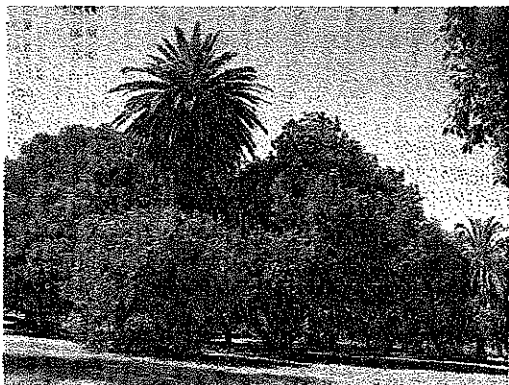
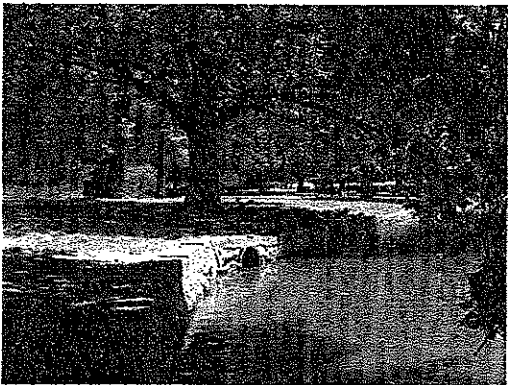
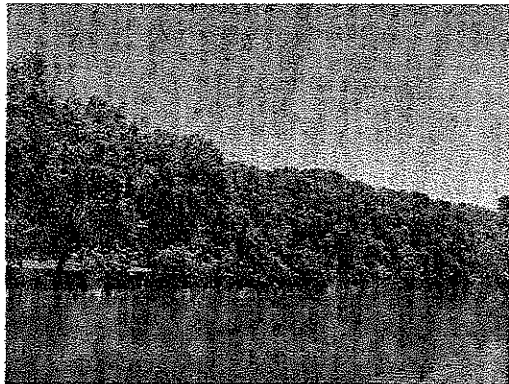


HYDE PARK CONSERVATION PLAN

JUNE 2003



Prepared for the
TOWN OF VINCENT

KELSALL BINET ARCHITECTS
26 Price Street Fremantle Western Australia 6160
Tel (08) 9336 7753 Fax (08) 9336 7723

0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0.1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In November 1995 Hyde Park was placed on the Municipal Inventory of the Town of Vincent and it was recommended that it should be nominated to the Heritage Council of Western Australia as a suitable place for entry into the Register of Heritage Places. Hyde Park was placed, as a permanent entry, on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places in 1998.

In June 1999 Laura Grey, in association with John Viska and Gillian O'Mara, prepared a heritage assessment of *Hyde Park* for the Town of Vincent. Prior to this time a number of other reports relating to the management of Hyde Park had been commissioned including *Hyde Park Plan of Management* (1992), *The Trees of Hyde Park* (1997) and *Significant Tree Inventory Aboriginal Assessment* (c. 1990s).

In December 2002, the Town of Vincent commissioned Kelsall Binet Architects, to prepare a Conservation Plan for *Hyde Park*. The purpose of a Conservation Plan is to set out what is significant in a place and, consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable the significance to be retained in its future use and development.¹

0.2. STUDY AREA

Hyde Park is a reserve vested in the Town of Vincent for the purposes of recreation. The 15.5 hectare site is bounded by Vincent, William, Glendower and Throssell Streets in North Perth, a suburb within the Town of Vincent.

0.3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

0.3.1. Pre-European Occupation

Boojamooling (Third Swamp or *Hyde Park*) was one of the larger permanent lakes in the area to the north of Perth and it was an important seasonal camping area and meeting place for the Yabbaru Bibbulman people.

0.3.2. Third Swamp

Following the European settlement of the Perth area the Yabbaru Bibbulman people were discouraged from using their traditional camps and meeting places. Boojamooling became known as Third Swamp and was used by Europeans intermittently as a drovers' camp. Unlike other swamps in the area it was not drained or cleared for intensive agricultural use.

In the 1890s Third Swamp provided temporary accommodation for numbers of Europeans who had travelled to Western Australia for the Goldrush but had been unable to find accommodation in Perth. In 1897 there were as many as 200 tents erected in the area.

¹ Kerr, James Semple; *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust, 1996, p. 1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
0.1	Background Information	i
0.2	Study Area	i
0.3	Brief Historical Overview	i
0.4	Brief Physical Description of the Place	iii
0.5	Cultural Heritage Significance of the Place	iii
0.6	Level of Significance	v
0.7	Summary of Conservation Policy and Implementation Strategy	v
0.8	Recommended Conservation Works	xii
0.9	Timeframe for Implementation of Policies	xiii
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Conservation Plan	1
1.2	Study Area	1
1.3	Methodology	1
1.4	Terminology	2
1.5	Study Team	2
1.6	Acknowledgements	3
2	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	6
2.1	Introduction	6
2.2	Chronology of Development	6
2.3	Historical Development of the Site	11
2.4	Parks and Gardens in the Nineteenth Century	18
2.5	Development of Hyde Park: 1897-1965	21
2.6	Hyde Park: 1960-2003	51
2.7	Places Associated with Hyde Park	57
2.8	People Associated with Hyde Park	58
2.9	Comparative Information	61
2.10	Heritage Listings	62
3	PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	63
3.1	Introduction	63
3.2	Context of the Place within its Setting	63
3.3	Function and Nature of the Place and its Parts	69
3.4	General Description of the Surviving Plantings and Elements	70
3.5	Description of Individual Sections within the Park	74
3.6	Condition and Structural Adequacy	108
3.7	Archaeological Evidence	112
4	ANALYSIS OF THE DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	113
4.1	Development Sequence of the Fabric and its Relationship to the Surviving Fabric	113
4.2	Sequence of Development and Influences upon the Landscape	120
4.3	Important Tree Species in the Park	133
4.4	Authenticity	140
4.5	Integrity	142

5	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	143
5.1	Criteria for Assessment	143
5.2	Aesthetic Value	143
5.3	Historic Significance	144
5.4	Scientific Value	145
5.5	Social Value	145
5.6	Rarity	146
5.7	Representativeness	146
5.8	Condition	146
5.9	Integrity	147
5.10	Authenticity	147
6	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	149
7.	GRADES ZONES, SECTIONS AND ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	151
7.1	Generally	151
7.2	Elements	151
8	CONSERVATION POLICY	155
8.1	Introduction	155
8.2	Policies arising out of the Cultural Significance of the Place	156
8.3	Policies arising from the Physical Condition of the Place	182
8.4	External requirements	184
8.5	Requirements and Resources of the Client, Owner, Occupants and or Users	186
8.6	Records	189
8.7	Recommended Conservation Works	189
8.8	Timeframe for the Implementation of Policies	190
9.	POLICY IMPLEMENTATION	191
9.1	Introduction	191
9.2	Responsibilities for Implementing Policies	191
9.3	Responsibilities in Relation to Policies	192
9.4	Provisional Inspection Schedule	192
9.5	Specific Policies to be Followed in Implementing Each Policy	193
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	195

Appendix One	Physical Evidence – Plant lists for Shrubberies
Appendix Two	Criteria of Cultural Heritage Significance (HCWA)
Appendix Three	Conservation Plan – Study Brief

0.3.3. Establishment of Third Swamp Reserve (1897 – 1899)

The third swamp had been noted for public reserve as early as 1873 but it was not until 1897 that it was formally reserved for public gardens and work began on developing the land. Between 1897 and 1899 preliminary works were carried out including the establishment of roads to the south and west of the reserve, the construction of a fence around the reserve and the clearing of scrub from the land and reeds and sedges from the lake. It would appear that no substantial trees were removed at this time.

0.3.4. Establishment of Hyde Park 1900 – 1936

Between 1899 and 1936 J.G. Braithwaite, as the City Gardener for the Town of Perth, was responsible for the establishment of the parklands at *Hyde Park*. The work carried out at this time laid the foundations of the mature landscape that is evident on the site today. The major elements that define *Hyde Park* today are the lakes and the collection of mature trees set amongst expansive lawns.

0.3.5. Continuity and Maintenance 1937 – 1959

During this time, work at *Hyde Park* was limited mainly to minor alterations and maintenance. This inactivity was common on many projects during this period and was partly due to shortages of funding and resources caused by the Great Depression and Second World War. Another reason for this period of limited change was the continuity of management and horticultural practice created by the thirty year long tenure of J.G. Braithwaite as city gardener followed by the twenty year tenure of his son H. R. Braithwaite.

0.3.6. Refurbishment 1960 - 1989

During the Second World War the condition and presentation of *Hyde Park* had declined due to shortages of staff and finances. In 1959 a ten year plan to revitalise the park was tabled and the refurbishment of the park was commenced. Refurbishment was mainly focused on improving the facilities in the park and new toilets, playgrounds and picnic areas were provided. Infrastructure to improve the maintenance and presentation of the place was also constructed including a new pump and watering system and new lighting. A programme of removing senescent specimen trees was implemented and a number of new trees were planted to replace them. During this time most of the garden beds were modified with the round beds being replaced with free form shrubberies.

0.3.7. Establishment of the Town of Vincent 1990 – 2003

By the end of the 1980s *Hyde Park* was again in need of refurbishment. A major redevelopment of the park was proposed by the City of Perth and rejected by the community in favour of small scale change, conservation of the existing landscape and refurbishment of public facilities. *Hyde Park* was placed on the Permanent Register of Heritage Places on 30 October 1998.

0.4. BRIEF PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Hyde Park is a large mature urban park with two lakes located in a grassed parkland of exotic trees and palms that dates largely from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and shows the influence of the Gardenesque style. The lakes are set roughly in the centre of the park in a natural basin and they form the major visual focus within *Hyde Park*. Each lake has an island planted with exotic trees and palms. The islands are a visual focal point within the lake and a nesting site for the water birds. There is a lineal planting of Plane Trees *Platanus x hispanica* around the lakes which provides a homogenous backdrop to the lakes and their islands and shade the path surrounding the lakes. In the winter these trees lose their leaves allowing sun and light into the centre of the park and opening up views across the park.

Apart from the lakes, the other dominant feature of *Hyde Park* is the diverse collection of mature exotic trees and palms. Most of the trees in *Hyde Park* have been planted in an informal manner, with umbrageous trees lining the network of paths and the more sculptural trees and palms planted in loose groupings in the centre of the lawns. The exceptions to this are the plane trees surrounding the lakes, the Jacarandas in the south-east corner of the park and the recent perimeter planting of Jacaranda and Flame trees. The trees and palms appear to have been planted in a manner that highlights the contrasting nature of their form, habit, foliage colour and type.

The network of shaded paths is a significant feature of the park. The canopies of the mature trees join above the paths and the massive tree trunks of the figs and the camphor laurels give the paths an enclosed and intimate feel.

0.5. CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

Hyde Park is a substantial Federation era municipal park of exotic trees, lawns and lakes that has considerable cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

as a well composed example of a Federation era park that exhibits elements of the earlier Victorian Gardenesque style, a style that continued to be used in the landscaping of municipal parks well into the Twentieth Century;

as an unusual example of a largely intact Federation landscape;

for its historic and social value to the people of Perth as an important community asset that has been in continuous use as a public park for 105 years;

for its historical value as an illustration of the evolution of the area from a natural to a designed landscape and the rapid suburban development that occurred on the periphery of Perth following the population explosion created by the late nineteenth century Goldrush;

the collection of mature trees in *Hyde Park* are a valuable reference collection which may be used to record and monitor data relating to the growth and life span of trees that are not indigenous to the locality or the state and as a source of seed and plant material that can be used to propagate historic cultivars;

for its historic value as the last remaining swamp in the North Perth area where the original topography of the site is still discernible and where a few remnant trees provide evidence of the landscape, which existed at the time when Europeans first arrived to permanently settle in the Perth area;

for the aesthetic contribution that it makes to North Perth and the Town of Vincent and as an important landmark to the north of central Perth;

as a site for research and education, including the diverse aspects of Western Australian history including the interaction of Aboriginal people and Europeans, horticultural, social and cultural history;

for the degree of technical achievement demonstrated in creating an aesthetically pleasing landscape by the selection and management of exotic species in a harsh, dry climate with limited financial and horticultural resources;

for its historic associations with J.G. Braithwaite who designed, developed and managed *Hyde Park* during his tenure as the City Gardener for the City of Perth between 1897 and 1936;

together with the surrounding streetscapes, *Hyde Park*, forms a precinct of early Twentieth Century suburban development;

Hyde Park has social importance to various community groups, families and individuals who have used it as a location for festivals, celebrations, religious events, organised sporting activity and passive recreation;

as an illustration of the civic pride of the politicians, planners and the residents of Perth and their desire to create an attractive and healthy environment by the provision of public gardens and parks, also as a demonstration of the influence of the City Beautiful Movement; and,

for its historic associations with W.G. Brookman, Mayor of the City of Perth, who donated a fountain to the park in 1898.

0.6. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

An assessment of the level of significance of the place was made based on the issues arising from the statement of significance using the terms and definitions listed below and based on the examples set in set out in James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan*:-

EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (ES)

A place considered as being of international significance. Places of exceptional significance would warrant inclusion on any register of heritage places; conservation essential.

CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE (CS)

A place considered as being of national significance. Places of considerable significance would warrant inclusion on any register of places of significance; conservation highly recommended.

SOME SIGNIFICANCE (SS)

A place considered as being of state significance. This is the threshold for entry of places onto the Heritage Council's (WA) Register of Heritage Places, The Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate, or the National Trust of Australia (WA) Classified List. It may also be the threshold for entry into a municipal inventory or town planning scheme; however, there is no mandatory criteria for entry into the last two classes of list.

Hyde Park is of considerable significance. The place, however is comprised of zones, sections, and elements of varying significance. The assessed grading of significance of these constituent parts are identified in Section 7 of this document.

0.7. SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Policies Arising out of the Cultural Significance of the Place

- Policy 1 All works that may have an impact on the Cultural Significance of the place must be carried out with regard to the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999.
- Policy 2 Conservation policy appropriate for Hyde Park must be determined by an understanding of the cultural significance of the place.

Conservation Principles Arising out of the Burra Charter

- Policy 3 Given the acknowledged cultural heritage significance of Hyde Park, it should be conserved and provision made for its future security and maintenance.
- Policy 4 A cautious approach should be adopted during any future conservation work carried out at Hyde Park that respects significant fabric and changes only as much as is necessary but as little as possible and does not distort the evidence provided by the fabric.
- Policy 5 Future conservation of significant fabric at Hyde Park should be carried out under the direction of suitably qualified professionals and should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the place.
- Policy 6 Future conservation of significant fabric at Hyde Park should preferably use traditional techniques, materials and plant varieties.

- Policy 7 Conservation of Hyde Park should take into consideration all aspects of its cultural heritage significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others. However, due consideration should be given to the relative significance of the component parts to ensure that the significance of the place as a whole is maintained and enhanced.
- Policy 8 New uses for landscapes and buildings at Hyde Park should be compatible with their original use to minimise the amount of adaptive change required and maintain the significance of the place.
- All new uses must retain the nature of the landscape, require no adaptation that will adversely affect the significant fabric and should continue to allow public access.
- Policy 9 The visual setting of Hyde Park should be appropriately conserved because it makes an important contribution to the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 10 Relocation of any of the culturally significant elements in Hyde Park is generally unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring its survival.
- Policy 11 Removal of the contents, fixtures, trees, shrubs or delicate plants, which contribute to the cultural significance of a place within Hyde Park, is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring their security and preservation.
- Policy 12 Where possible, conservation, interpretation and management of Hyde Park should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings.

Conservation Processes Arising out of the Burra Charter

- Policy 13 Changes that reduce cultural significance should be avoided but if they are unavoidable, they should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.
- Policy 14 A regular maintenance programme should be implemented to protect important plants, buildings and landscape elements to retain the cultural significance of Hyde Park.
- Policy 15 Where necessary significant fabric should be preserved to retain the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 16 Restoration and reconstruction should be carried out to reveal culturally significant aspects of the place but only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.
- Policy 17 Adaptation of significant fabric must be limited to essential changes and should be undertaken only when it has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 18 New work, such as the construction of new buildings or structures within the park, may be acceptable where they do not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation. New work should be readily identifiable.

- Policy 19 Any changes to significant fabric at Hyde Park should be managed to retain the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 20 Disturbance of significant fabric for study, or to obtain evidence should be minimised. Such investigation should be based on important research questions, which can not be answered in other ways.
- Policy 21 As the local government authority responsible for Hyde Park, the Town of Vincent should play the primary role in its conservation and management.
- Policy 22 Any changes to significant fabric at Hyde Park should be directed, supervised and implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.
- Policy 23 When conservation works are carried out in the future a record of the work, the decisions underlying the project and the evidence upon which they were based should be collected as a record and to assist with future decisions and works.
- Policy 24 Records about the history of Hyde Park, including recent records associated with the conservation of the place, should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

Opportunities Arising from the Statement of Significance

- Policy 25 The opportunity exists for the reinstatement of significant missing elements, where clear evidence exists to enable this to be accurately undertaken and provided that there are relevant skills available to implement such proposals.
- Policy 26 The opportunity exists for the removal of intrusive elements to reveal significant fabric
- Policy 27 The opportunity exists to investigate and reinstate previous landscape finishes.

Policies arising from the Graded Zones, Sections and Elements of Significance.

Zones and elements of exceptional and considerable significance

- Policy 28 The significant fabric of spaces or elements of exceptional and considerable significance should be preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate. Reconstruction is desirable provided sufficient detailed information is available. Adaptation is acceptable to the extent of installing reversible small fixtures, services and elements, provided this does not affect any fabric that is of exceptional or considerable significance. No significant fabric should be removed or action taken to confuse the sense of the landscape. Structural adaptation is generally unacceptable. However, minor structural adaptation may be considered if it is in keeping with the overall aims of the conservation policy and has minimal impact on the significant fabric. Any alterations to the building fabric should be documented.

Landscape elements should not be removed without due consideration of their heritage values. Where removal of significant trees is necessary due to their condition, replacement plantings of the same species should be made.

There should be no new works in open space areas which will adversely affect the nature of the landscape or obscure important views to and from the site.

Zones of some significance

Policy 29 Elements of some significance should be preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate. Adaptation is acceptable to the extent of installing fixtures, services and small reversible elements provided this does not affect the significant appearance of the landscape. Discreet structural changes can be made. Any alterations to the fabric should be documented.

Landscape elements should not be removed without due consideration of their heritage values. Where removal of significant trees is necessary due to their condition, appropriate replacement plantings should be made.

There should be no new works in open space areas which will adversely affect the nature of the landscape or obscure important views to and from the site.

Zones of little or no significance

Policy 30 The fabric of spaces or elements of little significance can be removed depending on the future use requirements. Before removal/ demolition ensure that a comprehensive photographic, drawn and written record is completed.

Intrusive zones

Policy 31 Intrusive spaces or elements have been identified as detracting from the significance of the place and their removal, and/or replacement with more appropriate detailing, should be encouraged. Their removal needs to be assessed against other considerations, such as function and economics, before implementation. Before removal/ demolition ensure that comprehensive photographic and graphic recording is completed.

Policies Related to the Physical Setting

Policy 32 No work should be carried out, or elements added to, the verges of Hyde Park that would diminish the cultural significance of the place.

Policy 33 Development surrounding Hyde Park should be subject to controls to ensure that the significance of the place is not diminished.

Policy 34 The narrow vistas through the mature trees and into Hyde Park from Vincent, William, Glendower and Throssell Streets, as well as those from the side streets that terminate at the park, should be not be interrupted nor should they be allowed to become too open.

Policies Related to the Nature of the Landscape

General Landscape Issues

Policy 35 The landscape of Hyde Park and the changing nature of the plantings over time must be managed as a whole to preserve the design concepts which contribute to the cultural significance of the place. These design concepts would include the influence of the Gardenesque style, the lakes and islands as a visual focus for the park, the informal planting of trees lining paths and as a focal point with the lawns, the diversity of exotic plant species, the shady tree-lined paths, the early avenue plantings of Plane Trees surrounding the lakes and the Pines to perimeter of park, the soft edged nature of the landscape and the informal, low-key nature of the park furniture and hard landscaping.

Plant Selections for New Plantings

- Policy 36 New plantings should aim to reinstate known former plantings where these have been removed or where existing plant material is senescent and requires rehabilitation or replacement. New plantings should generally conform to previous plantings patterns and be of the same or similar species where this information is known.
- Policy 37 Where possible, replacement plantings of senescent important plants should be carried out in preparation for their future removal.
- Policy 38 A list of plant species suitable for use in the gardens should be selected by historical appropriateness and with the advice of an appropriate professional consultant with horticulture and/ or arboricultural and heritage experience.
- Policy 39 New plantings should reflect the traditional bias of earlier plantings at Hyde Park towards exotic plants and also towards the diversification of plant material within the range historically available.
- Policy 40 Apart from the areas in the immediate vicinity of the lakes, new plantings should reflect the traditional bias at the park towards the use of drought- tolerant exotic plants within the range historically available.
- Policy 41 The permanently full lakes and islands are an important design feature and focal point in Hyde Park and should be conserved and maintained.

Paving and Paths

- Policy 42 There should be no major changes to the layout and form of the bitumen path system and timber boardwalks and substantial concrete kerbs should not be used.
- Policy 43 Reinstate earlier surface finishes and edge treatments to paths and where suitable, reinstate earlier paths that were removed during the 1960s.
- Policy 44 The proportion of hard to soft landscaping is not to be increased beyond current levels. No new paths or paved areas without historical precedent are to be established.

Buildings and Structures

- Policy 45 Where essential new structures or buildings need to be constructed in the park they should be limited in size and scale and when possible they should be of a lightweight construction that could easily be removed when required with the least damage to significant fabric.
- Policy 46 No new limestone retaining walls or garden bed surrounds should be constructed in Hyde Park.
- Policy 47 New artworks and memorials in the park should be functional elements.
- Policy 48 If the opportunity arises the High Voltage Power Line that cross Hyde Park should be relocated.
- Policy 49 No Mobile Phone Towers or other communications devices should be constructed in Hyde Park.

- Policy 50 Park furniture should be simple in design and not make use of elaborate historical embellishments.

Interpretation

- Policy 51 Hyde Park is of such importance that a comprehensive interpretation programme should be undertaken and an interpretation plan prepared.
- Policy 52 Physical elements should be used to interpret how Hyde Park has been modified or adapted over time and to reveal past uses or configurations.
- Policy 53 Where possible original uses or similar uses for landscapes or buildings should be maintained to aid interpretation.
- Policy 54 Permanent interpretation should be fixed in selected locations, to explain significant elements of the place and important aspects such as its origins, uses, construction and conservation.
- Policy 55 Significant associations between people and Hyde Park should be retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place

- Policy 56 All works identified as urgent in the Recommended Conservation Works section of this report should be attended to as a matter of priority and certainly within a two year time frame from the date of inspection.
- Policy 57 An updated Arboricultural report should be commissioned and all works identified in it should be attended to in the manner and the timeframe suggested.
- Policy 58 A well considered programme of regular arboricultural maintenance for each mature tree should be devised and implemented by a qualified Arboriculturist.
- Policy 59 Pest control inspections should be implemented on a regular basis and any treatment required should be executed within the recommended periods.
- Policy 60 All hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos) must be handled with due care and attention and in accordance with Government Standards and Worksafe regulations.
- Policy 61 Regular maintenance and repair of the built elements of Hyde Park should be carried out having due regard for the significance of the fabric and this conservation policy. Refer also to policy 16.
- Policy 63 The compaction of the ground around the root zones of significant trees must be regularly monitored and vehicle and pedestrian access controlled to prevent damaging the health and longevity of significant trees.

