



Heritage Significance Assessment, Cooper Park, Bellevue Hill



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for
Woollahra Municipal Council

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Report Register

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Executive summary

Cooper Park, located along a creek valley that runs in an east-west direction and falls between the Woollahra Municipality suburbs of Bellevue Hill and Woollahra, provides open space for both passive and active recreation. The area was originally part of the early 19th century estate of Daniel Cooper and was proclaimed a park in 1917. It was developed over the following twenty years as a bushland pleasure ground, with many structures built by Depression-era unemployment relief teams. It is entirely owned by Woollahra Council and is the largest Council-owned area of bushland in the Municipality. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014.

The heritage values of Cooper Park have been recognised for more than 25 years in numerous reports and lists but the Park as an entity is not currently listed on either the Woollahra LEP 2014 schedule 5 or the State Heritage Register.

Woollahra Council has commissioned Chris Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Heritage to prepare an assessment of the heritage significance of Cooper Park, with the following brief:

1. Assess significance in accordance with the 8-step assessment process in the *NSW Heritage Manual* and determine whether it is of local or State significance;
2. Prepare a State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for the subject site if it is assessed to be of local significance; and,
3. Prepare a nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR) if the site is assessed to be of State significance.

Comprehensive analysis of documentary and physical evidence relating to Cooper Park, involving library and web-based research and site investigations has enabled an assessment of significance against the Heritage Council criteria which concludes that Cooper Park is of local heritage significance for some criteria, warranting its consideration for inclusion on Schedule 5 of *Woollahra LEP 2014*. The assessment also concludes that Cooper Park satisfies at least one criterion at a State level for the quality and intactness of its Depression-era landscape works and therefore its nomination for SHR listing is recommended.

While Cooper Park North is part of the former Cooper Estate and has high amenity values derived from its landscape, Community Hall, Community Garden and views it, does not warrant listing on the LEP schedule but should be retained and managed as Community Land. Suggested curtilages for both LEP and SHR listings are provided.

A draft SHI form, a draft SHR Nomination form for Cooper Park and other appendices are included.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Cooper Park, located along a creek valley that runs in an east-west direction and falls between the Woollahra Municipality suburbs of Bellevue Hill and Woollahra, provides open space for both passive and active recreation. The area was originally part of the early 19th century estate of Daniel Cooper and was proclaimed a park in 1917 and developed over the following twenty years as a bushland pleasure ground. It is entirely owned by Woollahra Council and is the largest Council-owned area of bushland in the Municipality. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014.

The heritage values of Cooper Park have been recognised for more than 25 years. The park was listed on the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate (RNE) in 1993 – ID No: 17850 and Place File Number 1/12/041/0114. However, the RNE has been replaced by the National Heritage List (NHL) and no longer has statutory force. It survives as a searchable database. Cooper Park is not currently listed on the Woollahra LEP 2014 or on the State Heritage Register (SHR), although some elements in and adjoining the park are listed on the LEP heritage schedule.

On 22 November 2017, Woollahra Municipal Council made the following decision:

THAT Council requests staff to prepare and submit a report including a heritage assessment and draft heritage inventory sheet for Cooper Park to the Urban Planning Committee to facilitate Cooper Park (and its elements) being:

- 1. included in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item; and*
- 2. listed as a heritage item of state significance on the NSW State Heritage Register.*

Following a select tender process, Woollahra Municipal Council commissioned Chris Betteridge, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a Betteridge Heritage to prepare an assessment of the heritage significance of Cooper Park with the following brief:

1. Assess significance in compliance with the above resolution and in accordance with the 8-step assessment process in the *NSW Heritage Manual* and determine whether it is of local or State significance;
2. Prepare a State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for the subject site if it is assessed to be of local significance; and,
3. Prepare a nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR) if the site is assessed to be of State significance.

1.2 Identification of the study area

Broadly, the study area for Cooper Park is defined to the west by Suttie Road, to the north by Northland Road/Streatfield Road, to the east by Bellevue Road/Victoria Road, and to the south by residential properties located north of Fletcher Street. Cooper Park is approximately 17.7 hectares in size, with approximately 12 hectares of urban bushland.



Figure 1 Aerial photograph, dated 2014, of Cooper Park (edged red) in its local suburban context. (Source: Woollahra Municipal Council)

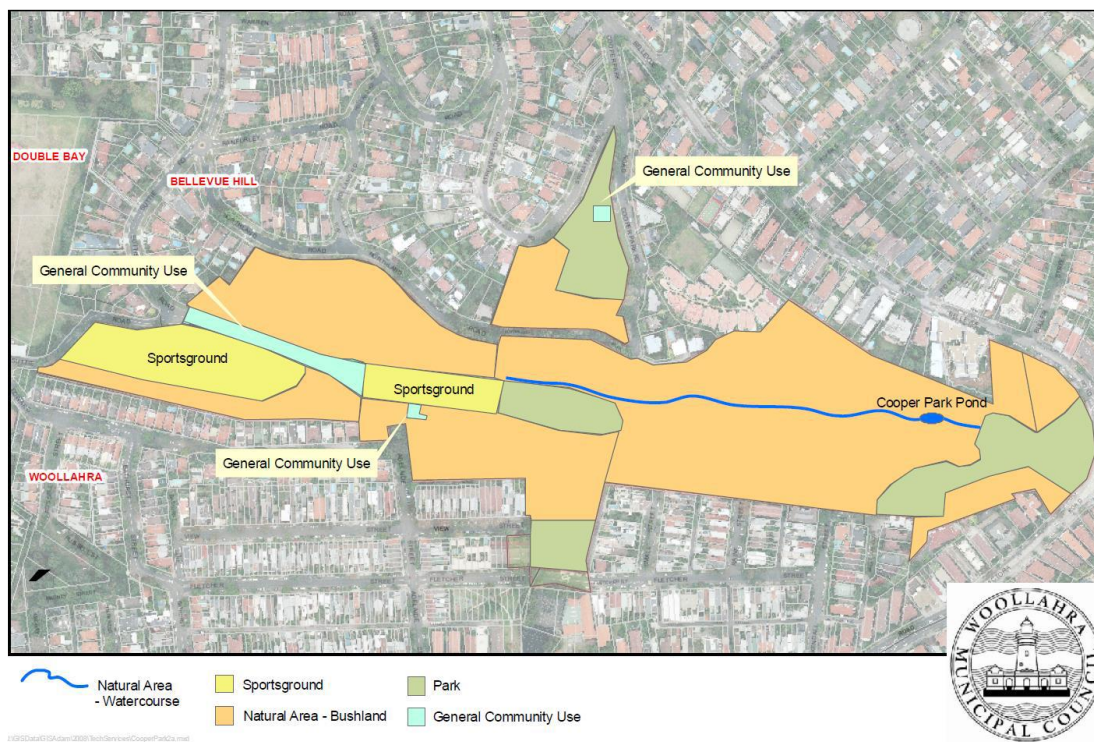


Figure 2 Land categorization of Cooper Park, extracted from the unpublished Draft Cooper Park Plan of Management (September 2009). (Source: Woollahra Municipal Council)

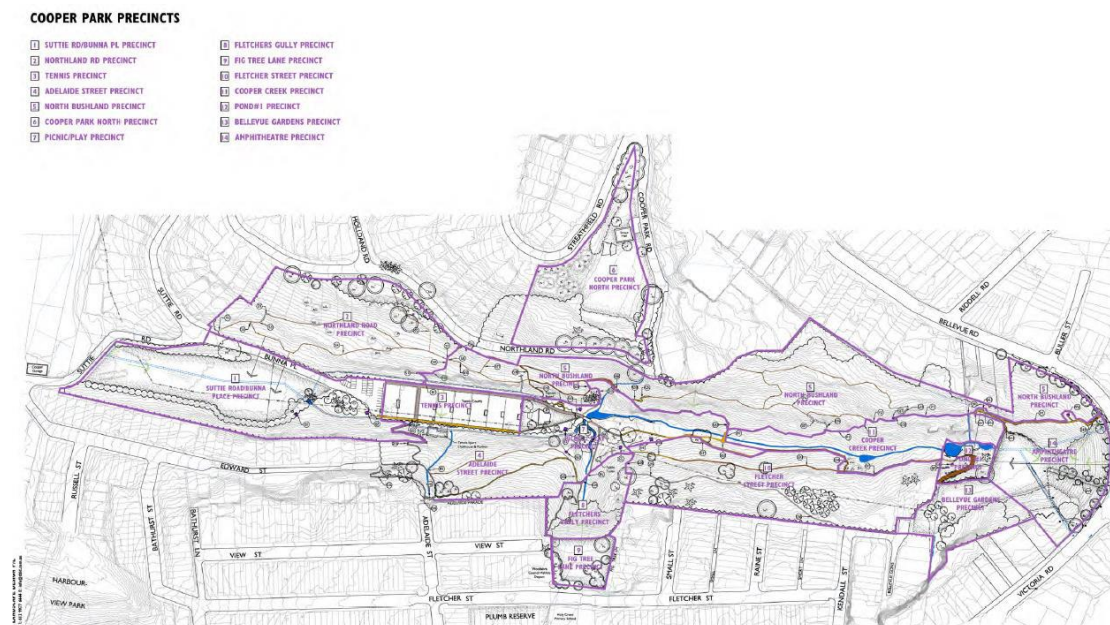


Figure 3 Cooper Park Precincts from the Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan. (Source: Woollahra Municipal Council)

1.3 Identification and experience of the author

This heritage assessment has been prepared by Chris Betteridge BSc (Sydney), MSc (Museum Studies) (Leicester), AMA (London), M.ICOMOS, Director, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a Betteridge Heritage, heritage consultants. Chris is a trained botanist with postgraduate qualifications in museum studies and extensive experience in heritage conservation. His background includes ten years as environmental and landscape specialist with the NSW planning agencies, advising the Heritage Council of NSW, and four years as Assistant Director (Community Relations) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. For the past 28 years he has been director of a consultancy specialising in the identification, assessment, management and interpretation of historic cultural landscapes.

1.4 Acknowledgments

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1.5 Methodology

This assessment was prepared in accordance with the 8-step process in the *NSW Heritage Manual*, as listed below.

- 1 Summarise what is known about the item.
- 2 Describe the previous and current uses of the item, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people.
- 3 Assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria.
- 4 Check whether a sound analysis of the item's heritage significance can be made.
- 5 Determine the item's level of significance i.e. local or state.
- 6 Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance.
- 7 Obtain feedback from relevant information providers and other stakeholders.
- 8 Write up all the information gathered.

1.6 Limitations

The preparation of this assessment was based on library and web-based research of the available documentary material and above-surface physical fabric within the time and budget and the availability of site survey information. No investigation of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal archaeology was undertaken and the author relied on information derived from studies by others.

No physical disturbance or intervention was carried out on any part of the site, except for limited sampling of vegetation for identification purposes. Comparative analysis was limited to properties of similar type and significance currently listed on heritage registers or otherwise known to the author.

1.7 Disclaimer and copyright

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2.0 Analysis of documentary evidence

This section provides a narrative history and thematic analysis of the historical records relating to Cooper Park, drawn from Council and other sources.

2.1 *Evolution of the cultural landscape*

2.1.1 Some definitions

“A cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group. Culture is the agent; the natural area is the medium. The cultural landscape the result.”

- Carl Sauer¹

“Landscape is never simply a natural space, a feature of the natural environment. Every landscape is the place where we establish our own human organization of space and time”.

- John B. Jackson²

Cultural landscapes by their name imply human intervention but they may also include substantial natural elements. “They can present a cumulative record of human activity and land use in the landscape, and as such can offer insights into the values, ideals and philosophies of the communities forming them, and of their relationship to the place. Cultural landscapes have a strong role in providing the distinguishing character of a locale, a character that might have varying degrees of aesthetic quality, but, regardless, is considered important in establishing the communities’ sense of place.”³.

In recent years the Heritage Council of New South Wales has identified the depletion of cultural landscapes as a major issue threatening the cultural values of our cities and requested that the NSW Heritage Office (now Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage) address this issue. There has been ongoing criticism in the media and in the wider community over the encroachment of urban development on some of Sydney’s important Colonial and Victorian homesteads and their landscape settings. In response to this threat, the Heritage Council provided funding to the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) for a study of ‘Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden.’⁴

In 2003 a charette of cultural landscape professionals hosted by the NSW Heritage Office debated the issues, identified constraints and opportunities and made recommendations for developing sustainable measures to facilitate the protection of important cultural landscapes in the State. In the Campbelltown City local government area, the public outcry over the loss of setting for significant properties such as Glen Alpine and Blair Athol led Council to commission a consultant study of that area’s cultural landscapes.

A 2010 publication by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) provides guidelines for managing cultural landscapes. It defines the

¹ Sauer 1963, p.343

² Jackson 1984, p.156

³ Pearson and Sullivan 1995

⁴ Britton and Morris 2000

cultural landscape concept as emphasising “the landscape-scale of history and the connectivity between people, places and heritage items. It recognises the present landscape is the product of long-term and complex relationships between people and the environment. On any given area of land, it is likely that some historical activity will have taken place. Evidence of that activity may be detectable in the vegetation or in landscape modifications as well as in archaeological evidence, historical documents or people’s stories. Some pasts have ‘touched the landscape only lightly’, while some places of historical activity are marked by imposing built structures or are commemorated for their association with important events or people.

For the purposes of the DECCW guide, cultural landscapes are defined as:

“... those areas which clearly represent or reflect the patterns of settlement or use of the landscape over a long time, as well as the evolution of cultural values, norms and attitudes toward the land.”

The elements of a cultural landscape are illustrated below;

Landscape = Nature + People
Landscape = The Past + The Present
Landscape = Places + Values

Figure 4 The Elements of a Cultural Landscape. (Source: Diagram after Guilfoyle 2006:2, based on Phillips 2002:5)

The DECCW Guidelines emphasise that cultural heritage management has, until recently, conceptualised heritage mainly as isolated sites or objects. For example, a hut, woolshed, fence, ground tank, bridge, scarred tree, grave, orchard or piece of machinery. A site-based approach is thus an ‘easy’ concept for land managers and heritage practitioners as it supports separating the natural and cultural for management purposes. However, this site-based approach has the unfortunate effect of reinforcing the notion of culture and nature as spatially separate and thus able to be managed independently. In a national park or nature reserve context, cultural heritage sites are seen as isolated points or pathways that are set in a natural landscape. The work of nature conservation can go on around these sites. The authors of the guidelines argue that the natural environment is part of these sites. Similarly, in an environment that has been highly modified by industrial activity in the past, the natural values may have been almost obliterated but can be recovered through well-planned rehabilitation measures. A cultural landscape approach offers an opportunity to integrate natural and cultural heritage conservation by seeing culture and nature as interconnected dimensions of the same space.

2.1.2 The landscape of Cooper Park prior to European settlement

Apart from the belt of low-lying land extending from Rose Bay to the sandhills of Bondi, the Woollahra local government area is predominantly an area of sandstone slopes and gullies. On the ridges and upper slopes would probably have been a shrubby open forest dominated by tree species *Acacia implexa* (Hickory Wattle), *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked Apple, Sydney Red Gum), *Eucalyptus haemastoma* (Scribbly Gum), *E. gummifera* (Red Bloodwood), *E. piperita* (Sydney Peppermint) and *E. punctata* (Grey Gum). Understorey species probably included *Kunzea ambigua* (Tick Bush), *Melaleuca nodosa* and *Monotoca elliptica*.

On the sheltered valley slopes and creek banks would have been Tall Open Forest, with a mix of vegetation, ranging from xeric to more dominant mesic species through to depauperate rainforest understorey, dominated by *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Coastal Oak), *Eucalyptus acmenoides* (White Mahogany), *E. resinifera* (Red Mahogany), *E. pilularis* (Blackbutt) and *E. saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) and with understorey species including *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle), *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilly), *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* (Christmas Bush), *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash), *Callicoma serratifolia* (False Wattle), *Endiandra sieberi* (Corkwood) and *Notelaea longifolia* (Mock Olive). Additional species which may have occurred in the area that is now Cooper Park are *Ceratopetalum apetalum* (Coachwood), *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) and *Ficus* spp. (various figs). Much of the understorey of the Tall Open Forest areas has more recently been increasingly dominated by species such as *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum, Native Daphne) and *Glochidion ferdinandi* (Cheese Tree)⁵ as a result of increased light and nutrient levels and changes in the fire regime.

The Swampland Association that would have occurred on the low flat ground areas of what is now Cooper Park has been completely modified by clearing, drainage works and creation of turfed open space areas. Species may have included several sedges, and trees such as *Melaleuca* spp. (paperbarks) and *Leptospermum* spp. (tea-trees).

The present-day plant communities include regrowth of species such as *E. pilularis* which are descendants of trees that were logged from the valley throughout the 19th century. While the timber getters plundered the tree resource, it seems they were selective, apparently leaving much of the understorey intact. J A Dowling describes the views in the 1860s:

*The whole of Bellevue Hill, with the exception of a few dwellings abutting on or overlooking Double Bay and Rose Bay, was covered with dense bush.*⁶

Cooper Park also provides valuable habitat for remnant avifauna such as some bird species and bats and terrestrial fauna such as brush tail possums and small reptiles.

2.1.3 Aboriginal occupation of the study area

The traditional Aboriginal owners of much of the Woollahra district were the Cadigal clan, while the harbour area around Watsons Bay and South Head was inhabited by the Birrabirragal clan. Both these clans belonged to the coastal Dharug language group and the Eora nation. The dense bushland, rock shelters, fresh water and proximity to the harbour would have made the area that is now Cooper Park attractive to the Cadigal people who had been caring for the land for millennia. While there is limited information on the lives of the Cadigal and Birrabirragal at Woollahra, some of their heritage is preserved in the form of rock art, shell middens and the Sydney Aboriginal language.⁷ There are 29 rock art and engraving sites in the municipality of Woollahra including in Cooper Park, with an engraving of a kangaroo and fish in the study area.⁸

⁵ Care needs to be taken in the identification of this species which has two subspecies, the widespread *Glochidion ferdinandi* ssp. *ferdinandi* and the uncommon *G. ferdinandi* ssp. *pubens*.

⁶ Jervis & Kelly 1960

⁷ 'A brief history of Woollahra' accessed at https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/a_brief_history_of_woollahra

⁸ CMP 2011, p.4

Larmer⁹ reported 'Willárrá' as the Aboriginal name for Point Piper, but, if a written variant of 'Woo-lā-rā', it may have referred to a larger area than just Point Piper¹⁰, as the latter (Woo-lā-rā) was recorded as the name for 'The Look-out'¹¹ which was at Outer South Head¹², known today as Dunbar Head.¹³

In July 1845, the travelling artist George French Angas (1822-1886) and Sydney Police Inspector W. Augustus Miles (1798-1851), an amateur anthropologist, persuaded King Bungaree's widow, Cora Gooseberry, who was camped by the creek at Camp Cove, to show them Aboriginal engravings at North Head. In return she received flour and tobacco. Miles copied the designs at South and Middle Heads, while Angas's drawings were reproduced in his *Savage Life and Scenes*, London, 1847.¹⁴

Much of the evidence that Aboriginal middens in the area may have offered to modern-day archaeologists has probably been lost because many middens were gradually burned during the 19th century for lime production.

2.1.4 Early European settlement 1789 to 1842

After European arrival and settlement in Sydney from 1788 onwards, small semi-permanent camps evolved around Sydney including among the swamps of Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay. Europeans brought smallpox with them and within two years only three Cadigal People are said to have survived in the area. Small grants were made to emancipists such as Hayes from 1793 onwards and during the earlier half of Macquarie's Governorship, soldiers received grants in Double Bay and Rose Bay, the most significant being to Captain John Piper at Point Piper. His estate grew to a massive 1,130 acres. Daniel Cooper (1785-1853), a former convict became a business identity in this area in partnership with Solomon Levey after 1821. Financial pressures forced Piper to sell the Point Piper Estate to Cooper and Levey in 1826. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. The Vaucluse part of Piper's estate was bought by William Charles Wentworth. Daniel Cooper lived in the area until he returned to England in 1831 and in 1833 Solomon Levey died. Legal complications associated with Solomon Levey's death meant that between 1833 and 1842 1,300 acres of the estate remained undeveloped and other activities such as logging to fuel tallow production are thought to have occurred in what is now known as Cooper Park. Cooper eventually bought out the heir to Solomon Levey's estate, John Levey, after lengthy negotiations. An 1841 trigonometric survey of the Cooper Estate¹⁵ shows predominantly undeveloped land with a small natural watercourse flowing through the incised valley that is now known as Cooper Park, before entering what appears (by its regularity) to have been a man-made open canal in the lower reaches of the gully area. This canal then carried the natural drainage across the level ground between Manning Road and Bellevue Road towards Double Bay. By 1842 the Cooper family effectively owned the former Point Piper Estate including Cooper Park.

⁹ Larmer 1832: 35, 1832 [1898: 228]

¹⁰ Watson 1918: p.374

¹¹ Southwell 1788 [1893], p. 699

¹² Bradley 1786-1792 [1969]: Chart 6

¹³ Attenbrow 2019 accessed at <http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p17331/html/ch01.xhtml?referer=81&page=9>

¹⁴ <https://blogs.adelaide.edu.au/special-collections/2018/01/29/savage-life-and-scenes-in-australia-and-new-zealand-being-an-artists-impression-of-countries-and-people-at-the-antipodes-george-french-angas-1847/>

¹⁵ Prepared by Surveyor General T S Mitchell as a private commission for Daniel Cooper and John Levey. Original held Mitchell Library, SLNSW. Copies held at Woollahra Library's Local History Centre.

On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir Daniel Cooper), born in Lancashire in 1821, was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called 'Woollahra House' on Point Piper, on the site of Piper's 'Henrietta Villa'. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902.

2.1.5 Cooper Estate 1843 to 1916

During the 1840s the site continued to be logged, with Chinese market gardens established later in the valley floor. Daniel Cooper died in 1853 and had no children of his own, so left Point Piper Estate to Daniel Cooper III, the son of his nephew, Sir Daniel Cooper. Daniel Cooper's will required that the Trustees manage the Estate until the heirs were 21 and that no land could be sold until that time. To manage such a large undeveloped Estate effectively, the Trustees offered the more elevated areas of the undeveloped estate on 99-year leases to meet the requirement of not selling the land. The leaseholders built on the land at their own expense, whilst low lying areas remained undeveloped, with some areas farmed as market gardens. When the heir of the Point Piper Estate, Daniel III turned 21 he was living in England, and transferred his entire estate to his father Sir Daniel Cooper in 1881. Sir Daniel Cooper then proceeded to subdivide the land the following year. The core of the Point Piper Estate was sold to William, Daniel III's brother whilst the western side was offered in 85 subdivisions.¹⁶

In June 1885 Council requested that the Government purchase a piece of land from the Cooper Estate for recreational purposes. The deputation failed and the land continued to be subdivided and sold for residential development. In 1889 the Northern Ocean outfall sewerage system was completed and a Higginbotham & Robinson Plan from circa 1889-1910 illustrates this. In 1890 another attempt to induce the Government to purchase the land for park was met with failure.

However, a tax imposed by the State Government in 1895 resulted in high tax to the Cooper family on the land leased, causing the Cooper family to sell freehold land to existing leaseholders. This resulted in increased development in the area between 1895 and 1910, with Adelaide Parade and a sandstone retaining wall being constructed in the period between 1895 and 1899. Council requested Sir William Cooper donate the head of Double Bay Gully to Council to be used as park, but in 1910 the Cooper Estate Manager informed Council this would not be granted. It was not until 1913 that Sir William Cooper consented to giving the whole of the gully, from Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, to Manning Road, Double Bay, to Woollahra Council for a park, but due to the outbreak of World War I, the park was not finally gazetted until 1917. The site was used for its resources, with timber extraction, quarrying (with the Woollahra Municipal Council quarry established in 1915), Chinese market gardens and dairy production prevalent in the area. It must have been a wild place - the Mayor promised to attend to 'shooting going on in Cooper Park', an issue raised by Alderman Grimley in July 1917.¹⁷

¹⁶

https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/woollahra_plaque_scheme/plaques/sir_daniel_cooper

¹⁷ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Woollahra Municipal Council 9 July 1917, p.108

2.1.6 Dedication and Consolidation of Cooper Park 1917 to 1929

The state of the park in the early days can be judged by representations by the owner of the adjoining property 'Oswestry' in Short Street that Council take steps to control lantana that was encroaching on his property from the park. Council referred the matter to the Engineer with instructions to grub out lantana in Cooper Park and that the weed be removed from all Council's parks.¹⁸

With the main area of Cooper Park now under Council's ownership and management, the Chinese market gardens were moved and plans for park improvements and beautification were drawn up. In 1917 Council also purchased three acres of land near the quarry to be used as park (assumed to be the Bowling Club) and in 1922 Council approached Mr Fletcher (owner of the Foundry on Fletchers Gully) to ask him to dedicate the gully to the Council, however, he refused. In August 1922 Council resolved to resume the 1 acre, 1 rood, 3 ½ perches of Fletcher's Gully at a cost of £150 and an additional £30 for a 10 feet wide Right-of-Way from View Street.¹⁹ Council continued with additional land acquisitions from the Cooper Estate to add to the park, resolving to acquire an area of 3 acres 25 perches on the northern side of Cooper Park from the Trustees of the Estate who were to be offered £350 per acre, the valuation of the Valuer-General²⁰. However, in March 1923 Council resolved to take steps to resume this area in response to the refusal by estate agents Messrs Raine & Horne to agree to a clause in the contract that the sale was to be subject to the Governor of NSW approving a loan of £20,000 for the purchase.²¹ The land was to be acquired under the government's proposed loan scheme for acquisition of land for public recreation.

Notwithstanding the gazettal of Cooper Park, a motion that cattle be permitted to graze in the park area was received and adopted by Council in 1923 with the usual fee for agistment being charged and Council taking no responsibility for safe-keeping of the stock.²²

Council's Engineers were requested to develop a design for the park and the initial works were completed. In June 1922, the Town Planning Association of NSW congratulated Council on its enterprise in establishing six tennis courts at Cooper Park and in improving the drainage, etc. The Association also suggested that the Manning Road side of the park be improved by tree-planting and further improvements²³. Not everyone in the community or on Council were happy with people playing tennis on Sunday. Council was discussing a letter from the Congregational Church which asked the Council to reconsider the decision to allow tennis to be played in Cooper Park on Sundays. Those against the practice, including Aldermen Latimer²⁴ and Dalwood were labelled wowsers by those who approved of Sunday tennis. Alderman Foster objected to the remark that "you cannot play tennis and be a Christian". The Mayor (Ald. Bradley) went so far as to challenge the objectors that he would resign his seat and context it with any alderman on this specific question.²⁵

¹⁸ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 10 May 1920, p.592

¹⁹ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 28 August 1922, p.233

²⁰ Mayor's Minutes, ordinary meeting of Council 13 November 1922, p.289

²¹ Item 53A (4), Minutes of ordinary meeting of Council 12 March 1923, p.424

²² Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 14 May 1923, p.480

²³ Item 53A, Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council, 12 June 1922, p.164

²⁴ Ald. Latimer was a long-time deacon and treasurer of Woollahra Congregational Church.

