RICHMOND PARK
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Colleen Morris, Ian Jack and Geoffrey Britton
for **Hawkesbury City Council**
2003

RICHMOND PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background, study area

Hawkesbury City Council commissioned conservation management plans for three parks in Macquarie towns in April 2003. This report is for Richmond Park, which is bounded by March, East Market and Windsor Streets, Richmond.

1.2 Method

The report is structured according to NSW Heritage Guidelines as required by the brief. It contains an analysis of the historical development, extant fabric and present character of the landscape of Richmond Park. It identifies the cultural significance for the entire site and makes policy recommendations in regard to the park. These policy recommendations provide the equivalent recommendations to conservation and asset management guidelines.

1.3 Study Team

The study team comprised of Colleen Morris, landscape heritage consultant and team leader, Associate Professor R. Ian Jack, historian and Geoffrey Britton, heritage and design consultant.

1.4 Acknowledgements

Sean Perry, Manager Parks and Recreation, Michelle Nicols, Librarian. Grateful thanks are also extended to Angie Michaelis for the use of her 1994 report on the trees in Richmond Park.

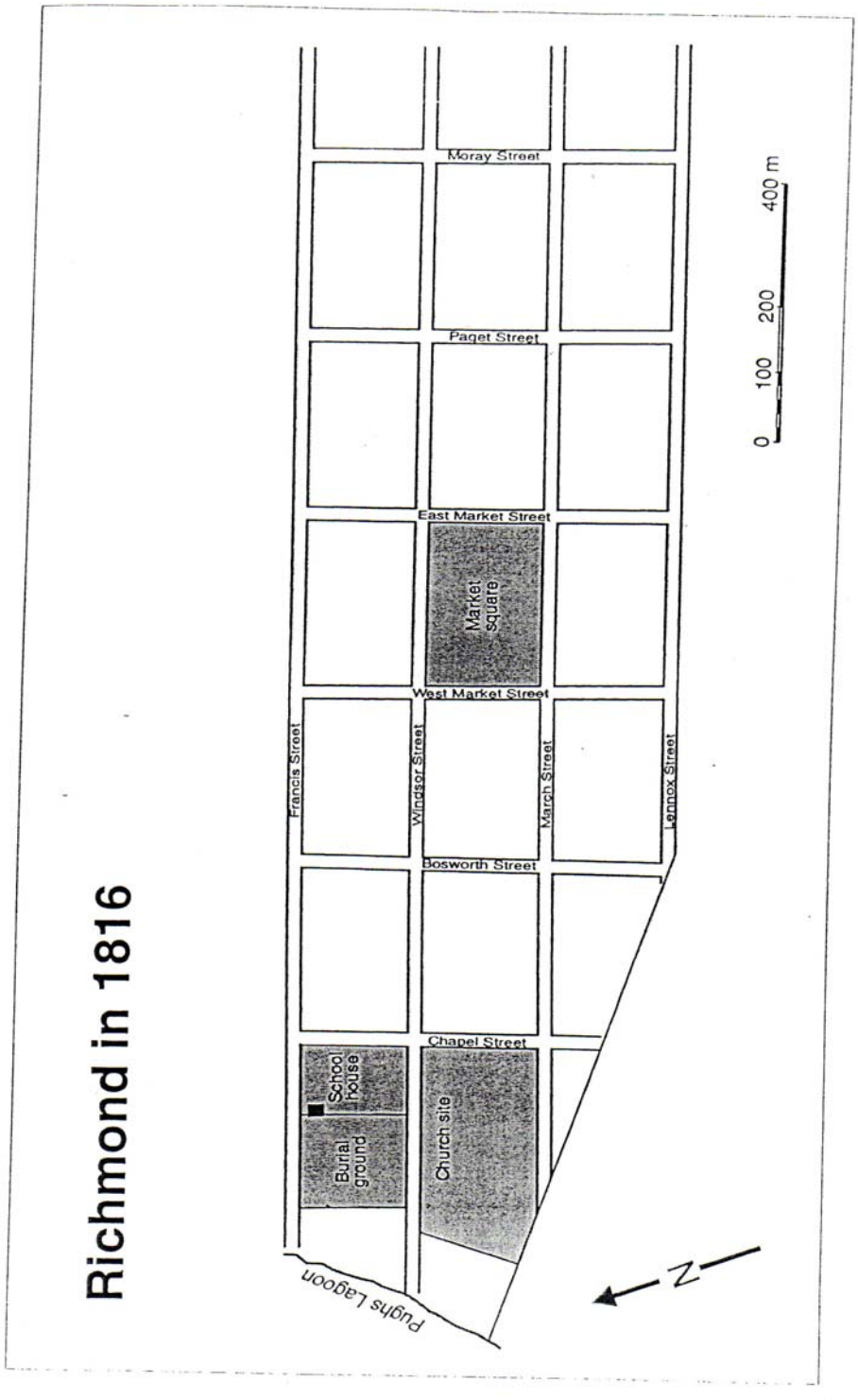
Richmond in 1816
Moray Street
Paget Street
East Market Street
Market square
West Market Street
Francis Street
Windsor Street
March Street
Lennox Street
Bosworth Street
Chapel Street
School house
Burial ground
Church site
Pughs Lagoon
N
0 100 200 400 m
Map: University of Sydney Cartography.

Figure 1

2.0 HISTORY

2.1 The Creation of Richmond Town

The Hawkesbury River, like the Nile in Egypt, flooded and spread nutritious alluvium along the adjacent flat lands. The agricultural potential of these river flats had been noted at the very beginning of the colony by Governor Phillip and from 1794 onwards the reaches in the vicinity of the later towns of Windsor, Richmond, Pitt town and Wilberforce were intensively farmed. Flood, however, brought not only rich soil but also human misery, as houses, animals and barns full of seed-corn were inundated and often swept away. Floods exceeding 40 feet (12 metres) had occurred in 1799, 1800, twice in 1806 and twice again in 1809.[i] So late in 1810 the new governor, Lachlan Macquarie, came to the Hawkesbury, conscious of the problems for the settlers there and for the colony as a whole. He had been instructed by the British government in his commission as governor to

> lay out Townships of a convenient size and extent in such places as you in your discretion shall judge most proper

and he personally selected flood-free sites for five towns along the settled part of the Hawkesbury. Windsor was the only Macquarie town which developed an existing service centre: Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce each created something quite new.[ii]

Richmond was the first of the five town sites to be chosen by the governor personally. On 3 December 1810 the placement of the town on its clearly defined ridge was decided, with the site for the Anglican church, school-house and cemetery on a prime situation at the west end. Land on the ridge was already held by Nicholas Bayly and William Bowman, but they were persuaded to relinquish their holdings in return for larger grants elsewhere.[iii] The ridge therefore reverted to crown land and the government surveyor, James Meehan, laid out the grid pattern of Richmond on 10 January 1811, with three rows of seven town sections.

2.2 Richmond Market Square

The central section of the new town of Richmond, containing almost 10 acres (4 hectares), was reserved as 'the great square' and was 'marked out by strong posts put in the ground by the Surveyors'.[iv] Rectangular rather than square, measuring 8 by 12 chains (160 by 240 metres), it lay between the two principal thoroughfares running east to west, Windsor and March Streets and, significantly, the north-south streets on either side of the square were named East Market and West Market Streets. On the 1827 plan of the town the square is marked as the 'Government Reserve for Market Place'.[v]

The square was presumably used for buying and selling stock and crops in the 1820s and perhaps the 1830s, though no specific description of early Richmond market days survives .In the 1840s this reserve was still known as the Market Square to Alfred Smith, the 'old Richmondite' born in 1831, whose vivid memories were written down in 1909-10;[vi] while W.R. Sullivan recalled in 1924 how 'when I was a boy [in the 1850s] it was called "Market Square"'.[vii] But Sam Boughton, born in 1841, put the record straight when he wrote his 'Reminiscences of Richmond' in 1903-5:

> I must now take you across the street to the park, or Market Square, as we called it then [1840s], for that was what it was originally laid out for. However, as apparently it was not required for market purposes, it has always been used for recreation – a change of purpose which all lovers of sport appreciate.[viii]

The area of the square was reduced to the present 7 acres 3 rods 37 perches (3 hectares) after 1821, because the westerly strip of land, surveyed as 162 feet (48.6 metres) broad, and stretching the whole length from Windsor to March Street, was dedicated to the demands of law and order. A watch-house, designed and built by William Cox, was built in 1821 on the north-east corner, where the Court House now stands. To the south, facing West Market Street, was a pound for straying animals and the pound-keeper's garden, also constructed by Cox in 1820-1.[ix] The watch-house, pound and garden, however, occupied only the north-westerly section of the law-and-order reserve: the frontage of the watch-house onto Windsor Street was only 67 feet (21 metres) and, with the pound, fronted 110 feet (33 metres) along West Market Street in 1850.[x] The remaining 95 feet (28.5 metres) on Windsor Street were reserved for a post-office by 1841,[xi] although the post-office was not built on the site until 1875. On West Market Street the remaining frontage to the south was occupied by the public school and the Masonic Lodge after 1860 and, on the March Street corner, by the School of Arts after 1868. The maps of 1827, 1831, 1843 and the later town plans show the entire 540-feet (162-metre) strip fenced off from the Market Place to the east and this has continued to this day to be the western boundary of the park.[xii]

The Colonial Architect's drawing of the watch-house and its environs in 1850 shows that the fencing between the post-office reserve and the Market Square was 8-foot (2.4 metre) palings along 110 feet (33 metres): it is particularly pleasing that a paling fence still defines the boundary between the former Post Office and the Park, although the palings are significantly less high today. The longer part of the western

boundary of the Market Square, 430 feet (129 metres) on the southerly side was in 1850 secured by a five-rail fence.[xiii] There is no information about the other three sides of the Market Square before the 1870s, but it is likely that the frontages onto Windsor, East Market and March Streets were unfenced until the 1860s.

The Market Square had been largely cleared of vegetation by 1840. Alfred Smith describes how only a few of the native trees were spared the axe and the area was full of stumps still in the 1840s, with logs left lying on the ground. The surface undulated and 'in wet weather water would lie in a few places about the centre'.[xiv] To judge by complaints which are common in the better documented 1870s, cattle and horses would certainly have grazed on the square on a sort of unofficial agistment.[xv]

The only specific evidence of communal use, other than the presumed markets, is for Guy Fawkes celebrations each 5 November in the 1840s and perhaps beyond, when the townsfolk

> would build a platform some five or six feet high about where the pavilion now stands [western end], and make an effigy of a man. They had the effigy on show at day time, and large heaps of wood piled up about a rod [5 metres] away. When night came they set fire to the man and heaps of wood, and great was the rejoicing.[xvi]

There were still relatively few other buildings around the square. The Wesleyan chapel and two houses were all that had been built on that block of Windsor Street by 1850, while the surviving two-storey Price house of 1827, another two-storey Price house of the 1840s (now demolished) and a number of smaller houses (mostly now replaced) had been erected in March Street opposite the square.[xvii]

3.3 From Market Square to Public Reserve: the 1860s

The 1860s brought substantial changes to Richmond. The railway from the city reached Richmond in 1864, greatly enhancing communications. By 1866 there were five hotels, four churches, 'several good stores' and four private schools supplementing the government school of 1860: there were two banks and four insurance companies and almost a thousand inhabitants in the town and on its adjacent farms.[xviii]

There was greatly increased interest in the development of the urban centre, with, then as now, widely differing opinions about priorities. Some locals wanted a higher density of housing and 'were in favour of having [the Market Square] cut up into small lots and sold for building sites', while others, the majority who prevailed, 'favored enclosing it and reserving it for recreation purposes'.[xix]

An Improvement Committee for the town was set up by the local people early in the 1860s and this committee was keenly interested in enhancing the appearance and amenities of the old Market Square. As a result the square was fenced for the first time in 1864, with a good-quality two-rail fence made of ironbark close to the adjacent streets. Residents collaborated in beginning to level and top-dress the uneven ground, led by Andrew Town's men and horses while good turf was laid by Ned Gregory to create a cricket wicket of high quality. The Committee began to plant trees, both natives and exotics. Sam Boughton recalled the plantings of the 1860s as including native river oak, myall and red cedar and the exotics English oak, conifers, beech, poplar, cork and Judas trees.[xx]

Individuals began a tradition of donating seats for the comfort of all who used the Park: John Ducker, the store-keeper in Windsor Street opposite, and John Cornwell, the butcher in Paget Street, were among those who gave portable wooden seats which patrons moved around the Park to suit their convenience.[xxi]

The status of the square changed on 19 May 1868. The Martin-Parkes ministry moved to widespread dedications of crown land for various public purposes and, in a single long list, gazetted what was later known as McQuade Park in Windsor, 200 acres (80 hectares) between Windsor and Richmond as a racecourse as well as the 7 acres 3 rods 37 perches (3 hectares) of Richmond market square 'for public recreation'.[xxii] As was normal, local trustees were appointed to take responsibility for the new reserve: in this case, the politician, grazier and local grandee William Bowman of Toxana,, within sight of the Park; Stephen Field, who had a large property on the south side of Francis Street; and Edward Powell, a Justice of the Peace who farmed down on the lowlands.[xxiii]

For details of the early years of the public recreation area, we are dependant on 'Cooramill', since no newspapers seem to have been published in Windsor or Richmond during the 1860s: there is a gap between the demise of the *Hawkesbury Courier* in 1846 and the birth of the *Australian* in 1871. Nor are there any visual images of the reserve before 1879. All that is known of the reserve between 1868 and 1871 suggests, however, that it was at last adequately fenced, better maintained and provided with amenities such as seats. It was still, like all the streets and gardens of

young Richmond, infested with various noxious weeds and still grazed by cattle and horses on an unofficial basis: but at the same time, local aspirations were strong and the area became known for the first time as Richmond Park.[xxiv]

In 1872 Richmond was created a borough (a year after Windsor), following the provisions of Henry Parkes' Municipalities Act of 1867. This act of the New South Wales Parliament allowed any urban area or densely populated country district with a population over 1000 to be proclaimed a borough, with an elected municipal council. Richmond was just on the threshold and when proclaimed had the lowest average rate-income of all the forty-one boroughs then in existence.[xxv] But the successful attainment of municipal status was the catalyst and the bureaucratic framework within which Richmond's old Market Square and public reserve of 1868 could become a true town park.

2.4 Richmond Park, a Municipal Enterprise, 1873 to 1893

2.4.1 Trustees

The nine aldermen who constituted the first Richmond Municipal Council were elected in August 1872, and the Council elected as inaugural mayor George Bowman, an influential local resident and substantial pastoralist.[xxvi] His brother William was one of the two surviving trustees of the reserve, appointed by the Department of Lands. The Council quickly found its feet and in December 1872 decided that 'the place known as Richmond Park should be vested in the Municipal Council'. In the following March 1873 the aldermen requested the Park trustees 'to convey the Park with the permission of the Government to this Council' and within three weeks the trustees, William Bowman and Edward Powell, had agreed to the transfer. In July 1873 this cosy transaction was regularised by the Department of Lands, which appointed the Richmond Council trustees of the Park in lieu of the former trustees 'who have resigned'.[xxvii] Technically, therefore, from 1873 onwards, the Council has not owned the Park, but merely administers it as trustees for the Crown. The Park remains Crown land to this day.

2.4.2 Plantings and Pathways

The Council was poor by municipal standards, with only 55% of the rate revenue enjoyed by Windsor, but gave the improvement of the Park a high priority in its early meetings. The Works Committee reported in August 1873 that tenders should be called for a 2-rail fence around the perimeter, that the fallen timber which 'now encloses' the existing trees should be removed and that £10 be spent on 'the improvement of the trees now growing and the renewal of suitable trees where others have failed'. This was followed by a letter in September to Charles Moore, the Director of the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, seeking the gift of a number of suitable trees.[xxviii] It seems that only a one-rail fence, of inferior wood to the 1864 ironbark, was erected, some five metres from the earlier perimeter fence, but the Botanic Gardens did send a variety of plants, detailed in the archives of the Gardens.[xxix]

The care of existing plantings and the steady expansion of the number of trees in the Park are a constant feature of the Council's Park policy thereafter, sedulously fostered by the influential Park Committee (the largest Council committee). No more trees were solicited from the Botanic Gardens, but trees, seeds and shrubs were purchased consistently during Victoria's reign, usually supplied by Fergusson & Son in Sydney, but also by Graham & Co, W. Gelding and Shepherd & Co.[xxx] Local people still sometimes donated trees and took personal responsibility for their care.[xxxi] Although many trees died (25 in 1878, 27 in 1880, 10 in 1881, 30 in 1882), they were normally replaced and by 1883 there were at least 143 trees flourishing in the Park.[xxxii]

A photograph of the Park, taken looking to the south-west from the East Market Street end of Windsor Street in 1879 by the Government Printer's staff shows a thin line of trees, some well established, others still small, along the Windsor Street frontage of the Park and a few large trees beside March Street. There was the two-rail fence of 1864 beside the Windsor Street footpath, still in good order, and the newer, but deteriorated, one-rail fence of 1873 about five metres within the Park, beyond the line of trees. A beaten path ran on the south side of the 1873 fence, within the Park,

parallel to Windsor Street. The wide area beyond had by the time of the photograph become totally cleared of trees and largely innocent of stumps, thanks to the zeal of the local people and the Council.[xxxiii]

Shortly after this photograph was taken in 1879, a more elaborate lay-out for the Park was created. Within the outer border of trees, an 'inner Park' was planted with shrubs, in triangular plots in each corner of the rectangle. These triangles were separately fenced in 1879 and shrubs costing the substantial amount of £12 were bought along with ten wooden seats

> consisting of two suitable supports, well and firmly fixed in the earth, with a strong piece of sawn timber nailed thereon, [to] be erected under the largest trees on the Park, for the convenience of the general public.[xxxiv]

The Council was assisted in the costs of Park maintenance by fairly regular appropriations from the state government, which initially in the 1870s provided £25 a year and occasionally much more (£200 in 1879 and 1883, £100 in 1881 and 1882, £200 in 1883, £75 in 1884).[xxxv] This made it possible for the Council to beautify the Park, to create amenities to increase public use and to keep down the recurrent outbreaks of weeds such as Bathurst burr, castor-oil plant, prickly pear and black thistle.[xxxvi]

The Council's policy succeeded in making the Park attractive. The County of Cumberland Year-Book of 1886 praised Richmond for its 'park nicely laid out and planted' and a number of photographs taken by the Woodhill family who owned the store opposite the Park show real achievement in plantings and paths by the 1890s.[xxxvii]

2.4.3 The Problem of Animals

Despite the improved fencing, animals continued to be a nuisance, as they were in the streets of the town throughout the nineteenth century and beyond. The presence of horses and cattle running loose in the town and grazing on the Park encouraged the Council to appoint an Inspector of Nuisances in 1878. Unscrupulous townsfolk had deliberately put animals on the Park as free agistment in the 1860s and the 1870s and this was addressed by offering the Park at lease to a local person quite regularly for some years after 1875. The lessee was allowed to rent grazing rights for horses and by this means could pay his lease of some £5 and make some profit. In 1878 the lessee, John Gough, was unable to prevent a series of invasions of geese, deliberately put onto the Park by owners who were unsuccessfully taken to court by the indignant Council.[xxxviii]

The presence of animals and the more sophisticated planting and design of the Park coexisted with the increasing use of the central part for sports, so that the Park came to have three separate, but inter-dependent elements: the outer Park, with trees and public seats; the inner Park with designed beds for shrubs and perhaps flowers also; and the central area necessary for organised sports.