External Requirements

- Policy 64 As Hyde Park has been placed on the Register of Heritage Places, any development, as defined by the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990, has to be referred to the Heritage Council for its advice. The local planning authority must not give an approval for works or development that is in conflict with this advice.
- Policy 65 The place should be classified by the National Trust.
- Policy 66 The provisions of the Town Planning Scheme, Building Code of Australia and Health Act apply, as with any public place. However the Heritage Council may support the waiving or easing of requirements where important conservation objectives might be achieved providing health and safety will not be compromised. This assistance should be sought where appropriate.
- Policy 67 Attention is drawn to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80 and the need for notification of materials that are discovered that come under the control of the Act.

Requirements and Resources of the Client, Owner, Occupants and or Users

- Policy 68 The Town of Vincent needs to acknowledge the identified cultural heritage significance of the place and commit itself to the conservation of that significance, in accordance with the policies in this report.
- Policy 69 A Memorandum of Understanding should be established between the Town of Vincent and the Heritage Council of Western Australia to assist in the future management of this heritage site.
- Policy 70 The community has a high regard for Hyde Park and therefore it must continue to be maintained as an important heritage place in Western Australia.
- Policy 71 Hyde Park must continue to maintain its horticultural and arboricultural presentation to meet the community's expectations of its city parks.
- Policy 72 While documentary evidence does not suggest that there are particular social, religious or other constraints, any new evidence that may come to light through further documentary or physical evidence should be treated on its merits and balanced with the Statements of Significance.

Opportunities for Investigation

- Policy 73 Opportunities for investigation of the place should be realised, when possible so as to gain a better understanding of the place, its development and construction. The information gained can be used for the purposes of diagnosis and conservation.

Compatible Use

- Policy 74 Any new uses within Hyde Park must be compatible with the park, its plantings and the current uses of the place for unstructured passive recreation. Compatibility will be determined by the significance of the areas and elements which will be affected and the amount of change required to suit the place to a new use.

Some zones or elements of significance are of such a high level of cultural heritage significance that the only compatible uses that are acceptable are those that require no physical change to the place.

Zones and elements of lesser significance are more flexible but still require that adaptive changes are limited to those that are substantially reversible or which will result in minimal impact.

0.8. RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION WORKS

- **Recommended Conservation works**

- **Urgent Works**

Urgent works are those items that should be completed within the short term so as to protect significant fabric from deterioration or destruction.

- Remove self-seeded trees and plants which may be damaging or altering significant landscapes (e.g. thin out Spanish Reed or Bamboo on East Island)
- Update arboricultural report and carry out any works noted as urgent
- Memorandum of understanding.
- Repair bitumen paths lifted by tree roots

- **Medium Works**

Medium works are those items that should be completed in the long term to maintain the significance of the place and prevent the deterioration of significant fabric.

- Repair and reconstruct the West Island.
- Carry out non-structural repair of cracks to retaining walls surrounding the lakes.
- Carry out a programme of replacement planting for significant trees (if possible new trees to be grown from seeds or cuttings taken on site).
- Collect and store all records.
- Develop and implement an interpretation plan.
- Continue to improve water quality of lakes.

- **Desirable Works**

Works that are listed as being desirable are those that are not essential to the survival of significant fabric or building but which would help enhance the significance of the place. This would include items such as the reconstruction of lost fabric or buildings.

- Gradually replace brick and concrete pathways with bitumen paths
- Remove high voltage power lines from west end of park

• **TIMEFRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES**

The following classes of priority should be achieved within the time frames specified below:

- Carry out urgent maintenance and conservation works, within 2 years.
- Carry out medium term conservation action within 2-5 years.
- Carry out long term conservation action within 10 years.
- Carry out desirable works when the opportunity arises.
- Review this Conservation Plan in the year 2008 after the expiry of 5 years from its publication.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. CONSERVATION PLAN

In December 2002 the Town of Vincent commissioned Kelsall Binet Architects to prepare a Conservation Plan for *Hyde Park*. The purpose of a Conservation Plan is to set out what is significant in a place and consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable the significance to be retained in its future use and development.²

1.2. STUDY AREA

Hyde Park is a reserve vested in the Town of Vincent for the purposes of recreation. The 15.5 hectare site is bounded by Vincent, William, Glendower and Throssell Streets in North Perth, a suburb within the Town of Vincent.

1.3. METHODOLOGY

The Conservation Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the specific requirements of the Town of Vincent briefing document *Hyde Park Conservation Plan – Project Brief*. This brief was based on the document developed by the Department of Contract and Management Services (now the Department of Housing and Works) and the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA). Otherwise the work has been generally carried out in accordance with the guidelines and principles set out in James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan*, (National Trust of NSW, 5th edition, 2000), and *The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance)* Australia ICOMOS, 1999.

In June 1999 Laura Grey, in association with John Viska and Gillian O'Mara, prepared a heritage assessment of *Hyde Park* for the Town of Vincent. Prior to this time a number of other reports relating to the management of Hyde Park had been commissioned including *Hyde Park Plan of Management* (1992), *The Trees of Hyde Park* (1997) and *Significant Tree Inventory Aboricultural Assessment* (c. 1990s).

The documentary research included the use of primary and secondary sources, as well as interviews with relevant people. The documentary evidence covers both the concise history of *Hyde Park* as well as the social and contextual history that relates to the building and development of the site. A complete bibliography of all sources is provided at the end of this document.

Physical evidence was compiled by means of a comprehensive survey of *Hyde Park* including notes on each of the component parts, their general condition, level of authenticity, significance, and recommended future actions. Photographs were taken to illustrate the form, setting, and condition of the place, and information was obtained from physical condition surveys that were carried out in January and March 2003.

After evaluating the evidence derived from the physical and documentary research, an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the place was derived using criteria established in the briefing document. Finally, a conservation and management policy was

² Kerr, James Semple; *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust, 1996, p. 1.

formulated to assist with the retention and enhancement of the determined cultural heritage significance of the place.

1.4. TERMINOLOGY

The meanings of the terminology used within this document are in accord with the definitions contained under Article 1 of the Burra Charter. For the purposes of this conservation plan:

Place: means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other 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 circumstances include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be more commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Maintenance: means the continuous protective repair of the fabric, contents and setting of the place and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration and reconstruction and 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 new materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either recreation or conjectural reconstruction.

Compatible use: means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting: means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Interpretation: means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

1.5. STUDY TEAM

The work on the Conservation Plan was undertaken by:

Gena Binet. B.Arch (UWA), ARAIA., Kelsall Binet Architects

Alan Kelsall AARCH (WAIT), ARAIA, ARIBA, ARCUK, Kelsall Binet Architects

Irene Sauman, Historian, B.Arts (Soc Science), Post Grad. Dip. Public History

John Viska, Horticulturalist, B.Ed., Hort. Cert.

Janie Binet, Kelsall Binet Architects

1.6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank the following persons for their assistance and contribution towards the development of the Conservation Plan for *Hyde Park*.

Town of Vincent staff generally and in particular:

Hannah Eames, Senior Heritage Officer
Amy Nancarrow, Heritage Officer
Jeremy Van den Bok, Manager Parks and Services
Ian Ellies, Manager Hyde Park
Yolanda Scheidegger, Senior Strategic Planning Officer
Des Abel, Manager Planning and Building Services
Julie Davidson, Local Studies Librarian

Hyde Park Precinct Group

Norfolk Street Precinct Group

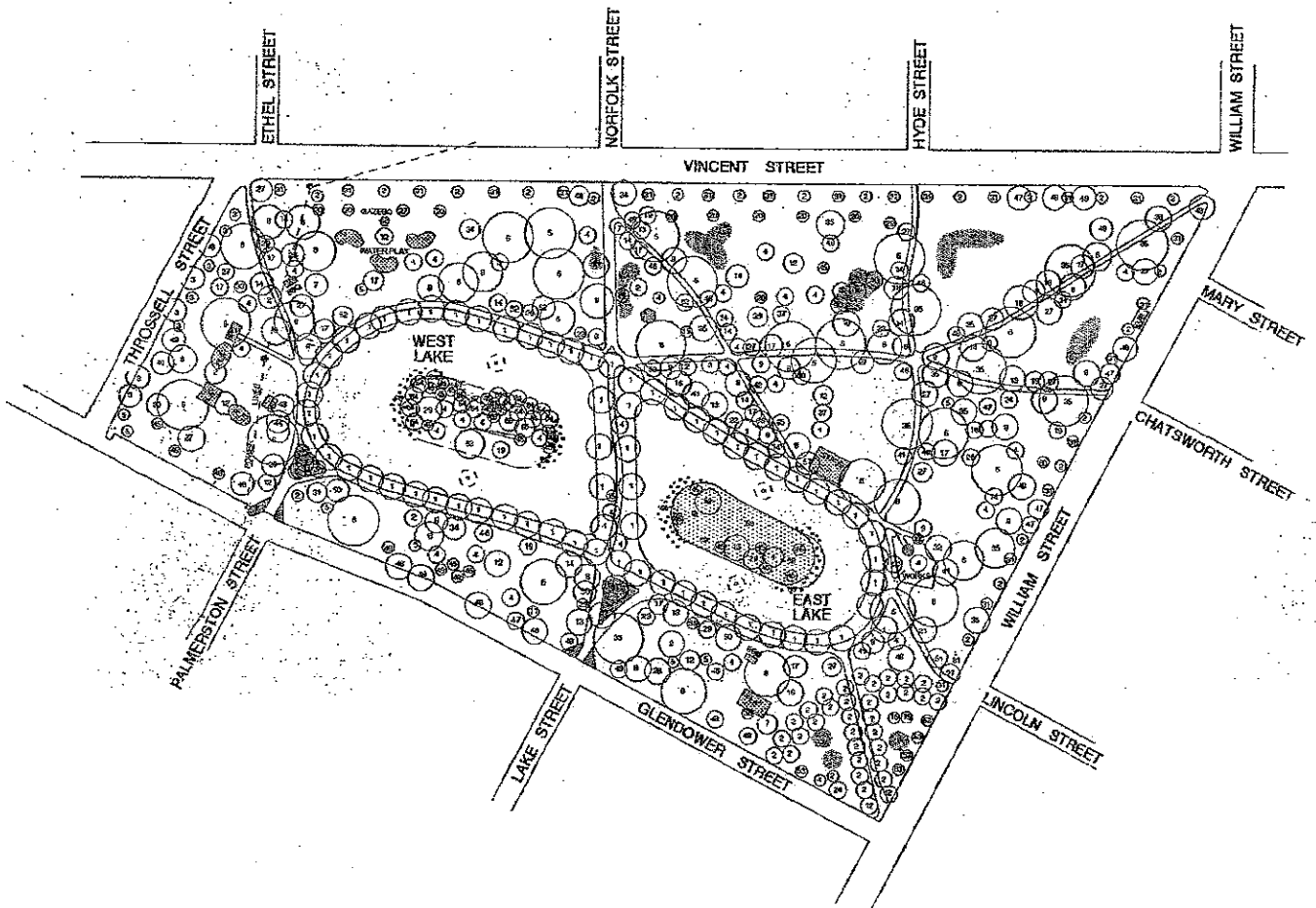
The people who responded to our public request for information including:

Eleanor Jefferies
Gwen McCrae
Pat Ryan
Con Kailis
Kath Bolin

FIGURE 1
Location Plan
Kelsall Binet Architects



FIGURE 2
Site Plan
Kelsall Binet Architects



2. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

This section is based on the documentary evidence included in the Heritage Assessment for *Hyde Park* compiled by Gillian O' Mara for the Town of Vincent in 1999. This section was considerably expanded with further information collected and compiled in 2003 by Irene Sauman and John Viska. The material comes from primary and secondary source material held by the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA), the Batty Library of Western Australian History, the State Records Office (SRO), the City of Perth and the Town of Vincent.

2.2. CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

- 0000 Seasonal occupation of Boojemooling (Third Swamp) by the Yabbaru Bibbulman people.
- 1829 Europeans arrive and settle on the Swan River.
- 1833 Yabbaru Bibbulman pushed to outskirts of Perth with a camp at Third Swamp.
- 1840 Market gardening begun on the edges of some lakes to the north of Perth but not Third Swamp.
- 1842 Flooding of wetlands.
- 1847 Flooding of wetlands.
Drain constructed along Wellington Street to Claise Brook.
- 1850 First convicts and pensioner guards arrive.
- 1858 Survey of residential lots in areas of First, Second and Third Swamps.
- 1870 Most lake verges used for market gardening, except Third Swamp.
- 1872 Flooding of wetlands.
Concerted drainage of wetlands for market gardening and development.
Council requests Third Swamp as reserve for public garden.
- 1880 Third Swamp a duck shooting venue and drovers' camp.
- 1890s Gold discoveries. Huge increase in population of Perth.
- 1895 Southeast corner of Reserve granted to House of Mercy as Reserve 2941.
- 1896 Lyall Hall says Reserve land not suitable for building, develop as a park.
City Gardener appointed. First City Gardener is John George Braithwaite.
- 1897 200 people camped in shacks and tents at Third Swamp Reserve.
North Ward Progress Committee Deputation to Premier. £1,000 granted for works.
Third Swamp Reserve and East Perth Reserve gazetted as public gardens.
Timber picket fence constructed on west and south boundaries of Third Swamp Reserve by Harold Holloway. Double entrance gates at Lake Street and Palmerston Street.
- 1898 Plan of improvements to Third Swamp authorised by Council to be overseen by Committee of three councillors.
Reserve cleared by T. McLaughlin.
Timber picket fence constructed on east and north boundaries by J. Mitchell. Entrance gates locked at night and until 2.30pm Sunday.
- 1899 Path around lake perimeter completed.
Third Swamp named Hyde Park and East Perth Reserve named Queen's Gardens.
Both placed in the care of City Gardener.
Trees to be planted.
Southeast corner site returned to Reserve. Situated outside Reserve fencing.

- W. G. Brookman donates fountain. Built by G. Waugh. Situated inside main Lake Street entrance to Park.
- Victoria Park gardens in East Perth acquired by City Council for use as City Nursery.
- 1900 Inspection of Hyde Park by General Purposes Committee.
Construction of drain to reduce water level authorised.
Fish introduced to lake to provide food for waterfowl.
- 1900-01 Avenue of Plane trees around lake perimeter planted.
White swans placed in lakes at Hyde Park and Queen's Gardens.
- 1902 Main entrance gates left unlocked on Sundays.
- 1905 Palms removed from Stirling Street and planted in Hyde Park and Royal Park.
Six acres of couch grass planted but no water supply.
- 1906 Inspection of Park by General Purposes Committee.
Large number of trees ordered from Hamel State Nursery for City's parks.
Fence at southeast corner re-aligned to enclose former House of Mercy site.
Various requests to provide cricket and football field in the Park. Half-length cricket pitch established on southeast corner.
Edging of lake with jarrah is instigated.
- 1908 Lake edges 'refined' with sand infill.
Several old trees, possibly Melaleucas, removed.
Six jarrah seats installed.
Requests for hockey field and quoit ground, refused.
Cricket ball breaks door glass at 9 Glendower Street.
- 1909 Cricket pitch provided at northeast corner.
Fountain repaired. New figure made.
Twelve-foot wide pathway constructed from Throssell-Vincent corner to lake path.
Double gates from Lake Street entrance relocated to Throssell-Vincent corner.
- 1910 Double gates were being left unlocked but again locked to keep cattle off Reserve.
600 metres of jarrah lake kerbing re-laid.
- 1911 Caretaker, J. Bridges, working at Hyde Park in summer months.
Turnstile erected at Norfolk Street entrance.
Shanks horse drawn mower purchased. Scythe also still used for cutting grass.
Religious meetings held in Park.
- 1912 Gate guards installed at single-gated entrances to prevent stock access.
14 acres planted with couch grass.
Lake water levels low. Lake filled from city water supply.
City Gardener using Park for burning tree prunings.
Plan of development for park initiated.
Gardener John Newell employed at Hyde Park and Royal Park.
- 1913 Construction of causeway cutting lake in two. Proposed roadway across causeway opposed by public and reduced to a pathway.
Swimming baths and caretaker's residence proposed for southeast corner. Plan abandoned due to cost.
Plan for plant house and relocation of City Nursery to Hyde Park deferred.
Lake levels again low. Lake filled. Dredging proposed.
Cricket pitch in northeast corner dangerously close to new paths.
- 1913-14 Construction of rotunda on north side of Park.

- 1914 Avenue planting (of Pines) around perimeter of Park, 9 feet inside fences, completed.
Picket fence on Glendower and William streets replaced with cement post and pipe rail fence.
Recommended removal of half-length cricket pitch at southeast corner.
Caretaker, J. McCall.
- 1914-17 Erection of notices prohibiting cycling on pathways, damaging trees and shrubs, fishing, boating.
- 1915 Picket fence on Throssell Street replaced with cement post and pipe rail fence.
Construction of causeway completed.
Dredging of lakes. Silt deposited on islands raising them 60cm above water level. Islands cleared for planting.
Lawns, five garden beds with shrubs and palms, and 20 trees planted on causeway. Sixteen of these were oriental Plane trees.
Grounds scarified for replanting of lawns. Six acres completed.
Hoses and sprinklers provided for watering lawns from city water supply. Lattice sheds provided for storing hoses at several points in the Park.
Relocation of City Nursery shade houses to Hyde Park again deferred.
Plan prepared for caretaker's cottage, but premises not constructed.
- 1915-16 Stone edging installed around the lakes and west islands, but not along causeway.
- 1916 Sand added to islands to break up swampy soil. West island planted with buffalo lawn and garden beds of palms, shrubs, roses and pelargoniums. East island planted with palms, bamboos, pampas grass, shrubs and trees for the waterfowl.
Remainder of grounds planted with couch and buffalo lawns, except the southeast corner.
Mains water pressure insufficient to properly water higher parts of reserve.
Lighting installed - five posts along causeway and twelve others around Park.
- 1917 49 palms planted 'inside fence' on William street, between Brisbane and Glendower to create approach avenue.
New toilets constructed.
Premises rented in neighbourhood for caretaker.
- 1918 Thirty-two trees planted to replace those that were destroyed or died.
Fountain pedestal broken.
Six new seats, fitted with jarrah planks, to replace original seats.
- 1919 RSA hold evening welcome for General Birdwood at Hyde Park.
- 1920s Bands perform in rotunda on Sunday afternoons.
Hyde Park most popular venue for Sunday promenading, picnicking.
Church and charity fetes held.
- 1920 Request by local RSA branches to erect Memorial Hall in Park refused.
Fountain removed and garden of palms planted on site.
White swan shot in Park.
Development of southeast corner with pathways and plantings of palms, jacaranda trees and lawn.
Electric pump installed to pump water from a well at western end of Park for watering.
- 1920-21 Pathways edged with jarrah.
- 1921 Tarring of pathways at southeast corner. Most paths still gravel at this time.
- 1922 Stone edging of lake completed (possibly around east island).
20 more seats provided.
New toolshed constructed.
Playground established in northeast corner, then moved west to centre of Park.

- 1923 Main Park entrance relocated from Lake Street to Glendower-William Street corner.
New cyclone gates installed at the entrances, including seven small pedestrian gates.
Picket fence on Vincent Street boundary replaced with cement post and pipe rail fence.
Avenue of palm trees planted along Vincent Street boundary.
Vincent Street gates altered for invalid chair access.
Playground removed from Park.
- 1924 Palmerston Street double gates replaced with a small pedestrian cyclone gate.
- 1925 City Gardener asks for more funds for maintenance of Hyde Park, which is too much for two gardeners to manage.
- 1926 Motor mower purchased.
- 1931 Throssell Street fence re-located to line of macadamised roadway.
- 1932 Forty Pine trees planted.
Drinking fountain installed.
Lake path reconstructed - possibly tarred at this time?
- 1936 City Gardener John Braithwaite dies. Succeeded by his son, Assistant City Gardener Henry Braithwaite.
- 1936-37 Limestone retaining wall built around perimeter of lakes by D. Hunt.
- 1937 Inaugural Braithwaite Memorial Trophy awarded to a returned serviceman with the best garden in Nedlands.
- 1938 Shelter built for Muscovy ducklings to protect from Cormorants.
Gardener John Newell retires.
- 1940s-50s Cricket pitch established in southwest corner. Meeting place of boys from Highgate and North Perth schools for cricket and football. Beginnings of North Perth Football Club.
Hyde Park 'backyard' for local children, climbing trees, gathering duck eggs, riding trolleys on paths. Guy Fawkes Night bonfire at southwest corner.
- 1941 Child drowns in lake.
- 1946 Retired gardener John Newell dies and his ashes are scattered on the Canna lily garden at Hyde Park.
- 1946-47 Post and pipe rail fencing removed.
Northeast portion of park graded to remove drop from the footpath to the ground level of the park.
Plan to replace existing main double gates at Glendower-William and Throssell-Vincent with ornamental gates, but not done at this time.
- 1949 Phoenix palms removed from Vincent Street boundary.
- 1950s Sunday church services conducted by various groups.
- 1953-59 Stone edging of slopes along causeway.
- 1956 Rotunda demolished.
New brick shelter constructed.
Henry Braithwaite retires.
- 1959 General Purposes Committee recommend ten-year plan for future development of Hyde Park.
- 1959-60 New pumps and reticulation installed.
- 1961 State Electricity supply connected to Park and thirty-one lamps replaced with 300-watt incandescent bulbs.
- 1962 Child drowns in lake.
- 1965 'New Plan for Hyde Park' recommends water playground, barbeque and picnic facilities, elderly citizen's rest area, renovation of paths, recapping of stone lake edge, removal of poor specimen trees, new equipment shed & toilets, parking.

- 1966 Plant shed and toilets constructed.
- 1968 Hyde Park Holiday festival held by the Patch Theatre on Australia Day long weekend.
- 1969 Hyde Park Festival takes over the Australia Day long weekend event.
Artist and sculptor Peter Geleser designs 3-pool water playground with theme of past present and future.
- 1971 Water playground with paddle pools installed on north side of western lake.
- 1974 Power lines laid across western end of park on tall pylons above tree height.
- 1976 Lot 637, narrow strip of land on William Street near Glendower Street corner, excised for bus stop.
- 1982-83 Water playground closes due to amoebic meningitis fears.
- 1983 Brick coin-operated barbecues installed. Coin slots jammed by vandals and made inoperative.
Hyde Park Festival continues amidst complaints of commercialism. The event has outgrown the venue.
- 1985 Water playground converted to spray type water play area.
The last Hyde Park Festival is held at Hyde Park.
- 1989 1.5 million dollar upgrade announced, with assistance of committee of local residents. Issues include: signage, play equipment, lighting, amphitheatre, commemorative plaques, Aboriginal monument, perimeter tree planting, irrigation system, seating, traffic management.
- 1990 Patrons of Hyde Park formed.
- 1991 Turbine pump installed for watering.
21 new light poles installed.
Lake water quality report commissioned, addresses water quality management issues.
- 1992 The 1956 brick shelter removed and replaced with new Victorian style gazebo.
Des Banwell, Glendower Street resident, sponsors two park seats.
- 1993 Reports prepared on lake sediment analysis prior to dredging.
'Hyde Park Plan of Management' prepared by George Bouma and George Powe with Patrons of Hyde Park.
- 1995 Hyde Park entered on Town of Vincent Municipal Heritage Inventory.
- 1997 Seven Pine trees removed from Vincent Street boundary replaced with Jacaranda and Illawarra Flame trees.
Four tortoise ramps installed in each lake.
- 1998 Heritage assessments commissioned by Heritage Council of WA and Town of Vincent.
Hyde Park entered on the State Register of Heritage Places.
- 2002 Conservation plan commissioned by Town of Vincent.