²⁵ *Daily Mail* 11 July 1922

In January 1923, Council agreed to proceed with the construction of a tennis pavilion and 'necessary sanitary accommodation' in the park opened for use at the end of that year.²⁶ In May Council called tenders for the erection at Cooper Park of (a) Club House Building, and (b) Club House Building with Caretaker's quarters²⁷. Council also advertised, in August 1923, for a Caretaker and Green Keeper for the tennis courts at Cooper Park. "Applicants must be capable of keeping courts, lawns and playing areas in first class condition and be excellent green keepers. Capable men only need apply".²⁸ The grass courts and club-house were opened by the end of that year.²⁹

In September 1924 Council invited applications for the hire of one first class tennis court at Cooper Park at a rental of £65 per annum, payable quarterly in advance, for Saturday and Sunday afternoon and public holidays. The playground at the east end of the tennis courts was also constructed in 1924. With the tennis courts proving to be popular, two additional courts were completed in 1926. Late in 1926 Council advertised for applications for permits to allow horses to graze in Cooper Park.³⁰

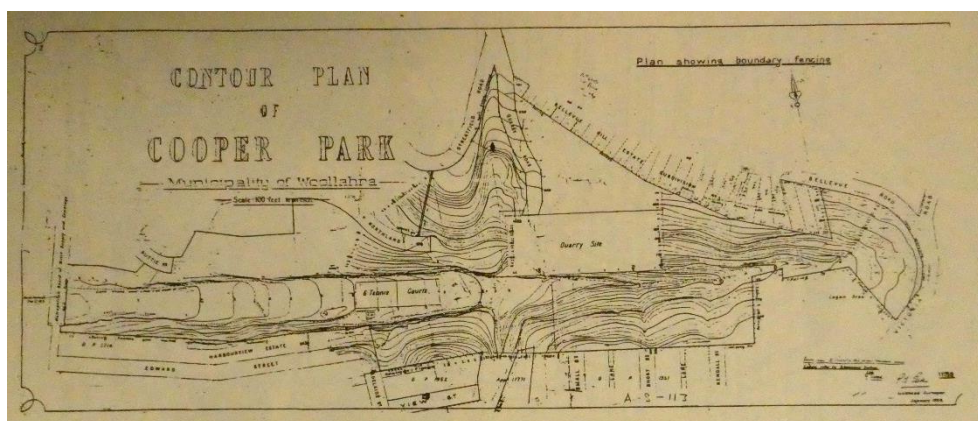


Figure 5 Cooper Park Base Plan 1926. (Source: Cooper Park Plan of Management 2001)

The 'City Beautiful' movement which had developed in Europe and North America in the late 19th century began to influence urban design in Australia although relatively few examples were developed in NSW before and just after World War I, notable exceptions being Haberfield, Daceyville and Matraville.

The mid-1920s were a time of optimism and growth after the horrors of the Great War and the influenza pandemics that followed the conflict. In several countries, architects were invited to submit entries for the design of new public parks.

In July 1927 Hornsby Shire Council called for 'competitive designs, with estimate of costs.....for the layout on the "Garden Park" principle of the eastern portion of Hornsby Park, up to the edge of the escarpment'. The competition was won by Messrs A Scott Finlay and Jack Dow, under the name of 'Pro Bono Publico'.³¹ In August 1927 Sydney City Council unanimously accepted the design by Norman Weekes for the remodeling of Hyde Park which had been set aside by Governor

²⁶ Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council, 8 January 1923, p.343

²⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 17 May 1923

²⁸ *Daily Telegraph* 14 August 1923

²⁹ *Daily Telegraph* 28 November 1923; *Evening News* 30 November 1923

³⁰ *Bondi Daily* 15 December 1926

³¹ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.53

Phillip in 1792 for use by the town of Sydney and had been proclaimed a park by Gov. Macquarie in 1810.

In 1927 a design competition was advertised for the development of Cooper Park and the winning design by architects S E Coleman of Gordon and RCG Coulter of Eastwood was announced in 1928. In the previous year the same architects had won first prize against 21 other entries for the design of a new Congregational Church for Canberra.³² However, some architects were becoming disenchanted with design competitions as a result of perceptions that some were conducted unfairly and that specialists in building or park design should just be chosen and appointed³³.

In December 1929 two more tennis courts were completed to the west of the existing courts.³⁴ 1927 is the year that Council commenced operation of the Incinerator adjoining Cooper Park North, which continued operation until 1944.

In the late 1920s Council redeveloped land formerly used as a council quarry as the site of a new garbage incinerator plant. The quarry had been formed on the north-eastern edge of the gully dedicated as Cooper Park. An access roadway had been built to the quarry and was known as Quarry Road until renamed Cooper Park Road in 1929. In February 1926 council had settled upon the quarry as the site for a proposed *Meldrum* 'Garbage destructor'³⁵ commissioned from the firm of H H Swarbrick the previous year. Records show that the incinerator's furnace was almost entirely within the area occupied by present-day 23 Cooper Park Road.

As it remains today, Cooper Park in 1929 was an oasis from the bustling city. An article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 December 1929, under the headline 'Valley of Surprise near Heart of City. Beautiful Cooper Park' contained these words "A valley where all is peace, away from the noise of street traffic, the roar of trams, and the strident, jarring tooting of motor sirens".³⁶

In the 1930s, complaints from the community about the incinerator intensified as the area within range of its impacts was developed, and in 1934 a public inquiry into the management of the plant was ordered by the Minister for Local Government³⁷ and drew a number of conclusions, one of which was that 'the destructor was erected on the most suitable site available to the Council at the time'.³⁸ However, public complaints continued and other operational difficulties – both technical and staffing issues – developed.

2.1.7 The Great Depression and Unemployment Relief 1930 to 1939

Landscape architect and garden historian Warwick Mayne-Wilson, in his very useful study of the evolution of urban parks in NSW³⁹ writes:

"Contrary to what might have been expected during the severe slowdown in economic activity during the Great Depression of 1929 and the early 1930s, public parks received their biggest funding boost. Indeed, much of their current 'hard' fabric – retaining walls, stairways, terracing, pathways, fencing, sandstone

³² *Construction and Local Government Journal* 25 May 1927, p. 5

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ *SMH* 28 December 1929, p.14

³⁵ WMC Minutes 8 February 1926, p. 50, cited in

³⁶ Interpretive sign, Cooper Park

³⁷ WMC Minutes 11 July 1934

³⁸ WMC Minutes 23 July 1934,

³⁹ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.33

edging, rockeries, pergolas and water features were built during the first half of the 1930s". "The Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act, passed in 1930, created an Unemployment Relief Fund from which payments could be made to local councils, inter alia,

"Prompted by the sudden availability of Relief Funds, the City of Sydney had four of its parks formally proclaimed in 1931. Although these parks had long existed, their formal proclamation under the Parks Act may have been necessary to ensure they were entitled to receive funding under the Unemployment Relief Act. In the course of its park construction activities, the Council demolished old Victorian-era mansions or row housing to make way for new parks such as Foley Rest Park, Glebe, and Barcom Park, Darlinghurst".⁴⁰

Despite the Great Depression, the 1930s were a time when many improvements were made to Cooper Park. The Rangers League was enlisted in 1930 to patrol the park to preserve the flora and fauna, showing great interest in preserving the natural beauty and values of the gully. On 16 September 1931 the first Arbor Day planting was held in the park, with numerous trees planted by aldermen and members of the community, and these plantings continued throughout the 1930s, initiated and coordinated by tree planting committees. There was a focus on planting native tree species although not necessarily local species. They included 500 specimens of Tasmanian Blue Gum, Lilly Pilly, assorted wattles and Queensland Kauri. Exotic species included willows planted at the foot of the garbage tip.

In 1931 Council initiated proposals for an auditorium for open-air functions in the natural amphitheatre at the eastern end of the site and the Engineer submitted plans to Council for this. A large team of unemployed labour was engaged to carry out the award-winning park design, including the extensive system of winding paths throughout the park (later named after Councillors), bridges, public toilets, seating follies, grassed areas and the cricket pitches. Tennis courts were resurfaced, the tennis pavilion was extended, tennis floodlights were costed, and additional land was acquired. The Amphitheatre works, including the turfed terraced embankment below Victoria Road and the sandstone steps were constructed in 1936, with a large amount of fill imported into the site from Waverley. A granite plaque erected on the large stone retaining wall commemorates the works undertaken by the relief workers.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p34

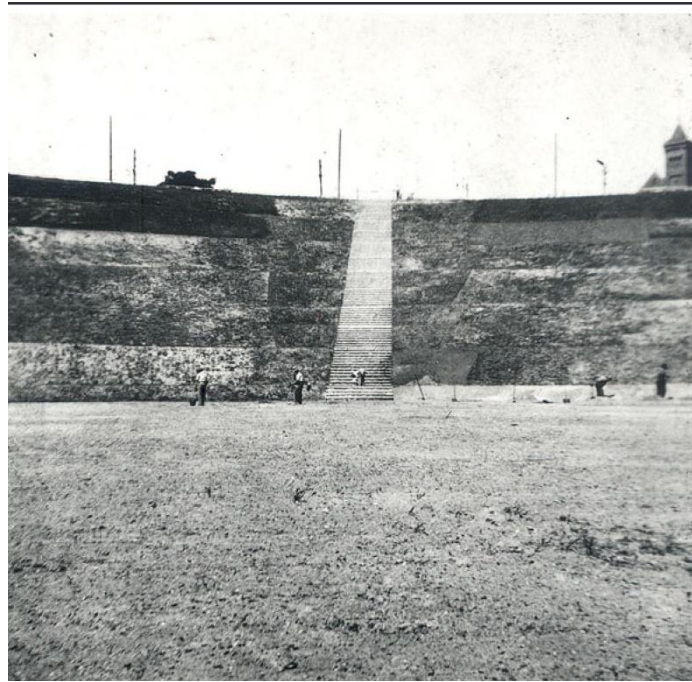


Figure 6 The stone steps and amphitheatre at Cooper Park during construction, 1930s. (Source: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

“In 1936 there was a proposal to use the natural amphitheatre as the setting for an open-air swimming complex, ringed by spectator seating”⁴¹ but this never came to fruition.

Specialised craftspeople were brought in to construct specific features including Mr H Arnold who circa 1936-7 constructed the synthetic stone shelters, based on his previous work in constructing faux rock animal enclosures at Taronga Zoo.⁴² It is likely that Arnold would have been influenced by the work of architect Charles Coulter who ‘designed the entrance building, elephant house and refreshment rooms at the new Taronga Zoological Park Sydney, in which he pioneered the use of ferro-cement construction.’⁴³

When the old Moore Park Zoo of the NSW Zoological Society relocated in 1916 to its new site at Mosman on Sydney’s Lower North Shore the new Taronga Zoo embraced new zoo design philosophies, with well-fed, healthy animals exhibited as if at liberty in outdoor, open air enclosures⁴⁴, a far cry from the old cramped cages of many zoos. The natural terrain at Taronga “leant itself to the installation of a series of open-air mock rock enclosures, nestled into the terraces. Mock rock was a method of construction that involved the application of ferro-cement over a sculpted arrangement of metal bars and galvanised mesh (chicken wire) to create a rock-like appearance. It allowed the artificial terrain to blend somewhat into the existing landscape, creating the impression that the animals were exhibited in a natural setting”⁴⁵.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Britten 2004a

⁴³ Pegrum, Roger in Goad and Willis (ed.) 2011

⁴⁴ Couper 2016, p.5

⁴⁵ Ibid.

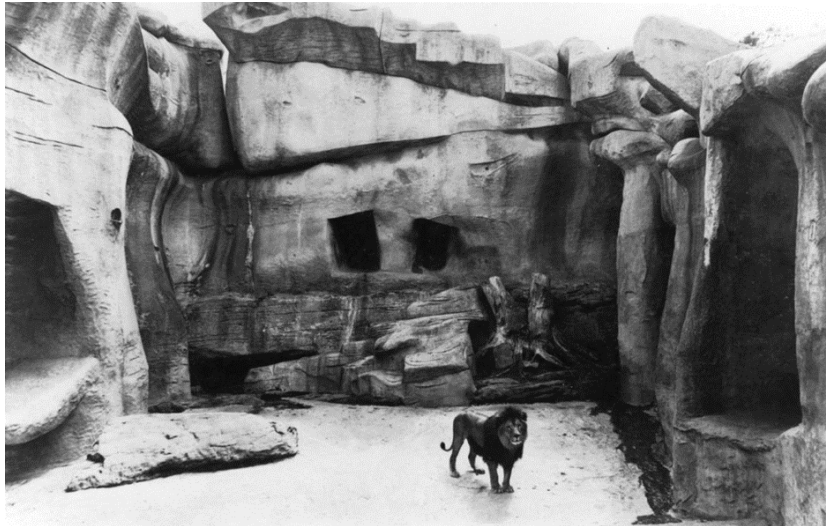


Figure 7 A male lion in one of three mock rock enclosures built in 1924 at Taronga Zoo, possibly by H Arnold. (Photo: Courtesy of Taronga Zoo: a similar image is in the Government Printers Collection in the Mitchell Library).

Ernest Miles, (head of a gang of fifty) taught workers to cut and lay stone. He led the team of stoneworkers to construct the Moon Bridge in the centre of the park. They were so proud of the finished product that they placed a time capsule containing the names of the men who worked on the job inside one of the bridge corners. This time capsule was apparently resumed circa 2001.⁴⁶ The sandstone wall along the frontage of Victoria and Bellevue Roads was constructed in 1937. Clean fill supplied from the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWSDB) quarry in Waverley was used to solve problems in Cooper Park including the construction of filter beds to deal with the runoff from the Council's incinerator site.⁴⁷



Figure 8 Two workers on the Moon Bridge, Cooper Park, during construction, 1930s. (Source: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

⁴⁶ Cooper Park Plan of Management 2001, p. 27

⁴⁷ Ibid., p.30



Figure 9 Ornamental pond, Cooper Park, 1930s (Source: Woollahra Library PFF000255)

In keeping with the Park's romantic pleasure garden style, plantings included a number of deciduous Northern Hemisphere tree species, most notably *Populus deltoides* (Cottonwood), *P. alba* (White Poplar), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Liquidambar, Sweet Gum) and *Salix babylonica* (Weeping Willow). From the latter part of the 19th century, exotic plantings and stone work were commonly used to complement nearby natural features, as at Royal National Park and at limestone cave sites including Jenolan, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly and Buchan Caves. In the case of caves and alpine areas, Spearritt argues that the scenery was considered the primary attraction for visitors, so the gardens and introduced vegetation complemented the accommodation and other visitor facilities⁴⁸. Escape into romanticism from the austerity and stress of the Depression was also reflected in the architecture of the houses built for those few who were still doing well financially. The English Vernacular Revival architectural style spoke of 'established solidity, its charm and its definite character'⁴⁹.

Also in 1937 Council's Engineer's report included an item about the demonstration of a flame-thrower at Cooper Park, Council resolving that the purchase of this equipment be left in the Mayor's hands.⁵⁰ Controlling weeds using heat was popular at the time and into the 1950s as a labour-saving method but was eventually replaced by herbicides as new chemicals were developed.⁵¹ This phase of improvements ceased with the outbreak of World War II

2.1.8 Cooper Park Expansion 1940 to 1958

After the outbreak of World War II and the cessation of the park upgrade works, a rifle range was constructed, with advice from officials at Victoria Barracks, on the eastern side of Cooper Park in the vicinity of Council's incinerator at the cost of 'over £500'⁵². The range, built in sandy soil, had eight targets and mounds built at ranges

⁴⁸ Spearritt, 'Resort gardens' in Aitken & Looker (ed.) 2002, p. 505

⁴⁹ Cuffley 1989, p. 125

⁵⁰ Item 6, Engineer's Report, Minutes of ordinary meeting of Council 26 July 1937, p.370

⁵¹ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/new-weapon-war-weeds-flamethrowers-180958450/> accessed on 23 April 2019

⁵² Britten 2016

of 25, 50 and 100 yards and was said to be available for practice by day⁵³. Captain James Hutchison, Staff Officer of Rifle Clubs, officially opened the range on 12 October 1940, with teams from the Royal Australian Navy, Army and Metropolitan Miniature Rifle Club taking part.⁵⁴ Council made considerable modifications and improvements, turfing the site and connecting the range to the water supply and ultimately, by October 1942, providing a clubhouse.⁵⁵ Council formed a rifle club, with Ald. C D Manion acting as Vice-president but the range was also used by other local rifle clubs and by the Australian Service Movement.⁵⁶ In 1941, correspondence received from W H Cutler, congratulated Council on building 'such a magnificent miniature rifle range at Bellevue Hill' and stating that 'if other councils followed this lead, older members of the civilian rifle clubs would come forward and teach people how to shoot.'⁵⁷ Writing to the Minister for the Army in 1943, former Ald. Leo Whitby Robinson was able to report that in the three years of its operation, over 2,500 people had used the range.⁵⁸



Figure 10 Panoramic photograph showing a huge crowd assembled for an open-air orchestral concert in the amphitheatre at Cooper Park, 1950s. (Photo: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

An archival photograph accessible on Council's website indicates that orchestral concerts were being held in the amphitheatre as early as 1944 and as early as 1945, "Woollahra Council was planning to build an Open air auditorium at Cooper Park to house these [orchestral] performances and other entertainment, with the Hollywood Bowl cited in a number of reports as the inspiration behind the proposal. The project was still under consideration throughout the early 1950s, with Eugene Goosens of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme".⁵⁹ Even without an auditorium, "open-air concerts were in full swing during the 1950s"⁶⁰ the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) held regular free performances during their concert seasons (Spring-Summer), with the SSO as frequent performers and international artists or conductors making appearances from time to time. World-renowned Australian baritone Peter Dawson sang there on at least one occasion⁶¹. "There are newspaper reports dating from mid-1960 of the ABC deciding against further seasons due to a number of factors – acoustic considerations, noise

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 October 1940, p. 11, cited in Britten 2016.

⁵⁵ WMC Minutes 26 October 1942, p.379-380, cited in Britten 2016.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ WMC Minutes 10 March 1941, p. 125, cited in Britten 2016.

⁵⁸ WMC Minutes 13 December 1943, p. 434, cited in Britten 2016.

⁵⁹ Britten 2004a

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

complaints, the behavior of patrons, etc. A one-off revival was staged in October 1988 as part of the Municipality's Bicentennial celebrations".⁶²

Cooper Park was extended to include the Bellevue Gardens in 1948. In 1950 construction of two bowling greens commenced east of Cooper Park North on the former tip where ash from the incinerator was dumped after the garbage incinerator was closed in 1944, and the Bellevue Bowling Club Ltd was formed in 1951.

Fletchers Foundry closed in 1950 and by 1955 the land was filled, levelled and grassed, with a sandstone retaining wall to the base of Fletchers Gully.⁶³

A temporary closure of Council's incinerator early in 1944 led to Council using the St Peters tip which proved to be a satisfactory alternative for disposal of the municipality's waste. By 1946 the permanent closure of the incinerator was under serious consideration, the First Edgecliff Scouts group used the converted garage (built 1936) associated with the former incinerator caretaker's cottage (built 1927) from July 1949 to November 1962.

A Council advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1946 read "Wanted, strong youth to assist in preparation and maintenance of tennis courts, Cooper Park. Award wages: Age 16: £2/7/8, 17: £2/18/10 per week. Apply to Engineer, Council Chambers, Ocean Street, Woollahra."⁶⁴

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Australia Street, Woollahra, south of Cooper Park was renamed Fletcher Street in 1947 in honour of the Fletcher family.

⁶⁴ *SMH* 17 January 1946

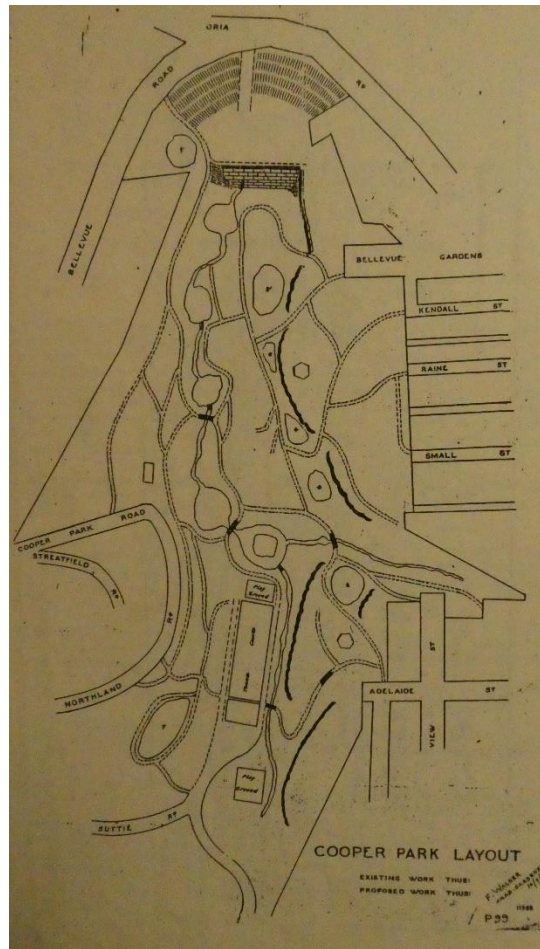


Figure 11 Cooper Park layout, 1948, showing the curvilinear paths, water features and open spaces overlaid on the natural topography of the site. (Source: Cooper Park Plan of Management 2001)

2.1.9 Park Consolidation 1959 to 1974

This phase is defined by the end of the open-air concerts held at Cooper Park, resulting in a decrease of its role and use by the broader community. In 1960 it was determined that no more open-air concerts were to be held in the amphitheatre due to residential developments affecting the acoustics, vandalism and complaints. This led to the gradual decline and neglect of the grass terraced amphitheatre precinct and the gradual encroachment of weeds and bushland. Earthworks in Cooper Park North were finalised after use as a quarry and landfill, with the main open grassed area established.

Council had determined to sell the incinerator site for a 5-lot residential subdivision with right-of-way in 1961. In late September that year estate agents Raine & Horne recommended to Council that the land be put to the market in November 1961 but the sale was postponed for a number of reasons including slow progress on the connection of water and sewerage services and the fact that the Scout Hall stood across the planned access to two of the blocks. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the site went towards helping the Scouts find new premises, which resulted in the construction of a new hall in Cooper Park North. The new building was designed by prominent architect Samuel Lipson, of the Sydney practice Lipson and Kaad, better known for larger buildings including the Temple Emanuel in Ocean Street, Woollahra.

Lipson donated his services 'as a gesture of good will'.⁶⁶ Council called tenders for the construction of the new hall in January 1962 but the matter was deferred twice, firstly until more was known about the progress of the land sale⁶⁷, and secondly, pending an engineer's report and a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the honorary architect be requested to re-design the structure to improve the aesthetic appearance of the exterior.⁶⁸ In spite of further delays arising from underestimation of the depth of rock on the site for the new Scout HHall, the building was completed by October 1962.⁶⁹ A 'colourful march of Cubs, Scouts and Guides from Bellevue Hill School to Cooper Park Road' preceded the official opening of the new Scout Hall by Deputy Mayor Alderman Murchison in the presence of the Chief Scout Commissioner Vincent Fairfax.⁷⁰ The 1962 Scout Hall still stands at Cooper Park Road and is currently used by Woollahra Council as a Community Hall.

Cooper Park was further extended in the 1960s to Bellevue Gardens and to the north-east. The main car park in Bunna Place was expanded and formalised to cater to increasing visitation to the park and tennis courts. Other works included planting of native trees and shrubs in the reserve.

An Open Space Survey conducted by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission in 1972 found that Woollahra Municipality provided passive open space at the rate of 1.13 hectare per thousand population, 30% below standard requirements.⁷¹ In recognition of this shortfall, Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995 sought 'to increase the provision of public open space within the Council's area to meet the needs of the population'. This policy helped to protect Cooper Park from future alienations for residential or commercial development.⁷²

In 1974 landscape consultant William Ashton inspected Cooper Park and was concerned at the level of weed invasion into bushland areas, recommending the use of the Bradley bush regeneration method, with immediate action required in some badly affected areas. "The 'Bradley method' involved methodically clearing small areas in and around healthy native vegetation so that each area was re-colonised by the regeneration of native plants, replacing the weeds. The method places great emphasis on rigorous and timely weed control follow up during the recovery phase (a tenet still adhered to in modern bush regeneration). The process showed that, once native vegetation was re-established, continuing weed control was needed infrequently, mainly in vulnerable spots such as creek banks, roadsides and clearings.

The Bradley method follows three main principles,

1. secure the best areas first. They are the easiest to work with the best results. They are the core areas that can then be expanded.
2. minimise disturbance to the natural conditions (e.g. minimise soil disturbance and off-target damage).
3. don't overclear – let the regeneration of the bush set the pace of clearance."⁷³

⁶⁶ WMC Minutes 13 November 1961, p. 828, cited in Britten 2018

⁶⁷ WMC Minutes 22 January 1962, p. 45-46, cited in Britten 2018

⁶⁸ WMC Minute 26 February 1962, p. 139, cited in Britten 2018

⁶⁹ WMC Minutes 8 October 1962, pp. 813, 824, cited in Britten 2018

⁷⁰ *Wentworth Courier* 22 November 1962, p. 19, cited in Britten 2018

⁷¹ Martin 1987, p.12 cited in Hill 1995b, p. 2

⁷² Hill 1995b, p. 2

⁷³ Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

A scheme was initiated to remove *Ligustrum lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet), *L. sinense* (Small-leaved Privet), *Ipomea indica* (Morning Glory) and *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* (Balloon Vine) and other weeds from the Park.

2.1.10 Bush Regeneration and Contemporary Use 1975 to 2019

From 1975 onwards there has been a greater focus on managing the degradation caused by deferred maintenance, siltation of streams, pollution and spread of invasive plant species. Council has committed extensive resources to various programs of weed control and revegetation/regeneration in the park.

During the 1980s and 1990s Council engaged the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to undertake bush regeneration activity in Cooper Park. This was undertaken utilising the Bradley Method of regeneration. From 1988 onwards Council employed bush regeneration teams for all bushland reserves and this activity was supplemented in the late 1980s by the Commonwealth Employment Scheme (CEP) that was designed as a skills training program for the unemployed. Subsequent to this, other government employment schemes also enabled bushland regeneration works in the reserve, and in 2004, Bushcare Woollahra was established, with teams of community volunteers working on bushland management programs in the park.

Some of the original 1930s exotic plantings have been progressively removed in preference for planting and regeneration of indigenous vegetation in the park. This removal of original species and revegetation has reduced some of the historic cultural landscape values of the park.



Figure 12 Alderman A W Perry, Deputy Mayor of Woollahra beside a sign promoting the Cooper Park Regeneration Scheme, 1977. (Source: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

Other than revegetation works, a one-off revival concert was staged in 1988 as part of Australian Bicentenary celebrations. In 1990, the tennis pavilion was partially demolished and rebuilt⁷⁴. In 1993 Cooper Park was placed on the Register of the

⁷⁴ Hill 1995b, p. 3

National Estate (RNE), a Commonwealth list of significant places, which although it gave recognition to the park's heritage values, only provided protection against works by the Commonwealth or works partly or wholly funded by the Commonwealth.⁷⁵ The RNE has since been replaced by the National Heritage List and the RNE only exists now as a searchable database, with no statutory force.⁷⁶

In 1994 two sandstone Doric columns which once graced the old 1847 Sydney Post Office were installed at the Victoria Road entrance to Cooper Park, at the top of the stone steps down into the Amphitheatre. For a time after the demolition of the old post office, the columns were moved to Elizabeth Bay House, then to Vacluse House where they stood for many years. With the restoration of the latter house to its former glory, the columns were declared surplus and given to Woollahra Council.⁷⁷



Figure 13 The pair of Doric pillars, originally from Sydney Post Office, installed at the top of the stairs down to the amphitheatre, Cooper Park. (Source: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

In 2009 a burst water main caused a section of Bellevue Road to collapse, resulting in a landslide down the amphitheatre embankment and significant damage to Cooper Park. Repair works were primarily completed by September 2009. Siltation of the creeks in Cooper Park from developments upstream remains an ongoing problem for Park management but sediment removal has produced some spectacular results as shown in Figure 14.

⁷⁵ SHR listing

⁷⁶ Russell 1980, p.76

⁷⁷ *Wentworth Courier* 20 July 1994



Figure 14 Results of Cooper Creek Restoration Works after the removal of weeds and sediment, revealing one of the landscape features. (Source: Woollahra Local Studies Collection)

Cooper Park includes the largest single area of natural remnant bushland under the care, control and management of Woollahra Municipal Council. With the ongoing pressures that come with increasing urbanisation, Cooper Park will continue to provide local residents and visitors with respite from the hustle and bustle of the city through its natural and cultural heritage values. Today the park is used by the surrounding communities for a range of activities including fitness classes, active sports, dog exercise classes and informal recreation.

2.2 *Historical themes & ability to demonstrate*

The NSW State Heritage Inventory identifies 36 historical themes, which signify historical processes, but do not describe physical evidence or items in a study area. These State Themes are very general, and many heritage items will relate to more than one theme. They do, however, help us to understand the historical context of individual items.

Set out below is a table of Australian and NSW historical themes, with the potential ability of Cooper Park to demonstrate these themes indicated.