2.4.4 The Pavilion on the Park

In 1882 the Park still lacked any permanent building to add distinction and amenity. Refreshment stalls and tents were periodically erected for specific events, but a Pavilion was necessary to give the required dignity. The aldermen decided to open the design to general competition, after thwarting an attempt to invite a local entrepreneur, Samuel Boughton, both to design and to build the Pavilion. Architects were invited to tender anonymously for a structure, costing no more than £300, to seat

> about 300 persons, building to be of wood on brick piers, to have also a small room for the use of athletes and cricketers, to be covered with iron and to face east.

The competition aroused much interest and the Council shortlisted six out of the dozen entries. In March 1882 the entry 'Energy' was chosen, despite its estimated cost of £360, in preference to 'I Work to Win' for only £320.[xxxix] It was soon revealed that 'Energy' was none other than George Matcham Pitt junior, the influential owner of Sunnyside in North Richmond, the son of the founder of the major pastoral company Pitt, Son and Badgery, and a government surveyor who did a variety of surveys for Richmond Council. G.
M. Pitt is also well remembered in Windsor for his remodelling of the Hospital, which has recently been conserved back to Pitt's conception of 1911.[xl]

When it came to finding a contractor for building Pitt's Pavilion, there was only one tender and in 1883 Samuel Boughton had the chance to construct the building after all.[xli] Boughton was an outstanding local figure. Born in Lennox Street in 1841 and a resident of the district until his death in 1910, he was 'one of the picturesque and popular personalities' of Richmond and Kurrajong, a practical builder, a soldier in the Hawkesbury volunteers for 49 years, a celebrated marksman, an early alderman of Richmond Borough Council, Master of the Duke of Connaught's Lodge of Freemasons, an Oddfellow, an Orangeman, an Anglican churchwarden in North Richmond, a bandmaster and cornettist, and not least a talented local chronicler, who wrote the 'Reminiscences of Richmond' published in 114 issues of the local newspaper under the pseudonym of 'Cooramill' between 1903 and 1905.[xlii]

The *Hawkesbury Chronicle* already in June 1883 was celebrating the Boughton contribution to the Park, before anything of the Pavilion was built at all:

> The timber for the creation of this structure is now on the ground, and it needn't surprise anybody if, some fine morning, they behold the dome rising high above the umbrageous camphor trees in the Park; for when contractor Boughton once begins, the edifice will rise like a fairy palace – as if by the stroke of a magician's wand.[xliii]

The Pavilion, which Boughton finally completed early in 1884 (although the inscription on the stone pier claims 1883), did not exactly have a dome and fell some way short of most fairy palaces, but it was handsome and useful, serving as a grandstand for sporting functions and other events. The fencing of the oval originally embraced the Pavilion, finishing at the back of the building. This gave it a

relationship with the playing field rather different from the present arrangement, when the oval fence of 1999 closes in front of the Pavilion.

The original Pavilion was severely damaged by fire in 1980, but was promptly repaired and finally comprehensively restored in 1994. The restoration is not entirely faithful to the original detailing, particularly because of the infilling of the gaps between the four original brick pillars in the undercroft, but the Pavilion has been given the opportunity to continue to give a peculiarly nineteenth-century grace to a Park which has in so many other ways been modified.

From the 1950s until 1998 a dominant figure in local cricket, a player and coach, who personally looked after the turf of the oval, was Rod McConville. McConville, a retired high-school teacher, died in September 1998 and in his memory the Pavilion was named the McConville Grandstand in June 1999.[xliv]

2.4.5 The Fountain of 1892

In 1892 the Governor Lord Jersey and his wife were invited to open Richmond Waterworks. Council worked rather desperately to titivate the town for the Governor's visit scheduled for 27 October 1892. As well as painting and repairing many of the Park's fittings, the Council decided on 12 October that a fountain there would be a fitting memorial of the event. £50 was instantly procured from the Park Fund; the Works Committee enjoyed a trip to Sydney; and by 17 October a handsome iron fountain with three iron statues of a winged cherub with a mermaid's tail was in Richmond waiting for a 'base stone' plinth. An initial decision to erect it in front of the 1884 Pavilion was reversed and it was placed on the East Market Street frontage, opposite the railway station.

The governor's train duly drew into Richmond station on the morning of 27 October 1892, in pouring rain. After opening the waterworks at Kurrajong in a continuing downpour, the viceregal party drove back to the Park, where Lady Jersey

> turned on the fountain, and, amidst cheers, the water spouted up, and sent a spray over the assembled crowd.

Her ladyship then crossed East Market Street and turned on a hydrant, demonstrating that the water pressure was ample to soak everyone within 20 metres. No wonder that

> A local wag suggested that instead of being asked to turn the water on, Lady Jersey should have been instructed to turn it off.

The actual cost of the fountain was £30. The ironwork bears no maker's stamp, although the style speaks loudly of Colebrookdale, the great English firm. The Sydney supplier is unknown: neither Hordern nor Lassetter included fountains in their famous catalogues and the payment did not go through the usual financial channel. The statues proved irresistible to collectors and only groups of bolt holes mark their former presence. No one seems to remember when the fountain last spouted water; The restoration of the fountain's original function is greatly impeded by a recently created flower-bed.[xlv]

2.5 Cricket, Football and Athletics on the Park

2.5.1 Cricket

Although athletics is the earliest community sport played regularly on Richmond Park under Council auspices, the dominant game for over a hundred and fifty years has been cricket. Cricket had been played in Sydney since at least 1804, Hyde Park had been known as the 'Cricket Ground' in Macquarie's time and the Australian Cricket Club was formed as early as 1826.[xlvi] In Windsor members of the military regularly played cricket with the townsfolk in Macquarie's time and this continued through the 1840s and 1850s.[xlvii]

In Richmond the game was played enthusiastically in the Market Square in the 1840s, with the local families of Eather, Onus and Guest strongly represented in the teams. The 1850s were dominated by the famous underhand bowler, Tom Douglass, who could win a £10 wager with a Windsor cricketer by hitting a single stump nine times out of ten. If people are worried about the shorter boundary of the present oval, they might pause and remember how in the 1860s George Reid (later the premier of New South Wales and later still prime-minister of Australia) hit a six on Richmond Park, sending the ball right out of the ground, over Windsor Street and through the window of Docker's store. Docker praised the shot and said that he would not mind more broken windows to see cricket of such quality.[xlviii]

An English team toured Australia in 1861 and 1863-4, while W.G. Grace himself had led a visiting team in 1873-4.[xlix] The glamour of seeing Grace bat and the excitement of an English defeat at the hands of New South Wales in 1876-7 were fresh in the memory of all cricket enthusiasts when the Richmond Cricket Club in October 1877 approached the Municipal Council, asking that Council 'form and enclose a certain portion of the Park, for cricketing purposes'. The third mayor of Richmond, Holborow, was a strong cricket supporter and he brought many visiting teams from Sydney in the 1870s and 1880s

The result was the progressive creation of a well-tended oval in the middle of Richmond Park. The bumps, holes and swampy patches of the 1840s had been gradually smoothed over, but in the 1870s even at Lords in London the wickets were still 'such as modern batsmen have never seen'. [l] Rollers, lawnmowers, marked boundaries were all innovations only gradually being observed in cricket-playing countries at the time that Richmond Cricket Club began to use Richmond Park as its home ground. The lawnmower and roller purchased by Richmond Council in 1878 to tame the cricket pitch were state-of-the-art technology, like top-dressing the wicket in 1879. Moveable hurdles were placed around the wicket in 1878, a single-rail fence was erected around the perimeter of the oval and a concrete wicket was laid down in 1882, with an expensive mat bought from Hordern's to cover it as required, the triumph of cricket at Richmond was complete, at a cost of over £120.[li] The third mayor of Richmond, Holborow, as a strong supporter of the game and used his connections to bring many visiting teams from Sydney to play on Richmond Park in the 1870s and 1880s.[lii]

Already Windsor had been envious of the facilities at Richmond. In 1880 the local paper contrasted Windsor Park, 'an eyesore to our cricketing community … [where] the fielding ground is a caution' with Richmond Park:

> The cricket ground there is fenced in with hurdles when not in use, and ground fees are levied upon any persons who engage the ground, and thus the ground is kept in good repair, and prevents it from being ill-used.[liii]

All this was not done without pain and dispute, however. There was for many years bickering between Richmond Council and the Cricket Club about who should pay for improvements and for maintenance, over and above the annual fee which the Club paid for their privileges. The prickliness showed, for example, when one of the two English touring sides played a two-day match at Richmond Park in December 1887: a fee was charged for admission to the stand without proper consultation with Council, the Mayor considered 'the whole matter a deliberate affront to the Council' and there was no civic reception for the English sportsmen.[liv]

Richmond Cricket Club did not have the exclusive use of the ground. Various games of cricket were played by other groups. The most notable of these organisations was Hawkesbury Agricultural College, founded in 1891, which maintained keen rivalry with the local club and played on the Park oval for the first ten years until it constructed pitches on its own land.[lv] More importantly, cricket clubs in the Hawkesbury generally sprouted like asparagus in May during the late nineteenth century and by 1890 some twenty clubs along the river from Castlereagh to Wisemans Ferry, up to Kurrajong and out to Parramatta and Blacktown were in regular competition.[lvi]

The Richmond club suffered from a chronic lack of resources. The Secretary, H.P. Ramsay-Copeland, complained in 1892 about poor attendance at committee meetings, tardy payment of subscriptions and the implications of sharing the wicket with other organisations:

> The only material remaining from last year [is] 5 stumps and 3 half worn balls… [The wicket is at risk of] being destroyed by persons who are in the habit of playing on it whenever they can get leisure (I do not refer to the College students) and who do not go to the expense of providing themselves with proper boots and shoes, and consequently do more damage in a week than persons playing in proper cricketing boots would do in three months.[lvii]

Nonetheless, cricket has remained a feature of the Park until the present day and the decision in 2001 to contract the oval, creating a shorter boundary, aroused controversy, but the changes were effected, giving additional space to the parkland which was also the object of substantial redesign and replanting.[lviii]

2.5.2 Football

Football was more contentious than cricket in Richmond Park and appeared significantly later. The first application to Council to erect goal-posts, presumably for Rugby Union, was not made until 1882. Council's acquiescence was rescinded two months later, but a compromise was reached allowing the Football Club to re-erect

the posts under careful supervision from the Park Committee to ensure that the cricket oval 'be not interfered with'.[lix]

In 1883 the Football sought to use the Park as its regular ground but was perturbed about the danger posed to its players by the concrete wicket laid down in 1882, so the wicket was turfed over in winter and exposed again in spring and summer.[lx]

When Hawkesbury Agricultural College opened in 1891, it at once formed a rugby team which already by 1892 was boasting that it had often beaten the Richmond team, presumably on the Richmond Park ground.[lxi]

The subsequent use of the oval for football of whatever persuasion is poorly documented and cricket remained the dominant sporting use of the Park during the twentieth century.

2.5.3 Athletics

Footracing was a favourite pastime in the Park from at least the 1840s. Abe Eather's turn of speed was remembered over half a century later and in 1903 Sam Boughton would still reminisce about the race between Tom Griffiths of Richmond and Billy Freeman of Windsor in 1850, when the contestants ran within the Park , then had to vault the fences enclosing the adjacent pound paddock and run on into West Market Street: but Griffiths lost when he slipped on a discarded melon skin at the first fence.[lxii] From such fragile memories folklore is spun.

There was an Athletics Sports Committee in Richmond by the early 1870s and as soon as the town Council was formed the Committee was eager to use the Park as its principal venue for races of all descriptions. The first recorded sports day was on New Year's Day 1874, with foot races, pony races, a circus, children's roundabouts and refreshment tents.[lxiii] Circuses were forbidden after 1883, and pony races seem to have retreated to the Racecourse, but foot races with their attendant play facilities and food outlets appear year after year after 1874.

In December 1880, for example, a sports day was held to celebrate the return to Parliament of Alexander Bowman. A whole bullock was roasted in the Park and the elite among 1500 spectators sat down to beef for lunch, while five foot races were run: the novice handicap, the youths' handicap, the sunlight handicap, the boys' handicap and the publican's purse, with the usual altercations about the eligibility of some winners. The afternoon concluded with everyone chasing a pig with a greased tail and the younger spirits tried to climb a greasy pole.[lxiv]

The building of the Pavilion in 1883-4 allowed for the provision of refreshment rooms under cover, in the undercroft, and the installation of six swings in 1891 gave better permanent amenities for the local children, while sports days organised by various organisations such as the Oddfellows and local schools have never ceased.[lxv] The schools athletics carnivals in particular have preserved the 160-year old tradition of footracing in the Park.[lxvi]

2.6. The Richmond to Kurrajong Railway, 1924 to 1952

The possibility of extending westwards the railway line which had reached Richmond in 1864 was actively canvassed in the later nineteenth century. In 1891 a Parliamentary Committee reported on the viability of the project, examining six different proposals, all going up to Kurrajong by one route or another, some terminating there, one going north to Singleton and a very ambitious one continuing west to Wallerawang. Five of these would have left from Richmond railway station. In the event the Committee recommended against any railway to Kurrajong after an extensive and fascinating analysis of the potential market generated by the citrus industry and by the increased building of hill stations as summer retreats for those in the cities of the plain. The issue did not go away, however, and in 1913 there was a more positive Parliamentary response to the concept. The Parliament had before it an estimate for the construction of a line to Kurrajong, calculated in 1909, and a fresh estimate of 1913. Finally in 1919 legislative approval was given for the railway. Unlike their predecessors of 1891, the politicians of the World War I period concluded that the Kurrajong's production of citrus, vegetables, firewood and wattle bark for tanning, together with an increased population (including returned servicemen), made the line desirable. It was not, however, economic. The Chief Railway Commissioner believed that:

> Viewed from a commercial standpoint the estimated earnings would not cover the cost of maintenance and running expenses, leaving the interest charge unprovided for. But from a State standpoint, allowing for development and the loss at present sustained by fruitgrowers, owing to the absence of railway communication, consideration as indicated might be extended.[lxvii]

The chosen route took the new rail line out of Richmond along the north side of March Street: to link March Street with the existing rail system on the north side of Richmond station implied that the Kurrajong line had to cut across the south-east corner of the Park. Public indignation over the loss of trees had been expressed at a public meeting arranged by the mayor on 12 March 1923, and reinforced by the Richmond Progress Association three days later, but the first sod for the railway was turned at Richmond by the state Minister for Works and Railways on 2 June. On 21 June the Council voted against 'any portion of Park being taken for railway purposes'.[lxviii]

Local dissatisfaction with the loss of a corner of their Park reached a climax early in 1924, with public meetings, lobbying of the State Parliament and strong letters to the editor of the *Gazette*. Henry Selkirk and then W.R. Sullivan spoke for many in the community in their published correspondence. Old Mr Sullivan's affection for the park was particularly telling:

> The Richmond Park … has been a playground and meeting-place for old and young for many years. Sentiment is deep-rooted about this little park… I saw the first tree planted when it was converted into a park [in the 1860s]. That was a big day for the little village, over one hundred trees being then planted. Now, after more than 50 years, some of these trees are being uprooted, to make way for a railway line to Kurrajong, when a better and easier route is available! I wish the ladies of Richmond success in their endeavor to preserve

> the dear old park, which, in all conscience, is small enough, without being mutilated.[lxix]

Protest and outrage were to no avail. Trees were felled and the new railway line was built across the south-east corner of the Park in a tasteful shallow S-shape not at all like the curvaceous brick pathway which purports to show the line of the railway in the Park today. The first steam train travelled across the Park onto March Street on 8 November 1926, a new platform called Phillip was formed at the west end of March Street and until 1952 there were normally one goods train, one passenger train and one mixed goods and passenger train each weekday. The Pansy, a 24 tonne '22' class steam locomotive, normally hauled the trains up the stiff grades to Kurrajong: because it attracted photographers dedicated to steam, there are some useful views of the corner of the Park in these years, with its simple new fence and some new tree plantings.[lxx]

After flood damage near North Richmond bridge in 1952, the first year of high flood since the line opened, the Commissioner of Railways decided that repairs to the line, a cutting and the bridge were unjustified, particularly since the line was operating at a loss. The decision to close the Kurrajong railway permanently prompted as much local protest as the original routing through the Park had caused almost thirty years before and new committees angrily sought interviews with the relevant Minister, but without result.[lxxi]

After 1952 the rails were removed from the Park, the fencing was readjusted, new plantings, reflected in the corner today, were made and the Park resumed its full rectangular size. In the 1990s signage was placed in the corner, reminding the public of the railway episode.

2.7 Developments since 1980

Miscellaneous changes have taken place in the Park over the last twenty years, which require appraisal in the light of the previous century and a quarter of consolidation and development. Richmond Council had ceased to exist long since: it had joined with Windsor in 1948 to form a larger Windsor Municipality. In 1971 this Council commissioned Peter Spooner to redesign Richmond Park, but his fairly radical proposals never advanced beyond a sketch plan.[lxxii] Windsor Municipality in turn merged with Colo Shire in 1980 to form Hawkesbury Shire. The local Council was accordingly less and less preoccupied with the inner workings of Richmond and decisions were made by a majority of aldermen who were not primarily concerned with any one of the three original, much smaller local government areas.

The Pavilion was damaged by fire in 1980, but this important landmark building was promptly repaired in an interim way. Council's attention was drawn to the Park and in 1985 the first of several recent wider schemes to change the Park without reference to its history created local disquiet. In March Ruth Christie wrote angrily to the *Gazette*:

> A question without notice to a recent Hawkesbury Shire Council meeting by Councillor Stevens appears to have put in train a complete redevelopment of Richmond Park estimated to cost more than $100,000.
>
> Councillor Stevens' proposal includes removal of annuals and roses, paving, mounds,clean-up of old trees and replacement seating.
>
> The proposal will completely change the face of Richmond Park as we know it and plans are currently being drawn up within council's engineering department to carry out the proposal.[lxxiii]

Because of public pressure the Heritage Council placed an Interim Conservation Order on the Park to run for two years from 24 May 1985. This effectively stopped any immediate changes and an interesting street survey was conducted in mid-June. It gave local people an opportunity to articulate the values which they saw in their Park and uses which they made of it. Pertinent comments include:

> [a father] The park is definitely a valuable part of Richmond … I go there fairly often when I take my kids for lunch or just to let them play there.
>
> [a mother] I go there weekly for playgroup and often just for lunch with my son.
>
> [a woman] The park is quite nice to sit and have lunch in on a nice day. I go there quite often. The conservation order sounds like a good idea to protect the park from too many changes.
>
> [a man] The park is a very important part of Richmond …[but] I think the Heritage Council's order stinks because the Heritage Council doesn't take over maintenance.[lxxiv]

The Park then ceased to be a burning issue and the Interim Conservation Order was allowed to lapse in 1987. Almost at once, in May 1988, the Deputy Shire Engineer instructed the Parks Superintendent to 'arrange for the preparation of a plan of conservation, i.e. conservation of the trees and buildings'. This plan was duly produced later in 1988,as part of the Bicentennial efforts. It noted that in the recent past the children's playground had been replaced and that flood-lighting and a new irrigation system had been introduced on the Oval. It proposed that the 30 seats and eleven seat-table furniture should be replaced over two years with 30 'Westminster' seats made of teak and eleven new seat-tables.[lxxv]

A complete census of trees was undertaken in 1988, a plan and key produced to identify each item and a three-phase program of maintenance and replacement enunciated. [lxxvi] When, however, in 1994 Angie Michaelis prepared her study of the park as part of a Horticulture qualification, she found that none of the proposed 27 replantings of 1988 had taken place. Seventeen trees or shrubs had died over the six years and only seven new plantings had occurred, but all of these were at the east end near the War Memorial, where there was overplanting, whereas the death and non-replacement of trees on the southern, western and northern perimeters left 'conspicuous gaps', particularly on the west end.[lxxvii]

The next flurry of excitement was over the placement of two 1855 cannon which had been excavated in the Park in 1985 and lovingly restored by No.2 Aircraft Depot at Richmond Air Base. The RAAF presented the Council with the cannon on new wooden carriages in 1988, but in 1991 the Council was still debating whether to give them to the Powerhouse Museum, the University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury or the RAAF. Ultimately, however, the cannon were installed flanking the World War I memorial on the East Market Street side of the Park, opposite the railway station. This in turn had the corollary of removing the iron railings which surrounded the war memorial and paving the area with bricks.

