered to give a good age distribution and reduce management costs
- Specifications for planting and establishment
- The replacement strategy should also be reviewed on either a five or ten year basis

Once the tree replacement strategy has been produced MRSC may wish to submit it to Heritage Victoria for approval. If approved, all works in accordance with the strategy could be undertaken without further consultation with Heritage Victoria, making the implementation of works more efficient.

Actions

1. Continue to have trees assessed
2. Have sufficient funds in the Gardens budget to appropriately manage the risk posed by existing trees
3. Undertake a specific tree assessment to inform the tree replacement strategy
4. Develop and implement a tree replacement strategy
5. Consider submission of the tree replacement strategy to Heritage Victoria for approval

6.3 Shrubberies and Under plantings

Current Situation

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens is relatively devoid of under plantings, although historic photos suggest that this was not always the case, with photos showing a well maintained garden, with a dense, decorative shrub layer. Images on pages 16 and 18, as well as Figure 26 all illustrate this previous diversity.

Figure 26: Undated, c.1911 photograph of gardeners.
Source: State Library of Victoria

Over the years this diversity has been lost, as has occurred in many older Gardens. The shrub and ground cover layers are generally more fragile than the trees, and without ongoing and committed maintenance disappear over time. With the exception of some hedges, shrub planting is limited entirely to the true botanic gardens site and the Fern Gully. Competition from surrounding trees, especially as they reach maturity, also contributes to this loss, and re-establishment of a shrub layer within this competition is one of the greatest challenges to be faced by the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.

There is a distinct lack of cohesion in the shrub layer within the Gardens. This shrub layer should direct views, provide a sense of enclosure, bring the Gardens to a human scale and link spaces. The Fitzroy Gardens and Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne provide excellent examples of this. While there are shrub beds within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, they are poorly placed and lack cohesion. While it is acknowledged that funds are limited, re-establishment of an appropriate shrub layer in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens would give the site greater cohesion and public interest, and should therefore be a priority.

Recommendations

1. Re-establish an appropriate shrub layer within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens in line with the master plan drawing

The master plan proposes the establishment of a number of new shrub beds within the Botanic Gardens. The shrub layer of the gardens has been lost and restoring the planting layer evident in early photographs should be a priority for the following reasons:

- Provides a sense of enclosure
- Separates and link spaces within the Gardens
- Creates a more human scale
- Provides a planting layer relevant to the home gardener
- Directs views

The shrub layer should be concentrated within the true botanic gardens and the former caravan park, and gradually diminishes within the parkland edges. No new shrubberies are proposed within the broader parkland. A considerable number of new garden beds are proposed, and due to budgetary constraints installation will need to be staged. A plan showing staged garden bed implementation is provided on page 55

Planting within the garden beds should accord with the planting design principles described in section 6.4.

Figure 27: Failed shrub beds in areas with high levels of competition from mature trees.
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

2. Ensure a suitable water supply for all new garden beds

Irrigation water should be available for all new garden beds in line with the recommendations made in section 6.5.

3. Establish drifts of bulbs along the Campaspe River embankment

Drifts of bulbs are to be established as an under planting along the Campaspe River embankment as per the master plan. These bulbs are to be planted in drifts and should include a wide variety of species and cultivars. Daffodils in particular should be widely planted, with a special emphasis given to those cultivars developed by local breeders. Bulbs chosen for these drifts should be self-supporting, without the need for annual lifting and dividing. It is also recommended that Daffodil cultivars likely to be in flower during the Kyneton Daffodil Festival be widely planted.

4. Establish drifts of bulbs beneath the Cedar and Elm row at the Mollison Street entrance

Drifts of Daffodils are to be planted beneath the Cedar row at the entrance to the Gardens. As for the Campaspe River embankment, Daffodil cultivars likely to be in flower during the Kyneton Daffodil Festival should be widely planted. See also section 4.3.

Actions

1. Establish new shrubberies in line with the Garden Bed Staged Implementation Drawing
2. Plant bulbs along the Campaspe River embankment
3. Plant bulbs below the Cedar row

6.4 Planting Design

Current Situation

Planting design relates to the arrangement of plants within the beds, rather than the arrangement of the beds themselves. With the exception of the tree layer, planting design within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens is very poor. Even where good plant coverage is achieved, none of the shrub beds are examples of good planting design.

Figure 28: Examples of current planting design within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Figure 29: Examples of good planting design showing the use of colour, texture and form.
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Good planting design is also consistent with the Gardens role as a botanic garden, and can educate and inspire the community as to the use of various plants. Traditionally the Kyneton Botanic Gardens demonstrated examples of good planting design (see Figure 7), and restoration of this would help restore the Gardens to their former glory.

Recommendations

1. *Make good planting design a requirement for all new garden beds. Refurbish existing garden beds with an emphasis on good planting design as funds become available.*

Sustainable planting design is about the correct choice of plants to suit the prevailing environmental conditions and grouping plants with similar requirements. Planting should be aesthetically pleasing, with consideration being given to texture, form and colour, used in balance to create a visually interesting and pleasing effect. Within the true botanic gardens the planting design should have gardenesque tones, as

befits the 19th century origins of the place[12]. Plants selected should be botanically interesting and experimental plantings are encouraged away from the Gardens' main entrances.

The implementation of good planting design across the Botanic Gardens is absolutely critical if Kyneton is to maintain and develop a reputation as one of the State's finest regional Botanic Gardens. The climatic challenges of the Botanic Gardens, both macro and micro, mean this will not be a straightforward process and extensive trial and error will be required to determine what plant species will perform. Additionally, good planting design is a specialist area which requires skilful execution.

Implementation of this recommendation will require an ongoing commitment from the council for the roll out and maintenance. This will include engaging a skilled designer with a strong horticultural knowledge to undertake the design work and oversee the implementation, as well as employing suitably skilled horticultural staff to care for the finished Gardens.

Actions

1. Refurbish existing garden beds with an emphasis on good planting design

6.5 Irrigation and Water Management

Current Situation

Access to a reliable water supply is one of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens' largest issues. The Gardens currently have access to mains water, although this supply has been unreliable and particularly susceptible to being withdrawn in drought conditions. A 170,000L tank on site is currently filled from trucked spring water, which while reliable, comes at a considerable expense which is met through an emergency council grant (approx. $100,000pa). No water is pumped from the Campaspe River for use on the Gardens, and it is noted that Campaspe irrigators have received no water allocation for the past three years[iv]. No rain water is harvested from the rooves of any buildings.

Recently the Macedon Ranges Shire Council received funding for the supply of recycled water to its recreation and leisure facilities, including the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. This water will be Coliban Water Class C, and is expected to be available for use by late 2011. It is expected that the emergency grant for buying spring water will be withdrawn as soon as the recycled water becomes available. This water will not be available for use in the Gardens south of McKenna Memorial Drive, due to its proximity to the Campaspe River (use in this area, including the Fern Gully would breach EPA requirements). The use of recycled water through the remainder of the Gardens will also require careful management due to the higher salinity levels and restrictions on irrigation times.

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens have been proactive in the installation of mulch to garden beds and under the canopies of significant trees. Anecdotally, this has led to an increase in tree health. The Gardens have also been installing plants more suited to dry periods, such as the low water usage and cacti gardens (see Figure 28).

Irrigation to the Gardens is nearly entirely via overhead spray irrigation (bayonet sprays), which are manually coupled into an existing main line system fed from the water tank. Drip irrigation is only used in limited areas where water is supplied from plastic jersey barriers. The existing tree roots limit the Gardens' ability to install a full sub-surface irrigation system.

Recommendations

1. Planting design and selection should aim to reduce the reliance of the Gardens on irrigation water

Good plant selection is the single most important tool in managing the water shortage problems faced by Kyneton Botanic Gardens. All plants should be selected with an understanding of their water requirements, with preference given to plants which will require no supplemental water once established. When supplemental irrigation will be required, plants should be grouped in accordance with their water requirements. Plants with a low tolerance of dry periods should be avoided entirely unless there is a very strong historical imperative to use them or they are placed in naturally poorly drained portions of the site.

[12] This refers to gardenesque in the Australian context, not to the European definition.

As the Gardens are to be connected to recycled water it is also imperative that plants have a tolerance of the salt levels found in this water. There is little information currently available as to the salt tolerance of various species, however species with a known sensitivity should be avoided.

2. Mulch should be appropriately used within the Gardens

Mulch should be appropriately used in all garden beds across the site. Generally speaking mulch should be laid at a depth of 25mm and topped up every twelve months. This shallower depth provides better water infiltration than the depths traditionally prescribed. Where irrigation is also required sub-surface lines laid below the mulch layer should always be used.

There has been a policy of providing mulched tree rings within the Gardens. These rings may continue to be installed, but should be judiciously used. Generally speaking evaporation and rain fall infiltration will already be reduced below a tree's canopy, even without mulch. The use of mulch to aid water management in these situations may therefore be of reduced benefit, and has the negative effect of visually breaking up the continuity of the landscape. Further more, once the lawn is removed beneath tree canopies it will be virtually impossible to re-establish. This being said, it is acknowledged that mulch has many benefits beyond water management. Therefore it is recommended that a decision on whether to install mulch beneath a tree's canopy be made on a case by case basis and in consideration of these factors. If mulch is installed then sub-surface irrigation lines should also be included below the mulch layer.

3. Manage the use of recycled water

The use of recycled water for irrigation purposes is not a "cure all" for the Botanic Gardens' water shortage problems. If recycled water is used it will have an effect on the landscape[v], and the full implications of its use should be understood by both managers and grounds people. If damage is to be avoided the use of recycled water will need to be carefully managed.

Guidelines for the use and treatment of recycled water aim to protect humans and the environment, but may not be sufficient to protect sensitive plants. For landscape plants the most important factor is the salinity levels of the water, especially as specific salts can accumulate in the soil and therefore reach toxic levels. In particular chloride, sodium and boron can cause damage. Nutrient levels in the water are normally beneficial for plants[vi], but should not be allowed to leach into the Campaspe River.

It is recommended that a recycled water management plan be developed to guide the use of recycled water within the Gardens. This would include various measures to prevent salt toxicity such as plant selection, frequency of irrigation, method of irrigation, monitoring, soil testing, management of fertiliser application and flushing with potable water. This plan should be a practical document which can be directly implemented (i.e. not just a statement of policy).

4. Explore different sources of irrigation water

Creative sources for access to clean, quality irrigation water should be sourced. Options that may be considered include the installation of rain water tanks adjacent to existing buildings, pumping of water from the Campaspe River if conditions permit or installation of reed beds for the treatment of water on site.

5. Develop a water management plan

It is recommended that the Kyneton Botanic Gardens develop and implement a water management plan for the entire site with the aim of addressing the site's irrigation and long term water requirements in an integrated manner. This plan should include all measures appropriate to reducing the site's reliance on irrigation water and should also provide a long term strategy for providing a sustainable water supply to the Gardens. It should also address plant selection and the use of mulch.

Additionally, the water management plan should include a designed irrigation system for the Gardens. This system should be to the industry's best practice and should aim to minimise water usage within the Gardens. The management of recycled water should be included in this document.