Australian theme	NSW State theme	Ability to demonstrate
1 Tracing the natural evolution of Australia	Environment - naturally evolved	Surviving natural rock outcrops and topography provide evidence of the original landform. The park supports remnant ecological communities which although modified and depauperate, include two plant species listed under the NSW <i>Biological Conservation Act 2016</i> and the Commonwealth <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
2 Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Aboriginal art sites
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment – Cultural Landscape	Cooper Park is a designed cultural landscape with significant remnants of the natural landform and regrowth of the original ecological communities. The site is an example of a Council-owned reserve remaining from subdivision of a historic estate.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Events	The park was the site for major outdoor concerts in the 1940s, '50s and '60s
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Forestry	Prior to its dedication as a park the area was used for timber harvesting.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Mining	The park includes the site of a former quarry

Australian theme	NSW State theme	Ability to demonstrate
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Land Tenure	The site and associated subdivision plans and other archival material demonstrate changes in land tenure and land use in a part of the Woollahra local government area from the early land grants of the colonial period to the present day. These phases included logging for firewood and housing, reclaiming swamp lands for market gardens, provision of municipal facilities such as a quarry and an incinerator, and, finally reservation for public open space, including paths and areas for passive recreation and tennis courts and playing fields for active recreation. Due to the physical landform of parts of Cooper Park, it is a remnant of the undeveloped parts of the Point Piper / Cooper Estate
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Utilities	Cooper Park includes the site of a former municipal incinerator
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation	Cooper Park includes caretaker accommodation built in the 1920s at the tennis courts
5 Working	Labour	Plaque commemorates the Depression-era unemployment relief works carried out in Cooper Park.
6 Educating	Education	Cooper Park is regularly used by educational institutions for environmental study purposes.
7 Governing	Government and Administration	Cooper Park is the largest single area of parkland under the care, control and management of Woollahra Municipal Council.

Australian theme	NSW State theme	Ability to demonstrate
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Creative Endeavour	The Depression-era stoneworks, the ornamental plantings and the recreational facilities demonstrate changing styles and aesthetic values over a period of nearly 100 years but particularly the romantic pleasure garden style which provided visitors with an escape from urban congestion and from the harsh realities of the Depression. Many of the native and exotic trees in the park are fine examples of their species with high aesthetic values. The artificial rock picnic shelters are fine examples of their type.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Leisure	Cooper Park is a major site for relaxation and passive recreation in Woollahra Municipality and a long-standing venue for active recreation particularly tennis since the 1920s
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Social institutions	From the 1940s the park has been home to the 1 st Edgecliff Scout Group and the Scout Hall is currently used as a Community Hall.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Sport	Tennis courts since 1920s, field sports on the Hough Playing Fields
9 Marking the phases of life	Persons	Cooper Park is a remnant of the significant colonial era estate which was established by the Cooper Family from 1827. It is particularly associated with Sir William Cooper (1852-1925) who in 1917 donated the land which forms the bulk of the park. The park is also associated with architects S E Coleman of Gordon and R C G Coulter of Eastwood who won the design competition for the park in 1927. Artificial rock shelters are fine examples of the work of H Arnold.

3.0 Analysis of physical evidence

This section of the heritage assessment describes and analyses Cooper Park as a place in the environmental context of the Woollahra local government area. Physical evidence considered includes the cultural landscape as a whole, its hard and soft landscape elements and associated archives.

3.1 *The environmental context & site description*

3.1.1 The site and its boundaries

The valley in which Cooper Park is located is dominated by bushland and planted native and exotic trees, with open grassed areas in the valley floor. The recreational facilities in the park include tennis courts, cricket pitches and cricket nets, kiosk, a playground, junior sports fields, community garden, an extensive system of walking tracks, unusual mock stone shelters, a range of footbridges, a grassed amphitheatre, community facilities and informal open grassed areas.



Figure 15 The Amphitheatre, Cooper Park, with the stone steps leading down from Victoria Road. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

The eastern end of Cooper Park is characterised by an open grassed area with expansive views. A smaller open grassed area to the south of the main area of the park is known as Fig Tree Lane Reserve and located over Fletchers Gully.

Historically, the creeks in Cooper Park were probably smaller and possibly with intermittent flows, giving rise to the use of the term gully rather than creek for the watercourses in the park. A 2008 Biological and Water Quality study of Cooper Creek undertaken by J H & E S Laxton Environmental Consultants concluded that Cooper Creek is an entirely artificial construct and is a great example of a constructed creek providing a range of ecological niches that contribute to waterway health.⁷⁸

⁷⁸ CMP 2011, p. 11

3.1.2 Native vegetation

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) has assessed the native vegetation values of Cooper Park, including the identification and mapping of each recognisable ecological community and identification of any threatened plant species. Since their study, the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 (*TSC Act*) has been repealed and replaced by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016 (*BC Act*). Two species found in the Park are listed on Schedule 1 Threatened Species in the BC Act, namely *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *terminalis* (Sunshine Wattle), also listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (*EPBC Act*) and *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly), listed as Vulnerable under the *EPBC Act*.

The ELA study identified the **Riparian Zone** vegetation in Cooper Park as having high conservation significance due to its role in supporting a threatened species *Syzygium paniculatum* and in providing habitat for frog, bat and bird species.

Moist Woodland occurring on the south facing slope of the northern side of the gully to the west and east was assessed as having high conservation values derived from its remnant local native trees and understorey shrubs as well as providing habitat for the threatened species *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *terminalis*.

The **Dry Woodland** community occurring to the south of the tennis courts up towards Adelaide Parade which is the north-facing slope is assessed as having high conservation value for the same reasons as the Moist Woodland.

The areas of **Disturbed Woodland** generally correlate with the areas of the park that were cleared of vegetation as visible in the 1930 and 1943 air photo coverage of the area. These areas have been planted with exotic ornamentals and non-local native species producing a community assessed as having moderate conservation value.

One small area of **Sand Dune Vegetation** on Aeolian (wind-blown) sands exists in the north-east corner of Cooper Park adjacent to Bellevue Road and is assessed as having moderate conservation value.

Two areas of **Native Revegetation**, planted with non-local native species, occur in Cooper Park, one along the Suttie Road and Bunna Place entry to the park and the other in the north-east of the park on the edge of the Amphitheatre. These are assessed as having moderate conservation value.

Park areas assessed as having low nature conservation significance are open grassed areas, exotic plantings and areas with high levels of recreation use.

3.1.3 Cultural plantings

Many cultural plantings in Cooper Park contribute to its special designed landscape character and include individual specimens and groups with high heritage significance. These are listed in the 2011 CMP, Section 3.3.2 and include mature plantings of *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree), *Butia capitata* (Jelly Palm), *Cupressus sempervirens* (Mediterranean Cypress), *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig), *F. rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig), *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Liquidambar), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm), *Populus deltoides* (Cottonwood), *Podocarpus elatus* (Plum Pine) and *Pinus radiata* (Radiata Pine, Monterey Pine)



Figure 16 Cultural plantings and remnant vegetation adjoining tennis courts car park, Cooper Park. (Photo: Chris Betteridge 29 March 2019)

3.1.4 Summary of built elements

Built elements in Cooper Park include the tennis courts and associated pavilion, Cooper Park Community Hall (former Scout Hall), artificial stone shelters, octagonal public toilet block (now a storage facility for park staff and volunteers).



Figure 17 Former toilet block, now used for storage of maintenance equipment for staff and volunteers. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.5 Roads

The only road in the park is Bunna Place which provides vehicular access to the tennis courts and remainder of the southern section of the park.

3.1.6 Paths and walking tracks

Paths and walking tracks in the park include original and reconstructed sandstone flagged paths, stencilled, brushed and exposed aggregate concrete paths, compacted gravel paths and beaten earth bushwalking tracks.



Figure 18 Sandstone steps and timber arris rail balustrade. Cooper Park. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.7 Fences and balustrades

Some original or early fences and balustrades survive including timber arris rail fencing and galvanized steel handrails but many of the fences and balustrades have been replaced with newer types.



Figure 19 Sandstone balustrade, Cooper Park. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.8 Walls

The major walls in the park are the sandstone Amphitheatre Retaining Wall and the sandstone Fletchers Gully Retaining Wall but there are other minor walls, including at the top of the Amphitheatre, north of the base of the Amphitheatre banks and at Bellevue Gardens and Adelaide Parade. There are also two Koppers log retaining walls that are inconsistent with the historic sandstone walls in the park. Several paths are also edged with sandstone dwarf walls.



Figure 20 The major sandstone retaining wall at the western end of the Amphitheatre, with a plaque commemorating the unemployment relief works carried out during the Depression. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.9 Drains

The constructed Cooper Creek is the major drainage feature within the park but there are numerous sandstone pits and channels constructed to handle stormwater flows.



Figure 21 Original or early sandstone drainage channel and pit, Cooper Park. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.10 Bridges

The masonry bridges constructed during the 1930s are a major feature of the park and include concrete, brick, steel and timber examples but the most significant is the sandstone Moon Bridge.



Figure 22 View northeast of Moon Bridge, Cooper Park. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 29 March 2019)

3.1.11 Stairs and steps

Stairs and steps include original or early sandstone examples but in recent years several sandstone steps have been replaced by concrete or timber as cost-saving measures.

3.1.12 Furniture and signage

Park furniture includes recent timber benches, picnic settings and drinking fountains of no heritage significance. Signage includes routed timber stile type signs and roofed interpretive signs as well as standard regulatory and directional signage.

The sandstone Doric pillars at the top of the Amphitheatre steps have some historical value derived from their original location on the old Sydney Post Office and later at Vaucluse House. They are typical of the reuse of historic architectural features from demolished buildings, other examples including columns relocated to the University of NSW campus and to Fernhill at Mulgoa.

3.1.13 Recreation facilities





Recreation facilities in the park include the tennis courts, children's playground and cricket pitches and nets.

3.1.14 Archival material



Archival material relating to Cooper Park is located in a number of locations including the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, in Woollahra Municipal Council files, some at Council's Double Bay Library, some at State Archives & Records at Kingswood and in published works, some of which are listed in the Bibliography at the end of this report.

3.2 Details of built elements



The following table provides details of all the significant built elements from the Depression era.

Item	Image/s	Discussion
Amphitheatre Sandstone retaining Wall, including plaque commemorating the Depression-era unemployment relief works.	 	'Part of the Amphitheatre which makes a key contribution to the Bushland Pleasure Ground style that is uniquely significant to Cooper Park'. ⁷⁹ Assessed in the 2011 CMP as of State significance for its social values.
Amphitheatre and steps from Victoria Road		Major Depression-era landscape and built elements in the park, providing a large open space and pedestrian access from Victoria Road into the Amphitheatre.
Fletchers Gully Sandstone Retaining Wall		Constructed in the early 1950s and assessed in the 2011 CMP as having no heritage significance. Fulfils useful purpose.





⁷⁹ CMP 2011, p.3/LO1

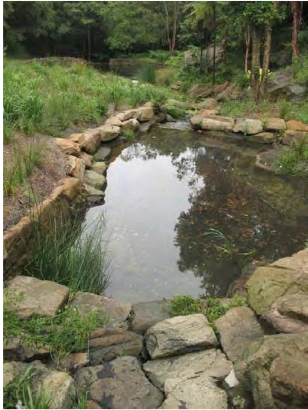
Item	Image/s	Discussion
Moon Bridge		<p>Major built element constructed in 1936 by Ernest Miles and a team of 50 stoneworkers. The location of the bridge is assumed to be from the winning Masterplan design by architects S E Coleman and R G C Coulter.⁸⁰ A high quality, central feature in Cooper Park, making a major contribution to the aesthetic character of the bushland pleasure ground style of open space. Assessed in the 2011 CMP as having historic and aesthetic significance at a local level.</p>
Tennis Courts and Pavilion		<p>The original courts and pavilion were among the earliest visitor facilities in Cooper Park, in the 1920s. While the building has been altered extensively and the courts have been increased in number and resurfaced, this facility remains a major visitor amenity. Assessed in the 2011 CMP as having no significance but this assessment is challenged, the courts and pavilion considered likely to have high social significance at a local level.</p>

⁸⁰ CMP 2011, p.2/LO3

Item	Image/s	Discussion
Formal synthetic stone shelters		<p>The three 1930s rustic formal shelters were assessed in the 2011 CMP as having local historical, aesthetic and social significance due to their contribution to the bushland pleasure ground style of Cooper Park.in conjunction with the naturalistic shelters. They also demonstrate the investigation of construction methods and use of materials, particularly testing the versatility of concrete to look natural. The symmetrical regular physical form of the formal shelters contrasts with the freeform shapes of the nine naturalistic synthetic stone shelters.</p>
Naturalistic synthetic stone shelters		<p>Assessed in the 2011 CMP as having local historic and aesthetic significance due to their contribution to the unique bushland pleasure ground style of Cooper Park. The CMP found that 'the presence of these nine shelters, particularly their freeform naturalistic construction method is unique to Cooper Park, with the only other evidence of this style of construction being at Taronga Zoo'.⁸¹ Research for this assessment indicates that these structures are rare at a State level, with only a few other examples in the Blue Mountains. Considered to</p>

⁸¹ CMP 2011 p.3/LO7

		have social significance at a local level and rarity value at a State level.
Seating grottoes	 	<p>Constructed in the 1920s, the Seating Grottoes were assessed in the 2011 CMP as having local historical and aesthetic significance for their contribution to the bushland pleasure ground style of Cooper Park.</p>
Constructed Creek	 	<p>Assessed in the 2011 CMP as having local historic and aesthetic significance due to its construction by the unemployed relief workers during the Great Depression, and contributing to the unique Bushland Pleasure Ground style of Cooper Park. The constructed creek is in keeping with the naturalistic bushland style of Cooper Park demonstrating skilled sandstone construction work and sympathetic with the natural sandstone character of the park, whilst establishing a relatively stable creek that has retained some diversity of in-stream habitat for native fauna. 'A great example of a constructed creek providing a range of ecological niches that</p>

		contribute to waterway health'. ⁸²
Ponds		The three ponds constructed as part of the Depression-era works in Cooper Park were assessed in the 2011 CMP as having local historic and aesthetic significance. ⁸³

3.2 *Adjoining development*

The park is surrounded by residential development in the suburbs of Bellevue Hill, Bondi Junction and Double Bay but “there are many areas of the park where visitors are so enclosed by vegetation, they are completely unaware of the urban and built environment which surrounds it”.⁸⁴

3.3 *Views analysis*

3.3.1 **Views into Cooper Park**

There are a number of historic view corridors into Cooper Park arising from logging and quarrying and visible on archival photographs. These are listed in the 2011 CMP.

There are a number of contemporary view corridors into Cooper Park, the most expansive and significant being that from Bellevue Road and Victoria road in a westerly direction towards the City.

3.3.2 **Views within and from Cooper Park**

A number of historic view corridors existed within the Park, particularly those designed to be gained from the seating grottos and shelters towards other park features such as ponds and play areas.

Many of the historic internal views have been lost or partly obscured by revegetation and regeneration but contemporary view corridors include the major view from the upper part of the Amphitheatre over Cooper park and to the Sydney skyline. There are many close local views of plantings and rock outcrops along the walking tracks.

There are local views to the Bondi Junction CBD from Cooper Park North in the vicinity of the Community Garden.

⁸² CMP 2011, p. 11

⁸³ CMP 2011, pp.3/L20, 2/L21, 2/L22

⁸⁴ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p. 146

3.4 *Physical condition*

Assessment of the physical condition of hard and soft landscape elements is beyond the scope of this assessment. The vigour, condition and public safety risk of the trees growing in Cooper Park would require inspection by a qualified arborist with experience in assessing heritage trees. The condition of buildings and other structures would require assessment by a qualified structural engineer. Woollahra Council and its contractors have carried out considerable repair, maintenance and bush regeneration works at Cooper Park in recent years and at the time of this author's inspection of the site, the park appeared to be in generally good condition.

4.0 Comparative Analysis

4.1 *Rationale for comparison*

Comparison of a place with other places of similar age, use and form can assist in establishing relative heritage significance. This analysis has been limited to other comparable parks listed on LEP schedules in NSW or otherwise known to the author. Such comparison is useful in helping to assess the rarity or representativeness of a place, but it must be noted that the other sites with which Cooper Park is compared may not have been assessed according to the same criteria or studied to the same extent.

4.2 *Parks developed from donated land*

Some examples of other public parks developed from donated land are listed below.

4.2.1 *Fagan Park, Galston*

An area of 55 hectares donated to the NSW Department of Lands in November – December 1979 by Bruce Fagan on behalf of the Fagan Family. Hornsby Shire Council assumed full responsibility for the park in February 1983. The park includes the historic farm homestead 'Netherby' and outbuildings, agricultural equipment, remnants of the State-significant endangered ecological community Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF), rare stands of White Mahogany Forest, significant waterbird habitat and the Gardens of Many Nations, a series of themed landscapes with structures.

4.2.2 *Cobar Miners' Heritage Park*

An area of 1.208 hectares, including part of the first mine in Cobar, donated by the mining company to Cobar Shire Council in 2002. It is a purpose-designed park to display Cobar's mining heritage and includes mining equipment, memorial sculptures and interpretation.

4.2.3 *Macarthur Park, Camden*

An area of 6 acres (approximately 2.4 hectares) donated by Elizabeth Macarthur-Onslow, the granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Macarthur on 8 June 1905 to Camden council. It is an Edwardian period park with themed garden 'rooms' and includes a band rotunda, a cenotaph, several captured German trophy guns from World War I, a drinking fountain, rose gardens and a range of botanical specimens. Despite the facts that the park is not in the Camden CBD and has no off-street parking, it is used by over 35% of residents.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.149

4.2.4 Lake Alexandra, Mittagong

An area, including a former ironworks dam, of 15 acres (6 hectares) donated to Wingecarribee Shire Council in June 1894 and named Lake Alexandra in 1898. The lake was upgraded in 2008⁸⁶. It is a multi-purpose public recreation park but not for organised sports.

4.3 *Parks containing major Depression-era landscape works*

4.3.1 Royal National Park

Gazetted in 1879, Royal National Park is Australia's oldest and the second oldest national park in the world after Yellowstone National Park in USA. At 150.91 square kilometres, Royal National Park is far greater in size than Cooper Park but includes many built and landscape elements characteristic of public recreation parks, particularly at Audley, which was developed in the late 19th century as a picnic area for day-trippers from Sydney. A large, heritage listed timber boathouse from that time still exists on the western bank of the weir and currently rents rowing boats and canoes to allow leisurely exploration of the upper reaches of the river. It also rents mountain bikes. A timber dance hall built in the early 20th century on the eastern bank is available for functions. Large picnic areas, grassy meadows and a café, rest rooms and a colony of hungry ducks complete the picnic picture. Audley is as popular with families today as it was in the 19th century.⁸⁷ Depression-era unemployment relief works in Royal National Park included road paving and widening, drainage works, ground levelling, fencing, storm water disposal, stabilisation of river banks and construction of roads and paths.⁸⁸

Royal National Park was initially a multi-use park with a shooting range, horse paddocks, poultry runs, fruit and vegetable gardens and the introduction of exotic trees and animals including deer which have now become a major problem in the park and adjoining suburbs. The emphasis today is much more on nature conservation.⁸⁹

4.3.2 Petersham Park

Petersham Park was proclaimed on 28 September 1887, following the resumption of a large area (8 acres, 3 roads, 2 perches) of W C Wentworth's former estate⁹⁰. The Park benefited greatly from the Unemployment Relief Works of the early 1930s, when numerous 'beautification works' were built, such as new garden beds, rockeries, stone seating and walling, new and upgraded pathways, a children's playground, pergola entrances, a palm and pillar arbor, and a giant draughts board and tables. Additional tree plantings were made, and as a consequence of plentiful seating and good lighting, the park is still well used by the local community.⁹¹

4.3.3 Henson Park, Marrickville

Henson Park is located on the site of Thomas Daley's Standsure Brick Company (1886-1917). It was one of the largest brickworks in Sydney, employed about 60 people and occupied 3.6 hectares. After the brickworks closed in 1917, the pits filled with stormwater and ground water (up to 24 metres deep in parts) and became known as 'The Blue Hole'. The site became a favourite swimming spot and an illegal

⁸⁶ Ibid., p.151

⁸⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_National_Park accessed on 23 April 2019

⁸⁸ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.33

⁸⁹ SHI database entry no. 2440288

⁹⁰ SHI database entry no. 2030006

⁹¹ Mayne Wilson 2014, p.169

dumping ground. It was dangerous as a swimming hole and there were at least four known drownings. In 1930 filling operations commenced to convert the former Daley's brick pit into Henson Park and in 1932 a grant of £5,000 through the Unemployed Relief Works Program was received to level the ground and fill in the water holes. Council matched that funding with £5,000 of its own, and the oval and bicycle track were constructed. The official opening of Henson Park in 1933 was marked by a cricket match between a representative Marrickville Eleven team and the North Sydney District team, which included Don Bradman. The Mayor of Marrickville, Alderman Frederick Rushton, bowled the first ball. When Henson Park was opened, it consisted of an oval surrounded by an illuminated cycling track surrounded by a natural amphitheatre for 40,000 spectators. This is the only one of the many parks formed on the sites of former brick pits which has retained evidence of its former use in its shape. The shallow hollow is an attractive and historically significant feature of the site.⁹²

4.3.4 Henley Park, Enfield

The combined Henley Park and Grant Park forms the largest recreation area in the Burwood LGA. The total area is approximately 13.00 hectares and approximately 6.3 hectares of the total area is Crown Reserve dedicated for Public Recreation. Council was appointed trustee of the Crown Reserve area on 29 August 1941. Henley Park and Grant Park are in the suburb of Enfield and bounded by Portland Street in the west, Mitchell Street in the south, and Shelley Street to the north.

4.3.5 Trumper Park, Paddington

Originally Hampden Park Oval, it was built on reclaimed swamp - Glenmore Brook runs down and under its middle. It was named in honour of Viscount Hampden, Governor of New South Wales (1895-99) - Hampden Street alongside the park was originally named Ebenezer Street. The name of the park was changed in 1931 to honour one of Paddington's cricketing heroes, Victor Trumper (1877-1915).⁹³

4.3.6 Tamarama Park

Tamarama Park has been developed as a park in the somewhat degraded narrow valley to the west of the beach, on the western side of Tamarama Marine Drive. It includes natural sandstone outcrops, the possible remains of a quarry on the northeast side, and small patches of remnant native vegetation. The perimeter is heavily infested with urban weeds and the flatter base of the valley is turfed and used for passive recreation and informal picnics and ball games. A rocky cascade at the western end flows after storm activity. The western head of the valley is dominated by a huge 8-storey apartment block that sits awkwardly in the landscape, a testament to poor planning decisions of the 1960s and '70s.⁹⁴

4.3.7 Hyde Park

In the 1930s, many works in Hyde Park were financed from the Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Fund, including the redesign and construction of the perimeter

⁹² SHI database no. 2030141

⁹³

https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/recreation/parks,_reserves_and_playgrounds/list_of_parks_and_playgrounds/parks_and_playgrounds/trumper_park_oval

⁹⁴ 'Statement of Heritage Impact for: drilling of conduits, construction of jointing pits and installation of underground cabling associated with the Australia-Japan Cable Landing at Tamarama Bay, Tamarama Beach, Tamarama Park, Birrell Street and Waverley Park', consultant report prepared by Musecape Pty Ltd for Network Design and Construction November 1999.

walls, the pool of remembrance at the War Memorial, the Sandringham Gardens and memorial gates, and extensive paving and plantings.⁹⁵

4.4 Parks with artificial rock shelters

4.4.1 Lilianfels Park, Echo Point, Katoomba

Lilianfels Park is of importance as part of the former grounds and setting of Lilianfels, an item of state significance because of its associations with Sir Frederick Darley, sixth Chief Justice of NSW (1886-1910) and Lieutenant-Governor of NSW for five terms. Through its fabric the remnant boundary plantation, former roadway and orchard remnants, the park can enliven the interpretation of the early property. The three rustic shelters are a demonstration of the type of furniture considered, in the 1930s, appropriate for a public park on the edge of a natural area of outstanding (sublime) scenic beauty.

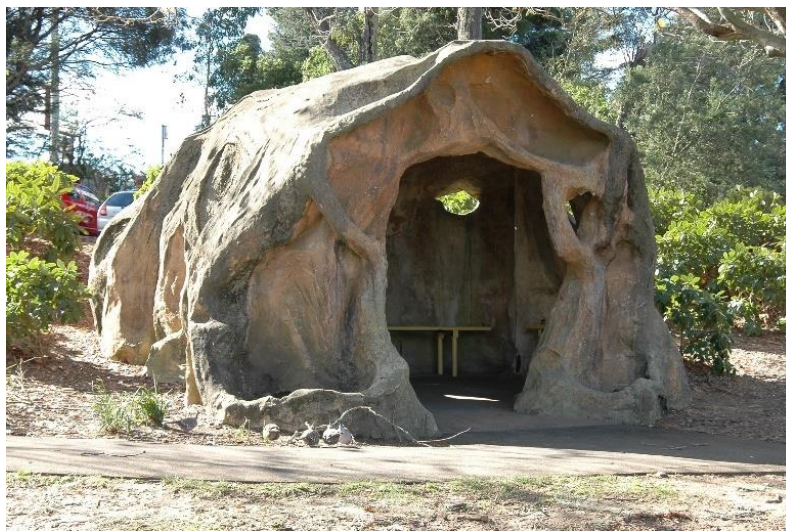


Figure 23 Artificial rock picnic shelter, Lilianfels Park, Echo Point, Katoomba. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 19 May 2007)

4.4.2 Reids Plateau, Katoomba

Another example of a c1930s artificial rock picnic shelter survives at Reids Plateau, Katoomba, on a long-established loop walking track from the old Katoomba Falls kiosk.

⁹⁵ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.141

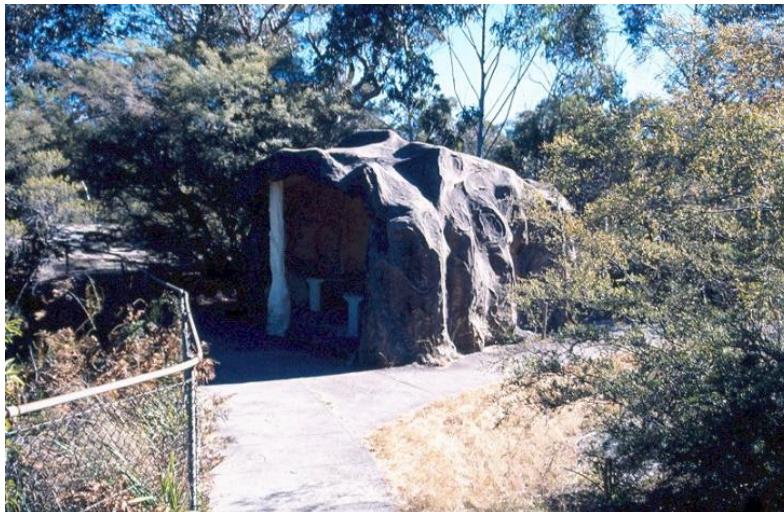


Figure 24 Artificial rock picnic shelter, Reids Plateau, Katoomba. (Photo: Chris Betteridge, 26 April 2006)

Repairs to this shelter were carried out in 2018 by contractor Rob Elliott for Blue Mountains City Council.

4.4.3 Memorial Park, Mount Victoria

A paddock belonging to the Beaumont family was acquired by the local Progress Association in 1913, specifically to have a public venue suitable for the forthcoming centenary celebrations remembering the first crossing of the mountains. The community erected a war memorial in this paddock after World War I and it became recognised as a de facto park.⁹⁶ The other part of the present Memorial Park, the easterly portion extending to Station Street, was originally a recreation area for guests at the Imperial Hotel, founded in 1878 and still flourishing today.⁹⁷ The Imperial Park (so named on a Station Street archway) remained part of the hotel until 1979 when the Blue Mountains City Council bought the land and amalgamated it with the 1913 area to the west to form the present Memorial Park.⁹⁸ Some of the rustic grotto structures, sculptures and mock-rock shelter, built as part of a depression unemployment relief scheme, were used as enclosures for a small zoo.



⁹⁶ Jack 1999

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

Figure 25 Site of former zoo, Mt Victoria Memorial Park, showing artificial rock shelters including a faux log cabin. (Source: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1172042>)

4.4.4 Other examples in the Blue Mountains

Further examples of artificial rock shelters in the Blue Mountains may be found at the following sites:

Frank Walford (Catalina) Park, The Gully, Katoomba – one shelter near the pool;
Katoomba Cascades Park – one shelter;
Darley Park, Echo Point – one shelter;
Leura Cascades – intact group of three shelters;
Gordon Falls Reserve, Leura – two shelters;
Bureau Park, Katoomba – one shelter.

