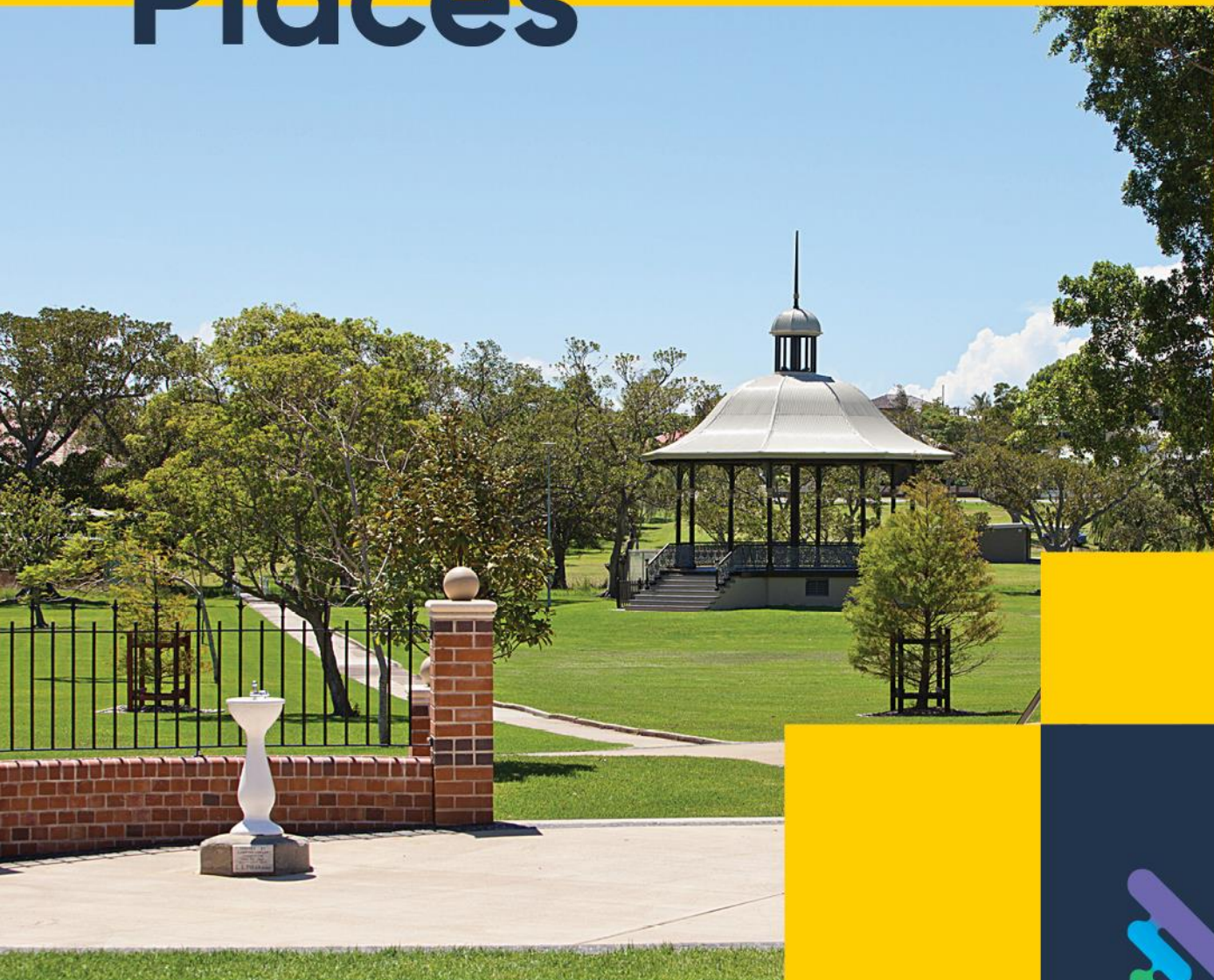


Strategic Plan and
Plans of Management

Heritage Places

2000



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City of
Newcastle

Amendment History

Version	Adoption Date	Details	Finalised
1	5 December 2000	Adoption of new Heritage Places Strategic Plan and Plans of Management 2000	December 2000
2	30 July 2002	Inclusion of three parcels of land – Fletcher Park, Wallsend Rotunda Park and Wallsend Tramway Park.	30 July 2002
3	21 April 2009	Merewether Baths site removed from this Plan of Management. A notice was placed in the newspaper on 16 May 2009 The Merewether Beach Reserves Plan of Management is now the adopted Plan of Management for Merewether Beach Reserves.	16 May 2009
4	24 June 2014	Changes to categorisation of Gregson Park and the inclusion of a new purpose for leasing at Gregson Park	15 August 2014
5	23 November 2021	Changes to Plan of Management and categorisation for Gregson Park Hamilton following preparation of Gregson Park Masterplan	23 November 2021

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Part I



The Basis for Strategic Management

Introduction

Key Issues

Vision

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Objectives, Strategies and Strategic
Actions

Location Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

Newcastle is a city with a rich European and indigenous heritage. Prior to the arrival of the first European settlers, the area had a significant Aboriginal population whose presence is evident in archaeological sites as well as present day Aboriginal communities.

The present city had its early beginnings as a convict settlement and grew rapidly as a port exporting timber, locally mined coal and agricultural produce. More recently, it has hosted major shipbuilding and steel industries and ,as these have declined, Newcastle has begun to develop its tourist and cultural industries.

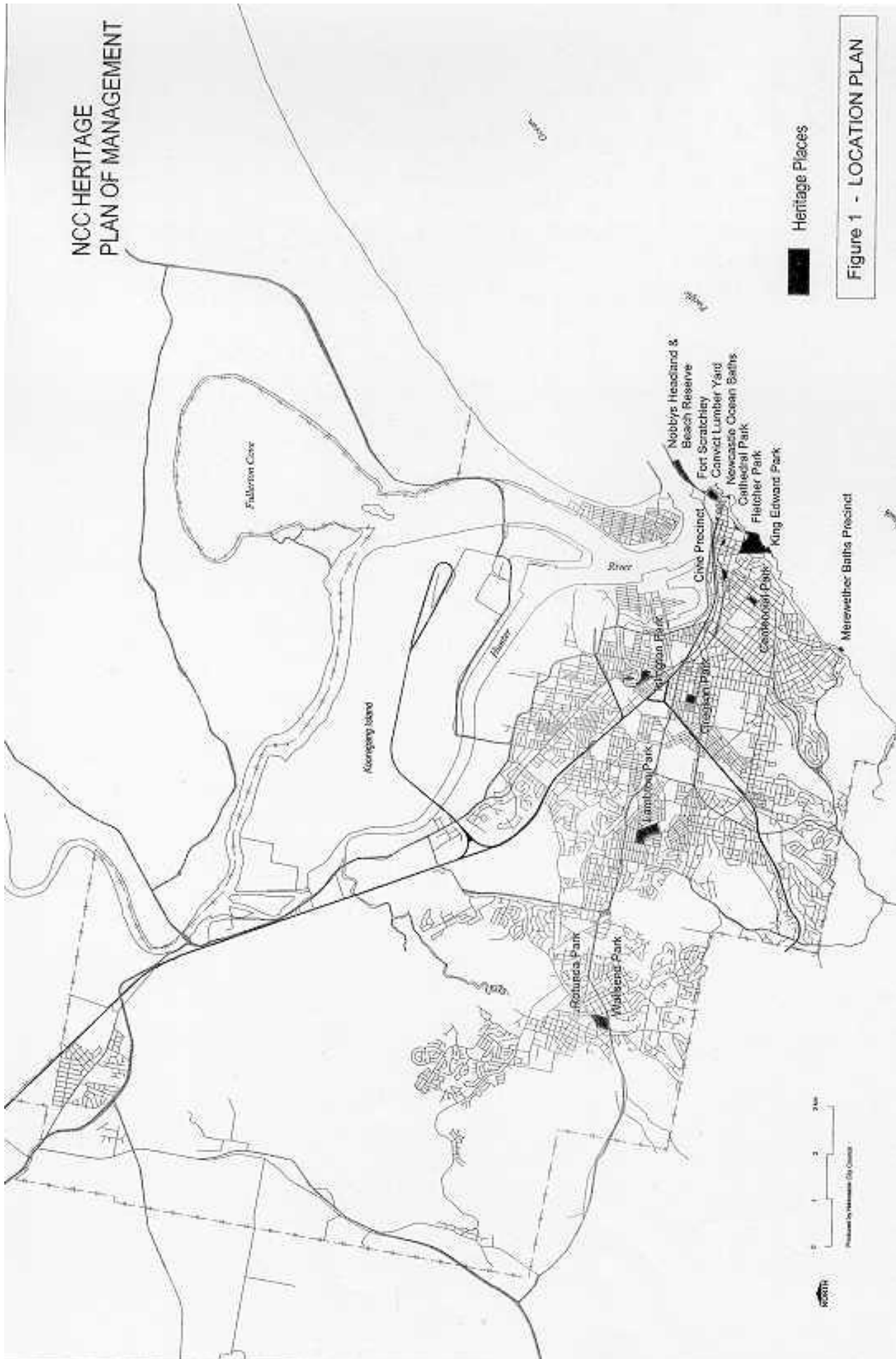
Newcastle is fortunate that much of its city centre is intact, compared with other Victorian/Edwardian cities whose centres have been demolished for office development since the 1960s. Its hilly terrain, with the Cathedral and Forts' preserved silhouettes dominating the city, provides the resident and visitor with a unique series of vistas still largely to scale.

There is strong local interest and pride in the heritage of the city and this offers an important resource to the Council's efforts to conserve and enhance the city's environment. The Heritage Places Strategic Plan is one of these efforts.

The Heritage Places Strategic Plan establishes Council's objectives for the management of places which are in Council's care and whose predominant significance is their heritage. The Strategic Plan has been prepared in consultation with community groups and with Council's Heritage Places Advisory Committee which identified 14 areas of community land as heritage places. These places are: Civic Precinct (comprising Civic Park, Church Walk Park and Christie Place), King Edward Park, Gregson Park (including the triangle road reserve at Tudor Street), Nobbys Headland, Newcastle Ocean Baths, Cathedral Park, Islington Park, Convict Lumber Yard, Lambton Park, Centennial Park, Wallsend Park (excluding Upper Reserve), Fletcher Park, Wallsend Rotunda Park and Wallsend Tramway Park.

Part I of this document sets out Council's vision for these heritage places and guiding principles for their management. Council's overall objectives, broad strategies and priorities for action are also listed.

Part II of this document details the heritage significance and current uses of each of the 14 heritage places. It also identifies specific issues to be addressed at each location and the actions to be undertaken in the relevant individual Plan of Management.



2 KEY ISSUES

Everyday decisions as well as those about significant changes should be taken by Council within an established and well considered policy framework and this is one of the prime purposes of a Strategic Plan. Listed below are some of the critical issues for Newcastle's heritage places which this Strategic Plan endeavours to address.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE TO THE CITY

The first and most fundamental issue to be addressed is the meaning and relative importance that the City's heritage places will have in Council's overall purpose for the city.

This question was particularly important in the last years of the twentieth century when there was the opportunity to mark the Millennium by celebrating the resonance of the past as part of the development of our civic culture and the social and economic sustainability of the city in the future.

Council's approach:

Newcastle City Council will make economic and cultural planning and development decisions based on the principle that heritage places are integral to the city's identity and contribute a rich resource with which to shape the future.

THE VALUE OF URBAN OPEN SPACE

The heritage places in this Strategic Plan are also open spaces. Urban open spaces do not just benefit those who visit them. They benefit everyone – visitors, residents, landowners, those aware of the aesthetic qualities of city spaces and those with a sense of pride in their city. Urban open spaces with heritage significance are doubly important – contributing to current lifestyles, visual aesthetics, community health, civic identity and sense of place.

Urban open space is at a premium in Australian cities and is often under threat. Open spaces are often the first candidates for consideration when new developments are being considered and the tendency to place structures – car parks, stadia, clubhouses, substations, etc on 'unbuilt' land is a pervasive phenomenon which threatens a city's stock of open space and its integrity and quality.

Council's approach:

Council's management of Newcastle's heritage places will respect and protect the integrity of urban open space.

HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Conspicuous by its absence is documentation of the indigenous heritage of places now owned by Council as community land with heritage significance.

It is believed that the Cathedral Park area was chosen as a cemetery because there was an Aboriginal graveyard close by, and Islington Park was the site of the last Aboriginal corroboree in the city area. The positioning of other heritage places suggests that long before their European uses at least some of them had established and important indigenous uses and meanings.

Council's approach:

Council will consult the Awabakal Cooperative about the inclusion of information and statements of cultural significance for indigenous peoples in interpretation maps, documents and other material about these heritage places.

LINKS, CONNECTIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Some of the heritage places covered by this Strategic Plan are within sight of each other (Nobbys, Shepherds Hill, Obelisk Park) and these sight lines are in and of themselves significant. In other places, the connections made by creeks, ridges and major routes have meanings referring to various relationships at different times. Finally some places are connected by common elements – the time they were established, the philosophy behind the shape and style of their establishment, their various uses or the person who built or laid them out, their former owners etc.

These common linking elements make sense of apparent diversity and difference. The provision of information about these links and connections enhances visitor and resident appreciation and understanding of the cultural heritage of the city.

Council's approach:

Council recognises that heritage places require interpretation and wherever possible this should be on site for casual encounter by the visitor as well as in maps, plans and documents.

Council will allocate funds for on site interpretation.

CONSISTENT CARE AND RESPECT

Newcastle's heritage places show some lack of consistency in their care and maintenance. This is evident in the lines of powerlines across some parks, the proliferation of plaques and signs, uncoordinated fencing and perimeter treatments, unaesthetic toilet blocks, substations and clubhouses and unimaginative, unsympathetic or absent landscaping treatments.

Heritage places are not museums. They continue to have important new uses (education, employment, tourism and cultural development for example). However, their value as heritage places can be enhanced or blighted by the way utilitarian services are provided, structures and landscapes are designed, and uses are permitted or limited.

Council's approach:

Council will protect the integrity of heritage places on community land and take responsibility for the respectful transmission of the city's heritage for the education, information, cultural identity and enjoyment of future generations.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Newcastle City has a number of cultural icons (Nobby's Headland and the Cathedral in particular) and Council has already made an investment in its burgeoning heritage precinct. This is evident in the Honeysuckle Development, the conservation of the Convict Lumber Yard, the appointment of a Heritage Officer and the preparation of a number of plans and strategies including this one.

However, there are still many opportunities for Council to increase the benefits to the city's cultural industries economy through improvements to the city's image and tourist capacity. This could be done by focusing on the major heritage places (especially the five convict sites) in the city, turning these into assets which enhance the city landscape, its identity and cultural environment, its tourist opportunities and resident's pride in their city. Such investment would have significant spin offs for the city's business turnover as well as increasing the city's rate base.

Council's approach:

Council will invest in the economic, cultural and tourist development of the city.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

There are a number of access issues to be addressed in managing Council's heritage places.

Public access to community land

All the heritage places listed in this Strategic Plan are on community land or Crown land or other government land in the care of the Council. However, some facilities at these places have exclusive use lease arrangements which restrict public access to all or a significant part of the place (see details of exclusive use in **Part II**).

On the one hand, public access to facilities needs to be carefully managed in order to ensure the safety of visitors, the security of equipment and the preservation of amenity. On the other hand it is difficult to justify the alienation of community land or heritage places from public access particularly where access is exclusive to members of small and/or declining clubs. A balance needs to be struck between these two concerns so that community use of a facility on publicly owned land is optimised.

Leases and licences

Alienation of community or Crown land on Council's heritage places is often exacerbated through lease arrangements. Leases create an interest in land even though it is community or crown land and this interest tends to be increased by long association and the lessee's investment of time and money into a facility on the land.

An interest in land can easily become a sense of ownership which can be intensified where a club has exclusive use of a facility for its members and sets a number of financial or other hurdles to joining the club or to joining as a full and active member of the club.

In some instances it may be appropriate to address this issue by replacing leases with licences. A licence to operate and manage a facility does not create an interest in the land and the licence and its terms can be regularly reviewed so that Council can ensure that the quality of the facility and service are maintained. Whether a facility on community land, or on Crown land in the care of Council, is operated by licence or lease, the terms of that licence or lease should encourage sympathetic multi-use of the facility through appropriate 'guest' arrangements so as to be consistent with Council's guiding principles. As facilities on community land are refurbished, bar and gaming areas should be restricted to clearly defined areas so as to optimise the opportunity for people under 18 to use the facility.

Other alienating uses of community land

Car parks on community land solve immediate and practical problems but in effect alienate the land from other public uses. Concrete channels for creek beds also alienate parts of parks by making the creeks virtually impossible to cross even when dry. They form a barrier and turn a natural environment which could have been a landscape feature (with flood retention features) into an unusable and unattractive impediment. Careless location of work sheds, toilet blocks, compost heaps etc also have similar effects.

Equity of Access

Research into visitors to parklands suggests that parks tend to be used by younger people more than older people, men more than women, able bodied people more than people with a disability, and people with dogs. Although bowling clubs, where viable, help redress this imbalance, strategies are needed to provide greater equity of access. Groups needing special attention are people with a disability, women and older people. Assistance may include lighting and landscapes appropriate to defensible space, specific access facilities and landscape settings for people with disabilities, and restrictions on the exercise of dogs off leash.

Equity of access through equity of administration

Equity of access also requires equity in the administration of facility management on community land. The

terms of the lease or licence should reflect Council's social equity policies.

Council's approach:

1. Council will support the principle that heritage places on community land or Crown land in the care of Council should not be alienated from the public.
2. Council will act to ensure that access to heritage places and to facilities on heritage places is equitable.

THE ROLE OF THE HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN

There is a widespread community expectation that places listed in this Strategic Plan as of heritage significance will be protected. However, there is also some community concern that, despite best intentions, planning mechanisms or some powerful interests will frustrate the good intentions of documents such as this Strategic Plan. It is important for Council to respond to these concerns clearly and with practical effect.

Council's approach:

Council will make explicit safeguards for the principles of this Strategic Plan by including:

- specific provisions to protect the integrity of heritage places in the Local Environmental Plan;
- a specific budget allocation for heritage places in Council's annual budget;
- a review mechanism to check on progress.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Protection, conservation, restoration, presentation and interpretation of heritage items is expensive and in the current financial environment cannot be contemplated for all heritage places in the short term. However, some important heritage places require Council to make a commitment of funds now in order to protect the city's heritage assets and ensure they are preserved for the future.

Council's approach:

Council will seek alternative and supplementary sources of funding for heritage places through:

- increasing the level of return from facilities, eg. by increasing levels of usage and indexing fees;
- fundraising, eg. by special fundraising events, grant applications and by seeking state and federal government funding for heritage places;
- reducing costs, eg. by more ecologically sustainable management practices; and
- optimising voluntary assistance with fundraising and maintenance.

Council will set priorities for the funds which are available.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Visitor levels to some heritage places are placing some stress on their natural and built fabric through over, use. This is likely to increase over time.

Conflicts of visitor use also require management for the safe use of facilities and spaces in Council's heritage places. There are safety hazards particularly for the cyclist and pedestrian where cars, pedestrian stakeholders, and cyclists use the same roadway.

Unleashed or poorly restrained dogs are a safety risk for cyclists and pedestrians and may be intimidating or dangerous. Dog poo and litter are an environmental and health hazard.

Council's approach:

Council will manage situations of over, use and conflicts of use in and around heritage places to ensure the protection of those places and their safe enjoyment by visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, AUDITS AND TRAINING

Council's heritage places require landscape philosophies and plans and many require conservation plans or at least plans to stabilise their heritage features in their present condition. Each place also requires interpretation and Council needs to explain the interpretation provided at each site in the context of the city and its heritage.

Improving access for people with a disability will require a disability access audit of each heritage place as well as a training program for maintenance and construction staff so that repairs and new work do not inadvertently create new barriers or maintain old ones.

Council's determination to safeguard the integrity of heritage places for future generations means that all those who are responsible for work or any activity in any part of a heritage place need to be alert to the significance and special aesthetic requirements of heritage places.

Council's approach:

Council will train staff, including outdoor staff, working in or responsible for heritage places in the issues and skills required to carry out these responsibilities, and will require appropriate skills of contractors and licensees.

3 VISION

The City of Newcastle's Heritage Places are reminders of the founders and early settlers of the city and their vision, hopes, purposes and ways of life. Their legacy is a contribution to the identity and amenity of the city. The endurance of this legacy enhances the common wealth of the present and future community.

Newcastle City Council is the guardian of these heritage places and responsible for their protection, conservation, presentation, interpretation and transmission to future generations.

Our vision is that:

these heritage places, conserved and safeguarded, will be celebrated as part of the rich cultural tapestry of the City of Newcastle.