There was a good deal of misinformation abroad about the cannon. It seems that they had been originally associated with the perceived threat of Russian invasion in the nineteenth century, then erected in front of the Pavilion as a Boer War memorial in 1904. Their original wooden mountings rotted and the guns became a hazard to the children who loved to crawl over them. So the brass fittings were removed and given to the Richmond Council officers, while the guns themselves, sometime between the two world wars, were tipped into pits excavated nearby and covered over with earth. They were rediscovered by a gold prospector's metal detector and unearthed by Council workers on 26 February 1985.[lxxviii] The full story is in need of further authentication and, once that is done, interpretive signage would be appropriate.

In 1993-4 very expensive restoration works were done to the Pavilion (as discussed in section 4.4 above). Prior to the rebuilding of the upper part of the Pavilion, the previous toilet block was demolished in November 1993 and the present two amenity buildings were erected in a style deemed to match the Pavilion.[lxxix]

Since 1997 the itch to alter the Park has become more troublesome. A landscape architect was reported to have been commissioned by Council in June 1997, in 1999 a wider proposal for public art-work envisaged the Park as one recipient and in

2001much more substantial changes began to be planned by Council.[lxxx] These have became entwined in the current Main Street project for Richmond, which in turn relates to the wish to have a connecting link between Windsor Street and the Big W store complex between March and Lennox Streets east of East Market Street. Results of these considerations have been seen in new flower-beds, including the one surrounding and concealing part of the base of the 1892 fountain, and in the Rotunda, opened by the mayor on 1 June 2002.[lxxxi] The Rotunda is placed in the sensitive north-west sector of the Park, close to the former Post Office. It is close also to the Country Women's Association kiosk, built some fifty years ago very close to the Post Office, and between the kiosk and Rotunda the large bus used as a breast-scanning clinic stands for several months each year. Nearby is the children's playground, the successor to the six swings installed over a century ago.

These recent changes and the other developments under consideration reflect something of the Park's history of public usage and public esteem, but they have been undertaken without analysis of that history or of the heritage values inhering in the Park since the mid-Victorian period. The decision of Council to commission a Conservation Management Plan of the Park in 2003 allows a moment of quiet, from which policies for the future soundly rooted on an understanding of the past may emerge.

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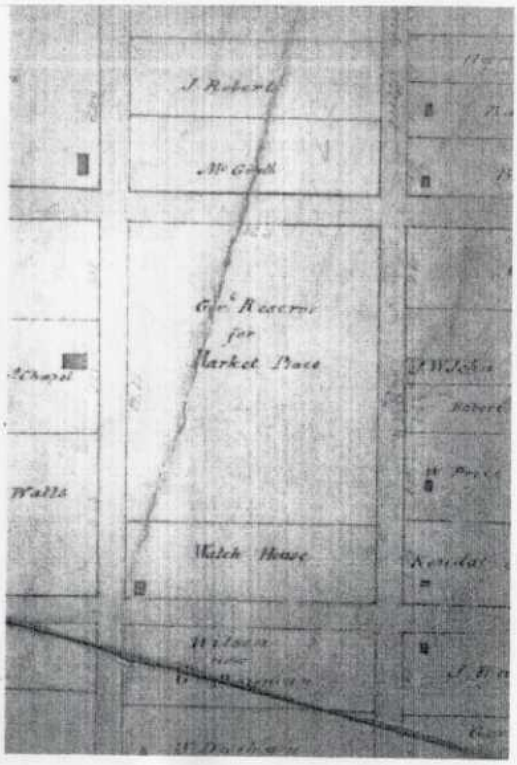


Figure 2 1827

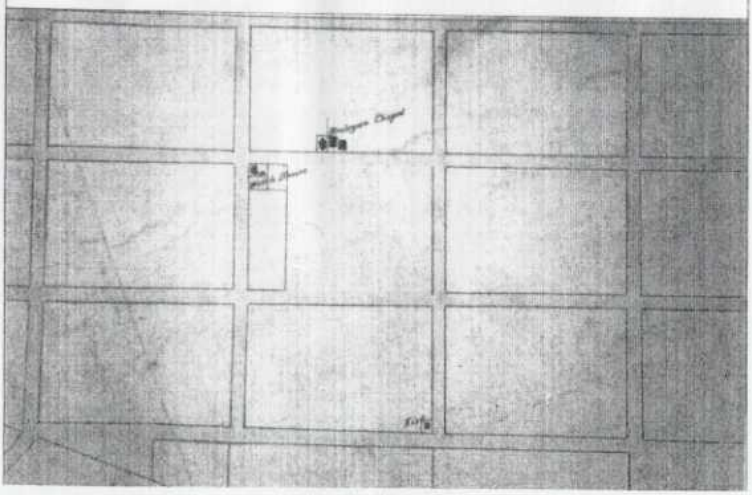


Figure 3 1843

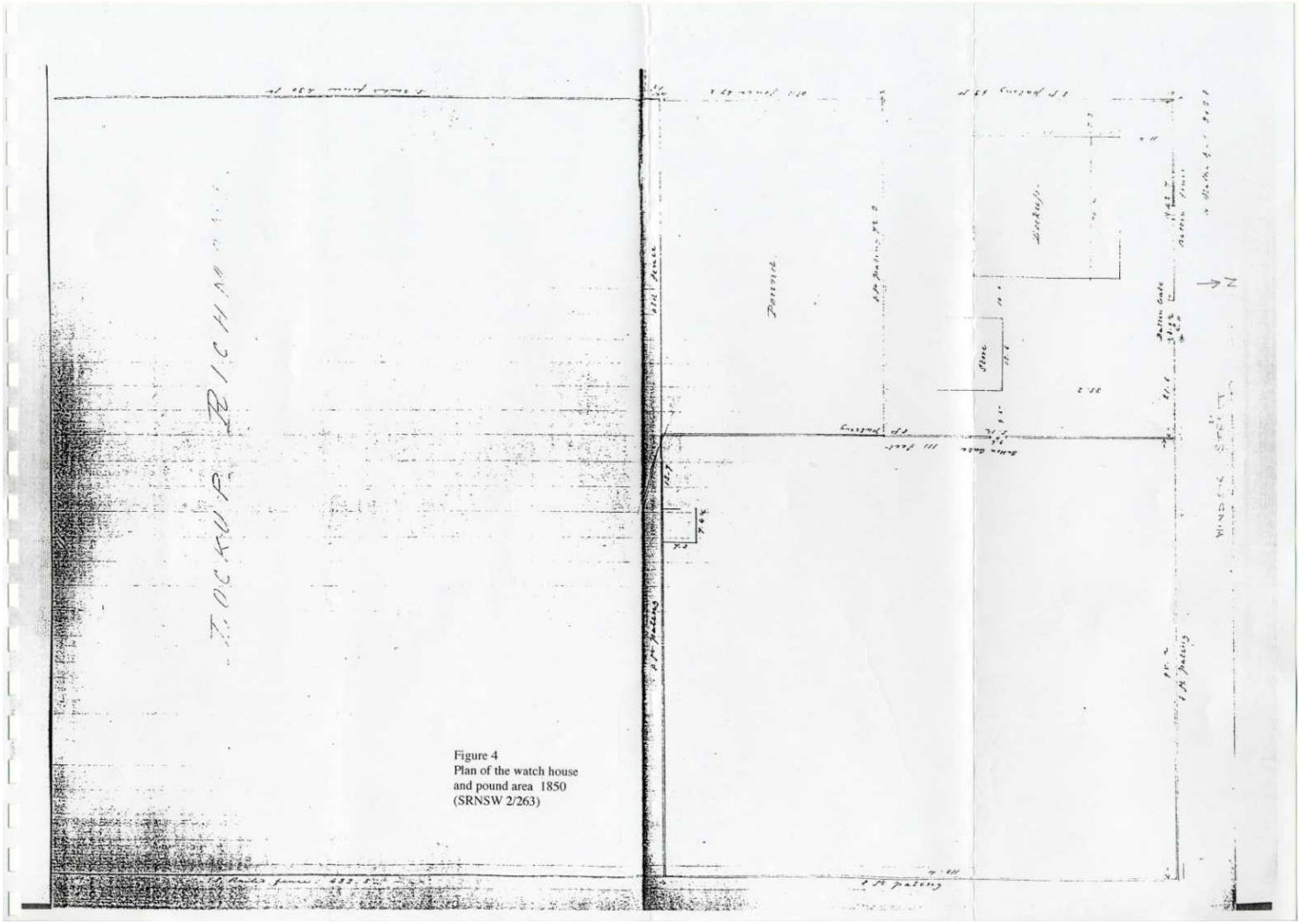


Figure 4
Plan of the watch house and pound area 1850 (SRNSW 2/263)

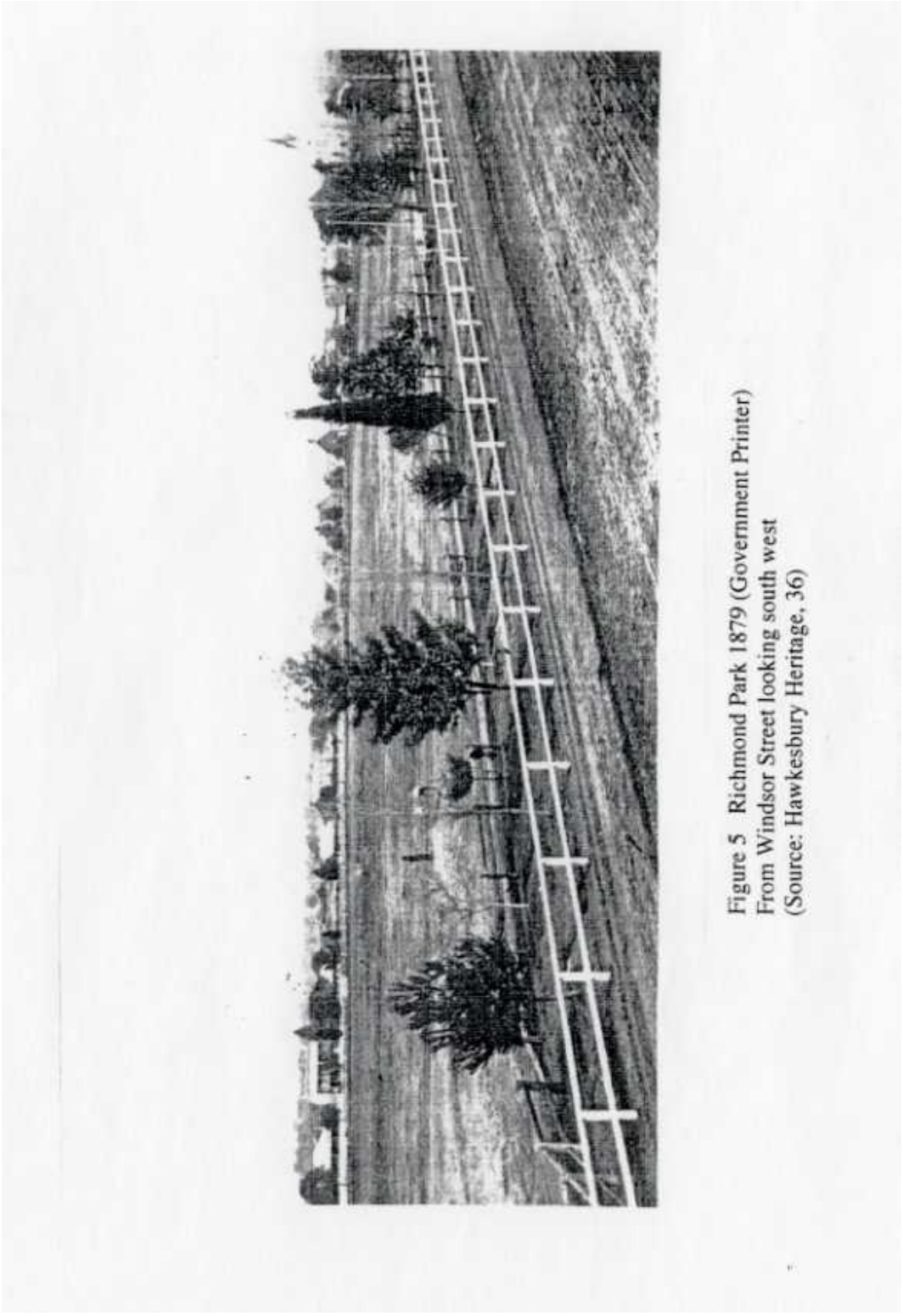


Figure 5 Richmond Park 1879 (Government Printer)
From Windsor Street looking south west
(Source: Hawkesbury Heritage, 36)

Figure 6 Richmond Park from the north
Woodhill Collection 1890s
(Mitchell Library, Windsor Library 7043)

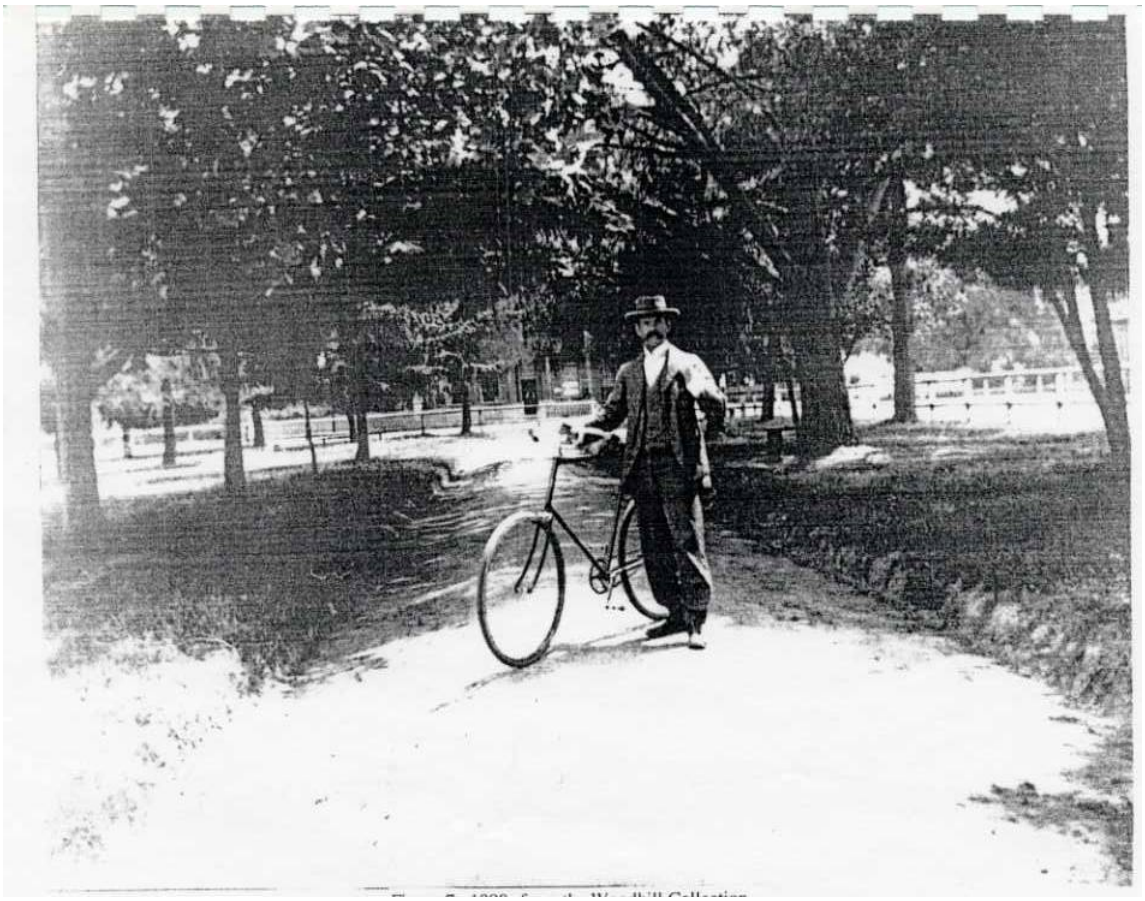


Figure 7 1890s from the Woodhill Collection
(Mitchell Library, Windsor Library 7053)

Figure 8 1890s from the Woodhill Collection
(Mitchell Library, Windsor Library 7096)

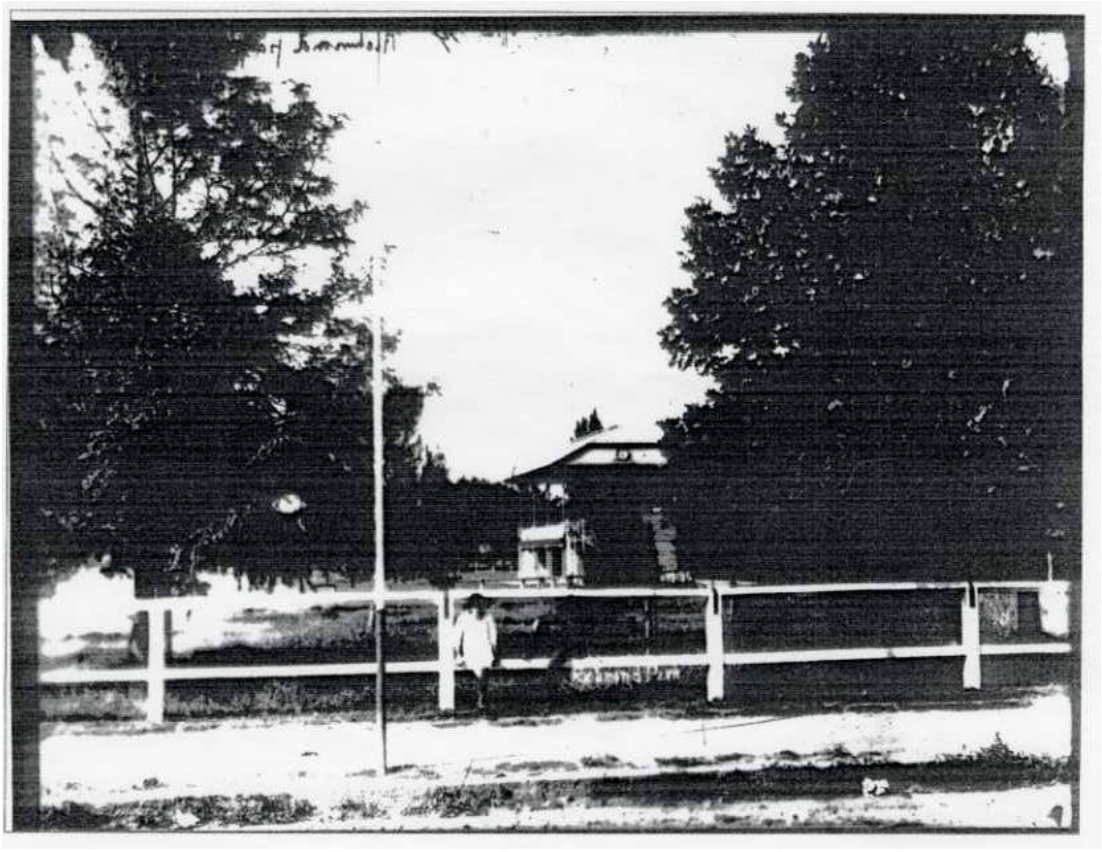


Figure 9 from the Woodhill Collection
(Mitchell Library, Windsor Library 7037)

Figure 10 Windsor Street from the east c.1900
(Stevens, Hawkesbury Heritage, 38)