2.3. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

The site of *Hyde Park*, a large permanent wetland located in a natural depression, was typical of the seasonal water bodies that were found north of the Swan Coastal Plain in the geological area known as the Basendean Dunes. The soil in the Basendean Dunes is comprised of fine white siliceous sands with some peaty, organic matter in the seasonally wet depressions.¹ Generally the soil is poor in nutrients and low in iron and calcium.² In the low lying wet areas of the site the vegetation would have consisted mainly of reeds and sedges with small herbaceous plants and shrubs and some trees that can tolerate these conditions such as Paperbarks *Melaleuca preissiana* and Flooded Gums *Eucalyptus rudis*. On the higher ground there would have been stands of Jarrah *Eucalyptus marginata*, Marri *Eucalyptus calophylla*, Sheoak *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and various Banksias *Banksia species* with an understorey of low shrubs such as *Hibbertia*, *Hovea*, *Eriostemon* and herbaceous perennials. Surviving examples of similar wetland habitats such as the Dianella Open Space can still be found in uncleared places to the north and south of Perth on the Swan Coastal Plain.³

2.3.1. Aboriginal Occupation

When the Swan River Colony was first established, there were estimated to be about 3,000 Aboriginal people living along the Swan and Canning rivers.⁴ They have been variously referred to as Bibbulman, Wadjuk (or Whadjuk), and Nyungar. The term Wadjuk refers to all the people who belong to the Whaddarn language group. Bibbulman was the name given to coastal Aborigines by their eastern neighbours, who referred to them as *Whaddam-di-Bibbulman*. There were thirteen or so groups belonging to the Whaddam-Bibbulman socio-linguistic block. The Bibbulman of the Swan and Murray River districts spoke the Illa kuri wongi dialect. Groups were also given the local name for their geographic location, so the Perth groups were referred to as *yabbaru*, meaning they were located in the northern part of the area covered by their language group. The correct description of the people who inhabited the Perth region, then, is Yabbaru Bibbulman who spoke the Illa kuri wongi dialect.⁵ The term Nyungar (or *yungar*) means 'man' or 'person' and was used by Aborigines when referring to themselves. It is used in the plural sense today, as denoting 'the people', and is the term most commonly used when referring to aboriginal people in the Perth region.

The Yabbaru Bibbulman had access to the Swan and Canning rivers and the extensive lake and swamp systems that stretched northward from the Swan River. The groups camped regularly near the lakes, especially in the dry season, when fresh drinking water, and game such as water birds, fish, crayfish, turtles, frogs and edible reeds, were available. As the smaller lakes dried and became shallower, it was easier to walk in to spear turtles and gather frogs,

¹ Seddon, George, *A Sense of Place, Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1972

² Rippley, Elizabeth & Rowland, Barbara, *Plants of the Perth Coast and Islands*, UWA Press, Perth, 1995.

³ Keighery, B., *Bushland Plant Survey*, Wildflower Society of Western Australia 1994.

⁴ Moore, George Fletcher, *Diary of Ten Years of An Early Settler in Western Australia*, UWA Press, 1978.

⁵ Berndt, R. M. & Catherine (Eds) *Aborigines of the West: Their past and present*, UWA Press, 1980; Bates, D. M. *The Native Tribes of Western Australia*, Canberra, National Library of Australia, 1985; Information provided by anthropologist Don Sauman.

both of which were an important source of protein. Black swans and other water birds were caught using spear or noose.⁶

Among the plant food in the lakes were various roots, the most important being the bulrush or *yanjet* (*Typha orientalis*). The larger lakes remained sources of permanent water and game, while the smaller wetlands dried sufficiently in summer for the reeds to be burnt and the aquatic life harvested. The most common tree on the margins of the lakes was generally the paperbark, also known as tea (ti) tree. 'From the bark.. which peels in large white flakes, the natives form their huts, which are quite impervious to any rain however heavily it may fall'.⁷

Contact was maintained between groups through the *mandjar*, or fair, held at *galup* (Lake Monger), where people met to barter a wide range of goods.⁸ Other lakes and swamps had their own significance. Because it was one of the larger lakes, which did not dry up in the summer, *boojamooling* (Third Swamp, or Hyde Park) was an important camping area.⁹

Six seasons were recognised by the people in the Swan River area, relating to the availability of different resources. Their manner of congregating was also dictated by the seasons. In the winter months, the people moved further inland to avoid the heavy coastal rains and they gathered in smaller family groups, remaining in one place for a month or more at a time, as water and food were more plentiful. In the late spring, summer and early autumn months, larger groups gathered around the lakes and wetlands. The great numbers of turtles, frogs and waterbirds that were available at this time of year sometimes allowed the local people to host large gatherings of up to 300 people. Such gatherings are recorded at Hyde Park in the 1850s and 1860s:

...The natives swarmed in Perth in those days. Most of them camped at Third Swamp (now Hyde Park) and other camping places were at Brandy Keg (near Lake Monger)... I have seen 300 camped at the Third Swamp at one time, waiting for the corroboree.¹⁰

[It was] a main camp years ago. An olddays living ground. Meeting place. People from York, Northam, right back through the hills came there to camp. Used to follow food and caught plenty of turtle there'.¹¹

An early Aboriginal camping ground was located near what is now the corner of William and Robinson streets. It was situated beside a seasonal creek that ran south from Third Swamp. An elderly Aboriginal man had been told by his grandparents that a 'sacred' area lay alongside the creek, but he did not know the exact location and nature of the site.¹²

Within a few years of European occupation, official policy was formed to reduce the number of Aboriginal people entering the Perth City area. Government food depots were established in 1833 at Lake Monger and Upper Swan, and the people were not permitted any closer to Perth

⁶ Bekle, Hugo, 'The Wetlands Lost: Drainage of the Perth Lake Systems', *Western Geographer*, Vol. 5, No. 1-2, June 1981, pp. 21-41.

⁷ Bekle, Hugo, op cit.

⁸ Bekle, Hugo, op cit.

⁹ The name has also been spelt as boojaemooling or boodjamooling.

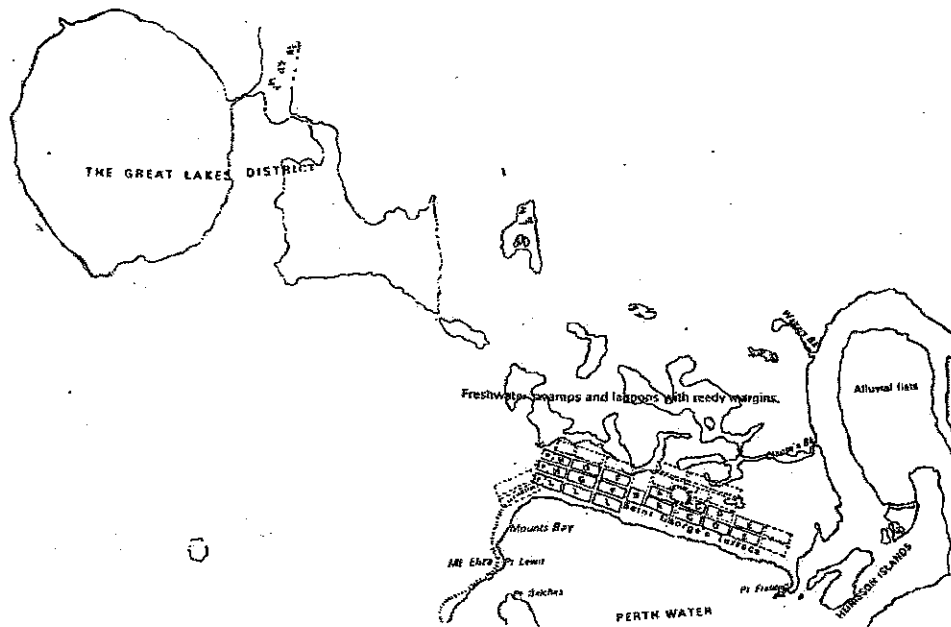
¹⁰ Kennedy, James 'Perth in my boyhood', *Early Days*, Vol. 1 Pt. 1, p. 7.

¹¹ O'Connor, R., Quartermaine, G. & Bodney, C., *Report on an Investigation into the Aboriginal Significance of Wetlands and Rivers in the Perth-Bunbury Region*, Western Australian Water Resources council, Leederville, 1989, p. 33, quoting an elderly Aboriginal informant.

¹² O'Connor, R., Quartermaine, G. & Bodney, C., op cit, pp. 32-33.

than *gooninup* (Swan Brewery site). They were forced to the outskirts of Perth, which then included areas such as the Third Swamp camp. This may have meant more extended periods of use of this area, rather than the seasonal use that was most likely the norm prior to European occupation.¹³ Around 1901, a nomadic camp of Ngilgee, from the Busselton area, still camped at a fringe camp in the Hyde Park area, northeast at a small lake near Mary Street.¹⁴

2.3.2. The Perth Wetlands



Historical Figure 1.

Composite map of Perth showing 1829-1830 townsite layout and extent of wetlands.
From Margaret Pitt Morison & John White (eds) *Western Towns and Buildings*, 1979, p.14.

The land selected by James Stirling as the site for the township of Perth was a ridge situated between the Swan River to the south and east and the chain of freshwater lakes and swamps to the north. The area on the northern side of Perth was not considered an ideal area for settlement. The wetlands stretched northward some 50 or 60 miles (80 to 95 kilometres). During wet winters, the lakes flooded, inundating the surrounding land. The wetlands were also a breeding ground for mosquitos. In the immediate vicinity of the Perth township were lakes Kingsford, Irwin and Sutherland. To the northwest were Lake Georgiana and the two larger lakes, Monger and Herdsman, in what was known as the Great Lakes District. Immediately north were Stone's Lake, Lake Poulet (First Swamp), Lake Thomson and Lake Henderson. Further north of these lay Second Swamp, Third Swamp and Three Island or Smith's Lake. There were also other smaller unnamed lakes and swamps scattered among the named ones.¹⁵

¹³ Green, Neville 'Aborigines and White Settlers in the Nineteenth Century', in Stannage, C.T., *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, p. 93.

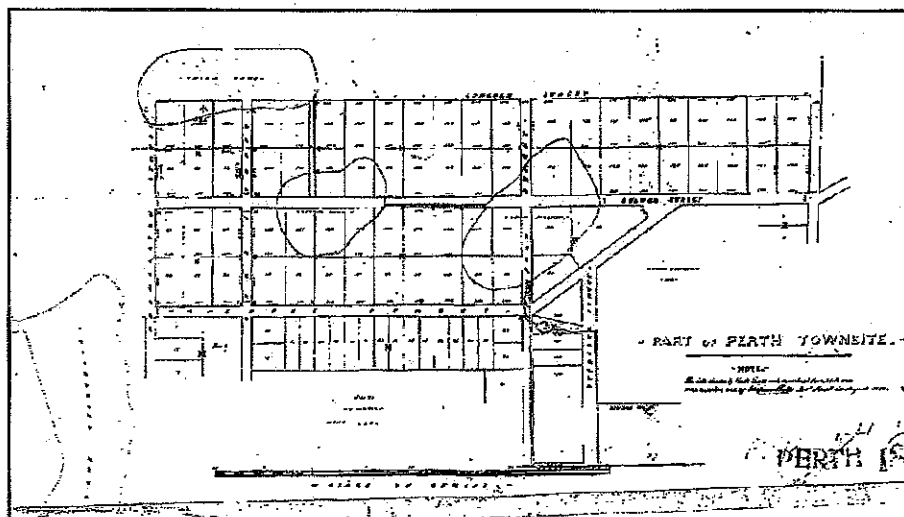
¹⁴ *The WA Record*, 19 January 1901, p. 8.

¹⁵ Bekle, Hugo, op cit, & map based on 1829 map of Perth; Pitt Morison, M., 'The Shaping of Early Perth, 1829-1845', *Western Geographer*, Vol. 6 Pt. 1, January 1982, pp. 45-67.

Many of the lakes were interconnected, draining into the Swan River at East Perth through natural drainage into Claise Brook. A seasonal creek ran south from Third Swamp, flowing under what is now Glendower, Bulwer, Edith, Ruth and Brisbane streets. More recent evidence of the creek was provided by a resident of Ruth Street, who uncovered the dry creek bed while undertaking home extensions.¹⁶ The creek almost certainly linked with Lake Thomson through Second Swamp, as part of the natural drainage system of the lakes to Claise Brook.

The 1829 map of Perth townsite did not show Second and Third swamps, which probably accounts for them not having been given other names.¹⁷ They were too far north at this early stage to be a consideration. The wetlands were generally considered useless and a barrier to the extension of the city to the north. The 1838 map of Perth indicates that town and suburban lots had been surveyed as far north as Lake Thomson by this time, although many of them covered land that was usually under water. Thomas Mews, the owner of Suburban Lot 28 on Lake Thomson, made one of the first attempts at reclamation of wetlands for gardening. Mews' farm, where he grew fruit trees and vines, was described as having 'accomplished sufficient to prove the value of these hitherto neglected portions of ground'.¹⁸ Dairy farms and market gardens were established on the swampy margins of the shallower lakes, and some local drainage was attempted to allow pastures to be grown.¹⁹

The wet winters of 1842 and 1847 resulted in extensive flooding. A single sheet of water covered the area north of Perth, and Forrest Place and parts of Murray Street were flooded. Drainage of the lakes in the city area was begun with the construction of an open main drain along Wellington Street to Claise Brook. The drained Lake Kingsford was then used for market gardening.²⁰



Historical figure 2.

William Phelps' 1858 subdivision of the area immediately north of Thomson Lake.
SROWA, Perth Map 18L.

- 16 O'Connor, R., Quartermaine, G. & Bodney, C., op cit, pp. 32-33.
 17 Pitt Morison, M., 'The Shaping of Early Perth', op cit.
 18 *Perth Gazette*, 10 October 1840, p.3.
 19 Bekle, Hugo, op cit.
 20 Bekle, H., op cit; *East Perth Project 1985: Biophysical Assessment*, Working Paper No. 4, p. 6.

The steady arrival of convicts and Pensioner Guards between 1850 and 1868 significantly swelled the population of the colony. In 1858, a subdivision survey north of Brisbane Street was undertaken and a grid of building lots overlaid First and Second swamps and part of Third Swamp.²¹ Market gardening on the northern side of the city expanded to meet the greater demand for food. By the 1870s, 'Perth was surrounded by gardens in a fan which spread from Cole's garden [Stone's Lake, now Perth oval] in the east to Leeder's [Lake Monger] in the west', but flooding continued to make many garden lands unusable during the winter months.²²

There were no market gardens established at Third Swamp. This was partly due to the topography. Third Swamp was a deep swamp in a basin, without the flat surrounding areas suitable for cultivation that were a feature of many of the shallower lakes.²³

In 1872, heavy flooding of the wetlands prompted the laying of a new enlarged main drain from Lake Kingsford, and concerted efforts were made to improve drainage in the city and to the north. Lake Henderson was drained and quickly taken up for market gardening. Lake Poulett was first used as a rubbish dump. Lake Georgiana was an open lake that was drained to allow Newcastle Street to continue west, and Thomson's Lake was drained for residential settlement and the eventual extension of William Street.²⁴

Although the Council had requested that Third Swamp be reserved for public gardens, nothing was done about developing it. The Swamp was a duck shooting resort for Europeans, and as late as 1888, drovers used the place as a camp when bringing sheep to Perth.²⁵ In the mid to late 1890s, there was an influx of people to the State, attracted by the gold finds. A depression in the Eastern States was also an important factor in encouraging people to move west. The population of Perth quadrupled over a short period of time. In 1896, the Lands Department gave permission to the City Council to allow camping on Third Swamp Reserve, for those who could not find other accommodation:

People who cannot obtain houses must, I suppose, live in tents, and as tents will be under supervision of the Council, I think the permission asked for might be given.²⁶

One of the men who camped there in 1897 was J. R. Anderson, with his mate Billy Melrose:

The allotment was then known as Third Swamp. It was under the jurisdiction of the Perth City Council, and found great favour as a camping reserve in the nineties, when accommodation in hotels and boarding houses was at a premium owing to the influx of men from the Eastern States, drawn west by the lure of gold...

The Fremantle and Perth streets carried a constant flow of humanity, and high rates of wages were demanded and met, for the services of mechanics, masons, labourers and domestics. I was then a lusty young stripling of little more than 20, with a good knowledge of my calling as a plumber, and was soon snapped up in the city by builders with more work on hand than they could cope with...

21 Perth map, SROWA 18L, showing William Phelps 1858 subdivision.

22 Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth: A social history of Western Australia's capital city*, Perth City Council, 1979, p. 128.

23 Seddon, George, *A Sense of Place: A Response to an Environment, the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1972, pp. 230-231.

24 Bekle, H., op cit, p. 21; Bold, W. E. 'Perth: the first 100 years' *Early Days*, Vol. 3, Pt. 2, October 1939, p. 30.

25 Seddon, George, op cit, pp. 230-231.

26 Correspondence between Lands Department and Perth City Council, 22 July & 4 August 1896, SROWA, ACC 541/5159.

We set up our camp on the Hyde Park allotment, paying the City Council 2/6 per month as ground rent, with sanitary conveniences included. I well remember the erect and sturdy figure of Inspector Lockwood of the Central Board of Health, who kept a strict eye on the camping ground. Typhoid was prevalent, however, despite official vigilance, and in one day I witnessed the removal of six of my neighbours to Perth hospital. There was a population of approximately 200 on the Hyde Park ground, with about half that number of shacks. The lake that is so much admired today was then but a swamp overrun with weeds and growth, and what game it carried originally was soon depleted by campers, who sought to vary the bill of fare with a tasty bird occasionally...

Our main evening recreation was receiving our neighbours for a game of cards and a gossip. Wages were very good, but much of the money went east to relatives of the men, to maintain them until they could join the breadwinner in the west.²⁷



Historical Figure 3.

J. R. Anderson & Billy Melrose at their Hyde Park camp in 1897.
West Australian, 26 September 1935, p. 10.

2.3.3. Residential Development around Third Swamp

The development of Perth was concentrated along the ridge between the Swan River and the lakes to the north. St George's Terrace and Hay Street and the streets in between were the first that were built on. This concentration was partly due to the topography, and partly to the fact that the River was the main means of transport between the townships of Fremantle, Perth and Guildford. Transport services were expanded when the Fremantle to Guildford railway line was completed in 1881. Construction of the line effectively moved the focus of the city away from the Swan River and encouraged settlement to the immediate west, north and east. Residential growth was not rapid prior to the 1890s, however. In 1884, there were still only fifty buildings between Newcastle and Vincent streets.²⁸

²⁷ *West Australian*, 26 September 1935, p. 10.

²⁸ City of Perth Rate Books, 1884.

Even in the late 1890s the suburb of Highgate, on the east side of Third Swamp, was described as 'a sprawling and sparsely populated district'. Highgate Primary School, on Lincoln Street, was opened in 1895. The Roman Catholic Diocese subdivided a triangular portion of land bounded by Mary, Margaret (Harold), Beaufort and William streets in 1891. They erected cottages for members of the parish and in the late 1890s, developed two acres on Mary Street as Alacoque Square where the Monastery of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a church and school were established.²⁹ Directly south of Third Swamp, there was a cluster of houses in the centre of Glendower Street and Primrose Street, while to the immediate west the land was still bush, as it was to the north.



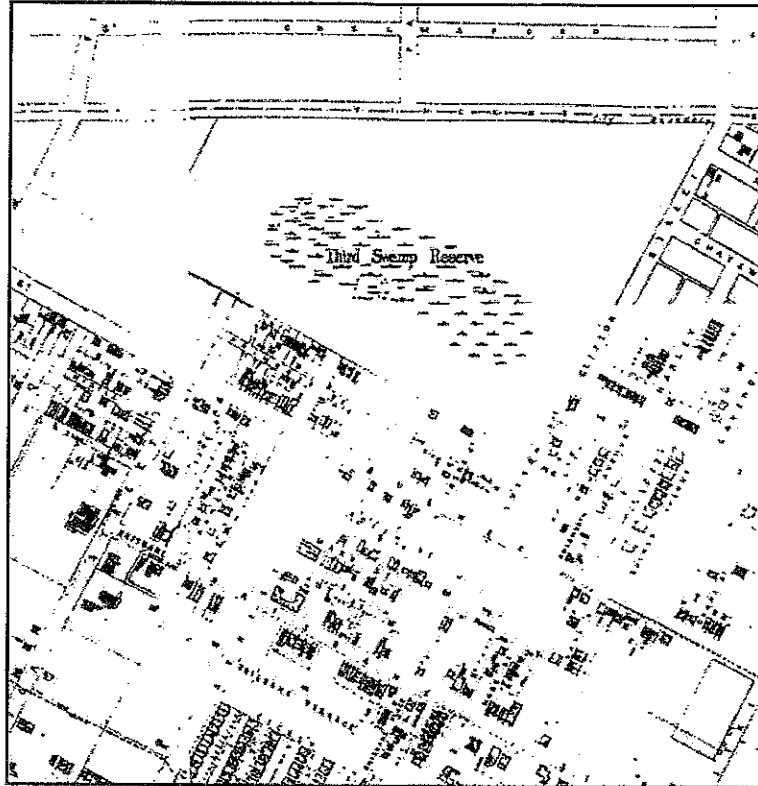
Historical figure 4.

Looking north from the city in 1884. North of Newcastle Street is largely bush and swamps.
From Stannage, C. T., *The People of Perth*, 1979, p. 175.

From 1897, the wealth generated by the gold boom began to be seen in Perth. There was a phenomenal amount of building underway and services such as water, sewerage and drainage, parks and gardens, and transport had to be developed. In December 1897, Charles Preston Dickinson was authorised, under the Tramways Act 1885, to arrange construction and operation of some 17 miles of tramway network, the majority of which was north of the railway line. The objective was to provide transport for the areas already settled and to encourage settlement on the areas not yet developed. The tram lines were to run along Charles Street to Vincent Street; along William, via Brisbane and Palmerston to the entrance to Hyde Park, and along Bulwer to Vincent Street, and from the Barrack Street jetty along Barrack and Beaufort streets to Walcott Street, with a connecting line along Newcastle Street to the William Street line. There were also tramlines to East Perth, Subiaco and Crawley.³⁰ It was several years before the lines were completed, but as they grew so did the residential areas along their route. The tram network made places such as Hyde Park accessible to everyone in the City.

²⁹ *The Record*, 24/12/1891, 12/2/1896; Sister Mary Josephine, *The History of the Parish of Highgate Hill*, 1964, p. 1; PWD 5647, sewerage maps, 1897 and 1900, sheet 7.

³⁰ *Western Australian Government Gazette*, 17 December 1897, pp. 2794-5, 12 October 1900, pp. 3778-9 & 31 January 1902, pp. 431-2.



Historical figure 5.

Residential development around Third Swamp Reserve in 1897.
PWD Sewerage Plans, SROWA CONS 5647.

2.4. PARKS AND GARDENS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Western Australia followed the trends of England with regard to the establishment of parks and recreation areas. In the early nineteenth century, domain lands and government gardens fulfilled the role of parklands.³¹ In Perth, Government House gardens and an adjoining reserve area used for horticulture and plant acclimatisation, later called the Public Gardens and then Stirling Gardens, were examples of this.³²

With the growth of industrialisation, the middle-class desired 'idealised landscapes at the edge of their fast growing towns.'³³ The first parks were provided by private philanthropy. It was not until 1844 that the first government-funded public park was laid out in London. English parks were placed on poor land in established towns, but the newer Australian towns had the opportunity of establishing parks on prime city land.³⁴ In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries parks were a response to the focus on health and outdoor cures. In the absence of the sea, many public reserves were associated with rivers or lakes.³⁵

³¹ Ramsay, Juliet, *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A classification and assessment method for the register of the National Estate*, Australian Heritage Commission, 1991, pp. 6-7.

³² Richards, Oline, 'A fairer Athens and a freer Rome: Historic public gardens in Perth, WA', *Heritage Australia*, Winter, 1982, pp. 66-69.

³³ Chadwick, George F., *The Park and the Town*, Architectural Press, London, 1966, pp. 314.

³⁴ Ramsay, Juliet, *op cit*, pp. 6-7.

³⁵ Ramsay, Juliet, *op cit*, pp. 6-7; Chadwick, George F. *op cit*, p. 377; Richards, Oline, *op cit*.