4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Council's management of heritage places will be underwritten by the following guiding principles:

Continuity

Newcastle's heritage places are integral to the City's identity and a rich resource with which to shape its future. Council will protect and conserve the City's heritage places for future generations.

Investment

Newcastle's significant heritage places, and in particular its five convict sites at Nobbys Headland, Fort Scratchley, King Edward Park, Cathedral Park and the Convict Lumber Yard, are a unique historical resource in Australia and represent an asset for the continuing educational, cultural and economic development of the region. Council will invest in this asset as part of the City's economic and cultural development.

Reconciliation

Newcastle City Council recognises that the City occupies an area previously inhabited for thousands of years by indigenous people of Australia. In fostering the common interests and shared futures of its residents, Council will, in consultation with the Aboriginal community, acknowledge and present the indigenous heritage of the City along with the presentation and interpretation of its European heritage.

Integrity

The integrity of heritage places can be undermined by inappropriate uses, unsympathetic structures, uncoordinated landscaping and visual presentation and inadequate interpretation. These can damage the fabric, aesthetic, ambience or meaning of the heritage place. Council will protect the integrity of heritage places by ensuring consistent and sympathetic uses, physical and aesthetic treatments and interpretation.

Urban open space as a public good

The City's heritage places are also urban open spaces. Urban open space is a valuable but finite and limited resource which is often under threat. Newcastle City Council will protect its stock of urban open space as a public good for the use of future generations.

Public Access

In this Plan, heritage places are community land or Crown land in the care of Council. These places and any facilities on them, should not be alienated from public access and use. Council will ensure that heritage places on community and Crown land are not alienated from public use.

Equitable Access

Heritage places and facilities on them should be accessible to the public on an equitable basis. Council will ensure equity of access through fair pricing policies (including, where appropriate, free entry), by providing physical access for people with a disability wherever this can reasonably be achieved and through the appropriate multi-use of facilities.

5 OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Taken as a whole, the fourteen heritage places covered by this Strategic Plan form a significant part of the City of Newcastle's heritage. While each place has its unique features and requirements, the starting point for their management and enhancement is Council's appreciation of the impact of these heritage places as a whole on the City's cultural life.

As well, Council is determined to achieve consistency and the benefits of economies of scale in its management of these places where this can appropriately be achieved. The objectives and many of the strategies in this Plan, therefore, apply to all or most of the heritage places.

The city of Newcastle is rich with heritage assets – buildings, parks, streetscapes, archaeological sites, industrial landscapes – in a spectacular natural environment. Within this environment, there are five convict sites of state and regional heritage significance, namely Nobbys Headland, Fort Scratchley, King Edward Park, Cathedral Park and the Convict Lumber Yard. These five sites and the Civic Precinct require investment to enable their significance to be conserved and presented and to realise their potential as key components of the image, identity and cultural life of the City.

Within the framework of these considerations, strategic actions to be undertaken in the next five years have been prioritised after consideration of the following criteria:

- the place has significant symbolic meaning in the city's natural or cultural landscape;
- the place is currently at risk of severe deterioration or loss of heritage items/assets;
- the integrity of urban open space is at risk;
- the place has more than local heritage significance;
- the place is, or will shortly become, a risk to the safety of visitors; and
- the place has significant tourist interest or cultural development potential.

While these criteria have been identified to ensure that heritage places of greatest significance are protected and public safety is enhanced, Council is also mindful of the importance of a number of heritage places of local significance to their local communities and has put in place Sustainable Management Programs to ensure that they receive systematic attention over the next five years.

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective: The City's heritage is safeguarded for future generations			
Strategies	Strategic Actions 2000 - 2005	Status	Measure of Success
<p>1. Advocate and uphold the Guiding Principles for the management of Newcastle's heritage places.</p> <p>2. Uphold the principle of urban open space as a public good through Council's planning and funding decisions.</p> <p>3. Undertake a staged program of stabilisation, conservation and landscaping of heritage places.</p> <p>4. Increase staff appreciation of and skills in responding to issues relating to the preservation, conservation and presentation of heritage places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Guiding Principles for the management of heritage places widely and from time to time. • Incorporate the Guiding Principles into the City's Local Environmental Plan. • Prepare and commence implementation of Stabilisation Plans for Newcastle Ocean Baths • Complete implementation of the Conservation Plan for Convict Lumber Yard and prepare and commence implementation of Conservation Plans for Nobbys Headland, Cathedral Park and King Edward Park. • Implement sympathetic re-use(s) of Shepherds Hill Cottage. • Establish a policy on placement of plaques in heritage places consistent with the Guiding Principles. • Identify, or update as appropriate, landscape philosophies* and prepare and commence implementation of Landscape Plans for Civic Precinct, King Edward Park, Cathedral Park (whole block). Refurbish Gregson Park as a display garden celebrating its Victorian heritage. • Prepare and commence implementation of ecologically sustainable/low maintenance Landscape Plans or programs for Nobbys Headland and coastal headland and cliff areas of King Edward Park (including Obelisk Reserve). • Provide a series of short courses on heritage conservation and heritage landscape issues for indoor and outdoor staff with responsibilities for any aspect of design, care or maintenance of heritage places. • Seek listing of Newcastle's heritage places on the National Estate Register. 	<p>100%</p> <p>50%</p> <p>50%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council cites appropriate application of its Guiding Principles in relevant planning and funding decisions. • There is no diminution and some increase in the amount of urban open space in heritage places open to the public. • Stabilisation, Conservation and Landscape Plans are completed and implemented within the time frames. • The Recreation Manager reports annually to Council on progress in implementing this Plan.

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective: The City's heritage is safeguarded for future generations			
	Strategic Actions 2005 - 2010		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement a Conservation Plan for Newcastle Ocean Baths. • Prepare and implement Landscape Plan with formal components for Centennial Park. • Prepare and implement ecologically sustainable Landscape Plans or programs for Newcastle Ocean Baths, Islington Park, Lambton Park and Wallsend Park. 		

*'landscape philosophies' includes reference to distinctions between display gardening and ecologically sustainable landscaping – see Objective: Sustainable Management. Landscape plans should include provision for removal of powerlines and other urban clutter.

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective The public have right of access to heritage places			
Strategies	Strategic Actions 1998-2003	Status	Measures of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce exclusive use arrangements and introduce multi-use of and equitable access to open space and facilities on heritage places. 2. Undertake a staged program to improve physical access to heritage places for people with a disability. 3. Manage traffic arrangements and reduce conflicts of use between vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and people in wheelchairs. 4. Enhance pedestrian links within heritage places. 5. Limit alienation of heritage places for car parking; where appropriate encourage multi-use of parking surfaces. 6. Increase visitor safety and visitor perception of safety. 7. Foster equity of access through information provision and consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce procedures governing access to open space and facilities in heritage places which ensure equity of access and foster diverse multi-use. • Ensure all new leases and licences are consistent with the principles and objectives of this Strategic Plan and where applicable, Council's Sports Policy. • Establish a pricing policy for specific facilities and services in heritage places consistent with the value of urban open space, the principles of public access to facilities and services on community land and Council's equitable Pricing Policy. • Complete disability audits for each heritage place as an essential first step in the preparation of a Landscape Plan and/or Conservation Plan. • Establish at least one area in King Edward Park and one area in the Civic Precinct specifically for people with a disability, including a taxi access point with telephone. • Train park construction and maintenance staff in disability standards. Train landscape staff and/or require contractors to include public safety considerations in landscaping schemes. • Prepare and implement traffic management plans for King Edward Park and Newcastle Ocean Baths. • Limit off-leash dog exercise to prescribed zones. • Construct E/W path across Lambton Park with a bridge across the creek. • Provide ambulance/emergency access to Lambton Park Women's bowling club. • Increase the number of Tourist Information outlets and widely disseminate information about access to, through and, where appropriate, between heritage places. • Negotiate with the Hunter Ports Corporation for increased public access to Nobbys Headland 	<p>90%</p> <p>50%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>100%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-use of facilities has resulted in wider community use of facilities and greater financial contribution to their upkeep. • Nobbys Headland is open to the public on a regular (perhaps seasonal) basis. • Traffic management schemes have been installed. • There are no attacks by dogs on visitors to heritage places.

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective The public have right of access to heritage places			
	Strategic Actions 2003-2008	•	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit multi-use of facilities on heritage places and assist lease and licence holders to diversify uses consistent with the Guiding Principles. • Complete disability audits for each heritage place as an essential first step in the preparation of a Landscape Plan and/or Conservation Plan. • Provide fully accessible areas for people with a disability in Gregson Park, and Lambton Park. • Revise and re-publish a guide to heritage walks in Newcastle. • Review traffic management arrangements around heritage places in the CBD. 	20%	•

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective Economic and cultural development			
Strategies	Strategic Actions 1998-2003	Status	Measures of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote Newcastle as a heritage city as an integral part of an Economic, Cultural and Tourist Development Strategy. 2. Invest in the presentation, interpretation and promotion of the five convict sites as a critical part of the Strategy. 3. Promote public support for and participation in Strategy. 4. Actively support reconciliation as a key component of heritage focused cultural development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an Economic, Cultural and Tourist Development Strategy integrating existing plans and focusing on an integrated, sustainable approach to the social and economic development of the City which is respectful of its heritage. • Prepare a Convict Sites Strategy for the presentation, interpretation and promotion of the five convict sites: Nobbys Headland, King Edward Park, Cathedral Park and the Convict Lumber Yard. • Actively review progress on the conservation, landscaping, interpretation and presentation of the five convict sites. • Request the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and local Aboriginal groups to advise on ways to incorporate active reconciliation processes into the Strategy and invite their participation in/management of agreed activities. • Provide within the Strategy for the development of civic activities and participation processes including mechanisms for consultation and feedback. • Establish a Newcastle Day as a focus for community participation in the Strategy. 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Newcastle has become a cultural tourist destination with a reputation for its intact and enriched city centre. • The City rivals other regional centres with its annual program of cultural events. • There are regular Reconciliation events marking this commitment.
	Strategic Actions 2003-2008		

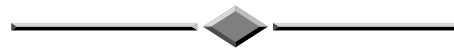
PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective	Economic and cultural development		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise the Economic, Cultural and Tourist Development Strategy. • Undertake extensive community consultations to ascertain perceptions of the effectiveness of the Strategy so far and options for future directions. 	•	•

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective Visitor appreciation and enjoyment of city heritage			
Strategies	Strategic Actions 1998-2003	Status	Measures of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide integrated interpretation of heritage and culturally significant sites using diverse, interactive, user-friendly and low maintenance methods. 2. Provide quality visitor amenities consistent with the significance and levels of visitor usage of the place. 3. Enhance and promote resident awareness and understanding of the city's heritage. 4. Establish annual events calendar utilising heritage and cultural spaces in city and consistent with their natural and cultural values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and distribute through diverse outlets a City Heritage interpretation document identifying and describing the City's heritage precincts and places. • Install on site interpretation at Convict Lumber Yard, Nobbys Headland, Cathedral Park, Civic Precinct, King Edward Park including reference to, and their relationship with, other key heritage sites in the CBD. • Conduct a series of heritage seminars aimed at increasing public awareness and appreciation of heritage issues and cultural opportunities. • Appoint a Cultural Events Officer. 	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . CBD heritage places offer high quality amenities consistent with their character. • Heritage interpretation is easy to locate in heritage places and is integrated into the City's cultural events
	Strategic Actions 2003-2008		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install on site interpretation at Gregson Park, Islington Park, Lambton Park, Centennial Park and Wallsend Park. • Review and revise the City Heritage document 		

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective		Sustainable Management	
Strategies	Strategic Actions 1998-2003	Status	Measures of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuously upgrade and improve basic facilities on heritage places. 2. Limit intensive display gardening to significant garden/park heritage areas; optimise ecologically sustainable landscape treatments elsewhere. 3. Utilise leases, licences, multi-use arrangements and pricing policies to optimise financial sustainability of heritage places consistent with equity of access principles. Ensure consistency and compatibility with Councils Sports Policy and Equitable Pricing Policy. 4. Manage conflicts of use. 5. Optimise voluntary community assistance with fundraising and maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a matter of urgency undertake a public safety and risk assessment of the Bogey Hole, Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths including Paddling Pool and implement appropriate safety measures. • Establish a program for the progressive upgrade of basic facilities in heritage places commencing with Lambton Park and followed by King Edward Park, Civic Precinct and Gregson Park. • Institute and monitor a rigorous program of public toilet cleaning, maintenance and security. • Upgrade the kiosk at Newcastle Ocean Baths. • Train landscaping and park maintenance staff in, and/or require of contractors, skills in plant selection and cultivation for ecological sustainability. • Trial an ' Adopt a Heritage Place' scheme. • Review impacts of late night licensing in Convict Lumber Yard vicinity. • Approach Royal NSW Bowling Association to assist in revitalising Newcastle's bowling clubs 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue from facilities and services on heritage places as a whole increases annually, or as agreed for specific occupancy agreement and leases. • Sustainable civic landscapes are regarded as indigenous, Australian and part of the City's living heritage. • The City's bowling clubs experience increased membership and operate with appropriate multi-use of their facilities. • The City's significant gardens and buildings on heritage places attract a consistent and sustainable level of visitation throughout the year. • There are quality leisure facilities (museums/galleries/cafes/kiosks /peaceful rest areas/etc) in significant heritage places. • Complaints about unclean and/or broken toilet facilities are responded to within 24 hours. • Graffiti is removed from heritage places within 1 week.

PART I – HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN			
Objective Sustainable Management			
	Strategic Actions 2003-2008	Status	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and if necessary revise the program for progressive upgrade of basic facilities in heritage places. • Review lease and licence arrangements for facilities on heritage places for their social, cultural impacts and effective contribution to the financial sustainability of heritage places, ensuring consistency where applicable with Council's Sports Policy. 		

Part II



The Heritage Places

Community Land Plans of Management
Crown Lands Strategic Plans
Other Heritage Places Strategic Plans

COMMUNITY LAND PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

Supporting information for Plan of Management for

Cathedral Park

Cultural Significance

History

The main portion of Cathedral Park formed the first formal white graveyard in Newcastle. The first Christ Church was built on the present Cathedral site in 1817, and burials were carried out on the slope below the church, accessed from King Street by a steep, rough track. The site was fenced in 1822, in which year Henry Dangar drew up his regular plan for the town, creating a rectangular site for church and graveyard, flanked to west and east by rows of domestic lots facing onto Wolfe and Newcomen Streets. The most northerly group of the former, lots 124-127 on the corner of King and Wolfe Streets, was bought in 1836 by an early settler, Simon Kemp, an innkeeper and also a foreman in the construction during the 1830s and 40s of the breakwater to Nobbys by convict labour. In the early 1840s Kemp built a house on the site, called Mulimbah.

In 1869 Newcastle Council constructed the stone wall along the King Street frontage of the cemetery as part of improvements to that street. The wall included a recess to provide an entry to the site, but a dispute with the diocese over who should build the necessary steps up to the cemetery meant that they were never constructed. Burials ceased in around 1881 when the Sandgate cemetery was opened, and for some years the Christchurch graveyard fell into disrepair.

In 1961 the church authorities agreed to let Newcastle City Council take over the cemetery and create a public park on the site. In 1972 gravestones were lifted and placed along the eastern boundary of the site, the most substantial monument, to James and Mary Hannell, remaining in the centre of the upper section of the site. At the same time a new entrance through the stone wall onto King Street was created, along with ramp and steps and a waterfall feature, and general landscaping of the central area of the cemetery followed. Meanwhile Mulimbah had fallen vacant in 1947, and the Anglican Diocese purchased it in 1953. The house was demolished in 1954, but after a number of abortive attempts to redevelop the site, it was transferred to Newcastle City Council in 1987 as part of an exchange of properties, and now forms part of the Cathedral Park.

Thematic Significance

- Aboriginal contact (1)
- Convict (2)
- Land tenure (6)
- Religion (31)
- Death (33)
- Persons (35)

Recommended Status

As one of the earliest burial sites in the country, and as part of the centrepiece of Dangar's plan for Newcastle, Cathedral Park has great importance in the history and fabric of the city, and of the Hunter Region.

Recommended status : Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	state	state	regional	regional
representative				

Description

Category of land: Community Land; Park

Character Statement

With its setting immediately below Christchurch Cathedral, and outlook over the harbour, the Park has the potential to be one of the most interesting public open spaces in the city centre, with historical associations of great significance dating back to the origins of the city and before.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 0.94 ha, bounded by King Street, Wolfe Street, Christchurch Cathedral grounds and the Newcastle Club grounds, comprising central section (former Cathedral burial ground) 0.7 ha with frontage to King Street, and western section (former Mulimbah Cottage site) 0.24 ha with frontage to King and Wolfe Streets.

Exclusive Areas :nil

Landform

Fall of 20 m from high point below Cathedral to N and NW to King Street, slope retained by wall along N edge to give general falls of around 1 in 5 across site.

Current Uses:

Use

passive recreation

Facilities

picnic tables, taps,

Access:

- Disabled access is very difficult and requires a defined entry possibly through the Churchyard.
- Pedestrian access from the lower side of the park is steep.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

Central Section:

- 32 standing monuments and headstones and 52 horizontal gravestones moved to east boundary of site from former location in Cathedral graveyard on the site;
- stone monument to James Hannell 1813-1876 and wife Mary Hannell 1819-1884;
- metal gates at King Street entry, originally installed in Maitland Town Hall 1890, moved to present site 1971;
- stone retaining wall to King Street;

Western Section :

- remains of footings, steps and site works of Mulimbah Cottage;
- stone boundary and retaining walls to King and Wolfe Streets.

Landscape

- African olive (*Olea africana*) trees across lower area of western section, probably self seeded from original plantings in grounds of Mulimbah Cottage;
- banksia trees in upper area of central section;
- fig in centre of central section;
- palm on Wolfe Street edge of western section.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- Christchurch Cathedral to S;
- Newcastle Club to E;
- Segenhoe to W;

Landscape

- row of street trees on N side of King Street;

Non-Contributory Elements:

- hard landscaping and furniture elements generally within central section;
- power lines and poles up Wolfe Street.

References:

- EJE Landscape, *Extension to Cathedral Park and Mulimbah Cottage Heritage Study*, 1991, Newcastle City Council.

Issues: raised at Community Workshop

A number of features currently militate against the realisation of the potential of this Park:

- there is a lack of integration between the central zone and the site of Mulimbah house;
- the address towards the Park of the properties on the west side detracts;
- the growth of vegetation within the Park effectively obscures harbour views;
- the multi-storey car park on the north side of King Street detracts from harbour views;
- the present treatment of historical gravestones detracts;
- the 1970s landscaping treatment in the lower area towards King Street is not of high quality.

All of these deficiencies could be addressed in a comprehensive master plan for the site, which should extend beyond the Park boundaries on all four sides to ensure a properly integrated setting, and the site is of sufficient importance for this to be an important prerequisite to further action.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	2001	in house
	Age & Disability Officer		
2	prepare Convict Sites Presentation Strategy (covering 5 sites)	2001	20,000
	Heritage Officer		
3	install on-site interpretation as part of Convict Sites Presentation Strategy	2002	6,000
	Heritage Officer		
4	prepare Conservation/Landscape Master Plans for whole city block	2003	15,000
	Landscape Architects		
5	implement Conservation/Landscape Master Plans	2005	120,000
	City Services		
years 5-10 :			
6	review	2008	5,000

CATHEDRAL PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

Preamble

Council will manage Cathedral Park consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

Cathedral Park is community land primarily categorised as culturally significant.

- "The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods". (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance indicator
Completion of a disability audit	Staff assessment with assistance from community organisations	Completed by Dec 2001	Target is met
Inclusion of Cathedral Park in the Convict Sites Presentation Strategy	Significant elements of Cathedral Park, as identified in the Heritage Places Strategic Plan, included in Convict Sites Presentation Strategy and placed on public exhibition Plan of Management amended to show interpretative installations	Plan prepared by Dec 2002. On site interpretation installed by 2003	Targets are met
Implementation of top priority recommendations in disability audit	Disability audit and top recommendations are exhibited for public comment and this plan of management is amended by attachment of the audit as subsequently revised	1. Exhibition by May 2002 2. Work completed by Dec 2003	1. Community groups consulted and endorse top priorities 2. Work is completed
Maintenance of park at present standards pending preparation of Conservation/Landscape Master Plan (scheduled for 2002)	Existing maintenance and works schedules	Satisfactory standards are maintained	Low level of community complaint

CATHEDRAL PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

General: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of licences in Cathedral Park for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, e.g. weddings/photos/festivals/functions.

For the purposes of section 46(1) (b) (iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (b) engaging in a trade or business,
- (c) delivering a public address,
- (d) commercial photographic sessions,
- (e) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (f) filming for cinema or television,
- (g) the agistment of stock.

