

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND SQUARES

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3.1.10 Karrawirra/Park 12 Report





**Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations**

There are several specific references to Kaurra sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Karrawirra/Park 12 (Hemming 1998).

Dissecting Karrawirra/Park 12 is *Karra Wirra Parri* or *Karrawirra parri* or *Tanda:njapari* (River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri) that was an important economic and symbolic thread. The former importance was in terms of providing food and hunting resources and the transmigration of these resources, and the latter importance was in terms of its association with the Red Kangaroo Dreaming. The watercourse was an important source of aquatic foods including fish, and the watercourse banks were rich in tuberous and fibrous food and equipment sources.

Amery (1997, p. 4) has also concluded that along the southern banks, near to the Festival Centre site, was *Tarnda Kanya*—the ‘red kangaroo rock’—that was integral to the Dreaming story. The watercourse edges also provided favoured encampment, meeting point locations, and *Palti* or *Kuri* (corroborees) prior to and following colonization, and it was a role that it continued to serve intermittently in Karrawirra/Park 12 into contemporary days. For example, Karrawirra/Park 12 was a venue for Aboriginal gatherings prior to enlistments for the First World War and also gatherings prior to visits to the second Native School off Kintore Avenue, or the Aboriginal Protectors office off Kintore Avenue, or to the Government House for rations and blankets (Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 42, 55, 64, 65; Hemming 1998, pp. 18-19, 20, 21, 23, 43-44, 45, 47-48; Kartinyeri 1996).

While Amery and successive writers point to the *Tarnda Kanya* being destroyed as part of sand stone quarrying activities on the Festival Centre site, it is also probable that this site may have pertained to land within the Torrens Parade Ground that was also subject to extensive quarrying for sandstone. The stone, of Pliocene Hallett Sandstone origins, was draped as a swath across the northern escarpment of North Terrace running from the present railway station to the Main Walk in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. It was the source of stone used in the Old Legislative Building, at least one church on North Terrace, and the original Government House structure and associated stone walling (Heritage SA file 101194; Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 42, 55, 65).

In terms of the Government House, there is a watercolour painting by Martha Berkeley entitled ‘*The first dinner given to the Aborigines, Adelaide 1838*’ that depicts a gathering of Aborigines presumably on the site of the present Torrens Parade Ground flats. This was the first Queens Birthday ration distribution undertaken by the colonial Government (Draper *et al* 2005, p. 66; Hemming 1998, pp. 47-48).

There is considerable evidence as to Indigenous encampments along *Karrawirra parri* in this vicinity. A plaque on the north-east pylon of the King William Bridge also depicts an image of the first bridge and an Indigenous camp. A watercolour by artist ST Gill of ‘*Old Government House*’ in c.1837, illustrated in *Adelaide: An Illustrated History* (1974), depicts an encampment on the approximate site of the present King William Bridge south, with old Government House in the backdrop (Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 42, 64, 65; Hemming 1998, pp. 45, 47-48; Colwell & Naylor 1974, p. 10).

Various newspaper reports, recalling the north side of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 and Karrawirra/Park 12, also repeated the observation that the area was subject to regular encampments. These include:

*In coming over North Adelaide ... we had to pass the natives encampment ... the dim form of the various wurlies ad the glowing light of the many fires ... The Aborigines often set fire to a whole tree which at night forms a curious spectacle* (*The Register* 15 August 1843).

*Hearing that there was going to be a corroboree this evening, I marched down wit Thomas and William Hay. Arriving there I walked through each successive encampment for there are ever so many ...* (*The Register* 29 March 1844).

*As many as a hundred naked and ornamented savages joined in the performance of a [corroberrie] ... of a surpassing kind, commencing about nine in the morning, on the north side of the river* (‘Viator’ [sic.], *The Register* 8 December 1847, p. 3).



Figure  
‘*The first dinner given to the Aborigines, Adelaide 1838*’, watercolour painting by Martha Berkeley; provenance Art Gallery of South Australia. Kaplitpinna, Mullawirraburke and Ityamailpinna are standing at the centre right (arrow). The escarpment in the Torrens Parade Ground can be discerned to the background [sic.]. Source: Draper *et al* 2005, p. 66.

*Their camping ground was on the northern side of the Torrens. The government built them little brick sheds but they would not occupy them long, they preferred their bow wurley. The mean when in camp would at times be busy making rigs with opossum skins. They would stretch them, peg them out on the ground ...* (‘Viator’ [sic.], *The Register* 8 December 1847, p. 3).