Actions

1. Develop and implement a recycled water management plan
2. Develop and implement a water management plan for the site
3. Install mulched tree rings only as appropriate

[i] Fagg, 2010, Directory of Australian Botanic Gardens website
[ii] National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 2010
[iii] Royal Botanic Gardens, 1997, pg 112
[iv] North Central Catchment Management Authority, August 2009
[v] Nelda Matheny lecture, Nov 2009
[vi] Matheny and Clark 1999, page 39

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Drawing 14: Staged Garden Bed Implementation

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7 Built Environment

7.1 Paths

Current Situation

The paths within the true botanic gardens are all gravel with a concrete edge, the exception being the bitumen roadway running up to the maintenance shed. The concrete edge is approximately 125mm wide, and appropriately simple and understated; in keeping with the heritage significance and formal nature of the Gardens.

In the former caravan park most of the paths are bitumen and in serious disrepair. Other path surfaces in this area include un-edged granitic gravel and lifting concrete to the amenities block.

McKenna Memorial Drive is constructed of bitumen with a rolled edge. At the time of writing the draft Masterplan, the Campaspe River Walk was a combination of concrete, gravel with a timber edge and timber boardwalks with chicken wire to reduce slipping. This infrastructure was submerged / damaged when the Campaspe River flooded in 2010/2011. The Fern Gully gravel paths are edged with rough basalt rocks.

Recommendations

1. Maintain the paths in a safe, trafficable and presentable condition

All paths should be maintained to ensure that they remain safe (i.e. without trip or slip hazards), look presentable, and that the surface is smooth and even. The design and construction of any new paths should aim to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation.

2. Establish a hierarchy in the path system

The path system is to be established using a three tier hierarchy defined by variations in path size and materials. This hierarchy will aid circulation and orientation by providing visual cues as to the relative importance of various pathways. With the exception of maintenance vehicles, all other vehicle access is to be excluded from the main Gardens.

- Tier 1: Vehicle Access
  With the exception of McKenna Memorial Drive, all bitumen surfaces are to be gradually removed from the Gardens. McKenna Memorial Drive is to retain its current width and design (bitumen with rolled edges) and is to be the only path in the Gardens where general public vehicle access will be encouraged.
- Tier 2: Main Circulation Pathways
  The main circulation pathways are to be 3.5-4.5m wide with a granitic gravel surface and 125mm wide concrete edge to match the existing. Where the slope of the pathways is of concern the granitic gravel should be cement stabilised.
- Tier 3: Minor Access Pathways
  Minor Access Pathways are those which are not part of the main circulation routes but which are associated with various features (e.g. the Gardeners' Office and the new Rose Garden). These pathways are to be 1.5-2.5m wide with a granitic gravel surface and concrete edge to match the existing. Where the slope of the pathways is of concern the granitic gravel should be cement stabilised.

Section 4.2 should be referred to for details on implementation.

3. Realign the Campaspe River walk along the former carriage way

Actions

1. Upgrade the path system to establish a hierarchy

7.2 Toilets and Amenity Blocks

Current Situation

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens is well serviced in terms of visitor facilities, but a number of changes are intended. Two sets of toilet blocks are open, and will continue to be in the short term. The upper block is a c.1960s set located near the rotunda and the lower block is constructed of red brick and located adjacent to the oval. The toilet blocks are appropriately distributed, servicing both ends of the Gardens, however the upper block jars visually with the rotunda and is unfortunately situated on a rise, making it visually too prominent. The upper block is earmarked for removal.

Two amenity blocks from the former caravan park are still present. The first, located centrally to the caravan park and west of the care-takers house (lower amenities) is ear-marked for removal, although the slab and associated retaining walls are to be retained. The second set is located adjacent to the water tank (upper amenities) and was refurbished c.2007. Therefore this set will be retained as toilets to service the Gardens, although the block is currently closed. This amenities block will require modification to fulfil this need as it also provides showers, which will no longer be necessary, and is currently accessed by a coded key pad.

Recommendations

1. Remove the toilets adjacent to the Rotunda and the lower caravan park amenities block.

These amenities have been earmarked for removal by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. Removal of the toilets adjacent to the rotunda will remove the visual clutter, and allow the development of the rotunda as an appropriate focal point for the Gardens. The caravan lower amenities block is intended for removal by council, although the slab and associated retaining walls are to be retained. A new garden shelter is proposed for this location (see section 5.4).

2. Retain toilet block adjacent to the Oval

The set or toilets adjacent to the Oval are intended to be retained and will service the parkland area of the Gardens and new Community Park. This set should be appropriately screened with planting and linked into the path system. These toilets should also be modified if necessary to provide disabled access and should be upgraded, especially when the Community Park opens. The Kyneton Community Park committee have indicated that baby change tables are essential as part of this upgrade.

3. Convert the upper caravan park amenities block into public toilets.

It is recommended that the caravan park upper amenities block be converted into public toilets and that any access space be converted into storage areas for maintenance purposes. It is also recommended that as part of these works that the block be painted a dark colour to help it recede into the landscape. This toilet block would then service the upper portions of the Gardens, including the true botanic gardens. Due to the relatively isolated nature of this block it is important that it be well sign posted.

Actions

1. Remove the caravan park lower amenities block
2. Convert the caravan park upper amenities block to public toilets and storage for maintenance purposes
3. Remove the toilet block adjacent to the rotunda, including slab
4. Link the toilets adjacent to the Oval into the path system and provide appropriate screening planting (this should be done as part of the development of the Community Park)

7.3 Infrastructure

Current Situation

Fences

The Gardens boundary and internal fencing is varied. External boundary fences include the fine bluestone wall to Mollison Street, a low tubular steel and woven wire fence to Clowes Street (variously left untreated, surrounded by a privet hedge or painted white), and a white timber slat fence near the former caravan park. Within the Gardens screening fences are of extremely poor quality and are an eyesore. These include a colour bond steel fence to the former care takers residence and a diagonal slatted screen at the upper amenity block.

Fire, electrical and water services

Infrastructure associated with fire, electrical and water services is still present within the former caravan park. The fire and electrical infrastructure is large and visually intrusive and should if possible be screened by planting or, where it is no longer required, removed. The water infrastructure is less visually intrusive, but should be still rationalised and the un-necessary taps removed.

Retaining Walls

Retaining walls are primarily located within the former caravan park and are constructed from bluestone pitchers. Additional retaining walls are located along McKenna Memorial Drive and around the Gardeners' Office. These walls were probably constructed c.1960s, around the same time as the bluestone edging. In a number of places these retaining walls are necessary and should remain. In the former caravan park the retaining walls were used for terracing the area for vans. Now these terraces are no longer necessary the walls can be removed.

Figure 30: Retaining walls within the former caravan park
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Stairs

There are a number of stairs within the Gardens, and with the exception of the Fern Gully, most are poorly executed. The stairs leading up to the Gardeners' Office are completely out of scale and should be removed. A second set of stairs from McKenna Memorial Drive fail to connect into the path system, and therefore are of limited benefit and should also be removed. The stairs to the Fern Gully are discussed specifically on page 70.

Recommendations

1. Develop a standard screening fence detail and replace existing fences

Existing visually intrusive screen fencing should be removed and replaced with a suitable fence detail. This includes the fencing to the former caretakers residence and the upper amenities block and water tank. Screen fencing within the Botanic Gardens should be understated, yet of a suitable scale to fulfil it's required purpose. Elements which should be appropriately screened include the works area (following relocation), the upper amenities block and water tank and the former caretakers residence.

2. Audit service infrastructure and keep only that which is necessary

The service infrastructure from the former caravan park is an eyesore. Fire, electricity, water and sewerage infrastructure should be reviewed with the intent of only retaining that which is strictly necessary. The above ground, visual portions of all remaining infrastructure should be removed. Any service infrastructure that is retained should be appropriately treated to soften its visual impact. This could be achieved through screening planting or fencing. Taps and electrical outlets should be placed on natural timber pedestals, with the vivid white posts being removed.

3. Remove terrace retaining walls to caravan park

Retaining walls should be removed except where they are to be used within the new Amphitheatre or where they have a structural purposed. Care will be required when removing retaining walls to ensure that tree roots are not damaged.

4. Develop and implement a standard stair detail

A standard stair detail should be developed for use across the site. This detail should be implemented wherever detailed design indicates stairs are necessary. Existing stairs should be modified to meet this detail, however the stairs to the Fern Gully should not be altered for heritage reasons.

Actions

1. Audit service infrastructure and remove majority. Treat remaining infrastructure to reduce visual impact
2. Remove terrace retaining walls to caravan park
3. Replace screen fencings
4. Develop a standard stair detail
5. Replace existing stairs with new detail

7.4 Garden Furnishings

Current Situation

Garden bed edging

Bluestone pitcher edging is used for a number of garden beds in the true botanic gardens (see Figure 28). The edging appears to have been installed c.1960 and is of no significance to the Gardens[13]. Two c. 1911 photographs (see Figure 26, page 48 and Figure 5, page 16), show edging being either lawn (clipped and unclipped), plantings or rough stone. There is no evidence of the bluestone edging in a 1953 or 1960 photograph of the Gardens[i]. Historically the bluestone edging is inappropriate as it is the replacement of an earlier edge treatment and is historically confusing (appears to be original when it's not).

Sculpture

There are two sculptural pieces within the Gardens. The first is a high quality community art project, "Fetching them in", which is a bronze sculpture of a sheep dog and two sheep. This piece is an asset to the Garden and should be retained in its current location.

The second sculptural piece is a painted wire mesh "big daffodil" with an associated sign which allows people to have their photos taken with faces as the centres of daffodil flowers. This piece is tacky and not in keeping with the general character and aesthetic of the Botanic Gardens.

Figure 31: "Fetching Them In" (top) and the "Big Daffodil" (bottom)
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Barbeques

There are two barbeques on site, one near the "Fetching Them In" sculpture and one under a run-down shelter in the former caravan park. The first barbeque is constructed of green metal and is currently out of order. The second set is of besser block construction and are both poorly located and unsightly. The use of barbeques is generally inconsistent with the character and use of the true botanic gardens but is completely appropriate within the surrounding parkland, where they could be a visitor draw card and augment the new Community Park.

Drinking Fountains

The only drinking fountain is the historic Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain in the centre of the true botanic gardens. More should be provided, especially in conjunction with exercise facilities. There are no provisions for dog drinking bowls.

Picnic Tables and Chairs

Picnic tables and bench seats are scattered across the true botanic gardens, around the Oval and along the Campaspe River Walk (note, the extent of damage to these following the flooding is unknown). A small number are also present within the former caravan park. As a general principal the provision of tables and chairs is highly appropriate and a necessary facility for public parks, however there is a lack of consistency in the style of furnishings within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. The following styles of furniture are found within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens:

- Concrete picnic tables with built in bench seats. These tables are variously coloured blue with an unpainted base, green with a yellow base, and unpainted.
- Hexagonal concrete picnic tables with six built in stool seats. In some cases only one stool is present. Surface colours include green, white, brown, green and unpainted
- Powder coated heritage green metal tubing tables with bench seats (single piece, fixed) with timber slat tops and seats

[13] Anecdotally the bluestone came from the Sale Yards around 1959-1960s. Source: Barry Murphy, Friends of Kyneton Botanic Gardens. A 1960 photograph of the Gardens does not show any of this edging.