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **Centennial Park**

Cultural Significance

History

The area around Centennial Park has been associated with leisure activities since the earliest days of Cooks Hill. Following the opening of the school and church of St John's in 1857 and 1859, the Newcastle Cricket Club began playing its matches on an adjacent area of ground known as St John's Green. This was the first cricket club in the region, founded in 1854 with James Hannell as president. In 1867 the club moved to the N side of Bruce Street, forming the Newcastle Cricket Ground in the block now built up around Corlette Park. St John's Green continued to be used for sporting activities, however. The first rugby club in Newcastle was formed in 1877, and played matches on the Green in that year against teams from Maitland and Sydney. The space was also used for other community activities, the Volunteer Rifles, for example, formed in 1860, using it as a parade ground. By the 1880s the development of Cooks Hill led to public pressure for land to be given by the AA Company for a public park. After much debate as to whether St John's Green or the Cricket Ground would be more suitable, the present area of the park was offered to Newcastle's mayor by Jesse Gregson, Superintendent of the AA Company, and christened Centennial Park in view of the date of the offer, ratified in 1890 by a formal deed of grant. Two curious features of the site which persist today were the row of houses on Parry Street intruding into the park area, and including a 'Benevolent Asylum and Lying-in Hospital', and the skew line of the Burwood Coal Company's railway forming the NW side of the park. A rotunda was built in 1899, demolished 1964, and a new rotunda erected in 1993. Newcastle Tennis Club, the oldest tennis club in Newcastle, was established in the park in 1909, its old pavilion replaced in 1940 by Newcastle City Council. The Lowlands Bowling Club, established in 1892, moved into the park in 1912, having previously played in the cricket ground. This club arose from a split in the original Newcastle Bowling Club of 1889, which divided into the 'Highlanders' club with courts in the Upper Reserve (King Edward Park), and the Lowlands club in Cooks Hill. There is a Centennial Park Local Advisory Committee.

Thematic Significance

- Land tenure (6)
- Mining (7)
- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

Centennial Park provides evidence of the historical development of the AA Company's 2000 acres in the inner city area, as well as continuing to act as a focus for public leisure and sport activity in Cooks Hill.

Recommended status : Local Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	local	local	local	
representative				local

Description

Category of land: Community Land; Park

Character Statement

With a similar history and setting to Gregson Park, the character and use of Centennial Park raises similar issues. While it is recognised that the sporting club areas within the Park have a long history, every opportunity should be taken to reinforce the unity of the Park, and its overall character as a contained urban public space.

The following features are worth considering:

- a unified approach to the landscape design of the perimeter of the Park would reinforce its sense of a single urban space, within which specialist functions occur;
- the physical and historical relationship to the St John's group is important;
- the skew NW boundary should record and celebrate the historic colliery railway line on this part of the site.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 2.5 ha, bounded by Bruce, Parry, Dawson and Tooke Streets.

Exclusive Areas :	bowling club site	0.45 ha	18%
	tennis club site	<u>0.15 ha</u>	<u>6%</u>
	total	0.6 ha	24%

Landform

level site

Current Uses:

Use

bowling
park,
tennis
children's play
music etc
passive and informal leisure
electricity distribution

Facilities

Lowlands Bowling Club clubhouse, 2 greens, car
ancillary structures
Newcastle Tennis Club clubhouse, courts
children's play area
rotunda
toilets, ornamental garden beds
electricity sub station

Access :

- flat but requires disability audit

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Landscape

- rows of Norfolk Island pines and figs along edges to Dawson Street and Tooke Street;
- row of palms along Bruce Street;
- eucalypts along central paths.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- St John's Anglican Church group, corner Dawson and Parry Street: former school building on Dawson Street 1857, church on Parry Street 1859, Edmund Blacket architect.

Non-Contributory Elements:

- Electricity sub-station

References:

- Hooker, J., *Lowlands Bowling Club Centenary 1892-1992, The Story of a Historic Club*, 1992

Issues raised at Community Workshop/Public Meetings

A number of opportunities for this Park are included within the Character Statement above.

- the maintenance of the park could be improved, eg of park seating;
- a high % of the park is in exclusive use and not available to the public;
- the bowling club is not a member of the Park's Local Advisory Committee which undertakes fund raising and refurbishment in cooperation with Council.
- Public safety in regards to the toilets

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate	
first 5 years :				
1	complete disability audit	Aged and Disability Officer	2001	in - house
2	repair and upgrade public toilet	Parks & Recreation Manager	2001	TBA
3	implement immediate access and maintenance priorities	Parks & Recreation Manager	2002	16,000
years 5-10 :				
3	install on-site interpretation	City Services	2003	5,000
4	prepare Landscape Master Plan	Landscape Architects	2004	10,000
5	implement Landscape Master Plan	Parks & Recreation Manager	2005	50,000
6	review		2008	3,000

CENTENNIAL PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

Preamble

Council will manage Centennial Park consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

Centennial Park is community land primarily categorised as culturally significant containing an area categorised as a sportsground **and an area categorised as playground.**

- “The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods”. (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)
- As part of the amendments to the Act in 1998, core objectives were established for community land categorised as Sportslands.
- They are:
 - (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
 - (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
- The core objectives of community land categorised as a park are;
 - (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities and,
 - (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes for the casual playing of games, and
 - (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. (s 36G)

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance indicator
Completion of a disability audit, including emergency vehicular access to women's bowling club	Staff assessment with assistance from community organisations	Completed by June 2001	Target is met
Implementation of top priority recommendations in disability audit	Disability audit and top recommendations are exhibited for public comment and this Plan of Management is amended by attachment of the audit as subsequently revised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibition by June 2002 2. Work completed by June 2003 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community groups consulted and endorse top priorities 2. Work is completed on time
Improved maintenance levels and standards of repair of existing facilities in the park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff assessment with reference to the issues listed in the Heritage Places Strategic Plan and the disability audit 2. Routine maintenance schedules revised where indicated 3. Timetable for undertaking priority repair tasks is drawn up and advised to key community groups using the park 	Priority items for repair are scheduled for completion during 2001 and 2002	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Priority repairs completed on time 4. Low level of community complaint about standards of repair and maintenance

CENTENNIAL PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

Leases and Licenses: Centennial Park

Bowling: Bowling and associated recreational activities are a legitimate activity in Centennial Park at a scale and design appropriate to the categorisation of Centennial Park as a heritage place of cultural significance.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises a lease to the Lowlands Bowling Club of that part of Centennial Park categorised as sportsground and identified for **bowling activities**. This lease shall be for a term of 21 years or such lesser period as the Minister may determine for the core purpose of the conduct of a bowling club, playing lawn bowls and associated social and community activities. As the Lowlands Bowling Club is a non-profit organisation, tenders are not required to be called for the proposed lease .

The core objective for Sportsgrounds; “to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences” [Sec36F(b)] will be met in the development consent process and in the conditions of the lease.

Tennis: Tennis and associated recreational activities are a legitimate activity in Centennial Park, at a scale and design appropriate to the categorisation of Centennial Park as a heritage place. This Plan of Management expressly authorises a lease to the Newcastle City Tennis Club for tennis and associated activities in that part of the park categorised as Sportsground and identified for **Tennis Courts** .

General: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of leases and licences in Centennial Park for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, eg weddings/photos/festivals/ functions and that are consistent with the core objectives of the park.

For the purposes of section 46(1) (b) (iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (b) engaging in a trade or business,
- (c) delivering a public address,
- (d) commercial photographic sessions,
- (e) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (f) filming for cinema or television,
- (g) the agistment of stock.

Supporting information for Plan of Management for

Civic Precinct, including Civic Park, Christie Place and Church Walk Park

Cultural Significance

History

After its establishment in 1859, Newcastle Borough Council occupied temporary premises until 1884, when it built Council Chambers at 55 Watt Street, now the United Service Club. In the following year the borough was declared a city, and the Watt Street premises were soon found to be inadequate. After an abortive attempt to build a new City Hall in the Markets site in the present Hunter Street Mall, the Council revived the project after the First World War.

There was much public debate as to whether the new City Hall should be located at the east or west ends of Hunter Street, and a 1921 referendum on the subject showed the population to be almost evenly divided. Finally the present site on King Street was chosen, acting as a catalyst for the transformation of this part of the city centre into a precinct for cultural and public buildings, with Civic Park as its focus.

The land now occupied by the Park had been part of the Australian Agricultural Company's holdings on the west side of the old city centre. Through it ran colliery railway lines running from the waterfront coal-loading staithes southward to the Junction and beyond to the Newcastle Coal Mining Company's mines, and westward to the AA Company's mines in Hamilton. The route of the former can still be seen in the alignment of Burwood Street, the line of fig trees across Civic Park, and the old tunnel underpass beneath Laman Street on its south side. The junction of the two lines was supervised by a signalman whose cottage remains in the Park. The AA Company sold the land at the beginning of this century, and it was occupied by timber yards until it was resumed by Newcastle City Council in the 1920s.

In 1929, with the completion of the City Hall, Council resolved to create a park on the western area of the Park, and W. Grant of the Sydney Botanic Gardens was commissioned to prepare a layout. The City Council's commitment was reiterated in 1937 with its opening of a further administration building, for its electricity supply division, NESCA, alongside the City Hall, with Christie Place between. In 1938 the amalgamation of the 11 Boroughs of Greater Newcastle into Newcastle City Council further reinforced the regional importance of the site. In 1949 a precinct plan was prepared, establishing a site for the War Memorial Cultural Centre (now Newcastle Region Library) at the south end of the axis established by the City Hall and its tower. With the closure of the Glebe Pit, the railway line was acquired in 1958, and sites along the Darby Street edge in 1964. During the 1960s the retaining wall structure to Laman Street, the Captain Cook Fountain on the central axis, and the Memorial Grove at the corner of Darby and Laman Streets, were constructed. The whole Park was dedicated as a public reserve in 1978.

Church Walk Park was formed in 1924 on the hillside overlooking Civic Park to its east. AA Company railway lines had formerly run across the lower contours of the hillside, which forms the western flank of The Hill. The formation of the park created a connection from Church Street down to the corner of King and Darby Streets by 'a roomy, zig-zag path. This has been easily graded and cut into the side of the hill. Rockeries have been placed on either side, and the pedestrian walks the full length of the roadway between flower beds.' (NMH, 10.7.24, p.5). In 1938 a shelter lookout was built half way down the slope, to an unusual modern design of a flat concrete roof cantilevered from a single central steel column. During this period, apartment buildings at 124 Church Street and 199 King Street were built, both in characteristic inter-war design styles, and forming a frame to the park.

Thematic Significance

- Transportation (13) - early private railways
- Utilities (15) - electricity
- Government (21) - regional administration centre
- Defence (23) - memorials
- Housing (24) - workers' cottages
- Leisure (27) - parks and reserves

Recommended Status

The pre-eminence of this site as a focus for regional administrative and cultural institutions, and its setting for some of the region's most important public buildings and memorials, give it a particular significance within the Hunter Region.

Recommended status : Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	local	regional		regional
representative			local	

Description

Category of land

Civic Park: Community land, park

Christie Place: Community land, park (part of Lot 1 DP 225689).. Christie Place includes park only and not Christie Street or land to rear of park.

Church Walk Park: Community land, park

Character Statement

The Park is the principal outdoor setting in the region for public ceremonial, and in particular for commemorative services for war dead. At the same time it acts as a setting for large-scale public activities of other kinds - political rallies, cultural events, social gatherings, civic receptions, as well as an amenity for informal enjoyment in the centre of the city. The points of focus for the varied activities are currently scattered throughout the Park, tied together, in visual and symbolic terms, by the axis from the Region Library and James Cook Fountain to Newcastle City Hall tower.

Physical

Area

Total Area : Civic Park : 2.2 ha, bounded by King, Darby, Laman and Auckland Streets, with the SW corner of the block taken up by the St Andrew's Church and Signalman's Cottage sites.

Christie Place : 0.15 ha, bounded by King Street, City Hall and University House.

Church Walk : 0.25 ha, bounded by Church Street and access road to 199 King Street.

Exclusive Areas : nil

Landform

Generally level E-W, gentle rise N to S with steep rise along southern boundary up 6m to Laman Street. Steep slope to Church Walk Park, approx 1:2.

Current Uses :

Remembrance Services
Mattara Festival
public ceremonials, meetings,
demonstrations
general passive recreational
use by visitors and CBD workers

Facilities

memorials
flower beds
toilets

Access :

- has mobility map for the CBD
- no accessible toilet
- access to Laman Street only via perimeter pavements

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- Captain James Cook Memorial Fountain, 1966, Margel Hinder sculptor, Wilson Barnett and Suters architects;
- WW1, WW2 memorial;
- 'Folded Wings' RAAF Memorial, 1968, Don G. McHattie sculptor;
- Vietnam War Memorial, 1986, Suters Busted Corner Clode architects;
- Church Walk Park shelter lookout, 1938, City Architect, F.A. Scorer;
- Shortland Centenary Fountain, 1897, in Christie Place.

Landscape

- arc of mature fig trees (*Ficus hillii*) from NW corner down Auckland Street side then returning across the park to mid N side;
- Memorial Grove, dedicated 1961, Augustus Aley designer;
- mixed mature trees and ground cover in Church Walk Park.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- Signalman's Cottage, c1860
- St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Laman Street, 1889, F.B. Menkens architect;
- Baptist Tabernacle, Laman Street, 1889, F.B. Menkens architect;
- Newcastle City Hall, King Street, 1929, H.E. White architect;
- University House, former NESCA House, King Street, 1937, E. Sodersteen architect;
- Newcastle Region Library, Laman Street, 1957, Newmec architects;
- City Administration Building, King Street, 1975, Romberg and Boyd, Wilson and Suters architects;
- Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, Laman Street, 1976, Pile, Baker architects;
- Newcastle Conservatorium, Laman/Auckland Streets, 1988, L. Kelly Govt. Architect with Suters Architects Snell architects;

Church Walk Park :

- The Moorings, 199 King Street, Inter-war Spanish Mission Style.
- 124 Church Street, Inter-war Art Deco Style.
- Marlborough House, 49 Church Street, c1873, G.H. Cox.
- Woodlands, Church/McCormack Streets, c1879, James Henderson (alterations and additions).

Landscape

- forecourt planting to City Hall;
- avenue of mature figs on Laman Street along S boundary;

Non-Contributory Elements:

- poorly defined landscape area along eastern boundary to Darby Street;
- toilet block;
- lighting
- overall lack of landscape coherence;
- north side of Christie Place;
- Church Walk Park is in need of maintenance and refurbishment.

References:

- Forsite Landscape Architects & Planners, *Newcastle Civic Park Plan of Management*, 1989, Newcastle City Council.
- Allen Jack and Cottier, Gordon and Valich, Terragram, Tempe MacGowan, *Urban Design Plan for the Newcastle Civic Area*, 1995, Honeysuckle Development Corporation & Newcastle

City Council.

Issues raised at Community Workshop

1. The questions which might be asked about the range of activities in the Park are :
 - should the range of activities in the Park be restricted in some way, so that the Park takes on a more focussed character (eg as a 'memorial' place)?
 - if the present broad range of uses is to be retained, should there be a more structured arrangement of spaces and elements within the Park, so that each major use has its focal space (eg civic uses addressing City Hall, memorial uses towards Memorial Grove, etc)?
2. In terms of its landscape character, the following question may be asked :
 - is the present rather mixed character appropriate for this, the sole formal and ceremonial outdoor space in the city, or should it not have a stronger and more formal unified design character?
3. The present form of the Park is still unresolved in two major respects :
 - the eastern part is unformed as a result of uncertainty over the proposal to widen Darby Street; resolution of this matter will provide the opportunity to create a more considered eastern landscaped edge, tying the whole landscape scheme for the Park together in a unified way;
 - the creation of new public spaces in the Honeysuckle Precinct north of Hunter Street, together with the refurbishment of Wheeler Place, will mean that Civic Park should no longer be seen as an isolated park, but rather as the termination of a whole chain of public spaces connecting through to the waterfront.
4. The RSL would like to see the park renamed Civic Memorial Park, with new plantings of memorial trees in line with the Anzac memorial and the possible closure of Laman Street to create a peaceful and contemplative memorial space.
5. The three Newcastle branches of the Garden Club of Australia conceived the idea of the Memorial Grove, and were instrumental in bringing it about. They strongly wish to see the Grove continue as a 'living monument' (commemorative plaques continue to be added, the most recent in 1996).

LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN CONSIDERATIONS MAY 2000

KEY ISSUES FOR CIVIC PARK

1. Role

- Role as City's premier urban park compromised by worn and aging infrastructure, deteriorating quality of plants and trees
- Role as site of events and memorial services remains however the disparate location of monuments plaques and sites is devalued by poor presentation and clutter
- Role as lunchtime retreat compromised by worn grass surfaces, lack of seating

2. Design Themes and Visual Identity

- The formality and structure planting of the park has been eroded by scattered and inappropriate planting. Central axis visual linkage to the City Hall is poor.
- Poor quality of grassed areas under shade and wear. Lack of theming with park furniture, signs and materials. Relationship between other buildings in Civic Precinct needs development.

3. Safety

- Lighting needs review to establish effectiveness (see also toilets).

4. Infrastructure

Condition of building/facilities needs assessment. Repairs and upgrading needs to be consistent with heritage themes and setting. Location of items conflicts with design eg position of floodlight poles in central axis.

5. Maintenance

Overall poor maintenance.

Service levels for park need to be adjusted to cope with high use. Manual watering often conflicts with high park use times. Weekend use often high – inadequate maintenance at these times.

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Design and construct a new landmark cultural and historical feature in the park on the corner of King Street and Darby Street.
- Prepare and implement a program to remove inappropriately planted trees, shrubs and planting beds in the park. Carry out appropriate arboricultural management practices to ensure the health and longevity of the remaining trees.
- Establish new tree planting along Darby Street and King Street to define the eastern and part of the northern park boundary. Restrict new tree planting to those areas identified on the plan. The ad hoc planting of trees and the establishment of new garden plots should be avoided.
- Upgrade the lighting along the central axis of the park to ensure lighting to a high standard using unobtrusive pole top lights with secondary paths light by bollards. General park lights to be fitted with metal-halide lamps.
- Install pedestrian scale pole top lighting along the southern and part of the northern sides of King Street (from Auckland to Darby Streets) in a style to match the existing lights outside City Hall. Install unobtrusive, pedestrian scale pole top lights along the Auckland and Darby Street edges of the park.
- Repave the pedestrian footpaths fronting the park especially King, Auckland, and Darby Streets to match the paving design used outside City Hall. Create a pedestrian forecourt and relocate the existing pedestrian crossing outside City Hall.
- Replace the existing toilet block in the park with a high quality facility that is visually appropriate for the site. The facility should be managed to limit undesirable behaviour.
- Construct a new park entry and pedestrian plaza in the south-eastern corner of the park.
- Establish and maintain the central axis of the park and forecourt to City Hall as focus for memorial services.



LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN CONSIDERATIONS MAY 2000

KEY ISSUES FOR CHURCH WALK PARK

Vegetation

1. Mixture of vegetation – self sown, visually compromised. Safety of users an issue – weeds and soil erosion.

Pedestrian safety/facilities

1. Hand railing maintenance is required to aid older/younger pedestrians.
2. Steps/pathways require repair in some locations to remove trip hazards.
3. Redundant light poles.
4. Lack of directional signage.
5. Surveillance poor.

