

SMITH'S LAKE RESERVE, NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Smith's Lake Reserve
Other names	Danjanberup
Place type	Urban Park

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	11441
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	31 Kayle St
Locality	North Perth
Survey	
Vol/folio	
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The wetland is an area of pleasing aesthetic contrast to the surrounding residential development. It features both Postwar Arcadian and Functional styles of landscaping and planting.</p> <p>Smith's Lake is associated with the original wetlands of the Perth metropolitan area which were used for market gardening and dairying prior to drainage.</p> <p>The place is associated with the community group the Smith's Lake Precinct Group which lobbied for and actively participated in the rehabilitation of the wetland.</p> <p>The place has social value for the members of the community who attend the reserve for passive recreation.</p>

PLACE USE

Original use	Park/Reserve
Current use	Park/Reserve
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1999; 2002
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical description	The landscaping is functional in the active recreational areas, with grassed areas and selected tree plantings, and arcadian in the passive recreational areas, with its simple palette of grass, shrubs, informal tree plantings and simple functional built elements.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Smith's Lake was known to Aboriginals as Danjanberup. Farming, market gardening and dairying were carried out around its edge following European Settlement in 1829. It originally covered a larger area than it does today, but in the 1920's the Claisebrook drain was extended and the amount of surface water decreased.

Between 1914 and 1937, the City of Perth acquired much of the former lake areas for redevelopment as parks and recreation areas. However, Smith's Lake was the last to be fully developed. It remained as 'swamp land and high reeds' (Harold Lee) and the area was still being used for market gardening in the 1950s. John Gooley had a house and a market garden on the edge of the lake and south of his was another. There was also one where Barnett Place is now and a fourth in nearby Howlett Street. George Gooley, one of John's sons, ran a vegetable delivery round in the area and local schoolboys often helped him on Sundays. The vegetables were carried in a four - wheeled canvas covered cart, which was horse drawn. The lake itself was used as a rubbish tip, and after the Second World War it contained the remains of rusting wartime tanks and Bren-gun carriers.

John Gooley's land was resumed by the Perth City Council in 1959, and the area was subject to a planning scheme in the 1960s. The Council wanted to provide a swimming pool, cultural centre, kindergarten and infant welfare centre on the land, but that plan proved too costly. Instead, the Lake was filled and subdivided, again by dumping rubbish there and subdivided, creating 76 residential and 10 commercial lots as well as a recreation reserve.

The reserve was named after Charles Veryard, a Perth City Councillor from 1927 to 1964, and Mayor of Perth from 1964 until his death in 1967. Charles Veryard Oval became the home of the North Perth Cricket Club and Old Modernians Hockey Club with facilities, such as the change rooms and social rooms, established for their use.

A Smiths' Lake Precinct Group was formed in 1997 and rehabilitation of the lake began in 1999 through the efforts of this group. They were assisted by corporate and local government funding and help with replanting came from the wider community, including a group of North Perth Primary School children. Further subdivision occurred in 2000 when the Vincent Council's former Works Depot in Richmond Street was subdivided (the depot was relocated to Osborne Park the same year).

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 2002, further work was carried out in the area, changing it back to a more natural setting, and art works were added plus recordings of interviews from the Vincent Local History Centre. The work was the first stage of the development of a Wetlands Trail linking all the wetlands in the Vincent area with Banks Reserve on the river in Mount Lawley.

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Social Services: General Social Services	
Associations	Smith's Lake Precinct Group	Community Activism Group
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



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