In Perth, the policies, or lack of them with regard to land allocation and acquisition in the first decade of settlement, were to be an important factor in the later positioning of parklands and the use made of the wetland areas. Within very few years, most of the land originally reserved for government and public purposes had been sold to private owners. This meant that not only did land have to be re-purchased for public buildings such as schools, but also there was little land suitable for parks and gardens retained within the townsite. In September 1872, the Surveyor-General asked Perth City Council to report on which allotments they wanted reserved for drainage and other purposes. The Council took the opportunity of selecting two swamp areas for future parks and gardens, nominating Tea Tree Lagoon for a botanical garden and cricket ground and Third Swamp for a public garden. Council also requested Lots N40 and N90 for drainage of Second and Third swamps, indicating that a water feature was not a consideration for the Third Swamp public garden at this time.³⁶

In 1873, the Public Works Department began reclamation of part of the Perth Swan River foreshore to get rid of the odorous marshy shallows and create the Esplanade Recreation Reserve, but work was 'spasmodic', resulting in editorials in *The Inquirer* on the desirability of parklands and gardens and the lack of them in Perth.³⁷ In 1876, development began on a park at the eastern end of Claisebrook, beside the mulberry plantation. It was called Victoria Park, where 'the wildness and roughness' of the natural environment was to be converted into 'an ordered and neat attractiveness'. This involved clearing the swamp and confining the water into 'a pretty rivulet culminating in a pond, around which aquatic and other plants may be grown, and the waters stocked with varieties of fish'. The grounds were to be 'tastefully laid out with shrubs and ornamental trees'.³⁸ A letter in the *West Australian* in 1948, described the park as 'laid out with gravel paths, flower beds, summer houses...seats beneath trees, and rustic bridges across the brook. A caretaker lived in a pretty little cottage by the entrance gate'.³⁹ Victoria Park was created by the Government and was not under the control of the Municipal Council. By 1899, however, the place was in use as the City plant nursery.

Despite these early attempts at the establishment of parks and gardens in Perth, the real development did not begin until the 1890s and early 1900s, following the advent of self-government and the wealth generated by the gold rush, with the resultant rapid growth of the city. The reserves that developed at that time were a response to their particular sites and conditions, with a geometric and axial form for the smaller gardens and squares on level ground, and an informal approach for larger parks with a sloping terrain. They also had many features in common, however, and were essentially the same aesthetic often referred to as gardenesque.⁴⁰

The general philosophy underlying the gardenesque aesthetic was that a garden was not natural, but an artificial contrivance and a work of art. It should show artistic taste in choice and composition of components and good manners by being honest. In other words, it should not strive to look as if it had grown naturally. Trees should be placed in isolation to show they were

³⁶ Stannage, C.T. *The People of Perth*, op cit, pp. 166-167, quoting PCC minutes, 20 September 1872.

³⁷ *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 7 & 28 April 1875, p. 2.

³⁸ *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 2 February 1876, p. 3.

³⁹ *Western Mail*, 8 January 1948, p. 70.

⁴⁰ Richards, Oline, op cit, p. 68.

obviously planted as specimens, with the use of non-native species to show that they had not grown there unaided. The gardenesque aesthetic was extended to the use of water. Where a park included a water feature, such as Hyde Park, Queen's Gardens and the Zoological Gardens, these became stylised lakes within a garden setting, with islands, grassed sloping banks, water lilies, ornamental grasses, exotic fish and white swans. Colourful displays of massed flowers and shrubs and expendable rustic features of seats, bridges and garden shelters made of twisted timbers and latticework, suited to the local shoestring budgets, were also elements of the gardenesque, while bandstands replaced earlier rustic limestone fountains.⁴¹

In 1895, Perth City Council took the decision to employ a City Gardener. The person appointed was John George Braithwaite, who was to serve in the capacity for over thirty years. Further impetus for the development of parks in Perth come from Town Clerk W. E. Bold, who took up his position in 1904. Bold envisaged a system of parks and children's playgrounds throughout the city and suburbs, and set about reclaiming swamps and drained lakes, which had been used as market gardens, to create a green belt.⁴²

The philosophy was picked up the City Council's General Purposes Committee and applied to Hyde Park in a January 1906 report, which stated in part that:

...no responsibility more important than attending to the parks and reserves, which in all the big centres of population add so materially to the beauty of the city and so much to the pleasure of the people. These occasional splashes of green turf, umbrageous trees and cool waters, standing out in pleasant relief from the sordid monotony of dense settlement, dust and smoke, are well called "the lungs of the city". No vision of the city beautiful - the ideal centre for comfortable, convenient and pleasurable living - is without such oases in the desert of grassless roads and asphalt, closely packed houses, and smoke vomiting factories...

The earlier buildings clung close to the river and the [Kings] Park, and now settlement, so far as the city proper is concerned, must extend away from them, till with the growth of the population and the extension of building the provision of more lungs for the place becomes imperative. Because of this necessity, we are in the process of creation throughout the city, and in the suburbs too, attractive parks, gardens, and recreation grounds - fresh fragrant, beautiful reliefs from the prosaic bricks, mortar and macadam. These places are for the most part as yet crude and undeveloped, but they mark a wise beginning...

A noticeable improvement is being made in the reserve which bears the high sounding name of Hyde Park. It, like Queen's Gardens, represents an effort to reclaim what was previously no better than a swamp... some day Hyde Park will be a beauty spot to rival the best of its fellows in and about the city.⁴³

⁴¹ Richards, Oline, op cit, p. 68.

⁴² LePage, J. S. H., *Building a State: the story of the Public Works Department of Western Australia 1829-1985*, Laederville, Water Authority of WA, 1986, p. 332.

⁴³ City of Perth, General Purposes Committee (GPC), Minutes, Report 9 January 1906, AN20/1 ACC 2893.

2.5. DEVELOPMENT OF HYDE PARK: 1897-1965

2.5.1. Establishment: 1896-1900

In June 1895, a 1.16 acre (0.47ha) lot on the southeast corner of the Third Swamp Reserve, bordered by Glendower and Lytton (William) streets and designated Perth Town Lot N152, was gazetted Reserve 2941 and granted to the House of Mercy Association, a charity organisation involved in the 'reclamation of fallen women'.⁴⁴ An extension of Lincoln Street was constructed around the north and west boundaries of the site. The granting of this land prompted Lyall Hunt, a city auctioneer and land agent, to suggest to the Government that Third Swamp was unsuitable for building and should be developed as a park.

In December 1896, residents of Perth's North Ward requested a hearing by the Government for a deputation of people to discuss:

The question of converting the Third Swamp reserve into gardens and a place for public recreation...and... to beg that the Lands Department will not in the meantime grant the use of the said reserve to any Clerk or Association without first hearing the views of the suggested deputation.⁴⁵

A 'large and representative meeting' of North Ward residents was held in early 1897. Local residents were concerned that the area would become unhealthy and a source of danger to the surrounding district. A committee, known as the North Ward Progress Committee, was elected, their purpose being to endeavour to have the Government gazette Third Swamp Reserve as a botanic garden and to obtain funds for its improvement.⁴⁶ To this end, the Committee met with the Premier and elicited a promise from him of a grant of £1,000 towards improvements. The Premier in turn wrote to the Mayor:

What is required is that the Reserve shall be fenced in, and the Swamp cleared of all debris, trees planted, and supervision provided. The Government are willing to provide a sum towards these objects, but before doing anything would be glad of the views of the City Council in regard to the matter.⁴⁷

Perth City Council replied that it wished to have the Reserve under its control and the Government advanced £250 of the promised grant.⁴⁸ The North Ward Progress Committee visited Third Swamp on 10 September 1897, and recommended that a roadway, half a chain in width, be constructed along the south and west boundaries of the Reserve and a picket fence erected with a gateway opposite Lake and Palmerston streets.⁴⁹ Throssell and Glendower streets had not been fully established at this stage, and Lake and Palmerston were the only streets that provided direct access to the Reserve from the city.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ Perth City Council (PCC) Minutes, 10 October 1898, SROWA, AN20/1 ACC 2826; DOLA Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 2941; Town Grant Vol. 11 Fol. 635, 14 September 1896.

⁴⁵ Correspondence, 2 December 1896, SROWA, ACC 541/5159.

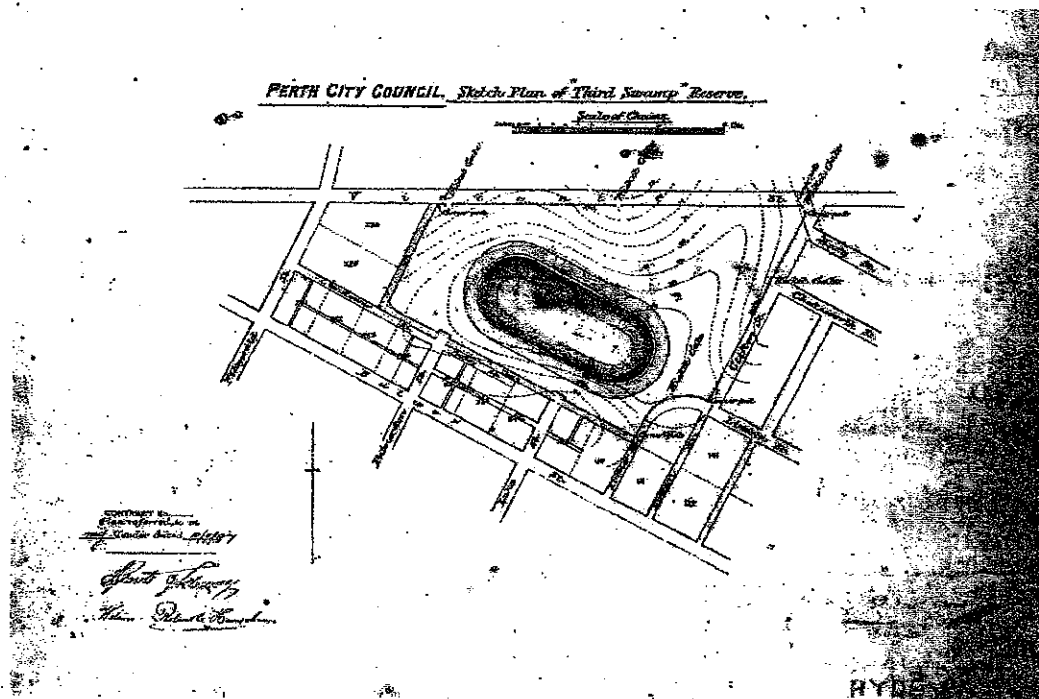
⁴⁶ Colonial Secretary's Office (CSO) file, 'Improvements to Third Swamp Reserve', ACC 527, 655/1897.

⁴⁷ CSO file, 655/1897, Correspondence, 4 March 1897.

⁴⁸ CSO file, 655/1897, Correspondence, 8 March 1897.

⁴⁹ PCC Minutes, September 1897.

⁵⁰ PWD 5647, sewerage map 1897, sheet 7.



Historical figure 6.

Sketch plan of Hyde Park that accompanied Harold Holloway's 1897 tender for fencing, showing later planned work, including roadway on west and south boundaries, fencing on north and east boundaries and pathway around lake.

From George Bouma & Anthony Powe,
Hyde Park Plan of Management, November 1992.

A sketch plan of Hyde Park shows the roadway, a path around the lake edge, and fencing and gates on all boundaries. The plan is marked: 'Plan referred to in my tender dated 10/9/97', signed by Harold Holloway. Most of the work indicated on the plan was not undertaken until much later than September 1897, so the plan is clearly a composite, added to as work was planned or authorised. A plan for improvements to Hyde Park was presented at the Council meeting held on 20 June 1898, and the sketch plan may have been used in this context. The work covered by the September 1897 tender of Harold Holloway is almost certainly the fencing on the south and west boundaries of the Reserve.⁵¹ In January 1898, J. Mitchell was paid £234 for fencing, which would have been along the north and east boundaries.⁵²

⁵¹ Sketch Plan of Third Swamp Reserve, signed by contractor Harold Holloway, 10 September 1897, from Bouma, George & Powe, Anthony, *Hyde Park Plan of Management: Draft Report*, City of Perth & Patrons of Hyde Park, November 1992, cover picture. Later work is marked in red on the original plan.

⁵² PCC minutes, 14 January 1898.

On 6 May 1898, Council recommended the allocation of £500 for work at Hyde Park.⁵³ The Council was having trouble getting the balance of the promised £1,000 grant from the Government, who could not find the original paperwork authorising the amount. Eventually, the matter was sorted out and the final payment was received in October 1898. By that time, Council had outlaid £1,263-16-6, comprising £481-12-6 on fencing, £744-0-0 on clearing and £38-4-0 on tree planting.⁵⁴ The clearing of the scrub in the Reserve was carried out by T. McLaughlin.⁵⁵



Historical figure 7.

Members of the General Purpose Committee inspecting Hyde Park. (Photograph looking east)
City Gardener, John Braithwaite, is fourth from the left. Others named, from the left, are
E. J. Bickford, J. Hurst, J. A. Thomson, R. Potts, and J. Brebber on right. From George
Bouma & Anthony Powe, *Hyde Park Plan of Management*, 1992, p. 5.

Perth Lot Y288, the site of Third Swamp, was gazetted as Reserve 1135, a 39.68 acre (16.06ha) Reserve for a public garden, on 8 October 1897.⁵⁶ In October 1898, a request was made to the Minister for Lands to recover the land granted to the House of Mercy Association. The Association agreed to hand over the land to the Council if the Government granted another Lot in return. Perth Town Lot N130 was accepted in exchange.⁵⁷ Lot N152 was incorporated into Perth Town Lot Y288. The picket fences constructed around the Park in 1897-1898 did not include Lot N152, and after the land was returned to the Park, it sat isolated and unused outside the fencing until 1906.⁵⁸

⁵³ PCC Minutes, 6 May & 20 June 1898.

⁵⁴ CSO file, 655/1897, 'improvements to Third Swamp Reserve', op cit, 9 December 1898.

⁵⁵ PCC minutes, 18 July 1898.

⁵⁶ *West Australian Government Gazette*, 8 October 1897, p. 2053.

⁵⁷ Lands & Survey, correspondence to Perth City Town Clerk, 7 September 1900; DOLA Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 2941.

⁵⁸ Sketch Plan of Third Swamp Reserve, 1897, op cit; GPC Minutes, Report 9 January 1906, op cit.

On 31 July 1899, Third Swamp Reserve was officially named Hyde Park and was placed in the care of the City Gardener, John Braithwaite.⁵⁹ For the previous twelve months, the Reserve had been under the control of a committee of three Councillors, Oldham, Hall and Brebber who had overseen the construction of the roadway, gates and fences. With these elements in place and the grounds cleared, Council decided that trees should be planted in the Park as 'expeditiously as possible'.⁶⁰

The General Purposes Committee made an inspection of Hyde Park in January 1900, and recommended that a drain be provided to Bulwer Street to reduce the water in the lake to 'a proper level'.⁶¹ Water would have continued to drain into the lake at Hyde Park but could no longer drain out through the natural seasonal creek due to development in the area. Sometime in 1900, the lake was stocked with fish from Queen's Gardens. The fish were introduced to provide food for the waterfowl, to encourage the birds to remain in the Park.⁶²

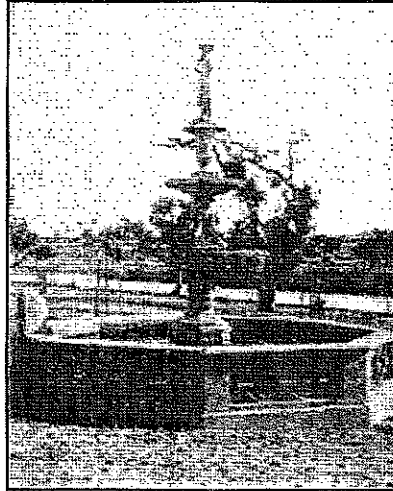
At the same time that Hyde Park was being established, other parks and squares in the City were also undergoing development, including Queen's Gardens, Weld Square and Russell Square. Tree planting and maintenance on street verges was another responsibility of the City Gardener. His manpower resources were thinly spread in the early years, as the work of establishing and maintaining the parks and gardens was labour intensive. Queen's Gardens in particular, with its floral displays, would have required more work than most of the other reserves. One ongoing item was the application of water, which for many years had to be done by hand.

2.5.2. Hyde Park Fountain

In August 1899, W. G. Brookman offered to present a fountain to the Council, for erection in Hyde Park. The Council accepted the offer and gave the Parks and Reserves Committee the power to select the design.⁶³ Mr G. Waugh, a modeller, offered to erect the fountain for a fee of £50 and his offer was accepted.⁶⁴ The fountain had a three-foot (90cm) tall statue above a series of three bowls and was situated within an octagonal walled pond.

William Brookman was a mining entrepreneur who had been responsible for the initial development of the Golden Mile at Kalgoorlie. His speculative land company, the Colonial Finance Corporation, developed a housing estate on Lake, Moir and Brookman streets in 1897, which is still standing. Brookman was Mayor of Perth in 1900-01 and was known for his lavish lifestyle.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ The East Perth Park was officially named Queen's Gardens at this time.
⁶⁰ PCC Minutes, 31 July 1899; 14 August 1899.
⁶¹ GPC Minutes, 10 January 1900.
⁶² City Gardener's Report, November 1909.
⁶³ PCC Minutes, 28 August, 27 November & 4 December 1899.
⁶⁴ PCC Minutes, 4 December 1899.
⁶⁵ Stannage, C. T., *The People of Perth*, op cit, pp. 215-16.



Historical figure 8.

W. G. Brookman's fountain in Hyde Park in 1900.
From *Twentieth Century Impressions*, 1901, p. 388.

The fountain was situated inside the Lake Street entrance to the Park, which was the main entrance. The fountain pond was stocked with gold and silver fish, which young boys liked to try and catch.⁶⁶ The structure was subject to vandalism and damage by children climbing on it, and was repaired on several occasions. In March 1909, G. Waugh is reported as repairing broken portions of the structure, including replacing the figure on the top, which he rebuilt with a pipe through the centre for added strength. Cost of the repairs was £7-10-0.⁶⁷

On 3 June 1918, the City Gardener, John Braithwaite, recommended that the fountain be removed from the Park, as the pedestal carrying the basins had been broken off at the base. The fountain was removed, and on 23 July 1920, Braithwaite reported that he had constructed a garden bed on the site, planted with palms.⁶⁸

2.5.3. Development: 1901-1940

Historical Figure 8, showing the fountain in 1901, also provides some other information on the Park at this time. There are young trees, surrounded by tree guards or stakes for protection, which are almost certainly the Plane trees that now form the avenue around the lakes. Apart from some remaining trees from the original vegetation, the Park area appears relatively bare.⁶⁹ White swans were placed in the City parks and reserves that had a water feature, in particular Queen's Gardens and Hyde Park. The introduction of white swans was part of the process of taming the alien landscape and turning it into the familiar. The swans, black and white, and the wild ducks were encouraged to remain at the Park, with the lake stocked with fish for their benefit. Hyde Park was stocked with fish from Queen's Gardens in 1900.⁷⁰

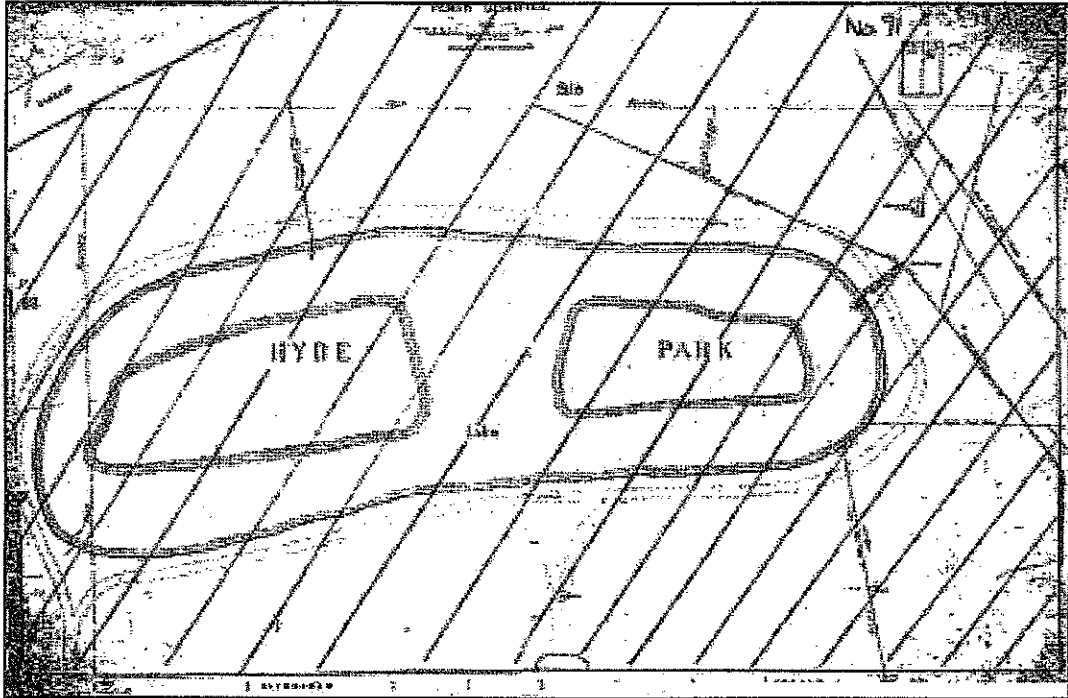
⁶⁶ GPC Minutes, 15 January 1907.

⁶⁷ PCC correspondence, 13 February 1909 & PCC Correspondence, Hyde Park Vol. 1, 23 & 30 March 1909, SROWA, AN20/5 ACC 3054/1905.

⁶⁸ City Gardener's Report, June 1918 & July 1920.

⁶⁹ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, Facsimile of 1901 edition, Perth, Hesperian Press, 2000, p. 388.

⁷⁰ City Gardener's Report, 2 November 1909.



Historical figure 9.

Sewerage plan 1900-1908, showing location of fountain marking the main entrance from Lake Street, with only other entrance from Palmerston Street. (The fountain is shown in the centre of the bottom third of the plan at the base of the triangle of paths)

By August 1905, palms had been removed from Stirling Street and planted in Hyde Park and Royal Park.⁷¹ The City Gardener reported on 1 November 1905 that six acres of couch grass had been planted on the south side of the lake and 250 loads of street sweepings had been carried for topdressing and filling. Braithwaite reported, however, that 'I find it will be rather a difficult matter to establish couch grass without a water supply in this park'.⁷²

Council plans for improvements to Hyde Park were put under the microscope by residents, resulting in an inspection of the Park by the General Purposes Committee in January 1906. The work done on the Park to that date was described:

The lawns as yet are looking somewhat anaemic, but the trees and shrubs seem to be thriving... It gains much in attractiveness from the fine sheet of water which occupies its centre, and the islands which stud it are being cleared and planted. The corner of one island is ablaze with cannas, and a portion of the neighbouring insular piece is proudly waving a row of young plantains. The most important work suggested by the City gardener to be done in this resort is the raising of the banks of the lake, and the committee agreed that this should be done. The advisableness of taking into the park the little vacant area at the junction of Glendower and Clifton [William] Streets was mentioned, and it is probable that some action will be taken in that direction. The space was given to the council some eight years ago, but has never been fenced or improved in any way. It could be made into an excellent croquet lawn or bowling ground, and if applied to this purpose, the present eyesore would be removed.⁷³

⁷¹ City Gardener's Report, 22 August 1905.

⁷² City Gardener's Report, 1 November 1905.

⁷³ GPC Minutes, Report 9 January 1906.