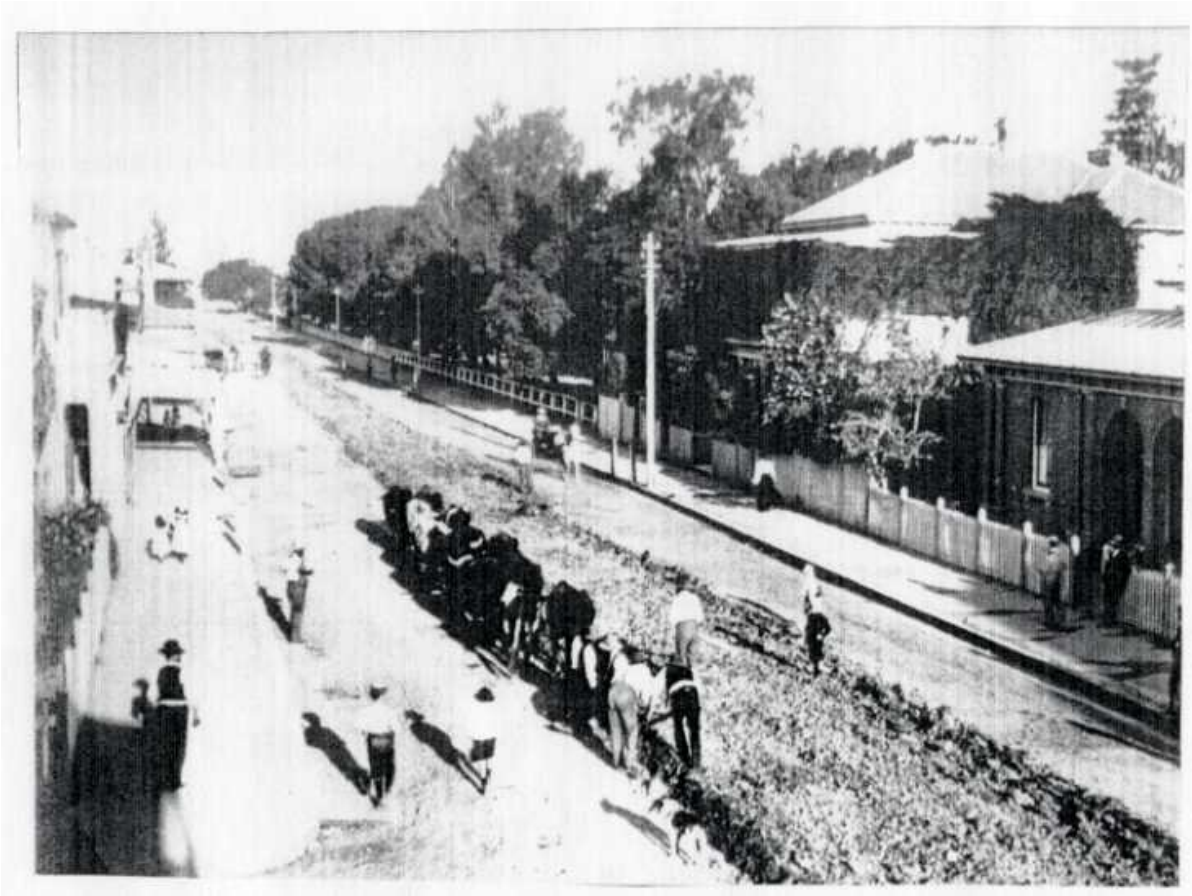


Figure 11 Windsor Street from the west c.1900
(Stevens, Hawkesbury Heritage, 37)

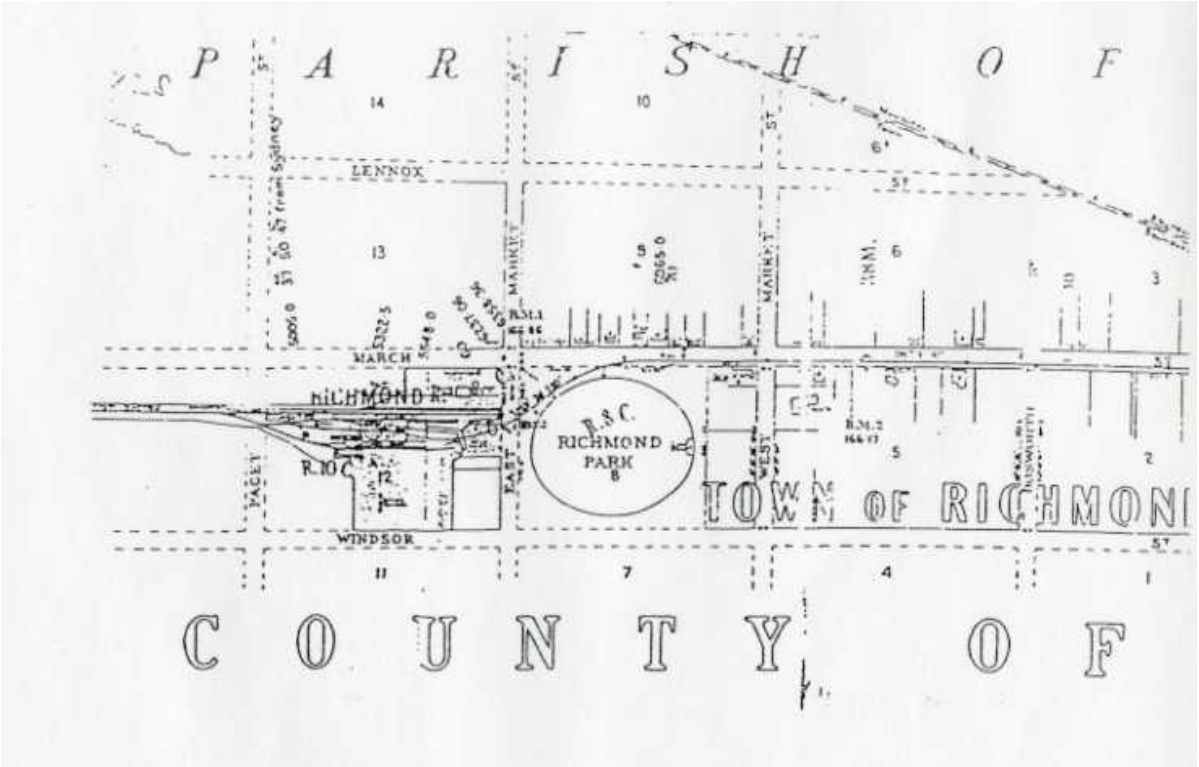


Figure 12 Line of Richmond to Kurrajong through Richmond Park, 1926
(R. Stubbs, The Richmond-Kurrajong Railway, 1926-1952, Windsor 1995, 1)

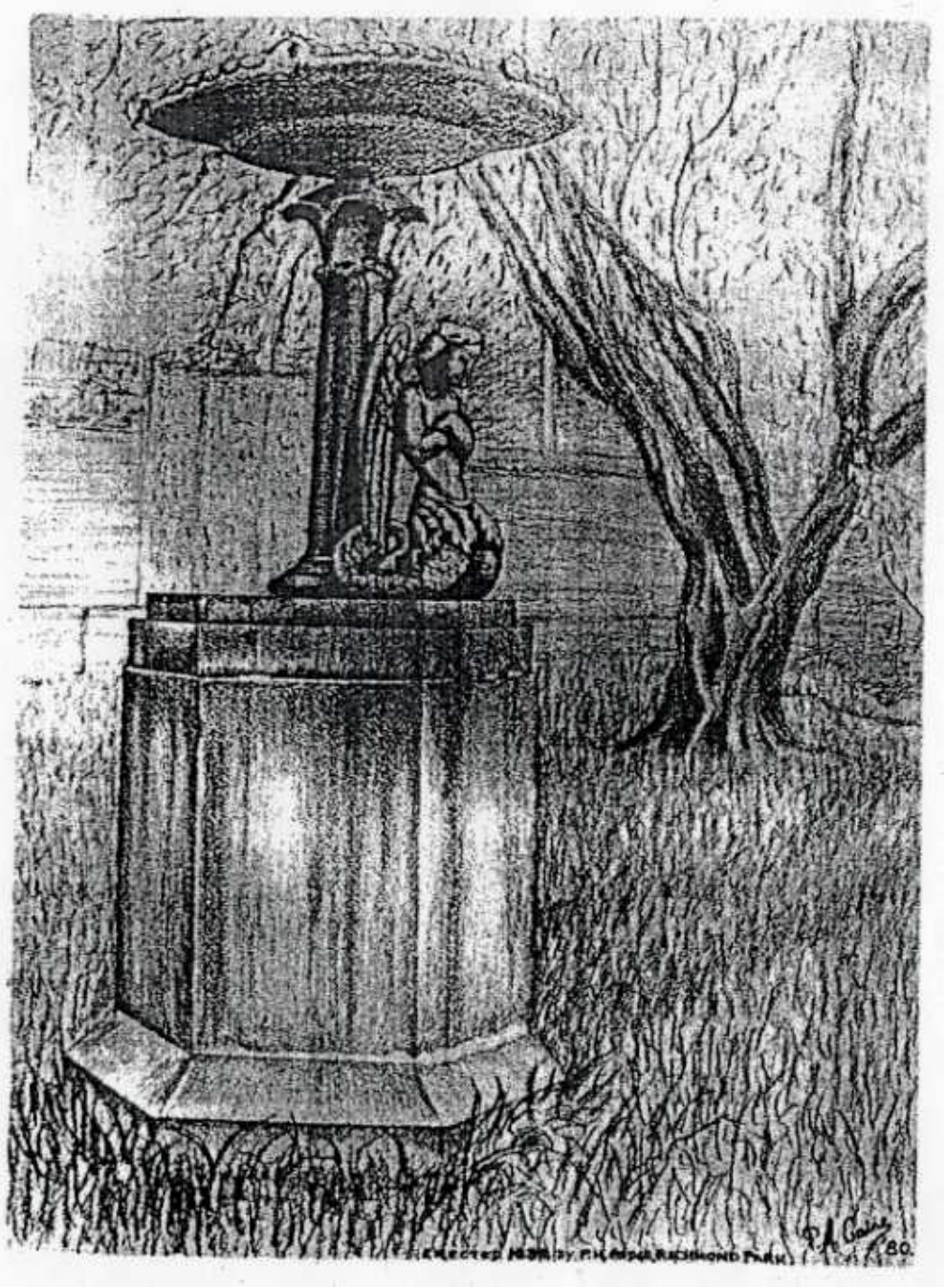


Figure 13 1892 fountain (P A Gaine, 1980)

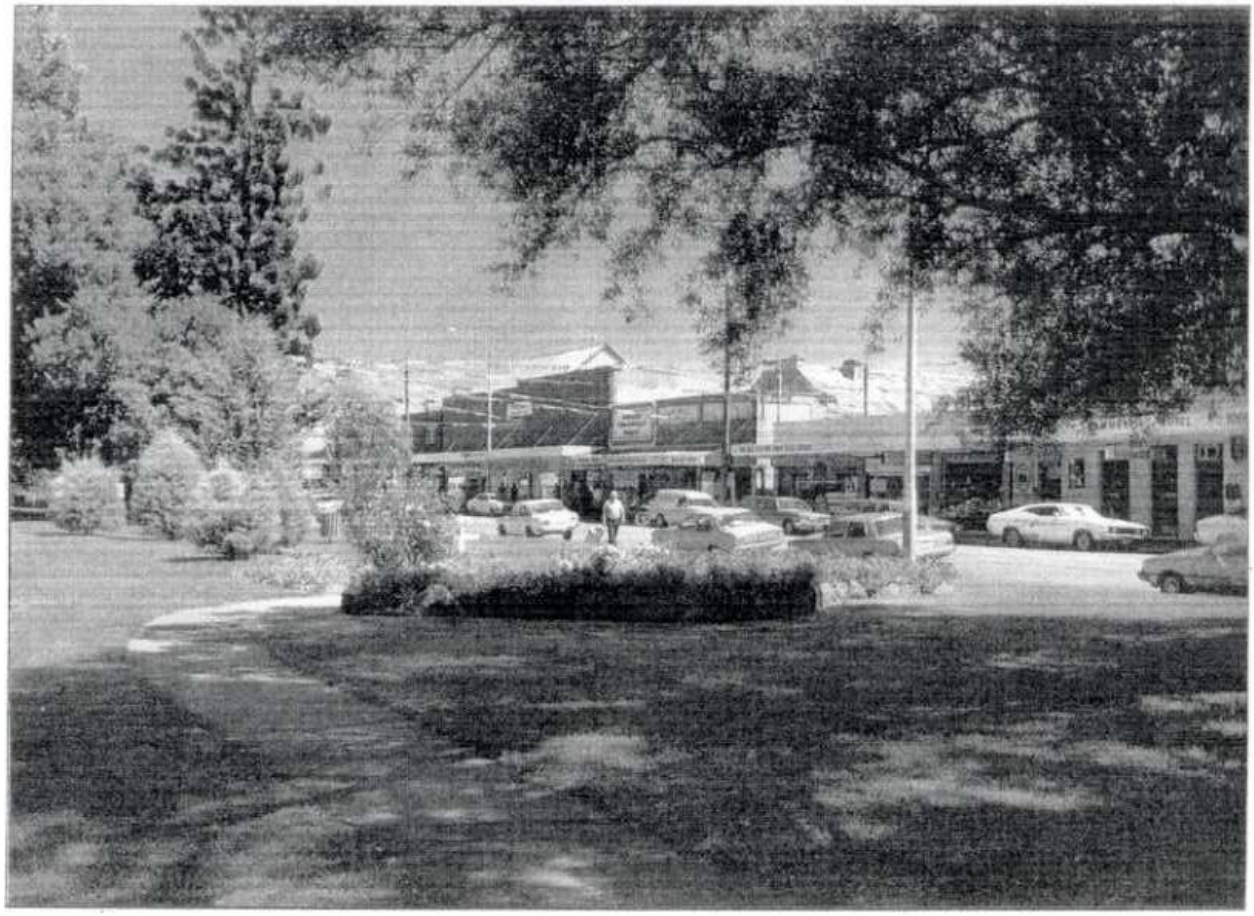


Figure 14 From the south eat in Richmond Park looking towards Windsor Street, 1984
(Stevens, Hawkesbury Heritage, 38)

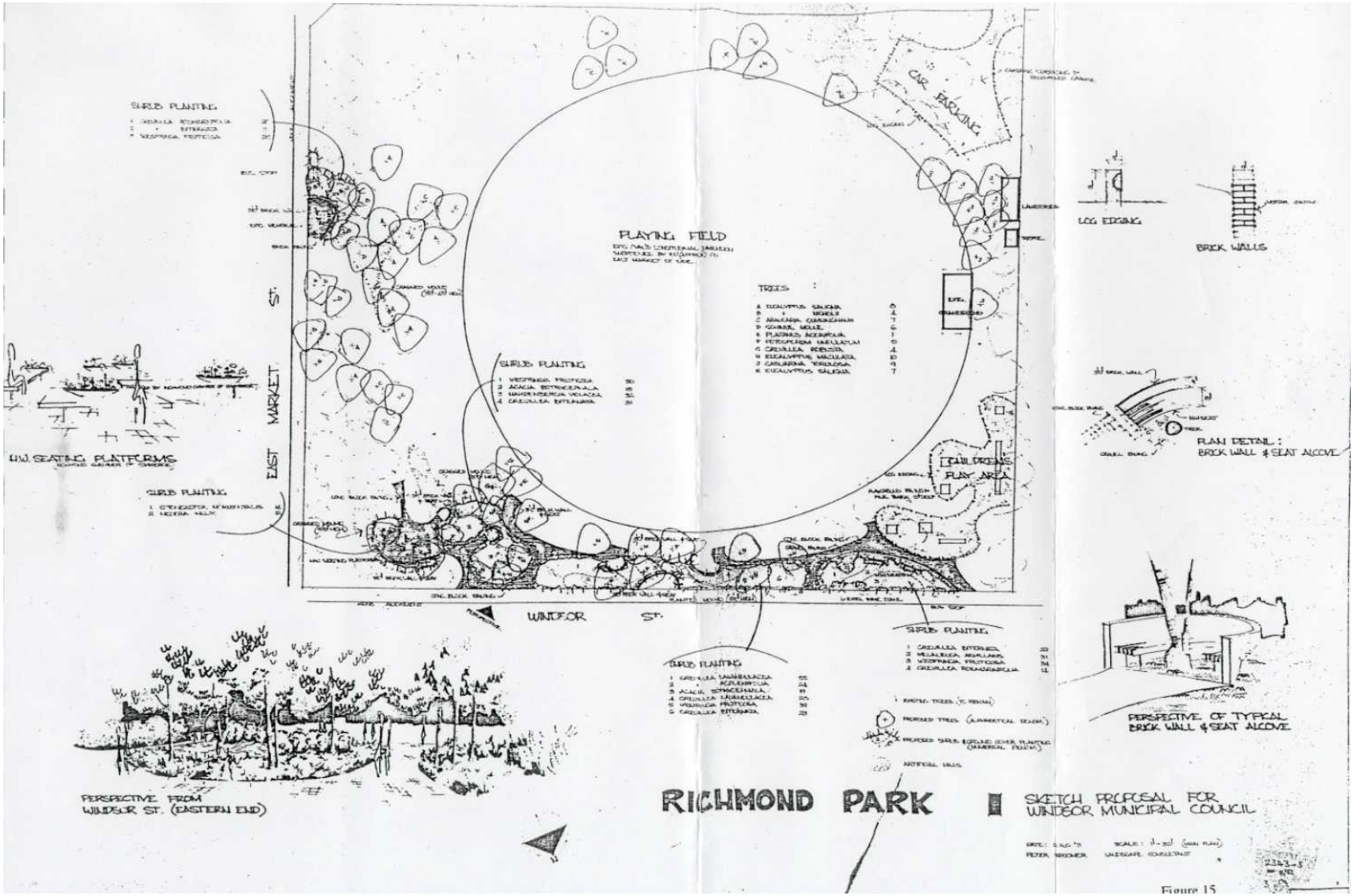
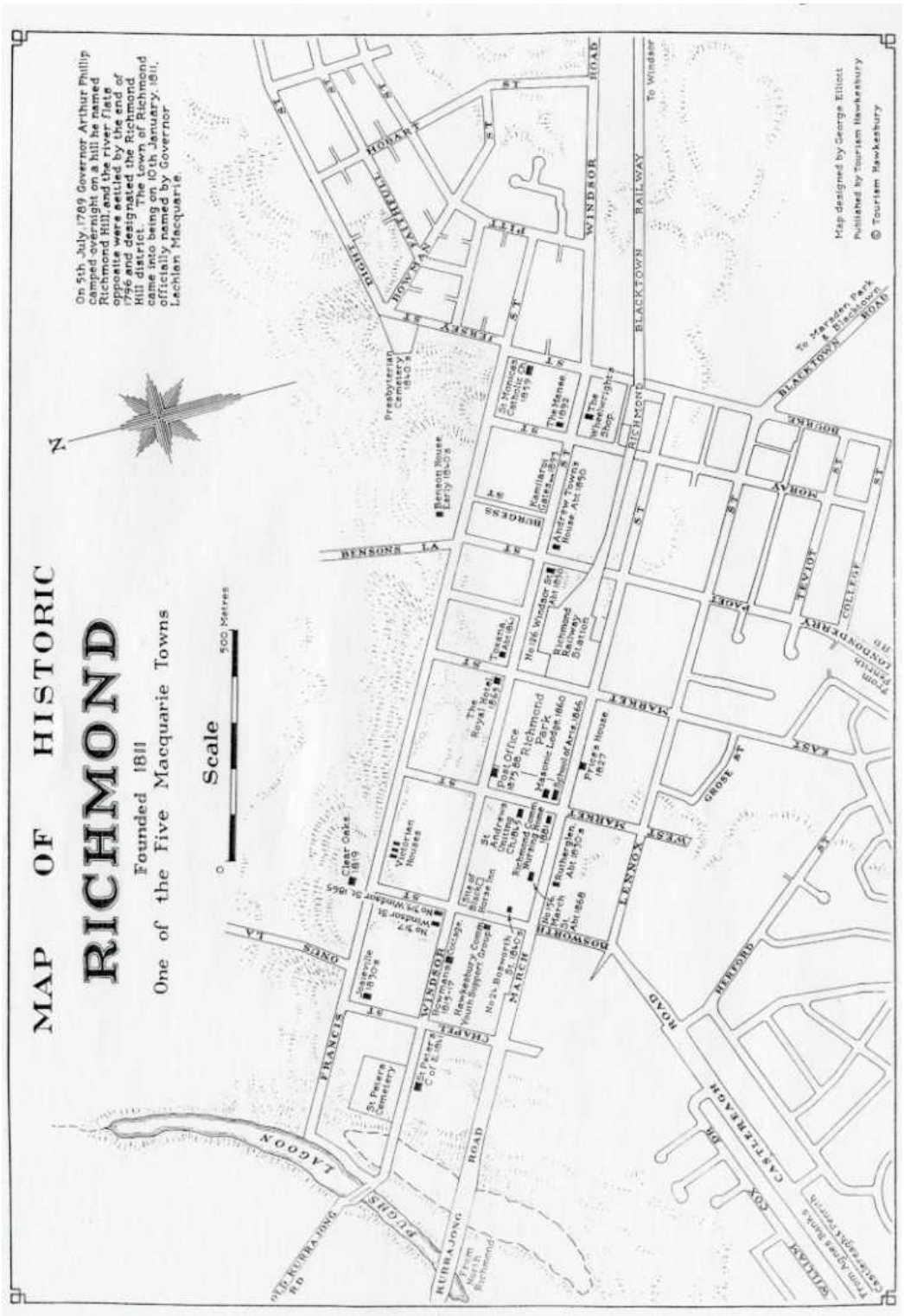