Early colonial resident Thomas Day, in *Memories of the Extinct Tribe of Cowandilla* (1902) recalled some of the activities he observed in the *Karrawirra parri* watercourse prior to 1843:

*Women and children spent most of their time at the Torrens river – children bathing and practicing with spear and small waddy – Women crab[b]ing and going in the river with a net bag and picking up cockles. I have seen them go down – And I thought they would never see gaian, They got many cockles And rose again on the other side after being under water A long time. The River Torrens/ Karrawirra Parri was A chain of water holes very deep When not in flood. It was full of timber Very dangerous to go amongst. Their time was also employed making mats, nets and rope clothes lines .... They would then sell or exchange for food from the settlers ...* (sic.; Day 1902 in Hemming 1998, p. 43).



Figure  
One of four plaques on the Adelaide Bridge, this one depicting a scene at the site of second bridge with an Aboriginal encampment on the south-western side.

While *unio dubia* (water cockles), *ngampa* (edible roots) and *kar'li* (crayfish) were favoured foods in *Karrawirra parri* (River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri), there was also continual colonial pressure to remove the presence of Aboriginals from *Karrawirra parri*, or at least from public view:

*Something ... ought to be done to keep the Natives out of the river. From the Botanic Garden, downwards, it is full of them; not much, we should think, to the improvement of the water, which all the inhabitants who have not wells are obliged to use (The Register 5 February 1840, pp. 55-6).*

More contemporary places include the Peace Park installation on Sir Edwin Smith Avenue that has been used for several outdoor meetings associated with reconciliation, including a large meeting in 1997 of the Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (Hemming 1998, p. 48).

#### Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations

In the original survey Light intended that King William Road not exist but rather that the Government House residence and grounds occupy the head of King William Street on North Terrace. This was deemed the Government Domain and it included land partially down to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri although Governor John Hindmarsh failed to realise the land reaching the watercourse as the Resident Commissioner [Sir] James Hurtle Fisher refused his proposal. While the vision was there, the actual geology of the site required that the House be relocated to the east to provide a flatter location and to enable better foundations to be formed.

By March 1837 Governor Hindmarsh had erected a three-roomed mud-walled House on the Domain. Upon Governor George Gawler's arrival in October 1838 a new House, in a simple

Georgian style to a design by architect and politician George Strickland Kingston, was constructed further to east enabling a vernacular vehicular route to be formed directly from King William Street across to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri ford (located in Tandanya Womma/Park 26) to North Adelaide; a route that was formalised by Governor Gawler in 1854 as King William Road that excised land from the Domain for this purpose. Builders East & Breeze constructed "a splendid building in a commanding and delightful spot, two storeys high with twelve commodious rooms" (*South Australian* 18 September 1839; Jones 2004, pp. 2: 1-10; Daly 1987, pp. 47, 48; Worsnop 1879, p. 24).