Church Street Area

1. Opportunity to take advantage of views to the harbour at end of Church Street.

Park furniture

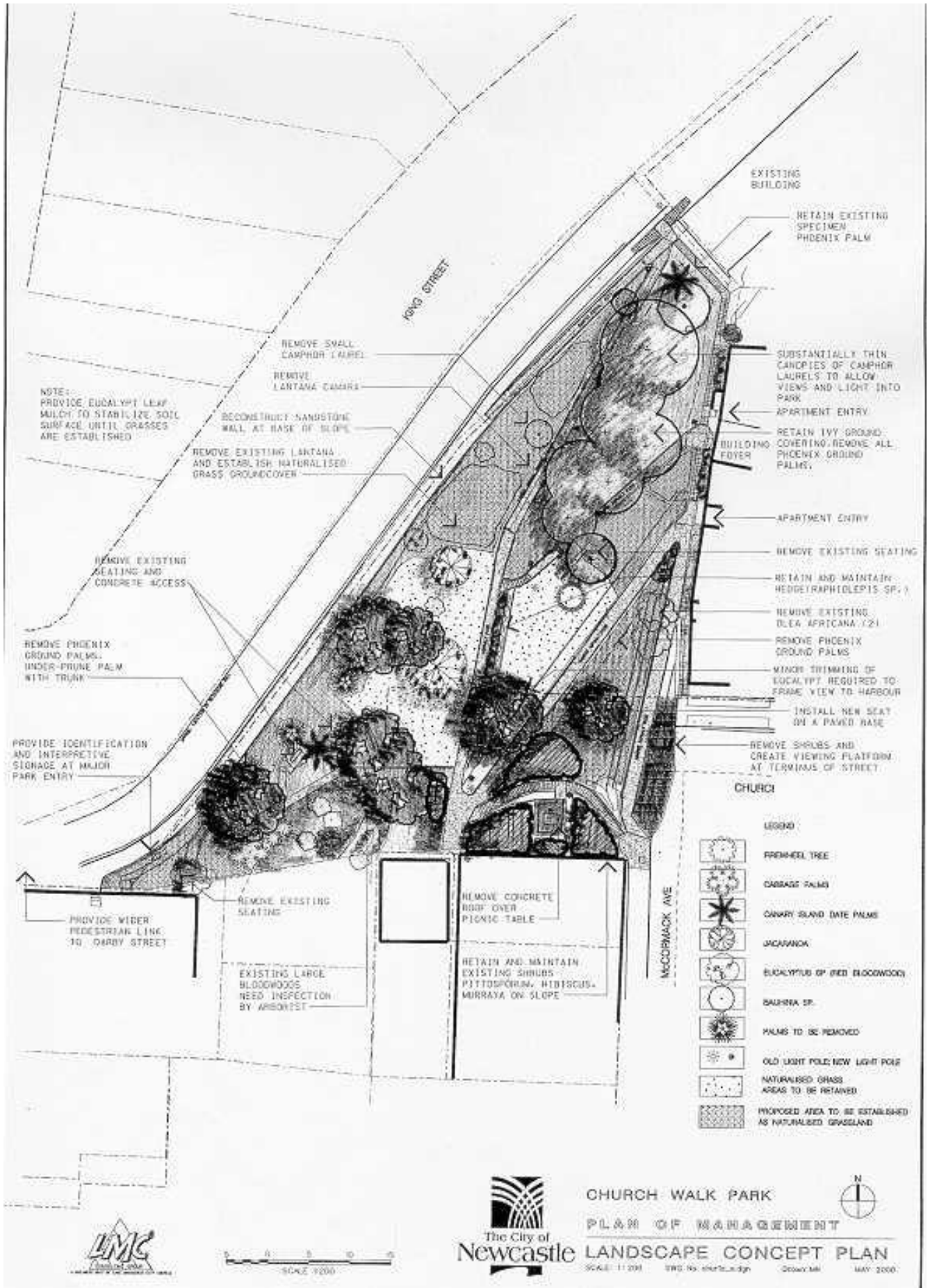
1. Usefulness limited and poorly located. Lack of identity

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Manage vegetation in the park to create a woodland type vegetation structure using the existing large Eucalypts and planting a native grass under story throughout the site.
- Prepare and implement a program to remove weeds and miscellaneous shrub and tree plantings not in keeping with the proposed Eucalypt Woodland vegetation structure. Carry out appropriate arboricultural management practices to ensure the health and longevity of the remaining trees.
- Carry out a general audit on safety, structural stability and maintenance requirements for the existing structures in the park including handrails, steps, retaining walls and small storage shed. Following the audit carry out the necessary repairs to rectify any identified problems.
- Install new directional/interpretive signage at the King Street and Church Street entrances in accordance with Councils signage standard.
- Prepare and implement a design for a new viewing platform located at the Church Street entrance

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
1	complete disability audit	complete	
2	update AJ+C Landscape Master Plan, including Christie Place and Church Walk Park	in house	2000
3	carry out remedial works to Church Walk Park		2003
4	provide disabled access and amenity to Civic Precinct including accessible toilets and taxi access point with telephone		2003
5	improve access to Laman Street		2004
years 5-10 :			
6	implement remainder of Landscape Master Plan		2004
7	install on-site interpretation		2004
8	review		2006



CIVIC PRECINCT: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 1998 - 2000

Preamble

Council will manage Civic Precinct comprising Civic Park, Christie Place and Church Walk Park, consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

The Civic Precinct is community land primarily categorised as culturally significant.

- “The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods”. (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)
- The core objectives for management of community land as a park are:
 - a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
 - b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
 - c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance indicator
Completion of a disability access audit	Staff assessment with assistance from community organisations	Completed by June 2001	Target is met
Implementation of top priority recommendations in disability access audit	Disability access audit and top recommendations are exhibited for public comment and this Plan of Management is amended by attachment of the audit as subsequently revised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibition by June 2002 2. Work completed by June 2003 	Community groups consulted and endorse top priorities Work is completed on time
Update AJ+C Landscape Master Plan including Christie Place and Church Walk Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape Master Plan is revised to reflect Heritage Places Strategic Plan. 2. Specific proposals arising from this revision placed on public exhibition as proposed amendments to this Plan of Management and submissions invited 3. Council considers public submissions in amending the Plan of Management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Landscape Master Plan revised and estimates prepared by June 2000 4. Proposed amendments to Plan of Management exhibited by Dec 2000 5. Remedial works to Church Walk Park carried out by Dec 2003 	Timelines are met
Maintenance of park at present standards pending implementation of other items listed in Landscape Master Plan	Existing maintenance and works schedules	Satisfactory standards are maintained	Low level of community complaint

CIVIC PRECINCT: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

Leases and Licenses: Civic Precinct

General: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of licences in the Civic Precinct for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, e.g. weddings/photos/festivals/functions in accordance with the core objectives of the Parks in the Civic precinct

For the purposes of section 46(1) (b) (iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (b) engaging in a trade or business,
- (c) delivering a public address,
- (d) commercial photographic sessions,
- (e) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (f) filming for cinema or television,
- (g) the agistment of stock.

Supporting information for Plan of Management for

Convict Lumberyard

Cultural Significance

History

The unassuming open grassy area between Scott and Bond Streets, on the east side of Customs House, is a site of local, state, national and possibly world heritage significance. Based on the study of archival records and archaeological digs in 1987 and 1989, a picture of the earliest Australian convictism, on a broad scale, has been established. This is unequalled in Sydney, Norfolk Island and Hobart and predates other convict establishments at Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay and Port Arthur. Evidence of major themes of Newcastle's history are associated with the site. Among other things lime and cedar were prepared there for use in Sydney during Macquarie's term; forges mark the birthplace of industry in the city; more recent structures provide evidence of the role of NSW Railways in the development of Newcastle and its port; Aboriginal relics extend and connect its history. A composite of information indicates that by 1832 structures which were or had been built on the site included tall log fences, several barracks buildings, guard house, sergeants' quarters and other facilities. With the withdrawal of convicts from Newcastle the buildings underwent changes of use: the 1818 barracks became a Ship Chandlery and Post Office; the guard house and sergeants' quarters became an office and quarters for the harbourmaster. The 1857 Railways Department acquisition ushered in a new era which saw the erection of buildings associated with rail and other activities. In 1879, the single storey berthing masters cottage was built which, with the addition of a second storey, c1904, became the Booking Office. It was later used, until vacated, c1981, as the Paymaster's Office to pay rail workers in cash counted out. In 1885 the Traffic Controller's residence, which became the Station Master's residence, was built. Both of these buildings were allowed to stand vacant for many years and consequently became dilapidated before being restored in 1993. They are pleasant, complementary examples of Victorian Georgian (Paymaster's Cafe) and Rustic (Station Masters residence) architecture. Sand drifts were a curse to the original inhabitants of the site, contributing to the burial of earlier structures. However, this act of nature preserved its physical history.

Thematic Significance

- Convict (2)
- Townships (10)
- Transport (13)
- Industry (16)

Recommended Status

The site has a unique place in the early history of European settlement in Australia, overlaid with later elements of the nineteenth century history of Newcastle.

Recommended status : State Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	state	regional	state	
representative	national			

Description

Category of land: **Community land** owned by Council (part of Lot 2 DP 706760) excluding the leased buildings of Paymasters Café and Stationmaster's residence
Zoned B4 Mixed Use under Newcastle City Centre LEP 2008

Character Statement

The significance of the Lumberyard site is now well established, and a plan of management for the area has been prepared.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 0.4 ha, located between Scott Street and Bond Street. The original lumberyard compound extends under the east side of the Customs House site.

Exclusive Areas :	Paymaster's cafe site	0.02 ha	5%
	Stationmaster's residence	0.02 ha	5%

Landform

Generally level from Scott Street, dropping along N edge to Foreshore Park.

Current Uses :

Use

Park

restaurant

specialist medical centre

Please Note: Both above leased buildings (Paymasters and Stationmaster's) on site are classified as operational land and do not form part of this Plan of Management.

Facilities

interpretive park

Paymaster's Cafe

Stationmaster's residence

Access:

- Unfinished surface not wheelchair accessible.
- No map of area.
- No toilet for disabled

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- buried remains of convict lumberyard – 1999 – Interpretative Structure
- Paymaster's Cafe, 1879
- Stationmaster's House, 1885

Landscape

- grass and new plantings paving and interpretive elements(2000)

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- Customs House, Watt Street, corner Scott Street, 1877, James Barnet, Colonial Architect, 1900 additions, W L Vernon, Government Architect.
- Newcastle Station
- Great Northern Hotel
- Foreshore Park and harbour facilities
- Coutts sailors home
- Pacific Park
- Foreshore Park
- Joy Cummings Community Centre – old Police Station

Landscape

- Enterprise Park

Non-Contributory Elements:

- Busy road between Lumberyard and Pacific Park and access to Newcastle Beach.

References:

- Bairstow, D., *Newcastle Lumber Yard, 1989 Excavation Report*, 1989, Newcastle City Council.
- Meredith Walker et al, *The Convict Lumber Yard, the Stationmaster's Residence, and the Paymaster's Office - A Conservation Policy*, 1990, Newcastle City Council.

Issues raised at Community Workshops: 1998

1. There is a Conservation Policy and Concept Design for the Lumberyard site, however there was concern at the community workshops about the integration of the site with adjacent areas viz
 - Newcastle Station - which could have an active front and interface with the area,
 - Foreshore
 - Paymaster's Cafe
 - Great Northern Hotel which is being refurbished
 - Coutts Sailors Home which is in derelict state.
2. Community stakeholders are also concerned that some uses of adjacent buildings conflict with the heritage site. In particular, there is concern that the Customs House has a licence to stay open till 3.00 am. The number of licensed premises around the Lumberyard also give rise to concerns about inappropriate late night uses and possible damage to the site.
3. Community stakeholders also suggested that the present Station Master's House could become a centre for the interpretation of the lumberyard. Pedestrian and landscape connections to the Foreshore could facilitate popular use of the area and the presence of a kiosk or café catering to families (drinks, ice creams etc) would also assist this.
4. Convict Lumberyard may be more appropriately classified as community land rather than as operational land..

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	Aged & Disability Care officer	
2	prepare Convict Sites Presentation Strategy (covering 5 sites)	2011	see above
years 5-10 :			
4	review	2012	5,000

CONVICT LUMBERYARD PRECINCT: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2008

Preamble

Council will manage the Convict Lumberyard site, consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

The Convict Lumberyard site is community land primarily categorised as culturally significant.

- “The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods”. (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance indicator
Completion of a disability access audit	Staff assessment with assistance from community organisations	Completed by June 2001	Target is met
Manage conflicts of use.	Review impacts of late night licensing in Convict Lumber Yard vicinity.	Completed by 2009	Reduction in anti-social behaviour
Maintenance of site at present standards	Existing maintenance and works schedules	Satisfactory standards are maintained	Low level of community complaint

CONVICT LUMBERYARD PRECINCT: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2008

Leases and Licenses: Convict Lumberyard site

Please note: The two leased buildings on site, Paymaster's Café and Stationmaster's Cottage, are not part of the Plan of Management as they are classified as operational land.

General: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of licences in the Convict Lumberyard for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, e.g. weddings/photos/festivals/ functions in accordance with the core objectives.

For the purposes of section 46(1) (b) (iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (b) engaging in a trade or business,
- (c) delivering a public address,
- (d) commercial photographic sessions,
- (e) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (f) filming for cinema or television,
- (g) the agistment of stock.

GREGSON PARK, HAMILTON: HERITAGE PLACES PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2021

Part A

Supporting Information - Gregson Park

Cultural Significance

History

The municipality of Hamilton was established in 1871, its name taken from that of the governor of the AA Company, whose mining operations in the area had begun in 1848. As its mining activity declined, the company released land for residential subdivision, and in 1889 it transferred a parcel of land to the municipality for public open space. This was named Gregson Park after Jesse Gregson, superintendent of the company at the time.

A competition for the design of the park was held in 1890, won by Alfred Sharp, who in the same year won a similar competition for the design of the Upper Reserve (King Edward Park). Unfortunately Sharp's ideas seem to have been ignored in both cases. At Gregson Park he proposed to develop the line of a creek flowing through the area, a tributary of Styx Creek, into a serpentine lake with islands. Instead the stream was covered over, and is no longer visible.

The park, however, quickly became a popular public area, with tree planting and other improvements carried out by the municipality alongside the formation of the Hamilton Bowling Club in 1896, the fourth such club to be formed in Newcastle (Newcastle/City 1889, Waratah 1890, Lowlands 1892). Other features and monuments were added in the first decades of this century, including: a pair of guns from Victoria Barracks, erected in 1905 at the corner of Tudor and Steel Streets, subsequently moved to their present position opposite James Street; iron gates with stone posts to the James Street entrance in 1908, and a fountain in the same year; the gates to the Tudor/Steel Streets entrance commemorating the members of the first Hamilton Council, erected 1912; and the war memorial of c 1919, the floodlighting of which in 1937 attracted a crowd of 7000. A band rotunda was also part of the original features of the park, and was mysteriously demolished in 1940. In recent years the link between Gregson Park and Beaumont Street, the main street of Hamilton, via James Street, as been reinforced by its use as part of the Carnival festival process.

Description

Category of Land

Community Land classification: Area of Cultural Significance, Park, General Community Use and Sportsground.

Character Statement

The park is a good example of an urban Victorian park, serving an identifiable community. Its limited size, clear shape and sense of containment by surrounding building frontages give it a strong sense of unity and identity. In terms of its relationship to its context, it has two principal public faces:

To Tudor Street to the south: this address to a major thoroughfare is well defined at the Tudor/Steel Street corner, but less coherent towards the west, and there is an opportunity to reconsider the landscaping of this southern side to reinforce this aspect of the park;

To James Street to the east: James Street forms a strong visual and functional link between Beaumont Street, the main street of Hamilton, and the park; while some features (e.g. the gateposts) support this, others (the Ladies' bowling clubhouse) conflict with it, and there is an opportunity to better acknowledge and reinforce this aspect.

Adjacent to the park on its southern, Tudor Street boundary is a triangle of land that should be included in any future landscape plan.

The following items are listed as heritage items in the Newcastle LEP 2012:

- Gregson Park - Landscape Item
- Fountain Monument – Built Item
- Gregson Park Steel Street gates – Built item
- Gregson Park Tudor Street gates – Landscape item
- War Memorial – Built Item

Refer to State Heritage Inventory for details of each item

Physical Area

3.8 ha, bounded by Lindsay, Steel, Tudor and Samdon Streets.

Landform

Generally level site, formerly containing course of creek in NE corner, no longer visible.

Current Uses

Park – passive leisure, picnics
Tennis – two courts plus club house
Playground
Amenities Building
City of Newcastle park maintenance building
Events – markets etc

Masterplan for Gregson Park 2021

A Masterplan has been prepared for Gregson Park with two key aims being to:

- Identify the role of Gregson Park in meeting local recreation needs and respecting the heritage significance of the park.
- Identify the way in which the Gregson Park can be most effectively utilised to help meet the broader recreation, sporting and community facility needs of the surrounding communities and the wider Newcastle region.

Phase 1 Community Engagement was undertaken from August to December 2020.

Through analysis of the data, several common themes have emerged across the school workshops, stakeholder interviews, in-park drop-in sessions and broader online engagement.

Plantings and Aboriginal Culture

- Retain fig trees and flower beds, add native plant species and Awabakal cultural interpretation.

Basic amenities

- Upgrade and extend toilets
- Add more open-sided shelter and seating for larger groups

Playspace

- All ages, inclusive, larger footprint

Community gathering

- Upgrade park assets to support events; pop-up cafe; community/edible garden (edible plantings and plots cared for by community organisations).

Heritage

- Keep cannons and monuments

Recreation

- Upgrade existing paths for bike/scooter/run; Flat and open green grass areas.
- Add bat ball wall, basketball half court; keep tennis courts, upgrade clubhouse to multipurpose building.

Phase 2 Exhibition of the Masterplan and Plan of Management was held from August to October 2021. The Masterplan was adopted by Council on 23 November 2021.

Part B

Gregson Park Heritage Places Plan of Management

Categorisation

Gregson Park is community land categorised as Park, General Community Use and Sportsground, and the whole park is Area of Cultural Significance to reflect the local landscape heritage value of the park.

"The core objectives for management of community land categorised as Park are:

- (a) to encourage promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities,
- (b) to provide for passive recreation; activities or pastimes or for the playing of casual games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management." (Sec 36G LGA 1993).

"The core objectives for management of community land categorised as Sportsground are:

- (a) to encourage promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences." (Sec 36F LGA 1993).

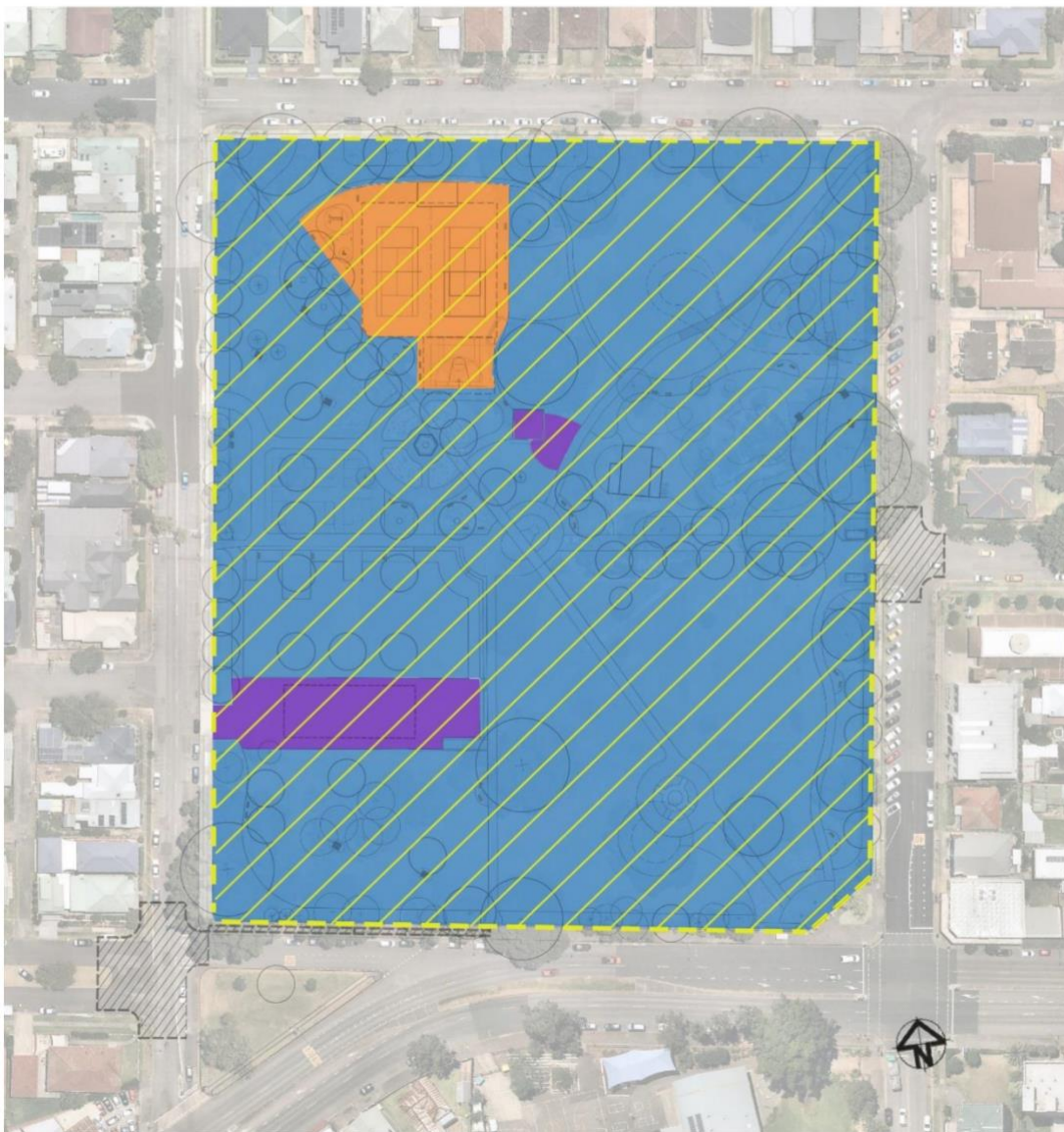
"The core objectives for management of community land categorised as General Community Use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities). "(Sec36I LGA 1993).