PLAYING FIELD
CAR PARKING
EAST MARKET ST.
WINDSOR ST.
SHRUB PLANTING
TREES
LOG EDGING
BRICK WALLS
PLAN DETAIL : BRICK WALL & SEAT ALCOVE
PLAY AREA
PERSPECTIVE OF TYPICAL BRICK WALL & SEAT ALCOVE
PERSPECTIVE FROM WINDSOR ST. (EASTERN END)
RICHMOND PARK
SKETCH PROPOSAL FOR WINDSOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Figure 15


MAP OF HISTORIC
RICHMOND
Founded 1811
One of the Five Macquarie Towns
Scale
500 Metres
On 5th July 1789 Governor Arthur Phillip camped overnight on a hill he named Richmond Hill and the river Flats opposite were settled by the end of 1796 and designated the Richmond Hill district. The town of Richmond came into being on 10th January, 1811, officially named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.
Map designed by George Elliott
Published by Tourism Hawkesbury
© Tourism Hawkesbury
WINDSOR ROAD
BLACKTOWN RAILWAY
To Windsor
To Marsden Park & Blacktown
BLACKTOWN ROAD
RICHMOND
WINDSOR
MARKET
LENNOX
BOSWORTH
MARCH
CHAPEL
FRANCIS
JERSEY
HOWE
HOBART
BENSONS
TEVIOT
LONDONDERRY
GROSE
EAST
WEST
HERFORD
CASTLEREAGH
LAGOON
PITCAIRN
KURRAJONG
Presbyterian Cemetery 1840's
St Peters Cemetery
Clear Oaks 1819
Victorian Houses
Post Office 1875,86
Richmond Park Masonic Lodge 1860
School of Arts 1866
The Royal Hotel 1857
Richmond Railway Station
Andrew Towns House Abt 1890
Bensen House Early 1800s
The Manse 1892
The Wheelwrights Shop
St Monicas Catholic Ch 1919
Victoria Nursery
Rutherglen Abt 1850s
Abt 1868
Fisher's House 1827
Toserra Abt 1840
Abt 1880
Abt 1860
Abt 1865
Abt 1870
Abt 1890
Abt 1910
1890s
1840s
1860s
1870s
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1990s
2000s

Figure 16

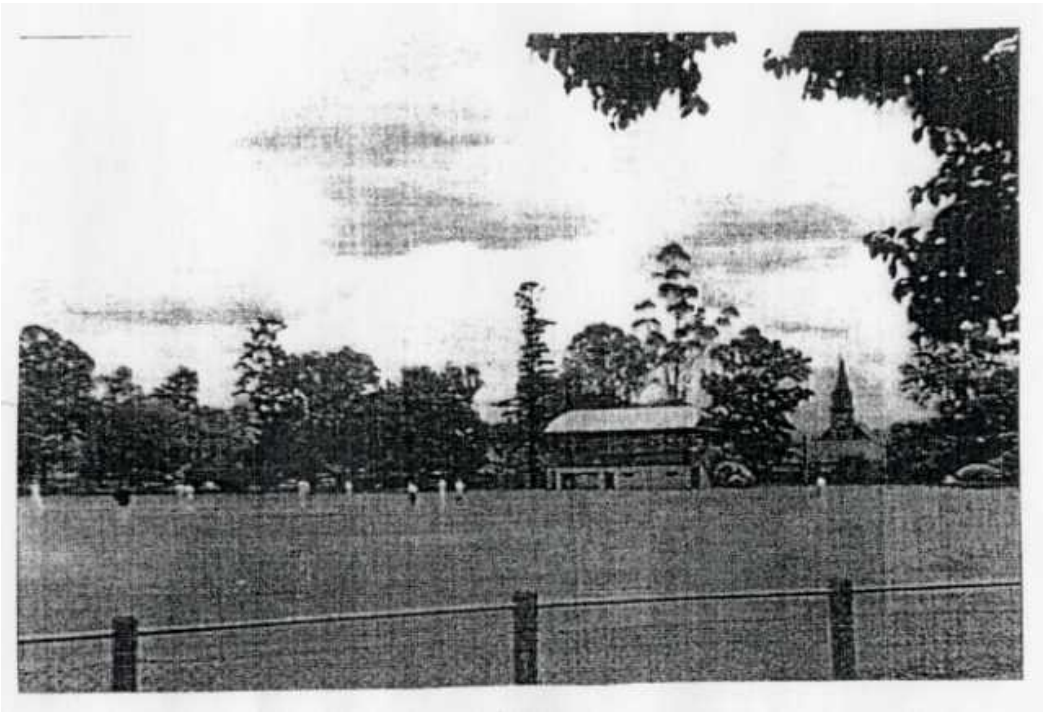


Figure 17 Richmond Park c.1950s

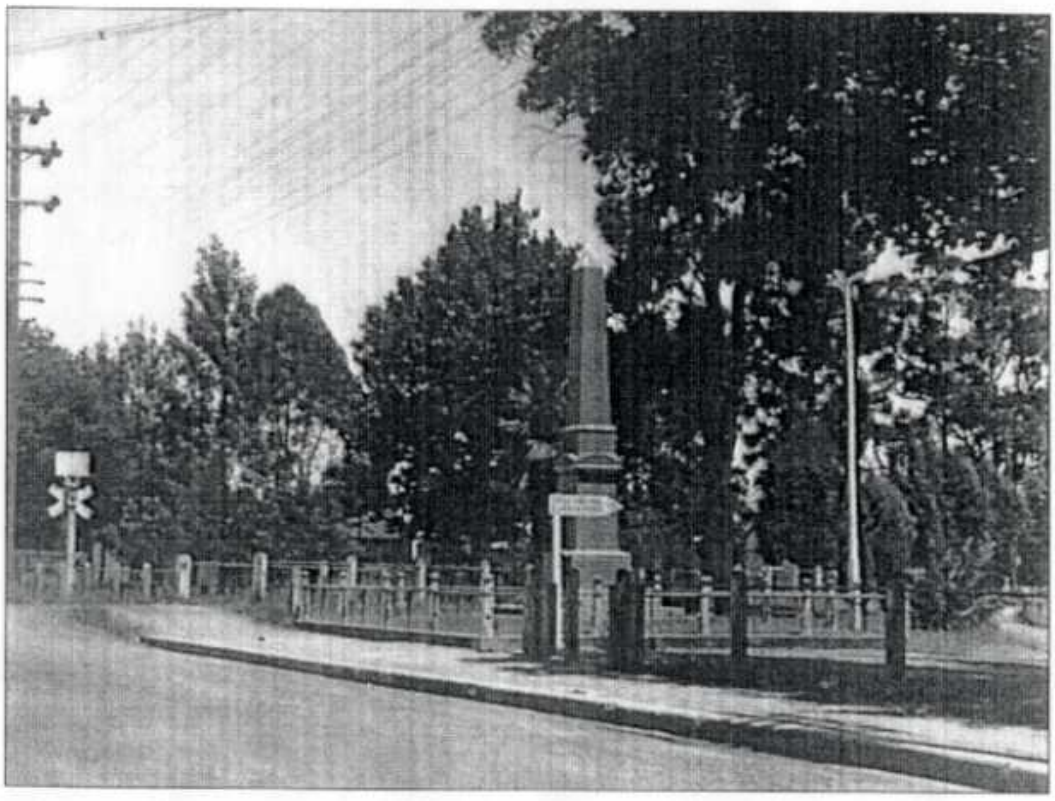


Figure 18 Richmond Park before 1952
(SRA PR47c 1003/6c Windsor Library copy 005951)

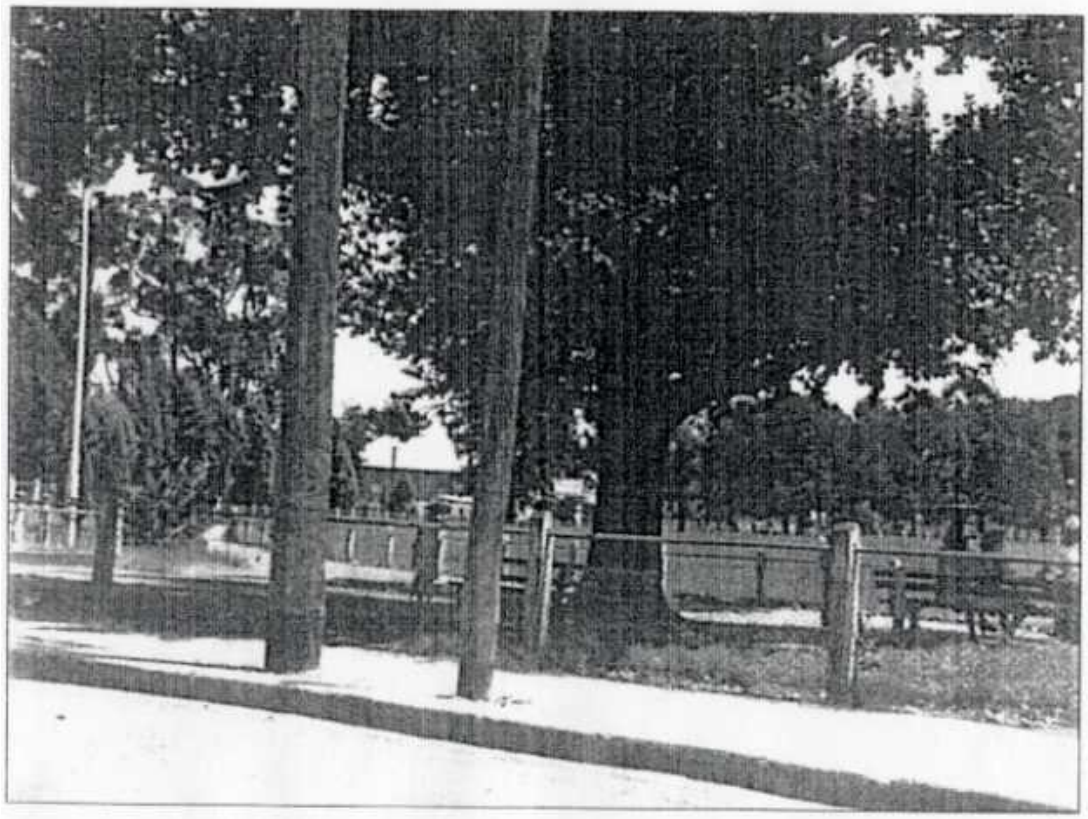


Figure 19 Richmond Park before 1952
(SRA PR47a 1003/6c Windsor Library copy)

3.0 ANALYSIS

Levels of Significance

The following levels of significance are used to assess the contribution of individual elements of the park to assist in the assessment of the significance of the park as a whole:

GRADING	JUSTIFICATION	STATUS
EXCEPTIONAL	Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfils criteria for local or State heritage listing
HIGH	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing
MODERATE	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item	Fulfils criteria for local or State listing
LITTLE	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing
INTRUSIVE	Damaging to the item's heritage significance	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing

3.1 Vegetation (Refer to Plan CA1)

The predominant tree of the river-flat forest of the Hawkesbury between Richmond and Windsor was probably *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum). There may also have been *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) and *Eucalyptus deanei* (Deane's Gum).[1] Timber on the site was generally cleared by 1840 (Section 2.2). Among the mature eucalypts extant in the park today are trees previously identified as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River red gum) which are not indigenous to the area.

When Moore supplied trees for Richmond Park in 1870 and 1873, his choice of species included a mixture of trees commonly used in public places in Britain and Europe (poplars, planes and conifers), and Australian rainforest trees, including

[1] Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell, *Taken for Granted: The bushland of Sydney and its suburbs*, Kangaroo Press in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, 1990, p.77

Grevillea robusta and *Lophostemon*, and the New Zealand Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigata)*, a tree he was fond of supplying but one which was not usually a successful planting in the Sydney region. The earliest photograph of the park taken in the winter months of1879 shows a number of the early plantings had been successful (Figure 5). These included pines, several small Araucaria (one of which appears to be a Hoop Pine), poplars and one particularly prominent cypress that is likely the mature *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta' adjacent to Windsor Street. This early photograph indicates that the planting for the park was probably undertaken in a symmetrical manner, or to a plan, as there is also a specimen of the same tree on the March Street side of the park.

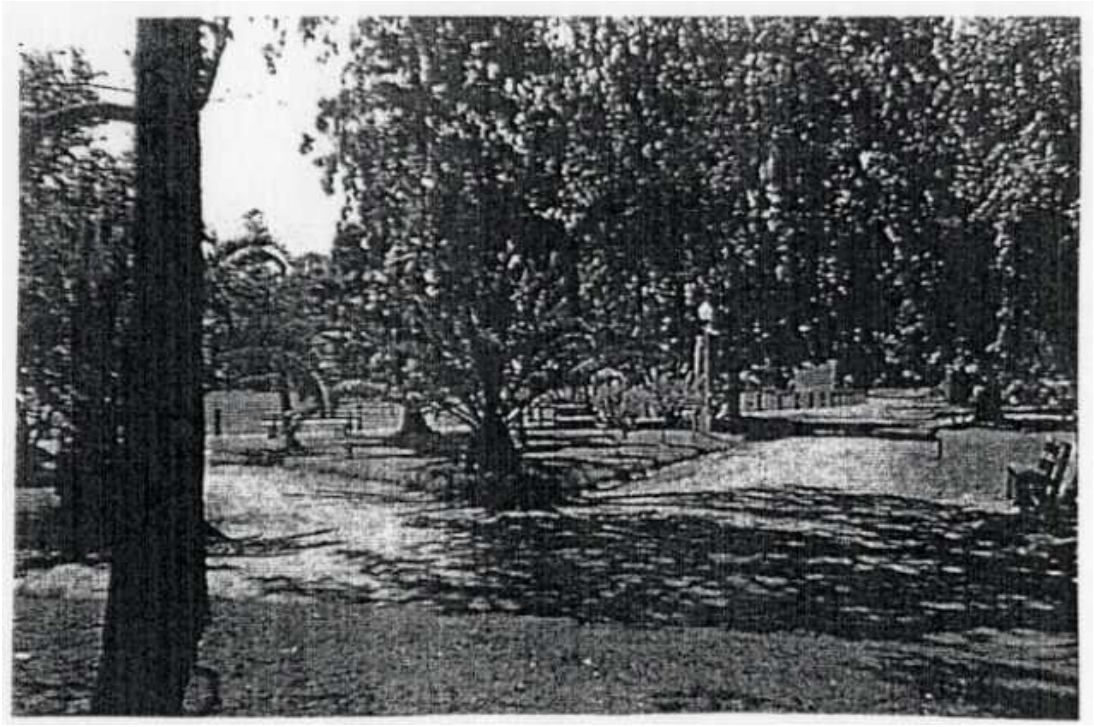
A photograph from the Woodhill Collection dated 1890s (or possibly early 1900s) shows a framework of mature trees established along March Street (Figure 6), among them a poplar, eucalypts and an araucaria. Another (Figure 7) shows trees planted at regular intervals with seats underneath them and a Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*) can be seen in a view of the pavilion from Windsor Street (Figure 9). By 1900 a dense cover of mature trees framed the park (Figures 10 and 11), the broad flat-topped canopy of a Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) on Windsor St clearly identifiable (Figure 11). When the 'Reminiscences' of 'Cooramill' were published in 1903, the trees were described as:

> *…a useful and ornamental variety of deciduous and evergreens. Many of them are exotic, but there are a few from our own forests. Among the former may be mentioned a variety of beautiful pines, English oaks, elms, beech, poplars, cork, the Judas tree; among the latter, riveroak, myall, and red cedar*.[2]

Red cedar (*Toona australis*), riveroak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*),elms (*Ulmus procera, U. carpinifolia, U. glabra*), English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and a number of old conifers are still in the park, one hundred years on. There are two Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) near the corner of Windsor and East Market Streets. These were planted on either side of the diagonal path that marked the division between the two triangular areas of this quadrant of the park (Figure). The planting of these palms was advocated by the Botanic Gardens Director of1897-1924, J. H. Maiden, and is typical of the 1920s-30s, although from the photograph, the specimens in Richmond Park appear to have been planted later in the1950s-60s.

In 1946 the Richmond Parks Committee successfully recommended to Council that thirteen Bunya Pines (*Araucaria Bidwillii*) estimated to have been planted in the 1860s, should be chopped down. This was undertaken in response to concern about the impact of falling Bunya nuts.[3] Their removal would have substantially altered the physical appearance of the park.

[2] *Hawkesbury Herald*, April, 1903
[3] *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 December 1946



Richmond Park, showing the triangular arrangement of beds in the corner of the park, the Canary Island Palms marking the corners of the triangles. (Bob Powere Collection, Hawkesbury City Council Library).