In 2009, those shelters listed above and those at Lilianfels Park, Reids Plateau and Memorial Park, Mount Victoria, were the subject of a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) prepared by Dr Peter Kabaila for Blue Mountains City Council.

4.5 Other major examples of artificial rockwork in NSW

4.5.1 Yaralla, Concord

The former estate of the late Dame Eadith Walker at Concord includes an extensive grotto, constructed during the Edwardian period, of artificial rock work by Italian craftsmen and used not only to surprise and entertain the many guests who visited the property during Dame Eadith's time but also as a site for growing a wide range of ornamental plants including palms, cycads, orchids and succulents⁹⁹. In late 2018 the grotto was fenced off for assessment of its structural integrity.



Figure 26 Part of the extensive Edwardian period grotto constructed of artificial rockwork at Yaralla, Concord. (Photo: Lois Michel in Skehan 2000, p. 218)

4.5.2 Babworth House, Darling Point

The former estate of a branch of the prominent Hordern family, Babworth has been subdivided several times and the remnant of the property is currently a community

⁹⁹ Skehan 2000, p. 218

title residential subdivision which includes the adaptation of the huge Federation Arts and Crafts Art Nouveau mansion as luxury apartments. The built garden elements such as stairs, balustrades, grottoes and faux rockwork amplify the scale of the mansion and demonstrate high technical accomplishment by using the same high standard of construction as the house¹⁰⁰.

4.5.3 Taronga Zoo, Mosman

Taronga Zoo has featured many examples of rustic stonework and artificial rock enclosures but many of these have been replaced as the zoo has introduced larger, more natural enclosures for its animals. The Rustic Bridge, opened soon after the zoo was relocated from Moore Park in 1916, was one of Taronga Zoo's earliest landscape features and the main way in which visitors could cross the natural gully that it spans. Early photographs show it as a romantic pathway secluded by plantings. The rustic effect was created by embedding stones in the wall and like the aquarium, its design was reminiscent of Italian grottoes¹⁰¹. Some of the animal enclosures at the zoo were constructed by H Arnold who was later engaged to construct the shelters at Cooper Park.

4.5.4 Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

The Arc, designed by prominent Sydney architect Ken Woolley, as part of the Sydney Tropical Centre, was opened in 1990 to incorporate the Arc and the Pyramid glasshouses. It contained extensive and very realistic artificial rockwork, some of it cast from moulds made from actual rock outcrops but also including works made from shotcrete applied to metal mesh frames and then sculpted by hand. The artificial rock work provided a wide variety of niches for growing tropical plants. The interior of the Arc was gutted and the Pyramid demolished to make way for The Calyx, an entertainment and horticultural display venue opened in 2016 to celebrate the garden's bicentenary.

5.0 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This section of the heritage assessment describes the methodology used for the assessment of cultural significance of heritage places in NSW and applies the assessment criteria to Cooper Park and its component elements.

5.1 Principles and basis for assessment

The concept of 'cultural significance' or 'heritage value' embraces the value of a place or item which cannot be expressed solely in financial terms. Assessment of cultural significance endeavours to establish why a place or item is considered important and is valued by the community. Cultural significance is embodied in the fabric of the place (including its setting and relationship to other items), the records associated with the place and the response that the place evokes in the contemporary community.

Cultural landscapes by their name imply human intervention but they may also include substantial natural elements. "They can present a cumulative record of human activity and land use in the landscape, and as such can offer insights into the values, ideals and philosophies of the communities forming them, and of their relationship to the place. Cultural landscapes have a strong role in providing the distinguishing character of a locale, a character that might have varying degrees of aesthetic quality, but, regardless, is considered important in establishing the community's sense of place."

¹⁰⁰ Ruwolt 2018

¹⁰¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taronga_Zoo_Sydney

5.2 Assessment methodology

The Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance (the Burra Charter) was formulated in 1979 and most recently revised in 1999, with an updated edition published in 2013. The Burra Charter is the standard adopted by most heritage practitioners in Australia. The Burra Charter and its Guidelines for Assessment of Cultural Significance recommend that significance be assessed in categories such as aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and other. The 1999 amendments to the Burra Charter emphasise the importance of setting in the conservation of heritage items.

The *NSW Heritage Manual* outlines the same broad criteria for assessing the nature of significance. These criteria are considered in addition to an item's rarity and / or representativeness, criteria that relate to comparative significance. The seven criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of New South Wales for the assessment of items for potential listing on the State Heritage Register apply equally well for items of local significance. To qualify for listing on a LEP schedule or on the SHR, an item must satisfy at least one of the seven assessment criteria at a local or State level respectively, although many items will satisfy more than one criterion. Items are assessed firstly in relation to the heritage values and, secondly, in regard to the context in which the item is significant. Decisions on whether items are significant against each criterion are assisted by application of Inclusion and Exclusion Guidelines.

5.3 Current and previous heritage listings and assessments

In the following sections, details are provided of current and previous heritage listings and assessments of Cooper Park.

5.3.1 Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014

A number of items in or near Cooper Park were identified as having heritage values in the Woollahra Heritage Study (Schwager Brooks 1995) and were listed in the heritage schedule of Woollahra LEP 1995 and subsequently in Woollahra LEP 2014. These are listed below.

Feature	Significance	SHI Database Number	Woollahra LEP Name and Number
Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park, Adelaide Parade, Woollahra	The Adelaide Parade retaining wall, which is an integral part of the Adelaide Parade terraces, has significance as part of the improvements to Cooper Park. It has social, aesthetic significance as part of the terrace development. Historically, Aesthetically and Socially representative at a Local level.	2710016	'Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park' in Adelaide Parade (road reserve), local item, No.478.
Pine Trees, Canary Island Date Palm and Chinese	Significant for the grouping of large mature trees. The trees are significant as part of the local plantings which have been made since the 1930s when tree planting became an accepted amenity. This	2710212	'Chinese Windmill Palm, Canary Island Date Palm' in Streatfield

Windmill Palm, Cooper Park North	listing was updated in 2004 to note that there are two dead Pine Trees and the Chinese Windmill Palm died during the drought of 2003. Historically, Aesthetically and Socially representative at a Local level. LEP item 57.		Road (within road reserve adjacent 40 and 41), local item, No.57.
Concrete Horse Trough, Victoria Road intersection with Bellevue Road adjoining Cooper Park	Incomplete information, included in the Local Environment Plan Heritage Study, Gazette Page 1359, Gazette Number 28	271147	'Concrete horse trough' at Victoria Road, intersection with Bellevue Road (road reserve), local item, No.70.
Sewer Vent, 56 Streatfield Road (off Cooper Park Road)	The Bellevue Hill vent shaft is an excellent example of a brick vent shaft built at the turn of the century to facilitate the efficient functioning of major outfall sewers. Its design is embellished by successful application of architectural motifs such as patterns and texture which lends the structure an element of formalism. The vent shaft displays a high quality of workmanship in the brickwork the likes of which will not be repeated and area increasingly rare in NSW. Due to its scale, form and siting it has landmark value within the Bellevue Hill area. Built in 1897. Historically, Aesthetically and Socially representative at a Local level.	4570664	'Brick sewer vent chimney' in Streatfield Road, local item, No.56. Also listed on Sydney Water S170 Heritage and Conservation Register.
Washington Palms, Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms, Northland Road within the road Reserve	These species are listed in the Local Environmental Plan Heritage Study. There is no specific description included on the Database, however, they are noted to contribute to the cultural planting character also present within Cooper Park directly adjoining Northland Road.	2711263	Not listed on the Woollahra LEP 2014.
American Cotton Palms	Listed on the Woollahra LEP 2014. They are in Suttie Road (within road reserve in front of 28)	No Heritage Inventory sheet is available	Local item, no.58.

Copies of these listings are included as Appendices to the report.

5.3.2 Woollahra Municipal Council Register of Significant Trees

In 1991 Landarc Landscape Architecture carried out for Council a comprehensive survey of mature trees in private gardens, public parks and streets throughout the

municipality and listed those individual specimens and tree groups considered to be significant. The Register identifies Mixed Tall Open forest, Mixed Ornamental Rain Forest Species, Liquidambar, Assorted palm Plantings and Monterey Pine plantings as significant. The statements of significance for the trees and tree groups are below.

“Cooper Park is primarily an urban bushland park, containing many new areas of indigenous vegetation, in a mosaic of communities ranging from the Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) dominated tall open forest and understorey heaths of the north facing slopes to mesic and cool-temperate rain forest elements along the creek and steep south-facing slopes, dominated by Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Black Wattle (*Callicoma serratifolia*) and disclimax species such as Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and Cheese Tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*). The communities are the descendants of the original vegetation, albeit in a highly modified form, due to the enormous developmental pressures since settlement. Nevertheless, these remnant indigenous communities are of very high significance in terms of scientific, botanic, historic, visual and recreational importance.

Since much of the remaining bushland is regrowth, there is very little of significance in terms of age and structure, however some tree species are represented by only a few individuals making these very significant indeed. Of particular note is the very tall grove of Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) adjacent to the entry road, near the tennis court carpark. These trees represent regrowth tall open forest and are possibly descendants of the trees that were logged from this valley throughout the 19th century. Similarly, large Blackbutts feature prominently in a mixed planted forest on the upper slopes of Cooper Park near Bellevue Gardens and Kendall Street, Bondi Junction. Furthermore, together with a magnificent Moreton Bay Fig, two Blackbutts frame a spectacular view over the valley at the foot of Raine Street, Bondi Junction.

In conjunction with this regrowth of urban bushland, Cooper Park has a significant cultural history of significant plantings, particularly dating to the 1930s. The park reflects the popular early 20th century gardenesque style in layout and structure, unfortunately now very much in decay. The basic philosophy was to provide a tamed view of the surrounding bushland “wilderness” by creating an ornamental parkland setting as a central feature with ornamental exotic trees as a major design element.

This is a recurring theme throughout Sydney’s urban bushland and is central to the original park layouts of Parsley Bay, Nielsen park and to a lesser degree Vaucluse Park in this municipality. Of particular note in Cooper park are the ornamental groves of Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), east of the tennis courts and the Eastern cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) on the level grassed area near Bellevue Gardens, Bondi Junction. There are also very large specimen plantings of *P. deltoides* in the gully below the amphitheatre, along the tennis court access road, off Suttie Road, and on the Lough Playing Fields, adjacent to Manning Road.

The banks of the creek also contain some magnificent groves of Tree ferns (*Cyathea* sp.) and several large planted Australian rain forest species including Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*) and lemon-scented Myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*).

In addition to these ornamental plantings are the visually prominent palm planting that are carried through to the streets in parts of Bellevue Hill, (Refer to Section: Significant Street Trees). These Cooper park palms, although of cultural and visual significance, make a rather disjunctive statement, juxtaposed with deciduous ornamental trees and set against a bushland backdrop. These palms also reflect a huge range of biogeographic origins from desert steppe to sub-tropical rain forests and are randomly massed as an arboretum, including Wine Palms (*Butia capitata*), Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Kentia Palms (*Howea forsteriana*), a particularly fine specimen [of] Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) next to the tennis courts and four tall Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*).

The large grove of Monterey Pines [near the Community Hall and adjacent to Streatfield Road] is significant as a distinctive cultural planting of high visual and aesthetic quality. Whilst this North American species occurs sporadically throughout the Municipality in parks and private gardens, usually as an individual specimen, it is only in this location that it's been planted as a monocultural group. The pines form a very interesting woodland composition, wild and unkempt in character and very different to the native open forest and lush ornamental plantings of neighbouring Cooper Park."

5.3.3 Register of the National Estate (RNE)

Cooper Park was listed on the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate (RNE) in 1993 – ID No: 17850 and Place File Number 1/12/041/0114. However, the RNE has been replaced by the National Heritage List (NHL) and no longer has statutory force. It survives as a searchable database.

Cooper Park is an uncommon example of an early twentieth century municipal park which demonstrates a bushland pleasure ground style. The style is expressed by the predominance of bush vegetation, a creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features (Criterion B.2).

The Park is important for an array of cultural features which include synthetic stone structures, a moon bridge, a brick and concrete bridge, sandstone paths, a tennis pavilion and tennis courts and a grass amphitheatre with retaining wall and plaque (Criterion A.3). The Park contains some significant stands of remnant Port Jackson/Eastern Suburbs vegetation (Criterion A.1 and D1). These cultural features are laid out in a manner which demonstrates design excellence (Criteria F.1).

5.3.4 Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Cooper Park is not listed on the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW).¹⁰²

5.3.5 Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan

In 2011, consultants Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd were commissioned by Council to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Cooper Park. Their report includes a revised Statement of Significance for Cooper Park based on their review of the heritage values of the place.

"Cooper Park is an uncommon example of an early twentieth century municipal park, which demonstrates a bushland pleasure ground style. The style is expressed by the predominance of bush vegetation, a creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features. The Park is

¹⁰² Heath Quint, National Trust of Australia (NSW), pers. comm., 9 April 2019

important for an array of cultural features which include synthetic stone structures, a moon bridge, sandstone walls, steps and paths, concrete footbridges, a diverse range of outdoor recreation facilities including tennis pavilion and tennis courts, and a grass amphitheatre with retaining wall and plaque. Cultural plantings consist of both exotic and native plantings that were planted during the Parks early phases of establishment and contribute to the bushland pleasure ground style in both species selection and layout. These cultural features are laid out in a manner that demonstrates design excellence. The Park contains some significant stands of remnant Sydney Sandstone vegetation and vegetation with an affinity to the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. These natural values have been recognised by the community and Council in more recent times, and the extensive regeneration and revegetation work undertaken since the 1980s has contributed to the parks ecological and natural value”.

The CMP also contains statements of significance for individual elements and groups of elements within the park. However, the CMP only considers comparison with contemporary artificial stone structures at Taronga Zoo and does not assess the park or its elements for their rarity or representativeness, two of the Heritage Council’s assessment criteria.

5.3.6 Cooper Park Vegetation Management Plan

As part of the studies for the Cooper Park CMP in 2010, EcoLogical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) prepared a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the park which assessed the relative levels of significance for the vegetation communities on the site.

Two species found in the Park are listed on Schedule 1 Threatened Species in the BC Act, namely *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *terminalis* (Sunshine Wattle), also listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly), listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

Areas in the park identified as Riparian Zone, Moist Woodland and Dry Woodland were all assessed as having high nature conservation value.

The areas of Disturbed Woodland and Sand Dune Vegetation within the park were assessed as having moderate conservation value.

Park areas assessed as having low nature conservation significance are open grassed areas, exotic plantings and areas with high levels of recreation use.

5.3.7 Town Parks of NSW: Past, Present, Future

In his 2014 survey on the history and evolution of urban parks in NSW landscape architect Warwick Mayne-Wilson provided the following assessment of the significance of Cooper Park.

“The amphitheatre has historical and social significance as a facility developed in the 1930s using largely local labour funded under the State-wide Unemployment Relief Scheme”.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ Mayne-Wilson 2014, p.121

5.3.8 Woollahra outdoor recreation & open space study

In Table 11 – Analysis of responses to exit surveys in the ‘Woollahra outdoor recreation & open space study’ final consultant report prepared by Manidis Roberts for Woollahra Municipal Council in October 1992, Cooper Park was considered by respondents as one of the most important spaces in Woollahra Municipality for both structured and unstructured recreation and amenity reasons.

5.4 Review of heritage significance

The additional information obtained from review of previous documents and from the research for this assessment has enabled a review of the heritage values of Cooper Park since it was last assessed. Following is a revised assessment of significance against the relevant criteria.

5.4.1 Historical Significance (Criterion A)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human activity
- is associated with a significant activity or historical phase

maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity

Exclusion

- has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes
- provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance
- has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association

Types of items which typically meet criterion (a) include:

- items which demonstrate strong associations to past customs, cultural practices, philosophies or systems of government, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place;
- items associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place;
- significant cultural landscapes and other items demonstrating overlays of the continual pattern of human use and occupation; and/or
- items where the physical fabric (above or below ground) demonstrates any of the points described above.

Cooper Park is associated with significant historical phases in the development of the cultural landscape of the Woollahra local government area, being part of the original Point Piper Estate. The park contains some of the largest areas of remnant bushland in Woollahra Municipality with representative vegetation from the area and is the largest relatively undeveloped remnant of the historic Cooper Estate. The park includes Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest and vegetation with an affinity to the endangered ecological community Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Cooper Park retains physical fabric in the form of significant remnants of the original ecological communities, extensive ornamental cultural plantings and extensive Depression-era landscaping works.

Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion A at a local level as a significant part of the historic cultural landscape of Woollahra local government area but not at a State level.

5.4.2 Historical Associational Significance (Criterion B)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows evidence of a significant human occupation
- is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons

Guidelines for Exclusion

- has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events
- provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance
- has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association

Types of items which typically meet this criterion include:

- items which demonstrate strong associations to a particular event, historical theme, people or philosophies, regardless of the intactness of the item or any of its structures;
- items associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the item or any structure on the place; and/or
- items where the physical fabric (above or below ground) demonstrates any of the points described above.

Cooper Park has strong associations with the application of the NSW Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure.

The award-winning 1928 masterplan for Cooper Park was the work of architects S E Coleman and R G C Coutler. Coulter worked with Bradfield on the design of Sydney Harbour Bridge and designed several significant early buildings at Taronga Zoo. The Depression-era works at Cooper Park have strong associations with Ernest Miles and H Arnold. The role of Woollahra Municipal Council in managing the park, which includes the largest area of remnant bushland under Council's care, control and management, is also significant against this criterion.

Cooper Park has a strong association with the Cooper family, being the largest relatively undeveloped remnant of the extensive estate developed by the Cooper family from 1827 and including associations with two well-known members, both named Daniel Cooper. It was donated to Woollahra Municipal Council in May 1917 by Sir William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), the second son of Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902).¹

The Aboriginal cultural heritage of Cooper Park has not been investigated in the scope of this assessment report, but sites of Aboriginal significance have been recorded for the park area.

Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion B at a local and a State level.

5.4.3 Aesthetic Significance (Criterion C)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and / or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or an area.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement
- is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement
- is aesthetically distinctive
- has landmark qualities
- exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is not a major work by an important designer or artist
- has lost its design or technical integrity
- its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded
- has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement

Types of items which meet this criterion include:

- items which demonstrate creative or technical excellence, innovation or achievement;
- items which have been the inspiration for creative or technical achievement;
- items which demonstrate distinctive aesthetic attributes in form or composition;
- items which demonstrate a highly original and influential style, such as an important early (seminal) work of a major architect; and/or
- items which demonstrate the culmination of a particular architectural style (known as climactic).

The cultural landscape of Cooper Park is aesthetically distinctive, with its mix of sandstone topography, remnants of the original ecological communities, introduced ornamental plantings and well-constructed hard landscape works, including the constructed Cooper Creek and associated drainage structures, and visitor facilities. The park is an unusual example of a 1930s municipal park blending the bushland pleasure ground designed landscape style with Gardenesque elements to produce a place with design excellence and special character. The large number of naturalistic synthetic stone shelters constructed by H Arnold, the same person who constructed the faux rock enclosures at Taronga Zoo, add to the aesthetic significance of Cooper Park

Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion C at a local level but not at a State level.

5.4.4 Social Significance (Criterion D)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW or an area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is important for its associations with an identifiable group
- is important to a community's sense of place

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is only important to the community for amenity reasons
- is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative

Types of items which meet this criterion include:

- items which are esteemed by the community for their cultural values;
 - items which if damaged or destroyed would cause the community a sense of loss; and/or
 - items which contribute to a community's sense of identity.
- Items are excluded if:
- they are valued only for their amenity (service convenience); and/or
 - the community seeks their retention only in preference to a proposed alternative.

Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. Respondents to a limited sample size survey in 1992 identified Cooper Park as one of the most important spaces in Woollahra Municipality for both structured and unstructured recreation and amenity reasons.

The local community has contributed to the establishment, protection and restoration of the natural bushland values of Cooper Park over a very long time. This extends from initial lobbying for establishment of a public park on the site, to the Rangers League who completed works in the park (1930), through to contemporary involvement by the community in the bushland restoration and regeneration works, and the tennis club. It is likely that many people who use or have used the park for active and/or passive recreation will consider it to have social significance for them.

It is considered that Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion D at a local but not at a State level.

5.4.5 Technical Significance and Research Potential (Criterion E)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information
- is an important benchmark or reference site or type
- provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere

Guidelines for Exclusion

- the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture
- has little archaeological or research potential
- only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion but should not constrict the consideration. Similarly, the attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the fabric of the item or place meets the criterion, or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. In addition to a detailed examination of surviving physical fabric, documents, oral history and other sources of evidence can often assist the assessment of whether a site can reveal valuable archaeological, technical, or scientific information. For example, it may become apparent that the buried footings of a colonial house have

little integrity if there is historical evidence that the site has been so disturbed that there will be no additional archaeological deposits associated with the use of the house.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage values have not been investigated in the scope of this heritage assessment and therefore significance to Aboriginal cultural groups cannot be determined. There are records of engravings in or near Cooper Park and it is therefore likely that the site may contribute to enhanced understanding of the aboriginal cultural history of the area in the future, at least at a local level.

Cooper Park is an area with significant natural heritage values arising from its location within a highly modified and urbanised environment, with uncommon large stands of remnant or advanced regrowth vegetation. The presence of this vegetation, comprising several ecological communities and two threatened plant species, albeit modified and depauperate, contributes to our understanding of the natural history of the local area.

The archival photographic record for the park also provides evidence of how various tree species have performed over a period of more than 80 years.

Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion E at a local level but not at a State level.

5.4.6 Rarity (Criterion F)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural history.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process
- demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost
- shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity
- is the only example of its type
- demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest
- shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is not rare
- is numerous but under threat

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion but should not constrict the consideration. Similarly, the attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the fabric of the item or place meets the criterion, or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. For example, a park in a country town may be said to be a *rare* example of Victorian public garden design, but further research may reveal that it is a *representative* example, as there are many such parks in country towns in NSW. If it is one of the few remaining examples of an important 19th century garden designer, or contains species not found in similar gardens elsewhere, it may qualify as rare in the NSW context. Assuming it is the only garden of its type in the local area, it is likely it would also be rare in the local context. The level of heritage significance at State or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like items or by proving that

there is no documentation on similar items. This helps in determining the heritage significance of an item.

Cooper Park is a rare example of extensive high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works in the Woollahra local government area and probably in NSW generally. The constructed creek, associated drainage structures, ponds and bridges are relatively intact and uncommon examples of their type. The extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold is rare at a State level.

The rarity value of the Park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *terminalis* and *Syzygium paniculatum*.

Cooper Park is assessed as satisfying the inclusion guidelines for Criterion F at a local level and at a State level.

5.4.7 Representativeness (Criterion G)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or an area's cultural or natural places or environments.

Guidelines for Inclusion

- is a fine example of its type
- has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items
- has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity
- is a significant variation to a class of items
- is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type
- is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size
- is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held

Guidelines for Exclusion

- is a poor example of its type
- does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type
- does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type

The inclusion guidelines are pointers to assist in making an assessment against this criterion but should not restrict the consideration. A fine representative example needs to demonstrate key characteristics of its type or class. The intactness of the physical fabric of an item (its integrity) is another attribute that can be used to qualify the rare or representative criteria. The attributes described in the exclusion guidelines can be used to check if the item or place meets the criterion or to check a judgment that an item does not meet this criterion. For example, a group of Victorian cottages in a place with many examples of 19th century architecture, such as Bathurst or the inner suburbs of Sydney, may have representative value. In another city or suburb in which most of the 19th century architecture has been replaced they may be assessed as rare.

The level of heritage significance at State or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like items. The attributes described for criteria (f) and (g) will assist in the determination of significance. A heritage item is not to be excluded on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been entered on a statutory list.

Cooper Park is an excellent and remarkably intact representative example of Depression-era public landscape works designed to provide employment for out-of-work men and improved amenities for the community.

Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion G at least at a local and probably at a State level, subject to further comparative analysis.

5.5 Integrity and intactness

Integrity is “the state of being whole, entire or undiminished”¹⁰⁴. While there have been changes made to Cooper Park since the major works of the Depression era, by way of new structures and visitor facilities, the park still has a high degree of integrity.

Another term commonly used in the assessment of heritage items is intactness, a measure of the degree to which the item remains unaltered from its original configuration. Against this measure, Cooper Park retains areas of the original ecological communities, albeit modified by introduction of non-local native species, exotic ornamentals and weeds. The park also retains most of the Depression-era built elements and landscape features albeit modified by introduction of new materials such as fencing, handrails and track surfaces to improve cost-effectiveness and compliance with safety standards.

5.6 Archaeological Significance

5.6.1 Definitions

Archaeological potential is based on the likelihood of archaeological material surviving from the historical occupation phases of the site. Archaeological material can contribute to understanding the history and significance of a site. The survival of archaeological material depends on the nature of the archaeological material and on the degree of site disturbance.

Archaeological material has statutory protection under the *Heritage Act* 1977, which prohibits the exposure of *relics*.¹⁰⁵ If proposed work is likely to affect known relics or is likely to discover, expose, move, damage or destroy a relic, an excavation permit is required. Permits are issued to archaeologists by the Heritage Council of NSW in accordance with Sections 57 or 140 of the *Heritage Act*, 1977. Permits are approved based on a demonstrated need to disturb the archaeological resource, a research design, the archaeological technique to be employed and the management of excavated material or features left in-situ. Applications for permits require approximately 21 days to consider. Exemptions for maintenance of plumbing and other subterranean services exist and are assessed for each archaeological site.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has delegated authority to issue excavation permits for some classes of excavation, including the work on sites containing Aboriginal archaeological sites. The Aboriginal archaeological potential of Cooper Park has not been assessed during this assessment. If Aboriginal archaeological material is exposed in the future, work should stop and the NP&WS contacted.

¹⁰⁴ *Macquarie Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 1991

¹⁰⁵ "*relic*" means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:
(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and (b) is of State or local heritage significance. Ref: *Heritage Act* 1977 & *Heritage Amendment Act* 2009 No.34

All archaeological work, whether carried out under a permit or not, must conform to the established professional standards. The archaeological requirements include the archiving of reports and archaeological collections as well as the dissemination of the results as part of the archaeological work.

No archaeological investigations of Cooper Park have been carried out for this assessment.

5.7 Statement of significance

Cooper Park is historically significant at a local level through its associations with significant historical phases in the development of the cultural landscape of the Woollahra local government area, being part of the original Point Piper Estate. The park contains some of the largest areas of remnant bushland in Woollahra Municipality with representative vegetation from the area, including vegetation with an affinity to the endangered ecological community Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. (Criterion A)

Cooper Park has associational significance at a State level derived from strong associations with the application of the NSW *Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act* 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure. The park also has strong associations with noted architects S E Coleman and R G C Coutler who won the design competition for the park and with Ernest Miles and H Arnold who supervised the Depression-era works. The park has a strong association with the Cooper family, being a remnant of the extensive estate developed by the Cooper family from 1827 and including associations with two well-known members, both named Daniel Cooper. It was donated to Woollahra Municipal Council in May 1917 by Sir William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), the second son of Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902). It is significant at a local level for these associations. (Criterion B)

Cooper Park has aesthetic significance at a State level as an increasingly rare surviving example of an early 20th century municipal park, created in a bushland pleasure ground style, expressed by the predominance of bush vegetation, a constructed creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features. The Park is important aesthetically for its array of Depression-era cultural features which include a grass amphitheatre with retaining wall and plaque, artificial stone structures, a moon bridge, sandstone walls, steps and paths, concrete footbridges, and a diverse range of outdoor recreation facilities including a 1920s tennis pavilion and tennis courts. Cultural plantings consist of both exotic and native plantings that were planted during the park's early phases of establishment and contribute to the bushland pleasure ground style in both species selection and layout. These cultural features are laid out in a manner that demonstrates design excellence and high creative endeavor. (Criterion C)

While social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. Respondents to a limited sample size survey in 1992 identified Cooper Park as one of the most important spaces in Woollahra Municipality for both structured and unstructured recreation and amenity reasons. The local community has also contributed to the establishment, protection and restoration of the natural bushland values of Cooper Park over a very long time. (Criterion D).

The Aboriginal cultural heritage values have not been investigated in the scope of this heritage assessment and therefore significance to Aboriginal cultural groups cannot be determined. However, there are records of engravings in or near Cooper Park and it is therefore likely that the site may contribute to enhanced understanding of the aboriginal cultural history of the area in the future, at least at a local level.