"The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as Area of Cultural Significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods" (Sec. 36H Local Government Act 1993).

Categorisation of Gregson Park

-  Park
-  Sportsground
-  General Community Use
-  Area of Cultural Significance



Action Table

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance Indicator
Finalise and approve Gregson Park Masterplan	Public exhibition and adoption of Masterplan and amended POM	Late 2021	All steps are completed and timetable is met
Improve the amenity and heritage value of Gregson Park	Implement Gregson Park Masterplan	Over a 10 year period	Key actions with the Masterplan have been met

Leases and Licences Gregson Park

Community Use: This Plan of Management expressly authorises leases, licenses and other estates at Gregson Park on the site categorised as General Community Use to community based organisations for the purpose of public recreation, physical, social, cultural and intellectual welfare activities.

Kiosk: This Plan of Management expressly authorises a kiosk to be established in the existing maintenance building within the park. The kiosk may be leased or licensed on a commercial basis.

Tennis: Tennis and associated court-based recreational activities are a legitimate activity in Gregson Park, at a scale and design appropriate to the categorisation of Gregson Park as an Area of Cultural Significance. **This** Plan of Management expressly authorises leases or licences at Gregson Park for tennis and associated activities in that part of the park categorised as Sportsground.

General: This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of leases, licences and other estates in Gregson Park for community uses that **enhance** the community development of Newcastle, e.g. weddings, photos, festivals, functions.

For the purposes of section 46(1) (b) (iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a **purpose** in respect of which a Council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short-term casual basis:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (b) engaging in a trade or business,
- (c) delivering a public address,
- (d) commercial photographic sessions,
- (e) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (f) filming for cinema or television, and
- (g) the agistment of stock.

Supporting information for the Plan of Management for **Wallsend Tramway Park** (Incorporating Glass-House Reserve)

Cultural Significance

History

The Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company (NWCC) to serve its Wallsend Colliery founded Wallsend in 1860. The following year the NSW Cooperative Coal Company acquired land to the north and established Plattsburg to serve its mines. The two towns grew together to form one of the districts most prosperous mining towns. The boundary between the two was originally defined by what is now Boundary Street and Newcastle Road placing the Tramway Park within the original Wallsend Township. However when the township split into two separate municipalities from 1876 to 1915, the railway line that ran through the park site became the boundary line.

The railway line had been constructed to Wallsend by the NWCC by 1861, branching from the Great Northern Railway at Waratah. While the line was primarily for colliery trains, the company added a covered van for goods and passengers. Initially passengers had to purchase their tickets from a ticket box adjacent the actual coal pit further to the west, however after considerable agitation for a siding to service the growing township a goods shed come station was built in 1868, (location unknown but presumably near the present site). In 1873 passenger traffic became the responsibility of the government railways, however after ongoing disagreements between the government and the mining company passenger services were discontinued in September 1875. In 1877 the brick goods shed was built and the original timber shed demolished. The official railway station was not opened until 1889, as much for the benefit of the NWCC as the public, located to the east of the Nelson Street crossing.

While a regular passenger service recommenced in 1922 it was short lived, the tramway having become the preferred passenger service. The Newcastle-Wallsend steam tramline had opened in 1887. Its original terminus was in Plattsburg at what is now the Rotunda Park. However when the line was extended to West Wallsend in 1910 the depot was relocated to the Kemp Street site. Both the railway and the tramway were essential transportation services for the community, especially for the large crowds that attended events such as the horse races and football games or for picnic outings to Toronto on Lake Macquarie. The space itself was also an important community focus. It was at the heart of the urban area, flanked by numerous hotels and other commercial and civic buildings along Kemp and Cowper Streets. The Nelson Street crossing was the main gateway between the separate municipalities and commercial centres of Wallsend and Plattsburg, with historic photographs showing parades progressing up Nelson Street from the Rotunda Park, across the railway and down Cowper Street to Wallsend Park. On fortnightly pay days the streets around the railway were transformed into a fair with stalls, sideshows and amusements.

In 1934 the NWCC advertised the mine for sale or lease. The station was then used for company offices, and sections of the track were removed. The company closed in the 1950's. In 1980 the station was given to Newcastle City Council, and in 1985 the building was relocated to Wallsend High School, being the location of the Cooperative Coal Companies original mine. The goods shed was closed in 1935 with various subsequent uses. Demolition was proposed in the 1980's but the NSW Heritage Council requested that Newcastle Council save it as the only surviving goods shed that was built privately and one of only three surviving masonry good sheds in the state. It was restored in 1994 and converted for use as the Wallsend Business Enterprise Centre.

Thematic Significance

- Mining (7)
- Townships (10)
- Transport (13)

Recommended Status

The Wallsend Tramway Park provides evidence of the historic development of the mining townships, and particularly allows ready interpretation of the important role of the railway and tramway corridors.

Recommended Status: Local Heritage

Evaluation Summary

	Historical	Aesthetic	Research	Social
Rare				
Representative	Local	Local	Local	Local

Description

Category of Land

Community land: Cultural Significance

Character Statement

The park is a long narrow stretch of land that was formerly a railway corridor. It is sandwiched between two streets and bisected by another, with a concrete drainage channel terminating one end. This layout, together with its location at a major road junction and gateway to the town centre, means that while the park is very much the focus of attention from outside its boundaries, there are limited opportunities for creating useable spaces within its boundaries or for interaction with the surrounding buildings. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site is currently an asphalt car park, severely restricting opportunities for soft landscaping.

Physical

Area

Total area: 0.575 ha

Landform

Generally flat sloping gradually to west. Highly modified

Current Uses

Use

Carpark, some pedestrian access

Facilities

no recreation facilities,
Seating, tram shed on western end.

Access

- all areas generally accessible
- kerbs in some areas prevent ready access along all movement routes
- no facilities exist in the site accessible or otherwise
- shadehouse is accessible at grade
- tram shed is accessible at grade

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space

Structures

- Tram shed
- reconstruction of railway gates
- modern replacement of shadehouse

Landscape

- mature fig trees (*Ficus macrophylla*)
- a few reasonably mature brushbox (*Lophostemon conferta*) and other smaller native species

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space

Structures

- various historic/heritage listed buildings down either side of the park on Cowper and Kemp Streets
- Baptist church off the eastern end

Landscape

- drainage channel off the western end
- Wallsend Park to the south east
- Original formal planting of figs (*Ficus macrophylla* and one *Ficus superba*) parallel to Cowper St and parallel to Kemp/Dan Rees St

Non-Contributory Elements

- expanse of asphalt car parking
- modern concrete block or timber retaining walls

References

- Historic research undertaken by Cynthia Hunter as part of the consultant review by Ecotecture commissioned by Newcastle City Council in September 2001.
- The railway (tramway) station site was included in Volume 4 of the Inventory for the Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study prepared by Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council in 1996.

Issues

The following points should be considered in deciding how best the combination of features in the park can be enhanced.

- The park is currently little more than a car park, with the car parking area covering about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site. While this would generally be considered entirely inappropriate for a “park”, given the presence nearby of the Rotunda Park as a “civic” open space and the Wallsend Park as a “recreational” open space there is no obvious role for the Tramway Park as a “park”, and hence no obvious reason to exclude the cars and replace the bitumen with soft landscaping. There may however be merit in excluding cars from some limited areas so that the nature of the space as a “park” rather than a “car park” can be enhanced. The most obvious location for this would be that section immediately east of Nelson Street around the shadehouse, due both to the fact that this is the major movement area through the site as the connection between Nelson and Cowper Streets, and that it would enhance the setting and amenity of the shadehouse. The eastern end of the park adjacent the Baptist Church would also be a possible site for such landscaping and would enhance the setting of that building and complement the many mature trees in that area. Any reduction in the total number of car parking spaces would obviously have to be considered in terms of an overall traffic and parking strategy for the town.
- Occasional use of the car park area and adjacent streets for other activities that could utilise such a space would be appropriate e.g. markets, skate tournaments, car displays.
- The line of mature fig trees down either side of the park should be further consolidated to emphasise the lineal nature of the park, to soften the hard surfaces of the park, and to provide shade. Additional fig trees (*F superba*) have been recently planted along the Cowper Street (southern) side to replace the failed *F macrophylla*. A few brushbox have also been recently planted down the Kemp Street (northern) side adjacent to a few reasonably mature trees of the same species. However it is suggested that these existing trees are only of minor value compared to the fig trees, and that the recently planted trees should be replaced by fig trees or similar scaled formal evergreen species (such as *Magnolia grandiflora* used in Nelson St).

- The relationship of the eastern end of the park to Kemp Street and the boundary between them is unclear as a number of “on-street” parking bays appear to extend into the park area. There may be merit in reviewing the layout of spaces such that the park boundary is more readily defined. Subject to re-configuration of the carpark a linear planting of large scale trees should be established on the northern edge of the reserve.

Given the low traffic demand on both Kemp Street and Dan Rees Street along the northern side of the park, it may be possible to integrate these streets into the park in some way, while still allowing full traffic movement, which could act to enhance the amenity of the buildings fronting the park, create more ready pedestrian access to the park at any point along its length, and extend the amount of soft landscaping.

- The western end of the park is the only section that reads as a “park” due to the absence of cars and the soft landscaping. The current planting includes several over-mature trees which require replacement. It is suggested that a Landscape Plan be developed for this section of the park that is integrated with the Nelson Street Mainstreet Masterplan and the Wallsend Instream Enhancement program. Items to be addressed should include:
 - reinforcing the lineal nature of the park by continuing the line of fig trees (or suitable alternative species) down each side
 - enhancing the outlook of the park over Wallsend Park to the south west
 - creating a more obvious link through the site to Wallsend Park, this being one of the main access point to that park from the town centre
 - responding to the presence of the drainage channel, which is actually the upper reaches of Ironbark Creek, especially should the concrete walls of the channel ever be removed in favour of a more natural form.
 - enhancing the impact of the site as part of the “gateway” to the town centre
 - integrating the park with the end of Dan Rees Street which is one of the major points of pedestrian entry across the drainage channel to the Wallsend Plaza Shopping centre
- Plantings to all garden areas within the main section of the park should be low growing shrubs or ground covers so as not to impede views to and through the park from either side, and it is recommended that current tall shrubs be removed and the low shrub plantings should be supplemented.
- The raised planter beds around the shadehouse appear to have had plants though none remain. It is presumed that the height and alignment of the planters relate to the original railway platform, and hard landscaping would strengthen this.
- Interpretation of the railway/tramway development of the site could be increased by, for example, defining the former track alignments within the paving, particularly between the reproduction gates across Nelson Street.
- Interpretation of the railway/tramway development beyond the site might be achieved by continuing the formal large tree planting along roadsides etc., especially to the east beyond the Baptist Church to Low Street, and to the west along the Wallsend Plaza car park to Kokera Street.

WALLSEND TRAMWAY PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2002 - 2005

Preamble

Council will manage glasshouse reserve consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

Glasshouse reserve is community land primarily categorised as culturally significant.

- “The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods”. (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance target	Performance indicator
Enhance the space of the carpark as a park and improve the role of this land as a gateway to the town centre.	Prepare a landscape plan for this area including consideration of issues raised in supporting information	Landscape Concept Plan prepared and exhibited within 3 years.	Concept plan adopted by community and implementation plan prepared
Maintain the existing mature trees and replace as required in accordance with the Landscape Concept Plan	Prepare maintenance /management plan for trees.	Include maintenance in regular routines	Trees amenity improved and life span enhanced.

WALLSEND TRAMWAY PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2000 - 2005

General

For the purposes of section 46(1)(b)(iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (h) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (i) engaging in a trade or business,
- (j) delivering a public address,
- (k) commercial photographic sessions,
- (l) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (m) filming for cinema or television,
- (n) the agistment of stock.

CROWN LAND PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **FLETCHER PARK**

Cultural Significance

History

During the initial penal settlement of Newcastle in the early 1800's the land south of Church Street was used as gardens or paddocks, with the government herd of cattle grazing there. By 1804 a flagstaff was erected on the crest of the hill in what is now Fletcher Park, and the site went on to play an important role as a lookout and signal station, supplementary to Fort Scratchley. On Dangar's 1828 Plan of the town (then known as Kings Town) the only development shown in this area was the Commandant's Residence, though this was burnt down at about that time. The site of the residence was roughly on the alignment of Watt Street, though appears to have been slightly to the east and so may have been partially within the area of Fletcher Park. Watt Street at that time was only a meandering track south of Church Street, leading from the small coal shafts in the area. About 1830 the AA Company was granted the land west of Brown Street, with the boundary extending south along what became The Terrace. Later in the 1830's the park site became part of the Ordnance Reserve that extended west to Newcomen Street, upon which were built the military barracks and hospital etc. These buildings were all shown as being west of the Watt Street alignment, and ultimately became a mental asylum that forms the basis of the James Fletcher Hospital campus today. In 1851, in order to preserve the remaining the high land for future extension of the town, the land beyond the Ordnance Reserve and Church Street and west to the AA Company boundary was set aside as a pasturage reserve.

In 1859 Newcastle was incorporated as a municipality, and shortly afterwards applied to the government for the coastal parts of the reserve to be dedicated for recreation purposes. This Recreational Reserve was gazetted on 2 July 1863, the bulk of which is what we now know as King Edward Park, but which also included Fletcher Park and the coastal land down to Newcastle Beach. In 1877 the formation of Watt Street south to Ordnance Street was undertaken, which would have clearly defined the park boundaries. Fletcher Park was known as the Little or Lower Reserve with King Edward Park called the Upper Reserve. It is not known whether Alfred Sharpe's c.1890's design for King Edward Park included Fletcher Park, but in any case Fletcher Park was part of the people's promenade as they strolled from the beaches to the "Upper Reserve", with steps coming up from the beach before Shortland Esplanade was formed. During this latter part of the 19th century due to the pressures of industrialisation, there was an international movement for the preservation of public parklands in cities. This resulted in a rededication of the Newcastle reserves in 1906, with Newcastle Council officially appointed as trustee for "all coastal land dedicated for public recreation and public baths" in 1910.

In 1897 the Fletcher monument was unveiled, though when the name was officially changed Fletcher Park is unknown. James Fletcher was a coal miner and became the district's representative in the Legislative Assembly. After his death in 1891 the Fletcher Memorial Committee set about raising funds for a suitable memorial. The statue was carved by an eminent Italian sculptor and arrived in the colony in 1896. The Little Reserve was the favoured site of the committee though others in Hamilton and Wallsend were considered. Agreement was reached with Council as to the location after assurances that the statue and its erection was paid for, as until that time nearly every memorial that had been erected in New South Wales had been subsidised by the government, and it appears to have been a point of some note that this one was entirely funded by the public. Tenders for the foundations and erection were called in January 1897, and the statue was unveiled to a "monster gathering" on 10 April.

Various photographs c.1900 show the statue with its chain balustrade, as well as a row of mature Norfolk Island Pines down either side of Watt Street, a picket fence to the street boundary, various pathways, and an ornate cast iron hooded drinking fountain just to the north of the memorial. However the most substantial item in the park was the Gibson Kiosk. It is shown in a photograph of 1918, standing at the southern end of the park, a large masonry structure comprising an arched colonnade at ground level with benches and tables for kiosk patrons and a level viewing deck on the roof.

Today only the statue and some of the paths remain. The Norfolk Island Pines were removed in the 1960's due to their poor condition. Mature palms replaced them but these did not survive their move from King and Gibson Streets. It is unknown when the kiosk, drinking fountain or fence was removed though they still appear in a photograph from 1937. A plaque erected in 1978 by the local Surveyors Institute identifies the timber post at the southern extremity of the park as that placed there in 1864 to fix the alignment of the streets in Newcastle.

Thematic Significance

- Convicts (2)
- Land Tenure (6)
- Environment (9)
- Defence (22)
- Leisure (26)
- Persons (33)

Recommended Status

Fletcher Park is historically an adjunct to King Edward Park, and its importance to the historic development of the city is integral with that of the larger park. However the location of Fletcher Park within the heart of the city centre and its dramatic cliffside setting overlooking Newcastle Beach and the harbour distinguish it from King Edward Park and provides different opportunities in ways that are both unique to and unique within Newcastle. It is a place for "promenading" and for simply taking in the view or whale or dolphin watching.

Recommended Status: Local Heritage

Evaluation Summary

	Historical	Aesthetic	Research	Social
Rare	Regional	Local		
Representative			Local	Local

Description

Category of Land

Crown land

Character Statement

The park is an open stretch of grassed space, on a fairly consistent grade, running along the cliff side. There are no particularly prominent features within the park that would detract attention from its chief asset, that is the panoramic views it affords over Newcastle Beach to the Pacific Ocean. The only item of note is the Fletcher statue, though historically there were a row of Norfolk Island Pines along Watt Street. Its proximity to the heart of the city centre, combined with its dramatic location, make the park both unique to and unique within Newcastle.

Physical

Area

Total area: 0.785 ha

Landform

Grassed, gently sloping cliff top

Current

Uses

Use

Walking/promenade link to and from Newcastle beach
Viewing and informal recreation

Facilities

park seating

Access

- all areas generally accessible though steepness of land in some areas prevents total accessibility
- no facilities exist, accessible or otherwise within the park

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space

Structures

- Fletcher statue and surrounds
- Remains of Gibson Kiosk (on the cliff face approximately opposite hospital entrance)
- Surveyors plaque and historic timber marker post
- Another timber post near the kiosk site may also be significant)

Landscape

- concrete edged paths and steps
- rubble stone retaining walls along Watt Street and Shortland Esplanade
- Shrubs along Shortland Esplanade have limited significance.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space

Structures

- Newcastle Bowling Club
- James Fletcher Hospital
- Watt Street terraces

Landscape

- King Edward Park
- Newcastle Beach

Non-Contributory

Elements

- tall shrub planting along Watt Street
- bitou bush along fenceline at cliffs
- modern benches

References

- Historic research undertaken by Cynthia Hunter as part of the consultant review by Ecotecture commissioned by Newcastle City Council in September 2001.
- The Fletcher statue was included in Volume 4 of the Inventory for the Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study prepared by Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council in 1996.
- The remains of the Gibson Kiosk were nominated by the National Trust for inclusion in the Draft Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2000.
- The Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan prepared by Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council 1997.

Issues

The following points should be considered in deciding how best the combination of features in the park can be enhanced

- Any works to the park, particularly the location and construction of new pathways, should be integrated with that of King Edward park and linked to The Bathers Way coastal walk below to encourage “promenading” through the park. Existing historic pathways should be retained including concrete edges and steps.
- The park has always been predominantly open grassed space for people to simply relax and enjoy the panoramic views, and this quality should be maintained and enhanced by:
 - providing a reasonable number of well placed seats or benches
- The rubble stone retaining walls along Watt Street and Shortland Esplanade are similar to those in other parks around the city, such as Empire Park and Civic Park. They are presumed to date from the 1920’s or 30’s, with earlier photographs showing a picket fence to the street, though their precise age is unknown. The walls are unstable and their reconstruction should use materials and finish sympathetic to the existing character.
- Planting should be restricted to smaller species on the terrace between the stepped wall so as not to obstruct views through the park and not to cause root damage to the stonework.
- The Norfolk Island Pines that stood along Watt Street were the only historic plantings in the park and were prominent within the broader cityscape, as well as softening and providing shade to the otherwise open and exposed grassed landscape. They also represent a continuity of that species from King Edward Park. Being trees with tall trunks they would not impede views through the park at ground level. A formal row of *Araucaria heterophylla* (not *A. columnaris*) should be installed on the original alignment in the park.
- Clearing the bitou bush in a very restricted area on the cliff side of the fence line would be desirable both from an environmental point of view and to minimise the intrusion of the fence within the panoramic ocean view. Lower growing native plants of an appropriate species might replace them.
- The white ordnance fencing with infill black chain mesh along the cliff face is appropriate and should be retained.
- Reconstruction of the flagstaff would interpret this military history of the site that is not otherwise obvious, and would provide a tangible link to the various related military sites within the immediate area including Fort Scratchley, Nobbys Head, Boat Harbour, the Obelisk and Shepherds Hill.
- The significance of the kiosk remnants is not readily appreciated in their current form, however this would be enhanced considerably by simple on site interpretation e.g. signage/historic photograph plaque.
- Commandants cottage may have archaeological potential.

FLETCHER PARK: PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2002 - 2005

Preamble

Council will manage Fletcher Park consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

Fletcher Park is crown land.

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance Target	Performance Indicator
Heritage quality and character is maintained while meeting asset management objectives and disability access objectives	Preparation of landscape concept master plan that incorporates the objectives.	Plan prepared, exhibited and adopted during 2002	Community endorses plan Targets are met
Implementation of Stage 1 of concept master plan	Works are scheduled for implementation annually until completed.	Stage 1 Work completed by June 2003 Stage 2 scheduled within 5 years.	All work is completed by 2007
Maintenance of park at present standards	Existing maintenance and works schedules Replacement of failed or stolen plants to be selected from original species list (refer Fletcher park planting plan) Materials repair to match Fletcher park specifications.	Satisfactory standards are maintained and heritage places principles applied to maintenance and new work.	Low level of community complaint

FLETCHER PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2002 - 2005

General

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of licences in Fletcher Park for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, eg weddings/photos/festivals/functions.