- Rustic Style bench seats with timber slats and wrought iron arms. These arms are variously painted heritage green or a rust red. These seats are generally tasteful and in good condition
- Timber bench seat on wrought iron frame (without arms)
- Timber bench seat on a metal frame (without arms) along the Campaspe River Walk (pre-flooding)

Lighting

There is minimal lighting to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. Lighting should be included at all major entrances and wherever possible to uplight selected features. This could give the Gardens a presence in the evenings and improve safety.

Rubbish Bins

There are only four rubbish bins located across the site. Three are heritage green powdered coated steel with square cut-outs and are located within the true botanic gardens. The forth is a small, green cylindrical bin located near the big daffodil. The lack of rubbish bins in the lower portions of the site is a concern, and should be increased, especially once the Community Park is established.

Bollards

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens contain a cacophony of bollards, especially within the former caravan park. These come in numerous styles and colours and are great contributor to the visual clutter of the Gardens. The white bollards are particularly intrusive. With the removal of the caravan park many of these bollards are now redundant. The following styles of bollards are found within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens:

- Square timber posts painted white
- Square timber posts painted heritage green
- Square steel posts painted white
- Unfinished treated pine
- Small, tubular steel white bollards associated with services
- Treated pine posts painted heritage green with white tops
- Narrow tubular steel painted white
- Square, heritage green timber bollards with pyramidal tops and groove detail.

Bicycle Racks

There are no bicycle racks in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.

Figure 32: Existing furnishings
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Figure 33: Existing bollards
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Figure 34: Kyneton Botanic Gardens c. 1911. Note the seat detail
Source: Kyneton Historical Society archives (via Roger Cousens)

Recommendations

1. Develop a suite of design details for use across the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

It is recommended that a suite of design details for garden furnishings be developed for use across the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. These details could have a historical reference, but this should be based on evidence, not speculative reconstruction. Alternative options are to adopt standard council designs for use within the Gardens or have a custom suite of details professionally designed. It should be noted that only one historical photograph viewed as part of the master plan process included site furnishings. The developed design styles should consider the recommendations made in below points 2 through 9 and should include edging, barbeques, drinking foun*ains, tables and chairs, bench seats, lighting, bicycle racks, rubbish bins, paths and bollards.

2. Remove bluestone garden bed edging and replace with mild steel or rough rock work

Bluestone edging should be gradually removed and replaced with a mild steel edge of a consistent style. All edging should create garden beds which sit flush with the surrounding lawns or paths. Garden beds should be edged with concrete where they meet paths (see section 7.1 for pathway design). The use of mild steel produces a similar effect to the original clipped lawn edges but requires less maintenance. The bluestone is to be reused elsewhere in the gardens, but not for edging (e.g. walling would be appropriate).

In two areas of the Gardens the rough stone rock edging is to be used instead of mild steel. These are in the fern gully (where this rock work still remains) and the two annual beds either side of the main entrance. The edging to these beds is to match that illustrated in Figure 35.

Figure 35: Kyneton Botanic Gardens unknown date. Note the stone edge detail
Source: Kyneton Historical Society archives (via Roger Cousens)

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3. Remove the "Big Daffodil"

The "Big Daffodil" is gaudy and inappropriate. It is recommended that it be removed, together with the associated sign and garden bed and that the structure be offered to the community.

4. Remove barbeque from the true botanic gardens and install more barbeques in the associated parkland

It is recommended that the single barbeque (which is currently out of order) be removed or relocated to the parkland portion of the site. Additional barbeques should also be installed in this area to encourage people to use this portion of the site. Barbeques should be relocated near picnic tables (either existing or new) and the new Community Park.

5. Install additional drinking fountains

Additional drinking fountains should be installed, especially in conjunction with the Campaspe River Walk and the proposed Community Park. Consideration may also be given to providing dog drinking bowls and taps.

6. Develop a standard detail for all tables and chairs and implement across the site

Tables and chairs across the site are of varying design styles and although plentiful do not beautify the site. It is recommended that a consistent design style be adopted and that this is gradually rolled out across the site. All new tables and chairs should conform to this design and existing site furnishings should gradually be replaced to match as funds permit. Priority should be given to replacing tables and chairs within the true botanic gardens, while inconsistent furnishings can be moved into the surrounding parkland until funds are available for their replacement.

7. Install lighting

Overhead lamps should be provided at all Gardens entrances for safety and to give the Gardens presence. This safety lighting is a priority for the Garden, feature mood lighting may also be provided and would add to the aesthetic appeal of the Gardens, but is a low priority. Proposed feature lighting could include uplighting the Mollison Street entrance gates, Rotunda, Gardeners' Office, Chilean Wine Palm and 1863 Oak tree. All uplighting should be low voltage to protect tree roots.

Once the Amphitheatre is constructed overhead lighting should also be provided from McKenna Memorial Drive to this feature. Additional lighting could also be provided to the former caravan park entrance if the necessity arises.

8. Develop a standard detail for rubbish bins and increase their number

All rubbish bins installed across the site should be to a standard design style, additionally bins should be supplied for both rubbish and recyclables. The number of rubbish bins across the Clowes Street frontage should be reduced due to their visual intrusiveness, with additional bins installed near picnic tables within the parkland. Additional rubbish bins will also be required once the Community Park is established.

9. Remove bollards across the site except where strictly necessary

As a general approach the use of bollards to control traffic within the Gardens should only be adopted as a method of last resort. Where possible, creative means to control traffic flow should be implemented such as terminating roadways (rather than providing thoroughfares) or installing garden beds. Additionally, bollards should not be speculatively placed and should only be used where there is a definite problem with traffic control.

All excess bollards should be removed as a matter of high priority. Where bollards are absolutely required they should be of a consistent design style developed for use across the site. This design should be for a sturdy but appropriately understated bollard. Under no circumstances should it be white in colour due to the high visual intrusiveness.

10. Install bicycle racks

Bicycle racks should be installed at the Clowes Street entrances to the gardens.

Actions

1. Develop a suite of design details for use across the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
2. Ensure all new site furnishing conform with the design suite and gradually replace existing furnishings to match

3. Remove excess bollards across the site
4. Remove the "Big Daffodil" and associated infrastructure
5. Remove the barbeque and one rubbish bin from the true botanic gardens
6. Install additional barbeques, rubbish bins, drinking fountains and taps in the parkland, especially in association with the tables and Community Park
7. Replace the existing garden bed edging
8. Install lighting, especially once the Amphitheatre is constructed
9. Provide drinking fountains to the Campaspe River Walk

7.5 Specific Garden Beds

Current Situation

Within the true botanic gardens there are a number of garden beds containing themed plantings. This type of planning arrangement is what helps distinguish a Botanical Garden from a standard park, and therefore these beds have an important function. However, the beds within the Gardens are generally poorly placed and designed. A number of these beds are recommended for replacement, however the intent of having special purpose garden beds should be retained and existing plants may be relocated. Special purpose beds within the Botanic Gardens include the *Kniphofia* (Red Hot Poker) collection, daffodil garden, rose garden, herb garden, low water use garden and cacti gardens.

Recommendations

1. Retain themed planting beds within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

The concept of themed planting beds in the context of this master plan should be retained. These themed beds should be incorporated into the Gardens' and integrated into the over all design. Where garden beds containing collections are recommended for removal, the plants within them can be relocated to these new, strategically designed beds.

2. Remove the Kniphofia beds, herb garden and existing rose garden and replace with a new, purpose designed Rose Garden.

This proposed new Rose Garden is discussed under capital works (section 5.1) and will be located in the location currently occupied by the Kniphofia beds. Herbs and roses from the existing gardens, together with the rose climbing frames can be incorporated into the new design. The Kniphofia collection will be relocated to another area within the garden, with the exact location of this to be determined as part of the detailed design stage.

3. Relocate the low water usage, Daffodil and Kniphofia collections

Plants within the low water usage garden and the Daffodil and Kniphofia collections should be relocated to other portions of the Gardens. The new location of these themed plantings should be determined as part of the detailed design required to implement this master plan. The daffodil collection should be relocated to one of the bulb drifts described in section 6.3.

4. Establish new themed garden beds

New themed garden beds should be established as part of the general shrub planting across the Gardens. Themes used should adhere with the principals outlined in section 6.1 and planting should be well designed.

Actions

1. Relocate existing plant collections into the new garden beds
2. Ensure that new themed plantings are installed as part of general Gardens development

7.6 Miscellaneous Gardens Structures

Current Situation

Timber Arch

A small timber arch, painted burgundy and cream is located between the work's area and Kniphofia beds. This arch appears to have been designed to support climbers, however the shady micro-climate of the area means that it is unlikely to be able to fulfil this role. The arch is poorly located, as it leads directly to the visually intrusive works building.

Figure 36: Existing timber arch
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Water Tank

A 170,000L water corrugated iron water tank is located adjacent to the upper amenities block. This structure is screened by the same timber fence as the amenities block on the north and east, and is isolated by a wire mesh fence on the south. The tank itself is not visually intrusive, although the timber screening fence is inappropriate.

Play Equipment

Play equipment has been a traditional feature of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, with swings and see-saw located in centre of the Gardens from 1889; adjacent to where the Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain was later placed. The Gardens contain one set of swings less than fifteen years old with soft fall mulch beneath.

Caravan Park Shelter

A simple steel shelter with a corrugated iron roof is located within the former caravan park. This shelter is unattractive and run down. The single barbeque in this area is located beneath the shelter, as is a picnic table.

Bin Collection Area

A timber fenced area surrounding a concrete slab and with garden bed on three sides is located adjacent to the "Big Daffodil". This may have been a bin collection area associated with the former caravan park.

Recommendations

15. Remove the Timber Arch

The timber arch falls within the new Rose Garden and therefore should be removed.

2. Appropriately screen the Water Tank

The woven wire mesh fence to the rear of the water tank is appropriate, but should be planted with a climber capable of completely covering the fence. The timber fence to the front of the water tank is visually intrusive and should be replaced, preferably using the same woven wire fence and climber as to the rear.

3. Remove the swings once the Community Park is established

The swings add little to the amenity value of the Gardens and would be best removed once the Community Park is established. In the interim the swings should be retained and appropriately maintained to meet safety standards.

4. Remove the caravan park shelter

The caravan park shelter is visually intrusive and should be removed along with any associated infrastructure.

5. Remove the bin collection area

With the removal of the caravan park this structure is now redundant and should be removed, together with the concrete slab and garden.

Actions

1. Remove the caravan park shelter and associated infrastructure
2. Remove the bin collection area and associated infrastructure
3. Plant climbers to the water tank mesh fence
4. Replace the timber screening fence to the water tank
5. Remove swings once the Community Park is established
6. Remove the timber arch when the Rose Garden is developed

7.7 Maintenance Infrastructure

Current Situation

Maintenance vehicles access the site via McKenna Memorial Drive, taking the right hand side bitumen road to the maintenance building within the Gardens. The maintenance shed is a large structure, partially corrugated iron, partially timber and painted heritage green. An additional smaller, pale green garden shed is located hard against the larger shed's northern end. These structures are visually intrusive.