Cooper Park is considered to have technical and research significance at a local level but probably not at a State level. These values are derived from its ecological communities and two threatened plant species as well as the archival photographic record for the park which provides evidence of how various tree species have performed over a period of more than 80 years. (Criterion E)

Cooper Park is rare at a State level as an excellent example of high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works including an extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold who built similar enclosures for animals at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. The rarity value of the park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species *Acacia terminalis* subsp. *terminalis* and *Syzygium paniculatum*. (Criterion F)

The park is also representative at a local level, and possibly at a State level, subject to further comparative analysis, of 1920s / '30s pleasure ground designed landscapes with Depression-era public landscape works to provide employment for out-of-work men and improved amenities for the community. (Criterion G)

5.8 Grading of significance for Cooper Park elements

5.8.1 Rationale for grading

Grading of significance is in accordance with the *NSW Heritage Manual* update 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (NSW Heritage Office, August 2000). Typical gradings and the recommended management regimes for each grading are shown in the table below.

Grading	Justification	Status & Management
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance. High degree of intactness. Item can be interpreted relatively easily.	Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Retain, conserve (restore / reconstruct) and maintain. Adaptation is appropriate if it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidance provided in this heritage significance assessment.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Retain, conserve (restore/reconstruct) and maintain. Adaptation is appropriate if it is in accordance with Burra Charter principles and with the specific guidelines provided in this heritage significance assessment. There is generally more scope for change than for components of exceptional significance.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Retain, adapt and maintain. Demolition / removal is acceptable if there is no adverse impact on the significance of the place. Retention in some cases may depend on factors other than assessed values, including physical condition and functionality.
Little or none	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Retain, alter or demolish / remove as required provided there are no adverse impacts on the significance of the place. Sensitive alteration or demolition/removal may assist with enhancing the significance of components of greater significance.
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. Demolish / remove when the opportunity arises while ensuring there are no adverse impacts on the significance of other more significant components. Components that are actively contributing to the physical deterioration of components of higher significance should be removed as a matter of priority.

5.8.2 Application of gradings to Cooper Park elements

Those components that are critical to the significance of the place include items of local significance, worthy of inclusion on any register of items of significance.

Elements in this category include:

- all original and early principal spaces that retain all or much of their original spatial character and characteristic fabric;
- original and early site layout, built elements and plantings;
- significant views and view corridors to, from and within the site;
- the entire archival collection, including Woollahra Council records, historic photographs, plans and reports.

The heritage values of the various component elements within Cooper Park have been assessed using the criteria in Section 5.4 for the purpose of enabling decisions on the future conservation and development of the place to be based on an understanding of its significance. The schedule below identifies those landscape components which contribute to the overall significance of Cooper Park.

These assessments have been made without regard to the practical considerations which will subsequently be considered in formulating conservation policies. In other words, the assessments below relate solely to *significance* (how important the item is), and do not relate to *management* (what should happen to the item). Management decisions should consider both significance and other issues such as physical condition.

It should be noted that some components or spaces have been degraded by recent development, by adaptation or deterioration, and would require restoration or reconstruction to recover their full significance. In some cases, significant fabric may be obscured by later materials or finishes.

Significance Level	Elements in Cooper Park
Exceptional	Specimens of <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> ; Specimens of <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> ; Original and early artificial stone shelters, grotto seats, paths, steps, drains, retaining walls, water features
High	Areas of Riparian Zone, Moist Woodland and Dry woodland vegetation as identified by ELA in Vegetation Management Plan 2010; Former toilet block; Tennis courts and pavilion; Cultural plantings as identified in the CMP;
Moderate	Doric pillars at top of Amphitheatre steps; Areas of Disturbed Woodland and Sand Dune Vegetation as identified by ELA in 2010; Former Scout Hall (now community Hall).
Little or none	Recent park furniture including benches, picnic tables, water fountains; Interpretive, wayfinding and regulatory signage; Recent concrete steps and steel and treated pine handrails; Community Garden and Children's playground, Cooper Park North
Intrusive	N/A

5.9 Curtilage Considerations

5.9.1 Some Definitions

In the past, the term curtilage has been interpreted in various ways by landscape professionals and the courts, often as the minimal area defined as ‘the area of land occupied by a dwelling and its yard and outbuildings, actually enclosed or considered as enclosed by a building and its outbuildings’¹⁰⁷. This definition does not take into account the importance of the setting of a heritage item, which may not be a building and may include a substantial garden or landscape and views and vistas to and from the item. The current NSW Heritage System interpretation of curtilage, embodied in the 1996 Heritage Council publication, *Historic Curtilages*, may be summarised as the area around a heritage item that must be conserved in context to retain the significance of the item and enable its heritage values to be interpreted.

The curtilages for many properties now listed on the State Heritage Register or on Local Environmental Plan schedules were defined at a time when more emphasis was placed on the architectural qualities of buildings than on their landscape contexts. Since the early 1980s there has been an increase in community awareness of the need to protect adequate settings for heritage items, including views and vistas. This enhanced appreciation of landscape is highlighted in the 1999 revision of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, placing greater emphasis on ‘setting’. Article 8 of the Burra Charter now reads:

“*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate visual *setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate”.

The Explanatory Notes to Article 8 are as follows:

“Aspects of the visual setting may include use, siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and materials. Other relationships, such as historical connections, may contribute to interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment or experience of the place.”

5.9.2 Determination of a curtilage for Cooper Park

The statutory curtilage for a heritage item is usually but not always the lot or lots on which the item stands and, for statutory purposes, is usually but not always restricted to land in the same ownership as the item. The boundaries for an adequate curtilage may be the historic lot boundaries or a smaller area resulting from previous subdivision(s). They may also include adjoining lands critical to retention of views and vistas, although these values may sometimes be more appropriately conserved through planning controls other than those used to protect the item and its immediate setting.

Definition of a curtilage for a historic place does not preclude development within its bounds but requires particular care in the consideration of the nature, extent and impact of such development. However, given the nature and significance of Cooper Park as valuable community open space in an increasingly dense urbanized environment and the significant built and landscape elements on the site, developments other than park management, canopy replenishment and heritage interpretation are not recommended.

¹⁰⁷ *Macquarie Dictionary*, 2nd edition, 1991

The spaces and elements of State significance are located in the southern part of Cooper Park, encompassing the gully, remnant ecological communities, introduced plantings and the Depression-era landscape works. It is recommended that the SHR curtilage should include all these spaces and elements.

While Cooper Park North is part of the former Cooper Estate and has high amenity values derived from its landscape, Community Hall (former Scout Hall), Community Garden and views it does not warrant listing on the LEP schedule but should be retained and managed as Community Land. Consequently, it is recommended that the statutory curtilage for the SHR nomination of Cooper Park should be limited to the area as indicated by a solid red edging on Figure 27.



Figure 27 Recommended SHR (State significant) curtilage shown solid red. The dashed area is Cooper Park North which is not recommended for SHR or LEP listing. All boundaries subject to detailed survey. (Source: Woollahra Municipal Council 2019)

5.10 SHI form & SHR nomination form

In accordance with the brief, since Cooper Park has been assessed to have heritage significance at a local level, a draft State Heritage Inventory (SHI) form for Cooper Park has been prepared and is included as Appendix A. Since Cooper Park has also been assessed to have heritage significance at a State level, a nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register is included as Appendix B. The SHI forms for the existing LEP listings for elements within and adjacent to the park are included as Appendices C, D, E, F and G.

6.0 Conclusions and management recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

Based on the assessment in the previous sections, I am of the opinion that Cooper Park is of local heritage significance for its historic, aesthetic and social values, warranting its consideration for inclusion as an item of environmental heritage on Schedule 5, *Woollahra LEP 2014*.

I am of the opinion that Cooper Park encompassing the major significant ecological communities and the Depression-era unemployment relief landscape works is also of

significance at a State level that would warrant its nomination for inclusion on the State Heritage Register.

Given the importance of the park for the conservation of two threatened plant species, remnants of significant ecological communities and many built and landscape elements of cultural heritage significance, I am of the opinion that conservation of the park's heritage values may be best achieved if the entire park, including Lower Cooper Park, Cooper Park and Cooper Park North, is retained as community land in public ownership.

Should the park be listed on the SHR, I am of the opinion that any potential conflicts between heritage controls and park management, including routine maintenance and repairs and implementation of sympathetic development works can be resolved through the application of relevant exemptions. It is common practice for the Minister for Heritage to grant standard exemptions to SHR listings for routine maintenance and repairs and it is also common for exemptions to be granted for works carried out in accordance with an endorsed Conservation Management Plan or Plan of Management. Such exemptions have been granted in the case of several other SHR-listed parks in NSW, including Centennial Parklands (Centennial Park, Queens Park and Moore Park); Central Park, Armidale; Cook Park, Orange; Hyde Park, Sydney; Iloura reserve, East Balmain; Ivanhoe Park (including Manly Oval) Cultural Landscape, Manly; Macquarie Place, Sydney; McQuade Park, Windsor; North Beach Precinct, Wollongong; Wilberforce Park, Wilberforce; Parramatta Park and Old Government House, Parramatta; Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta; Richmond Park, Richmond; St Leonards Park, North Sydney;

6.2 Listing and management recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Woollahra Municipal Council should propose the area of Cooper Park, encompassing the major significant ecological communities and the Depression-era unemployment relief landscape works, as outlined solid red on Figure 27 for listing as an item of State significance on Schedule 5, Woollahra LEP 2014.
2. Woollahra Municipal Council should nominate the southern area of Cooper Park, as identified in dot point #1 above and outlined solid red on Figure 27, to the Heritage Council of NSW for consideration of listing on the State Heritage Register.
3. Cooper Park should continue to be managed to conserve and enhance its heritage significance through a proactive program of arboricultural and horticultural maintenance, erosion control and conservation of its significant natural, landscape and built elements.
4. An updated Conservation Management Plan for Cooper Park should be prepared to take into account relevant information on the park that has been accumulated since 2011 and changes to the nature, condition and management regime that have taken place since 2011. If the park is listed on the SHR, Heritage Council endorsement of the updated CMP should be sought.
5. Consideration should be given to interpreting the heritage significance of Cooper Park in culturally sensitive ways which may include but should not be limited to material on Council's website and inclusion on a downloadable app for a walking tour of heritage sites in the Woollahra local government area.
6. An updated Vegetation Management Plan / Canopy Replenishment Strategy for Cooper Park should be prepared to provide for the conservation of natural vegetation in the park and the staged replacement of the significant cultural plantings on the site, the timing of such replacement to be guided by

arboricultural assessment of the vigour, condition and useful life expectancy of the trees.

7. Should Cooper Park be listed on the State Heritage Register, any works consistent with the policies and other recommendations of an endorsed Conservation Management Plan could be exempted, subject to ministerial approval, to reduce the need for frequent applications under Section 60, Heritage Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Betteridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Betteridge
Director, Betteridge Heritage
3 November 2019

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8.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Draft SHI form for Cooper Park

Appendix B – Draft nomination form for SHR listing

Appendix C – SHI database entry for Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park, Adelaide Parade, Woollahra

Appendix D – SHI database entry for Canary Island Date Palm and Chinese Windmill Palm, Cooper Park North

Appendix E – SHI database entry for Concrete Horse Trough, Victoria Road intersection with Bellevue Road adjoining Cooper Park

Appendix F – SHI database entry for Sewer Vent, 56 Streatfield Road (off Cooper Park Road)

Appendix G - SHI database entry for Washington Palms, Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms, Northland Road within the road reserve

***Appendix A – Draft SHI form for Cooper Park listing
on Woollahra LEP 2014***

ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Cooper Park					
Other Name/s, Former Name/s	Part of former Cooper Estate					
Item type (if known)	Landscape & Built					
Item group (if known)	Cultural Landscape					
Item category (if known)	Parks, Gardens & Trees					
Area, Group, or Collection Name						
Street number						
Street name	Suttie Road, Double Bay					
Suburbs	Double Bay and Bellevue Hill				Postcode	2028 and 2023
Local Government Area	Woollahra					
Property description	Cooper Park is defined to the west by Suttie Road, to the north by Northland Road, to the east by Bellevue Road / Victoria Road, and to the south by residential properties located north of Fletcher Street.					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude				Longitude	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	
Owner	Woollahra Municipal Council					
Current use	Bushland Reserve / Public Park					
Former Uses	Part of historic Cooper Estate; logging; quarry site; municipal incinerator site.					
Statement of significance	<p>Cooper Park is historically significant at a local level through its associations with significant historical phases in the development of the cultural landscape of the Woollahra local government area, being part of the original Point Piper Estate. The park contains some of the largest areas of remnant bushland in Woollahra Municipality with representative vegetation from the area, including vegetation with an affinity to the endangered ecological community Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. (Criterion A)</p> <p>Cooper Park has associational significance at a State level derived from strong associations with the application of the NSW <i>Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act</i> 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure. The park also has strong associations with noted architects S E Coleman and R G C Coutler who won the design competition for the park and with Ernest Miles and H Arnold who supervised the Depression-era works. The park has a strong association with the Cooper family, being a remnant of the extensive estate developed by the Cooper family from 1827 and including associations with two well-known members, both named</p>					

	<p>Daniel Cooper. It was donated to Woollahra Municipal Council in May 1917 by Sir William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), the second son of Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902).¹⁰⁸ It is significant at a local level for these associations. (Criterion B)</p> <p>Cooper Park has aesthetic significance at a State level as an increasingly rare surviving example of an early 20th century municipal park, created in a bushland pleasure ground style, expressed by the predominance of bush vegetation, a constructed creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features. The Park is important aesthetically for its array of Depression-era cultural features which include a grass amphitheatre with retaining wall and plaque, artificial stone structures, a moon bridge, sandstone walls, steps and paths, concrete footbridges, and a diverse range of outdoor recreation facilities including a 1920s tennis pavilion and tennis courts. Cultural plantings consist of both exotic and native plantings that were planted during the park's early phases of establishment and contribute to the bushland pleasure ground style in both species selection and layout. These cultural features are laid out in a manner that demonstrates design excellence and high creative endeavor. (Criterion C)</p> <p>While social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. Respondents to a limited sample size survey in 1992 identified Cooper Park as one of the most important spaces in Woollahra Municipality for both structured and unstructured recreation and amenity reasons. The local community has also contributed to the establishment, protection and restoration of the natural bushland values of Cooper Park over a very long time. (Criterion D).</p> <p>The Aboriginal cultural heritage values have not been investigated in the scope of this heritage assessment and therefore significance to Aboriginal cultural groups cannot be determined. However, there are records of engravings in or near Cooper Park and it is therefore likely that the site may contribute to enhanced understanding of the aboriginal cultural history of the area in the future, at least at a local level.</p> <p>Cooper Park is considered to have technical and research significance at a local level but probably not at a State level. These values are derived from its ecological communities and two threatened plant species as well as the archival photographic record for the park which provides evidence of how various tree species have performed over a period of more than 80 years. (Criterion E)</p> <p>Cooper Park is rare at a State level as an excellent example of high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works including an extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold who built similar enclosures for animals at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. The rarity value of the park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>. (Criterion F)</p> <p>The park is also representative at a local level, and possibly at a State level, subject to further comparative analysis, of 1920s / '30s pleasure ground designed landscapes with Depression-era public landscape works to provide employment for out-of-work men and improved amenities for the community. (Criterion G).</p>
Level of Significance	<div>State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (excluding Cooper Park North)</div>

¹⁰⁸ Obituaries Australia accessed at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/cooper-sir-william-charles-13706> on 23 April 2019

DESCRIPTION	
Designer	Architects S E Coleman of Gordon and RCG Coulter of Eastwood won a competition in 1928 to design the layout of the park. Later alterations have been designed by Woollahra Municipal Council staff.
Builder/ maker	<p>Much of the ornamental stonework, including walls, balustrades, paths, steps, bridges, drainage channels and ponds was constructed by workers engaged by Woollahra Municipal Council with Unemployment Relief Fund moneys made available under <i>The Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act 1930</i>.</p> <p>Artificial rock shelters were constructed by H Arnold.</p> <p>Much stone work including the construction of the Moon Bridge was supervised by Ernest Miles.</p>
Physical Description	<p>The valley in which Cooper Park is located is dominated by bushland and planted native and exotic trees, with open grassed areas including tennis courts and cricket pitches in the valley floor. The recreational facilities within the park include tennis courts, cricket pitches and cricket nets, kiosk, a playground, junior sports fields, community garden, an extensive system of walking tracks, unusual mock stone shelters, a range of footbridges, a grassed amphitheatre, community facilities and informal open grassed areas. The eastern end of Cooper Park is characterised by an open grassed area with expansive views. A smaller open grassed area to the south of the main area of the park is known as Fig Tree Lane Reserve and located over Fletchers Gully.</p> <p>Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) has assessed the native vegetation values of Cooper Park, including the identification and mapping of each recognisable ecological community and identification of any threatened plant species. Since their study, the NSW <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act)</i> has been repealed and replaced by the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)</i>. Two species found in the Park are listed on Schedule 1 Threatened Species in the BC Act, namely <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> (Sunshine Wattle), also listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)</i> and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> (Magenta Lilly Pilly), listed as Vulnerable under the <i>EPBC Act</i>.</p> <p>The ELA study identified the Riparian Zone vegetation in Cooper Park as having high conservation significance due to its role in supporting a threatened species <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> and in providing habitat for frog, bat and bird species.</p> <p>Moist Woodland occurring on the south facing slope of the northern side of the gully to the west and east was assessed as having high conservation values derived from its remnant local native trees and understorey shrubs as well as providing habitat for the threatened species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i>.</p> <p>The Dry Woodland community occurring to the south of the tennis courts up towards Adelaide Parade which is the north-facing slope is assessed as having high conservation value for the same reasons as the Moist Woodland.</p> <p>The areas of Disturbed Woodland generally correlate with the areas of the park that were cleared of vegetation as visible in the 1930 and 1943 air photo coverage of the area. These areas have been planted with exotic ornamentals and non-local native species producing a community assessed as having moderate conservation value.</p> <p>One small area of Sand Dune Vegetation on Aeolian (wind-blown) sands exists in the north-east corner of Cooper Park adjacent to Bellevue Road and is assessed as having moderate conservation value.</p>

	<p>Two areas of Native Revegetation, planted with non-local native species, occur in Cooper Park, one along the Suttie Road and Bunna Place entry to the park and the other in the north-east of the park on the edge of the Amphitheatre. These are assessed as having moderate conservation value.</p> <p>Park areas assessed as having low nature conservation significance are open grassed areas, exotic plantings and areas with high levels of recreation use.</p> <p>Cultural plantings include mature plantings of <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (Hoop Pine), <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> (Illawarra Flame Tree), <i>Butia capitata</i> (Jelly Palm), <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> (Mediterranean Cypress), <i>Ficus macrophylla</i> (Moreton Bay Fig), <i>F. rubiginosa</i> (Port Jackson Fig), <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> (Jacaranda), <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (Liquidambar), <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Canary Island Date Palm), <i>Populus deltoides</i> (Cottonwood), <i>Podocarpus elatus</i> (Plum Pine) and <i>Pinus radiata</i> (Radiata Pine, Monterey Pine).</p> <p>Built elements in Cooper Park include the tennis courts and associated pavilion, artificial stone shelters, octagonal public toilet block (now a storage facility for park staff and volunteers), stone and concrete bridges, drainage channels and pits, amphitheatre and retaining walls, stone, concrete and earth paths..</p>					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	<p>Condition varies from good to poor, with some trees senescent or damaged. Some early structures including some of the artificial stone shelters have deteriorated and require conservation work.</p> <p>Archaeological potential has not been assessed but some Aboriginal sites occur within the park.</p>					
Construction years	Start year	1917	Finish year	1930s, 2000s	Circa	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>Cooper Park Regeneration Scheme late 1970s.</p> <p>Tennis Pavilion partially demolished and rebuilt in 1990.</p> <p>Two Doric pillars originally from Sydney Post Office and later relocated to Elizabeth Bay House and to Vaucluse House, were erected in 1994 at the top of the steps leading down from Victoria road, Bellevue Hill to the amphitheatre.</p> <p>Landslide repair works in the amphitheatre were carried out in 2009.</p> <p>Additions over the years have brought the Park up to its present area of 15 ha (38 acres).</p>					
Further comments						
HISTORY						
Historical notes	<p>The dense bushland, rock shelters, fresh water and proximity to the harbour would have made the area that is now Cooper Park attractive to the Cadigal people, a clan of the coastal Dharug language group, who had been caring for the land for millennia.</p> <p>After European arrival and settlement in Sydney from 1788 onwards, small semi- permanent camps evolved around Sydney including among the swamps of Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay. Europeans brought smallpox with them and within two years only three Cadigal People are said to have survived in the area. Small grants were made to emancipists such as Hayes from 1793 onwards and during the earlier half of Macquarie's Governorship, soldiers received grants in Double Bay and Rose Bay, the most significant being to Captain John Piper at Point Piper. His estate grew to a massive 1,130 acres. Daniel Cooper (1785-1853), a former convict became a business identity in this area in partnership with Solomon Levey after 1821. Financial pressures forced Piper to sell the Point</p>					

	<p>Piper Estate to Cooper and Levey in 1826. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. The Vacluse part of Piper's estate was bought by William Charles Wentworth. Daniel Cooper lived in the area until he returned to England in 1831 and in 1833 Solomon Levey died. Legal complications associated with Solomon Levey's death meant that between 1833 and 1842 1,300 acres of the estate remained undeveloped and other activities such as logging to fuel tallow production are thought to have occurred in what is now known as Cooper Park. Cooper eventually bought out the heir to Solomon Levey's estate, John Levey, after lengthy negotiations. An 1841 trigonometric survey of the Cooper Estate¹¹⁰ shows predominantly undeveloped land with a small natural watercourse flowing through the incised valley that is now known as Cooper Park, before entering what appears (by its regularity) to have been a man-made open canal in the lower reaches of the gully area. This canal then carried the natural drainage across the level ground between Manning Road and Bellevue Road towards Double Bay. By 1842 the Cooper family effectively owned the former Point Piper Estate including Cooper Park.</p> <p>On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir Daniel Cooper), born in Lancashire in 1821, was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called 'Woollahra House' on Point Piper, on the site of Piper's 'Henrietta Villa'. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902.</p> <p>During the 1840s the site continued to be logged, with Chinese market gardens established later in the valley floor. Daniel Cooper died in 1853 and had no children of his own, so left Point Piper Estate to Daniel Cooper III, the son of his nephew, Sir Daniel Cooper. Daniel Cooper's will required that the Trustees manage the Estate until the heirs were 21 and that no land could be sold until that time. To manage such a large undeveloped Estate effectively, the Trustees offered the more elevated areas of the undeveloped estate on 99-year leases to meet the requirement of not selling the land. The lease-holders built on the land at their own expense, whilst low lying areas remained undeveloped, with some areas farmed as market gardens. When the heir of the Point Piper Estate, Daniel III turned 21 he was living in England, and transferred his entire estate to his father Sir Daniel Cooper in 1881. Sir Daniel Cooper then proceeded to subdivide the land the following year. The core of the Point Piper Estate was sold to William, Daniel III's brother whilst the western side was offered in 85 subdivisions.</p> <p>In June 1885 Council requested that the Government purchase a piece of land from the Cooper Estate for recreational purposes. The deputation failed and the land continued to be subdivided and sold for residential development. In 1889 the Northern Ocean outfall sewerage system was completed and a Higginbotham & Robinson Plan from circa 1889-1910 illustrates this. In 1890 another attempt to induce the Government to purchase the land for park was met with failure.</p> <p>However, a tax imposed by the State Government in 1895 resulted in high tax to the Cooper family on the land leased, causing the Cooper family to sell freehold land to existing lease-holders. This resulted in increased development in the area between 1895 and 1910, with Adelaide Parade and a sandstone retaining wall being constructed in the period between 1895 and 1899. Council requested Sir William Cooper donate the head of Double Bay Gully to Council to be used as park, but in 1910 the Cooper Estate Manager informed Council this would not be granted. It was not until 1913 that Sir William Cooper consented to giving the whole of the gully, from Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, to Manning Road, Double Bay, to Woollahra Council for a park, but due to the outbreak of World War I, the park was not finally gazetted until 1917. The site was used for its resources, with timber extraction, quarrying (with the Woollahra Municipal Council quarry established in 1915), Chinese market gardens</p>
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¹¹⁰ Prepared by Surveyor General T S Mitchell as a private commission for Daniel Cooper and John Levey. Original held Mitchell Library, SLNSW. Copies held at Woollahra Library's Local History Centre.