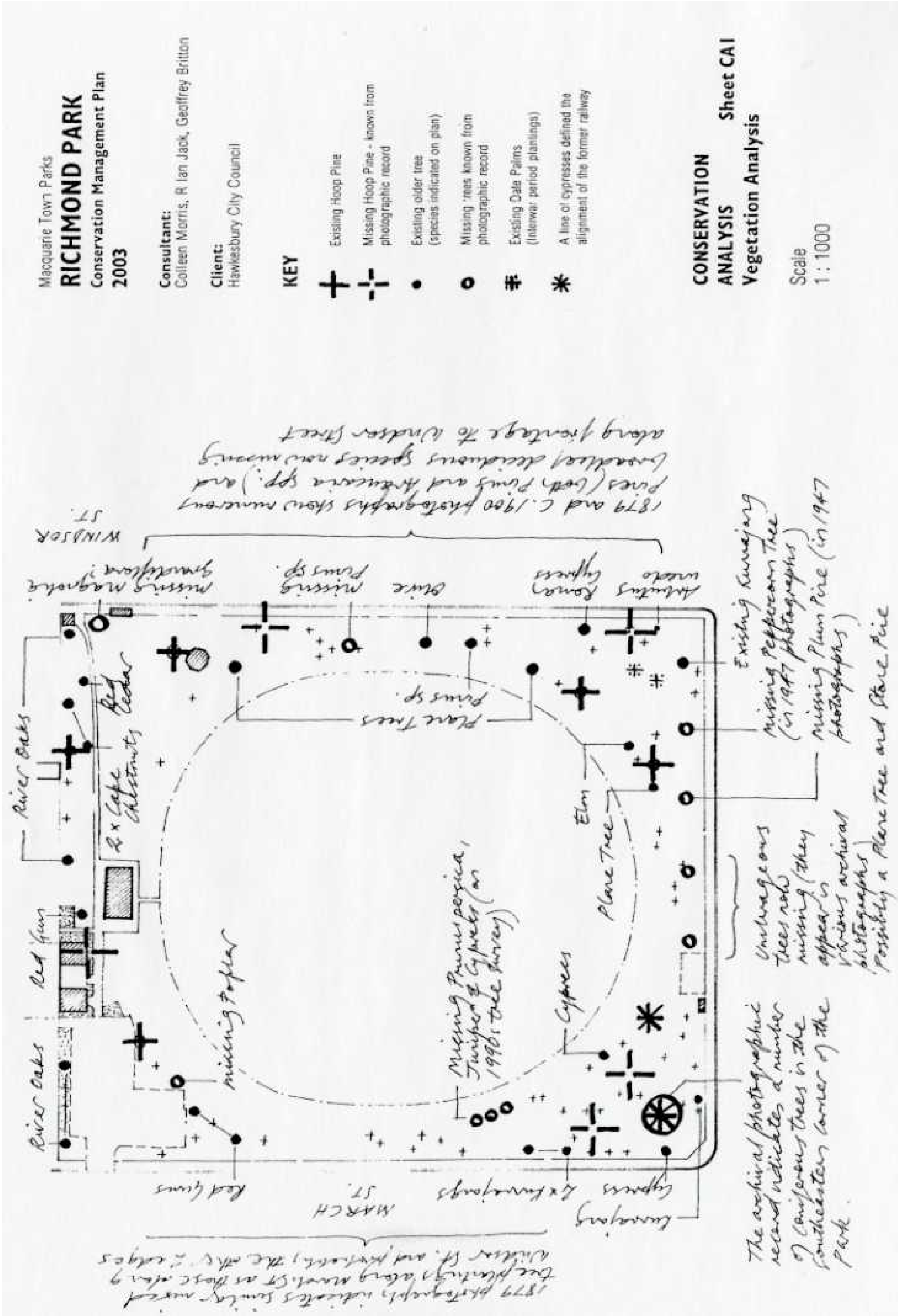
From the 1980s there has been a substantial removal of trees as they senesce and these have not been replaced. In 1988 Council's Engineering Department surveyed the trees and drew up a replacement plan but this was only partially implemented. In 1994 when Angie Michaelis undertook a 'Plant Materials II' assignment on Richmond Park as part of her study at Ryde College Division of Horticulture, she concluded that about 17 trees had been removed while only 7 new plantings had taken place, leaving 'conspicuous gaps'. More trees have been removed since then.

Today the park is considerably less of an arboretum than the park of 1903 and the framework of trees as a cohesive feature of the park's design is less appreciable.

Level of significance of tree collection: High

Individual species of High cultural significance:

Araucaria cunninghamii
Arbutus unedo
Brachychiton populneus
Casuarina cunninghamiana
Cupressus sp.
Erythrina indica
Eucalyptus camaldulensis
Jacaranda mimosaefolia
Juniperus communis
Melia azedarach
Quercus robur
Phoenix canariensis
Toona ciliata
Ulmus parvifolia


Macquarie Town Parks
RICHMOND PARK
Conservation Management Plan
2003
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britton
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council
KEY
Existing Hoop Pine
Missing Hoop Pine - known from photographic record
Existing older tree (species indicated on plan)
Missing trees known from photographic record
Existing Date Palms (Interwar period plantings)
A line of cypresses defined the alignment of the former railway
CONSERVATION ANALYSIS
Sheet CA1
Vegetation Analysis
Scale
1 : 1000
WINDSOR ST.
MARCH ST.

3.2 Landscape Design (Refer to Plans CA2, CA3)

The overall form of Richmond Park is derived from its early use as a 'Market Square'. The dedication of Crown Land for public purposes (1861) and specifically for recreation in 1868 coincided with an increasing interest, worldwide, in the provision of public parks. Governor Macquarie had, in global terms, been an enlightened planner in his provision of squares in the towns established during his administration and these spaces were ideally placed for more purposeful passive and active recreational use.

In Britain, Europe and North America a groundswell of opinion by the late 1830s led to the formation of a number of public parks (as opposed to the private 'parks' of the gentry). Birkenhead Park, near Liverpool, England was designed by Joseph Paxton in 1844 and influenced Frederick Law Olmsted's design for Central Park, New York, commenced in 1858. In Paris, between 1853 and 1869, Georges-Eugene Haussman was creating an urban park system and his endeavours were described by William Robinson, an acquaintance of Charles Moore the Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens, in *The Parks, Promenades and Gardens of Paris*(1869), a publication that was well recognised in Australia by those interested in horticultural matters.

The initial improvement at Richmond Park with the planting of trees in fenced plantations around its edge was a simple established design solution endorsed by early 19th century horticultural writer and authority J.C. Loudon in 'Remarks on laying out Public Gardens and Promenades' published in the *Gardener's Magazine*, 1835. Loudon recommended that trees be planted near the road, with few closely planted masses in the interior of the park, as they would limit broad vistas. This was also a design solution compatible with the playing of cricket.

That improvements were initiated by 1870 and supplemented in 1873 demonstrates a comparatively early ambition in NSW for a park to be a pleasant environment. Although there were plantings in an unsophisticated design in Hyde Park following the formation of a Hyde Park Improvement Committee *c*.1854, few other parks around Sydney had begun to be improved so soon after their 1868 dedication and many were not dedicated until later in the 1880s-90s. Victoria Park in Camperdown, a prominent example, was not properly laid out as a public park until 1877-78.

The design response at Richmond was to adapt the former market square for active recreation with an oval, pavilion (1882) and an encircling walk. For more passive enjoyment there were paths beside the outer plantations of specimen trees with seating (1879) and large fenced triangular shrubbery beds(1879). This strong symmetry was reinforced by the planting of Hoop Pines and Bunya Pines (removed in 1946-7) in each quadrant of the park. Today the vertical form of the Hoop Pines emerging from a canopy of predominantly umbrageous trees makes a strong statement in the surrounding urban context. However the impact of the early planting design would have been more impressive than it is today as the structural integrity of the original design would have been quite altered by the removal of the thirteen Bunya Pines in 1946-7. Paths were hard packed with a well defined edge and at a lower level than the grassed areas(Figure 7).
The addition of a fountain in 1892 is representative of a general civic pride that has left parks throughout the country a legacy of embellishment. Fountain parts could be

purchased separately and assembled into one, two or three tiers, usually in a basin (see Figure 21). The addition of a war memorial is also typical of parks throughout Australia. The selection of trees of diverse species and the commitment to the replacement of those that had failed in the early establishment of the park indicates 19th century ambitions for a park to fulfil the role of an arboretum. The addition of plaques, bearing the botanical and common names of the trees shows that role continued into the twentieth century.

The oval has been fenced since 1882–photographs from the 1890s show a single top arris-rail fence painted white or a light colour, whereas the perimeter of the park was fenced with a two rail hardwood painted fence. Mid-twentieth century photographs indicate that both perimeter and oval fences had been replaced with a fence of wooden posts with a top rail of tubular steel and mesh infill. The oval fence was consequently replaced with a metal post and mesh cyclone fence.[4] The removal of the perimeter fencing altogether has opened the park to the street and colourbond metal 'federation' pickets as a replacement for the oval fencing has altered the earlier more visually open oval space. Although considered a traditional village green look, the metal pickets are not consistent with historical evidence.

Figure 20 This photograph, looking south toward March Street with East Market Street to the left of the picture, shows the strong planting plan and pathway system that once characterised the park. ML Picture GPO1 40906

[4] Photograph attached to the National Trust listing 1981.

Figure 21 A fountain from the Caolbrookdale Company Catalogue April 1888 showing the similarity between it and the angel/mermaids known to have been on the Richmond Park Fountain.

Figure 22 This photograph c.1947 is possibly from the location of the current carpark. ML Picture GPO1 40902

In 1971 landscape architect Peter Spooner provided a plan for a modernisation of the park but this does not appear to have been implemented.[5]

The layout of the park has become less defined through the removal of early pathways, the gradual removal of trees, primarily due to senescence and the introduction of garden beds in a seemingly ad hoc fashion. The current representation, installed in 1988, of the route of the railway link to Kurrajong by a sinuous path is quite misleading. The addition of the rotunda, the breast clinic bus, albeit temporary, and a lack of cohesion in detailing of seats and lighting has further diminished the strength of the early design.

Some elements do not integrate well with the original design of the park – for example the new pavilion/ bandstand is sited over an early pathway alignment. The introduction of clutter around the War Memorial and the removal of its fence has resulted in the area lacking definition.

Level of significance: High

3.3 Town Context (Refer to Plan CA3)

3.4 Development Chronology (Refer to Plan CA3)

[5] Peter Spooner, Sketch Proposal for Windsor Municipal Council. 2 Aug'71 2343-3, Hawkesbury Council.

Macquarie Town Parks

RICHMOND PARK

Conservation Management Plan

2003

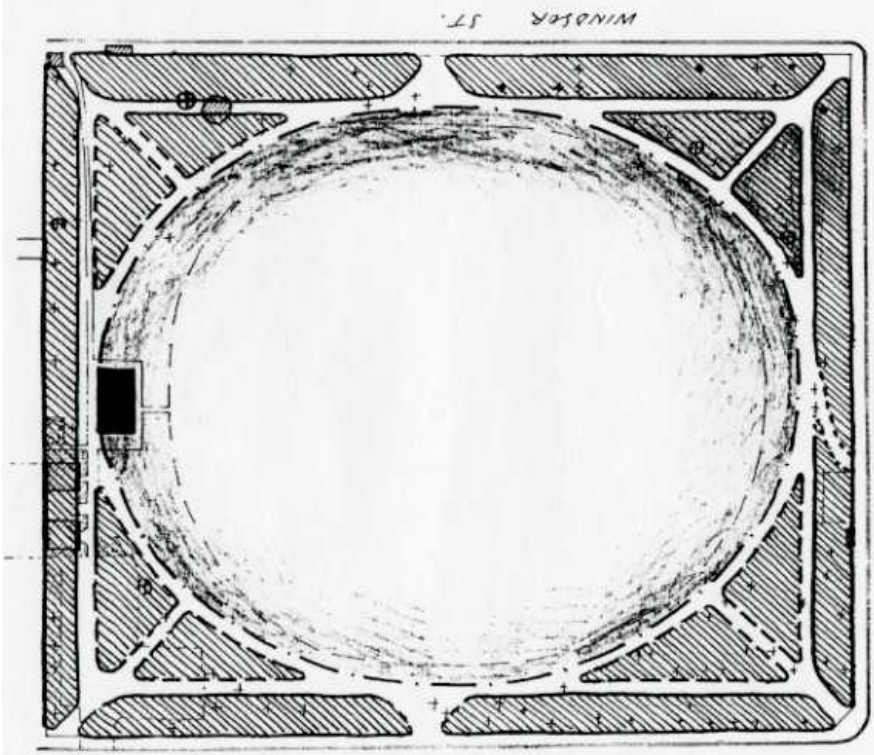
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britton

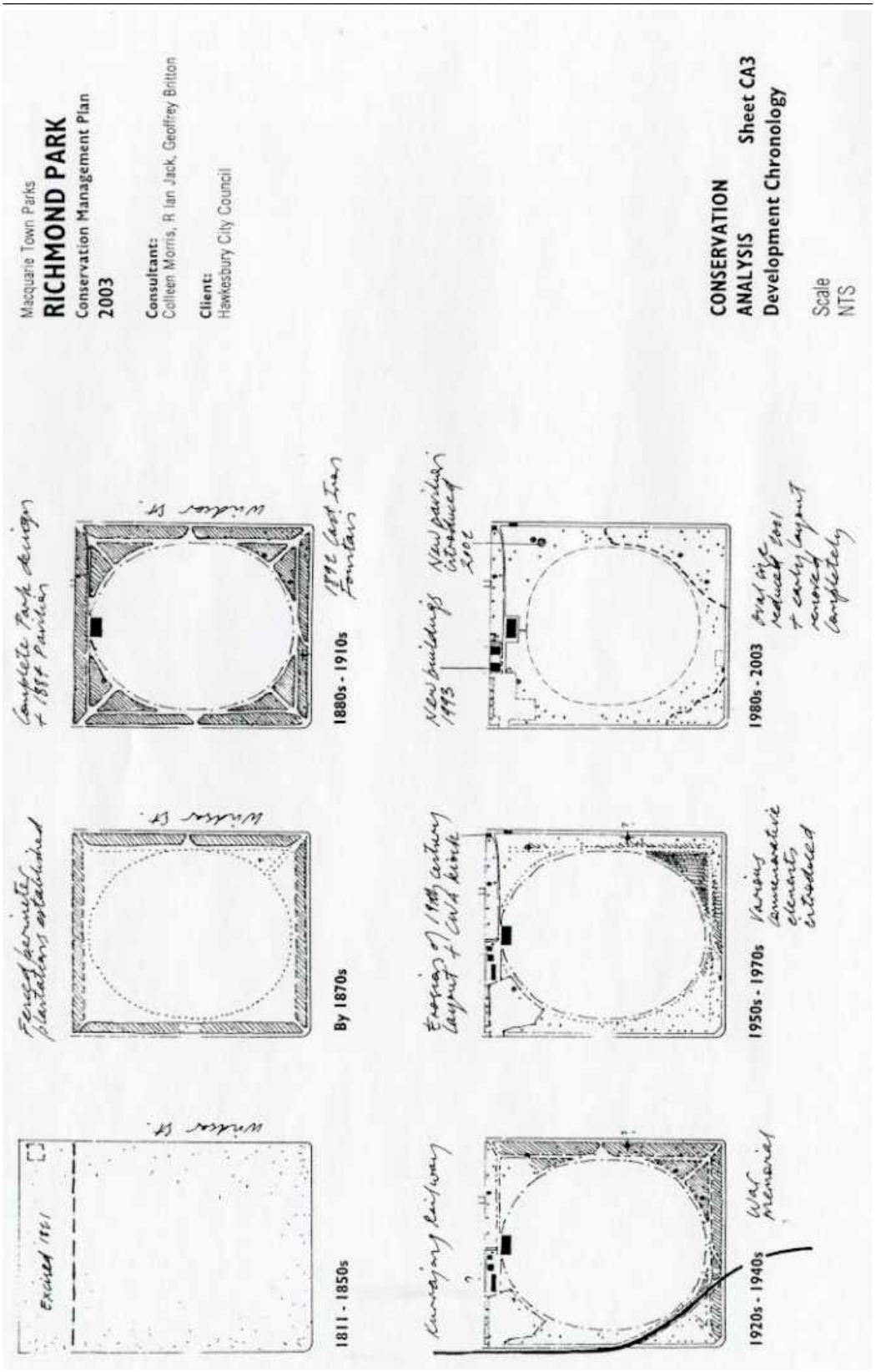
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council

CONSERVATION ANALYSIS **Sheet CA2**

Earlier Layout (Design basis of Richmond Park)

Scale
1 : 1000




Macquarie Town Parks
RICHMOND PARK
Conservation Management Plan
2003
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britton
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council
CONSERVATION
ANALYSIS
Sheet CA3
Development Chronology
Scale
NTS
Extent 1811
1811 - 1850s
By 1870s
1880s - 1910s
1920s - 1940s
1950s - 1970s
1980s - 2003

3.5 Built Elements

3.5.1 Pavilion on the Park (Rod McConville Stand)

The Pavilion or Grandstand, reopened in 1994, was conserved over a period of three years by the Hawkesbury City Council aided by a Heritage Assistance Program grant. Conservation works undertaken included the repair and replacement of rotted posts, weatherboard and roof, reinstatement of missing flagpoles and painting.

Level of significance: High

3.5.2 Fountain (1892)

Level of significance: High (local level)
Garden beds surrounding base: Intrusive

3.5.3 Richmond Sign

This sign is of the type usually associated with railway stations and bears the inscription: In Memory of Samuel Boughton. Born April 28 1841- Died 22 Sept. 1910

The commemoration of Boughton's life signifies the important contributions he made to the development of the park.

An aerial photograph from 1947 indicates that the sign was in a prominent location in relation to a path that entered from Windsor Street. The sign is well maintained but the removal of access to the park in this corner has made it less prominent.

Level of significance: High (local level)

3.6.4 War Memorial and Cannon

Level of significance: High (local level)

3.5.5 Commemorative Plaque and plinth to Richmond Sewerage Works

'This Tablet was unveiled by S. Haviland Esq., C.B.E., President of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board on 15th November, 1962, To commemorate the commissioning of the Richmond Sewerage Works, F.J. Mason, Town Clerk, V.W. Gillespie, Mayor'

Installed to mark the official opening of the Richmond Sewerage Works in 1962, the plinth has sunk slightly on its southern side. The plaque has been painted white and the paint is now wearing and should be removed.

Level of significance: Relevance to Richmond Park: Intrusive in its current form
Commemorative function: Moderate

3.5.6 Playground

Level of significance: Tradition of a playground within the park: High
Current equipment: Little

3.5.7 CWA Kiosk

Level of significance: Moderate

3.5.8 Shelter Pavilion/Bandstand

Level of significance: Little

3.5.9 Sundial

'In Appreciation of 49 years of continuous service to the Hawkesbury Community by Rozzoli Family Jewellers 1946–1995'
Erected by Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Level of significance: Little

3.5.10
Richmond Kurrajong Railway Pathway/sign

Level of Significance: Archaeological potential to interpret the alignment: High
Current alignment: Intrusive

3.5.11
Fencing

a) Oval
Level of Significance: Tradition of fencing to the oval: High
Current colorbond picket fencing: Little

b) Western Perimeter
Level of Significance: High

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Previous Assessments/Recognition

Richmond Park was listed by the National Trust in 1981, Richmond Park Pavilion and Statue are listed as a heritage items on the Hawkesbury LEP 1989 and Richmond Park was registered as an item in the Register of the National Estate in 1991.

The archaeological potential of Richmond Park as a whole was assessed as of Local significance by E. Higginbotham Assoc. P/L: *Archaeological Zoning Plan, Richmond, NSW* 1996, Plan 4.

4.2 Assessment of significance using State Heritage Criteria

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area

The establishment in 1810-1 of five Hawkesbury towns by Governor Macquarie on sites and to plans carefully selected by the governor himself constitutes a watershed in the development of rural New South Wales. The substantial block of land set aside in each town as public reserve remaining in crown hands, not available for housing, is a cardinal feature of these towns. The reserve at Richmond ever since 1810 has fulfilled the expectations of government (first central and, after 1872, local) as a market place, as a park, as a communal venue and as a sports field, satisfying various needs of the local people in need of a breathing space in the midst of a growing and successful country town. The continuity of use over almost two centuries, though with changing emphases, is exceptional in the state. The design, plantings and structures in the Park today are a meaningful palimpsest of this long history. In particular the Pavilion of 1883-4 is a dominating reminder of the value placed on the Park by the early municipal aldermen of the borough: although the wooden superstructure was rebuilt in 1994, the building's historic resonances are intact. Other built features, the World War I memorial, the 1892 fountain, the children's playground equipment (lineal successor to the swings of 1891), the 1855 cannon, the Country Women's Association kiosk, are in different ways testimony to the historical significance of the Park.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: shows evidence of significant human activities
is associated with a significant historical phase
maintains the continuity of a historical process and activity

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area.