Vehicles park on the road way near the upper amenities block. While it is acknowledged that it is important for maintenance vehicles to access the Gardens, parking vehicles where they are visible within the Gardens is undesirable and detracts from their amenity value.

Figure 37: Council vehicles within the Gardens
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Downgrade the "roadway" into the maintenance area.

The driveway into the maintenance area presents as a road (which it effectively is) and intrudes upon the McKenna Memorial Drive entrance to the Gardens. It is recommended that this road be downgraded in both materials and width, so it allows access by maintenance vehicles but does not dominate the landscape or look like a road way. The new "path" should be 3.5-4.5m wide with a granitic gravel surface and concrete edge as per section 7.1.

2. Relocate the existing maintenance shed to a less obtrusive location

The existing maintenance shed is visually intrusive and centrally located within the Gardens. It is recommended that this shed be relocated to the space indicated on the master plan drawing. It is acknowledged that this relocation will be a low priority and therefore it is recommended that it take place when the new Rose Garden is developed or when the existing shed is scheduled for renewal, whichever comes first. The maintenance shed should not be retained in its existing location once the new Rose Garden is developed.

Staff car parking should be supplied in conjunction with the new works area. The works shed and associated parking should be appropriately screened so it is not visible from within the Gardens. The Fitzroy Gardens provide an excellent example of how this can be achieved, with a large works area being almost invisible from the Gardens. Any screening fencing should be in accordance with the description provided in section 7.3.

Water and electrical services will need to be supplied to the new maintenance shed. If appropriate, electrical supplies to the Amphitheatre could be installed at the same time.

Actions

1. Downgrade the "roadway" to the works area
2. Relocate the works area

7.8 Public Parking

Current Situation

On street parallel parking is available along Mollison Street and Clowes Street. While not formally available, space is also available for on-street parking on Powlett Street if required. A small number of car spaces are also available off the eastern end of McKenna Memorial Drive. This level of parking appears to be sufficient for the current day to day use of the Botanic Gardens but may not be sufficient to meet the demand once the Community Park and Amphitheatre are constructed.

Parking for maintenance staff is discussed in section 0 above.

Recommendations

1. Review traffic flow and parking requirements

Parking is currently provided at Gardens entrances, and this appears to be adequate for current usage patterns. It is recommended that a traffic report be commissioned to determine the requirement for any additional parking spaces for the Amphitheatre and Community Park, therefore allowing detailed design to proceed on an informed basis. The master plan proposes some additional car parking along McKenna Memorial Drive in the vicinity of the oval, but this number may be increased subject to recommendations by the traffic report and the approval of the conservation management plan. Any new car parking within the Gardens' perimeter is inappropriate except off McKenna Memorial Drive, and its placement must be in accordance with the recommendations of the conservation management plan.

It is recommended that the majority of the parking requirements for the Community Park and Amphitheatre be met by on street parking on Clowes and Powlett Street. In particular the opportunity may exist for parallel parking along Powlett Street. It must be noted however that the number and configuration of parking spaces will be determined by the traffic report and that all safety requirements (e.g. preserving site lines) must be met.

Disabled parking must be provided in accordance with the traffic report, with disabled access paths connecting the parking to major Gardens' features.

Actions

1. Commission a traffic report to inform the detailed parking design for the Community Park and Amphitheatre.

7.9 Signage

Current Situation

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens contain a variety of signs, although it is noted that a successful attempt has been made to adopt a consistent style, especially within the true botanic gardens. Signs along the Campaspe River Walk are also consistent with one notable exception. Signs which follow this consistent pattern include:

- The large entrance sign at the Mollison and Clowes Street corner in heritage green with the daffodil logo
- The large entrance information sign with the daffodil logo in heritage green and a pale grey green.
- Smaller versions of the same sign at the Clowes Street entrances
- Low signs in the pale grey-green providing specific information and featuring the daffodil logo

Additionally, the rotary club of Kyneton have provided numerous information signs along the Campaspe River Walk. These are in a different style to those listed above, but are consistent and do not clash with those used within the Gardens (colour scheme is similar). Small bronze plaques associated with various features and the national trust significant tree plaques are also of high quality and do not clash with other Gardens signs.

A number of additional signs are either of low quality and / or are inconsistent with other Gardens signage. These include the following:

- Small "do not" signs at entry points
- Small interpretative signage explaining tree mulching
- Small picnic area signs (explaining alcohol restrictions)
- The caravan park sign
- Miscellaneous road signs associated with McKenna Memorial Drive
- Rotary Club of Kyneton Oak Park Project sign (nailed to a tree)

At most of the entrances to the Botanic Gardens there are too many signs, with some entrances having as many as four separate signs. This creates visual clutter and this signage should be rationalised.

Figure 38: Existing consistent signage
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Figure 39: Inconsistent signage
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Review existing signage

The existing signage should be reviewed in terms of style, location and relevance. Existing signage that is not necessary should be removed. Where signs are to be replaced consideration should be given to combining information. The location of signs should be reviewed and consideration given to the need for additional signs.

2. Develop a consistent style of signage across the site

All replacement and new signage should adhere to a consistent style which compliments the Gardens. The existing style guides may be used as the basis for this, but should be reviewed to ensure it is the most appropriate solution for the Gardens. Existing signage which is inconsistent and inappropriate should be gradually removed. See also section 9.2 on interpretation.

Replacement of the bronze plaques, national trust significant tree labels and the Rotary signs along the river is not necessary.

Actions

1. Review the style, location and relevance of existing signage
2. Gradually remove inappropriate signage, if necessary replacing with signs of a consistent design style

[i] Photo Dec 1953, Source: State Library of Victoria
Photo Jan 1960, Source: Australian Heritage Photographic Library

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8 Cultural Heritage

8.1 Management of European Cultural Heritage

In 2008 the Kyneton Botanic Gardens was placed on the Victorian Heritage Register. This registration places a legal requirement on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to manage the Gardens with due respect for their heritage significance. This includes maintaining the Gardens to prevent their deterioration and carrying out new works that are sympathetic to the Gardens' heritage value. There is a requirement to gain a permit for any works unless specifically exempted (refer to Heritage Victoria registration).

The heritage significance of the site should be managed through a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). A preliminary heritage analysis of the site has been provided in section 2.4 of this document and has been used to inform the master plan recommendations. The Heritage Victoria registration has been relied on in this analysis as it was not within the scope of the master plan to review heritage significance. A CMP would identify any additional elements within the site that are significant and look at those elements which are intrusive to the heritage significance of the site.

A Conservation Management Plan may not necessarily agree with the Heritage Victoria registration and statement of significance. Where this occurs, and the CMP has a valid point, there is potential for Heritage Victoria to accept its views. A CMP may find there is greater or lesser scope for changes and development than this master plan recommends.

Recommendations

1. Develop a Conservation Management Plan

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan including a conservation analysis and management policies be commissioned for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. This document should then form the basis of the management of the site's heritage significance and would provide a starting point for discussions with Heritage Victoria. The Conservation Management Plan should be produced by an appropriately experienced heritage professional or consortium with both landscape and architectural heritage experience.

Actions

1. Commission a Conservation Management Plan
2. Carry out works in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan.

8.2 Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The site of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens is not known to have been formally identified as being of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. However its proximity to the Campaspe River triggers the majority of the site as an area of Aboriginal "cultural heritage sensitivity" and as such a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) for specific development works. Works requiring a CHMP are those with significant ground disturbance taking place in an area which has not been previously disturbed. As such, it is unlikely that any works proposed within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens will trigger a requirement to produce a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, but this should be confirmed with AAV prior to new works being undertaken.

Recommendations

1. Apply to AAV to confirm the status of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

Aboriginal affairs Victoria should *be contacted to confirm that the Kyneton Botanic Gardens has not been identified as a place of cultural heritage significance.*

2. Assess all proposed development works for the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan

It is recommended that any proposed development works be assessed to determine if a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The website of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria provides a "Planning Tool" questionnaire for determining

whether such a plan is required[14]. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required, then it should be produced and implemented in accordance with AAV requirements.

Actions

1. Confirm the status of the Gardens with AAV

8.3 Individual Heritage Elements

Fern Gully

History and Description

First constructed c. 1900, the fern gully is located in the site's south-east corner, and runs along Mollison Street, down to the Campaspe River. Originally planted with a large number of tree ferns (see Figure 6), the gully later became overgrown. A 1985, Victorian Sesquicentenary grant was used to revive the gully, but it again lapsed into disrepair. The gully has a shaded micro climate and contains a number of features which appear to be original; including the path layout, early tree plantings, the bluestone stairs to McKenna Memorial Drive and the rockwork. The Fern Gully is one of the most significant heritage features on the site. Today the primary vegetation in the Fern Gully are the over story pines and elms, and an understorey of *Viburnum tinus*. A small number of herbaceous perennials are also present, but these are too small and insignificant to contribute to the aesthetic value of the place.

Figure 40: The lower portions of the Fern Gully in its current state. The paths and rockwork appear to be original.
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

A reliable supply of irrigation to the Fern Gully is the largest constraint on the future development of the space. Many ferns, including the original tree ferns, are not drought tolerant, and the mature trees exacerbate the water shortage issues. While the Gardens are being connected to recycled water this can not be used in the Fern Gully due to its proximity to the Campaspe River. It is unlikely that the plantings can be re-established to the Fern Gully without initially establishing an irrigation system.

Recommendations

1. Re-establishment of Fern Gully Planting

It is recommended that planting to the Fern Gully be re-established. It is acknowledged that given the current climatic situation (both macro and micro) that the original tree ferns will not be appropriate for use. Planting to the Fern Gully should aim to achieve a lush, dense look with an appropriate feeling of enclosure, while at the same time using plants which a relatively drought tolerant. This will require careful plant selection. Principles of good planting design should also be applied (see section 6.4).

2. Design and Layout

The layout of the Fern Gully should not be altered (see point 4, below), however the paths into the Gully are to be formally linked with the Campaspe River Walk and paths into the Botanical Gardens. This is to aid circulation into and through the Garden as a whole (see section 4.2)

3. Safety

The steps to the Fern Gully should be assessed from a safety perspective and alterations carried out to bring them up to acceptable standards. This work should be undertaken with due consideration for the heritage value of the place and wherever possible without the removal or addition of materials.

[14] URL for Planning Tool, current September 2010, http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/aavmain.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/heritage+tools

4. Manage as an element of heritage significance

The configuration of the path system in the Fern Gully is probably original and should not be altered. Any restoration or reconstruction works to the Fern Gully should be based on historical evidence wherever possible, and should be in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan (see section 8.1).

As an element of heritage significance the Fern Gully should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the CMP.

5. Interpretation

Interpretation on the layout, history and heritage significance of the Fern Gully should be provided in accordance with sections 7.9 and 9.2.

Actions

2. Audit and repair stairs and carry out maintenance works to the path system to bring them up to appropriate safety standards
3. Link the Fern Gully into the wider path network
4. Re-establish planting to the Fern Gully
5. Install appropriate interpretation

Gardeners' Office

History and Description

The age and history of the Gardeners' Office is unknown, but from its architectural style is thought to have been constructed some time between 1880 and 1910[i]. A building of similar size and in the same location, but with an extra room to the west, appears on the 1937 Sewerage Authority Map of the Gardens (see Figure 10). The back of the office door has been notated by various gardeners, with notes dating back a considerable length of time and containing information such as gardening notes and the cost of various works. These jottings are of considerable heritage significance and provide a valuable insight into the workings of the Gardens.