	<p>and dairy production prevalent in the area. It must have been a wild place - the Mayor promised to attend to 'shooting going on in Cooper Park', an issue raised by Alderman Grimley in July 1917.</p> <p>The state of the park in the early days can be judged by representations by the owner of the adjoining property 'Oswestry' in Short Street that Council take steps to control lantana that was encroaching on his property from the park. Council referred the matter to the Engineer with instructions to grub out lantana in Cooper Park and that the weed be removed from all Council's parks.</p> <p>With the main area of Cooper Park now under Council's ownership and management, the Chinese market gardens were moved and plans for park improvements and beautification were drawn up. In 1917 Council also purchased three acres of land near the quarry to be used as park (assumed to be the Bowling Club) and in 1922 Council approached Mr Fletcher (owner of the Foundry on Fletchers Gully) to ask him to dedicate the gully to the Council, however, he refused. In August 1922 Council resolved to resume the 1 acre, 1 rood, 3 ½ perches of Fletcher's Gully at a cost of £150 and an additional £30 for a 10 feet wide Right-of-Way from View Street. Council continued with additional land acquisitions from the Cooper Estate to add to the park, resolving to acquire an area of 3 acres 25 perches on the northern side of Cooper Park from the Trustees of the Estate who were to be offered £350 per acre, the valuation of the Valuer-General. However, in March 1923 Council resolved to take steps to resume this area in response to the refusal by estate agents Messrs Raine & Horne to agree to a clause in the contract that the sale was to be subject to the Governor of NSW approving a loan of £20,000 for the purchase. The land was to be acquired under the government's proposed loan scheme for acquisition of land for public recreation.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the gazettal of Cooper Park, a motion that cattle be permitted to graze in the park area was received and adopted by Council in 1923 with the usual fee for agistment being charged and Council taking no responsibility for safe-keeping of the stock.</p> <p>Council's Engineers were requested to develop a design for the park and the initial works were completed. In June 1922, the Town Planning Association of NSW congratulated Council on its enterprise in establishing six tennis courts at Cooper Park and in improving the drainage, etc. The Association also suggested that the Manning Road side of the park be improved by tree-planting and further improvements. Not everyone in the community or on Council were happy with people playing tennis on Sunday. Council was discussing a letter from the Congregational Church which asked the Council to reconsider the decision to allow tennis to be played in Cooper Park on Sundays. Those against the practice, including Aldermen Latimer and Dalwood were labelled wowsers by those who approved of Sunday tennis. Alderman Foster objected to the remark that "you cannot play tennis and be a Christian". The Mayor (Ald. Bradley) went so far as to challenge the objectors that he would resign his seat and context it with any alderman on this specific question.</p> <p>In January 1923, Council agreed to proceed with the construction of a tennis pavilion and 'necessary sanitary accommodation' in the park opened for use at the end of that year. In May Council called tenders for the erection at Cooper Park of (a) Club House Building, and (b) Club House Building with Caretaker's quarters. Council also advertised, in August 1923, for a Caretaker and Green Keeper for the tennis courts at Cooper Park. "Applicants must be capable of keeping courts, lawns and playing areas in first class condition and be excellent green keepers. Capable men only need apply". The grass courts and club-house were opened by the end of that year.</p> <p>In September 1924 Council invited applications for the hire of one first class tennis court at Cooper Park at a rental of £65 per annum, payable quarterly in advance, for Saturday and Sunday afternoon and public holidays. The playground at the east end of the tennis courts was also constructed in 1924. With the tennis courts proving to be popular, two additional courts were completed in 1926. Late in 1926 Council advertised for applications for permits to allow horses to graze in Cooper Park.</p>
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	<p>The mid-1920s were a time of optimism and growth after the horrors of the Great War and the influenza pandemics that followed the conflict. In several countries, architects were invited to submit entries for the design of new public parks.</p> <p>In 1927 a design competition was advertised for the development of Cooper Park and the winning design by architects S E Coleman of Gordon and RCG Coulter of Eastwood was announced in 1928. In the previous year the same architects had won first prize against 21 other entries for the design of a new Congregational Church for Canberra. However, some architects were becoming disenchanted with design competitions as a result of perceptions that some were conducted unfairly and that specialists in building or park design should just be chosen and appointed.</p> <p>In December 1929 two more tennis courts were completed to the west of the existing courts. 1927 is the year that Council commenced operation of the Incinerator adjoining Cooper Park North, which continued operation until 1944.</p> <p>In the late 1920s Council redeveloped land formerly used as a council quarry as the site of a new garbage incinerator plant. The quarry had been formed on the north-eastern edge of the gully dedicated as Cooper Park. An access roadway had been built to the quarry and was known as Quarry Road until renamed Cooper Park Road in 1929. In February 1926 council had settled upon the quarry as the site for a proposed <i>Meldrum</i> 'Garbage destructor' commissioned from the firm of H H Swarbrick the previous year. Records show that the incinerator's furnace was almost entirely within the area occupied by present-day 23 Cooper Park Road.</p> <p>As it remains today, Cooper Park in 1929 was an oasis from the bustling city. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald, 29 December 1929, under the headline 'Valley of Surprise near Heart of City. Beautiful Cooper Park' contained these words "A valley where all is peace, away from the noise of street traffic, the roar of trams, and the strident, jarring tooting of motor sirens".</p> <p>In the 1930s, complaints from the community about the incinerator intensified as the area within range of its impacts was developed, and in 1934 a public inquiry into the management of the plant was ordered by the Minister for Local Government and drew a number of conclusions, one of which was that 'the destructor was erected on the most suitable site available to the Council at the time'. However, public complaints continued and other operational difficulties – both technical and staffing issues – developed.</p> <p>Despite the Great Depression, the 1930s were a time when many improvements were made to Cooper Park. The Rangers League was enlisted in 1930 to patrol the park to preserve the flora and fauna, showing great interest in preserving the natural beauty and values of the gully. On 16 September 1931 the first Arbor Day planting was held in the park, with numerous trees planted by alderman and members of the community, and these plantings continued throughout the 1930s, initiated and coordinated by tree planting committees. There was a focus on planting native tree species although not necessarily local species. They included 500 specimens of Tasmanian Blue Gum, Lilly Pilly, assorted Wattles and Queensland Kauri. Exotic species included willows planted at the foot of the garbage tip.</p> <p>In 1931 Council initiated proposals for an auditorium for open-air functions in the natural amphitheatre at the eastern end of the site and the Engineer submitted plans to Council for this. A large team of unemployed labour was engaged to carry out the award-winning park design, including the extensive system of winding paths throughout the park (later named after Councillors), bridges, public toilets, seating follies, grassed areas and the cricket pitches. Tennis courts were resurfaced, the tennis pavilion was extended, tennis floodlights were costed, and additional land was acquired. The Amphitheatre works, including the turfed terraced embankment below Victoria Road and the sandstone steps were constructed in 1936, with a large amount of fill imported into the site from</p>
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	<p>Waverley. A granite plaque erected on the large stone retaining wall commemorates the works undertaken by the relief workers.</p> <p>"In 1936 there was a proposal to use the natural amphitheatre as the setting for an open-air swimming complex, ringed by spectator seating" but this never came to fruition.</p> <p>Specialised craftspeople were brought in to construct specific features including Mr H Arnold who circa 1936-7 constructed the synthetic stone shelters, based on his previous work in constructing faux rock animal enclosures at Taronga Zoo. When the old Moore Park Zoo of the NSW Zoological Society relocated in 1916 to its new site at Mosman on Sydney's Lower North Shore the new Taronga Zoo embraced new zoo design philosophies, with well-fed, healthy animals exhibited as if at liberty in outdoor, open air enclosures, a far cry from the old cramped cages of many zoos. The natural terrain at Taronga "lent itself to the installation of a series of open-air mock rock enclosures, nestled into the terraces. Mock rock was a method of construction that involved the application of ferro-cement over a sculpted arrangement of metal bars and galvanised mesh (chicken wire) create a rock-like appearance. It allowed the artificial terrain to blend somewhat into the existing landscape, creating the impression that the animals were exhibited in a natural setting.</p> <p>Ernest Miles, (head of a gang of fifty) taught workers to cut and lay stone. He led the team of stoneworkers to construct the Moon Bridge in the centre of the park. They were so proud of the finished product that they placed a time capsule containing the names of the men who worked on the job inside one of the bridge corners. This time capsule was apparently resumed circa 2001. The sandstone wall along the frontage of Victoria and Bellevue Roads was constructed in 1937. Clean fill supplied from the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWSDB) quarry in Waverley was used to solve problems in Cooper park including the construction of filter beds to deal with the runoff from the Council's incinerator site.</p> <p>In keeping with the Park's romantic pleasure garden style, plantings included a number of deciduous northern hemisphere tree species, most notably <i>Populus deltoides</i> (Cottonwood), <i>P. alba</i> (White Poplar), <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (Liquidambar, Sweet Gum) and <i>Salix babylonica</i> (Weeping Willow). From the latter part of the 19th century, exotic plantings and stone work were commonly used to complement nearby natural features, as at Royal National Park and at limestone cave sites including Jenolan, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly and Buchan Caves. In the case of caves and alpine areas, Spearritt argues that the scenery was considered the primary attraction for visitors, so the gardens and introduced vegetation. complemented the accommodation and other visitor facilities. Escape into romanticism from the austerity and stress of the Depression was also reflected in the architecture of the houses built for those few who were still doing well financially. The English Vernacular Revival architectural style spoke of 'established solidity, its charm and its definite character.</p> <p>Also in 1937 Council's Engineer's report included an item about the demonstration of a flame-thrower at Cooper Park, Council resolving that the purchase of this equipment be left in the Mayor's hands. Controlling weeds using heat was popular at the time and into the 1950s as a labour-saving method but was eventually replaced by herbicides as new chemicals were developed. This phase of improvements ceased with the outbreak of World War II</p> <p>After the outbreak of World War II and the cessation of the park upgrade works, a rifle range was constructed, with advice from officials at Victoria Barracks, on the eastern side of Cooper Park in the vicinity of Council's incinerator at the cost of 'over £500'. The range, built in sandy soil, had eight targets and mounds built at ranges of 25, 50 and 100 yards and was said to be available for practice by day. Captain James Hutchison, Staff Officer of Rifle Clubs, officially opened the range on 12 October 1940, with teams from the RAN, Army and Metropolitan Miniature Rifle Club taking part. Council made considerable modifications and improvements, turfing the site and connecting the range to the water supply and ultimately, by October 1942, providing a clubhouse. Council formed a rifle club, with Ald. C D Manion acting as Vice-president but the range was also used by other local rifle</p>
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	<p>clubs and by the Australian Service Movement. In 1941, correspondence received from W H Cutler, congratulated council on building 'such a magnificent miniature rifle range at Bellevue Hill' and stating that 'if other council followed this lead, older members of the civilian rifle clubs would come forward and teach people how to shoot.' Writing to the Minister for the Army in 1943, former Ald. Leo Whitby Robinson was able to report that in the three years of its operation, over 2,500 people had used the range.</p> <p>An archival photograph accessible on Council's website indicates that orchestral concerts were being held in the amphitheatre as early as 1944 and as early as 1945, "Woollahra Council was planning to build an Open air auditorium at Cooper Park to house these [orchestral] performances and other entertainment, with the Hollywood Bowl cited in a number of reports as the inspiration behind the proposal. The project was still under consideration throughout the early 1950s, with Eugene Goosens of the SSO an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme". Even without an auditorium, "open-air concerts were in full swing during the 1950s" the ABC held regular free performances during their concert seasons (Spring-Summer), with the SSO as frequent performers and international artists or conductors making appearances from time to time. World-renowned Australian baritone Peter Dawson sang there on at least one occasion". "There are newspaper reports dating from mid-1960 of the ABC deciding against further seasons due to a number of factors – acoustic considerations, noise complaints, the behavior of patrons, etc. A one-off revival was staged in October 1988 as part of the Municipality's Bicentennial celebrations".</p> <p>Cooper Park was extended to include the Bellevue Gardens in 1948. In 1950 construction of two bowling greens commenced east of Cooper Park North on the former tip where ash from the incinerator was dumped after the garbage incinerator was closed in 1944, and the Bellevue Bowling Club Ltd was formed in 1951.</p> <p>Fletchers Foundry closed in 1950 and by 1955 the land was filled, levelled and grassed, with a sandstone retaining wall to the base of Fletchers Gully.</p> <p>A temporary closure of Council's incinerator early in 1944 led to Council using the St Peters tip which proved to be a satisfactory alternative for disposal of the municipality's waste. By 1946 the permanent closure of the incinerator was under serious consideration., the First Edgecliff Scouts group used the converted garage (built 1936) associated with the former incinerator caretaker's cottage (built 1927) from July 1949 to November 1962.</p> <p>A Council advertisement in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> in 1946 read "Wanted, strong youth to assist in preparation and maintenance of tennis courts, Cooper Park. Award wages: Age 16: £2/7/8, 17: £2/18/10 per week. Apply to Engineer, Council Chambers, Ocean Street, Woollahra."</p> <p>This phase is defined by the end of the open-air concerts held at Cooper Park, resulting in a decrease of its role and use by the broader community. In 1960 it was determined that no more open-air concerts were to be held in the amphitheatre due to residential developments affecting the acoustics, vandalism and complaints. This led to the gradual decline and neglect of the grass terraced amphitheatre precinct and the gradual encroachment of weeds and bushland. Earthworks in Cooper Park North were finalised after use as a quarry and landfill, with the main open grassed area established.</p> <p>Council had determined to sell the incinerator site for a 5-lot residential subdivision with right-of-way in 1961. In late September that year estate agents Raine & Horne recommended to council that the land be put to the market in November 1961 but the sale was postponed for a number of reasons including slow progress on the connection of water and sewerage services and the fact that the Scout Hall stood across the planned access to two of the blocks. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the site went towards helping the Scouts find new premises, which resulted in the construction of a new hall in Cooper Park North. The new building was designed by prominent architect Samuel Lipson, of the</p>
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	<p>Sydney practice Lipson and Kaad, better known for larger buildings including the Temple Emanuel in Ocean Street, Woollahra. Lipson donated his services 'as a gesture of good will'. Council called tenders for the construction of the new hall in January 1962 but the matter was deferred twice, firstly until more was known about the progress of the land sale, and secondly, pending an engineer's report and a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the honorary architect be requested to re-design the structure to improve the aesthetic appearance of the exterior. In spite of further delays arising from underestimation of the depth of rock on the site for the new scout hall, the building was completed by October 1962. A 'colourful march of Cubs, Scouts and Guides from Bellevue Hill School to Cooper Park Road' preceded the official opening of the new Scout Hall by Deputy Mayor Alderman Murchison in the presence of the Chief Scout Commissioner Vincent Fairfax. The 1962 Scout Hall still stands at Cooper Park Road and is currently used by Woollahra Council as a Community Hall.</p> <p>Cooper Park was further extended in the 1960s to Bellevue Gardens and to the north-east. The main car park in Bunna Place was expanded and formalised to cater to increasing visitation to the park and tennis courts. Other works included planting of native trees and shrubs in the reserve.</p> <p>An Open Space Survey conducted by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission in 1972 found that Woollahra Municipality provided passive open space at the rate of 1.13 hectare per thousand population, 30% below standard requirements. In recognition of this shortfall, Woollahra LEP 1995 sought 'to increase the provision of public open space within the Council's area to meet the needs of the population'. This policy helped to protect Cooper Park from future alienations for residential or commercial development.</p> <p>In 1974 landscape consultant William Ashton inspected Cooper Park and was concerned at the level of weed invasion into bushland areas, recommending the use of the Bradley bush regeneration method, with immediate action required in some badly affected areas. A scheme was initiated to remove <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> (Large-leaved Privet), <i>L. sinense</i> (Small-leaved Privet), <i>Ipomea indica</i> (Morning Glory) and <i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i> (Balloon Vine) and other weeds from the Park.</p> <p>From 1975 onwards there has been a greater focus on managing the degradation caused by deferred maintenance, siltation of streams, pollution and spread of invasive plant species. Council has committed extensive resources to various programs of weed control and revegetation/regeneration in the park.</p> <p>During the 1980s and 1990s Council engaged the National Trust of Australia to undertake bush regeneration activity in Cooper Park. This was undertaken utilising the Bradley Method of regeneration. From 1988 onwards Council employed bush regeneration teams for all bushland reserves and this activity was supplemented in the late 1980s by the Commonwealth Employment Scheme (CEP) that was designed as a skills training program for the unemployed. Subsequent to this other government employment schemes also enabled bushland regeneration works in the reserve, and in 2004, Bushcare Woollahra was established, with teams of community volunteers working on bushland management programs in the park.</p> <p>Some of the original 1930s exotic plantings have been progressively removed in preference for planting and regeneration of indigenous vegetation in the park. This removal of original species and revegetation has reduced some of the historic cultural landscape values of the park.</p> <p>Other than revegetation works, a one-off revival concert was staged in 1988 as part of Australian Bicentenary celebrations. In 1990, the tennis pavilion was partially demolished and rebuilt. In 1993 Cooper Park was placed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE), a Commonwealth list of significant places, which although it gave recognition to the park's heritage values, only provided protection against works by the Commonwealth or works partly or wholly funded by the</p>
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	<p>Commonwealth. The RNE has since been replaced by the National Heritage List and the RNE only exists now as a searchable database, with no statutory force.</p> <p>In 1994 two sandstone Doric columns which once graced the old 1847 Sydney Post Office were installed at the Victoria Road entrance to Cooper Park, at the top of the stone steps down into the Amphitheatre. For a time after the demolition of the old post office, the columns were moved to Elizabeth Bay House, then to Vacluse House where they stood for many years. With the restoration of the latter house to its former glory, the columns were declared surplus and given to Woollahra Council.</p> <p>In 2009 a burst water main caused a section of Bellevue Road to collapse, resulting in a landslide down the amphitheatre embankment and significant damage to Cooper Park. Repair works were primarily completed by September 2009. Siltation of the creeks in Cooper Park from developments upstream remains an ongoing problem for Park management but sediment removal has produced some spectacular results.</p> <p>With the ongoing pressures that come with increasing urbanisation, Cooper Park will continue to provide local residents and visitors with respite from the hustle and bustle of the city through its natural and cultural heritage values. Today the park is used by the surrounding communities for a range of activities including fitness classes, active sports, dog exercise classes and informal recreation.</p>
THEMES	
<i>National historical themes</i>	1 Tracing the natural evolution of Australia; 2 Peopling Australia; 3 Developing local, regional and national economies; 4 Building settlements, towns and cities; 5 Working; 6 Educating; 7 Governing; 8 Developing Australia's cultural life; 9 Marking the phases of life
<i>State historical themes</i>	Environment - naturally evolved; Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures; Environment – Cultural Landscape; Events; Forestry; Mining; Land Tenure; Utilities; Accommodation; Labour; Education; Government and Administration; Creative Endeavour; Leisure; Social institutions; Sport; Persons.

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criterion (a)	<p>Cooper Park is associated with significant historical phases in the development of the cultural landscape of the Woollahra local government area, being part of the original Point Piper Estate. The park contains some of the largest areas of remnant bushland in Woollahra Municipality with representative vegetation from the area and is the largest relatively undeveloped remnant of the historic Cooper Estate. The park includes Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest and vegetation with an affinity to the endangered ecological community Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Cooper Park retains physical fabric in the form of significant remnants of the original ecological communities, extensive ornamental cultural plantings and extensive Depression-era landscaping works.</p> <p>Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion A at a local level as a significant part of the historic cultural landscape of Woollahra local government area but not at a State level.</p>
Historical association significance SHR criterion (b)	<p>Cooper Park has strong associations with the application of the NSW <i>Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act</i> 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure.</p> <p>The award-winning 1928 masterplan for Cooper Park was the work of architects S E Coleman and R G C Coulter. Coulter worked with Bradfield on the design of Sydney Harbour Bridge and designed several significant early buildings at Taronga Zoo. The Depression-era works at Cooper Park have strong associations with Ernest Miles and H Arnold. The role of Woollahra Municipal Council in managing the park, which includes the largest area of remnant bushland under Council's care, control and management, is also significant against this criterion.</p> <p>Cooper Park has a strong association with the Cooper family, being the largest relatively undeveloped remnant of the extensive estate developed by the Cooper family from 1827 and including associations with two well-known members, both named Daniel Cooper. It was donated to Woollahra Municipal Council in May 1917 by Sir William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), the second son of Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902).¹</p> <p>The Aboriginal cultural heritage of Cooper Park has not been investigated in the scope of this assessment report, but sites of Aboriginal significance have been recorded for the park area.</p> <p>Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion B at a local and a State level.</p>
Aesthetic significance SHR criterion (c)	<p>The cultural landscape of Cooper Park is aesthetically distinctive, with its mix of sandstone topography, remnants of the original ecological communities, introduced ornamental plantings and well-constructed hard landscape works, including the constructed Cooper Creek and associated drainage structures, and visitor facilities. The park is an unusual example of a 1930s municipal park blending the bushland pleasure ground designed landscape style with Gardenesque elements to produce a place with design excellence and special character. The large number of naturalistic synthetic stone shelters constructed by H Arnold, the same person who constructed the faux rock enclosures at Taronga Zoo, add to the aesthetic significance of Cooper Park</p> <p>Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion C at a local level but not at a State level.</p>
Social significance SHR criterion (d)	<p>Social value is hard to quantify without detailed surveys of those who have been associated with a place, but it is likely that living individuals within the Woollahra Council area will have strong opinions about the place – some positive, some negative. Respondents to a limited sample size survey in 1992 identified Cooper Park as one of the most important spaces in Woollahra Municipality for both structured and unstructured recreation and amenity reasons.</p>

	<p>The local community has contributed to the establishment, protection and restoration of the natural bushland values of Cooper Park over a very long time. This extends from initial lobbying for establishment of a public park on the site, to the Rangers League who completed works in the park (1930), through to contemporary involvement by the community in the bushland restoration and regeneration works, and the tennis club. It is likely that many people who use or have used the park for active and/or passive recreation will consider it to have social significance for them.</p> <p>It is considered that Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion D at a local but not at a State level.</p>
Technical/Research significance SHR criterion (e)	<p>The Aboriginal cultural heritage values have not been investigated in the scope of this heritage assessment and therefore significance to Aboriginal cultural groups cannot be determined. There are records of engravings in or near Cooper Park and it is therefore likely that the site may contribute to enhanced understanding of the aboriginal cultural history of the area in the future, at least at a local level.</p> <p>Cooper Park is an area with significant natural heritage values arising from its location within a highly modified and urbanised environment, with uncommon large stands of remnant or advanced regrowth vegetation. The presence of this vegetation, comprising several ecological communities and two threatened plant species, albeit modified and depauperate, contributes to our understanding of the natural history of the local area.</p> <p>The archival photographic record for the park also provides evidence of how various tree species have performed over a period of more than 80 years.</p> <p>Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion E at a local level but not at a State level.</p>
Rarity SHR criterion (f)	<p>Cooper Park is a rare example of extensive high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works in the Woollahra local government area and probably in NSW generally. The constructed creek, associated drainage structures, ponds and bridges are relatively intact and uncommon examples of their type. The extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold is rare at a State level. The rarity value of the Park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>.</p> <p>Cooper Park is assessed as satisfying the inclusion guidelines for Criterion F at a local level and at a State level.</p>
Representativeness SHR criterion (g)	<p>Cooper Park is an excellent and remarkably intact representative example of Depression-era public landscape works designed to provide employment for out-of-work men and improved amenities for the community.</p> <p>Cooper Park satisfies the inclusion guidelines for Criterion G at least at a local and probably at a State level, subject to further comparative analysis.</p>
Integrity and Intactness	<p>While there have been changes made to Cooper Park since the major works of the Depression era, by way of new structures and visitor facilities, the park still has a high degree of integrity.</p> <p>Another term commonly used in the assessment of heritage items is intactness, a measure of the degree to which the item remains unaltered from its original configuration. Against this measure, Cooper Park retains areas of the original ecological communities, albeit modified by introduction of non-local native species, exotic ornamentals and weeds. The park also retains most of the Depression-era Built elements and landscape features albeit modified by introduction of new materials such as fencing, handrails and track surfaces to improve cost-effectiveness and compliance with safety standards.</p>

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	Five items listed on Schedule 5, Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014 are in or adjacent to Cooper Park, namely Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park, Adelaide Parade, Woollahra (SHI database no. 2710016; Pine Trees, Canary Island Date Palm and Chinese Windmill Palm, Cooper Park North (SHI database no. 2710212); Concrete Horse Trough, Victoria Road intersection with Bellevue Road adjoining Cooper Park (SHI database no. 271147); Sewer Vent, 56 Streatfield Road (off Cooper Park Road) (SHI database no. 4570664); Washington Palms, Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms, Northland Road within the road reserve (SHI database no. 2711263)
	Woollahra Municipal Council Register of Significant Trees 1991 identifies Mixed Tall Open forest, Mixed Ornamental Rain Forest Species, Liquidambar, Assorted Palm Plantings and Monterey Pine plantings in Cooper Park as significant.
	Cooper Park was listed on the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate (RNE) in 1993 – ID No: 17850 and Place File Number 1/12/041/0114. However, the RNE has been replaced by the National Heritage List (NHL) and no longer has statutory force. It survives as a searchable database.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	Ashton, William	'An Assessment of the Landscape Heritage of Woollahra', in Hughes, Trueman, Ludlow, <i>Heritage Study for the Municipality of Woollahra</i> , Vol. 1	nd	Woollahra Library
Written	Britten, Jane	'Cooper park', notes prepared by Council's Local History Librarian for Manager – Open space works for a garden tour	2004	Woollahra Library
Written	Britten, Jane	'The Cooper Park Watercourse', information compiled from sources held in the Woollahra Local History Centre.	2004	Woollahra Library
Written	Britten, Jane	Woollahra rifle range, Cooper Park, Bellevue Hill',	2016	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Britten, Jane	'First Edgecliff Scout Group – premises occupied in Cooper Park'		Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Hill, Jeffrey	'Interpretive plan and strategy in support of a bush regeneration program, Cooper Park	1995	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.

		(Woollahra Council)', assignment report prepared for Recreation Management course, Charles Sturt University, Albury		
Written	Hill, Jeffrey	'Cooper Park as a cultural resource – Plan of Management', assignment report prepared for Cultural Resource Management course PKM 402, Charles Sturt University, Albury.	1995	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Hughes, Trueman Ludlow Consultants	'Heritage study for the Municipality of Woollahra', consultant report prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council	1984	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Johnston, William	'Reminiscences of Cooper Park'	1931	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Manidis Roberts	Woollahra outdoor recreation & open space study', final consultant report October 1992 prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council.	1992	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Martin, Kristen & Ruting, Noel	Cooper Park Management Plan, internal report prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council	1987	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Mayne-Wilson, Warwick	<i>Town parks of New South Wales: Past, present and future</i> , The author, Sydney.	2014	Betteridge Heritage
Written	Mayne-Wilson & Associates	'Heritage Report and Landscape Masterplan for the Restoration & Upgrade of Cooper Park Amphitheatre', consultant report prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council.	2001	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd	Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan', consultant report prepared for Woollahra Council, including Appendix A: Site Chronological History; Appendix B: Historical Aerial Photo Comparison Plan; Appendix C: Heritage Analysis Plans; Appendix D: Vegetation Management Plans	2011	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.

Written	Woollahra Municipal Council	Draft Plan of Management, Cooper Park	1996, 1998, 2008, 2009	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.
Written	Woollahra Municipal Council	'Cooper Park Bush Regeneration' file 178.G	2003	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

1. Woollahra Municipal Council should propose the area of Cooper Park, encompassing the major significant ecological communities and the Depression-era unemployment relief landscape works, as outlined solid red on the recommended curtilage plan, for listing as an item of State significance on Schedule 5, Woollahra LEP 2014.
2. Woollahra Municipal Council should nominate the southern area of Cooper Park, as identified in dot point #1 above, to the Heritage Council of NSW for consideration of listing on the State Heritage Register.
3. Cooper Park should continue to be managed to conserve and enhance its heritage significance through a proactive program of arboricultural and horticultural maintenance, erosion control and conservation of its significant natural, landscape and built elements.
4. An updated Conservation Management Plan for Cooper Park should be prepared to take into account relevant information on the park that has been accumulated since 2011 and changes to the nature, condition and management regime that have taken place since 2011. If the park is listed on the SHR, Heritage Council endorsement of the updated CMP should be sought.
5. Consideration should be given to interpreting the heritage significance of Cooper Park in culturally sensitive ways which may include but should not be limited to material on Council's website and inclusion on a downloadable app for a walking tour of heritage sites in the Woollahra local government area.
6. An updated Vegetation Management Plan / Canopy Replenishment Strategy for Cooper Park should be prepared to provide for the conservation of natural vegetation in the park and the staged replacement of the significant cultural plantings on the site, the timing of such replacement to be guided by arboricultural assessment of the vigour, condition and useful life expectancy of the trees.
7. Should Cooper Park be listed on the State Heritage Register, any works consistent with the policies and other recommendations of an endorsed Conservation Management Plan could be exempted, subject to ministerial approval, to reduce the need for frequent applications under Section 60, Heritage Act.

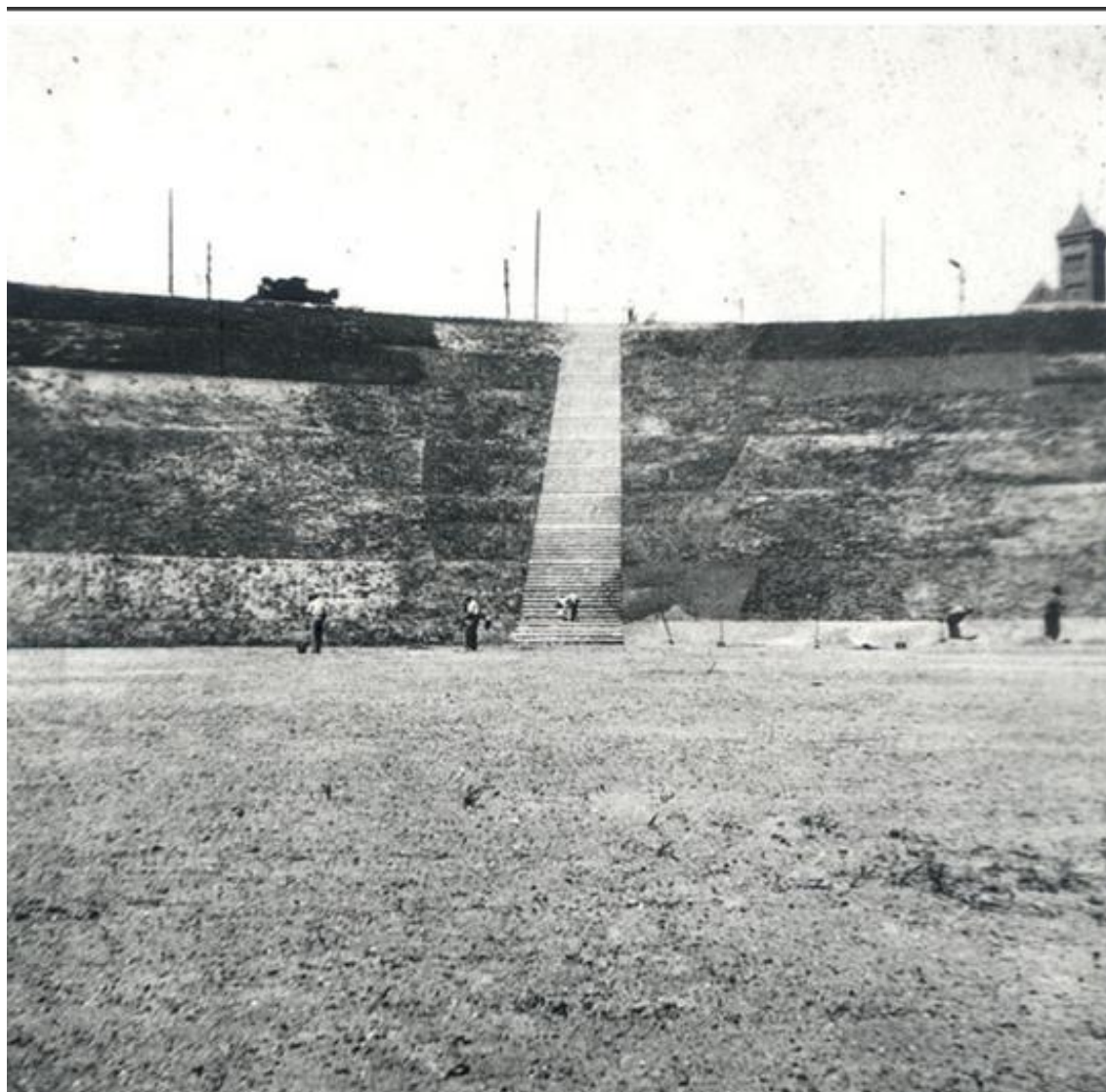
SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report	Heritage Significance Assessment, Cooper Park, Bellevue Hill	Year of study or report	2019
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Item number in study or report	N/A		
Author of study or report	Chris Betteridge, Betteridge Heritage		
Inspected by	Chris Betteridge		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
This form completed by	Chris Betteridge	Date	3/11//2019

IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	The stone steps and amphitheatre at Cooper Park during construction, 1930s.				
Image year	1930s	Image by	Unknown	Image copyright holder	Woollahra Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	The Amphitheatre, Cooper Park, with the stone steps leading down from Victoria Road.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	Cultural plantings and remnant vegetation adjoining tennis courts car park, Cooper Park.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	Sandstone steps and timber arris rail balustrade, Cooper Park.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	The major sandstone retaining wall at the western end of the Amphitheatre, with a plaque commemorating the unemployment relief works carried out during the Depression.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	Original or early sandstone drainage channel and pit, Cooper Park.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	View northeast of Moon Bridge, Cooper Park.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	One of the artificial rock shelters constructed by H Arnold at Cooper Park during the 1930s				
Image year	2019	Image by	Chris Betteridge	Image copyright holder	Chris Betteridge



IMAGES - 1 per page

Image caption	Recommended LEP curtilage shown solid red. The area with the dashed boundary is excluded from LEP and SHR listing. All boundaries subject to detailed survey.				
Image year	2019	Image by	Woollahra Municipal Council	Image copyright holder	Woollahra Municipal Council



Appendix B – Draft nomination form for SHR listing

Cooper Park



Appendix B Draft
SHR Nomination.doc

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Important notes for nominators

Before completing this form, read the *Guideline for Nominations to the State Heritage Register* * to check whether a nomination is appropriate.