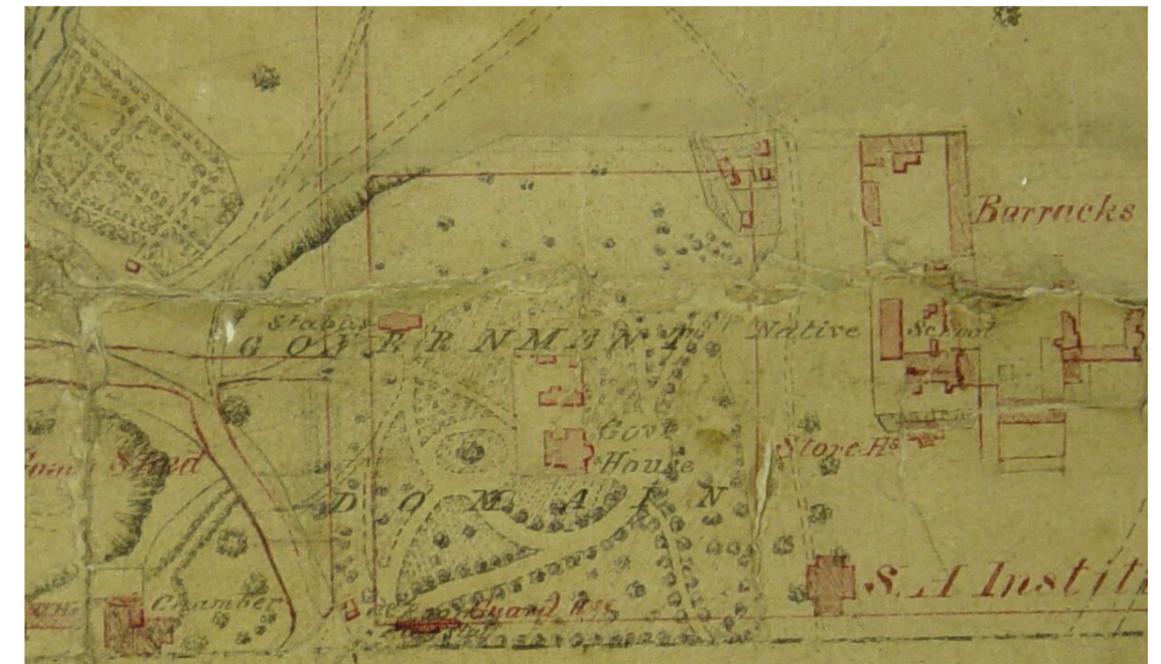


Figure  
Extract of an 1849 map inscribed with red ink indicating the existing buildings of the Government House and Barracks areas (in Karrawirra/Park 12), existing Government House gardens (in Karrawirra/Park 12) and market gardens (in Tandanya Womma/Park 26) to the north-west in black ink, and road widening proposals in red ink. The map also delineated the original vernacular position and alignment of King William Road before road construction was entertained. Source: Mortlock Library.

Kingston wrote about the reasons for the eastward shift as follows:

*On proceeding to mark out the reserve it was seen that owing to the rapid fall of the western half of the ground it was not well adapted for building purposes. It was therefore thought advisable to remove the block a little to more level ground on the east, without, however, altering the area of the reserve (George Kingston, The Advertiser, 12 November 1877).*

With the House, tenders were let and awarded in November 1838 for the fencing of the Domain. This included substantial posts, railings 2.7m long, and palings not less than 10cm wide, with the timber being sourced from the Adelaide Hills. The first proposal for a wall around Government House was in 1847. Initially it included a wall of hammer dressed limestone on a concrete foundation with decorative entrance gates proposed for the yard, extending to enclose the stables. A boundary wall around the Domain was however, considered more appropriate and the contract for the wall was awarded to John Williams and Robert Palmer in 1849, construction beginning in the same year. As the length of the wall was now considerably longer than initially costed the concrete foundations and gates were dispensed with

and the hammer dressed limestone was replaced with limestone rubble from the Government Quarry on the Torrens Parade Ground. The height of the wall varied accordingly to the fall and rise of the land and it was considered to have been constructed in a “substantial and workmen like manner.” By September 1849 the northern boundary wall to Government House had been erected involving random rubble limestone with 65mm brick quoins at the ends. At the same time, in 1855, a “small portion of Government Domain” was excised to enable the continuation of King William Street (State Records GRG 35/585/41; GRG 24/4 O (1847) 212; GRG 24/6 A (1849) 2292; GRG 24/4D (1838) 15; GRG 24/2 B (1837) 314; Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence 105/53; National Trust file No 2330; Jones 2005, pp. 2: 1, 9, 12).

As part of these immediate building works, quarters and ground for the military and police were needed. Light had proposed a site adjacent to the Domain, to the east and south. While most of the police and military barracks were erected to the east, drawing upon Light’s experience in the Peninsula Wars where prospect was exceedingly important, the Sappers and Miners ‘Barracks’—“neat little boxes”—were constructed to the north approximately where Victoria Drive is aligned today. These soldiers comprised 15 Sappers and Miners from the Corps of the Royal Engineers who arrived with Surveyor General Lieutenant Frome in 1839. The structures were still there in 1855. On this “well shaded plain ... the voluntary military performed their drill on Mondays and Fridays” in 1855 (*The Register* 8 March 1855; Daly 1987, pp. 48, 49, 50).