Richmond Park has the closest relationship with the planning vision of Governor Macquarie in his execution of the intentions of the British government in the 1810s. The park retains today precisely the association with the layout of central Richmond envisaged by Macquarie.

Since 1872 the park has been administered by the local council, acting as trustees for the crown. The comparatively early transformation of the market square to a designed park and the addition of fine built features of the Park, the Pavilion and the fountain, along with the central cricket oval, are all testimony to the esteem in which the Park was held by the early aldermen, reflecting public expectations. The Park has remained intimately associated with the local council.

Level of significance: State for Macquarie
Local for the local council

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is associated with a significant person and group of persons

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in New South Wales or the local area

Richmond Park is a comparatively early example in NSW of ambitions for a park to be a pleasant environment for both active and passive recreation and maintains key elements from its early layout—an outer park with trees and public seats and a central oval area fenced since 1882, with a pavilion. The strong symmetry in the early design of the park (now diminished) was reinforced by the planting of Hoop Pines, some of which survive, in each quadrant of the park. This cohesive early design has survived in a substantially appreciable form for over 120 years. The park's central location in Richmond and its collection of mature trees render it a distinguishing element of the town.

The addition of a fountain in 1892 and war memorial are representative of general civic sentiments that have left parks throughout the country a legacy of embellishment. The selection of trees of diverse species and the commitment to the replacement of those that had failed in the early establishment of the park indicates 19th century ambitions for a park to fulfil the role of an arboretum. The addition of plaques, bearing the botanical and common names of the trees shows that role continued into the twentieth century.

Level of significance: Local
Inclusion guidelines satisfied: Has landmark qualities
Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology

Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular or cultural group in New South Wales or the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Richmond Park is intimately associated with cricketers and cricket-lovers, whose social and sporting enthusiasms have been expressed in the oval and the Pavilion since 1877. The existence of the fine Pavilion tangibly reflects the spiritual element which has given cricket a special place among team sports. Local people are still proud that a touring England side played on the ground in 1887 and in the heyday of the game over twenty Hawkesbury teams competed in highly competitive matches. Because of the exceptionally central and public location of the ground (thanks to Governor Macquarie), cricket played there is an integral part of Richmond's urban existence.

Richmond Park is highly valued by members of the local community for its long history, its aesthetic values and for its place in the social structure of life in Richmond.

Level of significance: Local

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is important for its associations with an identifiable group

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area

Richmond Park is an extremely rare example of the town planning of Governor Macquarie. McQuade Park in Windsor and Wilberforce Park are the only other surviving central urban reserves laid out by Macquarie personally and, because of the way in which Richmond has developed, its Park still fulfils to a greater extent than in the other two towns the original intentions of the public square of 1810.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is extremely rare

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments in New South Wales or the local area

The public park cum sportsfield is a common feature of country towns because the urban design concepts enunciated in Macquarie's time, however modified in subsequent years, normally accommodated a central reserve. Richmond Park, as a breathing space in a commercial and residential area, as a place for children and cricketers to play and as a place for commemoration and public sentiment, has fulfilled the expectations of the principal park of a country town for almost two hundred years.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is a fine example of its type
has the principal characteristics of an important class of items
is outstanding because of its integrity and the esteem in which it is held

4.3 Summary Statement of Significance

Richmond Park is an extremely rare example of the town planning of Governor Macquarie. The park retains today precisely the association with the layout of central Richmond envisaged by Macquarie, fulfilling to the greatest extent of all Macquarie towns the original intentions of the public square of 1810, and maintains key elements from its 1860s-80s layout as a park. This cohesive landscape design has survived in a substantially appreciable form for over 120 years. The park's central location in Richmond and its collection of mature trees render it a distinguishing element of the town.

The continuity of use over almost two centuries, though with changing emphases, is exceptional in the state. The design, plantings and structures in the Park today are a meaningful palimpsest of this long history and are highly valued by the local community. In particular the Pavilion of 1883-4 is a dominating reminder of the value placed on the Park by the early municipal aldermen of the borough and the spiritual element which has given cricket a special place among team sports. Other built features, the World War I memorial, the 1892 fountain, the children's playground equipment (lineal successor to the swings of 1891), the 1855 cannon, the Country Women's Association kiosk, are in different ways testimony to the historical significance of the Park.

5.0 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

5.1 Obligations arising from cultural significance

The assessment of significance (section 4.0), particularly as summarised in the Statement of Cultural Significance (section 4.3), provides a major input into the development of the Conservation Policy for Richmond Park. In particular, the significance provides several obligations that must be addressed in the Conservation Policy (section 6.0). In summary:

• Most of these relate to the evolving development of Richmond Park from its association with Governor Macquarie and the early decades of the nineteenth century to the present;

• Most relate to the overall development of the landscape;

• Some are continuous, especially on-going patterns of use;

• Some are isolated and relate to individual items (especially hard landscape features, such as the fountain)

The translation of the Statement of Cultural Significance into tangible opportunities and constraints includes the following:

• Recognition of the high cultural significance for the State of NSW as well as for the Hawkesbury local area as a major determinant in future development of the place;

• Retention of the long-established use as a town park, especially in light of the evolving nature of this use to reflect wider social and aesthetic concerns, and recognition of this as the main determinant in management and future development of the place;

• Acknowledgment that future developments outside Richmond Park, may jeopardise the cultural significance of the place, and these should be scrutinised and where necessary opposed in an attempt to minimise adverse impacts;

• Acknowledgment that rankings of significance will form the basis for any conservation actions or future developments; and

Opportunities, constraints, and issues arising from the significant elements Richmond Park are summarised:

• Retention of the oval with a tradition of fencing since 1882
• Pavilion (1883-4)
• Significant Trees
• Tradition of a diverse collection of trees
• The strong geometry in the park's early design
• Tradition of a children's playground
• Fountain (1892)
•World War I Memorial and Cannon

•'Richmond' sign in memory of Samuel Boughton
• Alignment of the former Kurrajong Rail Link

5.2 Ownership and Management

Richmond Park is Crown Land with Hawkesbury City Council as Trustees and Managers. Under the NSW Crown Lands Act (1989), Section 11 Principles of Crown land management states:
For the purposes of this Act, the principles of Crown land management are:

(a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,

(b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,

(c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,

(d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,

(e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and

(f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

Hawkesbury City Council adopted a 'Parks, Draft Generic Plan of Management' for all of its parks in May 2003. In addition there is an endorsed 'Richmond Park User Policy' that defines the parameters for the use of the park for events and markets.

5.3 Community Needs and Aspirations

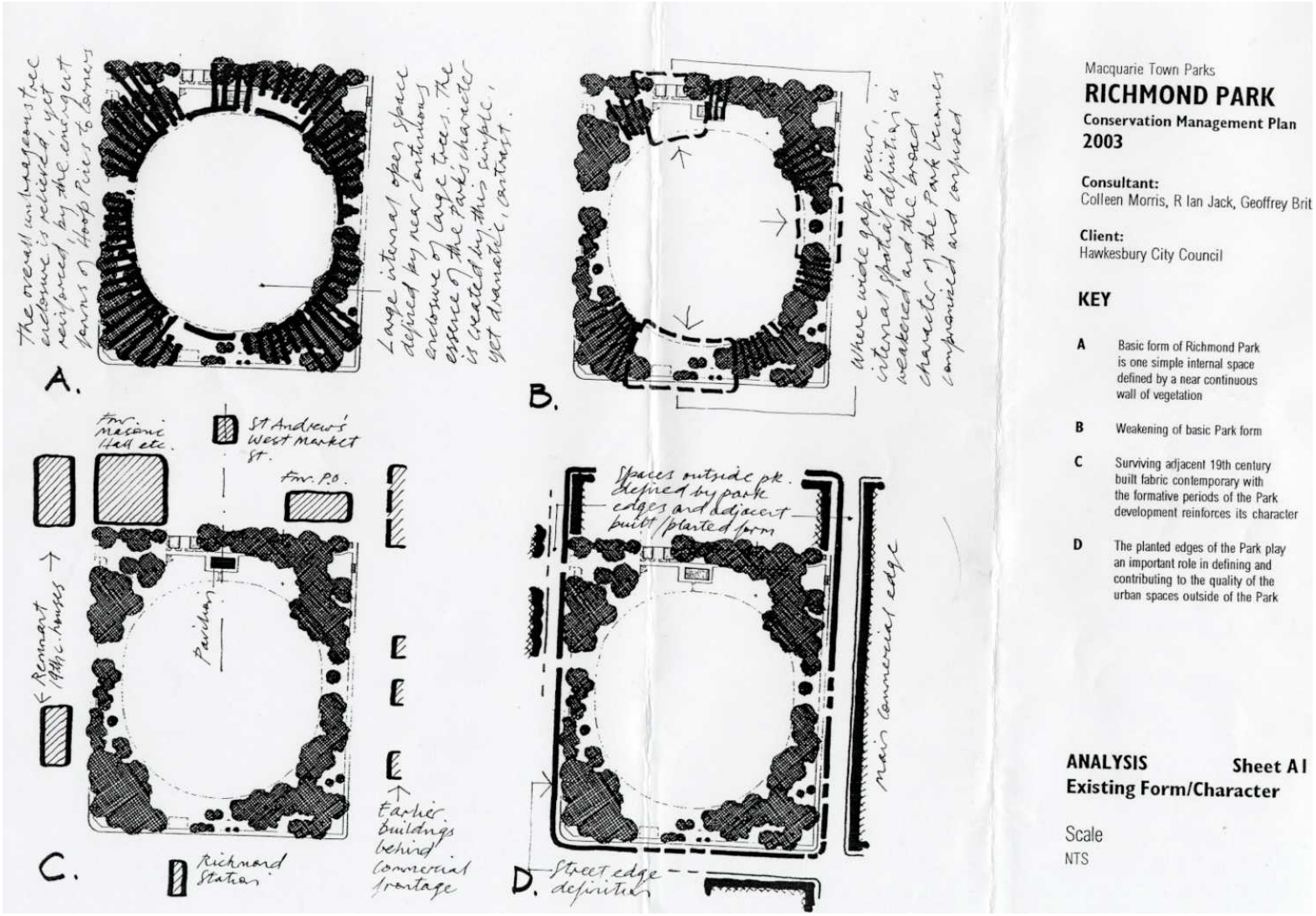
A community consultation workshop was held at the Richmond Senior Citizens Centre on June 12 2003. There was consensus on a number of issues, particularly the need for a tree replacement program and the importance of the history of the park while there was no consensus on the role of sport in the park, with some members of the community preferring to see sport in the park reduced and the oval opened up for alternative uses and others seeing sport as an important aspect of the park. Key issues and points of concern raised in the Group Workshops are attached as an appendix to this report.

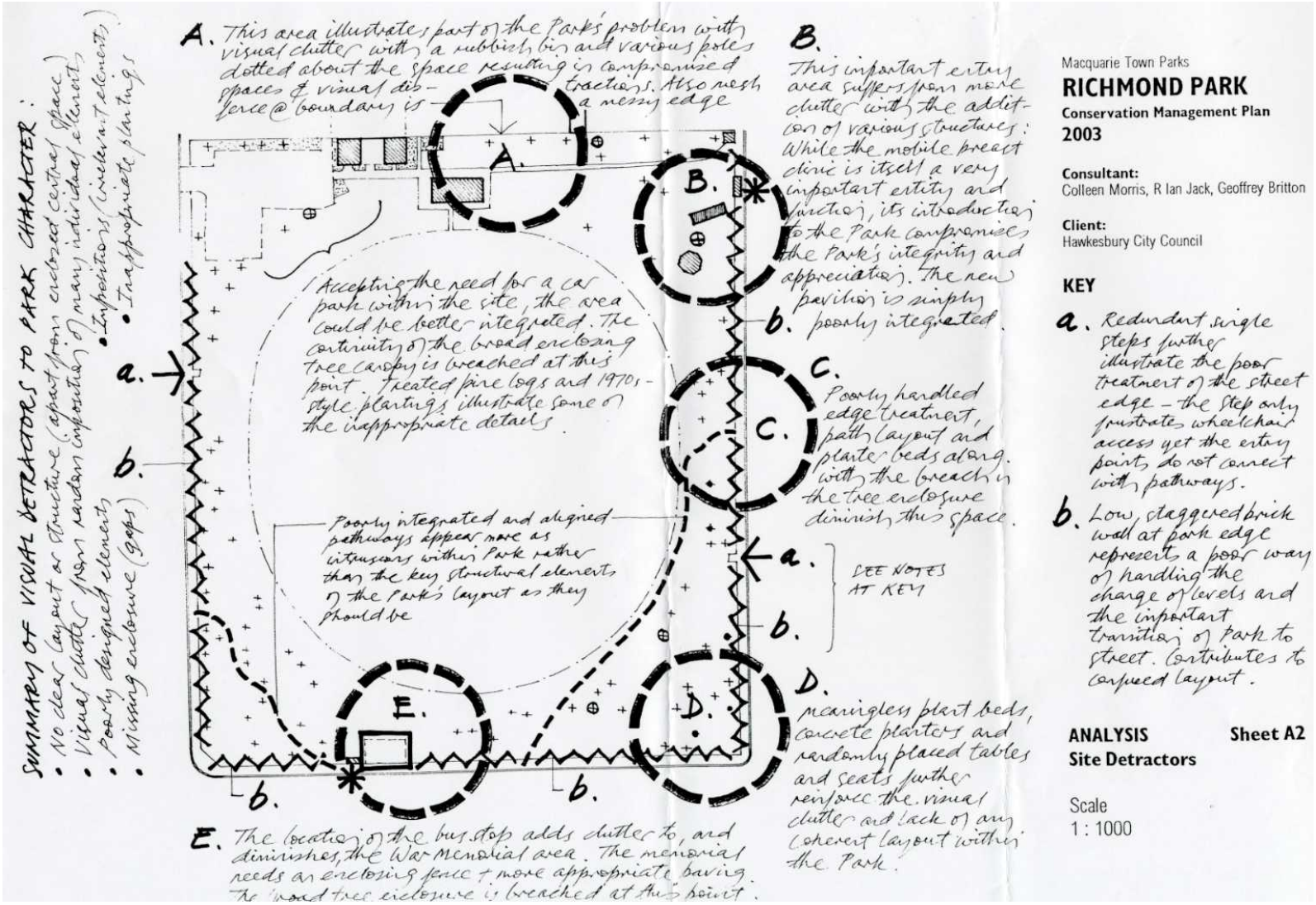
Some suggestions such as the provision of barbeques and picnic shelters have the potential to be visually intrusive in the park, however the upgrading of tables and seating are compatible with the significance of the park. There was an interest expressed in maintaining a colourful display in the park and this is best achieved on the Windsor Street side of the park in a confined area.

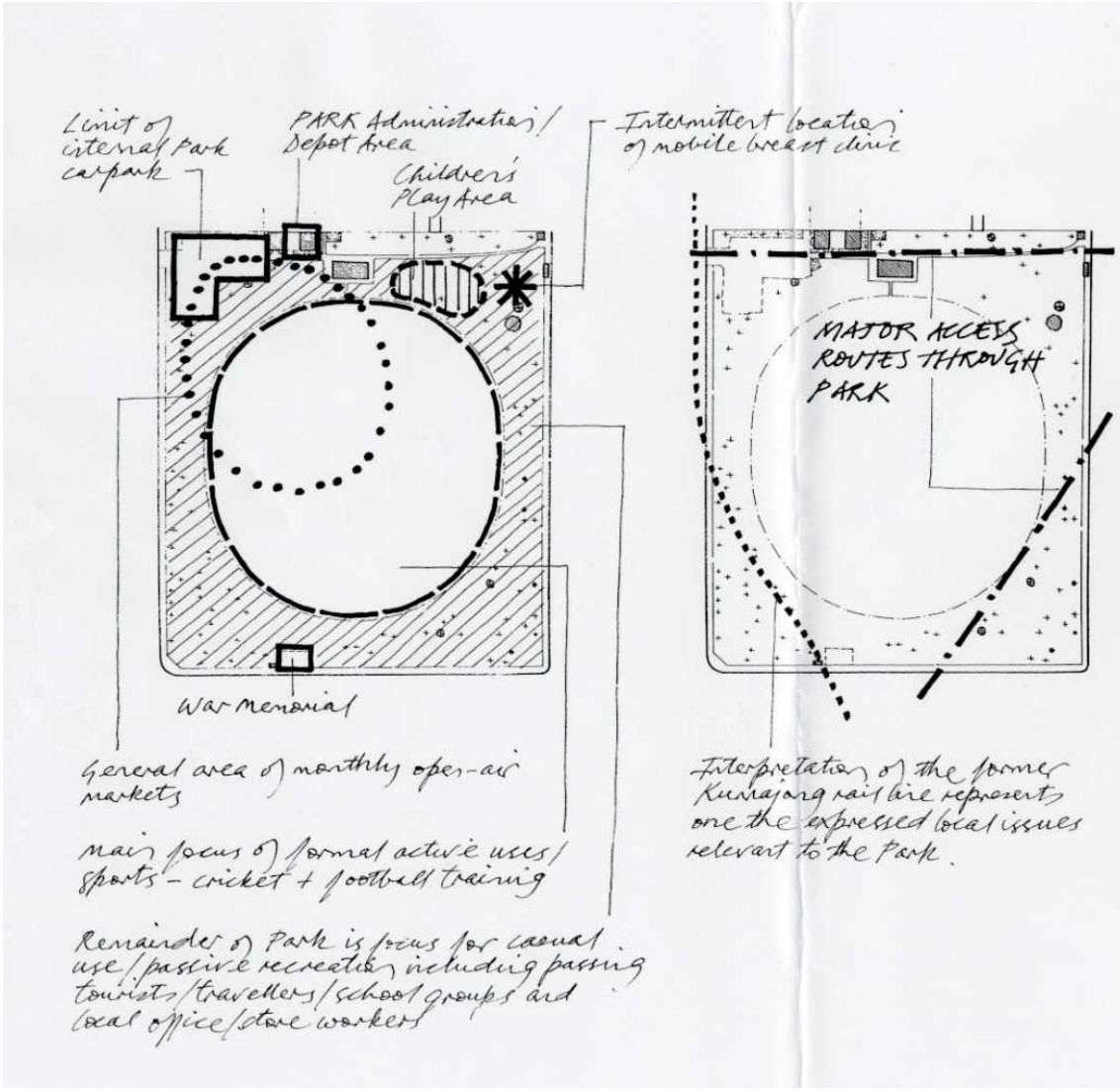
A student project from the Faculty of Business at the University of Technology, Sydney in 2000 studied possible user preferences for Richmond Park and found the

peak usage time was between 12.30–1.30pm with members of the local community Richmond (35%) and Windsor (20%) comprising the principal user groups. The study identified the following community needs, with 46% of respondents desiring a walking path around the perimeter of the oval fence:

- Provision of BBQ and Picnic facilities
- Provision of additional seating
- Walking path the whole way round the oval
- More appropriately located bins
- More night lighting
- Improved park maintenance
- More Toilets