For the purposes of section 46(1)(b)(iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (o) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (p) engaging in a trade or business,
- (q) delivering a public address,
- (r) commercial photographic sessions,
- (s) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (t) filming for cinema or television,
- (u) the agistment of stock.

Supporting information for Plan of Management for

Islington Park

Cultural Significance

History

The area of Islington Park was originally mangrove estuary, based on the meandering watercourses of Throsby and Styx Creeks. The clearance of the alluvial flats in the area for cultivation resulted in erosion and siltation of the watercourses, exacerbated in the 1870s by the establishment of polluting industries along their banks. In 1878 agitation to establish public open space in the new suburb of Islington led to the dedication of Islington Park in 1880. The original landscape design was by T.W. Hogue, the Clerk of Wickham Council, with the planting of trees, including extensive Moreton Bay figs, carried out by J. T. Croft. Entrance gates were located opposite Bevan Street, flanked by a pair of cannon, one reputedly from the First Fleet, which subsequently have been lost. A bowling green was established on the low ground currently occupied by the oval, flanked to E and W by swampy ground which was subject to flooding at high tide. Alfred Sharp proposed a revised design for the park, which may have contributed to the realignment of Throsby Creek in the 1880s. Apart from recreational use, the park became a focus for public meetings and debate, especially for radical and trade union speakers. During the Depression of the 1930s employment was created in landscaping work to the Park. The bowling club was moved to higher ground on its present location in 1937, with much public controversy over its removal of some of the fig trees on Maitland Road, which by then had become the major landscape feature that they remain today. The recent upgrading and restoration of landscaping along Throsby Creek gives added significance to this, one of the most substantial landscape spaces in the system.

Thematic Significance

- Environment (9)
- Labour (17)
- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

Islington Park is part of the industrial and social development of inner Newcastle, as well as forming part of a significant estuarine creek parkland system.

Recommended status: Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary:

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	local	regional	local	
representative				local

Description

Category of land: Crown Land

Character Statement

Over the years the original mangrove wetland character of this site was contained and then eliminated, and the Park took on the character of a conventional municipal recreation area, with the one distinguishing feature of the avenue of figs along Maitland Road. However, with the reclamation of Throsby Creek and the creation of riverbank cycleways and footpaths, the context of the Park is once more transformed. It now stands at the head of a continuous linear waterfront parkland running from Nobbys Headland inland through the Honeysuckle Project area, to Islington. This provides the opportunity to reassess the landscape character of the Park, and create a major riverfront place with landscape character unique within the city.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 9.4 ha, bounded by Maitland Road, Throsby and Styx Creeks, and private

property lines.		
Exclusive Areas :bowling club site	0.7 ha	9 %
oval	2.0 ha	25 %

Landform

Divided into three sections by Throsby Creek and Styx Creek at N end :

- NW Section, bounded by both creeks and Maitland Road, 0.8 ha;
- NE Section, on N bank of Throsby Creek, 1.6 ha;
- S Section, bounded by Maitland Road and S bank of Throsby and Styx Creeks, 7.0 ha.

All sections fall to creek banks, with bank up to S part of Maitland Road.

Current Uses :

Use

team ball games
informal ball games
cycling
children's play
skateboarding
general passive recreation
roofed BBQ area, riverside walk

Facilities

oval, pavilion
single-end basketball surface
riverside cycleway
play area with play equipment
skateboard pit
toilet block, bus shelter, bubbler, picnic tables,

Access :

- no designated disabled parking
- very limited continuous pathways,
- no designated disabled toilet
- no maps or signage
- the park is also noisy

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- remnants of stone wall in S section;

Landscape

- dominant row of mature figs along Maitland Road in S section;

Non-Contributory Elements:

- poor edge with back yards

References:

- Suters Architects Snell, *Throsby Creek Landscape Masterplan*, 1992, Hunter Catchment Management Trust & Newcastle City Council

Issues raised at Community Workshops:

- Recent landscape treatments and pathways have increased local usage.
- The concrete creek banks and beds are eroding and the question will arise whether to re-concrete or stabilise the banks in another way which permits a more natural and landscaped watercourse. As part of this process, the mangroves could be restored.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	Aged & Disability Care Officer	2001 in - house
2	restore former Bowling Club site to a level consistent with adjoining open space		2000 18,000
years 5-10 :			
3	review 1992 Landscape Master Plan	Landscape Architects	2003 5,000
4	install on-site interpretation	City Services	2003 5,000
5	implement remainder of Landscape Master Plan including reconstruction of creek banks as part of Throsby Creek restoration	City Services	2005 70,000
6	review		2008 3,000

Supporting information for Plan of Management for

King Edward Park

Cultural Significance

History

The park was first proclaimed a recreation reserve in 1865 on 38 acres of land lying on the southern boundary of the city of Newcastle. By 1860 the area of King Edward Park was clearly identified on maps as a 'Reserve for Public Recreation', forming the southern boundary of the city of Newcastle. At that time it comprised a triangular area defined by Ordnance Street (boundary of the city to the N), The Terrace (boundary of the AA Company's land to the W), and the coastal cliffs to the SE. A number of important historic sites were contained within this reserve, including : the Obelisk, constructed in 1850 as a navigation aid to incoming ships to replace the windmill formerly located on that high point; the site of one of the earliest coal mines, near the present bowling green, from which the coal was taken down the track of what is now Watt Street to the waterfront wharf; and the Bogey Hole, constructed by convicts under the direction of Major James Morisset in 1819-22 and subsequently opened for public use in 1863.

During the 1880s the construction of Reserve Road and the south end of Wolfe Street effectively divided the Reserve into 3 parts : what became known as Arcadia Park on the west side of Wolfe Street, overlooking the port and city to the NW; the Obelisk Reserve between Reserve Road, Wolfe Street and Ordnance Street; and the remaining 'Upper Reserve' or 'Horseshoe Reserve'. A series of developments in the Upper Reserve then followed: in 1888 the stone fountain was reconstructed on the Horseshoe Bend, and new plantations of trees, including the New Zealand pohutakawa, established and in 1889 the oval was levelled within the angle of the Terrace and Reserve Road as a small cricket ground.

The defensive site of Shepherds Hill Fort on the south side of the park dates from the construction of a gun emplacement in 1890 and a barracks and other outbuildings in 1889-90 (subsequently known as Shepherds Hill Cottage). In 1890 a competition to prepare a masterplan for the emerging park was won by Alfred Sharp. Although constrained by the works that had already taken place, it aimed to exploit the natural formation of the gully running down within the Horseshoe to the ocean, creating within it a series of stepping pools and groves of trees. Within two years however, Sharp was writing to the local paper complaining that his designs had been ignored, and objecting to the filling of the gully. Despite this, the filling continued for a number of years. The City Bowling Club took up occupation of its site in 1891, having split from the Lowlands Bowling Club in Cooks Hill, now in Centennial Park.

The rotunda band stand was built on the upper lawn within the Horseshoe Bend in 1898, and in 1907 the brewer Joseph Wood donated money to erect a set of four stone gateposts and ornamental metal entrance gates at the Watt Street entrance, their remains being visible today in the pair of stone posts at the top entrance in the Terrace. The Upper Reserve was renamed King Edward Park in 1910 on the death of Edward VII. In 1920 there was debate about the alienation of land in the area around the Obelisk with the establishment of the Hill Tennis Club there. The city gardener, J.V. Coleman, appointed at that time, carried out extensive works to the Park, including the planting of Norfolk Island pines and the establishment of a 'model garden', Garside Gardens. During WW2 gun emplacements and bomb shelters were erected within the park, being finally demolished in 1978.

Thematic Significance

- Convict (2) - penal colony
- Land tenure (6)
- Environment (9)
- Defence (23)
- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

King Edward Park and its environs contain many important features of the development of the historic city. The Park is also an outstanding example of a Victorian recreational place in a dramatic coastal setting, despite some conflicting aspects of its design. It thus has particular importance within the Hunter Region.

Recommended status : Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	regional	regional	regional	regional
representative				

Description

Category of land: Crown land

Character Statement

The Park takes much of its character from two contrasting landscape conditions, the open coastal headlands and cliffs, and the more enclosed landscaped gully in which the rotunda is located. It is also surrounded by a number of significant landscape and constructed features which add greatly to the experience it offers. As a result, the Park forms a unique focus of landscape and heritage interest.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 36 ha, total historic reserve area including Obelisk Hill, Arcadia Park and Shepherds Hill Fort site; 13.5 ha bounded by Ordnance Street, Reserve Road, The Terrace, Defence Department site, the ocean;

Exclusive Areas :

Bowling Club site	0.6 ha	4 %
Tennis club site	0.3 ha	2%
Shepherds Hill cottage & fort	0.6 ha	4%

Landform

Coastal headland rising from N to crest at Shepherd's Hill to S, with steep cliffs to ocean along E,S perimeter. In N part a valley falls across the park to the E.

Current Uses :

Use

public & private ceremonial functions
active organised events (eg MG car rally)
active & passive casual leisure

bowling
has exclusive use of club house and

tennis

Facilities

rotunda
BBQ, toilets, children's play area
Garside Gardens
bowling clubhouse & greens - City Bowling Club
greens, direct lease with Crown Lands dept
tennis clubhouse and courts.

Access

- Disabled access very limited with no access to rotunda, BBQ area;
- toilets require modification;
- unsuited to significant traffic levels or traffic at speed.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- Bogey Hole, 1822
- Obelisk, 1850, on high point to N
- Rotunda, 1898;
- stone fountain, reconstructed 1888;
- Shepherds Hill Cottage 1889-90;
- Shepherd's Hill defensive works;
- stone gateposts at S entry, ex 1907;

Landscape

- Obelisk Reserve;
- stands of Norfolk Island pines within valley area;
- row of palms along W edge to the Terrace;
- Garside Gardens.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space

Structures

- Victorian villas on The Terrace, dating generally from the 1880s, including numbers 22 & 40 by F.B. Menkens architect and no. 20 by J. Henderson architect, and forming the W edge to the park.

Landscape

- Arcadia Park;
- Fletcher Park;

Non-Contributory Elements:

- S flank of bowling clubhouse;
- treatment of bowl below Garside Gardens
- approach to Bogey Hole
- toilet block
- overhead power lines
- proliferating signs

References:

- Bagley C. and Trigger J Research Report No 39: *The Future of an Historic Park: King Edward Park Management Strategy*, 1901, The Hunter Valley Research Foundation Newcastle.

Issues:

The following points need to be considered in deciding how best the combination of features in the Park can be enhanced :

- a major landscape opportunity appears to have been lost by the rejection of Alfred Sharp's proposal for the gully; the filling of the lower part of the gully has created an odd area of indeterminate character; the whole ravine area needs reconsideration to recover its potential as a contained and dramatic landscape feature;
- the Bogey Hole may well be one of the oldest visible artifact of white settlement in the Hunter Valley; while some work has been done to clean up its surroundings (the demolition of the former public toilets) its present setting is quite inadequate to celebrate this distinction, and integrate it into the overall experience of the Park;
- the high point of Shepherd's Hill at the south end of the Park is significant as one of a sequence of rising landforms along the coast, of which Fort Scratchley and Nobbys Headland form the culmination; these three places are linked also by their former coastal defence role, and the defence emplacement on Shepherd's Hill should be seen and celebrated in this context, not as an isolated object, but as part of a coherent chain of defence works extending from the mouth of the Hunter;
- while it has enjoyed a long history on the site, the bowling club does not present a positive

aspect to the Park, especially on its south side, and consideration should be given to improving this when the opportunity arises;

- improvements to the Park should be integrated with work to surrounding features and spaces, and particularly Obelisk Hill, so that the former unity of the landscape of this area (before the construction of Reserve Road) can be restored; for example, a walk could be created from the Obelisk into the Park, down through the gully, and terminating at the Bogey Hole, thus linking two of the oldest landmarks of the convict settlement;
- the management of traffic within the Park has received attention in the past, and could now usefully be reviewed, including the question of closing the lower road to vehicular access.

Issues raised at community workshops:

- sympathetic use of Shepherds Hill House eg as artists residence or interpretive centre
- area requires an integrated landscape plan (no more fiddly constructions)
- remove visual clutter, eg powerlines and signs
- area vulnerable to overuse and not robust enough to support too many mass events
- headland below gun emplacement is original pasture and should be kept unmown
- disabled access needs improvement eg access ramps to rotunda and BBQ, with appropriate surface modifications to rotunda and BBQ area (however, this would have to be compatible with heritage guidelines for the rotunda)
- close at night to through traffic for safety reasons,
- closing Park to through traffic at night would mean the Park cannot be used as part of any proposed one way traffic scheme (however through traffic increases pedestrian visitor safety).

LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN CONSIDERATIONS MAY 2000

KEY ISSUES FOR KING EDWARD PARK

Pedestrian access/pathways

1. Pathway surfaces generally uneven and poorly patched.
2. Pedestrian/vehicle conflicts occur on a regular basis, pedestrians use the roadway system for access through the park. Need to provide bollards/barriers along sections of the road to reduce road width and provide pedestrians with safe access/walkways
3. Soil erosion is occurring on casual pathways especially on Shepherds Hill, and above the Bogey Hole.
4. Need for a safe pedestrian access across Reserve Road to Obelisk possibly near the intersection of Newcomen Street and Reserve Road.
5. Possible paving required in the area from the Rotunda to the existing stairs to York Drive.

Toilets

1. Improve safety.
2. Disabled access difficult.

Playground equipment

1. Standard of existing equipment is poor.
2. Soft fall appears to be inadequate.
3. Lack of shade.

Formal grassed/garden areas

1. Some areas of grass are in poor condition – amphitheatre area has worn patches and poor grass growth, old bitumen paths exposed (near top car park), large bare patches appearing in some areas.
2. Existing shrub areas should be thinned with some replanting of more appropriate species.

Fencing

1. Different fencing styles used in a number of locations.
2. Fencing along the front boundary of the Bowling Club requires repairs.

Retaining Walls

1. Walls in some locations (esp Bogey Hole) are crumbling/collapsed.
2. Inconsistent treatments/finishes used in the park not in keeping with Heritage objectives for Park.

Lighting

1. Current lighting is to a minimal standard, poorly located and in a style that is inappropriate for a major park. Overhead wires detract from the scenic quality of the park.

Park furniture and BBQ

1. The style and location of existing furniture does not service park users and is not in keeping with Heritage objectives.
2. The number of rubbish bins is inadequate to meet usage especially in summer.
3. Vehicles park in BBQ area.

Vehicle access/parking

1. High vehicle speeds in York Drive and Shortland Esplanade threaten the safety of pedestrians.
2. High vehicle speeds in Reserve Road threaten the safety of pedestrians trying to cross to the Obelisk area.
3. Car based vandalism occurs on a regular basis in grassed areas, to park furniture and around carparks.
4. Vehicles have unrestricted access to the park especially after dark.
5. Vehicle and pedestrian/dog conflicts occur on a regular basis.
6. Vehicle occupants leave/through rubbish in car park areas.
7. Because the off street parking limited.
8. Traffic problems occur in surrounding streets during events.

Park entrances/edges

1. Park entrances are generally ill defined and road edges also ill defined

Access for people with disabilities

1. People with disabilities have access problems to some areas especially the rotunda, toilets and BBQ area

Native Vegetation

1. Native vegetation areas are severely affected by Bitou bush invasion.
2. Existing Themeda grassland areas are poorly managed and suffer from weed invasion and excessive mowing
3. Area on the southern side of the bowling club is severely degraded by weed growth and bowling club activities.

Drainage

1. Serious soil erosion is occurring in the eastern gully near the Bogey Hole.
2. Seepage occurring below Garside Gardens.
3. Damage to road pavement due to seepage – adjacent to Garside Gardens.
4. Damage to existing drainage system eg near toilet block has not been repaired.

Tree Management

1. Some Norfolk Pines have severe dieback and may have to be removed.
2. Dead trees through out the park have not been removed and planting of replacement trees is not ongoing.
3. Current maintenance practices appear to cause tree damage and health problems and young trees appear to be stunted.

Northern Gully

1. Lacks a clear use and is generally unattractive.
2. Area is difficult to maintain due to the terrain.

Garside Gardens

1. Loss of display during the change over at the end of the display period.

Staff facilities

1. Current facilities visually unattractive and below an acceptable standard.

Heritage Items

1. A number of heritage items are degrading and require maintenance – sandstone fountain, Bogey Hole, Shepherds Hill gun emplacement.
2. Use of heritage items should be sympathetic to the nature of the item. Shepherds Hill Cottage now has a proliferation of aerals that detracts from the visual appeal of the site.

Switchback Carpark (below Shepherds Hill)

1. Large bitumen area and limit inappropriate vehicle use eg 'Burnouts'.
2. Fencing style not consistent with 'Ordinance' style and existing fence is easily vandalised.

Event management

1. The impacts of major events (Mattara Hill Climb, pictures in the park, musical events and Carols by Candlelight) needs to be reviewed to ensure that degradation of park values and environment does not occur.

Obelisk

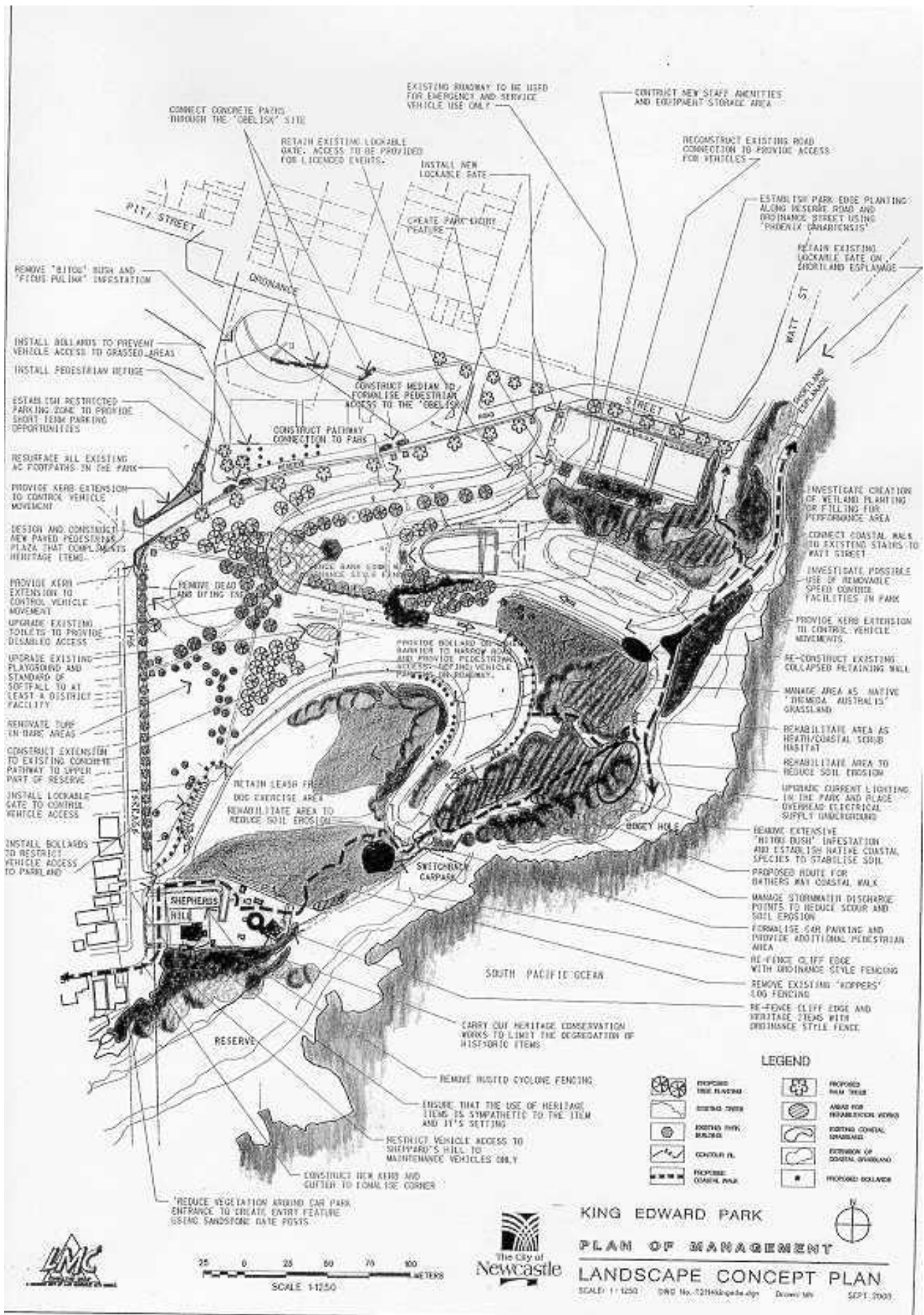
1. Need to remove weeds (especially bitou bush, ficus vine and Pattersons curse).
2. Exposed soil near the obelisk and soil erosion.
3. Informal carparking in the park along Reserve Road adjacent to the Tennis Club causes damage to grassed areas.
4. A section of concrete paving is missing from the main paved access on the eastern side of the Obelisk. Pathway connection is required from the top of the obelisk to the top of the pathway on the eastern side.
5. Existing native vegetation on some of the terraces should be managed as native themeda grassland rather than mowed.
6. Entry to the top of the Obelisk (from the eastern side) is unattractive and restricted by a low retaining wall.
7. Area owned by Hunter Water