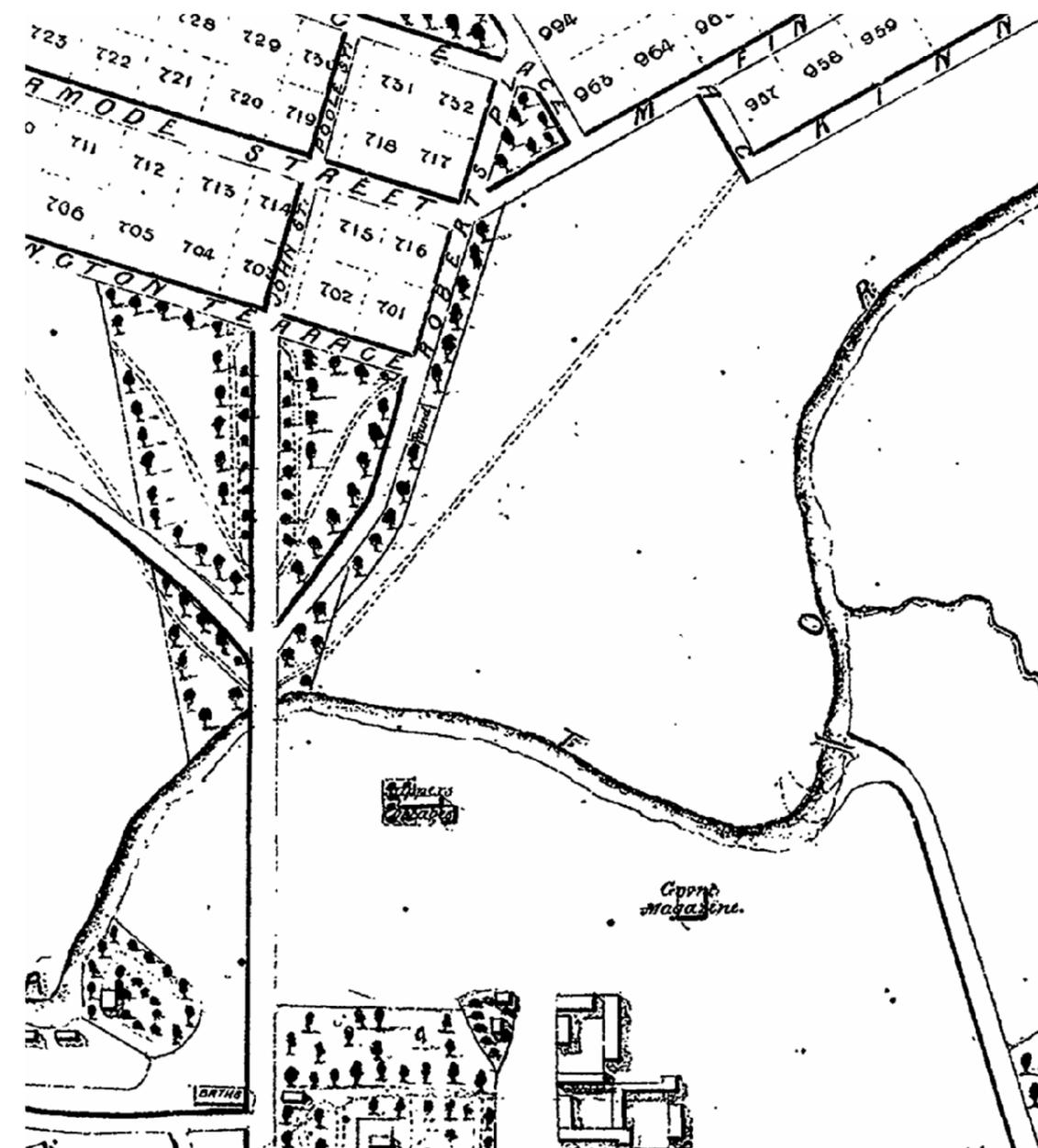
Below Government House, to the north, was created by the Corporation was a quarry in 1841 to provide stone for various government buildings and to service the Corporation’s road making activities. The use of this quarry however languished due to the quality of the stone and better resources being obtained from quarries in the Adelaide Hills. The quarry was progressively used for rubbish dumping until 1892 when the land was levelled to accommodate a Parade Ground. The Ground was officially opened on 20 June 1893 (Heritage SA file 101194; Daly 1987, p. 51; Draper *et al* 2005, p. 42, 55, 65).

Discussions by the Corporation and the Mayors (Lord Mayors) about landscaping the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankments as well as the Park Lands generally were commonplace from the mid 1850s onwards. The thoughts may have really been prompted by critical comments and articles in *The Register*, including reports of public meetings that voiced critique of the quality of the Park Lands, in 1854 onwards (eg., *The Register* 17 June 1854, p. 4; 8 July 1857, p. 2), that were in many ways directed towards the colonial Governor than the Council.

For example, the editor of *The Register* wrote in July 1857:

*The Park Lands will never be other than a quagmire in winter, and a desert of blinding, suffocating dust in summer, ... unless properly fenced roads are constructed through the ... With such roads as now disgrace the Park Lands there is no alternative for vehicles but to deviate in all directions from the track, thus cutting up acres of pasturage on every side and rendering it utterly useless* (*The Register* 8 July 1857, p. 2).