In June 1906, the City Gardener ordered a large number of trees from the Hamel State Nursery for the various parks, reserves and street verges that were his responsibility. The list comprised: 50 Red flowering gums, 25 Silver Wattle [N.S.W.] 50 Silver Wattle [Qld], 25 Carob Beans, 25 Peppermint, 50 Moreton Bay figs, 25 Port Jackson figs, 50 Cupressus of sorts, 300 Plane trees, 50 Indian Cedar, 50 Norfolk Island pines.⁷⁴ Some of these, in particular the Moreton Bay (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Port Jackson figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and the Plane trees (*Platanus x hispanica*), are represented in larger numbers in Hyde Park and some may date from this time. The trees and shrubs were reported to have made good growth by November 1907.⁷⁵

The shape of the lake was refined with the swampy verges filled in with sand. Seventy loads of sand and thirty loads of street sweepings were carted into the Park for that purpose in 1908.⁷⁶ In November 1908, several of the old trees and shrubs, possibly Melaleucas, were reported as having been grubbed out, while the ornamental trees and shrubs continued to make good growth.⁷⁷ On several occasions, the City Gardener reported that trees were replanted where they had been destroyed. It is not known if this referred to the replacement of damaged ornamental trees or the replacement of native species with ornamentals. Grubbing out trees and scrub was ongoing, as the scrub regenerated over the Park area and grass grew freely where the scrub had been cleared away.⁷⁸

John Braithwaite indicated that the scrub could be kept down if the Park was planted with couch grass. In June 1912, it was reported that 14 loads of couch grass had been planted, with 10 loads of sand and ashes used as top dressing. The General Purpose Committee Report at the end of 1912 described this as 14 acres planted with couch. What part of the Park was planted was not detailed, but it appears to have been a considerable area.⁷⁹

In early 1912, mains water was used to fill the lake after it almost dried out. The City's storm water drainage was claimed to have lowered the water table and affected the level of the lake, but 1911 had also been a year of drought, another reason for the lowered water table.⁸⁰ Residents and ratepayers of the North Ward expressed their concern over the condition of 'this fine playground of the metropolis', stating that the low water level had converted the lake 'into a repulsive and malodorous bed of filthy sludge'.⁸¹ It was claimed that the Park was neglected, and the City Gardener used Hyde Park for burning tree prunings, causing a smoke nuisance to the neighbourhood. Braithwaite claimed:

If this tip has to be closed it will be necessary to cart to the Mulberry Plantation which will cost three times the amount as in Hyde Park. I have about 12 loads close to Hyde Park still to burn.⁸²

⁷⁴ City Gardener's Report, 26 June 1906.

⁷⁵ GPC Minutes, 1 November 1907.

⁷⁶ GPC Minutes, 7 July 1908.

⁷⁷ GPC Minutes, 1 November 1908.

⁷⁸ GPC Minutes, 26 October & 9 November 1911, 19 March 1912; City Gardener's Report, 29 August 1910, 1 November 1910.

⁷⁹ City Gardener's Report, 1 November 1910; GPC Minutes, 26 June 1912.

⁸⁰ Stannage, C. T., (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, op cit, pp. 131-134.

⁸¹ GPC Minutes, petition from North Ward residents, 23 July 1912.

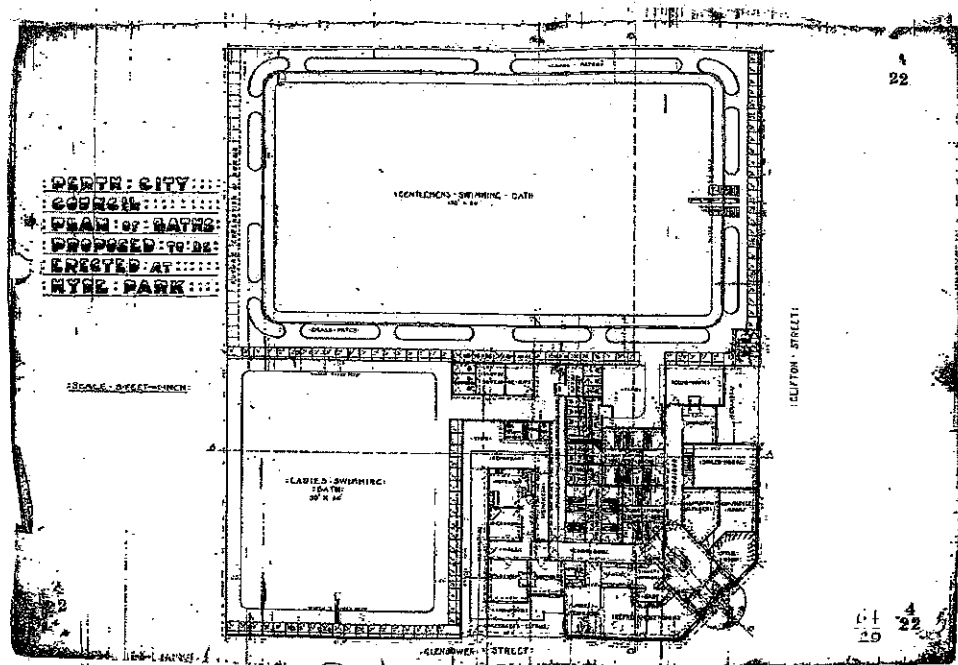
⁸² GPC Minutes, 23 July 1912.

At the end of 1912, the General Purposes Committee declared that the:

Reserve [was] in a better condition than the end of last year. Necessary pruning has been done, clearing of the scrub, 21 trees have been replanted, 14 acres have been planted with couch, water in lake 9 inches higher than year before.⁸³

The construction of William Street between Brisbane and Bulwer, to link with Clifton Street, was being planned and it seemed an opportune time to upgrade Hyde Park. Requests were submitted for gravel pathways, a 33-foot wide gravel driveway between Lake and Norfolk streets across a causeway, kerbing, gates, ornamental fencing, clearing out of the lake, and construction of a rotunda, swimming baths, caretaker's residence, and shade house.⁸⁴

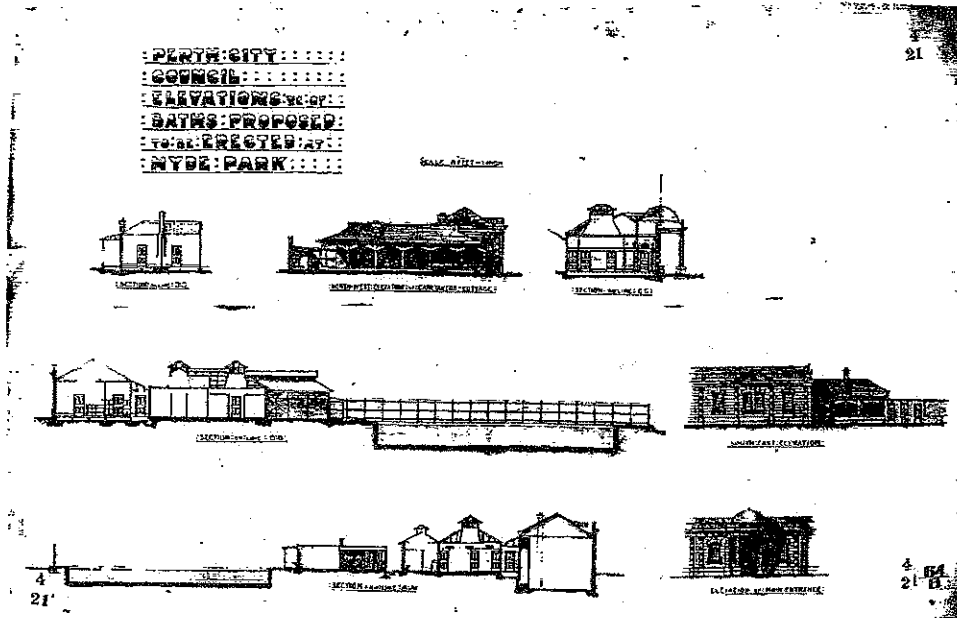
Plans were drawn up for the baths, which included a caretaker's residence and refreshment rooms, and separate baths and facilities for gentlemen and ladies. The proposed site was the southeast corner of the Park, where a half-length cricket pitch had been established. The plan for the swimming baths was soon abandoned, however, most likely due to Council's reluctance to spend the necessary funds, the City Engineer estimating that construction would cost some £5,000. A plant house, part of the long-term plan to move the City nursery to Hyde Park, was also not built.⁸⁵



Historical figure 10

Plan of proposed swimming baths for southeast corner of Hyde Park, 1912.
SROWA, AN20/9 ACC 1644, microfilm.

- 83 GPC Minutes, 6 November 1912.
84 PCC Minutes, 27 August, 3 & 15 October 1912; PCC Correspondence, Hyde Park Vol. 1, 27 August & 17 September 1912.
85 GPC Minutes, 6 August & 29 October 1912, 12 December 1912, 3 February & 31 March 1913.



Historical figure 11

Elevations of proposed swimming baths for southeast corner of Hyde Park, 1912.
SROWA, AN20/9 ACC 1644, microfilm.

While these plans were being considered, the water level in the lake continued to be an ongoing issue. The lake was filled from the City water supply again in February 1913, but by the end of March it was almost dry again.⁸⁶ In May 1913 the City Gardener reported: 'hardly any water, a grave danger of the fish dying, need 1 million gallons'.⁸⁷ Dredging was proposed to deepen the lakes and help alleviate the problem. Braithwaite again stated the need for a good water supply, recommending that the grounds be reticulated as 'in a dry climate, little can be done towards beautifying a park without a good water supply'.⁸⁸

The construction of a causeway across the centre of the lake, to take the planned roadway between Lake and Norfolk streets, was underway in mid 1913. There had been several requests for a footpath from the Norfolk Street entrance to the lake path, the last one being in December 1912, when it was claimed that the Norfolk Street entrance was the main artery to North Perth.⁸⁹ These requests may have played a part in the decision to construct the roadway.

⁸⁶ GPC Minutes, 3 February & 31 March 1913.

⁸⁷ City Gardener's Report, 12 May 1913.

⁸⁸ City Gardener's Report, 8 December 1913.

⁸⁹ GPC Minutes, 12 December 1912, 3 February & 31 March 1913; PCC Minutes, 12 December 1912.



Historical figure 12.

Construction of the causeway across the lake in mid 1913. Newspaper image, from George Bouma & Anthony Powe, *Hyde Park Plan of Management*, November 1992.

The work on the causeway caused considerable controversy, and was defended by the City Engineer, E. H. Gliddon:

[The causeway] will have 33 feet of roadway with footpaths 8 foot 3 inches wide on either side of the roadway, fenced with post and chain. Garden plots on either side of the roadway will be arranged right across, and the sloping sides will be grassed and planted with foliage, plants, etc. Trees also will be put in, and the whole thing when completed will make one of the most charming little drives around the city. It will not... be a road for heavy traffic. Gates will be provided at each end, and these will be closed at an hour fixed by bylaw, and a caretaker will, in addition of course to his other duties, see that the bylaw prohibiting heavy traffic on the drive is not broken during the day. The work of building the drive is now in progress, and should be completed within a few months. When the whole thing is finished there will be nothing hideous about it, as some people apparently imagine. It will be a most attractive avenue, particularly when we have the lake on either side of it in good order, with proper depth.⁹⁰

The opposition to the roadway was such that the concept was abandoned in favour of a walkway between the lakes. The causeway was completed, with a tunnel connecting the lakes believed to be beneath it.

In February 1915, with construction of the causeway completed, £500 was allocated for improvements in the Park.⁹¹ The City Gardener's reports give some details of what was done over the ensuing months.

⁹⁰ Unreferenced 1913 newspaper article, reproduced in Bouma, George & Powe, Anthony, op cit, p. 10.

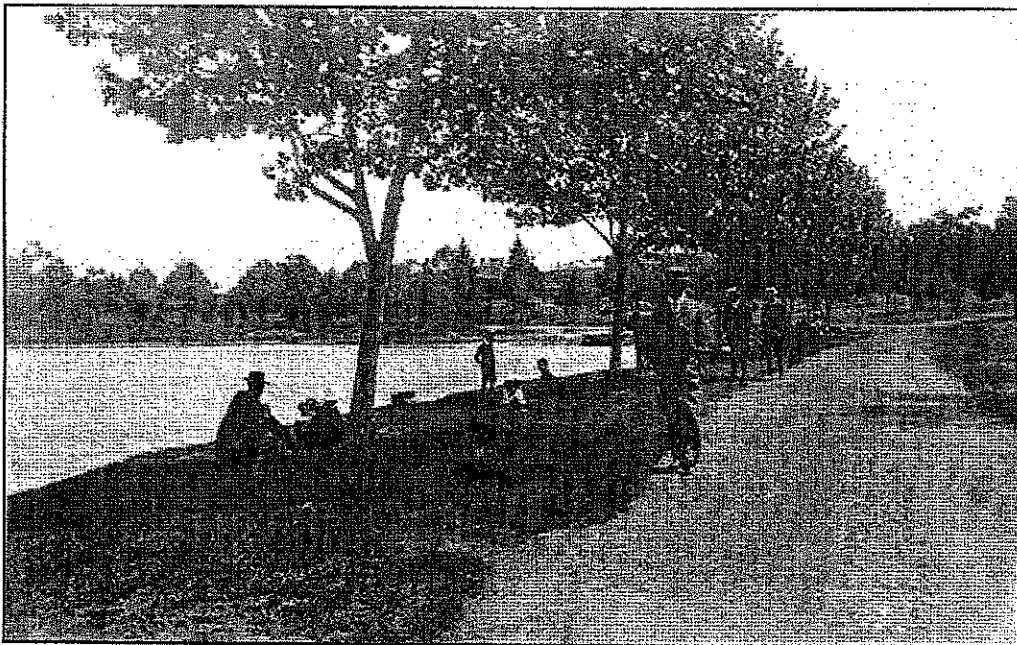
⁹¹ GPC Minutes, 26 February 1915.

Lake. Clearing out the silt - start has been made with men supplied from the unemployed relief fund committee. But rain came on the second day and put a stop to it - if water kept down by pumping the silt could be cleared out. The causeway across the lake has been filled up with sand obtained by cutting down part of the slope on the south side of the lake. It would be better to let the planting stand over for a month to allow the ground to settle down. Clearing of rushes and scrub from off the island. This work is being proceeded with. The class of men employed are mostly inexperienced in this class of work therefore progress is slow.⁹²

Causeway. Work of preparing the ground for planting is being proceeded with. Design and an estimate for fencing the slopes has been received from Cyclone Wire Company. The one with iron post would be the most suitable. Think much better to close the causeway to pedestrian traffic until the grass has established on the centre portions. Ground on the smaller island graded and ready for planting. Clearing the larger island is being proceeded with.⁹³

Hyde Park islands. Clearing of reeds etc completed. The half that has been completed has been raised 2 ft [60cm] above the water level. Fencing of the ground and slopes across causeway....Gives a right of way for pedestrian traffic, and notice boards warning of people to keep off ground fenced in.⁹⁴

By 7 June 1915, the causeway ground had been graded and planted with couch grass. Five beds had been prepared for planting with shrubs and palms and 'sixteen holes prepared for planting an avenue of oriental plane trees' similar to that which already encircled the lake. On 2 August 1915, it was reported that the planting of the causeway with 20 trees had been completed.⁹⁵



Historical figure 13.

Hyde Park in the 1910s, looking east. Shapcott collection, Battye Library, Online image 001168d.

- 92 City Gardener's Report, 26 March 1915.
 93 City Gardener's Report, 10 May 1915.
 94 City Gardener's Report, 10 June 1915.
 95 City Gardener's Report, 2 August 1915.

Several reports have described the causeway planting as flame, or coral trees.⁹⁶ It is easy to mistake the word 'plane' as 'flame', but a 1925 newspaper article goes further, describing the trees thus: 'Girdling the lake is a fringe of coral trees, and just now they are a scarlet glory against the silver of the water...'⁹⁷ This is more difficult to reconcile with the City Gardener's report of an avenue of oriental Plane trees, but not enough detail is given of what was actually planted on the causeway, so the possibility that there were some flame trees among the Plane trees, since removed, cannot be completely discounted.

The City Gardener's Annual Report for 1915-1916, states: 'The causeway across the lake, the trees and palms planted last season have made satisfactory progress excepting those that have been destroyed by vandalism'.⁹⁸ In 1918, thirty-two trees were planted in the Park to replace those that had been either destroyed or died out.⁹⁹

Sand was added to the islands to break up the swampy soil and allow grass to grow. This had been done by March 1916. Seven garden beds were laid out and grass planted and a temporary water supply laid on from the shore. By 8 November 1916, the larger island (western) had been laid out in beds and planted with palms, shrubs and roses, including 105 roses and 220 zonal pelargonium, and the lawn had been planted with buffalo grass. The smaller island (eastern) had been raised 2 feet above the overflow drain and planted with palms, bamboos, pampas grass, shrubs and trees suitable for making cover for waterfowl.¹⁰⁰ Access to the islands was gained by a punt, which was poled across the lake. The punt is claimed to have been chained up in a tunnel under the causeway.¹⁰¹

Hyde Park ground was 'scarified' twice and graded ready for re-planting with couch grass. Six acres had been completed by mid April 1915 and the planting for the season was completed in mid May. As the reserve could not be closed until the grass grew, it was considered advisable to get all the street sweepings carted into the reserve for top dressing. By November, the couch grass was beginning to show above the surface.¹⁰²

Planting of couch grass continued in the early months of 1916, with the remainder of the Park completed, except for the small plot on the corner of Clifton and Glendower streets. In November, it was reported that the planting of buffalo grass around the lake has been completed, while the couch grass planted the previous year was well established.¹⁰³

⁹⁶ Elphinstone, P., Article on Hyde Park prepared for North of Perth Society, 1982; *West Australian*, 'Perth's open spaces, No. 3, Hyde Park', 18 July 1925, p. 7.

⁹⁷ *West Australian*, 'Perth's open spaces', op cit.

⁹⁸ City Gardener's Report, 24 January 1916; Annual Report 1915-1916.

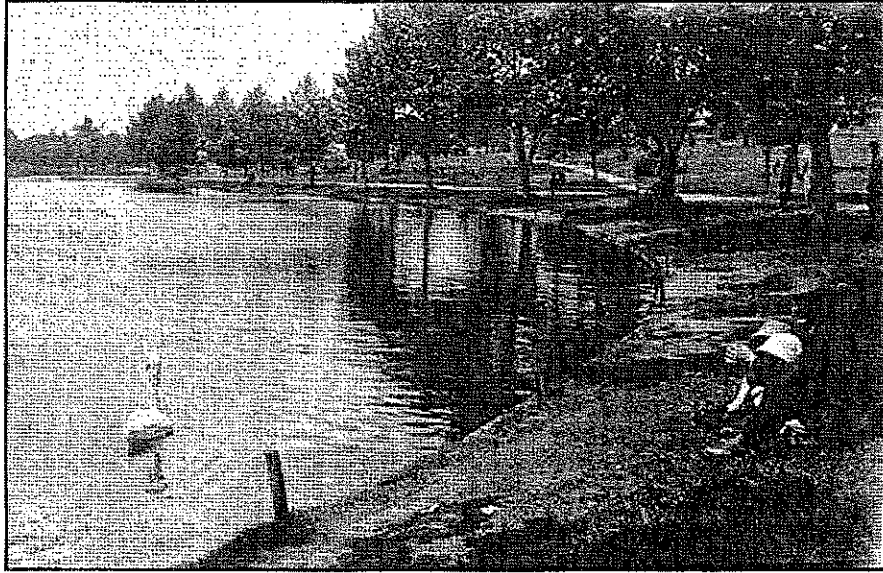
⁹⁹ City Gardener's Report, 26 August 1918.

¹⁰⁰ City Gardener's Report, 24 January, 21 February, 6 March, 20 March, 26 March, 24 May, 17 July, 8 November 1916.

¹⁰¹ Oral history, G. Low, 1997, quoted in Heritage assessment for Hyde Park, op cit; telephone conversation with Pat Ryan, 17 February 2003.

¹⁰² City Gardener's Report, 22 March, 18 April, 10 May 1915 & 8 November.

¹⁰³ City Gardener's Report, 26 March, 24 May, 6 & 8 November 1916.



Historical figure 14.

Hyde Park in the 1910s, with white swan and jarrah lake edging. Shapcott collection, Battye Library, Online image 001169d.

In February 1914, the City Gardener reported that an avenue of trees had been planted around the perimeter of the Park, nine feet inside the fence. This planting was of pine trees.¹⁰⁴ In 1917, 49 palm trees were planted 'inside the fences' along William Street from Brisbane Street to Glendower Street. It was stated that: 'this will make a fine avenue in the course of a few years and improve the entrance to Hyde Park'.¹⁰⁵ These trees must have been planted on private property along the street.

Some of the fencing on the Causeway was removed in January 1917, as the grass was well established by that time. The fence protecting the slopes was kept to prevent small children falling in the lakes. This fence was finally removed in March 1921, and installed at Leederville Oval for the same purpose of protecting the slopes until the grass had grown.¹⁰⁶

The waterfowl in the Park were a target for young boys, and possibly those not so young. Six white swans disappeared from the lake in March 1914, after as many a ten boats, occupied by boys, were seen on the lake in the evenings, after the caretaker had left the grounds. In 1916, Hyde Park and Queen's Gardens were declared reserves for nature game under the provisions of the Game Act. A white swan was shot on 6 March 1920, and a reward offered for information on the culprit. In December 1921, four swans, presumably white, were presented to Hyde Park by T. Kennedy.¹⁰⁷ In 1938, it was reported that baby Muscovy ducks were being eaten by Cormorants. A shelter for the ducks was constructed under the direction of the City Gardener, Henry Braithwaite.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ City Gardener's Report, 29 February 1914.

¹⁰⁵ GPC Minutes, 14 May 1917.

¹⁰⁶ GPC Minutes, 24 May 1915, 23 March 1921; City Gardener's Report, 22 January, 19 February 1917.

¹⁰⁷ GPC Minutes, 3 April 1916, 12 April 1920, 12 December 1921.

¹⁰⁸ PCC archives, file 1937-70, ref no. 22/72 Box 11, *West Australian*, 'Ducks in Hyde Park', 2 February 1938, from Gray, Laura, with Viska, John & O'Mara, Gillian, 'Heritage Assessment for Hyde Park, draft report', for Town of Vincent, June 1998, p. 20.

The City Gardener recommended on several occasions that the relocation to Hyde Park of the shade houses and nursery sheds from the City Nursery be deferred until the Park was better established. Cost for this work was estimated at £750, so Braithwaite received no argument from the Council on this matter.¹⁰⁹

In October 1920, the development of the southeast corner of the Park was being undertaken. The City Gardener suggested that instead of laying out the southeast corner the money be expended in grading and planting the oval at Beatty Park, but work on the southeast corner went ahead. Paths were laid and by September 1921, the area had been planted with palms, jacaranda trees and grass.¹¹⁰ In 1923, the main entrance to the Park was relocated from Lake Street to the William and Glendower Street corner.

In September 1923, an avenue of palm trees was planted along the Vincent Street boundary of the Park, nine feet from the kerb. This was done at the same time as the picket fence along the boundary was replaced with a post and pipe rail fence, the last section of the picket fencing to be replaced.¹¹¹ The upgrading of this section reflected the residential development of Vincent Street.

An article in the Sunday Times in 1923, provides a description of Hyde Park at that time:

One of the extraordinary things in this park is that it is frequented by many different waterfowl, viz., Canadian geese, swans (both white and black), Muscovies, and thousands of small ducks. The latter come, it is said, from hundreds of miles outback, where the water dries up in summer. In the winter they return in order to lay and bring forth their kind. Sometimes one or two will stop with use, and swim proudly round with six little ones, but, strange to say, they never reach "duckhood", as they mysteriously disappear before they get their second feathers...

...[the west] island... is planted with rose plants of all varieties, and lovely lawns. Right round the edge of the whole waterway the C.C. built a stone wall in order to prevent the earth from being washed away. As a proof of the wisdom of this even the stone has had to be renewed in certain portions. The east lake island contains all the different kinds of creeping plants and shrubs, which are set off with silver grass. As a whole it is most artistic. It also acts as a shelter and breeding ground for the ducks, etc.

In the year 1901, some genius with a vision had planted scores of beautiful plane trees at equal distance round the park (some now over a foot in diameter), and here is the true glory of Hyde Park. The appearance of these trees in spring is lovely, and in the summer glorious. The lake grounds also are planted with all kinds of gums, palms, jacaranda, fir, Moreton Bay figs, bunyan trees, etc., etc. The paperbark trees (of which there are several) bring one's mind to think of some grizzly old monster of the past, growing older and seeming to look down with frowning contempt on their more beautiful sisters...