Figure 41: The Gardeners' Office
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

In 2007 the Gardeners' Office was restored based on a report produced by *Artifact Conservation*. This included the back room being removed[15] and the building painted white (it was dark green, but had originally been white). It is now used as a meeting room by the Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens.

Figure 42: The Gardeners' Office prior to renovation
Source: Roger Cousens

Recommendations

1. Notes on the Office Door

The notes on the office door are of considerable heritage significance and should be preserved at all times. It is recommended that a record be made of the information contained in these notes and that this be stored by council off site. The original notations should be preserved and protected.

2. Provide a better context for the Gardeners' Office

The path system associated with the Gardeners' Office is to be reworked to link the building into the rest of the Garden and reinstate part of the 1937 path system. Planting around the Gardeners' Office is to be increased but should be kept low so the building is not obscured.

[15] Note: Artifact Conservation dates this extension from the 1970s. An extra room of a similar shape does appear on the 1937 plan, but it is not known if this is the same room.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

The Gardeners' Office should be retained and preserved to prevent deterioration. Ongoing maintenance recommendations made in the Artifact Conservation report should be implemented. The Gardeners' Office should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the CMP.

Actions

1. Make a record of the notes recorded on the back of the door
2. Rework the garden beds and planting around the building

Hawthorn Hedge

History and Description

The English Hawthorn hedge (*Crataegus monogyna*) lines the southern boundary of the site from near the Pig Shed to south of the former caravan park (see Drawing 1, page 7 for extent). This hedge is single for the majority of its length, with a double row being present at its western end. An 1880 document states that the Gardens were surrounded with a picket fence, lined with Hawthorn. While the age of the existing Hawthorn hedge along the river is unknown, it is possible that it is original. Even if the hedge is proven not to be original, it is still a historically appropriate treatment for the site's southern boundary.

Figure 43: The Hawthorn Hedge
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

English Hawthorn is a declared noxious weed in Victoria, with it being "restricted" in the north-central catchment area[ii], within which Kyneton falls. This means the species is not to be sold or traded, but there is no requirement for land holders to control spread[iii].

Recommendations

1. Manage as a hedge

The hawthorn should be managed to keep it as a hedge. This would involve clipping when required.

2. Investigate whether hedge should be replaced

The English Hawthorn hedge is of considerable heritage significance to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, but this needs to be balanced against the environmental threat it poses as a weed. It is recommended that a brief investigation be undertaken to determine if this is the primary source of *Crataegus monogyna* in the area. It this proved to be the case the hedge should be removed and replaced with the non-weedy and very similar *Crataegus laevigata*. This approach is consistent with accepted heritage practices and the Burra Charter, but would require approval from Heritage Victoria.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Hawthorn Hedge should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the CMP.

Actions

1. Investigate the extent of *Crataegus monogyna* infestation in the area surrounding the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
2. Retain and manage hedge or replace with *C. laevigata* depending on results of above investigation.
3. Continue to maintain the row as a hedge by clipping when required

Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain

History and Description

The drinking fountain was installed in 1902 using a bequest for that purpose of £60 from a Spring Hill farmer, Isaac Smith, who owned and worked the Radnor Flour Mills. The fountain was installed near the then swings, where Mr. Smith used to watch children play[iv]. The marble shield on the front of the fountain bears the inscription "*A bequest of the late Isaac Smith to the Citizens of Kyneton*".

In 1972 the fountain was extensively vandalised and its original decorative capping was never replaced. The fountain is made of bluestone, freestone and marble and is surrounded by gravel with a concrete edge. The fountain is still operative, but some of the jets are in need of repair.

Figure 44: The Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Retain in current location

The Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain is of heritage significance and should be retained in its current location.

2. Maintenance

The drinking fountain is to be appropriately maintained to prevent deterioration and is to be kept in good working order.

3. Replace Capping

The original decorative capping of the fountain was never replaced following vandalism. It is recommended that the original capping design be reinstated.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Figure 45: The Isaac Smith Drinking Fountain c.1910
Source: Kyneton Museum via. Roger Cousens

Actions

1. Replace capping to drinking fountain

Memorial Pillars

History and Description

The two entrance pillars to McKenna Memorial Drive were constructed in 1965 at the centenary of the Shire of Kyneton. The northern most pillar marks the centenary of the Shire of Kyneton, while the southern pillar commemorates the involvement of the McKenna family in the Shire (successive generations of McKenna's sat on the Shire Council, with Martin McKenna being the Shire's first president). Both pillars mark the entrance to McKenna Memorial Drive. Visually the pillars are out of scale with the McKenna Memorial Drive entrance. The northern pillar is partially obscured by an overhanging elm tree.

Recommendations

1. Review Heritage Significance of Pillars

The memorial pillars are listed on the State Heritage Register but given their relatively young age (45 years), their heritage value may be limited, and therefore their removal or relocation may be permissible. It is recommended that the Conservation Management Plan review the heritage significance of these items and form recommendations as to what development works, if any, are appropriate. (Note: for the purposes of this master plan the pillars are considered to be of contributory significance).

Figure 46: The northern memorial pillar
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

2. Move southern pillar to reduce width of entrance

In the context of improving this Gardens entrance and reducing its visual impact it is recommended that the southern pillar be relocated further north. Further details on the design of this entrance are provided in section 4.3.

3. Maintenance

The pillars should be appropriately maintained to prevent deterioration.

4. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Memorial Pillars should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the CMP.

Actions

1. Review the heritage significance of the Memorial Pillars in the Conservation Management Plan
2. Relocate the southern pillar in accordance with recommended works for the McKenna Memorial Drive entrance

Mollison Street Bluestone Wall

History and Description

The Bluestone wall along Mollison street was constructed in June 1880, replacing an earlier picket fence. The wall runs from the Mollison Street entrance gates to the McKenna Memorial Drive entrance and retains the soil on the Botanic Gardens side. An elm hedge runs along the top of the wall. This wall and hedge provides good separation between the Gardens and Mollison Street, a major thoroughfare. The wall is well constructed and provides the Gardens with an appropriate sense of grandeur along this boundary.

Figure 47: The Mollison Street bluestone wall
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Retain and protect wall and hedge

The Mollison Street bluestone wall should be retained and maintained to prevent its deterioration. The elm hedge should be retained, and the plants continue to be maintained as a clipped hedge.

2. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Mollison Street Bluestone Wall should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the CMP.

Actions

None required.

Mollison Street Entrance Gates

History and Description

The memorial wrought iron gates were donated by the Elliot family in memory of their parents, and were installed in 1936. It is not known what features, if any, were at this entrance before this time. There are two conflicting reports as to the design and construction of the gates. One states that they were designed by Stephenson & Meldrum of Melbourne and made by Cr C R Caslake of South Yarra[v], whilst another states they were designed by artist Tom Levick and made by Kyneton locals, Mr Fowler and Mr Wherrett[vi]. It has not been established if either of these versions is correct. The blue stone pillars were made by a local stone mason, W.T. Jones and Son.

Figure 48: Mollison Street entrance gates and associated iron pickets and walling.
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

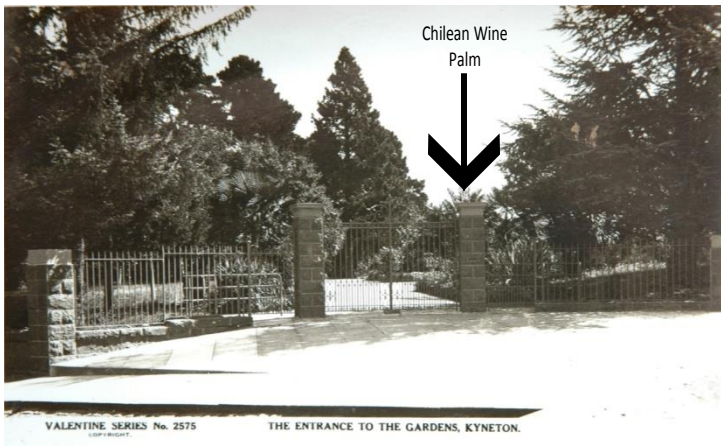


Figure 49: The entrance gates c.1936.
Source: Ken Duxbury postcard collection. Via Roger Cousens

The post card of the Botanic Gardens in Figure 49 indicates that the gates and wrought iron details have changed little since their construction. The small size of a number of the surrounding trees, including the Chilean Wine Palm, indicate that this photograph was probably taken shortly after the gates' construction. The metal tubing fence to the rear of the pedestrian gates (used when controlling pedestrian access to the Gardens[vii]) were present from this early time, with the front paving being ruled or panel poured concrete. The colour of these early gates is unknown, but they do not appear to be painted gloss black (as is now the case) in this early picture. This paint is now very chipped, detracting from the gate and entrance.

Recommendations

1. Retain and maintain Entrance Gates

The Mollison Street entrance gates should be retained and maintained to prevent their deterioration. This should include painting the gates and associated metal fencing on a regular basis to improve their presentation. Note: Recommended modifications to this entrance are dealt with in section 4.3.

2. Consider removing metal tubing to rear of gates.

The metal tubing to the rear of the gates no longer serves a useful purpose and detracts from the entrance. However, this appears to be an original feature. It is recommended that the Conservation Management Plan investigate the appropriateness of removing this tubing. The tubing should be removed if allowed by the CMP and approved by Heritage Victoria.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Mollison Street Entrance Gates should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Paint all metal details in the entrance gates and associated fencing

Oak Ring

History and Description

The age and history of the Oak Ring is unknown, with no information being recorded about it prior to the 2008 website or Heritage Victoria Registration. The circle is comprised of thirteen trees with a hedge of privet, japonica and hawthorn. The hedge has a gap on the north and south sides allowing entry into the Oak Ring. Three substantial trees are located within the circle, with another ten being within the hedge. An additional two oak stumps are present within the circle. A number of mature pines surround the Oak Ring.

Figure 50: The Oak Ring from the southern end
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Retain and maintain Oak Ring

The Oak Ring should be retained and appropriately maintained to improve tree health and manage risk.

2. Develop a Replacement Strategy for the Oak Ring

The nature of the Oak Ring is such that replacement will probably only be feasible if the entire ring is replaced at the same time (due to problems with competition). Replacement of the Oak Ring should be specifically dealt with as a component of the Tree Replacement Strategy (see section 6.2) and should reference any recommendations made in the Conservation Management Plan.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Oak Ring should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Develop a replacement strategy for the Oak Ring

Path System

History and Description

Paths were amongst the earliest works within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, although the oldest known plan of the site dates only from 1937 (Figure 10). The path layout includes some of these paths as shown on the 1937 plan of the site, but others have been lost and new paths added. Two major changes to the path layout came with the addition of the caravan park roads in 1969 and the construction of McKenna Memorial Drive in c.1965.

The Heritage Victorian Registration for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens covers a number of paths which appear to be of relatively recent origin. Removal of these paths should be justifiable from a heritage perspective but will have to be approved by Heritage Victoria.