The site to the rear of Government House, which is currently the parade ground, was closed in the mid 1850s as a limestone quarry. In the following forty years or so it was used as a dump for street sweepings, despite attempts to fill it in during the late 1870s. It was not until 1891 before the area around it was contoured with terraces, planted out and the original site transformed into a parade ground (Sumerling 2003, p. 37)



Figure

Extract of a ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide’ as prepared by the City Surveyor’s Office dated 11 February 1865 that depicts Karrawirra/Park 12 with plantations and gardens established in Roberts Reserve, Pennington Gardens East and along the eastern flank of “Roberts Place” since renamed as Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, a straight pathway from McKinnon Parade corner to the Adelaide Bridge that eventually became formalised as the ‘Town Clerk’s Walk’, the “Sappers Quarters” to the northern area of the Torrens Parade Ground, the “Gov.t [Powder] Magazine” located approximately where the University of Adelaide’s Union Building is located today, a footbridge across the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri near the present intersection of Victoria Drive and Frome Road with adjacent watercourse ford Source: ACC Archives.

From about 1855 onwards the Corporation commenced tree planting and enclosure (fencing) works in the Park Lands, of which Karrawirra/Park 12 was included. One editor to *The Observer* in 1856 recorded these works:

*Those who have occasion to cross the park Lands between North and South Adelaide will have perceived with much gratification the preparations now making for planting that portion of our metropolitan*

*pleasure-grounds. The sight of posts and rails in that wilderness of mud and sand is positively refreshing; and the numerous square plots dug up, or marked out like new claims upon a gold-field, give promise of much future enjoyment. Already in imagination we can sit beneath the grateful shade and walk along the cool avenues which we are planting and preparing, if not for ourselves at least for posterity. Not that there will be no advantages even to ourselves. Regularly-defined roads, enclosed spaces of grass, well-gravelled walks, and young trees diversifying the surface will be infinitely preferable to our summer dust plains and our winter waterholes. We are sure that there will not be two opinions as to necessity, not only of laying out and planting the North Adelaide Park Lands, but as far as fact as possible the Park Lands around the whole city [sic.] (The Observer 16 August 1856, p. 6).*

The author of the above editorial also passed judgement on the deteriorating condition of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankments and offered landscape design advice. The embankments were “the most ill favoured and repulsive part of the neighbourhood” with the water trickle in the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri representing a “small creek ... which is now the receptacle for every kind of filth.” The editor argued for the replanting of the banks, the use of ‘native pines’ (*Allocasuarina* ssp and or *Callitris* ssp) and willows (*Salix* ssp) so “to assume a clean and refreshing appearance” for it be become “the most delightful feature of our local landscape.” Why not, continued the editor, dam the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri “to produce sheets of ornamental water ... [as] a means of recreation and pleasure contributing to the adornment of the city and the pleasure of the citizens” (*The Observer* 16 August 1856, p. 6).

These public debates and discussions appear to have been prompted by concerns from the colonial Governor about the overall aesthetic appearance of the Park Lands. For example, on 17 July 1855 the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Corporation’s Town Clerk expressing a desire “that something should be done to improve the present very unsightly appearance of most of the Park Lands near the Town; which he [Governor Gawler] thinks might be effected by the judicious planting of clumps of trees on half acres [0.2ha] or even quarter acres [0.1ha] in suitable positions; care being taken to fence such clumps with strong but neat fencing.” Willingly, to assist these landscaping works, the Governor volunteered a budget of £400, “a sum sufficient to accomplish much, but not all that he wishes” which the Corporation eagerly accepted “at once to carry out His Excellency’s wishes and propose to do so by means of competent gardeners [on] contracts to be obtained by advertisements in the usual newspapers, the works generally being performed under the supervision of the City Surveyor.” With acceptance, the Governor imposed one condition requiring the appointment of an expert referee to monitor the works: “that some person should be nominated by himself to represent the Executive in this matter and to have a voice in the selection of the position of the several plantations and of the species of fencing to be made use of.” The Colonial Secretary appointed horticulturist John Bailey, of Hackney Nursery, to this role. Unfortunately this scheme collapsed with the dissolution of the Legislative Council in August 1855 despite unknown authored sketch “on the subject of planting a Public Square” being sent to the Corporation on 9 October 1855, with correspondence from the Governor indicating that “the writer of the memorandum has indicated some most sensible and just views of Landscape Gardening...” The advice included a recommendation that, “in a climate like South Australia’s and to avoid the inconvenience of having to wait years for effect, clumps should be formed of the Olive [*Olea europaea*], the Wattle [*Acacia* ssp] and Gum-tree [*Eucalyptus* ssp] ...” It is possible the plan author was the inaugural director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, George Francis, more so than Bailey as there is no evidence of Bailey’s plan drawing skills whereas the sketch the text is similar in style to Francis’s hand (Letter, Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 7 July 1855, GRG 24/6/1381 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2505 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 13 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2644 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1605 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 20 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1740 (1855)

Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2129 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/3289 (1855)).