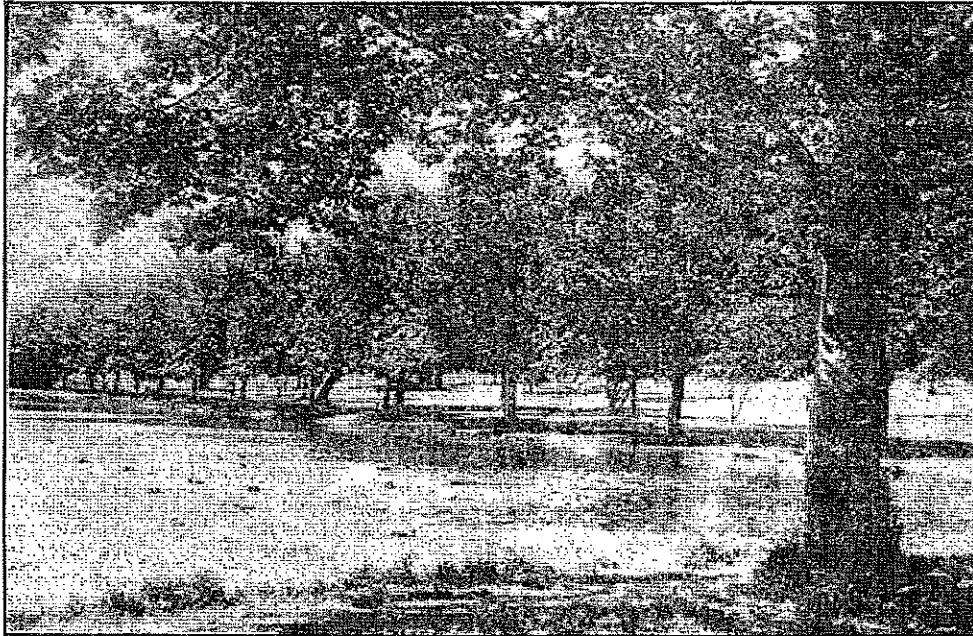
The whole extent is about 40 acres and has many avenues of gum trees along its several paths. There are also a cricket pitch, sliding channels, horizontal bars, etc., water laid on - in fact, an ideal picnic ground for the family.¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ City Gardener's Report, 29 March 1915.

¹¹⁰ GPC Minutes, 28 October 1920, 26 September 1921.

¹¹¹ GPC Minutes, 17 September 1923

¹¹² *Sunday Times*, 'One of Perth's Beauty Spots: The glory of Hyde Park', 1923 article from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.



Historical figure 15.

Hyde Park, 1923, showing the avenue of Plane trees, 'the true glory of Hyde Park'. From *Sunday Times*, 'One of Perth's Beauty Spots: The glory of Hyde Park', 1923, from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

Forty pine trees were planted in 1932, but no details are given as to where these were placed. Work in the 1930s was largely concerned with maintenance, with only small development projects undertaken, the initial establishment of the Park having been completed. City Gardener John Braithwaite died in 1936, and his son Henry succeeded to the position, so there was little change as far as approach was concerned.

By 1946, it was apparent that the park had fallen into disrepair during the War years. The wooden and iron gates were in a sad state of disrepair and algae had appeared in the lakes for the first time in 1945, particularly in the west lake, where considerable erosion had also taken place. The algae was removed from the west lake by February 1947, but then appeared in the east lake.¹¹³ In 1949, the Phoenix Palms were removed from the Vincent Street boundary, at a cost of £50. This work was completed on 4 July 1949.¹¹⁴

¹¹³ PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, Correspondence 20 August 1946, 5 September 1946, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 22.

¹¹⁴ GPC Minutes, 27 April, 4 July 1949.

2.5.4. Fences and Gates

The original fencing around the Hyde Park Reserve was a timber picket fence with wicket gates. The main gates, on Glendower Street in the vicinity of Lake and Palmerston, were locked each night. At weekends, they were opened at 2.30pm.¹¹⁵ In January 1899, Councillor Brebber mentioned that the gates were often left open and it was resolved that in future they would be locked and the keys deposited with the 'contractor at present on the ground'.¹¹⁶ The fence was erected to keep stock from wandering onto the Reserve and the locking of the gates appears to have been an attempt to prevent undesirable behaviour in the Park at night.

It was September 1902, before a suggestion was made by Councillor Stinton that the main entrance to Hyde Park be kept unlocked on Sunday.¹¹⁷ In 1904, it was suggested that gates be added at the northeast corner (William and Vincent streets) and the southwest corner (Glendower and Throssell streets), but this was not done at the time.¹¹⁸ In February 1906, the fence at the southeast corner was realigned along Glendower and William streets, including the former Lot N152 in the Park for the first time.¹¹⁹

The picket fence required maintenance by 1910, as termites were active, requiring the replacement of seven fence posts. The painting of the fence was undertaken in September and October that year.¹²⁰ There were three double-gates in the fence by 1910, the third having been installed at the Throssell-Vincent Street entrance at some time prior to 1909, when the path from that corner was constructed. All the gates were being left unlocked for ease of access by residents, but wandering stock were a problem. It was recommended that the double-gates be locked and guards placed at the back of the small gates to prevent stock entering. The form these guards took is not known, but in 1912, J. Mitchell erected gate guards at the small gates at a cost of £15.¹²¹

A letter sent to the Council in July 1911 suggested a turnstile at the Norfolk Street entrance. This appears to have been erected as later correspondence requested a path from the turnstile to the lake path, which was refused.¹²² In October 1913, it was again suggested that a gate be placed at the corner of Glendower and Throssell streets, using one of the gates from the 'St George's Terrace Reserve'. In 1914 and 1915, the picket fence on the west, south and east boundaries of the Park was removed and replaced with a cement post and 'tube', or pipe rail fence 'in a straight line'. The fence on Glendower Street was authorised to be replaced on 13 March 1914, followed by William Street, which was completed in October 1914, and Throssell Street, completed in September 1915.¹²³ The picket fence on the Vincent Street frontage remained. Once again, there was a suggestion to put a gate from the St George's Terrace Reserve at the corner of Throssell and Glendower streets.¹²⁴

¹¹⁵ Elphinstone, P., Article on Hyde Park prepared for North of Perth Society, 1982.

¹¹⁶ GPC Minutes, 9 January 1899.

¹¹⁷ PCC Minutes, 1 September 1902.

¹¹⁸ GPC Minutes, 2 Aug 1904, 14 October 1913.

¹¹⁹ GPC Minutes, 27 February 1906.

¹²⁰ GPC Minutes, 5 April, 13 September & 1 November 1910.

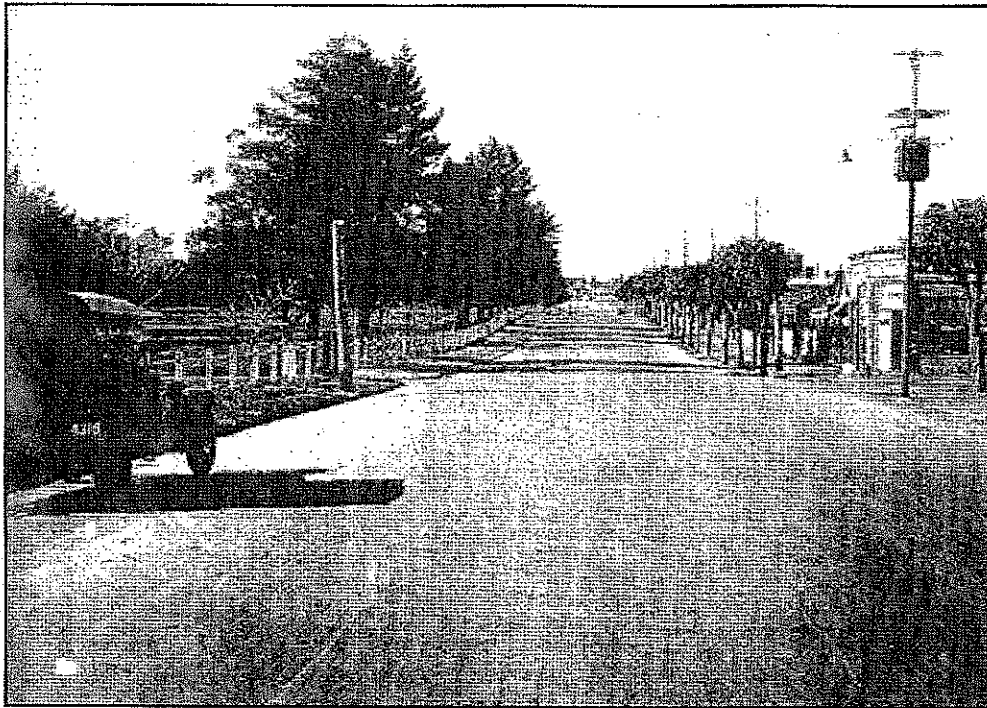
¹²¹ GPC Minutes, 30 August 1910 & 1912.

¹²² PCC Minutes, 18 & 26 July & 18 October 1911.

¹²³ GPC Minutes, 13 March, 10 August & 19 October 1914 and 2 August & 27 September 1915.

¹²⁴ GPC Minutes, 14 October 1914.

In September 1921, the General Purposes Committee suggested a small temporary gate be installed at the southeast corner of the Park, 'as many pedestrians use the drive'¹²⁵ It is not entirely clear what was meant by this statement, but possibly people were going under or over the fence to access the new pathways installed in that section of the Park. Whether a temporary gate was installed at this time is not known, but in May 1923, it was decided to relocate the double gates at the main Lake Street entrance to the southeast corner, effectively making the Glendower-William Street entrance the main entrance to the Park. When the main gates were removed it was found that the posts were riddled with termites, so cyclone gates were installed instead, as they were 'more satisfactory and more in keeping with the fence'. The new gates were in place on 1 October 1923.¹²⁶ They are described as being in three-quarter inch (19mm) pipe with scrollwork in proportion to the pipe.¹²⁷



Historical figure 16.

William Street, from near the Glendower Street corner looking toward Vincent Street, 1930s, showing the cement post and rail fence. From George Bouma & Anthony Powe, *Hyde Park Plan of Management*, November 1992.

The small pedestrian gates were in poor repair, and were replaced with extra strong cyclone gates provided by the Cyclone Fence Company for £3-15-0 each. A small gate was also installed at Lake Street, in place of the original main double gates. In 1924, the double gates at Palmerston Street were replaced with a small pedestrian cyclone gate, making a total of eight small cyclone gates, and two sets of double gates, these latter being at the Glendower-William Street and Throssell-Vincent Street corners.¹²⁸

¹²⁵ GPC Minutes, 26 September 1921.
¹²⁶ GPC Minutes, 14 May, 3 September & 1 October 1923.
¹²⁷ GPC Minutes, 28 April 1924.
¹²⁸ GPC Minutes, 1 October & 1 November 1923 & 11 January 1924.

In 1923, it was resolved to replace the picket fence on Vincent Street with post and pipe rail, and to grade and grass the un-macadamised portion of Vincent Street alongside the Park fence. The City Gardener suggested that the City Engineer remove the picket fence, as he had more work than he could cope with.¹²⁹ The new fence was duly constructed and in December 1923, the Vincent Street gates were altered, to provide access for invalid chairs at the request of J. E. Dodd, a resident of North Perth.¹³⁰

In July 1931, an estimate was obtained for the cost of moving the fence along Throssell and Glendower streets to the line of the macadamised road. The Throssell Street fence was reported to have been relocated by October, but there was no mention of the relocation of the Glendower Street fence being carried out.¹³¹

In 1946, a letter from the proprietor of the Palace Hotel stated that the wooden and iron gates were in a sad state of disrepair. Due to the shortage of iron, he suggested that the pipe rail in the fence could be put to better use for reticulation.¹³² The fencing was inspected by the General Purposes Committee on 17 September 1946, and removal was recommended, with the exception of the Vincent Street frontage between William and Chatsworth streets, where there was a deep drop from the footpath to the level of the Park. In December 1947, the northeast portion of the park was graded to remove the drop, and the remainder of the post and pipe rail fence was removed. No new fencing was erected and the Park remained unfenced.

The existing double gates at the two main entrances, were in poor condition and temporary cyclone gates were recommended 'until such time as the ornamental gates be erected'. The City Gardener stated that the gates were necessary to prevent cars driving onto the grounds. The gates were still in place in January 1948, at which time they were considered beyond repair.¹³³

2.5.5. Roads and Pathways

The 1898-1899 City of Perth Annual Report recorded the completion of the 'drive', or pathway, encircling the lake at Hyde Park. In 1906, some repairs to the path were needed as it had 'got cut up' with the carting of sand for filling in around the lake.¹³⁴ The pathways from the gates on the southern and eastern sides of the lake would have been the earliest constructed. A gravel roadway at the Lake Street entrance was formed in 1906. It required rolling the following year, as boys were pulling up the stones and throwing them into the lake. This was an ongoing problem with the gravel paths in the Park. Construction of later pathways included a twelve-foot wide, six chain long gravel path from the main lake path to the gate at the corner of Throssell and Vincent Streets in April 1909.¹³⁵

129 GPC Minutes, 6 & 20 August; 3 & 23 September 1923.

130 GPC Minutes, 10 & 23 December 1923.

131 GPC Minutes, 9 July & 29 October 1931.

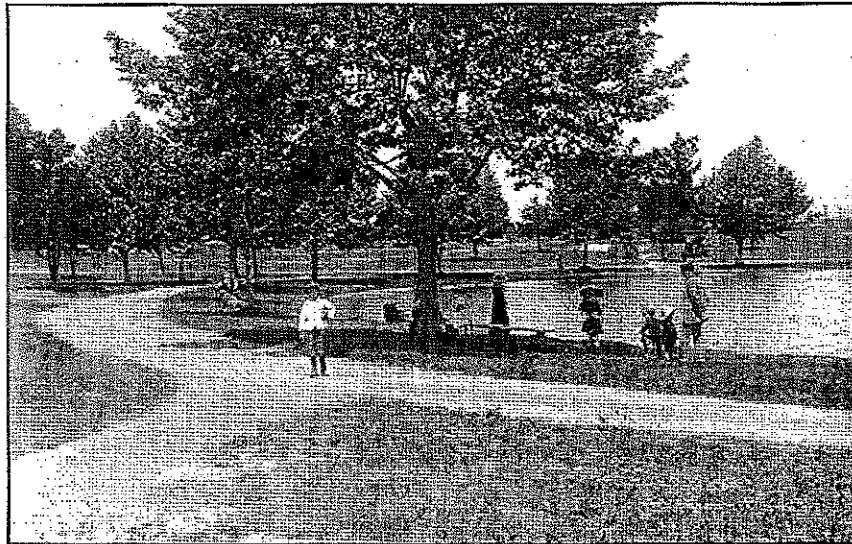
132 PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, Correspondence 20 August 1946, 5 September 1946, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 21.

133 GPC Minutes, 17 September 1946, December 1947 & 19 January 1948.

134 City of Perth, Annual Report 1898-1899; City Gardener's Report, 11 December 1906.

135 GPC Minutes, 16 January 1907, 27 June 1907, 5 January, 2 March & 20 April 1909, 12 September 1911.

In February 1913, it was recommended that the footpaths be tarred and dusted, estimated to cost £175. In December that year, a figure of £150 for the tarring was put forward, but the City Gardener suggested rolling and watering the gravel paths that summer, indicating that the tarring had not yet been done. The City Gardener's Annual Report for 1915-16 stated that it would be necessary to have the paths tarred and sanded during the coming season.¹³⁶ Despite further mention of tarring and sanding of the footpaths in ensuing years, it is not clear what was actually done.



Historical figure 17.

Hyde Park in the 1910s, showing a convergence of soft edged, rolled gravel paths.
From Shapcott collection, Battye Library, Online image 001157d.

In July 1916, the path around the lake had three loads of gravel placed on it. The City Gardener was still suggesting tarring of the pathways in September 1920, but whether this referred to all the footpaths, or those still not done is unknown. The earliest mention of actually carrying out tarring was in March 1921, when John Braithwaite reported that the paths constructed the previous year had been tarred.¹³⁷ This most likely referred to the new drive and pathway, which had been constructed at the southeast corner of the Park.

The pathway and drive at the southeast corner was constructed from the old section of Lincoln Street that had separated the Reserve from Lot N152. The old road was lifted and the material re-used in the new work, which comprised six chain (120 metres) of 14-foot (4.25 metre) wide drive and 4.5 chain (90 metres) of 14-foot wide pathway. What the difference was between the drive and the path, both being the same width, is not clear, but may have referred to their relative importance - the drive going straight into the Park from the entrance to connect with the lake path. The work was reported as completed on 15 August 1921.¹³⁸

¹³⁶ GPC Minutes, 23 February & 8 December 1913; City Gardener's Report, 8 December 1913 & Annual Report 1915-16.

¹³⁷ GPC Minutes, estimates 1917-1918; City Gardener's Report, 13 July 1916, 12 July & 20 September 1920, 7 March 1921.

¹³⁸ City Gardener's Report, 15 November 1920, 15 August 1921.

From 1920, the paths were kerbed with six-inch by twelve-inch (150 x 300mm) jarrah, in order to prevent the edges breaking away and the paths falling into disrepair. By July 1921, 35 chain (704 metres) of pathway had been kerbed and 27 chain (543 metres) regraded and rolled, again suggesting the paths were still largely gravelled.¹³⁹ In 1932, the path around the lake was reported as having been reconstructed.

2.5.6. Water supply

Lack of water for the grass was a problem in most of the City's Reserves. The City Engineer suggested the windmill from Weld Square be relocated to Hyde Park in January 1910, but as it would only provide water for one acre it was not considered worth setting up. He then suggested an electric pump, but this was not provided at the time.¹⁴⁰ In 1915, as part of the refurbishment of the Park and the planting of new grass, fifteen 60-foot lengths of hose for 12 sprinklers were provided at a cost of £62-15-0. The hoses and sprinklers were not sufficient for the area, and it took three hours each day to take the hoses out of the toolshed and set them up and then return them to the shed at night. The City Gardener requested three lattice sheds situated across the Park for storage of the hoses. He was provided with two, with the existing toolshed making the third storage area. Five additional sprinklers were provided.¹⁴¹

In 1917, the estimated water allowance for the Park was set at £100. The water pressure was weak on the higher parts of the reserve, and it was considered doubtful that an adequate water supply could be obtained from the City supply. In December 1920, electric pumps were installed for the watering system, which pumped water from a well at the western end of the lake.¹⁴²

The City Council, in order to get better water, and also to cheapen the supply, has established a powerful electric pump, which forces the water from a well, over the whole grounds, thus turning a sandy waste into a fine lawn.¹⁴³

In 1959-1960, new pumps and reticulation were installed.¹⁴⁴

2.5.7. Lake edging

Jarrah kerbing had been installed around the edges of the lake, and would have been done as part of the raising of the lake edges, referred to in the January 1906 report of the General Purposes Committee. In May 1910, ten chains (200 metres) of wood kerbing around the lake was re-laid, and another twenty chains (400 metres) was reported laid in November.¹⁴⁵

In October 1922, £50 was allocated for completion of the stone facing of the lake.¹⁴⁶ This may have entailed the edging around the east island, which was not mentioned in the earlier work.

¹³⁹ GPC Minutes, 1917-1918 estimates; City Gardener's Report, 13 July 1916, 12 July & 20 September 1920; 7 March & 4 July 1921.

¹⁴⁰ GPC Minutes, 7 January 1908, 4 January 1910.

¹⁴¹ GPC Minutes, 11 October, 13 December 1915.

¹⁴² City Gardener's Report, 24 January 1916; GPC Minutes, 12 November 1917 & 17 December 1920.

¹⁴³ *Sunday Times*, 'One of Perth's Beauty Spots', 1923, op cit.

¹⁴⁴ PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, correspondence 24 August 1959, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 23.

¹⁴⁵ GPC Report 9 January 1906; GPC Minutes, 4 May & 1 November 1910.

¹⁴⁶ GPC Minutes, 26 February 1915 & October 1922; City Gardener's Report, 3 April 1916, 8 November 1916.

In 1936 and 1937, a limestone retaining wall was built around the perimeter of the lakes by D. Hunt.¹⁴⁷ The edging of the slopes along the causeway was not done until 1953, at which time it cost £850.¹⁴⁸



Historical figure 18.

Jarrah kerbing around the lake, c.1910. From a postcard in George Bouma & Anthony Powe, *Hyde Park Plan of Management*, November 1992.



Historical figure 19.

Feeding ducks in Hyde Park, in the 'painterly' style popular in the *Western Mail* in the 1920s and 1930s. The jarrah kerbing has been removed. *Western Mail*, 1926, from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

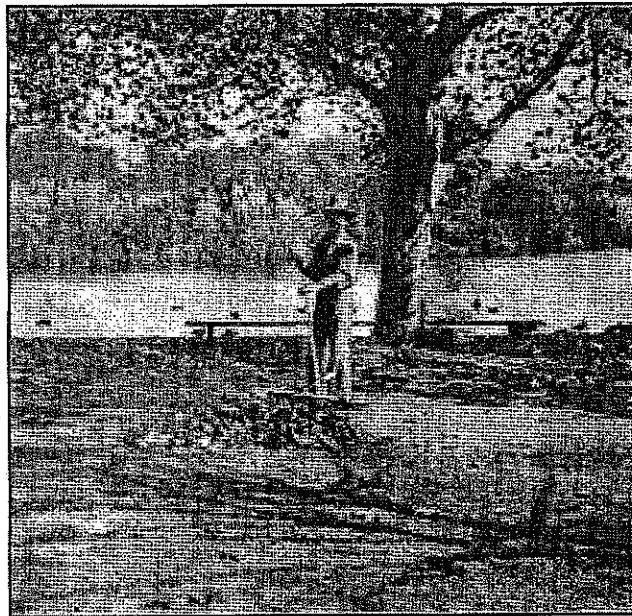
147 PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11; PCC tender documents, 1937.

148 GPC Minutes, 26 October 1922, 27 July 1953.

2.5.8. Rotunda, Seats, Lighting and other Park structures

The toilets in the Park were originally installed for the use of the gardeners and other workers, but were soon being used by the public as well, which led the General Purposes Committee to recommend, in March 1906, that the City's sanitary department look after them. By 1917, improved toilet facilities were required and tenders were called for their construction.¹⁴⁹

Six jarrah seats were provided for Hyde Park in 1908, at a cost of £4-10-0. The seats were replaced in June 1918, and jarrah planks were fitted to the new bases. Another 20 seats were added in June 1922, an indication of the growing popularity of the Park.¹⁵⁰



Historical figure 20.

An autumn scene in Hyde Park near the eastern island, c.1930.

Ducks and a simple plank seat complete the picture.

Undated newspaper image from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

Lighting was installed in the Park in 1916. The General Purpose Committee regretted that underground lighting had not been adopted, as wooden posts had to be installed to support the lights. Five posts were installed across the causeway and another twelve erected around the Park. The City Gardener's Annual Report stated that the electricity and gas departments had completed the lighting of the Park in 1924, which seems to have been a long delay.¹⁵¹

In 1961, the State Electricity supply was connected to the park, and the thirty-one lamps were replaced with 300-watt incandescent bulbs.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁹ GPC Minutes, 14 March 1906, 19 February & 25 June 1917.

¹⁵⁰ GPC Minutes, 3 & 17 June 1918; City Gardener's Report, 22 June 1922.

¹⁵¹ GPC Minutes, 25 September, 6 November & 11 December 1916; City Gardener's Annual Report, 1924.

¹⁵² PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, 10 July 1961, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 23.