Recommendations

Recommended modifications have been made to the path system as per section 4.2 and 7.1 of this report.

1. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the path system should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

See sections 4.2 and 7.1

Pig Shed

History and Description

The Pig Shed was originally a pig pen at the Kyneton Saleyards, located on Market Street (the saleyards have since moved). The shelter was adapted and moved to the Botanic Gardens in 1972, and now sits at the western end of the oval. The shed features a timber and galvanised tin roof (red in colour) and timber uprights. A number of the original pen markers are also present.

The Pig Shed is nestled amongst conifers, and provides a visual focal point for the oval area, making a significant contribution to the aesthetic value of the place.

Figure 51: The Pig Shed and Oval
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Retain and maintain Pig Shed

The Pig Shed should be retained and maintenance and repair work carried out to prevent its deterioration and correct any damage. The Pig Shed is the focal point of the oval area. As such it is recommended that any new planting not screen the Pig Shed and that the bright roof colour is maintained.

2. Install new picnic tables

The pig shed is the only shelter in this part of the garden, but contains no tables or chairs. It is recommended that additional picnic tables be installed within the Pig Shed to take advantage of the shelter it provides. Barbeques are not recommended due to the damage the heat and smoke may cause to the heritage structure.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Pig Shed should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Install new picnic tables under the Pig Shed

Rotunda

History and Description

In 1905 a rotunda was constructed in the Botanic Gardens, however there is little recorded about the structure, including its location and design. The context and style of the Rotunda in the only sighted early photograph (Figure 53) is different to that of the current building (note the proximity of the paths). The rotunda is marked in its current location and shape on the 1937 sewerage authority plan (Figure 10) but anecdotally was relocated within the Gardens at one period.

The rotunda is on the Victorian Heritage Register, however it appears that little or no fabric predates the 1988 renovation. The steel roof, uprights, lattice, steel work, seats and concrete slab are all of recent origin. Based on a brief assessment, only the finial and crenulated edging appear to possibly predate 1988. The design of the rotunda is unsympathetic and historically inappropriate.

Figure 52: The Rotunda
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

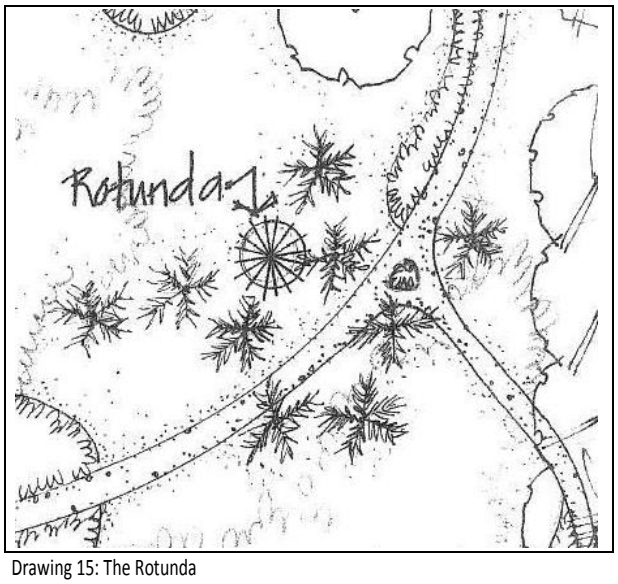
Figure 53: Detail of the Rotunda from an undated postcard.
The size of the trees in this photograph (not shown in figure) would indicate an early date, possibly c.1910. This is the only early image of the rotunda located as part of the Master plan process.
Source: Ken Duxbury postcard collection (via. Roger Cousens)

Recommendations

1. Review the heritage significance of the rotunda

It is likely that the concept of a rotunda in the current location is of heritage significance, rather than the structure itself. It is recommended that the conservation management plan review the heritage significance of the rotunda and provide recommendations on what development works would be permissible (e.g. modification or replacement of the structure).

2. Refurbish / rebuild the Rotunda and improve its presentation



Drawing 15: The Rotunda

The fabric of the existing Rotunda structure is likely to be of little or no heritage significance due to its highly modified state, and some elements of its fabric are likely to be intrusive. It is recommended that a heritage architect be engaged to redesign the Rotunda. Historically significant elements of its design and any significant fabric should be incorporated into the new design, which should be aesthetically pleasing, making the Rotunda an ornament to the Gardens. The location of the Rotunda is of significance, and the new / refurbished structure is to be in the same location.

The Rotunda is to be surrounded by a group of palm trees within the lawn. These trees should be small scale palms (e.g. *Trachycarpus fortunii*) which will ground the structure within the landscape. The species chosen should be typical of Victorian era landscapes.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the Rotunda should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Review the heritage significance of the Rotunda.
2. Refurbish / rebuild the Rotunda based on the recommendations made in the Conservation Management Plan

Significant Trees

Current Situation

Kyneton Botanic Gardens contain a large number of heritage trees. Some of these trees have had their heritage significance formally recognised by inclusion on either the National Trust Significant Tree Register or Victorian Heritage register (as part of the Gardens registration), however there are likely to be many more trees within the site which are of either aesthetic, scientific or historical significance.

Fifteen individual trees and two groups are included in the National Trust Significant Tree Register, a compliment to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens' arboreal wealth. While this listing provides no statutory protection or financial support, it does carry weight with the public and increases the profile of the Gardens.

For further information on the condition and arboricultural management of the trees see section 6.2.

Recommendations

1. Determine the heritage significance of all trees and groups

It is recommended that the relative heritage significance of the individual trees within the Gardens be reviewed as part of the Conservation Management Plan. This should include the significance of individual specimens, as well as the significance of tree groups such as the avenues, rows and Oak Ring. The results of this assessment can then be used to inform the development and implementation of the Tree Replacement Strategy as recommended in section 6.2.

It is important that the heritage significance of the trees is assessed in accordance with Heritage Victoria guidelines, not those used by the National Trust. These two assessment methods differ markedly, with the legislative framework (under which permits will be granted or denied) being based on the Heritage Victoria methodology. Further more, the National Trust method does not translate to other heritage objects, and for consistency it is important that the trees be assessed using the same method as the remainder of the elements on the site.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

As an element of heritage significance the tree canopy should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Assess the heritage significance of the individual trees as part of the Conservation Management Plan

Timber Specimen Board (Heritage Object)

History and Description

A display case containing timber specimens of 70 trees found within the Gardens was prepared by the Curator Edward Gray, and donated by his widow to the residents of the shire[16]. This specimen board is now located within the Kyneton Arts Centre and is included as a heritage object on the Victorian Heritage Register. This board would have greater relevance if located within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, however it is acknowledged that there is currently no suitable accommodation for it. The date of the specimen board could not be determined as part of the master plan process.

Figure 54: The timber specimen board prepared by Edward Gray.
Source: Margaret Dearricott

Recommendations

1. Relocate to within the Kyneton Botanic Gardens if appropriate

It is not considered appropriate to construct or develop a building within the Gardens specifically to accommodate the Timber Specimen Board, however it is recommended that the object be relocated to within the Gardens if suitable accommodation becomes available. This would require an environment which is both open to the public and has a sufficiently controlled climate to protect the object (i.e. a weather proof building). No specific interpretation is recommended as the object is in itself well labelled.

2. Protect and maintain

It is recommended that the Timber Specimen Board be appropriately protected and preserved from deterioration. The requirements of this should be based on professional advice.

3. Manage as an element of heritage significance

The Timber Specimen Board should be included as part of the Conservation Management Plan. As an element of heritage significance it should be managed in accordance with any recommendations made by this report. These master plan recommendations should be reviewed if found to contradict recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions

1. Relocate to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, but only if appropriate

Well

History and Description

According to the Shea report (1995) the well was constructed to provide additional water during times of drought. During the 1982/83 drought it was used it for this purpose, but was of limited value due to slow replenishment rates. The well is now covered by two bluestone slabs.

Figure 55: The Well
Source: Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design

Recommendations

1. Review Heritage Significance of Well

The well is listed on the State Heritage Register but its history is unknown and its heritage value uncertain. It is recommended that the Conservation Management Plan review the heritage significance of this

[16] Note: According to Heritage Victoria it was donated to the shire in trust for the residents of the State.

item and form recommendations as to its future management. (Note: for the purposes of this master plan the well is considered to be of contributory significance).

2. Leave the well in its current form and maintain in a safe state

Actions

1. Review the heritage significance of the Well

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[i] Artifact Conservation, 2006, page 2
[ii] Department of Primary Industries, 2009, Hawthorn web page
[iii] Department of Primary Industries, 2009, Glossary web page
[iv] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[v] Cousens, 2008, Kyneton Botanic Gardens website
[vi] Heritage Victoria file notes, unpub.
[vii] Verbal information from Peter Jones

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9 Management and Funding

9.1 Funding

Current Situation

Capital works and maintenance for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens is funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, with an allocated budget of approximately $120,000 per annum. This budget includes the employment of approximately 1.2 people to maintain the site [1]. The Gardens have had some access to other grants, most notably a $2.2million dollar project to provide recycled water to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, Barkley Square and the Kyneton Golf Course[2]. The Gardens have also been provided with emergency funding by Council to provide irrigation water during the drought (approx. $100,000 per annum).

The Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens have been involved in fundraising for specific projects such as the Rose Garden and Herb Garden. Currently the Kyneton Community Park Committee are actively applying for grants to fund their project.

Generally the Botanic Gardens have had little available funds for extensive maintenance or capital works projects, and this can not be expected to change in the foreseeable future unless new sources of funds can be found. With the adoption of this master plan the gardens would be better placed to successfully apply for grants from various sources, but these will need to be actively sought.

Recommendations

1. Maintenance levels should be increased

As new capital works projects are completed additional maintenance will be required to maintain these developments. In addition to this, current maintenance levels should be increased to bring the Gardens up to the desired standard. All garden bed areas should be maintained by staff with horticultural knowledge as befits a botanic garden, but some routine tasks could be undertaken by non-skilled labour. Possible sources of additional non-skilled labour include:

- The Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
- Heritage Groups
- Workplace Employment Programs
- Work for the Dole
- Volunteer Groups

It is recommended that any opportunities to up skill Council horticultural staff be taken. This may include exchange programs with other botanic gardens or horticultural short courses.

2. Funding for capital works projects should be actively sort

Major capital works will be expensive and fundraising from various sources will be required to implement these. It is therefore recommended that funding be actively sought for both major and minor capital works and that stake holder groups such as the Kyneton Community Park committee and Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens be encouraged to participate in this. Possible sources of funding include:

- Community fundraising
- Environmental funds
- Local, State and Federal Government Grants
- Philanthropic sources (both private and commercial)
- Heritage Victoria[1]

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1 Currently the council employs one full time and one part time gardener (1.5 positions) to maintain Kyneton, Malmsbury and Gisborne Botanic Gardens. These two people spend approximately 80% of their time at Kyneton, providing the equivalent of approximately a 1.2 people maintaining the site.

2 This includes $1.237m through the Commonwealth Government's "Strengthening Basin Communities Program"; $700,000 from Coliban Water; $250,000 from Council and $280,000 (including land) from the Kyneton Golf Club.