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Change the way the vegetation is managed along the eastern edge of the park to reduce the reliance on mowing and allow the regeneration of existing native species to create more naturalised vegetation communities like Themeda grasslands and coastal heath/low scrub.
- Prepare and implement a program to remove weeds from the reserve in particular Bitou Bush infestations along the eastern edge.
- Carry out an audit of existing trees in the park and implement a program to remove dead or senescent trees and provide appropriate arboricultural management practices to ensure the health and longevity of remaining trees.
- Design and construct a new coastal walkway system ('Bathers Way') along the eastern edge of the park. Include necessary public safety features and directional/interpretive signage.
- Investigate opportunities to develop the main gully area below Garside gardens as either a dramatic but contained gully landscape using water features and native vegetation as envisaged by Alfred Sharp (1890 Masterplan) or as possible public outdoor performance area.
- Carry out traffic management works on the internal roadway system to reduce vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, reduce vehicle speed, formalise parking and restrict vehicles to sealed areas. Ensure the park is closed to vehicular traffic from dusk to dawn each day.
- Carry out traffic management works in Reserve Road to improve pedestrian access to the northern side of Reserve Road.
- Design and construct stormwater management works to limit scouring and soil erosion especially near the Switchback Carpark and the Bogey Hole. Rehabilitate areas where vegetation cover has been degraded or lost.
- Upgrade and/or relocate the existing playground area and standard of sofffall to at least that of a district facility.
- Design and construct new staff amenities and equipment storage area in the existing location.
- Carry out a general audit of existing park structures, services, furniture, fencing and paving to identify safety issues, location/supply problems and maintenance requirements. Following the audit carry out the necessary works to rectify the identified problems. Any proposed works should be sympathetic to the setting and any heritage items located nearby.
- Prepare and implement a program of works to conserve heritage items located in the park. Ensure that any uses of heritage items is sympathetic to the item and its setting.
- Upgrade the existing lighting in the park and place the existing overhead electrical supply underground.
- Establish and document events co-ordination and bookings and licensing procedures. Includes provisions for access, parking catering, special equipment, power and lighting and clean up.
- Review impact and appropriateness of major events, particularly Mattara Hill climb, in relation to proposed traffic and pedestrian management works. Ensure comprehensive stakeholder consideration.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	Complete	
2	undertake public safety risk assessments and implement recommendations (especially Bogey Hole)	2002	in - house
3	prepare Convict Sites Presentation Strategy (covering 5 sites)	Heritage Officer	20,000
4	resolve and implement plan for Shepherd's Hill Cottage & emplacements	Completed	40,000
5	install on-site interpretation as part of Convict Sites Presentation Strategy	2003	6,000
6	prepare Landscape Master Plan, including Obelisk Reserve, for both garden and sustainable landscapes	2000	16,000
7	implement traffic management plan	2002	5,000
8	implement stage 1 Landscape Master Plan, including access improvements with accessible toilets and taxi access point with telephone	2002	150,000
years 5-10 :			
9	implement stage 2 Landscape Master Plan	2004	100,000
10	review	2008	5,000



Supporting information for Plan of Management for **Lambton Park**

Cultural Significance

History

The site of the present park was originally swampy land draining into Styx Creek and thence Throsby Creek, and part of the Scottish Australian Mining Company's colliery lease in Lambton. Part of the area was in use in 1877 for weekend brass band concerts, having been granted by the Government to Lambton Municipal Council as a place of public recreation. However, public access to the new Recreation Reserve, as it was first known, was complicated by the fact that 43 or 44 houses had been built on it, and other areas were used for grazing. There were stormy public meetings through the 1880s concerning the rights of the squatters as against the desire of the community for a major public open space. A public subscription failed to raise sufficient money to compensate the existing users and move their homes.

The problem was finally solved by the mayor of Lambton Municipality, Thomas Croudace, who was also a mining engineer and manager of the Scottish Australian Mining Company's Lambton Colliery. He persuaded the company to fund the removal of the houses, the fencing of the park and the improvement of the surrounding streets. The Park then became a popular public area, as evidenced by the 1890 bandstand rotunda and subsequent works of improvement, especially along the Morehead Street edge. In 1910 the Lambton Park Bowling Club was formed, and officially opened on the site in 1913. The Park was also the site of the first soccer game in Newcastle.

Along with the mining townships, Lambton was amalgamated into the Greater Newcastle Council in 1938, leaving its former municipal chambers, now the public library, in the corner of the park as a reminder of its former independence. One of the last acts of the Lambton Municipal Council was to consider a proposal to construct a salt water swimming pool in the park, but it was not until 1963 that the Lambton Park War Memorial Swimming Centre was opened, funded by Newcastle City Council with assistance from Newcastle War Memorial Olympic Pool Committee and the Joint Coal Board.

Thematic Significance

- Townships (10)
- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

Lambton Park provides evidence of the historical development of the mining townships, as well as continuing to act as a focus for public leisure and sport activity in its area.

Recommended status : Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	local	regional	local	
representative				local

Description

Category of land: Crown land

Character Statement

Like many of the study parks, Lambton Park represents a mix of sporting and amenity parkland, with structures and landscape elements being added over the years in a relatively haphazard fashion, as needs and funding arose. This has resulted in a varied but somewhat uneven public space, with some parts more successful than others, and with little connection to the original landscape from which it has grown. In reassessing the resulting character, there is an opportunity to recover something of the natural landscape form along the watercourse from which the site originated. From its present state as merely a drainage channel and eyesore, this could then become the centrepiece of the amenity parkland, forming a continuous linear experience across the Park, with the sporting areas formed around its perimeter.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 14.0 ha, bounded by Elder Street, Karoola Road, Durham Road, Howe Street and Moorehead Street.

Exclusive Areas :	Lambton Pool site	2.4 ha	17%
	Men's Bowling Club	1.0 ha	7%
	Ladies' Bowling Club	0.2 ha	1%
	Tennis Club	0.2 ha	1%
	Harry Edwards Oval	1.0 ha	7%
	Rugby League/cricket field	1.0 ha	7%
	(netball areas)		
	(soccer field)	<u>total</u>	<u>40%</u>

Landform

Generally level, falling towards central drainage channel.

Current Uses :

Use

swimming
pavilion, seating, kiosk, car
bowling
parking and ancillary
tennis
cricket/rugby
netball
childcare

library
music, carols etc
passive and informal leisure

Facilities

olympic, diving and learners' pools, with dressing
parking and ancillary
men's and ladies clubhouses, 4 greens, car

2 courts plus ancillary
2 ovals, practice pitch, grandstand
7 courts
Lambton Memorial Baby Health Centre,
children's play area
Lambton Library
Lambton Rotunda
amenities building, rose gardens,
general open space

Access:

- Integrated playground
- Accessible shower and toilet
- Access generally good to toilet, library, pool area and bowling clubs
- However, narrow doorway to library, and path in rose garden narrows in middle preventing wheelchair access
- No vehicular access to women's bowling club
- Drain/creek inhibits walking across Park

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- Lambton Library, formerly Lambton Council Chambers, 1884;
- Lambton Rotunda, 1890, Bennett and Yeomans architects
- gates and gate posts to Morehead Street, 1918, E.G. Yeomans architect
- Lambton Memorial Baby Health Centre, c1950;

Landscape

- row of figs along Elder Street;
- row of figs along Howe Street;
- row of figs along northern part of stormwater channel;
- pair of palms by Morehead Street entry;
- stand of eucalypts S of bowling club on Karoola Road;
- stand of eucalypts on corner of Karoola Road/ Durham Road;
- ornamental gardens on Morehead Street.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- Lambton Mechanics Institute, 68 Elder Street, 1894, Peter Bennett architect;

Non-Contributory Elements:

- Harry Edwards Oval Clubhouse building
- toilets

Issues raised at Community Workshops:

1. The park would benefit from a landscape plan to provide a coherent planting scheme for the Park as a whole, identify ways to replenish or replace the large number of distressed fig trees and consider ways to re-landscape the creek including providing crossings to facilitate E/W paths across the park.
2. Participants at the community workshops were concerned about maintenance and improvement of some of the Park's facilities, viz:
 - the rotunda is out of service due to needed repairs
 - the fence around the Oval should be replaced
 - lighting is inadequate along Howe Street
 - more toilets are needed to service the rugby ground
 - the women's bowling club requires vehicular access in case of emergencies
 - drainage from Elder Street towards Harry Edwards Oval is poor
 - the Harry Edwards Oval could be enhanced by seating or landscaping to take advantage of the natural amphitheatre.
3. Participants also suggested that the children's playground be enhanced and would like to see a ramped accessible tree house as part of it.
4. Participants were also concerned at the proportion of the Park in exclusive use and felt that the use of parts of the Park for car parking should not be permitted as this alienates more Park land from general use.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	Complete	
2	implement immediate access and maintenance priorities	2002	32,000
years 5-10 :			
3	install on-site interpretation	City Services	5,000
4	prepare and implement Landscape Master Plan, including restoration of creek and provision of crossings	Landscape Architects	100,000
5	review	2008	5,000

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **Newcastle Ocean Baths**

Cultural Significance

History

During the first decade of this century, with the mining industry in decline in the inner Newcastle area, there was discussion of the need for the city to diversify and attract tourism. One project proposed to enhance the city's waterfront facilities was the creation of an ocean baths to be carved out of the flat shelf of rock below what were then tram sheds on Parnell Place at Newcastle East, 'free from the dangers of surf undertow and sharks' (Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, 9 May 1911). The council's public baths in Newcomen Street, where the City Arcade now stands, had closed, and the Ocean Baths provided the main facility for clubs, school carnivals and the general public throughout the inter-war years, until suburban pools were built after the second war. The 1922 building which fronts Shortland Esplanade is of Federation character, with features, especially the central tower, with the Art Deco flavour which came to be associated with places of public leisure and entertainment. A World Map on the floor of the children's pool was for many years a popular feature.

Thematic Significance

- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

As an important feature of the city's bathing facilities, Ocean Baths has played a significant part in the history of the city.

Recommended status : Local Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	local	local	local	local
representative				

Description

Category of land: Crown land

Character Statement

The evocative visual character of the Ocean Baths, with its rugged pool structure and Art Deco backdrop, has made it a favourite location for fashion photographers as well as painters. It has also been the setting for a long tradition of social and leisure activity in the city. These qualities should be conserved and enhanced. The forecourt area is less certain in its character, and has been reassessed as part of an integrated landscape treatment of Shortland Esplanade in the Esplanade Master Plan.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 2.5 ha, bounded by Shortland Esplanade and by foreshore rock shelf.

Exclusive Areas : enclosed swimming pool compound	1.1 ha	44 %
padding pool	0.9 ha	36 %

Landform

Level site formed on foreshore rock shelf, below high embankment along which Shortland Esplanade rises from N to S.

Current Uses :

Use

swimming

hydrotherapy

sightseeing

art/photography location

Facilities

swimming and associated spectators' compound containing 2 pools, separate M & F changing pavilions, shop, shade area walking for tables, stepped seating by lap pool, open

Access:

- Disabled access to pool via ramp.
- Children's paddling pool,
- Poor sight lines for pedestrian access across Shortland Esplanade
- Limited parking

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- Changing and Facilities Building, 1922, B Blackwell, J.F. Shine, city engineers, F G Castleden, architect;
- Swimming pool structures;
- Paddling pool;(world map said to have been destroyed)

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- remains of Soldiers Baths, 1883, on foreshore to N;
- residences on west side of Shortland Esplanade

Landscape

- Tramway Reserve on hillside above Shortland Esplanade to NW;
- surrounding foreshore rock shelf;
- Cowrie Hole, Newcastle Beach and views to King Edward Park and north and south along coastline.

Non-Contributory Elements:

- car park;
- power lines and lighting poles in pool area;
- showers and stormwater runoff to adjacent beach;
- lack of shade/landscaping in car park.

Issues raised at Community Workshops:

- The Newcastle Ocean Baths are an intrinsic part of an important civic landscape incorporating Nobbys headland, Fort Scratchley and City Beach with references to King Edward Park. These features require integration in a landscape scheme. The forecourt and approach to the Baths also requires improvement and integration with the Esplanade Master Plan.
- Its city centre location and high levels of pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic, warrants a traffic management scheme for the streets which connect the coastal sites, as well as for providing r access by public transport.
- The Bathing Pavilion could achieve increased usage and return by providing better facilities, both those related to swimming and fitness and to more leisurely activities such as a café. Council could consider the examples of sympathetic reuse of many bathing pavilions and surf houses around Port Philip Bay, Melbourne, to examine the options for this city location.
- Some unsympathetic features of the Baths include the lighting and the picnic shelters near the wading pool and these could be replaced.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :			
1	complete disability audit	Complete	
2	undertake public safety risk assessments and implement recommendations	Safety Officer	2001 in house
3	implement other stabilisation works	City Services	2002 32,000
years 5-10 :			
4	implement part Landscape Master Plan	Landscape Architects	2003 30,000
6	prepare and implement traffic management plan	City Services	2003 50,000
8	install on-site interpretation	City Services	2003 5,000
5	upgrade kiosk and other facilities	City Services	2004 80,000
7	implement remainder of Landscape Master Plan	City Services	2006 40,000
9	review		2008 5,000

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **Nobbys Headland**

Cultural Significance

History

The island at the mouth of the Hunter was sighted by Captain Cook in 1770 and given the name Hackings Island by Lt John Shortland in 1797 and Coal Island by Lt Grant in 1801. The origin of the name Nobbys, which was first published in 1810, is uncertain. Following Governor Macquarie's 1818 laying of the foundation stone for the causeway to link the island to the mainland and create a more sheltered approach into the mouth of the river, construction gangs of convicts were probably housed on the island, quarrying stone for the causeway and reducing its height, said to have originally been 203 ft (62 m).

Although the causeway was completed in 1846, Nobbys was still considered a hazard to shipping, and 1854 Colonel Barney of the Royal Engineers began mining operations to set charges to blow it up. Public outrage prevented this, and in 1856 it was decided to erect a lighthouse on the summit, which was further reduced in height to its present level. On 31 December 1857 the coal fire on Beacon Hill (Fort Scratchley) was extinguished and Nobbys lighthouse took over its role. In the following year the signal flagstaff was removed from the Fort Scratchley site and similarly relocated on Nobbys. The lighthouse was a tapered circular tower of dressed sandstone supporting a twelve-sided glass and metal lantern, and is the earliest surviving example on the New South Wales coast of maritime lights installed in conformity with Trinity House codes, following the Commission of 1856. In 1869 work started on reinforcing the convict-built causeway using stone transported by rail from the Waratah Quarry (visible near the present Braye Park Lookout).

In the latter part of the nineteenth century a 2 storey timber signal station was erected alongside the lighthouse, to be replaced in 1954 with the present structure, refurbished in 1988. The light was electrified in 1935. Between 1930 and 1937, during the Great Depression, the area around Horseshoe Beach at the mainland end of the causeway became the site of Nobbys Camp, a squatter settlement for the homeless and unemployed. During the same period, the Nobbys Beach Surf Pavilion was erected overlooking Nobbys Beach. Floodlighting was provided by N.P.C. in 1998 located at base.

Thematic Significance

- Convict (2)
- Mining (7)
- Environment (9)
- Transport (13)

Recommended Status

Nobbys is a dominant visual symbol of Newcastle and of the Hunter coast. It is also a unique reminder of the convict period, and of the shaping of the natural environment around the port. Recommended status : State Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare	state	state	state	state
representative				

Description

Category of land: Light house is on Crown Land not in Councils care and control. Access roadway and signal station entree in control of Newcastle Port Corporation. Zoned 6(a) Open Space.

Character Statement

As one of the most distinctive physical icons of the lower Hunter and a potent symbol of the history of the port of Newcastle, Nobbys Headland is a crucial heritage place in the region. However, although the breakwater is a popular public amenity, the Headland is publicly accessible only around its base, which is relatively neglected and ill-kept (eg defensive emplacement and bitou vegetation). The outstanding panoramas from the lighthouse compound of the harbour mouth and of the city centre are not currently available to the public. There is thus an opportunity to make Nobbys Headland as rewarding a place to visit at close quarters as it currently is from a distance, and for it to become one of the most significant and notable public places of the city.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 1.26 ha area covered by the outcrop, excluding surrounding beach, rockfall areas, breakwaters.

Exclusive Areas : AMSA compound 0.25 ha 20%

Landform

Outcrop of rock, formerly an island 62 m high, now 28 m high with artificially formed flat top and joined to mainland by causeway. Sheer cliff faces to E and S, erosion causing rockfalls. Steep slopes to W and N. Coal seam visible near top; another hidden at base.

Current Uses :

Use

maritime navigation
horse and dog swimming area
surfing, cycling, walking
recreational fishing
residential
meteorological recordings

Facilities

lighthouse
signal station
surf beach
cottages

Access :

- Restricted by Newcastle Ports Corporation for safety reasons –houses busy Signal Station for Ship/helicopter movements
- Access for disabled to the headland requires investigation.
- Facilities for disabled to Nobbys Beach include car parking, toilets, and assistance to bathe by Council Inspectors.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- lighthouse,
- signal station,
- 3 cottages,
- remnants (rails/sleepers) of railway beside breakwater path)
- remnants of tank traps

Landscape

- Sweeping surf beach south and north including Stockton Bight.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Structures

- WW2 observation tower and gun emplacement at foot of cliff, head of breakwater
- Nobbys Beach Surf Pavilion, 1934, Frank Scorer architect.
- Convict built Macquarie Walk, new viewing platform at base of headland (western side), breakwall (extending north from base).

Landscape

- Surf beach.
- City and industrial sites backdrop
- Harbour entrance
- Horseshoe Beach
- Camp Shortland
- Stockton foreshore
- Stockton Bight

Non-Contributory Elements:

- bitou bush vegetation to slopes
- electricity substation building on breakwater at foot of access road to lighthouse
- breakwater/roadway (Macquarie Walk) subject to sand drift

Issues raised at Community Workshops:1998

- Nobbys headland is already an emblem of Newcastle, appearing on business logos and city design themes. For some residents, Nobbys symbolises their city, and the view from Nobbys back towards the city inspires pride and pleasure. The most highly visible and treasured icon in the city, it is aloof and inaccessible from its residents.
- It may be that part of Nobbys charm and significance is its very aloofness. Like many a castle of fable and history, sitting out to sea at the end of a causeway, it stands rock solid in all weathers symbolising endurance and constancy. This image is not to be tampered with lightly.
- Nonetheless, its importance suggests that greater access by residents and visitors alike would contribute not only to the range of cultural experiences available in Newcastle but also to visitors' appreciation of the city, the forts/gun emplacements along the coast, the industrial landscape of the ports and so on.
- Disabled access should be considered and provided for as part of any move to make Nobbys more accessible.
- A refreshment room, eg in an unused residence, could be considered in association with any increase in access to the Headland.
- An interpretation site should be established for Nobby's Headland.
- A suggestion that the headland could have a new use as the site for a wind generator should be considered with the above issues in mind and also having regard to the availability of other suitable sites for wind generation.
- The headland requires protection from erosion. Surfers using beach below Signal Station are in danger from falling rocks.
- Current unauthorised motor vehicle usage of roadway endangers pedestrians.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first 5 years :	All actions in consultation with owner		
1	complete disability audit	2001	
2	negotiate increased public access	2002	
3	prepare Convict Sites Presentation Strategy (covering 5 sites)	2002	
4	install on-site interpretation as part of Convict Sites Presentation Strategy	2003	6,000
5	prepare Conservation/Landscape Master Plans	2003	16,000
6	implement stabilisation works	2004	33,000
7	implement access improvements	2004	16,000
years 5-10 :			
8	implement remainder of Conservation/Landscape Master Plans	2005	150,000
9	review	2008	5,000

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **Wallsend Park**

Cultural Significance

History

The site of Wallsend Park was part of an area of swamp draining northward to Ironbark Creek and Hexham Swamp. In 1875, just 15 years after the mining township of Wallsend was laid out by the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company, employees of the company under the direction of the first colliery manager, J.Y. Neilson, began clearing the area of the swamp lying between the township and the pit, to form a 'pleasure ground for the residents of the municipality' including a central drainage channel, tree planting and a cricket ground. The Wallsend United Cricket Club was soon formed, and trustees appointed for the Wallsend and Plattsburg Recreation Reserve, who were successful during the 1880s and 90s in obtaining Government grants for further improvements to the site. Wallsend Park was gazetted on 9 February 1883. Damage to the banks of the drainage channel from periodic flooding was a persistent problem, and the Newcastle landscape designer Alfred Sharp gave advice on the matter in 1893.