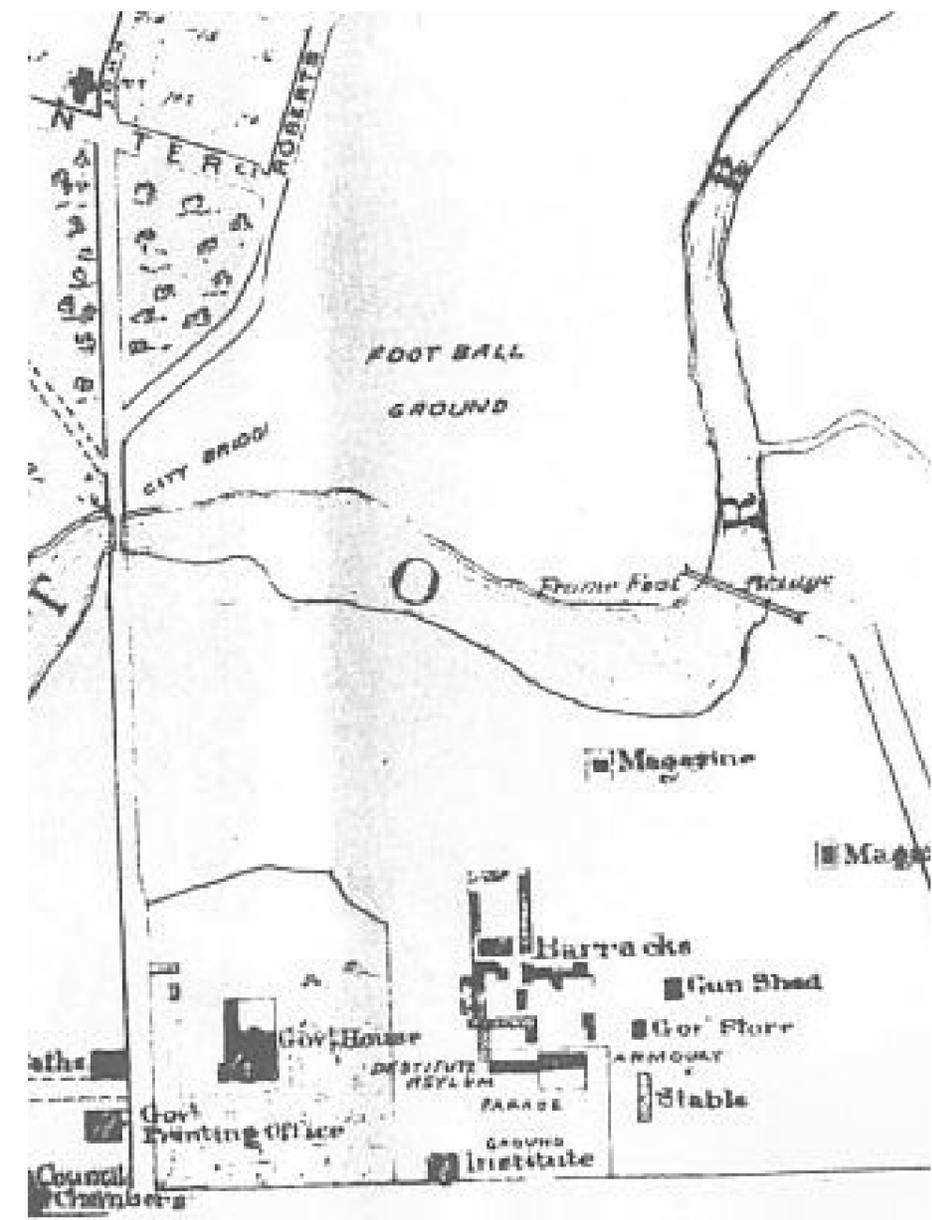


Figure  
Extract of a plan of Adelaide contained in *Boothby's Almanack* (1871) that depicts buildings and works extant in Karrawirra/Park 12. Note the position of the “Frome Foot Bridge,” the northern gun powder “Magazine” that was demolished during the construction of Victoria Drive but sited where the University’s Union Building is now located, evidence of a garden in Pennington Park East, and the use of the yet un-formalised University Oval as a “Football Ground.” Source: *Boothby's Almanack* 1871, frontispiece.