It is noted that the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens recently received $2.2 million as part of the Federal Government's "Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program".

3. Opportunities for the Botanic Gardens to generate an income should be encouraged

Opportunities should be explored for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens to generate income. This includes using the Gardens for events such as weddings, markets and concerts. It is recommended that opportunities be actively explored and encouraged, and that all generated funds be reserved for use in the Botanic Gardens.

4. Works should be prioritised and staged

All works should be prioritised and staged to help aid their implementation. A priority list for works recommended in this master plan is provided at section 10.2

Actions

1. Increase maintenance levels
2. Actively source funding for capital and minor works projects
3. Actively explore opportunities for the Botanical Gardens to generate an income

9.2 Interpretation

Current Situation

There is little in the way of interpretive material within the Gardens. The Rotary Club of Kyneton have provided interpretive material along the Campaspe River Walk, but this relates to the river, rather than specifically to the Gardens. The main entrance sign provides good historical information (albeit with one mistake), but could be updated. Small signs and plaques throughout the Gardens provide information on the low water use garden, the "Fetching Them In" sculpture, the daffodil garden and the Gardeners' Office, but these appear to be ad hoc, rather than adhering to any interpretation strategy.

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens have an excellent website which provides detailed information on the history of the place and a large quantity of historical photographs. This website is an outstanding resource which should be incorporated into any interpretation strategy. The brochure of the Gardens produced by the friends group contains a number of inaccuracies which should be corrected. It is understood that this brochure can currently be collected from the Kyneton Visitors Centre, but it should also be made available at the Gardens.

The accurate interpretation of the Gardens and its features is an important component of the management of the heritage value of the place.

Recommendations

1. Develop and implement an integrated interpretation strategy

An integrated interpretation strategy should be developed which addresses the provision of information to the public in a number of ways. Aspects which should be covered in this strategy include:

- Development / formalisation of a style guide for all interpretative material (this should link in with the wider Shire guide)
- Provision of signage within the Gardens (this should be done in accordance with the recommendations made in section 7.9)
- Provision of an accurate brochure which is available within the Gardens
- Incorporation of the website, which should adhere to the Gardens' style guide
- Strategy for editing interpretative material to ensure a high level of accuracy

This interpretation strategy should also include the implementation of any specific recommendations made in the Conservation Management Plan (section 8.1).

[1] Grants may be available for heritage studies (e.g. Conservation Management Plan, tree replacement strategy) and for specific heritage projects

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Actions

1. Develop and implement an integrated interpretation strategy
2. Correct errors in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens brochure before printing the next set and make the brochure available within the Gardens
3. Update the main entrance sign

9.3 Tourism and Marketing

Current Situation

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens do not have a formal marketing or promotional strategy. The Gardens are used for a number of events, but these are limited and there is opportunity for more wide spread promotion of the Gardens as a visitor and tourist destination. The closure of the caravan park will reduce the number of tourists which visit the Gardens, at least in the short term, but provides the opportunity to rejuvenate the Garden and re-establish its original use.

Recommendations

1. Develop a marketing strategy for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

The Macedon Rages Shire Council should develop a marketing strategy for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens with the aim of increasing the patronage of the Gardens (see also section 4.1). The strategy should deal with marketing the Gardens in its current state, as well as allowing for increased promotional opportunities which will come with the new landscape developments such as the Community Park. The strategy should look at alternative ways to generate income to support the ongoing development of the Gardens.

2. Actively promote the Kyneton Botanic Gardens

The Kyneton Botanic Gardens should be actively promoted as a visitor and tourist destination. This will be especially important once the new landscape development projects start. The closure of the caravan park and implementation of this master plan provides an opportunity to commence a promotional campaign around the Gardens rejuvenation.

Mechanisms should be put in place to encourage the Gardens to be used as an event space and actively be promoted to event organisers as a possible venue.

Actions

1. Actively promote the Kyneton Botanic Gardens
2. Develop and implement a marketing strategy

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10 Master Plan Review and Implementation

10.1 Implementation

This master plan has been developed as a big picture document to guide works and management of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens over the next ten years. Further work will be required to allow the implementation of recommendations made in this report. This includes the development of specific management documents and the detailed design of individual projects. The master plan itself has been deliberately broad on detail, as any detailed design requirements will be dealt with as part of later works. It is recommended that this master plan be formally adopted.

10.2 Priorities

The following is a prioritised list of works recommended in this master plan. This has been broken into planning documents, capital works and ongoing works. Priority has been given first to the planning documents, as they need to be completed before other works can proceed, and then to works which would provide the greatest benefit to the Gardens. Some projects are interconnected and specific works may need to be fast tracked to meet new demands. For example, toilets will have to be upgraded to meet the needs of the Community Park. Ongoing works will also need to occur reactively as part of the construction of new features. Interlinked capital works projects are shown in the priority list.

This list of priorities will be subject to change, especially if unexpected opportunities arise, allowing the fast tracking of particular projects.

Category	Initial (required before other works can commence)	Short term	Medium term
Planning Document	Water management plan		
Planning Document	Conservation Management Plan		
Planning Document	Tree replacement strategy		
Planning Document	Traffic report		
Planning Document	Suite of standard details		
Major landscape project		Community Park	
Major landscape project		New Rose Garden	
Major capital project Linked to Rose Garden		Relocation of Maintenance area	
Minor landscape work		Remove former caravan park infrastructure (priority)	
Minor landscape work		Upgrade Mollison Street entry (priority entrance)	
Minor capital work		Upgrade former caravan park entry	
Minor landscape work		Upgrade McKenna Drive entry	
Minor capital work		Demolition of lower amenities block	
Minor capital work		Demolition of upper toilets	
Minor landscape work linked to Community Park		New entry south of Amphitheatre	
Minor capital work Linked to Community Park		Upgrade of toilets near oval	
Minor capital work. Linked to demolition of upper toilets Planning document		Upgrade of upper amenities block Living collections policy	

Category	Initial (required before other works can commence)	Short term	Medium term
Planning document		Interpretation strategy	
Planning document		Marketing strategy	
Major landscape project			Amphitheatre
Major landscape project			Refurbish / rebuild Rotunda
Major landscape project. Linked to Community Park but not integral			Gardens Shelter
Minor landscape work Driven by water availability			Fern Gully re-establishment
Minor landscape work			Powlett street entry / exit upgrade
Minor landscape work			Oak Park entry upgrade
Minor landscape work			New fence to Clowes Street frontage
Ongoing	Upgrades to path system with priority given to major paths which address the circulation and access issues (tier 2 paths)		
Ongoing	Ongoing: Rationalising and upgrading of signs		
Ongoing	Irrigation system		
Ongoing	New garden bed development		
Ongoing	Living collections development		
Ongoing	Marketing / promotion		
Ongoing	Replacement / removal / addition of site furnishings (seats, tables, chairs, barbeques, screen fences, garden edging etc.)		

10.3 Review

Although the Conservation Management Plan and Tree Replacement Strategy for the Kyneton Botanic Gardens are still to be completed, it is not anticipated that these documents will require that this master plan be reviewed, although any recommendations coming out of these reports should be incorporated into detailed designs.

It is recommended that this master plan be reviewed in ten years time (2020) to allow for any changes in circumstances and to incorporate any new developments.

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For acknowledgement for the help of individuals please see *Acknowledgements* on page iv

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Appendix 1: Costings

The following is a cost estimate for works recommended in this master plan. These costs are based on 2010 dollar figures and are provided as estimates only; the intention being to provide Council with approximate figures for the purpose of budgeting and applying for grants. Unless otherwise indicated these figures are based on works being competitively tendered and entirely implemented by external contractors. Costs are likely to decrease if council chooses to undertake works "in-house" or using volunteer labour.

Design documentation will be required for more accurate costings. No allowance has been made for design fees, planning permits, major service installation of contingencies.

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE STAFF	NOTES
PLANNING DOCUMENTS			
Water Management Plan	$6,000	NA	
Conservation Management Plan	$12,000	NA	
Tree Replacement Strategy	$8,000	NA	Includes additional tree assessment
Traffic Report	$8,000	NA	
Suite of standard design details	$7,000	NA	
Signage / marketing graphic design	$8,000	NA	
Interpretation Strategy	NA	NA	MRSC in house
Marketing Strategy	NA	NA	MRSC in house
Living Collections Strategy	NA	NA	MRSC in house
MAJOR PROJECTS			
Community Park - Option 1	$500,000	0.5 position	Entire project fully contracted
Community Park - Option 2	$360,000	as above	Planting in house, no imported top soil
Community Park play equipment	$165,000	NA	Allowance for 3 quality large-scale pieces
Amphitheatre retaining wall changes and stairs	$32,000	0.1 position	
Amphitheatre stage	$135,000	NA	
Rose Garden	$186,000	0.2 position	
Relocated works area	$72,000	NA	
ENTRANCES			
Mollison Street	$34,000	0.1 position	Fully contracted
Former caravan park	$40,000	NA	Fully contracted
Clowes Street entrances	$32,000	NA	Combined cost fully contracted
McKenna Drive entrance	$14,000	NA	Fully contracted
Powlett Street exit	$26,000	NA	Fully contracted
Oak Park entrance	NA	NA	NA
STRUCTURES			
Rotunda	$70,000 to $100,000	NA	Structure only, no planting
Garden Shelter	$70,000 to $125,000	NA	No allowance for demolition of existing amenities block
Lower toilet block refurbishment	$110,000	NA	
Upper amenities block refurbishment	NA	NA	MRSC in house
Demolition of upper toilet block	$18,000	NA	
Demolition of lower amenities block	NA	NA	MRSC pre-existing project

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE STAFF	NOTES
ONGOING WORKS			
Major paths	$320,000	NA	Total cost over 10 years
Minor paths	$65,000	NA	Total cost over 10 years (additional paths likely following detailed design)
Clowes Street fence	$62,000	NA	Total cost over 10 years
Steel edging for garden beds	$63,000	NA	Total cost over 10 years
Garden beds - Option 1	$810,000	1.5 position	Planting, topsoil, mulch supply and install Total cost over 10 years
Garden beds - Option 2	$415,000	as above	Plants and mulch supply only, soil conditioning instead of topsoil Total cost over 10 years
Irrigation to garden beds	$165,000	NA	Total cost over 10 years - permanent drip lines to all garden beds

ITEM	RATE	NOTES
PATHS		
Major Paths	$220 / lineal m	4m wide granitic gravel path with concrete edge
Minor Paths	$170 / lineal m	2m wide granitic gravel path with concrete edge
Demolition of bitumen paths	$27 / m^2	
GARDENS AND PLANTINGS		
Garden bed - Option 1	$89 / m^2	Planting, topsoil and mulch: supply and install
Garden bed - Option 2	$45.50 / m^2	Plants and mulch supply, soil conditioning
Steel edging to garden beds	$35 / lineal m	
Drip irrigation to garden beds	$18 / m^2	
Drip irrigation and mulch to trees	$2000 / tree	Mulch installed by staff with irrigation lines beneath mulch
Advanced trees	$275 ea	
Bulb drifts	$11 / m^2	Supply of plants only
FENCES		
Picket fence	$140 / lineal m	Fence to Clowes Street
Screen fence	$125 / lineal m	
SITE FURNISHINGS		
Picnic table	$2,150 ea	New
Bench seat	$1,200 ea	New
Barbeque	$8000 ea	New
Rubbish bin	$400 ea	New
Bollard	$110 ea	New
Drinking fountain	$1000 ea	New
LIGHTS		
Overhead down light	$18,000 ea	
Uplight	$350 ea	No allowance for connection to grid
Solar powered bollard light	$700 ea	

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Appendix 2: Contemporary Newspaper Articles

The following are three copies of contemporary newspaper articles which provide useful descriptions of the Kyne4ton Botanic Gardens at various times.