A rotunda, or bandstand, was erected in Hyde Park, but no information on the construction of the building has been located. It was in existence in October 1915 and was constructed as part of the upgrade of the Park undertaken between 1912 and 1915, being one of the improvements listed for consideration. The reference to the rotunda at this time was a report on the breakage of one of the electric lights in the structure, despite it being protected by a 'stout wire guard'.¹⁵³ In 1917, the Parks and Reserves estimates listed £10 for oiling the Hyde Park bandstand.¹⁵⁴

Bands played in the City parks on Sunday afternoons, and the Hyde Park rotunda was one of the venues for these performances during the summer months. In 1923, the Council granted a subsidy of £5 per performance for bands playing in Hyde Park, with a right to take up a collection. In 1925, the band concerts at Hyde Park were reported as being 'the most largely attended, which proves the popularity and convenience of the park.'¹⁵⁵ The bandstand was painted and varnished every two years. In 1926, the work was done by Abbot and Rich for £19-12 -6.¹⁵⁶

In 1922, it was suggested that the toolshed be moved to screen the entrance to the toilets. The following year a new toolshed was requested. In 1932, a drinking fountain was installed in a position fixed by the City gardener and the Town Clerk.¹⁵⁷

In 1953, the City Building Inspector reported that the rotunda was in poor condition. The building was demolished in 1956 and replaced by a new brick shelter costing £800.¹⁵⁸

2.5.9. Playgrounds

By 1921, the cricket pitch in the northeast corner had been removed and the City Gardener suggested that a playground for small children could be provided there, but a Council motion on the matter was negative. J. McCallum-Smith wrote to the Council with regard to laying out a children's playground at the southeast corner, but nothing was done until, in March 1922, the Mount Lawley Branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association offered to equip small playgrounds at various parks in the City, including Hyde Park. Their offer was accepted and the playground equipment, comprising swings, giant strides, horizontal bars and seesaws was installed.¹⁵⁹

The exact location of the playground is not certain, but appears to have been the northeast corner. In October 1922 there was a petition from residents requesting the playground equipment be moved further from the roadway. A new site was selected which again proved unsuitable, as the ground was not level. The City Gardener recommended the southeast or southwest corners of the Park as suitable sites, but the equipment was moved to a position

¹⁵³ City Gardener's Report, 11 October 1915.

¹⁵⁴ City Gardener's Report, 1917-1918 estimates, 12 November 1917.

¹⁵⁵ GPC Minutes, 23 July 1923; City Gardener's Report, 2 November 1925.

¹⁵⁶ GPC Minutes, 15 September 1924, 12 April 1926, 9 March 1928.

¹⁵⁷ GPC Minutes, 22 March, 12 June 1922, 14 May 1923, 19 September 1932.

¹⁵⁸ GPC Minutes, 4 May 1953 & 16 Aug 1954.

¹⁵⁹ GPC Minutes, 30 May & 4 July 1921 & 13 March 1922.

'nearer the centre of the park'. This site was also unsuitable as the ground was not sufficiently level.¹⁶⁰

The City Gardener again recommended the southeast corner as suitable for the playground, estimating that it would cost £80 to level the ground. The General Purposes Committee recommended that a cyclone wire fence be erected on the street alignment in front of the playground to prevent children running onto the road. Whether this was done is not known, but in August 1923, the City Gardener announced that the playground equipment had been removed to the municipal yard as it was considered dangerous in the position it was erected. The equipment was later installed on Crown land at a corner on Wellington Street.¹⁶¹

2.5.10. Staffing

There are numerous mentions to the fact that the City Gardener had only one gardener working for him at Hyde Park. In 1909 he reported that for the 40 acres of the Park, one man was employed for grubbing, clearing and keeping scrub down, pruning trees and the top dressing of grass. One of the gardeners at Hyde Park was John Newell. Newly arrived from Britain in 1912, he was employed as a gardener at Hyde Park and Royal Park, a position he held until his retirement in 1938.¹⁶² A Shanks horse drawn mower, with a 30-inch (76cm) wide blade was purchased for the Park in August 1911. A scythe had previously been used for this work, and continued to be used when occasion demanded.¹⁶³

There was no resident caretaker at Hyde Park, unlike Queen's Gardens, but a caretaker, A. J. Bridges, had been employed in the Park in 1911, and someone may have been employed earlier. The duties of the caretaker were mainly watering, levelling street sweepings and picking up papers. The Royal Park caretaker worked at Hyde Park for six weeks in the winter of 1912. In June 1913, a caretaker was employed from November to the end of May to water the grounds and keep them clear of refuse.¹⁶⁴ A caretaker's residence was planned in 1913, as part of the proposed swimming baths, but this work did not eventuate. J. McCall was appointed caretaker in February 1914.¹⁶⁵

In October 1915, the City Gardener asked for construction of a caretaker's residence as vandalism was on the increase in the Park. It was claimed that the current caretaker did not take a very lively interest in his work and Braithwaite asked the General Purpose Committee to call for a new applicant with a thorough knowledge of gardening. Applications were invited for the position and a plan was submitted for a caretaker's cottage. John Braithwaite stated his intention of living in the cottage himself, although as it was not large enough for his family, the plan was amended with the addition of another room and an 8-foot (2.4 metre) verandah. At this

¹⁶⁰ GPC Minutes, 16 & 26 October, 13 November & 11 December 1922; City Gardener's Report, 7 November 1922.
¹⁶¹ GPC Minutes, 24 January, 12 & 26 February 1923; City Gardener's Report, 12 February & 20 August 1923.
¹⁶² Information provided by Kath Bolan, John Newell's granddaughter.
¹⁶³ City Gardener's Report, 10 November 1908, 16 August 1909, 1 August 1911
¹⁶⁴ City Gardener's Report, 17 June 1913.
¹⁶⁵ GPC Minutes, 9 November 1911, 1 February 1912, 6 August 1912, 23 February 1914.

time, Braithwaite was living in a weatherboard cottage at the City Nursery at 56 Trafalgar Road, East Perth. Tenders were called for construction of the cottage, but none were accepted.¹⁶⁶

In June 1917, a plan for a caretaker's cottage was prepared on a smaller scale and tenders were called for a cottage and public conveniences. In July 1917, construction of the cottage was deferred indefinitely as a house had been rented for the caretaker in the neighbourhood.¹⁶⁷

In 1925, the City Gardener pointed out that the Park had become a very popular resort and that more money should be expended in maintenance as 38 acres was too much for two men to keep in good order.¹⁶⁸ In 1926, the City Gardener requested the purchase of a motor lawn mower, which may have been provided as the following year he requested a lawn sweeper.¹⁶⁹

John Braithwaite died on 3 December 1936 and E. Hatcher was appointed Acting City Gardener.¹⁷⁰ John Braithwaite's son, Henry Braithwaite, who had worked as assistant to his father for many years, was appointed to the position of City Gardener shortly after.

2.5.11. Sport and playing fields

There was constant pressure and requests for use of Hyde Park for sport, in particular cricket and football. In February 1906, when the fence around Lot N152 at the corner of Glendower and William streets was realigned, residents had suggested that the area be put aside for a cricket pitch for young people. In September 1906, Council received a petition from the Church Games Association of St Paul's Church, Charles Street for a playing field, 100 yards by 60 yards (91 metres by 55 metres) in either the northeast or northwest corners of the Park. The field was to be used for cricket in the summer and football in the winter. The Hyde Park Cricket Club asked for a pitch 20 foot by 4 foot (6 metres by 1.2 metres) in the same section of the Park. The City Gardener was concerned that as many as 70 trees and 10 palms would have to be removed to accommodate a pitch on one of the selected sites.¹⁷¹ The result was the construction of a half-length cricket pitch for practice purposes at the corner of Glendower and William streets on the undeveloped former Lot N152, for which the Hyde Park Cricket Club wrote and thanked the Council.¹⁷² In 1909, the Cricket Club asked if grass could be grown in winter on the ground around the pitch, which was a 'compound of black sandy substance'.

The Swan Ladies Hockey Club requested use of the southeast corner in 1908, and the W A Quoit Association requested the establishment of a quoit ground in the Park.¹⁷³ Neither request was granted. Hyde Park Cricket Club were charged five shillings a game on the Hyde Park cricket pitch, and no games could be played on Sunday. There were complaints about the location of the pitch and a cricket ball broke the glass in the front door of the house at 9

¹⁶⁶ City Gardener's Report & GPC Minutes, October 1915.

¹⁶⁷ GPC Minutes, 25 June, 23 July, 6 August 1917.

¹⁶⁸ City Gardener's Annual Report, 1925.

¹⁶⁹ City Gardener's Report, 31 October 1926, 4 July 1927.

¹⁷⁰ PCC Minutes, 3 & 7 December 1936.

¹⁷¹ GPC Minutes, 11 & 22 September 1906; City Gardener's Report, 25 September 1906.

¹⁷² GPC Minutes, 27 February, 22 September, 1 November 1906.

¹⁷³ GPC Minutes, 18 May 1908 & 1 June 1909.

Glendower Street, in October 1908. Netting provided for the cricket ground proved too small and a ball was again hit out of the Park a week later.¹⁷⁴

In July 1909, a petition from householders, ratepayers, cricketers and the North Perth Cricket Club raised the issue of the condition of Hyde Park, stating that with 'the laying out of playing grounds in the north-east portion of the park grounds, the beauty and the popularity of the Park will be beneficially augmented'.¹⁷⁵ A cricket pitch was provided as requested, but by September 1913, the pitch was considered 'dangerously close to the new paths' and was not to be used without nets. A letter was received on 20 October 1913, proposing that police stop the playing of cricket in Hyde Park on Sundays. The practice pitch at the southeast corner on Glendower Street was still in use but the General Purposes Committee recommended in October 1914, that it be removed.¹⁷⁶

After the cricket pitches were removed from the northeast and southeast corners, a pitch was installed on the west side. It is not clear when this was done, but it is known to have been in use in the 1940s.

2.5.12. Other social use

Religious meetings were held in the parks of the City. In 1911, the Salvation Army City Corps Silver Band held meetings at Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons, and H. McKay had permission to give addresses on biblical subjects on Sundays in 1912.¹⁷⁷ When the rotunda was constructed c.1914, it was the venue of Sunday afternoon band recitals.

In the 1910s, as more use was made of the Park, it became necessary to restrict or prohibit some activities. Notice boards warning people against boating, riding bicycles on the footpaths, and damaging trees and shrubs were erected between 1914 and 1916. In 1917, fishing was prohibited, as reduction in fish numbers was threatening to reduce the number of water birds on the lakes.¹⁷⁸ Children in canoes and boats prompted the Council to erect signs prohibiting that activity.¹⁷⁹ Some prohibitions, such as the refusal to allow wildflower seeds to be sown in the park 'due to vandalism', were more difficult to understand.¹⁸⁰

The Returned Soldiers Association held an evening welcome to General Birdwood at Hyde Park in December 1919. Early the following year, the Mt Lawley and North Perth Branch requested permission to erect a Memorial Hall for soldiers at the southeast corner of the Park. It was pointed out that the Crown Grant of Hyde Park vested the reserve in the Council in trust for recreation purposes solely and no portion of a public park should be used for building purposes.¹⁸¹

- 174 PCC Correspondence file, Hyde Park Vol. 1, 15 January 1907, 22 October 1908; GPC Minutes, 19 October 1908, 13 & 20 July 1909.
- 175 PCC Correspondence file, Hyde Park Vol. 1, 1 July 1909; GPC Minutes, 13 July 1909.
- 176 GPC Minutes, 13 & 20 July 1909, 26 April, 8 September & 20 October 1913, 5 October 1914.
- 177 GPC Minutes, 12 September 1911, 20 February 1912.
- 178 City Gardener's Report, 23 Mar 1914, 3 April & 25 September 1916, 3 September 1917.
- 179 PCC Archives, file 22/72 box 11, 1958.
- 180 GPC Minutes, 29 March 1915, correspondence from J. D. Hogg.
- 181 GPC Minutes, 27 December 1919, 20 February 1920.

By the 1920s, when the surrounding residential area, as well as Hyde Park, was well established, the Park was a popular venue for promenading in one's Sunday best, or for picnicking and recreation. Church and charity fetes were held in the Park.

Former residents of the area remember their childhood when Hyde Park was an extension of their backyard. They climbed trees, 'borrowed' the punt to gather duck eggs from among the rose bushes on the western island, and rode their homemade trolleys or tin pedal cars down the hills. One run was down Lake Street and into the Park, pulling up in a pile of sand at the entrance to the causeway, which the 'old gardener' left there for the purpose.

For the very daring, there was the run down the curving pathway from the Vincent-Throssell Street corner, which was particularly steep and required the trolley driver to roll off just before reaching the edge of the lake.¹⁸²

There was the occasional broken limb resulting from an unexpected descent from a tree. In the 1940s, the hardest climb was the pine tree, about 80-100 feet in height, near the Throssell, Glendower, Palmerston street corner. Only three boys are reputed to have climbed it and they had to break off the top branch and bring it down as proof. On Guy Fawke's night, a bonfire was held at the Throssell-Glendower corner. The boys from North Perth and Highgate schools met at the Throssell-Glendower corner after school to play cricket and football. There was a cricket pitch there in the 1940s and after the war, when the Council flattened the area for the pitch with a roller. The North Perth Football Club started from these games.¹⁸³

In 1942, the Air Force women were housed in the Stanford flats on William Street, north of Vincent Street. At night they were often marched down William Street past Hyde Park, and remember the feelings of nervousness as they passed the Moreton Bay Fig trees and pine trees in the dark.¹⁸⁴ American sailors and other servicemen visited the park during the war, often with a girlfriend.¹⁸⁵

Hyde Park had its regular attractions, such as 'Percy Buttons' who performed at the park on Sundays in the southeast corner, where he would perform somersaults, before holding out his hat for donations, and 'Feathers', an elderly lady from the Woodville Home, who wore long gowns and talked to herself. Homeless men asleep with their empty bottles were another occasional sight.¹⁸⁶

In the 1950s, the Park hosted the Boy Scout Annual Club Sports and Relay Race (1953-1958); Assemblies of God open-air Sunday services for children (1954); Full Gospel Church services (1954); Hebrew Evangelisation Society open-air Sunday services (1957); Christadelphian Ecclesia and Sunday school picnic (1959).¹⁸⁷ In 1960, radio controlled model boats were a popular activity, and fishing for fish for the home aquarium from 'Hyde Park's teeming lakes'

¹⁸² Telephone conversations with Pat Ryan and Con Kailis, 17 February 2003.

¹⁸³ Telephone conversations with Con Kailis, 17 February 2003.

¹⁸⁴ Telephone conversations with Gwen McCrae, 17 February 2003.

¹⁸⁵ Written reminiscences of Bob Kerr, 1997, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 33.

¹⁸⁶ Written reminiscences of Bob Kerr, 1997, op cit.

¹⁸⁷ PCC Archives, file 22/72 box 11, correspondence, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 34.

was another.¹⁸⁸ A Chelmsford Street resident suggested an area for trolleys and a roller skating rink in the southeast corner, but both suggestions were dismissed.¹⁸⁹

2.5.13. Unsociable Activities

The Park also saw the seamier side of life, with drinking, vandalism and larrikin behaviour, which have drawn complaints from residents in the area at various times.

2.5.14. Tragedies

There have also been a number of tragedies in Hyde Park. On 1 November 1941, a child feeding the ducks fell into the lake and drowned and in November 1962, there was a similar incident when a three-year-old girl drowned.¹⁹⁰



Historical figure 21.

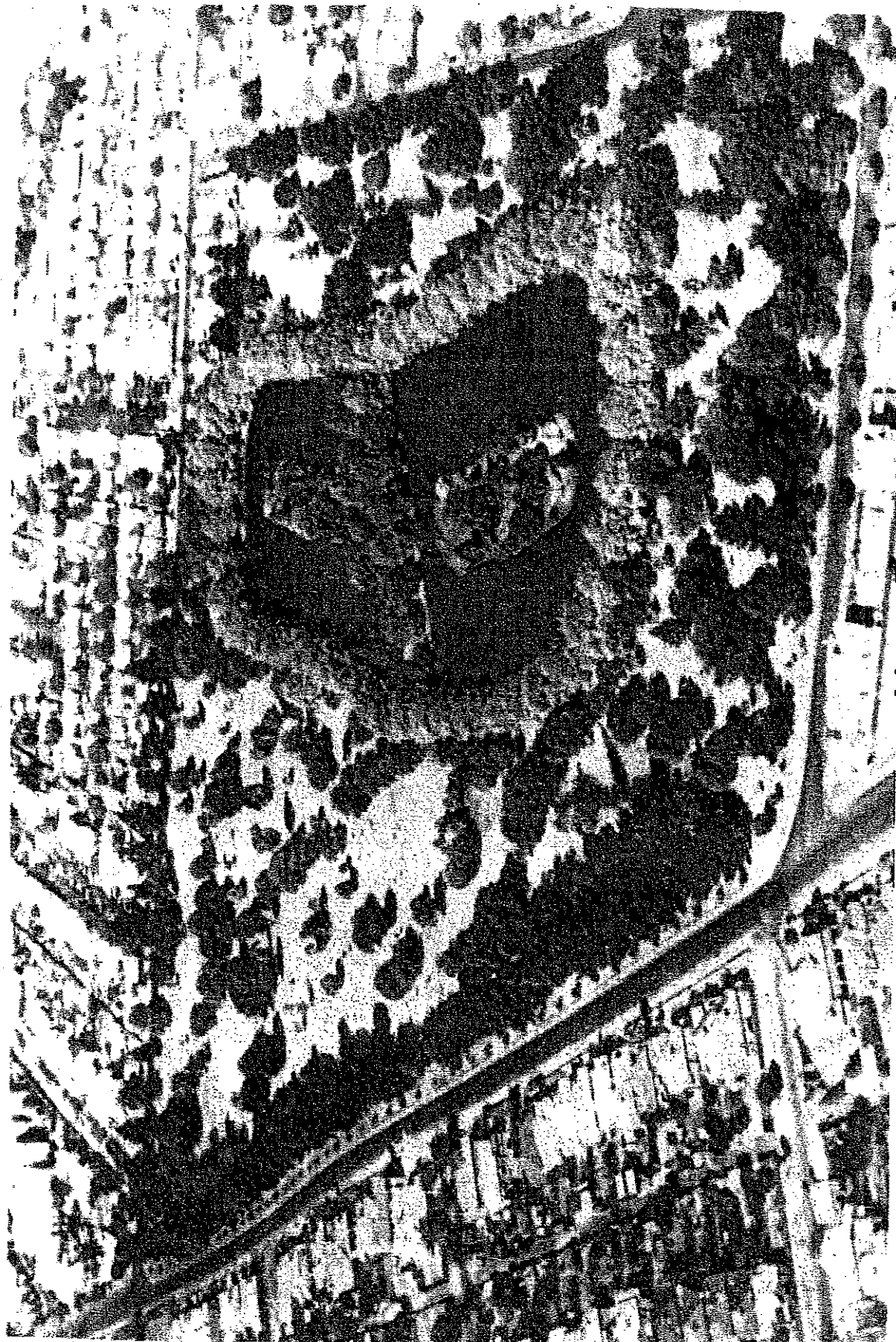
Panorama view of Hyde Park in late autumn, c.1940. The rotunda is just glimpsed through the trees on the right. Undated newspaper image from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite

¹⁸⁸ PCC archives file 1937/70 ref no 22/72 Box 11, correspondence 27 June 1960 & undated *Weekend Mail* article, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 34.

¹⁸⁹ PCC Archives, file 22/72 box 11, correspondence 7 September 1957, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 22-23.

¹⁹⁰ *West Australian*, 1 November 1941; *Sunday Times*, 18 November 1962, p. 1.

Historical figure 22.
Aerial Photograph c. 1938



Historical figure 23.
Aerial Photograph c. 1948



2.6. HYDE PARK: 1960-2003

The retirement of Henry Braithwaite in 1956 represented the end of an era. A Braithwaite had been City Gardener since 1893, a period of fifty-nine years, during the establishment of all Perth's parks and gardens. The father trained the son, and little changed when John Braithwaite died and Henry Braithwaite took over the position in 1936. In 1959, the General Purpose Committee recommended the preparation of a ten-year plan for the future development of Hyde Park. The plan was prepared in 1965.

2.6.1. The New Hyde Park, 1965

The Director of Parks and Gardens, as the City Gardener's position was then titled, stated:

Up until the pre-war years the park was a popular place for a pleasant Sunday afternoon's stroll. With the changing moods of the public this form of use is no longer popular. Today this park is used very sparingly by the public and possibly because of this lack of popularity it has become rather neglected.¹⁹¹

In his 'New Plan for Hyde Park', the Director recommended: a children's playground and water playground at the western end of the park; installation of barbeques on the northern side; picnic facilities on the southern side; elderly citizens rest area in the northeast section, with surrounding shrubs and flowers; a king-size draught board; parking facilities; toilets sited near the playground; new equipment shed on north side; renovation of bitumen paths to a regular width of 12 feet with a low garden kerb; recapping of the stone lake edge on the north side; and, removal of poor specimen trees.¹⁹²

In 1966, the works program was begun, with a plant shed and toilets constructed by E. Ailwood and Son. The Director suggested that the proposed site for the water playground was limited and that the east side of the Park was a more appropriate site. The difficulty in settling on a site held up construction, and it was 1969, before artist and sculptor Peter Geleser was commissioned to design and construct the pools in the proposed design of past, present and future.

The first section gives the rugged effect by using natural water washed stones formed into a cave. Water will drip from the ceiling of the cave onto a mythical monster. This animal and another in the centre of the pool will squirt jets of water at each other as though they are fighting. Water in the base of the pool will be kept to a depth of eight inches. The second pool will have a depth of six inches of water which will be supplied through a series of bowls where it will flow in a heavy veil from the top bowl down to the pool. A model of a small boy will be set on one of the higher bowls. This model will give the appearance of the equipment always being used and represents a boy feeding three porpoises set at various positions in the pool at the base of the bowls. The third pool representing the future has a centre feature of a series of discs set around a pole. Each of these discs will have droplets of water falling into the pool below. The base of the pool is set in a series of steps over which the film of water will be running.¹⁹³

¹⁹¹ PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, Memo, Director Parks & Gardens to Town Clerk, quoted in Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 23.

¹⁹² PCC archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, *West Australian*, 18 August 1965, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 23.

¹⁹³ *West Australian*, 21 June 1966, p. 20.

2.6.2. Water playground

In November 1969, a full model of the water playground was presented to Council for approval. In 1971, the water playground was constructed on the north side of the western lake. The water from the playground circulated through the lake. The playground was a popular place for young children for the next decade. In the summer of 1982-1983, the pools were empty due to the fear of amoebic meningitis. The Council considered modifying the filtration system for the pools, or converting the larger two pools into a rink for roller-skating, skateboards and bikes. The least expensive option, that of demolishing the pools and returning the area to grass, was recommended, but the pools were not removed immediately. In 1985, tenders were called to convert the wading pools into a spray type water play area. A late submission was received and the work undertaken.¹⁹⁴



Historical figure 24.
Water Playground, c.1970

¹⁹⁴ PCC archive file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11; file 210/80 & 109/84; *Community Express*, 'Waiting to Wade', 13 December 1983; file 69/89 box 1174, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 24-26.

2.6.3. Hyde Park Festival

On the Australia Day long-weekend of 27-29 January 1968, the Patch Theatre staged the Hyde Park Holiday, with over 20,000 people attending the community entertainment and arts program. David Cran, Director of Patch Theatre, had previously approached the Department of Parks and Gardens to discuss presenting free theatre to the community, and as a result of discussions, arts and crafts were included in the event. In 1969, the three day Hyde Park Festival took over the Australia Day long weekend event, which attracted 45,000 people. Perth Mayor, Thomas Wardle, was impressed with the event and recommended that Council provide financial support for the following year. As more emphasis was being placed on art, the Advisory Council of the Arts and then the Cultural Development Council of WA became involved.¹⁹⁵

In 1978, the dates for the Hyde Park Festival were changed to coincide with the Festival of Perth. The Australian Arts Council filmed the event that year, when 130,000 people attended. It was the largest community arts festival in Western Australia, and had become one of the most successful outdoor festivals in Australia. The concept was exported to Melbourne and Canberra.¹⁹⁶

The 1979 Festival was held on the March Labour Day long weekend and was used to launch WA Children's Week, as part of the International Year of the Child and the State's 150th anniversary celebrations. The Festival highlighted community arts, especially ethnic cultures, community organisations and children's activities.¹⁹⁷ Concerns were raised about the growing commercial nature of many of the operations and activities at the Festival, and after the 1980 event, the future of the Festival looked doubtful as it was losing money each year, despite its success at drawing crowds, and there were issues of toilet facilities and parking, and complaints from Throssell Street residents regarding use of the street. The Friends of Hyde Park was formed to assist the Hyde Park Festival Council.¹⁹⁸

In 1983, the event staged its most successful year so far, with 200,000 attending, and again in 1984 when 250,000 attended. The event again attracted criticism for commercialism and loss of the original concept of a unique cultural event. 1985 was the last year the Festival was held at Hyde Park. In 1986, the event, renamed the Matilda Festival, was moved to Perry Lakes.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁵ PCC Archives, file 1937-70, no. 22/72 Box 11, 6 February 1968; *West Australian*, 22 May 1968 & 31 January 1969, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p.35-36.