You should only nominate an item you believe to be particularly important in the context of all of NSW, beyond the local area or region.

This is because only items of *state* heritage significance are eligible for listing on the State Heritage Register.

When completing this form note that:

- It must be completed and submitted electronically.*
- Follow the guideline* to fill out the form accurately.
- **YELLOW sections** of this form are mandatory for your nomination to be accepted for consideration.
- **BLUE sections** of this form are recommended, but are not essential, unless otherwise indicated in the form.
- The completed form must show *how* the nominated place is *state* significant to meet the criteria for listing on the register.
- Incomplete nominations, or those with insufficient information, may not be accepted.
- A complete and accurate nomination form, with a clear assessment of state significance of the place or object, will assist in the timely consideration of your nomination.

* Download this form and guideline at: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/nominating

A. Nominated place

1. Name

Name of place / object:	Cooper Park
Other or former name(s):	Part of former Cooper Estate


2. Location

Street address*:	(no.)	Suttie Road (street name)
	Double Bay (suburb / town)	
Alternate street address:	(no.)	Victoria Road (street name)
	Bellevue Hill (suburb / town)	
Local government area:	Woollahra	
Land parcel(s)*:	(Lot no/s)	(section no.) (DP no.)
	(Lot no/s)	(section no.) (DP no.)
	(Lot no/s)	(section no.) (DP no.)
Co-ordinates*:	(Latitude)	(Longitude) (Datum)

*At least one of these three location details must be provided. For a movable object, enter its principal location. If the place has no street number, provide land parcels. If it has no land parcels, provide Co-ordinates and a map.

3. Extent of nomination

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Curtilage map of nominated area:		
Source of map or plan:	Woollahra Municipal Council	
Boundary description (in words):	Cooper Park is defined to the west by Suttie Road, to the north by Northland Road, to the east by Bellevue Road / Victoria Road, and to the south by residential properties located north of Fletcher Street.	

4. Ownership

Name of owner(s):	Woollahra Municipal Council	
Contact person:	Flavia Scardamaglia	
Contact position:	Strategic Heritage Officer	
Postal address:	536 New South Head Road (street address or postal box)	
	Double Bay (suburb or town)	
	NSW (state)	2028 (post code)
Phone number:	02 9391 7062	
Ownership explanation:		

B. Significance

5. Why is it important in NSW?

Statement of state significance:	<p>Cooper Park is of State heritage significance because it has associational significance at a State level derived from strong associations with the application of the NSW Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure. The park also has strong associations with noted architects S E Coleman and R G C Coutler who won the design competition for the park and with Ernest Miles and H Arnold who supervised the Depression-era works. (Criterion B).</p> <p>Cooper Park has aesthetic significance at a State level as an increasingly rare surviving example of an early 20th century</p>
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State Heritage Register Nomination Form

	<p>municipal park, created in a bushland pleasure ground style. The style is expressed by the predominance of bush vegetation, a constructed creek and meandering network of paths which link a series of architectural features. The Park is important aesthetically for its array of Depression-era cultural features which include a grass amphitheatre with retaining wall and plaque, artificial stone structures, a moon bridge, sandstone walls, steps and paths, concrete footbridges, and a diverse range of outdoor recreation facilities including a 1920s tennis pavilion and tennis courts. Cultural plantings consist of both exotic and native plantings that were planted during the park's early phases of establishment and contribute to the bushland pleasure ground style in both species selection and layout. These cultural features are laid out in a manner that demonstrates design excellence and high creative endeavor. (Criterion C)</p> <p>Cooper Park is rare at a State level as an excellent example of high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works including an extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold who built similar enclosures for animals at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. The rarity value of the park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>. (Criterion F)</p> <p>Cooper Park is representative at a local level, and possibly at a State level, subject to further comparative analysis, of 1920s / '30s pleasure ground designed landscapes with Depression-era public landscape works to provide employment for out-of-work men and improved amenities for the community. (Criterion G) .</p>
Comparisons:	<p>Other examples of parks developed from donated land include Fagan Park, galston; Cobar Miners' heritage Park; Macarthur Park, Camden and Lake Alexandra, Mittagong but these are all very different in character from Cooper Park.</p> <p>Other parks containing Depression-era unemployment relief works include Royal National Park; Petersham Park; Henson Park, Marrickville; Henley Park, Enfield; Trumper Park, Paddington; Tamarama Park and Hyde Park but these do not have the assemblage of artificial rock shelters found in Cooper Park.</p> <p>Comparable artificial rock picnic shelters are only known from a number of sites in the Blue Mountains e.g. Reids Plateau and Lilianfels Park, Katoomba but such shelters are rare at a State level.</p>

C. Description

6. Existing place or object

Description:	<p>The valley in which Cooper Park is located is dominated by bushland and planted native and exotic trees, with open grassed areas including tennis courts and cricket pitches in the valley floor. The recreational facilities within the park include tennis courts, cricket pitches and cricket nets, kiosk, a playground, junior sports fields, community</p>
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	<p>garden, an extensive system of walking tracks, unusual mock stone shelters, a range of footbridges, a grassed amphitheatre, community facilities and informal open grassed areas. The eastern end of Cooper Park is characterised by an open grassed area with expansive views. A smaller open grassed area to the south of the main area of the park is known as Fig Tree Lane Reserve and located over Fletchers Gully. Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) has assessed the native vegetation values of Cooper Park, including the identification and mapping of each recognisable ecological community and identification of any threatened plant species. Since their study, the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) has been repealed and replaced by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act). Two species found in the Park are listed on Schedule 1 Threatened Species in the BC Act, namely <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> (Sunshine Wattle), also listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> (Magenta Lilly Pilly), listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The ELA study identified the Riparian Zone vegetation in Cooper Park as having high conservation significance due to its role in supporting a threatened species <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> and in providing habitat for frog, bat and bird species. Moist Woodland occurring on the south facing slope of the northern side of the gully to the west and east was assessed as having high conservation values derived from its remnant local native trees and understorey shrubs as well as providing habitat for the threatened species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i>. The Dry Woodland community occurring to the south of the tennis courts up towards Adelaide Parade which is the north-facing slope is assessed as having high conservation value for the same reasons as the Moist Woodland. The areas of Disturbed Woodland generally correlate with the areas of the park that were cleared of vegetation as visible in the 1930 and 1943 air photo coverage of the area. These areas have been planted with exotic ornamentals and non-local native species producing a community assessed as having moderate conservation value. One small area of Sand Dune Vegetation on Aeolian (wind-blown) sands exists in the north-east corner of Cooper Park adjacent to Bellevue Road and is assessed as having moderate conservation value. Two areas of Native Revegetation, planted with non-local native species, occur in Cooper Park, one along the Suttie Road and Bunna Place entry to the park and the other in the north-east of the park on the edge of the Amphitheatre. These are assessed as having moderate conservation value. Park areas assessed as having low nature conservation significance are open grassed areas, exotic plantings and areas with high levels of recreation use. Cultural plantings include mature plantings of <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (Hoop Pine), <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> (Illawarra Flame Tree), <i>Butia</i></p>
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	<p>capitata (Jelly Palm), Cupressus sempervirens (Mediterranean Cypress), Ficus macrophylla (Moreton Bay Fig), F. rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig), Jacaranda mimosifolia (Jacaranda), Liquidambar styraciflua (Liquidambar), Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island Date Palm), Populus deltoides (Cottonwood), Podocarpus elatus (Plum Pine) and Pinus radiata (Radiata Pine, Monterey Pine).</p> <p>Built elements in Cooper Park include the tennis courts and associated pavilion, Cooper Park Community Hall (former Scout Hall), artificial stone shelters, octagonal public toilet block (now a storage facility for park staff and volunteers), stone and concrete bridges, drainage channels and pits, amphitheatre and retaining walls, stone, concrete and earth paths.</p>
Condition of fabric and/or archaeological potential:	Condition varies from good to poor, with some trees senescent or damaged. Some early structures including some of the artificial stone shelters have deteriorated and require conservation work.
Integrity / intactness:	Archaeological potential has not been assessed but some Aboriginal sites occur within the park. Integrity and intactness are high.
Modifications Dates:	<p>Cooper Park Regeneration Scheme late 1970s.</p> <p>Tennis Pavilion partially demolished and rebuilt in 1990.</p> <p>Two Doric pillars originally from Sydney Post Office and later relocated to Elizabeth Bay House and to Vaucluse House, were erected in 1994 at the top of the steps leading down from Victoria road, Bellevue Hill to the amphitheatre.</p> <p>Landslide repair works in the amphitheatre were carried out in 2009.</p> <p>Additions over the years have brought the Park up to its present area of 15 ha (38 acres).</p>
Date you inspected the place for this description:	29 March 2019
Current use*:	Public park
Original or former use(s)*:	Part of former Cooper estate; former uses of parts of the site included logging, market gardening, a quarry and a municipal incinerator
Further comments:	

Illustrations can be inserted as images in section J.

* These details must be entered if you are basing the significance of the place or object on its past or present use.

D. Historical outline

7. Origins and historical evolution

Years of construction*:	1917 (start year)	1930s (finish year)
Designer / architect*:	Architects S E Coleman of Gordon and RCG Coulter of Eastwood won a competition in 1928 to design the layout of the park. Later	

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	alterations have been designed by Woollahra Municipal Council staff. The former Scout Hall built in 1962 for 1st Edgecliff Boy Scouts was designed by architect Samuel Lipson of the Sydney practice Lipson and Kaad.
Maker/ builder:	<p>Much of the ornamental stonework, including walls, balustrades, paths, steps, bridges, drainage channels and ponds was constructed by workers engaged by Woollahra Municipal Council with Unemployment Relief Fund moneys made available under The Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act 1930.</p> <p>Artificial rock shelters were constructed by H Arnold who had designed similar structures for animals at Taronga Zoo.</p> <p>Much stone work including the construction of the Moon Bridge was supervised by Ernest Miles.</p>
Historical outline of place or object:	<p>The dense bushland, rock shelters, fresh water and proximity to the harbour would have made the area that is now Cooper Park attractive to the Cadigal people, a clan of the coastal Dharug language group, who had been caring for the land for millennia.</p> <p>After European arrival and settlement in Sydney from 1788 onwards, small semi- permanent camps evolved around Sydney including among the swamps of Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay. Europeans brought smallpox with them and within two years only three Cadigal People are said to have survived in the area. Small grants were made to emancipists such as Hayes from 1793 onwards and during the earlier half of Macquarie's Governorship, soldiers received grants in Double Bay and Rose Bay, the most significant being to Captain John Piper at Point Piper. His estate grew to a massive 1,130 acres. Daniel Cooper (1785-1853), a former convict became a business identity in this area in partnership with Solomon Levey after 1821. Financial pressures forced Piper to sell the Point Piper Estate to Cooper and Levey in 1826. Their title to the land was confirmed in 1830 and it became the sole property of Daniel Cooper in 1847. The Vaucluse part of Piper's estate was bought by William Charles Wentworth. Daniel Cooper lived in the area until he returned to England in 1831 and in 1833 Solomon Levey died. Legal complications associated with Solomon Levey's death meant that between 1833 and 1842 1,300 acres of the estate remained undeveloped and other activities such as logging to fuel tallow production are thought to have occurred in what is now known as Cooper Park. Cooper eventually bought out the heir to Solomon Levey's estate, John Levey, after lengthy negotiations. An 1841 trigonometric survey of the Cooper Estate shows predominantly undeveloped land with a small natural watercourse flowing through the incised valley that is now known as Cooper Park, before entering what appears (by its regularity) to have been a man-made open canal in the lower reaches of the gully area. This canal then carried the natural drainage across the level ground between Manning Road and Bellevue Road towards Double Bay. By 1842 the Cooper family effectively owned the former Point Piper Estate including Cooper Park.</p> <p>On Cooper's death in 1853, his nephew, also Daniel Cooper (later Sir</p>

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Daniel Cooper), born in Lancashire in 1821, was appointed trustee of the Point Piper Estate. In 1856 Cooper began a great mansion called 'Woollahra House' on Point Piper, on the site of Piper's 'Henrietta Villa'. In the same year Cooper became first Speaker of the new Legislative Assembly. He resigned from the Speakership in 1860 and returned to England a year later, became the Agent-General for NSW, was made the First Baronet of Woollahra in 1863, and died in 1902. During the 1840s the site continued to be logged, with Chinese market gardens established later in the valley floor. Daniel Cooper died in 1853 and had no children of his own, so left Point Piper Estate to Daniel Cooper III, the son of his nephew, Sir Daniel Cooper. Daniel Cooper's will required that the Trustees manage the Estate until the heirs were 21 and that no land could be sold until that time. To manage such a large undeveloped Estate effectively, the Trustees offered the more elevated areas of the undeveloped estate on 99-year leases to meet the requirement of not selling the land. The lease-holders built on the land at their own expense, whilst low lying areas remained undeveloped, with some areas farmed as market gardens. When the heir of the Point Piper Estate, Daniel III turned 21 he was living in England, and transferred his entire estate to his father Sir Daniel Cooper in 1881. Sir Daniel Cooper then proceeded to subdivide the land the following year. The core of the Point Piper Estate was sold to William, Daniel III's brother whilst the western side was offered in 85 subdivisions.

In June 1885 Council requested that the Government purchase a piece of land from the Cooper Estate for recreational purposes. The deputation failed and the land continued to be subdivided and sold for residential development. In 1889 the Northern Ocean outfall sewerage system was completed and a Higginbotham & Robinson Plan from circa 1889-1910 illustrates this. In 1890 another attempt to induce the Government to purchase the land for park was met with failure. However, a tax imposed by the State Government in 1895 resulted in high tax to the Cooper family on the land leased, causing the Cooper family to sell freehold land to existing lease-holders. This resulted in increased development in the area between 1895 and 1910, with Adelaide Parade and a sandstone retaining wall being constructed in the period between 1895 and 1899. Council requested Sir William Cooper donate the head of Double Bay Gully to Council to be used as park, but in 1910 the Cooper Estate Manager informed Council this would not be granted. It was not until 1913 that Sir William Cooper consented to giving the whole of the gully, from Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, to Manning Road, Double Bay, to Woollahra Council for a park, but due to the outbreak of World War I, the park was not finally gazetted until 1917. The site was used for its resources, with timber extraction, quarrying (with the Woollahra Municipal Council quarry established in 1915), Chinese market gardens and dairy production prevalent in the area. It must have been a wild place - the Mayor promised to attend to 'shooting going on in Cooper Park', an issue raised by Alderman Grimley in July 1917.

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The state of the park in the early days can be judged by representations by the owner of the adjoining property 'Oswestry' in Short Street that Council take steps to control lantana that was encroaching on his property from the park. Council referred the matter to the Engineer with instructions to grub out lantana in Cooper Park and that the weed be removed from all Council's parks. With the main area of Cooper Park now under Council's ownership and management, the Chinese market gardens were moved and plans for park improvements and beautification were drawn up. In 1917 Council also purchased three acres of land near the quarry to be used as park (assumed to be the Bowling Club) and in 1922 Council approached Mr Fletcher (owner of the Foundry on Fletchers Gully) to ask him to dedicate the gully to the Council, however, he refused. In August 1922 Council resolved to resume the 1 acre, 1 rood, 3 ½ perches of Fletcher's Gully at a cost of £150 and an additional £30 for a 10 feet wide Right-of-Way from View Street. Council continued with additional land acquisitions from the Cooper Estate to add to the park, resolving to acquire an area of 3 acres 25 perches on the northern side of Cooper Park from the Trustees of the Estate who were to be offered £350 per acre, the valuation of the Valuer-General. However, in March 1923 Council resolved to take steps to resume this area in response to the refusal by estate agents Messrs Raine & Horne to agree to a clause in the contract that the sale was to be subject to the Governor of NSW approving a loan of £20,000 for the purchase. The land was to be acquired under the government's proposed loan scheme for acquisition of land for public recreation. Notwithstanding the gazettal of Cooper Park, a motion that cattle be permitted to graze in the park area was received and adopted by Council in 1923 with the usual fee for agistment being charged and Council taking no responsibility for safe-keeping of the stock. Council's Engineers were requested to develop a design for the park and the initial works were completed. In June 1922, the Town Planning Association of NSW congratulated Council on its enterprise in establishing six tennis courts at Cooper Park and in improving the drainage, etc. The Association also suggested that the Manning Road side of the park be improved by tree-planting and further improvements. Not everyone in the community or on Council were happy with people playing tennis on Sunday. Council was discussing a letter from the Congregational Church which asked the Council to reconsider the decision to allow tennis to be played in Cooper Park on Sundays. Those against the practice, including Aldermen Latimer and Dalwood were labelled wowsers by those who approved of Sunday tennis. Alderman Foster objected to the remark that "you cannot play tennis and be a Christian". The Mayor (Ald. Bradley) went so far as to challenge the objectors that he would resign his seat and context it with any alderman on this specific question. In January 1923, Council agreed to proceed with the construction of a tennis pavilion and 'necessary sanitary accommodation' in the park opened for use at the end of that year. In May Council called tenders

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for the erection at Cooper Park of (a) Club House Building, and (b) Club House Building with Caretaker's quarters. Council also advertised, in August 1923, for a Caretaker and Green Keeper for the tennis courts at Cooper Park. "Applicants must be capable of keeping courts, lawns and playing areas in first class condition and be excellent green keepers. Capable men only need apply". The grass courts and club-house were opened by the end of that year.

In September 1924 Council invited applications for the hire of one first class tennis court at Cooper Park at a rental of £65 per annum, payable quarterly in advance, for Saturday and Sunday afternoon and public holidays. The playground at the east end of the tennis courts was also constructed in 1924. With the tennis courts proving to be popular, two additional courts were completed in 1926. Late in 1926 Council advertised for applications for permits to allow horses to graze in Cooper Park.

The mid-1920s were a time of optimism and growth after the horrors of the Great War and the influenza pandemics that followed the conflict. In several countries, architects were invited to submit entries for the design of new public parks.

In 1927 a design competition was advertised for the development of Cooper Park and the winning design by architects S E Coleman of Gordon and RCG Coulter of Eastwood was announced in 1928. In the previous year the same architects had won first prize against 21 other entries for the design of a new Congregational Church for Canberra. However, some architects were becoming disenchanted with design competitions as a result of perceptions that some were conducted unfairly and that specialists in building or park design should just be chosen and appointed.

In December 1929 two more tennis courts were completed to the west of the existing courts. 1927 is the year that Council commenced operation of the Incinerator adjoining Cooper Park North, which continued operation until 1944.

In the late 1920s Council redeveloped land formerly used as a council quarry as the site of a new garbage incinerator plant. The quarry had been formed on the north-eastern edge of the gully dedicated as Cooper Park. An access roadway had been built to the quarry and was known as Quarry Road until renamed Cooper Park Road in 1929. In February 1926 council had settled upon the quarry as the site for a proposed Meldrum 'Garbage destructor' commissioned from the firm of H H Swarbrick the previous year. Records show that the incinerator's furnace was almost entirely within the area occupied by present-day 23 Cooper Park Road.

As it remains today, Cooper Park in 1929 was an oasis from the bustling city. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald, 29 December 1929, under the headline 'Valley of Surprise near Heart of City. Beautiful Cooper Park' contained these words "A valley where all is peace, away from the noise of street traffic, the roar of trams, and the strident, jarring tooting of motor sirens".

In the 1930s, complaints from the community about the incinerator

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intensified as the area within range of its impacts was developed, and in 1934 a public inquiry into the management of the plant was ordered by the Minister for Local Government and drew a number of conclusions, one of which was that ‘the destructor was erected on the most suitable site available to the Council at the time’. However, public complaints continued and other operational difficulties – both technical and staffing issues – developed.

Despite the Great Depression, the 1930s were a time when many improvements were made to Cooper Park. The Rangers League was enlisted in 1930 to patrol the park to preserve the flora and fauna, showing great interest in preserving the natural beauty and values of the gully. On 16 September 1931 the first Arbor Day planting was held in the park, with numerous trees planted by alderman and members of the community, and these plantings continued throughout the 1930s, initiated and coordinated by tree planting committees. There was a focus on planting native tree species although not necessarily local species. They included 500 specimens of Tasmanian Blue Gum, Lilly Pilly, assorted Wattles and Queensland Kauri. Exotic species included willows planted at the foot of the garbage tip.

In 1931 Council initiated proposals for an auditorium for open-air functions in the natural amphitheatre at the eastern end of the site and the Engineer submitted plans to Council for this. A large team of unemployed labour was engaged to carry out the award-winning park design, including the extensive system of winding paths throughout the park (later named after Councillors), bridges, public toilets, seating follies, grassed areas and the cricket pitches. Tennis courts were resurfaced, the tennis pavilion was extended, tennis floodlights were costed, and additional land was acquired. The Amphitheatre works, including the turfed terraced embankment below Victoria Road and the sandstone steps were constructed in 1936, with a large amount of fill imported into the site from Waverley. A granite plaque erected on the large stone retaining wall commemorates the works undertaken by the relief workers.

“In 1936 there was a proposal to use the natural amphitheatre as the setting for an open-air swimming complex, ringed by spectator seating” but this never came to fruition.

Specialised craftspeople were brought in to construct specific features including Mr H Arnold who circa 1936-7 constructed the synthetic stone shelters, based on his previous work in constructing faux rock animal enclosures at Taronga Zoo. When the old Moore Park Zoo of the NSW Zoological Society relocated in 1916 to its new site at Mosman on Sydney’s Lower North Shore the new Taronga Zoo embraced new zoo design philosophies, with well-fed, healthy animals exhibited as if at liberty in outdoor, open air enclosures, a far cry from the old cramped cages of many zoos. The natural terrain at Taronga “leant itself to the installation of a series of open-air mock rock enclosures, nestled into the terraces. Mock rock was a method of construction that involved the application of ferro-cement over a sculpted arrangement of metal bars and galvanised mesh (chicken

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wire) create a rock-like appearance. It allowed the artificial terrain to blend somewhat into the existing landscape, creating the impression that the animals were exhibited in a natural setting.

Ernest Miles, (head of a gang of fifty) taught workers to cut and lay stone. He led the team of stoneworkers to construct the Moon Bridge in the centre of the park. They were so proud of the finished product that they placed a time capsule containing the names of the men who worked on the job inside one of the bridge corners. This time capsule was apparently resumed circa 2001. The sandstone wall along the frontage of Victoria and Bellevue Roads was constructed in 1937. Clean fill supplied from the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWSDB) quarry in Waverley was used to solve problems in Cooper Park including the construction of filter beds to deal with the runoff from the Council's incinerator site.

In keeping with the Park's romantic pleasure garden style, plantings included a number of deciduous northern hemisphere tree species, most notably *Populus deltoides* (Cottonwood), *P. alba* (White Poplar), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Liquidambar, Sweet Gum) and *Salix babylonica* (Weeping Willow). From the latter part of the 19th century, exotic plantings and stone work were commonly used to complement nearby natural features, as at Royal National Park and at limestone cave sites including Jenolan, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly and Buchan Caves. In the case of caves and alpine areas, Spearritt argues that the scenery was considered the primary attraction for visitors, so the gardens and introduced vegetation. complemented the accommodation and other visitor facilities. Escape into romanticism from the austerity and stress of the Depression was also reflected in the architecture of the houses built for those few who were still doing well financially. The English Vernacular Revival architectural style spoke of 'established solidity, its charm and its definite character.

Also in 1937 Council's Engineer's report included an item about the demonstration of a flame-thrower at Cooper Park, Council resolving that the purchase of this equipment be left in the Mayor's hands. Controlling weeds using heat was popular at the time and into the 1950s as a labour-saving method but was eventually replaced by herbicides as new chemicals were developed. This phase of improvements ceased with the outbreak of World War II After the outbreak of World War II and the cessation of the park upgrade works, a rifle range was constructed, with advice from officials at Victoria Barracks, on the eastern side of Cooper Park in the vicinity of Council's incinerator at the cost of 'over £500'. The range, built in sandy soil, had eight targets and mounds built at ranges of 25, 50 and 100 yards and was said to be available for practice by day. Captain James Hutchison, Staff Officer of Rifle Clubs, officially opened the range on 12 October 1940, with teams from the RAN, Army and Metropolitan Miniature Rifle Club taking part. Council made considerable modifications and improvements, turfing the site and connecting the range to the water supply and ultimately, by

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October 1942, providing a clubhouse. Council formed a rifle club, with Ald. C D Manion acting as Vice-president but the range was also used by other local rifle clubs and by the Australian Service Movement. In 1941, correspondence received from W H Cutler, congratulated council on building 'such a magnificent miniature rifle range at Bellevue Hill' and stating that 'if other council followed this lead, older members of the civilian rifle clubs would come forward and teach people how to shoot.' Writing to the Minister for the Army in 1943, former Ald. Leo Whitby Robinson was able to report that in the three years of its operation, over 2,500 people had used the range. An archival photograph accessible on Council's website indicates that orchestral concerts were being held in the amphitheatre as early as 1944 and as early as 1945, "Woollahra Council was planning to build an Open air auditorium at Cooper Park to house these [orchestral] performances and other entertainment, with the Hollywood Bowl cited in a number of reports as the inspiration behind the proposal. The project was still under consideration throughout the early 1950s, with Eugene Goosens of the SSO an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme". Even without an auditorium, "open-air concerts were in full swing during the 1950s" the ABC held regular free performances during their concert seasons (Spring-Summer), with the SSO as frequent performers and international artists or conductors making appearances from time to time. World-renowned Australian baritone Peter Dawson sang there on at least one occasion". "There are newspaper reports dating from mid-1960 of the ABC deciding against further seasons due to a number of factors – acoustic considerations, noise complaints, the behavior of patrons, etc. A one-off revival was staged in October 1988 as part of the Municipality's Bicentennial celebrations".

Cooper Park was extended to include the Bellevue Gardens in 1948. In 1950 construction of two bowling greens commenced east of Cooper Park North on the former tip where ash from the incinerator was dumped after the garbage incinerator was closed in 1944, and the Bellevue Bowling Club Ltd was formed in 1951.