Thematic Significance

- Townships (10)
- Leisure (27)
- Sport (28)

Recommended Status

Wallsend Park provides evidence of the historical development of the mining townships, as well as continuing to act as a focus for public leisure and sport activity in its area.

Recommended status : Regional Heritage.

Evaluation Summary :

	historical	aesthetic	research	social
rare				
representative	local	regional	local	local

Description

Category of Land : Crown Land

Character Statement

Similar observations, and a similar strategy could apply to Wallsend Park as to Lambton Park, with the existing watercourse already providing the basis of an attractive linear amenity parkland spine around which the sporting areas nestle. This spine could be connected northward to the historic parts of the centre of Wallsend.

Physical

Area

Total Area : 9.0 ha, bounded by Cowper Street, Brooks Street, Thomas Street, Lake Road.
Extension of somewhat greater area also to the south of Thomas Street.

Exclusive Areas :	George Farley Oval	1.1 ha	12%
	second oval	1.0 ha	11%
	bowling green	0.2 ha	2%
	soccer field	<u>0.3 ha</u>	<u>3%</u>
	total	2.6 ha	28%

Landform

Generally level, with fall to creek and embankment rising to E.

Current Uses :

Use

cricket/rugby
croquet
soccer
bowling
passive and informal leisure

Facilities

2 ovals, pavilion, community building,
meals on wheels building
pitch
green
toilets, ornamental garden beds

Access :

The Park has plenty of shade trees, relatively level paths and a new amenities building with disabled toilet which, however, is not kept locked.

However, it lacks signage, designated disabled parking, a continuous path to the disabled toilet, disability friendly picnic tables and BBQ area. There is a barrier across the path behind the memorial.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space:

Structures

- war memorial, 1919
- M.A. Baker Pavilion, 1961

Landscape

- mixed mature figs, Norfolk Island pines, camphor laurels along edge to Brooks Street;
- mixed figs, Norfolk Island pines, camphor laurels, eucalypts along Cowper Street and along internal pathway in W section;
- avenue of camphor laurels along internal pathway in SW corner;
- Norfolk Island pines, willows along S section of Ironbark Creek.

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space:

Landscape

- extension of park S of Thomas Street.

Non-Contributory Elements:

- original clubhouse and bowling club building

Issues raised at Community Workshops:

- the heritage aspects of the Park are to the north of the main road and the area to the south is primarily a sportsfield. It might be appropriate to include the latter area in the Sportslands Plan of Management.
- Damage to the gates to the Park were repaired by Council but not in heritage style
- the wall along Brook Street should be maintained
- the privet hedge is old and valued by park users
- the rose garden needs restoration
- Eastern Hill Clubhouse needs more seating in the central area, more garbage bins and lighting - only the southernmost part is lit properly
- the channel near Brooks St is eroded and the drain is generally in poor condition and needs cleaning
- shelter is needed for the northern end of the Park next to the croquet club
- a number of improvements are needed to facilitate disabled access - see above list - the Park could be a 'disability friendly' recreation area.

Key Actions:

Item	Action	Completion target date	\$ Cost estimate
first five years :			
1	complete disability audit	2002	in - house
2	restore rose garden	1998	in - house
years 5-10 :			
2	implement immediate access and maintenance priorities	2003	40,000
3	install on-site interpretation	2003	5,000
4	prepare and implement Landscape Master Plan	2004	100,000
5	review	2008	5,000

Supporting information for Plan of Management for **WALLSEND ROTUNDA PARK**

Cultural Significance

History

Wallsend was founded in 1860 by the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company to serve its Wallsend Colliery. The following year the NSW Cooperative Coal Company acquired land to the north and established Plattsburg to serve its mines. The two towns grew together to form one of the districts most prosperous mining towns. Nelson Street emerged as the main track linking the two town centres, and the construction of the Government Court House, Police Station and Post Office consolidated its role as the commercial centre in the late 1870's. The boundary between the two was originally defined by what is now Boundary Street and Newcastle Road placing the Rotunda Park within the original Plattsburg Township.

While there was an international movement for the creation and preservation of public parks during the latter part of the 19th century, as private rather than government towns Wallsend and Plattsburg languished behind the other Newcastle Municipalities in establishing such reserves. However Wallsend Park was established in 1875, and the Rotunda Park followed a decade later in 1885. It was originally known as the "Nelson Street Plattsburg Reserve" and later "Plattsburg Park". While only tiny in comparison to the nearby Wallsend Park and most of the other municipal parks in the area, the park occupied a prime position in the centre of town, and must have been seen as an important contribution to the development of the town. One role the site played was as the terminus for the Newcastle-Wallsend tramline from 1887 until 1910, when the line was extended to West Wallsend and the depot relocated to Kemp Street.

Since one of the principal uses of a park in the 19th was as a venue for musical performances and other public gatherings, it was usual to provide a rotunda. Newcastle architects Bennett and Yeomans were asked to provide a design in early 1888 and, after various delays due to redesign caused by budget overruns a change of builder, the rotunda was opened later that year. A report notes that on Christmas day in 1888 the Wallsend Brass Band "enlivened the town by selections of excellent music" played from the rotunda and that "the music added much to the gaiety of the scene in Nelson Street".

Later, the park became the focus for various memorials in the town. In August 1915 a plaque was erected on the rotunda in memory of Private William King, a local bandsman who lost his life in action at Gallipoli, making this one of the earliest Anzac memorials in Australia. Another plaque was erected in 1916 to Lance Corporal Leslie Oliver. In 1919 a monument was constructed to honour all the local citizens who had fought in WW1, though this was moved to Wallsend Park in 1971 with only a stone marker to indicate its former location. In 1937 a bust of James Fletcher was erected there. Fletcher was a coal miner turned politician, manager of the Cooperative mine, and the first mayor of Wallsend in 1874. The bust had actually been carved after Fletcher's death in 1891 though never installed anywhere, with the official memorial committee commissioning a life size statue that was erected in Fletcher Park, Newcastle, in 1897.

Photographs from the early 20th century show a picket fence and large tree plantings, however by 1935 the fence had been removed, and later the trees as well. An amenities block was constructed c.1950's at the rear of the park. The park was re-landscaped and the rotunda restored in 1996 by Newcastle City Council, with design concepts including interpretation of the parks history, reintroduction of soft landscaping, adding a major sculptural element, a geometric layout focused on the rotunda, and the inclusion of renewable energy technology.

Note: this history is based on the report prepared by Dr. John Turner as part of the Wallsend Rotunda Park Design Report 1996.

Thematic Significance

- Mining (7)
- Townships (10)
- Transportation (13)
- Commerce (17)
- Cultural sites (25)
- Leisure (26)
- Events (34)

Recommended Status

The Wallsend Rotunda Park provides evidence of the historic development of the mining townships, and particularly since its recent refurbishment acts as an important civic and community focus for the town centre.

Recommended Status: Local Heritage

Evaluation Summary

	Historical	Aesthetic	Research	Social
Rare				
Representative	Local	Local	Local	Local

Description

Category of Land

Crown land

Character Statement

The park is typical of a small urban park, occupying an irregularly shaped portion of land at the junction of various roads. In this case that road junction is at the historic heart of the town centre, making this park particularly prominent within the urban fabric of the town. The land itself is flat, with roads frontages to three sides and a blank building facade to the fourth. The Victorian era rotunda stands in the middle of the space and dominates it visually. The recent refurbishment of the park has enhanced its historic character.

Physical

Area

Total area: 0.072 ha

Landform

Original landform not known, modified as flat, grassed and paved

Current

Uses

Use

Informal recreation, meeting place & sitting

Facilities

rotunda, seating and toilet

Access

- all areas generally accessible
- accessible toilet recently refurbished to contemporary standards

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements within the Boundaries of the Space

Structures

- rotunda
- toilet block

Landscape

- new plantings of Chinese elms and *Murraya* sp.
- coal mining sculpture
- bust of Fletcher
- plaque and stone marking former location of war memorial gates
- pathways

Selected Inventory of Significant Elements Adjoining the Space

Structures

- former post office
- police station
- court house
- Lemongrove Hotel
- other historic/heritage listed buildings along Nelson Street

Landscape

- none noted

Non-Contributory Elements

- none noted

References

- Wallsend Rotunda Park Design Report prepared by Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council, January 1996.
- Landscape Plan by NCC 1997

Issues

The following points should be considered in deciding how best the combination of features in the park can be enhanced.

- Future development of the park should be consistent with the Design Concept and other recommendations contained within the Design Report prepared by Suters Architects for Newcastle City Council in January 1996, and which was the basis for the recent refurbishment of the park, including in particular:
 - extension of the park landscaping to link to the former post office and police station buildings
 - a shared vehicle/pedestrian link across Harris Street to the above items
 - investigation of the possibility of relocating the War Memorial back to the site form Wallsend Park
 - signifying the parks corner presence at Nelson Street by replacement of the former landmark tree *Araucaria bidwillii*
- The rotunda will require regular maintenance, especially repainting, to ensure it is conserved in good condition.
- Ongoing upgrading of the renewable energy technology equipment to increase its output to a reasonable level and maintain consistency with latest technology is encouraged.

ROTUNDA PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2002 - 2005

Preamble

Council will manage Rotunda Park consistent with the Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Strategies of its Heritage Places Strategic Plan 1998.

Categorisation

Rotunda Park is crown land.

- “The core objectives for the management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods”. (Sec. 36H Local Government Act as Amended 1998)

Plan

Objective	Means	Performance Target	Performance Indicator
Maintain heritage objectives and character	Future development is consistent with the design concept & design report (Suters 1996)	Additional recommendations within Suters 1996 report are implemented.	Community satisfaction with progress of ongoing work.
Increase output of renewable energy	On-going upgrading of renewable energy technology	Increase is achieved on a regular basis	No net increase in energy costs of park
Maintenance of park at present standards in accordance with existing Landscape Master Plan	Existing maintenance and works schedules	Satisfactory heritage standards are maintained and regular repainting is undertaken.	Low level of community complaint
Reinstate landmark tree	Install advanced Araucaria bidwillii	New tree established by end 2003	Community satisfaction

ROTUNDA PARK: COMMUNITY LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2002 - 2005

General

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the granting of licences in Rotunda Park for community uses that enhance the community development of Newcastle, eg weddings/photos/festivals/functions.

For the purposes of section 46(1)(b)(iii) of the Act, the use or occupation of community land for the following events is prescribed as a purpose in respect of which a council may grant a licence in respect of community land on a short term casual basis:

- (v) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
- (w) engaging in a trade or business,
- (x) delivering a public address,
- (y) commercial photographic sessions,
- (z) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- (aa) filming for cinema or television,
- (bb) the agistment of stock.

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULE OF LAND

COUNT	HERITAGE PLACES	AREA ha	LAND REG NO	DESCRIPTION		ADDRESS	STATUS
				Lot No	DP No		
1	CATHEDRAL PARK	0.53	C185		Part of DP 54152	93 King Street NEWCASTLE	Dedicated Public Reserve
2	CENTENNIAL PARK	2.53	C35	Part Lot 1	DP 95112	No 100A Dawson Street COOKS HILL	Dedicated Public Reserve
	CIVIC PRECINCT						
3	Civic Park	2.20	C187	Lot 300 Lot 91 Lot 8 Lot 2&5 Lot 1, Sec C	DP 604071 DP 521033 DP 150031 DP 95186 DP 978941	No 201 King Street NEWCASTLE	Dedicated Public Reserve
4	Christie Place	0.15	Part 032	Part Lot 1	DP 225689	Part No 290 King Street NEWCASTLE	Fee Simple
5	Church Walk Park	0.21	C186	Lot 27	DP 150538	No 203 King Street NEWCASTLE	Dedicated Public Reserve
6	CONVICT LUMBER YARD						
	Convict Stockade Site	0.43	032	Lot 2 Lot 3214	DP 706760 DP 729000	No 92 Scott Street NEWCASTLE	Fee Simple. Operational Land
	Enterprise Park	0.152	CR28	Lot 1 CR No 97943	DP 706760	No 104 Scott Street NEWCASTLE	Crown Reserve, Council as trustee
7	FLETCHER PARK	0.785	CR025	Land in MS 1135 MD		Watt Street, Newcastle	
8	GREGSON PARK	3.87	C64	Lot 1	DP 95154	No 130A Tudor Street HAMILTON	Dedicated Public Reserve
9	ISLINGTON PARK						
	Islington Park	9.40	C313	Lot 1 Lots A and B	DP 337010 DP 37022	No 151A Maitland Road ISLINGTON	Fee Simple
	Tighes Hill Reserve and Residential Cottage		CR11	Part Land in Ms 735 Md CR No D570020		No 151A Maitland Road ISLINGTON and No 49 Phoebe Street ISLINGTON	Crown Reserve, Council as trustee
10	KING EDWARD PARK						

COUNT	HERITAGE PLACES	AREA ha	LAND REG NO	DESCRIPTION		ADDRESS	STATUS
				Lot No	DP No		
	King Edward Park	15.30	CR29	Lot 3109 CR No 170100	DP 755247	No 3 Ordnance Street NEWCASTLE	Crown Reserve, Council as trustees
	Arcadia Park		CR27	Land in DP 54152 and Closed Road		No 3A Ordnance Street THE HILL	As Above
	Shepherds Hill Cottage Reserve	10.33	CR56	Lot 3116 CR No 570056	DP 755247	No 41 The Terrace NEWCASTLE	As Above
	The Obelisk		C380	GG 17.3.1989			Owned by Hunter Water Corporation
11	LAMBTON PARK						
	Plus Part Public Road	12.52	CR13		Part DP 755247	No 50 Howe Street Lambton	Crown Reserve, Council as trustee
12	NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS		CR26	Part Land in Ms 1133 Md		30 Shortland Esplanade NEWCASTLE EAST	Crown Reserve, Council as trustee
13	NOBBYS HEADLAND						
	Nobbys Beach Reserve	11.827	Part CR33	Part CR No 88721		35 Nobbys Road NEWCASTLE EAST	Crown Reserve, Council as trustees
14	ROTUNDA PARK(WALLSEND)	0.72	CR62	Ms 497Md		Tyrrell Street, WALLSEND	Crown land Council as Trustee
15	WALLSEND PARK	9.01	CR44	Part Lot 1 CR No P570033	DP 724075	No 47 Lake Road WALLSEND	Crown Reserve, Council as trustee
16	WALLSEND TRAMWAY PARK						
	Glass House Reserve	0.58	C254	Lot 27	DP 598215	76 Cowper Street, WALLSEND	Fee simple used as park.

APPENDIX 2

LEASES AND LICENCES BY PARK NAME

Legend:
C: Community Land
Cr: Crown Land
ML: Miscellaneous lease

This Plan of Management authorises the following leases.

COUNT	PARK NAME	LAND REGISTER NUMBER	LEASE EXPIRY DATE	LESSEE	PURPOSE OF LEASE
1	CENTENNIAL PARK	C35	30/4/2011 13/10/2000	Newcastle City Tennis Club Lowlands Bowling Club	For the purposes of playing tennis
2	GREGSON PARK	C64	24/3/97	Hamilton Park Tennis Club Community based organisations.	For the purpose of playing tennis For the purpose of public recreation, physical, social, cultural and intellectual welfare activities.
3	King Edward Park Shepherds Hill cottage	CR29 CR56	Expired Lease	Newcastle Hill Tennis Club VCP	For the purpose of playing tennis
4	LAMBTON PARK	CR13	No formal agreement	Lambton Tennis Club	For the purpose of playing tennis
			Current Residential Tenancy Agreement	Swimming Centre Residence	
			2000/2001 and 2001/2002 Swimming Season	Kiosk rights and Turnstile and dressing shed Facilities	For the purpose of running the kiosk and managing the facilities nominated.
5	WALLSEND PARK	CR44	No formal agreement	Wallsend Croquet Club	For the purposes of playing croquet.

APPENDIX 3

HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGIC PLAN AND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

HERITAGE CURTILAGE GUIDELINES

The following Guidelines have been prepared using material derived from “Heritage Curtilages” (Heritage Office) DUAP.

In these guidelines the term “heritage curtilage” means the area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance. It can apply to either:

- land which is integral to the heritage significance of items of the built heritage, or
- a precinct which includes building works, relics, trees or places and their setting.

In determining the extent and/or significance of a heritage curtilage, the following eight points should be considered in relation to Council’s Heritage Places.

1.0 CURTILAGE TYPES

The heritage curtilage should contain all elements contributing to the heritage significance, conservation and interpretation of a heritage item. The curtilage is defined by a line on a map, which will not necessarily coincide with the property boundary.

- **Lot Boundary Heritage Curtilage**

The most common type of heritage curtilage comprises the boundary of the property containing the heritage item as shown on the lot plan

- **Reduced Heritage Curtilage**

This type of heritage curtilage is less than the lot boundary of the property. It arises where the significance of an item may not relate to the total lot, but to a lesser area, and is often only defined when development occurs.

- **Expanded Heritage Curtilage**

There may be circumstances where the heritage curtilage may need to be greater than the property boundary. Depending on the topography, an expanded curtilage may be required to protect the landscape setting or visual catchment of a heritage item.

Other factors to be considered are:

- views to and from the heritage item
- the possible need for a buffer area between the curtilage and the adjoining land
- the visual and historical relationship between the item and its environs.

- **Composite Heritage Curtilage**

Defining the boundaries of a composite heritage curtilage can be difficult. The following are useful to take into account:

- has the significance of the original relationship of the heritage item to its site and locality been conserved?
- has an adequate setting for the heritage item been provided, enabling its heritage significance to be maintained?
- have adequate visual catchments or corridors been provided to the heritage item from major viewing points and from the item to outside elements with which it has important visual or functional relationships?
- are buffer areas required to screen the heritage item from visually unsympathetic development or to provide protection from vibration, traffic noise, pollution or vandalism?

2.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

For all but heritage curtilages defined by lot boundary, the following questions should be satisfied:

- has the significance of the original relationship of the heritage item to its site and locality been conserved?
- has an adequate setting for the heritage item been provided, enabling its heritage significance to be maintained?
- have adequate visual catchments or corridors been provided to the heritage item from major viewing points and from the item to outside elements with which it has important visual or functional relationships?
- are buffer areas required to screen the heritage item from visually unsympathetic development or to provide protection from vibration, traffic noise, pollution or vandalism?

3.0 HISTORICAL ALLOTMENTS

Heritage curtilages are essential for our ability to interpret the significance of heritage items. A curtilage should contain evidence of any cultural associations as well as providing a visual and aesthetic context for the item.

4.0 DESIGN STYLE AND TASTE

The design of a heritage item and its grounds may reveal much information about the architectural ideas, style and taste of its historic period.

The relationship of a building, work, relic or tree with its setting may be an indivisible part of the heritage significance of a site or place.

5.0 FUNCTIONAL USES AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

The significance of heritage items often involves their wider setting. This may provide evidence of historical, social and cultural associations and uses which is integral to the heritage significance of the items.

Well-considered landscape curtilages can provide physical evidence of historical associations between the land and successive human activities and structures upon it.

6.0 VISUAL LINKS

The heritage significance of some properties includes a visual link between them and a harbour, river, transport mode, topographic feature, area of work or recreational area. Harbourside properties are good examples of this. The ability to interpret heritage significance is increased if the heritage curtilage can also maintain the earlier physical link.

It is important that planning controls or other development guidelines ensure any new development which may be introduced, respects these visual corridors.

7.0 SCALE

Care is needed to ensure there is a satisfying proportional relationship between the heritage item and the area of land proposed as curtilage.

Some properties have become important landmarks contributing significant panoramic views in the locality. They often provide visual pleasure and a reference point for travellers. It is important not to lose these qualities through inappropriate high-rise development on surrounding land.

8.0 VEGETATION

Trees or shrubs may have historical, aesthetic and scientific value for such reasons and be significant in their own right.

They may also be smaller plantings, including small trees, shrubberies, perennials and ground covers which were part of the garden design and setting of a building. They may be elements of a particular garden style of heritage significance in its own right. These plantings should be included within a heritage curtilage and can often help to define its perimeter.

It may be necessary to retain plantings to frame or screen heritage items. These may include original plantings which are of historical or scientific significance to those contributing to the visual amenity of the area, protecting it from visual intrusion or consolidating its "sense of place".

Trees may also enhance the appreciation of some heritage items by providing:

- an enclosed environment;
- a landmark;
- a soft backdrop when viewed from a distance.