The overall environment of the enclosure is retained, yet reinforced by the emergent forms of Hoop Pines to corners
Large internal open space defined by near continuous enclosure of large trees. The essence of the park's character is created by this simple, yet dramatic, contrast.
A.
Where wide gaps occur, internal spatial definition is weakened and the broad character of the park becomes compromised and confused
B.
Fmr. Masonic Hall etc.
St Andrew's West Market St.
Fmr. P.O.
Pavilion
Remnant 19th C. houses
Richmond Station
C.
Earlier buildings behind commercial frontage
Spaces outside pk. defined by park edges and adjacent built/planted form
main commercial edge
Street edge definition
D.
Macquarie Town Parks
RICHMOND PARK
Conservation Management Plan
2003
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Brit
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council
KEY
A Basic form of Richmond Park is one simple internal space defined by a near continuous wall of vegetation
B Weakening of basic Park form
C Surviving adjacent 19th century built fabric contemporary with the formative periods of the Park development reinforces its character
D The planted edges of the Park play an important role in defining and contributing to the quality of the urban spaces outside of the Park
ANALYSIS Sheet A1
Existing Form/Character
Scale
NTS


SUMMARY OF VISUAL DETRACTORS TO PARK CHARACTER:
• No clear layout or structure (apart from enclosed central space)
• Visual clutter from random composition of many individual elements
• Poorly designed elements
• Missing enclosure (gaps)
• Inappropriate plantings
A. This area illustrates part of the Park's problem with visual clutter with a rubbish bin and various poles dotted about the space resulting in compromised spaces & visual dis-tractions. Also mesh fence @ boundary is a messy edge
B. This important entry area suffers from more clutter with the addit-ion of various structures: While the mobile breast clinic is itself a very important entity and function, its introduction to the Park compromises the Park's integrity and appreciation. The new pavilion is simply
b. poorly integrated.
Accepting the need for a car park within the site, the area could be better integrated. The continuity of the broad enclosing tree canopy is breached at this point. Treated pine logs and 1970's-style plantings illustrate some of the inappropriate details.
C. Poorly handled edge treatment, path layout and planter beds along with the breach in the tree enclosure diminish this space.
Poorly integrated and aligned pathways appear more as intrusions within Park rather than the key structural elements of the Park's layout as they should be
a.
b.
SEE NOTES AT KEY
D. nearingless plant beds, concrete planters and randomly placed tables and seats further reinforce the visual clutter and lack of any coherent layout within the Park.
E. The location of the bus stop adds clutter to, and diminishes, the War Memorial area. The memorial needs an enclosing fence & more appropriate paving. The broad tree enclosure is breached at this point.
Macquarie Town Parks
RICHMOND PARK
Conservation Management Plan
2003
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britton
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council
KEY
a. Redundant single steps further illustrate the poor treatment of the street edge – the step only frustrates wheelchair access yet the entry points do not connect with pathways.
b. Low, staggered brick wall at park edge represents a poor way of handling the change of levels and the important transition of park to street. Contributes to confused layout.
ANALYSIS Sheet A2
Site Detractors
Scale
1 : 1000



Macquarie Town Parks

RICHMOND PARK

Conservation Management Plan

2003

Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britto

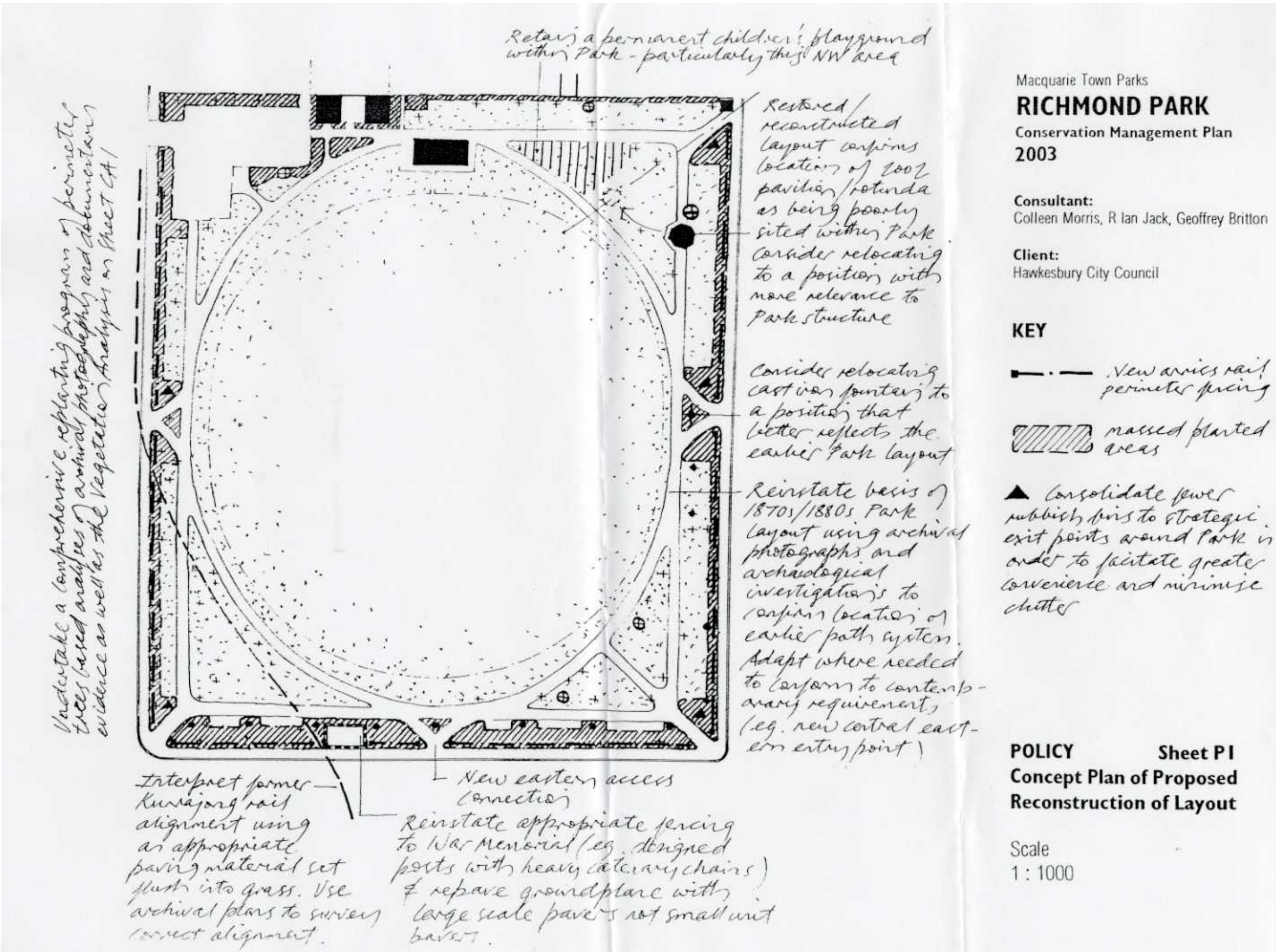
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council

KEY ISSUES

* Night time security/safety/lighting - especially in car park
* Pathways - location/materials
* Provision of appropriate park furniture
* Coordination of diverse uses to minimise conflict
* Park amenity/presentation
* Park's heritage values
* Management of the important tree resource

ANALYSIS **Sheet A3**
Site Use & Issues

Scale
NTS


Retain a permanent children's playground within Park - particularly the NW area
Restored / reconstructed layout confirms location of 2002 pavilion / rotunda as being poorly sited within Park. Consider relocating to a position with more relevance to Park structure
Consider relocating cast iron fountain to a position that better reflects the earlier Park layout
Reinstate basis of 1870s/1880s Park layout using archival photographs and archaeological investigations to confirm location of earlier path system. Adapt where needed to conform to contemporary requirements (eg. new central eastern entry point)
Undertake a comprehensive replanting program of perimeter trees based on analysis of archival photography and documentary evidence as well as the Vegetation Analysis on Sheet C4
Interpret former Kurrajong rail alignment using an appropriate paving material set flush into grass. Use archival plans to survey correct alignment.
New eastern access connection
Reinstate appropriate fencing to War Memorial (eg. designed posts with heavy catenary chains) & repave groundplane with large scale pavers not small unit pavers.
Macquarie Town Parks
RICHMOND PARK
Conservation Management Plan
2003
Consultant:
Colleen Morris, R Ian Jack, Geoffrey Britton
Client:
Hawkesbury City Council
KEY
New arris rail perimeter fencing
massed planted areas
Consolidate fewer rubbish bins to strategic exit points around Park in order to facilitate greater convenience and minimise clutter
POLICY
Sheet P1
Concept Plan of Proposed Reconstruction of Layout
Scale
1 : 1000

6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY

6.1 Basis of Approach

Together with the statement of significance for this report an important basis of approach for this Conservation Policy is the set of definitions, principles, processes and practices contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) as well as the three guideline documents supporting the Charter.

6.2 Terms

Throughout this Policy various terms have been used with particular meanings and these are defined below. The definitions come from the Burra Charter.

Place means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or works together with associated contents and surrounds.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstance, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration and reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the EXISTING fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to confused with either *recreation* or *conjectural reconstruction* which are outside the scope of this Charter.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

6.3 Conservation Treatments Arising from Significance

For each of the levels of significance stated in **Section 3** there is a consequential conservation action. The following schedule indicates the appropriate conservation action:

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE	ACTION
EXCEPTIONAL	Retention and conservation is essential
HIGH	Retention and conservation is required
MODERATE	Preferably retain and conserve; may be altered or relocated
LITTLE	Retention is discretionary. May be removed or altered to augment significance
INTRUSIVE	Remove

6.4 General Policy

Maintain Richmond Park as a community park, freely accessible to, and for the continuing enjoyment of, the general public consistent with its high cultural value as the Macquarie-planned public reserve for the township of Richmond, public safety considerations and with reference to the following policies.

6.5 Setting and Layout (Refer to Sheet P1)

6.5.1 Landscape Character

A1
Conserve the integrity of Richmond Park as a focal point within the urban landscape of Richmond.

A2
Ensure the retention and maintenance of the traditional character of Richmond Park comprising a large central oval space enclosed by a continuous wall of trees. The central oval space should remain enclosed by an appropriate type of fence in order to protect the space from incursions that would potentially erode the important scale of the space.

Richmond Park is a rare early example in NSW outside Sydney of ambitions for a park to be a pleasant environment for both active and passive recreation and maintains key elements from its early layout—an outer park with trees and public seats and a central oval area the oval defined with a fence since 1882, with a pavilion. The strong symmetry in the early design of the park (now diminished) was reinforced by the planting of Hoop Pines, some of which survive, in each quadrant of the park. This cohesive early design has survived in a substantially appreciable form for over 120

years. The park's central location in Richmond and its collection of mature trees render it a distinguishing element of the town.

6.5.2 Landscape Design

B1
*Improve the legibility of the edges and entrances to the park through the reinstatement of boundary plantings and, consistent with current use requirements, traditional entry points. (**Refer Plan P1**)*

B2
Maintain and/or reinstate, where consistent with current uses, all basic elements of the known late 19th/early 20th century landscape design, which include the layout of the paths, tree plantings, gateways and oval .

Redesign the Windsor Street side of the park to incorporate as many elements of the original layout as possible while reinstating an appropriate design and coherent entry to the park. This would entail simplifying the design and rationalising garden beds while still allowing for an annual or perennial display and colour in the park.

Re-introduce an appropriate low fence around the War Memorial area to allow a clear definition between the general park and an area for respectful commemoration.

B3
Avoid introducing permanent monuments, memorials or artworks within Richmond Park that have no direct, compelling relevance to the site.

B4
Remove or modify intrusive elements or elements which detract from the significance of the site.

Currently there is a clutter of signs, seats, tables and bins throughout the park. Consider a review of the signs, rubbish bins, seats, tables and make them consistent with an appropriately high standard of design sympathetic with the nature of the park. The design should not be in the style of a 19th century 'reproduction' but of a simple unobtrusive, contemporary nature. Reorganise the placement of these in discreet locations.

Remove or otherwise modify the following elements when the opportunity exists:-

• The exaggerated sinuous pathway currently commemorating the former Kurrajong railway; this should be replaced by an alignment surveyed from the rail survey drawing- the interpretative alignment could be a path, however it should be narrower and in an appropriate material (see 6.5.3)

•The low brick retaining wall around the perimeter of the Park; the low wall contributes to the present poor street address – either a gentle bank or a better designed retaining edge would improve this.

• Steps leading into the Park from Windsor and March Streets; these are superfluous and frustrate access to the Park for wheelchairs and prams – ramps would easily suffice

• Remove the garden beds surrounding the fountain and consider further conservation works to the fountain, This could be done via funding from a specific source eg: by donation.

Initiate discussions with Breast Screen NSW in order to explore alternative options for the mobile clinic within the Park. Consider strategies such as the provision of a power box, increased security, lighting and seating that would make a temporary site in the south west quadrant of the Park, with the provision of easy access to the car park, a viable option.

Consider removal or relocation of the bus stops from the park edges pending liaison with the appropriate authorities. If relocation is not possible consider the replacement with a bus shelter of a simple, see-through design.

6.5.3 Paths

C 1
Path surfaces should be consistent with a 19th/early20th appearance.

Early paths were of gravel or compacted ant bed. Paths should not be constructed from interlocking paving bricks or pavers. Use preferably, a path of consolidated crushed dolerite (eg. supplied by Australian Native Landscapes) or, if a more heavy duty surface is required, concrete with specially selected aggregate (as has been used for the new connecting road between Ruse and Alice Streets, Harris Park near Experiment Farm Cottage) or asphalt.

C 2
Pathway entrances to the park should be designed to a standard suitable for wheelchair access.

C3
Consider the re-introduction of a perimeter path around the oval consistent with Policy B2.

6.6 Tree Replacement

D1
Initiate a tree replacement plan based on the evidence of the early planting layout tempered by species known to be successful in the local area.

Conserve significant site vegetation noted in Section 3. This entails replacing plants with the same species in the same location where necessary in order to retain the intended design. The only exceptions to this would be in the case of a species being obviously not suited to the site circumstances - such as very different light conditions than at an earlier stage of the landscape development - or where the senescent plant replaced a known earlier plant of higher significance.

Suggested tree list :

Araucaria cunninghamii Hoop Pine
Brachychiton populneus Kurrajong
Casuarina cunninghamiana Riveroak
Cercis siliquastrum Judas Tree, a small ornamental flowering tree
Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress
Eucalyptus saligna
Grevillea robusta Silky Oak
Photinia glabra
Pinus pinea Stone Pine
Pittosporum rhombifolium
Quercus robur English Oak
Quercus suber Cork Oak
Schinus molle var. areira Pepper Tree
Toona ciliata Ted Cedar

D2
Institute a tree management plan based on advice from a specialist arborist

D3
Any work proposed in close proximity to a significant tree should be carried out in consultation with an experienced and qualified arborist.

6.7 Interpretation

The most effective means for the park to be appreciated and interpreted as park established during the 19th century is to conserve significant items within the park and maintain its use for recreation and community activities.

E1
Ensure the photographs, histories and plans pertaining to Richmond Park are catalogued and made available in the Local Studies section of the Hawkesbury City Council Library

E2
Interpretation of the park's history using signage or installations should be of an appropriately high standard sympathetic to the context of the park and subservient to the cultural significance of the place

Consider replacing the 'Civic Guide.' This could include some key dates from the history of the park.

6.8 Use

F1
Maintain the oval for sporting activities.

F2

Consider permitting increased public access to the oval via the introduction of additional gates

F3
Continue the use of the park for community activities such as market days within a controlled area in accordance with the maintenance of significance.

F4
Provide adequate seating within the park

If picnic tables and chairs are upgraded, disabled access should be considered in the choice of design.

Arrange seating so that it faces in to the park to provide a pleasant outlook rather than being on the edge of the park facing the street traffic. Consider arranging seating under trees for shade in summer

Consider providing seating in the rotunda. Currently park users are shifting seats into the rotunda so that they can take advantage of the shelter provided there.

6.9 Management

G1
Nominate Richmond Park for State Heritage Register listing

G2
Continue to manage Richmond Park under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, 1989 with Hawkesbury City Council as Trustees.

Consistent with the objectives of this Act retain and conserve Richmond Park on the basis of the definitions, principles, processes and practices contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as well as the three guideline documents supporting the Charter.

G3
There should be no subdivision of the park or excisions from or alienation of parts of the park.

There has been a suggestion that the park should contain the footpath for March Street and March Street widened. Although pathways should be reinstated in the park, the appropriation of the length of the March Street side of the park for pedestrian use is inconsistent with the significance of the park.

G4
Maintain an ongoing documentation system for recording any changes to plantings, layout or materials within Richmond Park as part of its management.

G5
Continue to provide for the ongoing security of the place.

The continued provision of sufficient lighting of the park at night is required.

6.10 Future Developments

H1
There should be no more new permanent structures constructed in the park.

This excludes building maintenance and replacement of fencing/ gates etc.

H 2
New design for replacement structures should be of an appropriately high standard sympathetic to the context and subservient to the cultural significance of the place.

The conservation/reconstruction of the Pavilion is a good example of an appropriate replacement structure.

6.11 Maintenance

I 1
Remove weeds within the Park on a regular basis

I 2
Raise mower height around the root zones of trees to avoid damage to the root systems.

6.12 Adoption and Review

J1
*Review this Policy (**Section 6**) every 5 years or as substantial new information arises*

APPENDIX

Community consultation workshop was held at the Richmond Senior Citizens Centre on June 12 2003.

Group 1

• Restoration of the seating that used to be in the pavilion
• Symmetry pleasing but the present paths are impractical – need new diagonal paths/path on old railway line good
• East Market Street trees need to be plantings that consider the evenness of the paving – consideration for those in wheelchairs, or any disability (eg. low hanging branches for sight-impaired)
• Important the large trees that give the ambience of protection to the oval be renewed as needed so that trees of grandeur remain.
• Trees vandal/climbing friendly
• About 25 trees about to die so need planning now to replace instantly
• Pathways need to reflect needs
• Greatly restricted motor vehicle access to grass areas
• Cricket pivotal to the park–size of oval not to be reduced.
• More gate entry to the oval itself –would save money replacing panels.
• Sympathetic picnic shelters/seats needed
• Whatever shelters, interpretations etc are built should be to a design and scale that retain present sightlines within the park and across from park to street and street to park.
• CMP to address the tone of possible future developments to retain original heritage and its constraints.
• Extraneous items eg. bus shelters (on March Street) could go.
• Lighting important to curb vandalism– type needs to balance public needs and heritage and reduce light scatter.

Group 2

• Do away with sporting activities (as it excludes general use) – this was not unanimous in the group.
• Planting scheme that leads to amenity('niceness')
• Memorial to Kurrajong Railway Line
• Ceremonial Activities
  • Memorial fenced off / Parade area on western side
  • No seating/garbage bins
  • More lighting
• Walkway
  – Avenue of trees
  – Seating
  – More flower beds
• Remove bus shelter
• Too restrictive for community events
• Need for more power/maintenance
• More diverse community activities and events

Group 3

• Pansy (Kurrajong Railway) – alignment displayed
• Flowers and Colours
• User friendly
• Preserve heritage
• Nice space
• Lunch venue
• More seating and Link the town (Interpretative)
• Lighting 7 nights (Council to pay)
• Lighting to car park
• Lighting to trees
• Bus shelter
• Civic Guide
• Link old with new
• Seats in the rotunda
• Tree (type) does not encourage growth (of flowers)
• Manage space if can't grow flowers – seating around trees
•Concern about debate on Breast Van position as it is valuable 2500 people a year 78 cases cancer detected in the 20,000 screened .
• Sport too close to the playground
• Need Tree Management Plan
• Plant trees for the next 30 years
• Access to the Park – Vehicle more/ Wheelchair more
• Need a single gate (self-closing)
• Need more entertainment in the park
• Restore Fountain (Rural Press to fund?)
• Richmond sign to move to corner of East Market Street and Windsor Street.
• No vehicles in Park (HOT Debate)
• Recognition of History
• Sponsored events to support ongoing changes to the park
• Bin replacement strategy
• Temporary exhibitions in the park.