Kyneton Observer Thursday 4th April 1872

In paying a visit to Kyneton, we were much struck with the rapid progress these gardens have made during the last two years: the fine growth of numbers of the trees and many of the ornamental plants being really surprising, even for this favorable locality, with its excellent soil. The grounds consist of between thirty and forty acres, through which the waters of the Campaspe placidly role. The boundary fence is planted throughout with a whitehorn hedge, which fence has been thoroughly well planted and cared for, and right well it repays for all the labour bestowed upon it. The quicks have been in only two years, and are already 6ft. to 8ft. in height; at the same time being compact and sturdy, the picture of health and vigour. The ground around them is perfectly clean and well kept open, whereby they receive the benefits of the refreshing showers and dews.

It would be somewhat difficult to find a greater source of enjoyment for those in city or town, who, having a leisure or two, are able without cost, and with very little distance to travel, to walk beneath the shade of umbrageous woods, or groves of charming, elegant, and instructive plants of various kinds, judiciously planted and flourishing satisfactorily.

The taste for planting shrubs and ornamental trees for decorative purposes is, up to the present time, altogether disproportionate to the wealth of Victoria. In many of our reserves and gardens planted within the last ten years are to be found confused masses of trees and shrubs of the commonest kinds tastelessly displayed, leading one to the conclusion that they were under the care of a gamekeeper - certainly not an experienced horticulturist. In many the trees and shrubs are becoming over-crowded, showing conclusively that a vast amount of inexperience has been brought to bear upon their disposition in the first instance, which, if not quickly remedied, will very soon prove their signal failure.

The matter of placing the names correctly in public gardens should also receive consideration if we wish our growing population to become even only moderately conversant with the habits, natures, and heights of the various kinds of trees most in fashion. Without a correct nomenclature collections of shrubs and trees, however valuable, lose much of their interest, therefore we maintain that every specimen tree in our public gardens, and one at least of each variety cultivated, should have affixed to it in a clear and distinct manner, its English and scientific name, and the date on which it was planted. It would be well if our nurserymen would take some little trouble in reducing the somewhat discordant nomenclature to order, thereby enabling private growers to procure exactly what they require, at the same time preventing them buying the same plant under different names; this would, we think, prove beneficial to the public, and remunerative to themselves.

In the Kyneton Gardens we found that the trees received from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens have succeeded better than in any other place we have yet seen them, the chief cause being that here they have received something like rational treatment after being planted. Amongst the Cupress we found C. Lambertiana, C. Govemiana, and C. lawsoniana, all succeeding excellently, the growth for the time being prodigious, while their colour and substance was all we could wish. Araucaria imbricata (the Chili pine) is also thriving well and appears at home. Cedrus Deodara (the Indian cedar), and Cedrus Atlantica (the silver cedar) are growing with vigour, being both hardy and elegant. Abies excelsa, the Norway spruce, and Frenella cupressiformis, or Murray pine, are rapidly becoming fine trees. Larix Europaea, the European larch, is succeeding splendidly. Amongst pines, the ever useful and ornamental Pinus Insignis, stands foremost. Also, Pinus Austriaca, P. Canariensis, P. excelsa, P. Halepensis (the Aleppo pine), P. pinea 9the stone pine), and Pinus Sylvestris, the Scotch fir, are all planted in quantity, and give promise of great things in a few years' time.

The Wellingtonia gigantea, the mammoth tree, is represented by young specimens which are a credit to the establishment, these are evidently at home in this locality. The charming Thuja aurea and a number of the smaller growing conifers are rapidly making handsome specimens.

The deciduous trees consist of superior English elms, the broad-leaved giant elm, and the suberosa or cork elm. Quercus, the British oak, and the Turkey oak grow capitally, and are well suited to this district and soil. The poplar, Lombardy and silver, the acer, English maple or ash, the Italian ash, various acacias, Grevilleas and the Salix family are all well represented. The Salix rubra or basket willow, and the Salix Babylonica or weeping willow, are planted by the banks of the Campaspe, and they already form a charming and inviting shade. Amongst other plants particularly noticeable are various hollies, pittosporums, eugenioides, and nigrescens very fine. Rhamnus, alaternus, Areca sapida, and other cabbage palms, Gynerium argentum (the pampas grass), Dracoena Australis, and species from New Zealand different species of the eucalypti, enonymus, and Oriental planes.

There are also a fair collection of flowering plants in the borders and circular beds, including splendid patches of Clianthus dampieri or desert pea, roses of excellent growth, chrysanthemums, verbenas, geraniums, annuals of sorts, dahlias, petunias, phloxes, and a number of other flowers. Some parts of the grounds are very effectively planted, and, although much remains to be done in the way of the formation of the walks and roads and completing the planting, the ground for which is under preparation, the state of the gardens and the trees therein are highly creditable to the industrious and enthusiastic gardener, Mr James Kirk, who has only the assistance of one boy, the work accomplished by them being astonishing. Great credit is also due to Mr R. Harper, the well-known secretary of the Agricultural Association, who during the last three years has taken great interest in the working-out and bringing to a successful issue the planting and arranging of these gardens. Weekly Times

Source: Kyneton Historical Society Inc. via Roger Cousens

Kyneton Observer Saturday 23rd May 1885

It should be noted that the following article makes reference to Latrobe Bateman designing the Kyneton Botanic Gardens. There is no historical evidence that Bateman had any input into the design of the Gardens, and the layout bares no resemblance to Bateman's typical design style.

About two months ago Mr. Ferguson of the State Nursery, Macedon, made a visit of inspection to the Kyneton Public Gardens. The following report was received from him yesterday by Mr. Harper, Shire Secretary:-

SIR, - I have the honor to report that by directions from the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, I visited the Public Gardens at Kyneton 20th March, and made an exhaustive inspection of the grounds, and noted the improvements carried out during the last year.

I have the honor to report that the trees generally throughout the gardens have made great progress. The breaking up and cultivation of the ground between the trees has had a marked effect upon their vigor and healthy appearance, and the judicious thinning out of overgrown trees has greatly improved the appearance of the grounds wherever it has been attempted. Much remains yet to be done in the same direction, and when the new walks, planted on each side with shade trees, are opened out, a still greater improvement will have been effected.

A new walk on the south side of the gardens would improve the approach to the south-east end of the gardens, where a fountain and fernery could be erected at a comparatively small cost, and where under the shade of the willows it would be a graceful and pleasing retreat. In fact this spot seems specially fitted for the purpose, and if planted with some tree-ferns and other appropriate surroundings, would become a favorite resort of visitors. A new gate and walk from Mollison Street into this part of the gardens is much required, and would enable visitors to enter the gardens as soon as they had crossed the new bridge. The present entrance is quite out of the way, and often puzzles visitors where to find it. I would recommend that a new gate be erected in this position, and an attractive walk be formed from which branch walks radiating to all parts of the grounds, would add much to the appearance and convenience. The keeping of the gardens in the condition they are reflects great credit on the zeal and energy of the curator, Mr. Orames, who has worked hard, and done much to improve the gardens for many years past.

The gardens are a credit to the town of Kyneton, and only requires more labor to enable them to be classed as the best provincial public gardens in Victoria. In the first place they were designed by Mr. Latrobe Bateman, a gentleman whose taste for landscape gardening has never been excelled in this colony, and who at the present day occupies the high position of advisor and manager of one of the largest estates in Scotland, where he has carried out great and wonderful improvements in landscape gardening and forest management.

I find my note book contains some jottings that a few rustic seats placed in picturesque parts of the grounds would form a great convenience and comfort to visitors, and especially to ladies and children. There are some very ornamental cast iron seats to be had at a cheap rate, and if properly fixed would last for years. I know of no public gardens in the colony where such a fine collection of ornamental

trees are to be seen, growing with such vigor, and where the lover of nature could spend a few hours in study with such advantage as in the gardens belonging to the town of Kyneton, on the banks of the Campaspe.

Source: Kyneton Historical Society Inc. via Roger Cousens

Kyneton Guardian Thursday April 10, 1919 – "*The Public Gardens – Kyneton*"

The mild autumn weather, following on the splendid rainfall in February last, has had a beneficial effect on gardens generally, and especially can this be seen in Kyneton Public Gardens. Trees and shrubs have greatly benefited, and are just beginning to take on autumn colouring, which promises to be especially good this season. Lawns and grass plots are now looking their greenest, and the display of flowers in the various beds has never been seen to better advantage than at the present time.

There have been some good frosts, but little damage has as yet been done. Dahlias are most in evidence and among them are several of the newer peony flowered varieties, with very large blooms of brilliant colouring. Several varieties which the curator has raised from seed are quite equal to the named kinds. Gladioli have also made a fine display, but are now past their best. Walking around the different beds one sees antirrhiniums, [sic] cosmos, asters, marigolds, delphiniums, zinnias, petunias, verbenas, and many others in the choicest variety. A striking novelty is the new Cosmos Dahloides, [sic] a tuberous-rooted plant which sends up its cosmos-like flowers on long single stenis from the base of the plant. All lovers of the beautiful in nature should not fail to pay at least one visit to the Kyneton Gardens before Jack Frost destroys their beauty.

Source: Kyneton Historical Society Inc. via Roger Cousens

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Appendix 3: Directory of Australian Botanic Gardens Listing

The following is Kyneton Botanic Gardens listing in the Directory of Australian Botanic Gardens. This directory is maintained by the Australian National Botanic Gardens and may be found at http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/bg-dir/index.html

Kyneton Botanic Gardens

PO Box 151
KYNETON VIC 3444

Ph: 03 - 5422 0333
Fax: 03 - 5422 3623

Email: mrsc@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au
Web Site: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~kynbotga/
Authority: Municipal (Crown Land)
Established: 1861
Area: c.15 ha
Location: Mollison St, Kyneton
Entry Fees: None
Open: Monday to Sunday 24 hours
Number of Paid Staff: 1 part time
Number of Volunteers: 0
Planting Records: paper-based
% of Plants Labelled: 75%
% Native Aust Plants: ~10%
Threatened Plant Prog: none
% of collection vouchered: none
Vouchers held at: –
Public Access Herbarium: no
Special Collections: none
Indoor Exhibition Space: no
Plant Material Available For Public Sale: no
Exchange with Other Gardens: no
To Research Institutions: no

Friends: Friends of Kyneton Botanic Gardens
Friend's Address: P O Box 1061, Kyneton, Victoria 3444
Friend's Web Site: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~kynbotga/friends.htm

Updated February 16, 2010 , Murray Fagg (anbg-info@anbg.gov.au)