Fletchers Foundry closed in 1950 and by 1955 the land was filled, levelled and grassed, with a sandstone retaining wall to the base of Fletchers Gully.

A temporary closure of Council's incinerator early in 1944 led to Council using the St Peters tip which proved to be a satisfactory alternative for disposal of the municipality's waste. By 1946 the permanent closure of the incinerator was under serious consideration., the First Edgecliff Scouts group used the converted garage (built 1936) associated with the former incinerator caretaker's cottage (built 1927) from July 1949 to November 1962.

A Council advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1946 read "Wanted, strong youth to assist in preparation and maintenance of tennis courts, Cooper Park. Award wages: Age 16: £2/7/8, 17: £2/18/10 per week. Apply to Engineer, Council Chambers, Ocean Street, Woollahra."

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	<p>This phase is defined by the end of the open-air concerts held at Cooper Park, resulting in a decrease of its role and use by the broader community. In 1960 it was determined that no more open-air concerts were to be held in the amphitheatre due to residential developments affecting the acoustics, vandalism and complaints. This led to the gradual decline and neglect of the grass terraced amphitheatre precinct and the gradual encroachment of weeds and bushland. Earthworks in Cooper Park North were finalised after use as a quarry and landfill, with the main open grassed area established.</p> <p>Council had determined to sell the incinerator site for a 5-lot residential subdivision with right-of-way in 1961. In late September that year estate agents Raine & Horne recommended to council that the land be put to the market in November 1961 but the sale was postponed for a number of reasons including slow progress on the connection of water and sewerage services and the fact that the Scout Hall stood across the planned access to two of the blocks. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the site went towards helping the Scouts find new premises, which resulted in the construction of a new hall in Cooper Park North. The new building was designed by prominent architect Samuel Lipson, of the Sydney practice Lipson and Kaad, better known for larger buildings including the Temple Emanuel in Ocean Street, Woollahra. Lipson donated his services 'as a gesture of good will'. Council called tenders for the construction of the new hall in January 1962 but the matter was deferred twice, firstly until more was known about the progress of the land sale, and secondly, pending an engineer's report and a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the honorary architect be requested to re-design the structure to improve the aesthetic appearance of the exterior. In spite of further delays arising from underestimation of the depth of rock on the site for the new scout hall, the building was completed by October 1962. A 'colourful march of Cubs, Scouts and Guides from Bellevue Hill School to Cooper Park Road' preceded the official opening of the new Scout Hall by Deputy Mayor Alderman Murchison in the presence of the Chief Scout Commissioner Vincent Fairfax. The 1962 Scout Hall still stands at Cooper Park Road and is currently used by Woollahra Council as a Community Hall.</p> <p>Cooper Park was further extended in the 1960s to Bellevue Gardens and to the north- east. The main car park in Bunna Place was expanded and formalised to cater to increasing visitation to the park and tennis courts. Other works included planting of native trees and shrubs in the reserve.</p> <p>An Open Space Survey conducted by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission in 1972 found that Woollahra Municipality provided passive open space at the rate of 1.13 hectare per thousand population, 30% below standard requirements. In recognition of this shortfall, Woollahra LEP 1995 sought 'to increase the provision of public open space within the Council's area to meet the needs of the population'. This policy helped to protect cooper Park from future alienations for residential or commercial development.</p>
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In 1974 landscape consultant William Ashton inspected Cooper Park and was concerned at the level of weed invasion into bushland areas, recommending the use of the Bradley bush regeneration method, with immediate action required in some badly affected areas. A scheme was initiated to remove *Ligustrum lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet), *L. sinense* (Small-leaved Privet), *Ipomea indica* (Morning Glory) and *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* (Balloon Vine) and other weeds from the Park.

From 1975 onwards there has been a greater focus on managing the degradation caused by deferred maintenance, siltation of streams, pollution and spread of spread of invasive plant species. Council has committed extensive resources to various programs of weed control and revegetation/regeneration in the park.

During the 1980s and 1990s Council engaged the National Trust of Australia to undertake bush regeneration activity in Cooper Park. This was undertaken utilising the Bradley Method of regeneration. From 1988 onwards Council employed bush regeneration teams for all bushland reserves and this activity was supplemented in the late 1980s by the Commonwealth Employment Scheme (CEP) that was designed as a skills training program for the unemployed. Subsequent to this other government employment schemes also enabled bushland regeneration works in the reserve, and in 2004, Bushcare Woollahra was established, with teams of community volunteers working on bushland management programs in the park.

Some of the original 1930s exotic plantings have been progressively removed in preference for planting and regeneration of indigenous vegetation in the park. This removal of original species and revegetation has reduced some of the historic cultural landscape values of the park.

Other than revegetation works, a one-off revival concert was staged in 1988 as part of Australian Bicentenary celebrations. In 1990, the tennis pavilion was partially demolished and rebuilt. In 1993 Cooper Park was placed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE), a Commonwealth list of significant places, which although it gave recognition to the park's heritage values, only provided protection against works by the Commonwealth or works partly or wholly funded by the Commonwealth. The RNE has since been replaced by the National Heritage List and the RNE only exists now as a searchable database, with no statutory force.

In 1994 two sandstone Doric columns which once graced the old 1847 Sydney Post Office were installed at the Victoria Road entrance to Cooper Park, at the top of the stone steps down into the Amphitheatre. For a time after the demolition of the old post office, the columns were moved to Elizabeth Bay House, then to Vacluse House where they stood for many years. With the restoration of the latter house to its former glory, the columns were declared surplus and given to Woollahra Council.

In 2009 a burst water main caused a section of Bellevue Road to collapse, resulting in a landslide down the amphitheatre embankment

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	<p>and significant damage to Cooper Park. Repair works were primarily completed by September 2009. Siltation of the creeks in Cooper Park from developments upstream remains an ongoing problem for Park management but sediment removal has produced some spectacular results.</p> <p>With the ongoing pressures that come with increasing urbanisation, Cooper Park will continue to provide local residents and visitors with respite from the hustle and bustle of the city through its natural and cultural heritage values. Today the park is used by the surrounding communities for a range of activities including fitness classes, active sports, dog exercise classes and informal recreation.</p>
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* These details must be entered (as shown in the guideline) if you are basing the significance of the place or object on its architectural or technical qualities or its historical period of construction.

Historical maps, photographs or other illustrations that help to explain the history of the place can be inserted in section J.

8. Historical themes represented

National theme(s): <i>Select one or more of 1-9.</i> <i>New line for each selected.</i>	6. Educating 1. Tracing the natural evolution of Australia 2. Peopling Australia 3. Developing local, regional, national economies 4. Building settlements, towns and cities 5. Working
State theme(s): <i>Select one or more for each above selected National theme 1-9.</i> <i>New line for each selected.</i>	<i>Within National themes 1-3:</i> 1. Environment - naturally evolved 2. Aboriginal cultures interaction with others 3. Environment - cultural landscape 3. Events <i>Within National themes 4-9:</i> 4. Land tenure 4. Accommodation 8. Creative endeavour 5. Labour 8. Leisure

E. Criteria

9. Assessment under Heritage Council criteria of state significance

A. It is important in the course or pattern of the cultural or natural history of NSW.	It does not appear to satisfy this criterion at a State level.
B. It has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW.	It meets this criterion of State significance because. Cooper Park has a strong association with the Cooper family, being a remnant of the extensive estate developed by the family from 1827 and including associations with two well-known members, both named Daniel Cooper. It was donated to Woollahra Municipal Council in May 1917 by Sir William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), the second son of Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1902).

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	Cooper Park has strong associations with the application of the NSW Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act 1930 and includes fine examples of the unemployment relief works carried out by unemployed workers during the Great Depression to provide enhanced public recreation facilities and improved infrastructure.
C. It is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.	It does not appear to meet this criterion of State significance.
D. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	It does not appear to satisfy this criterion at a State level.
E. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of NSW.	It does not appear to satisfy this criterion at a State level.
F. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of NSW.	It meets this criterion at a of State level because Cooper Park is a rare example of extensive high-quality Depression-era public recreation landscape works in the Woollahra local government area and in NSW generally. The extensive assemblage of artificial stone shelters from the 1930s constructed by H Arnold is rare at a State level. The rarity value of the Park is also enhanced by the presence of two threatened plant species <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>terminalis</i> and <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> . Cooper Park is assessed as satisfying the inclusion guidelines for Criterion F at a local level and at a State level.
G. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places/ environments in NSW.	It does not appear to satisfy this criterion at a State level.

F. Listings

10. Existing heritage listings

Check one box for each of the following listings:


Listed	Not listed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local environmental plan (LEP) - heritage item (call the local council to confirm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional environmental plan (REP) - heritage item (call the local council to confirm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LEP - Conservation area (call the local council to confirm)

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft LEP - Draft heritage item (call the local council to confirm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft LEP - Draft conservation area (call the local council to confirm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Heritage Register (search the register at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Trust register (call the National Trust to confirm)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal heritage information management system (by Dept. of Environment & Conservation)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Royal Australian Institute of Architects Register of 20th Century Architecture (call the RAIAC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National shipwreck database (search maritime.heritage.nsw.gov.au/public/welcome.cfm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engineers Australia list (call Engineers Australia to confirm)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage List (search Australian Heritage Database www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth Heritage List (search above Australian Heritage Database)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Register of the National Estate (search above Australian Heritage Database)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSW agency heritage and conservation section 170 register (call owner or occupier Agency)
Other listings:		Some elements in and adjoining Cooper Park are listed on the LEP and vegetation is listed on Woollahra Register of Significant Trees 1991

G. Photograph

11. Image 1

Principal photograph of place or object:	
Subject of photo:	The stone steps and amphitheatre at Cooper Park during construction, 1930s.
Date of photo:	1930s
Photographer:	Unknown
Copyright holder:	Unknown

Include additional photographs and images in section J.

If possible, please also provide a high resolution, publication-quality copy of this image saved to disk (or as non-digital prints) with the signed hard-copy of the nomination form.

State Heritage Register Nomination Form



H. Author

12. Primary author of this form

Your name:	Mr	Chris (first)	Betteridge (family)
Organisation:	Betteridge Heritage on behalf of Woollahra Municipal Council		
Position:	Director		
Daytime phone number:	0419011347		
Fax number:	N/A		
Postal address:	42 Botany Street (street address or postal box)		
	Kingsford (suburb or town)		
	NSW (state)	2032 (post code)	
Email address:	musecape@accsoft.com.au		
Date form completed:	6 November 2019		

13. References used for completing this form

	Author	Title	Publisher	Repository / location	Year published
1.	Hill, Jeffrey	'Interpretive plan and strategy in support of a bush regeneration program, Cooper Park (Woollahra Council)', assignment report prepared for Recreation Management course, Charles Sturt University, Albury	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1995
2.	Hill, Jeffrey	'Cooper Park as a cultural resource – Plan of Management', assignment report prepared for Cultural Resource Management course PKM 402, Charles Sturt University, Albury.	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1995
3.	Hughes, Truman Ludlow Consultants	'Heritage study for the Municipality of Woollahra', consultant report	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1984

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		prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council			
4.	Johnston, William	'Reminiscences of Cooper Park'	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1931
5.	Manidis Roberts	'Woollahra outdoor recreation & open space study', final consultant report October 1992 prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1992
6.	Martin, Kristen & Ruting, Noel	Cooper Park Management Plan, internal report prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1987
7.	Mayne-Wilson, Warwick	Town parks of New South Wales: Past, present and future,	The author, Sydney	Betteridge Heritage	2014
8.	Mayne-Wilson & Associates	'Heritage Report and Landscape Masterplan for the Restoration & Upgrade of Cooper Park Amphitheatre', consultant report prepared for Woollahra Municipal Council	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	2001
9.	Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd	Cooper Park Conservation Management Plan', consultant report prepared for Woollahra Council, including Appendix A: Site Chronological History; Appendix B: Historical	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	2011

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		Aerial Photo Comparison Plan; Appendix C: Heritage Analysis Plans; Appendix D: Vegetation Management Plans			
10.	Woollahra Municipal Council	'Draft Plan of Management, Cooper Park'	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	1996, 1998, 2008, 2009
11.	Woollahra Municipal Council	Woollahra Municipal Council	Unpublished	Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.	from 2003
12.					

14. Signed by author

Author (sign and print name)	Dated
------------------------------	-------

15. Signed by copyright holder(s) of image(s)

Image copyright holder (sign and print name)	Dated
Image copyright holder (sign and print name)	Dated
Image copyright holder (sign and print name)	Dated

Signing 14 and 15 confirms the author of this form and copyright holder(s) of images give permission for the Heritage Branch to use non-confidential information and images entered in this form for any purpose related to processing the nomination. Possible uses include (but are not limited to) publication on the Heritage Branch

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website, newsletter, reports or other publications. The author of the form, image copyright holder(s) and photographer(s) will be acknowledged when published.

I. Nominator

16. Nominator to be contacted by Heritage Branch

Name:	Ms	Flavia (first)	Scardamaglia (family)
Organisation:	Woollahra Municipal Council		
Position in organisation:	Strategic Heritage Officer		
Daytime phone number:	02 9391 7084		
Fax number:	02 9391 7044		
Postal address:	536 New South Head Road (street address or postal box)		
	Double Bay (suburb or town)		
	NSW (state)	2028 (post code)	
Email address:	flavia.scardamaglia@woollahra.nsw.gov.au		

Alternate contact name:	Mr	Chris (first)	Bluett (family)
Position in organisation:	Manager Strategic Planning		
Daytime phone number:	02 9391 7083		
Fax number:	02 9391 7044		
Postal address:	536 New South Head Road Double Bay NSW 2028		
Email address:	chris.bluett@woollahra.nsw.gov.au		

17. Reasons for nomination

Background or reasons for nomination:	The Heritage Assessment report prepared by Chris Betteridge of Betteridge Heritage has highlighted the State significance of Cooper Park. The report was prepared in accordance with the OEH guidelines 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (NSW Heritage Office 2001).
---------------------------------------	---

18. Form signed by nominator for submitting

Nominator (sign and print name)	Dated

CHECKLIST



Spell check your form - double click here (or F7)

Before submitting this form, check that you have:

- ☐ completed all yellow sections, and other sections marked as essential.
- ☐ completed blue sections wherever possible.
- ☒ explained why the place or object is *state* significant in the statement of state significance.
- ☒ explained *how* one or more of the criterion has been fulfilled for listing.

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- ☒ inserted photographs, maps and other illustrations as digital or scanned images.
- ☒ acknowledged all sources and references you used.
- ☐ signed and dated this form.
- ☐ obtained the nominator's and image copyright holders' signatures.
- ☐ if possible, attached a disk (or non-digital prints) for posting select image/s of high resolution, suitable for publication.

TO SUBMIT THIS NOMINATION:

Post all of the following: 1. a signed hard-copy of the form; 2. an electronic copy of the completed form saved to disk (unless you prefer to email it separately); and 3. other attachments, such as high-resolution copies of photographs suitable for publication.	Addressed to: The Director Heritage Branch NSW Department of Planning Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
	If an electronic copy of the form is not posted, email it instead to: nominations@planning.nsw.gov.au

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J. Additional photographs, maps or other images

Image 2



Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	The Amphitheatre, Cooper Park, with the stone steps leading down from Victoria Road.
Date of image:	29 March 2019
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge

Image 3

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	Cultural plantings and remnant vegetation adjoining tennis courts car park, Cooper Park.

State Heritage Register Nomination Form



Date of image:	29 March 2019
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 4


Photograph or other image:										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #fff9c4;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Subject of image:</td> <td>Sandstone steps and timber arris rail balustrade, Cooper Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date of image:</td> <td>29 March 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Photographer or author:</td> <td>Chris Betteridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Copyright holder:</td> <td>Chris Betteridge</td> </tr> </table>			Subject of image:	Sandstone steps and timber arris rail balustrade, Cooper Park	Date of image:	29 March 2019	Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge	Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge
Subject of image:	Sandstone steps and timber arris rail balustrade, Cooper Park									
Date of image:	29 March 2019									
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge									
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge									

Image 5

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Photograph or other image:



Subject of image:

The major sandstone retaining wall at the western end of the Amphitheatre, with a plaque commemorating the unemployment relief works carried out during the Depression.

Date of image:

29 March 2019

Photographer or author:

Chris Betteridge

Copyright holder:

Chris Betteridge

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 6



Photograph or other image:		
Subject of image:	Original or early sandstone drainage channel and pit, Cooper Park.	
Date of image:	29 March 2019	
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge	
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge	

Image 7

Photograph or other image:		
Subject of image:	View northeast of Moon Bridge, Cooper Park.	
Date of image:	29 March 2019	
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge	
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge	

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 8


Photograph or other image:		
Subject of image:	One of the artificial rock shelters constructed by H Arnold at Cooper Park during the 1930s	
Date of image:	29 March 2019	
Photographer or author:	Chris Betteridge	
Copyright holder:	Chris Betteridge	

Image 9

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 10

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

Image 11

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 12

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

Image 13

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

State Heritage Register Nomination Form

Image 14

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

Image 15

Photograph or other image:	
Subject of image:	
Date of image:	
Photographer or author:	
Copyright holder:	

Appendix C – SHI database entry for Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park, Adelaide Parade, Woollahra

Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park

Item details

Name of item: Sandstone retaining wall and railing facing Cooper Park

Type of item: Landscape

Group/Collection: Parks, Gardens and Trees

Category: Boundary Feature

Primary address: Adelaide Parade, Woollahra, NSW 2025

Local govt. area: Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Adelaide Parade	Woollahra	Woollahra			Primary Address

Statement of significance:

The Adelaide Parade retaining wall, which is an integral part of the Adelaide Parade terraces, has significance as part of the improvements to Cooper Park. It has social and aesthetic significance as part of the terrace development.

Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the OEH [copyright and disclaimer](#).

Description

Designer/Maker: Unknown

Builder/Maker: Unknown

Construction years: 1850-1890

Physical description: Sandstone retaining wall of large cut stone reaching heights up to 10-20 metres topped with a wrought iron palisade fence. The wall runs the full length of Adelaide Parade, approximately 80m. long, and continues up to some adjacent properties to the east. External Materials: Sandstone blocks, wrought iron fencing. Stone retaining wall and railings.

Current use: Retaining wall and balustrade

Former use: Retaining wall and balustrade

History

Historical notes: Efforts to acquire present day Cooper Park for public use commenced in 1885, but it wasn't until July 1913 that Sir William Cooper agreed to give the whole gully, from Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, to Manning Road, Double Bay, to the Woollahra Council for use as a park. By 1836 a retaining wall was built, the east end filled in and the hillside terraced to form an amphitheatre. The retaining wall along northern edge of Adelaide Parade is noted on survey of Cooper Park dated 1939 and would have been in place when the Adelaide Parade terraces were constructed in 1902.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Emergence of building styles-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	A place to live-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Social institutions-Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	Cultural and social life-


Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a) Historically representative at a Local level.
[Historical significance]

SHR Criteria c) Aesthetically representative at a Local level.
[Aesthetic significance]

SHR Criteria d) Socially representative at a Local level.
[Social significance]

SHR Criteria g) Socially representative at a Local level. Aesthetically representative at a Local level.
[Representativeness] Historically representative at a Local level.

Assessment criteria: Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

It is recommended that a Heritage Report be prepared prior to any proposals for modifications to the Adelaide Street retaining wall.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	478	23 May 15		
Within a conservation area on an LEP	Woollahra HCA	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	
Heritage study	Woollahra	L-36	27 Jun 84		

Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Woollahra Heritage Study 1995	1995	1000.0140B	Schwager Brooks	Schwager Brooks	No

References, internet links & images

None

**Data source**

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

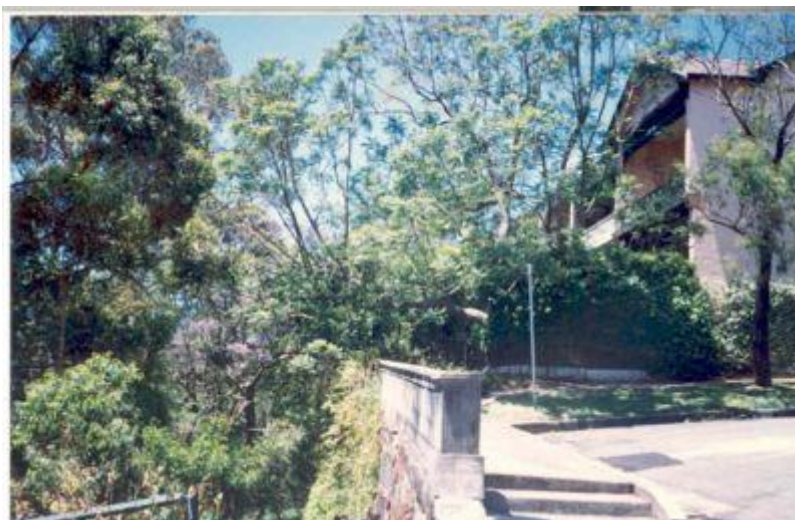
Database number: 2710016

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to the [Database Manager](#).

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Adelaide Parade, sandstone wall western end showing rendered street level retaining wall
Image copyright owner: Woollahra Council



Adelaide Parade, sandstone wall western end showing rendered street level retaining wall
Image copyright owner: Woollahra Council



Adelaide Parade pathway between Cooper Park and row of terraces
Image copyright owner: Woollahra Council



Adelaide Parade, sandstone retaining wall to Adelaide Parade as viewed from Cooper Park
Image copyright owner: Woollahra Council



Adelaide Parade, Sandstone wall western end of retaining wall viewed from Cooper Park
Image copyright owner: Woollahra Council

Appendix D – SHI database entry for Canary Island Date Palm and Chinese Windmill Palm, Cooper Park North

Chinese Windmill Palm, Canary Island Date Palm

Item details

Name of item:	Chinese Windmill Palm, Canary Island Date Palm
Type of item:	Landscape
Group/Collection:	Parks, Gardens and Trees
Category:	Planting groups
Primary address:	Streatfield Road within road reserve, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023
Local govt. area:	Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Streatfield Road within road reserve	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Primary Address

1. Statement of significance:

Significant for the grouping of large mature trees. The trees are significant as part of the local plantings which have been made since the 1930s when tree planting became an accepted amenity.

Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the OEH [copyright and disclaimer](#).

2. Description

Physical description: Bounded by Streatfield and Northland roads to the north, and Cooper Park Road to the south. Reserve has approximately 30 mature pine trees to western side at Streatfield Road. Towards Cooper Park Road is a large grassy area bounded by low lying scrub plantings. At the northern corner is a single storey building with face brick construction, gable roof and terra cotta roof. Reserve and mature trees.

Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential: Two dead pine trees and one stump to reserve. [1997] Chinese windmill palm died during drought of 2003. Only one canary island palm remaining within reserve.[Maher]

Date condition updated:14 Apr 04

3. History

Historical notes: Part of the West Woollahra district, bounded by Jersey Road, Oxford Street-Wallis Street and Edgecliff Road, and characterised by the mixture of land uses, building forms and styles. Bounded by Streatfield and Northland roads to the north, and Cooper Park Road to the south. The Streatfield Road Reserve, one of only a few parks in Woollahra, was formed from the subdivision of the Cooper Estate Number Four during the period 1914-1920. The municipality is generally not well endowed with significant street planting due to, the density of development, and the nature of the development where expectations and demand for tree planting were minimal. It was not until the late 1930's that tree planting was considered an important amenity.

4. Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	A place to live-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Leisure-

8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Social institutions-Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	Cultural and social life-
--	---	---------------------------


5. Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a)
[Historical significance] Historically representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria c)
[Aesthetic significance] Aesthetically representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria d)
[Social significance] Socially representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria g)
[Representativeness] Socially representative at a Local level. Aesthetically representative at a Local level. Historically representative at a Local level.

Assessment criteria: Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

6. Recommended management:

All trees should be retained. A Heritage Report required prior to any work which will adversely impact on the trees. Normal maintenance and care can be continued but this does not include the lopping or cutting back of the trees.

7. Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	

Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	57	23 May 15		
Heritage study	Woollahra				

8. Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Woollahra Heritage Study 1997	1997	F41	Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd	GBA	No

9. References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



10. Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database number: 2710212

**Appendix E – SHI database entry for Concrete Horse Trough,
Victoria Road intersection with Bellevue Road adjoining Cooper Park**

Concrete horse trough

Item details

Name of item: Concrete horse trough

Primary address: Victoria Road, intersection with Bellevue Road, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023

Local govt. area: Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Victoria Road, intersection with Bellevue Road	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Primary Address
Bellevue Road	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Alternate Address

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	1359
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	70	23 May 15		

References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database number: 2711475

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to the [Database Manager](#).

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Appendix F – SHI database entry for Sewer Vent, 56 Streatfield Road (off Cooper Park Road)

Brick sewer vent chimney

Item details

Name of item:	Brick sewer vent chimney
Type of item:	Built
Group/Collection:	Utilities - Water
Category:	Water Tower
Primary address:	Streatfield Road, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023
Local govt. area:	Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Streatfield Road	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Primary Address
[Btn 56 & 58] Streatfield Road	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Alternate Address
Cooper Park Road	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Alternate Address

11. Statement of significance:

The Sewer Vent at Streatfield Road, Bellevue Hill has historic and social significance for its association with the provision of adequate services of water and sewerage to the Woollahra municipality during the

late nineteenth Century. The vent has some scientific significance as part of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century sewer system. The face brick vent has aesthetic significance as a prominent landmark in the area and as an example of the type of amenities which were constructed during this period.

Note: The State Heritage Inventory provides information about heritage items listed by local and State government agencies. The State Heritage Inventory is continually being updated by local and State agencies as new information becomes available. Read the OEH [copyright and disclaimer](#).

12. Description

Physical description: Cylindrical chimney with square base, constructed of red-faced brick. Set back from the street, the garage to no. 56 Steatfield Road is located directly in front. The chimney is surrounded by a high chicken wire fence between brick piers, and a single timber gate leads from the road. Chimney features classical detailing including to the base, pediments above ghost openings, entablatures, and engaged piers to corners topped with half-domes of copper sheeting. Decorative terra cotta brackets support entablatures at the top of the chimney. Nine metal bands with brackets are evenly spaced along the chimney. External Materials: Red face brick, some concrete sections. Copper sheeting to half domes. Internal Materials: Unseen. Red face brick chimney.

Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential: Generally, in good condition.

Date condition updated: 17 Mar 04

Current use: Pumping station

Former use: Pumping station

13. History

Historical notes: The provision of adequate services of water and sewerage lagged behind the rapid population growth of the Woollahra municipality during the late nineteenth Century. When the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage assumed responsibility for Sydney's needs in

1888, the only parts of the Woollahra municipality connected to the mains were the suburbs of Paddington and Woollahra. The Northern Ocean outfall system, a massive sewer system from the city along College, Oxford and Liverpool Streets and across Double Bay Valley to the outlet at Bondi, was completed in 1889. Other branches were completed as follows: Darling Point in 1894, Point Piper in 1907-9, Rose Bay in 1913-6, and Watson's Bay and Vaucluse in 1918.

14. Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	A place to live-

15. Assessment of significance

SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Historically representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria c)

[Aesthetic significance]

Aesthetically representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria d)

[Social significance]

Socially representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria e)

[Research potential]


Scientifically representative at a Local level.

SHR Criteria g)

[Representativeness]

Scientifically representative at a Local level. Socially representative at a Local level. Aesthetically representative at a Local level. Historically representative at a Local level.

Assessment criteria:

Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

Heritage Report required prior to any proposals for work which will impact on the significance of the Sewer Vent. Materials which have never been painted such as face brickwork should remain unpainted.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	56	23 May 15		
Heritage study	Woollahra	L40			

Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Woollahra Heritage Study 1997	1997	F10	Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd	GBA	No

References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

16. Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database number: 2710206

Appendix G - Washington Palms, Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms, Northland Road within the road reserve

Washington Palms (3), Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms (4)

Item details

Name of item: Washington Palms (3), Cliff Date Palm, Canary Island Date Palms (4)

Primary address: Northland Road, within road reserve, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023

Local govt. area: Woollahra

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Northland Road, within road reserve	Bellevue Hill	Woollahra			Primary Address

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra	LEP 1995	10 Mar 95	28	1353
Local Environmental Plan	Woollahra LEP 2014	45	23 May 15		

References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Name: Local Government

Database number: 2711263

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to the [Database Manager](#).

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