From 1861, inaugural City Gardener to the Corporation, William O’Brien, sought to establish gardens and plantations throughout the municipality, but in particular in all Squares and along entrance roadways through the Park Lands into Adelaide. But he also sought to establish plantations in adjunct spaces associated with these roadways. In terms of Karrawirra/Park 12, he undertook the planting and establishment of shelterbelts along the eastern flank of Roberts Place (now Sir Edwin Smith Avenue) and to establish plantations in what is now Pennington Gardens East. The extent of these works are demonstrated in the ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide’

prepared by the City Surveyors Office and dated 11 February 1865. These works were quite extensive, and his expertise is evidenced in the following discussion.

In August 1867 inaugural City Gardener William O'Brien wrote to Mayor Henry Fuller advising of extensive tree planting works that were carried out over the previous autumn planting season under his care. The list is extensive and valuable to consider. Further, O'Brien records where these specimens were being generally planted but unfortunately not the specific details of these plantings per place. Specimens included "Laurels [*Laurus nobilis*; 249 in number], Oleanders [*Nerium oleander*; 216], Moreton Bay Figs [*Ficus macrophylla*; 6], China Privet [*Ligustrum lucidum*; 21], Stone Pines [*Pinus pinea*; 78], Native Pines [*Callitris/Casuarina/Allocasuarina* ssp; 1,627], Cupressus [*Cupressus* ssp; 24], White Cedar [*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*; 12], Gums [*Eucalyptus/Corymbia* ssp; 4,450], Poplars [*Populus* ssp; 100], Olives [*Olea europaea*; 10,600], Ficus [*Ficus* ssp; 99], Oaks [*Quercus* ssp; 280], Laurestinas [sic; *Viburnum tinus*; 149], Laburnums [*Laburnum x watereri*; 48], Sycamors [sic; *Platanus* ssp; 48], Elms [*Ulmus* ssp; 6], Walnuts [*Juglans regia*; 24], Pomegranates [*Punica granatum*; 2], Ash [*Fraxinus* ssp; 50], Aristolochias [*Aristolochia* ssp; 74]. Evergreen Oaks [*Quercus ilex*; 24], Whitethorn [*Crataegus monogyna*; 30], Acacias [*Acacia/Robinia* ssp; 14], Ches[t]nuts [*Castanea sativa*; 18], also, about one thousand willow [*Salix* ssp] and poplar [*Populus* ssp] cuttings, making a grand total of about 19,249 plants." In addition, O'Brien records donations of an unspecified number poplar (*Populus* ssp), rose (*Rosa* ssp), herbaceous plants and bulbs, willow (*Salix* ssp), bamboo (*Bambusa* ssp), privet (*Ligustrum* ssp), weeping willows (*Salix babylonica*), and five mulberries (*Morus* ssp) from various individuals. These were planted in various locations throughout the municipality including along "Both sides of the River Torrens" from Albert Bridge to the Weir (in Warnpangga/Park 10, Tainmundilla/Park 11, Karrawirra/Park 12, Tandanya Womma/Park 26 and Tulya Wodli/Park 27) amongst other locations including along the "North Terrace Esplanade" and "19 native pines" to surround the house at the "old Botanic Gardens" in Tainmundilla/Park 11 (Letter from W O'Brien to Mayor Henry Fuller, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

This is an important inventory as it presents the most detailed account of the great number of trees that O'Brien was planting but also the typical species he was seeking to establish in the late 1860s in the municipality and the Park Lands. His preference was clearly towards a mixture of indigenous British and Mediterranean species, but interestingly demonstrates a strong overall preference to Australian native species including "Pines [*Pinus* ssp] ... [and] Gums [*Eucalyptus* ssp]." Unfortunately where these specimens are being planted is unclear but it is known that O'Brien was planting shelterbelts or avenues of *Eucalyptus* ssp along the entrance roadways, through the Park Lands, including "both sides of Unley Road," to the municipality (Letter from W O'Brien to the Mayor, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

On 9 February 1870 the *River Torrens Improvement Act, 1869*, No 70 was enacted requiring the Corporation to beautify the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri watercourse and edges "for the purposes of public recreation, amusement, health and enjoyment." Land, now comprising the boathouses was specifically designated to accommodate sheds, landing stages, and other buildings allied to "public use and recreation." This reservation, one of three under the legislation, enabled the William Joll[e]y Boathouse to be constructed in the 1870s (Daly 1987, pp. 54, 140). In particular the *Act* vested power in the Corporation:

... the conservancy of the said sheets of water, the power to grant exclusive rights of erecting sheds, boat houses, stands, and landing stages, the right to control fishing, and licensing of all pleasure craft and boats plying for hire upon the river (Clause 7, *River Torrens Improvement Act, 1869*; Thornton nd, p. 2).