¹⁹⁶ PCC Archives file 22/72 box 11, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 37.

¹⁹⁷ PCC Archives, file 242/79, Report on Hyde Park Festival 1978, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 36.

¹⁹⁸ PCC Archives, file 242/79, *West Australian*, 29 January 1980, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 37-38.

¹⁹⁹ PCC Archives, file 109/84, *Community Express*, 7 February 1984; file 229/85, *West Australian*, 8 March 1985, *Guardian Express*, 12 March 1985, *Daily News*, 14 March 1985, *Western Mail*, 16-17 March 1985, from Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 37-39.

2.6.4. Other events

Examples of events held in Hyde Park since the 1970s, include weddings, family reunions, parties, filming of commercials and documentaries, Christmas parties, annual picnics, field days, open air church services, walkathons, performances, concerts, fetes, fairs and festivals. The Hyde Park Community Fair developed to fill the void left by the relocation of the Hyde Park Festival. This event is held on the March Labour Day long-weekend and draws crowds similar to the Hyde Park Festival in its early years. The Park is still a meeting place for members of the local community, acting as the village square for the older European men who meet there informally to talk.²⁰⁰

2.6.5. Power pylons

In 1974, foundations were laid for the erection of a power line across Hyde Park. The line was the main connection from the northern terminal to James Street in the plan to meet increased demands for power in the CBD. The poles were described by the State Electricity Commission as being 'a new type that was much more attractive than pylons'. The route of the line had been discussed with Council to determine the best solution from an environmental point of view. The argument was that putting the line underground would have damaged some of the Moreton Bay Fig trees and affected the Park playground, while taking the line around the Park would have resulted in a larger number of pylons. The end result was a line across the Park at above tree height, which did not necessitate any tree trimming, or removal, and while the line was, as claimed, mainly out of site from ground level, the pylons were not.²⁰¹ Another alternative, that of taking the line underground around the Park, was not mentioned.

2.6.6. New structures and another upgrade

Barbecues were installed at the Park in 1983, but were soon made inoperable when vandals jammed the coin slots. Toilets for the disabled were constructed in 1984. In 1985, the Council approved the expenditure of \$10,000 for the installation of an additional bore and pump. In 1988, press coverage of social problems in Hyde Park was followed by an inspection by the General Purposes Committee, who recommended urgent upgrading of lighting in the Park.²⁰²

In 1989, Council announced a 1.5 million dollar upgrade for Hyde Park and a committee of local residents was formed to assist in the management of the park. Some of the issues to be addressed in the upgrade included: signage, vehicular entry, water quality of lakes, play equipment, lighting, an amphitheatre, brass commemorative plaques, an Aboriginal structure, the northeast corner, an ornamental bridge, perimeter tree-planting programme, assessment of existing plantings and structures, irrigation system, seating design and parking and traffic management. In February 1990, the Patrons of Hyde Park was established, their aim being 'to assist Council in the improvement, development and use of Hyde Park for the benefit of the

²⁰⁰ Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 36-40, quoting various PCC Archive files.

²⁰¹ *West Australian*, 19 February 1974, p. 3.

²⁰² PCC Archives, file 69/89 box 1174; PCC archive file 210/80; *Daily News*, 1 November 1988, Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p.p. 26-27.

public and park users'.²⁰³ One of the members of the group, Ms Bracks-Burns, was appointed to compile historical data to develop plaques documenting the history of the Park.²⁰⁴

By the end of 1991, a turbine pump was installed for the watering of the park and 21 new light poles were installed. It had previously been recommended that a sculptor be commissioned to create a bronze monument to the indigenous occupiers of Hyde Park, but in 1991, the General Purposes Committee reallocated the funds to the higher priority work of improving water quality. A report on the water quality of the lakes was commissioned.

In 1992, the brick shelter constructed in 1956 to replace the original rotunda was demolished. It had been in a poor state of internal repair, and although it provided shelter it offered no views of the Park and was used by itinerants for sleeping and other groups for drinking. Because it was considered important to provide a shelter for the public it was recommended that a structure be provided that gave views of the Park. A small Victorian style gazebo was subsequently built. In July 1992, Des Barwell, a Glendower Street resident, sponsored two park bench seats.

The Dames & Moore *Hyde Park Lakes Water Quality Study, 1991*, recommended: that the lakes should be deepened and accumulated bed sediment removed; geotechnical, chemical and hydrological investigations be undertaken prior to dredging; deepening of the lakes should be undertaken within a specific strategy; reduction of sediments, subsequent nutrients and heavy metals be achieved by increased street cleaning, preference for grass rather than paved verges, and reduction in use of fertilisers and detergents; monitoring of the sources of heavy metal contamination; and other management issues, including the planting of paper bark species on the islands to induce water staining, regular litter cleaning of the lakes, reduction of leaf litter entering the lakes and the introduction of aquatic flora and fauna after dredging.²⁰⁵

Foundation Pile Services were appointed to undertake the dredging, following testing of the sediment as recommended. Several reports on the sediment and its acceptability for removal and use in landfill were obtained.²⁰⁶

2.6.7. The last decade

The *Hyde Park Plan of Management* was completed in 1993, after two years of public consultation and in association with the Patrons of Hyde Park.²⁰⁷ The Patrons of Hyde Park remained active in issues involving the Park, including upgrading of the water playground, path realignment and resurfacing, sewerage and toilet upgrade, perimeter tree planting and general health of the water, grounds and wildlife. The group basically advocates no development in the Park, retention of what is there, and replacement of trees that have to be removed.

The Town of Vincent was formed on 1 July 1994, with the breaking up of the City of Perth, and Hyde Park came under the jurisdiction of the new Town. The centenary of Hyde Park was

²⁰³ PCC file April 1989-February 1991, Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', pp. 26-28.
²⁰⁴ Gray, Laura, with Viska, John & O'Mara, Gillian, 'Heritage Assessment for Hyde Park, draft report', for Town of Vincent, June 1998, p. 27.
²⁰⁵ Dames & Moore, *Hyde Park Lakes Water Quality Study, 1991*, Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 27.
²⁰⁶ PCC file October 1991-November 1992, Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 27.
²⁰⁷ Gray, Laura, 'Heritage assessment for Hyde Park', p. 28; Bouma, George & Powe, Anthony, op cit.

celebrated in 1997, and heritage research was commissioned by the Town of Vincent, which culminated in a history walk of the park, held in July and a horticultural walk held in December. Seven pine trees removed from the Vincent Street boundary in 1997 were replaced with Jacaranda and Illawarra Flame trees, and four tortoise ramps were installed in each lake.

In 1995, the Town of Vincent undertook a Municipal Heritage Inventory as required under the Heritage Act, 1990. Hyde Park was entered on the Inventory with a category 1 management rating. In 1998, a heritage assessment for Hyde Park was commissioned by the Heritage Council of WA and prepared by landscape architect Philip Palmer. The result of the assessment was the entry of Hyde Park on the State Register of Heritage Places. The Town of Vincent commissioned their own more detailed Heritage Assessment in 1998, prepared by Laura Gray with John Viska and Gillian O'Mara. The outcome of these assessments and heritage registrations was the commissioning of a conservation plan for the Park in 2002, to direct future work on the Reserve.

While this report was being prepared a mature Port Jackson Fig was removed from the northern side of the park and replaced by a bed of Jarrah trees and Australian native plants. This tree was removed because it was in poor condition and unlikely to recover. In December 2002 it was noted that two Port Jackson Fig Trees in Hyde Park were displaying signs of rapid decline, the condition of the northern tree was particularly severe. These trees were inspected by an arboriculturist and found to be suffering an infestation of Fig Psyllid *Mycopsylla ficis*. Infestations of Fig Psyllid can result in rapid defoliation and death and similar infestations have occurred elsewhere in the Town of Vincent, the metropolitan and in the Eastern States. In December an arboricultural consultant recommended spraying with Trichoshield, mulching the trees and monitoring their recovery. Vascular injections, the usual treatment for such a condition, could not be carried out due to the extent of defoliation.²⁰⁸ The northern tree did not recover and it was removed in March 2003. The southern tree is still being monitored.

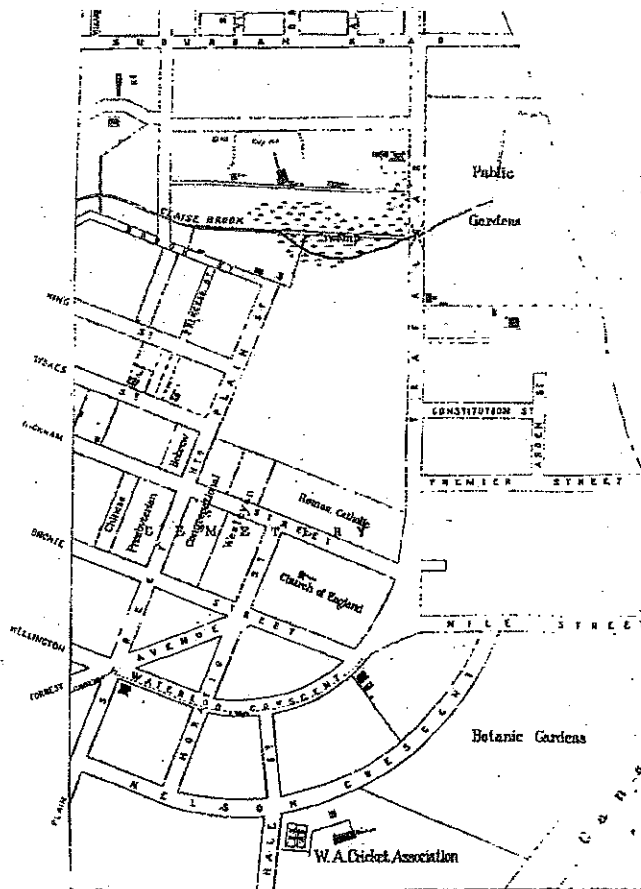
²⁰⁸ Minutes of Town of Vincent Council Meeting, 17 December 2002 and 9 April 2003

2.7. PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH HYDE PARK

2.7.1. The City Plant Nursery

Victoria Park gardens had been gazetted and developed as a Reserve for public gardens in the late 1870s, and in June 1899, Council applied to the Government for a lease or grant of the site for nursery purposes. It is not known under what criterion Council was allowed use of the place, but the following month they authorised construction of a six-foot (180cm) picket fence around the site and the connection of a water supply for the nursery.²⁰⁹

The City Gardener, John Braithwaite, lived in a weatherboard cottage on the site from 1896 to his death in 1936. It has not been ascertained for certain, but the cottage may have been the caretaker's cottage for the Victoria Park gardens. The nursery provided much of the floral stock for Perth City Council gardens. In the early years, trees were purchased from commercial nurseries in Perth, but later many of the trees came from the Hamel State Tree Nursery. Because of the poor location of the City Nursery, it was suggested as early as 1912 that the plant houses be relocated to Hyde Park, which was considered a more suitable site with sufficient space available. The cost of the move was probably the deciding factor in the Nursery remaining at East Perth, but the matter continued to be raised at various times:



Historical figure 25.

Victoria Park public gardens at the eastern end of Claisebrook that became the City Nursery, and the Clay pits that became Queen's Gardens. PWD Sewerage Plans, SROWA CONS 5647.

²⁰⁹ PCC Minutes, 15 June & 31 July 1899.

...the attractiveness of every open space within the municipality depends to some extent upon the work performed at the City nurseries by Mr. Braithwaite and one assistant... [The nursery is situated] on a relatively small area close to the gas-works, on the bank of the river just above the Causeway. The place is too small, exposed, and quite unsuitable for the purpose...The exposed nature of the position was vividly illustrated in 1915, when a violent storm demolished one of the shade houses and wrought great damage to the fine specimens it contained. The shade houses were erected by Mr. Braithwaite without cost to the Council (there is never any money for these things) and have since provided shelter as adequate as the position will admit, for some of the finest palms and ferns to be seen in Western Australia. There are, too, a couple of hothouses...

...it should be said that there is urgent need for their removal to more spacious and suitable surroundings. On their efficiency depends the gracious beauty and effective maintenance of Perth's parks and gardens, and it is unfair, alike to the City gardener and to the public, whom he serves, that he should be asked to do the most highly specialised of his many tasks under totally unsuitable conditions. There is in Hyde Park ample space for the erection of shade and hot houses, and the conditions there are ideal for the work. It would not cost a very great deal of money to erect such buildings there, and to transfer existing specimens into them. The gain would be altogether disproportionate to the amount necessary... A most interesting spot, this nursery, but the sooner it is moved to Hyde Park the better ...²¹⁰

In 1925, the nursery contained two thousand pansy plants, many of which went to Queen's Garden, winter-flowering sweet peas grown for seed, pandanus, hibiscus *cooperii* and South Seas poinsettias. It was also the home of what was believed to be the biggest rose bush in Australia, measuring 30 feet across and producing hundreds of flowers each season. Descriptions of it were published in several overseas horticultural journals.²¹¹

Palms and other established plants in pots were kept at the City Nursery to provide instant greenery for civic events, and the City of Perth and Electricity and Gas Department offices were decorated with plants from the Nursery. On the afternoon of the 6 April 1934, a fire at the City Nursery destroyed most of the palms and pot plants, as well as a Leyland truck and Ford car owned by the Council. The fire was caused by a spark from a neighbouring laundry copper fire igniting the brushwood roof of the Nursery shade houses. The plants were insured and many were eventually able to be replaced.²¹²

2.8. PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH HYDE PARK

2.8.1. John George Braithwaite

J. G. Braithwaite was born in 1865 at Hornby, Yorkshire. His father was head forester on the Hornby Grange Estate, the property of the Horsfall family. At the age of fourteen, Braithwaite entered into a five-year apprenticeship in horticulture. In 1884, he was in charge of twenty-one men engaged in laying out hard tennis courts on an excavated site. In 1889, he migrated to Melbourne, and worked as head gardener at various private estates near the city.

²¹⁰ *West Australian*, 'Thirty years of service: Perth City gardener', 29 August 1925, p. 6.

²¹¹ *West Australian*, 'Thirty years of service', op cit.

²¹² *West Australian*, 12 April 1934 & 23 January 1937, articles from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.



Historical figure 26.

John George Braithwaite, *Municipal and Road Board Gazette*, 25 December 1936, p. 21.
From family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

Late in 1895, the Perth City Council called for applications for municipal gardener, and Mr. Braithwaite was chosen from a number of applicants to fill the position. He took up his duties on 21 January 1896. At the time of his appointment, Weld and Russell squares were sand patches with a few old blue gums, and most of the other reserves were non-existent.

...it is possible to characterise Mr. Braithwaite as the founder and fashioner under a long series of elected bodies, of the pleasant places of Perth. He has been responsible for guiding the council's policy in the development of parks and gardens, and all the actual planting and laying out has been done under his supervision. The result speaks for itself, and no amount of criticism can detract from the fact that, more than any other single man, he has left the impress of his personality on the city. Beauty and the evidences of constructive planning will remain for generations to come a monument to his labours...²¹³

The City's gardening workforce had increased to fifty by the mid 1930s, at which time the City Gardener was responsible for about the same number of parks and reserves.

Apart from his gardening duties, the late Mr. Braithwaite played an important part in developing a love of horticulture amongst the people, and his services were largely availed of in the capacity of judge by numerous horticultural societies.²¹⁴

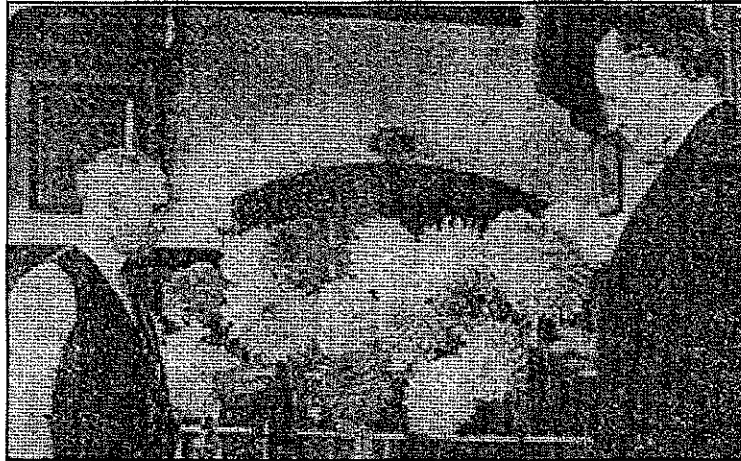
John Braithwaite died in his sleep on 3 December 1936, aged 71. He was survived by his wife Sarah, daughter Edith and sons Victor (Duke), John George (Dick) and Henry Norman (John), and four grandchildren, Fay, John, Warwick and Joan.

On 16 December 1936, Perth City Council agreed that one of the unnamed open spaces in the city be named Braithwaite Park, and subsequently a reserve on Scarborough Beach Road in Mount Hawthorn was so named. The Nedlands' Returned Soldier's League held a garden competition each year for Nedlands residents, and in 1937, Sarah Braithwaite presented the Braithwaite Memorial Trophy to the returned serviceman with the best garden in Nedlands. The

²¹³ *West Australian*, 'Thirty years of service', op cit.

²¹⁴ 'City Gardener dies in sleep', 3 December 1936, newspaper article from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

winner was George Sharp, of 13 Webster Street. The judges of the Nedlands garden competition in 1937 were Henry Braithwaite and L. Brigatti.²¹⁵ In 1938, W. Jorgenson, of 91 Broadway, won the Memorial Trophy.²¹⁶



Historical figure 27.

John Braithwaite (left) and his son Henry, judging dahlias at the 1934 Horticultural Society Show, Perth Town Hall. Newspaper article, 12 April 1934, from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

2.8.2. Henry Norman Braithwaite

Henry Braithwaite, youngest son of Perth City Gardener John George Braithwaite, undertook an apprenticeship in horticulture with his father. He was the Assistant City Gardener at the time of his father's death on 3 December 1936 and was appointed City Gardener on 15 December 1936.²¹⁷ He was also a qualified engineer. He continued to manage the parks and gardens in the same manner as his father had done until his retirement in 1956.

2.8.3. John Newell

John Newell arrived in Western Australia in 1912, from Britain, and found employment as a gardener at Hyde Park and Royal Park. He lived in Morley and rode to work by bicycle each day. He worked as a gardener at Hyde Park until his retirement in 1938. John Newell died in 1946 and his ashes were scattered on the Canna lily garden at Hyde Park, which had been his particular pride and joy.²¹⁸

²¹⁵ *West Australian*, 22 May & October 1937, articles from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

²¹⁶ *West Australian*, 1938, undated article from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

²¹⁷ *West Australian*, 'Late City Gardener: Son appointed to succeed him', 16 December 1936, article from family scrapbook, courtesy Warwick Braithwaite.

²¹⁸ Information provided by Kath Bolan, John Newell's granddaughter.

2.9. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The earliest established park in Perth was the Stirling Gardens, which was the first botanic garden of the colony, used for plant acclimatisation and horticulture. Stirling Gardens in its present form was developed after 1923, when the place was handed to the control of the State Garden Board. Heavy plantings were undertaken at that time, to provide a barrier between the bustle of the City and the dignity of the Supreme Court.²¹⁹

The reclamation of the Swan River foreshore in the 1880s to 1910s created Esplanade Reserve, Barrack Square, Supreme Court Gardens and Langley Park. Supreme Court Gardens were developed from 1923, after being passed to the control of the State Garden Board, and were designed by the Chief Government Gardener, H. Campbell. His design was described as 'fresh simplicity', comprising lawns with garden beds planted with shrubs and trees. The sound shell added in 1956 has made the Supreme Court Gardens a well-used and popular venue for outdoor performance, including the annual Carols by Candlelight.²²⁰

Esplanade Reserve and Langley Park were recreation reserves provided with playing fields. Plantings were confined to the perimeter on the street verge. Esplanade Reserve had tennis courts, bowling greens and a cricket pitch for many years. Langley Park was Perth's first airstrip, and has been used for weekend sports for schoolchildren, parking for WA Cricket Ground fixtures and other events and, since 1991, as the venue for Rally Australia.²²¹

The City's Squares, Weld, Russell, Delhi and Barrack, were developed from the late 1890s, during the same period that Hyde Park was being established. Barrack Square was placed under the control of the State Garden Board in 1923, by which time its palms were already well established. Barrack Square had a Union Jack layout of paths and plantings, in keeping with the more formal layout of Squares.²²²

Robertson Park, developed on the former Lake Henderson in the late 1920s, had a resident caretaker from 1928 to 1992, whose main job was to maintain the thirty-four tennis courts established there. Robertson Park had other playing fields, with some plantings used as screening between the various areas.²²³

Hyde Park and Queen's Gardens were developed at the same time, overseen by the City Gardener. They reflect an adaptation to their respective sites, and the names chosen for them in 1899 are illustrative of the different approaches taken to their development - one a Park and the other a Garden. Queen's Gardens was a makeover of a former brickworks with the clay pits forming the ponds. The ponds dictated the style to a large extent, with weeping willows, water lilies, rustic bridges and flower gardens. Unlike Hyde Park, with its open spaces, Queen's Gardens has always been fenced and gated, with a definite feel of the 'secret garden' about it, enhanced by the mature perimeter plantings on the 3.5 ha site. The fences and gates were a

- ²¹⁹ Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd., *Stirling Gardens, Perth: Conservation Plan*, for the City of Perth, December 1997.
- ²²⁰ Heritage & Conservation Professionals, *Supreme Court Conservation Plan*, 1998.
- ²²¹ Heritage assessment documentation, *Esplanade Reserve, Place 3850 & Langley Park, Place 3346*.
- ²²² Heritage assessment documentation, *Barrack Square, Place 4031*.
- ²²³ Hocking planning & Architecture, *Lee Hop's Garden, Lee Hop's Cottage & Halvorsen Hall, Robertson Park North Perth: Conservation Plan*, for Town of Vincent, December 2000.

requirement made of the City in order to retain the Peter Pan statue, donated in 1929, and keep it safe from vandalism.²²⁴

As with Hyde Park, there were few changes in the first sixty year history of Queen's Gardens, largely due to the influence of the two Braithwaite's, but some changes have occurred from about 1965, with a smoothing out of the landscape and some later plantings, not all appropriate to the style. Queen's Gardens had a resident caretaker until 1999. In December 1999, the Perth City Band was allowed the use of the place after vacating their purpose built home, Halvorsen Hall, in Robertson Park, which was then in the Town of Vincent.²²⁵

2.10. HERITAGE LISTINGS

2.10.1. Register of Heritage Places – Heritage Council of Western Australia

Hyde Park was placed on the Permanent Register of Heritage Places on 30 October 1998.

2.10.2. Register of Heritage and Cultural Aboriginal Sites – Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia

Hyde Park is entered on the Interim Register of Heritage and Cultural Aboriginal Sites.

2.10.3. Municipal Heritage Inventory – Town of Vincent

The place was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory with a recommendation that it be considered for inclusion in the State Register of Heritage Places. The Municipal inventory also recommends that *Hyde Park* be included in the Town Planning Scheme of the Town of Vincent. The Municipal Inventory was adopted on 27 November 1995.

2.10.4. Classified List – National Trust of Australia (WA)

The place has not been assessed for classification by the National Trust of Australia (WA).

2.10.5. Register of the National Estate – Australian Heritage Commission

The Australian Heritage Commission has not assessed the place.

²²⁴ Heritage assessment documentation, *Queen's Gardens*, Place 4572.

²²⁵ Information provided by John Bentley, Perth City Band member, librarian and historian.