While several licences and works were instigated as a consequence of this *Act*, it was not until the Weir was constructed from 1879, and opened on 21 July 1881, that the full weight of this legislation could be utilised. With the opening of the Lake in 1881, Council passed a series of

by-laws pertaining to the "preservation of waters impounded by the Dam from pollution, regulations as to boats and boating on the waters; and regulations as to fishing in the said waters" as enabled under Clauses 9 and 10 of the *Act*. Thereupon the first 'Inspector of Boats and Collector of Licence Fees', WL Furze, was employed in June 1882 to administer the Act and the by-laws and provided him with a boat and a cottage. The cottage was erected on the Lake immediately adjacent to the future site of the Jolley's Boathouse which was erected in 1888 on its current site (Jenkin 2005, pp. 46, 47; *Digest of Proceedings* 1880-81, pp. 35, 394; Thornton nd, pp. 2, 3).

While Francis, Bailey and Gaol Superintendent & Sheriff William Boothby were predominantly planting olive (*Olea europaea*) trees in the Park Lands, City Gardener William Pengilly also undertook olive (*Olea europaea*) plantings in several areas. During 1872 he was planting them in various locations including in the 'North Adelaide Plantations' (Kuntingga/Park 7, Barngutilla/Park 8 and Karrawirra/Park 12) (1,255 and 210 specimens respectively. Italian olive (*Olea europaea*) expert Paolo Villanis, in 1882, corroborated the existence of these plantings when he reviewed the state and condition of all the olive (*Olea europaea*) plantations in the Park Lands for the Corporation recording substantial olive (*Olea europaea*) groves but makes no reference to any plantations in Karrawirra/Park 12 (Letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 13 July 1883, TC 1883/2224; *The Register*, 24 July 1883, p. 6; letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465; letter, William Pengilly to Town Clerk, 16 July 1872, TC 1872/519 and 4 September 1872, TC 1872/622).



Figure

Photograph of the timber "Frome Foot Bridge" over the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri that existed from c.1863 to 1869. Note the timber Exhibition Building to the rear of the photograph together with the mature *Eucalyptus* spp along Frome Road and Victoria Drive alignment, and the extensive use of timber post and double rail fencing at the rear and along roadways. Source: MLSA B3324; Marsden *et al* 1990.

Due to a bequest in 1872 by wealthy pastoralist Walter William Hughes, the colonial government was obliged to alienate in 1874 additional land along North Terrace to enable the development of the University of Adelaide. This was the first Government Reserve land allocation to an institution under legislation. Some 2.02ha was alienated from the Government Reserve under the *Adelaide University Act, 1874* (Daly 1987, p. 55).

In 1873 King William Street was widened, the western boundary of the Domain shifted again, this time approximately 20 feet (6.09 m) to the east. The Government House boundary walling and planting was demolished and removed and the boundary wall rebuilt. As part of these works the Guardhouse was rebuilt copying much of the original 1855 design by Kingston. As a result of this incursion the western section of the Domain was beginning to look disproportionately small and overcrowded (National Trust file No 2330; Jones 2004, p. 2: 3, 20).

During 1875-78 the road through Brougham Gardens, connecting King William Street to O'Connell Street was widened by an additional 10 feet (3.0m). The works were undertaken to enable the construction to the North Adelaide tramline, involving a double row of tram lines, and the tramline was formally opened in December 1878. The works were considerably delayed as a result of protracted negotiations with the Corporation as to alignment works, culminating in the construction of the raised earthen causeway between Adelaide Bridge and Pennington Terrace. These works involved considerable earthworks, and explains the raised causeway feature today that was jointly paid for by the Tramways Company and the Corporation (*Register* 28 December 1878; Nagle 1971, pp. 49-50).

In 1879 Mayor William Christie Buik noted the implementation of sewerage works in the municipality might prompt a beautification of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri banks. This is because the drain system, “which at present discharge[s] noxious matter into the river,” would be replaced by a sewerage system that could enable “a system of adorning the Park Lands ... for the embellishment of their stream and its banks [enabling] graceful curves, irreproachable in their river-like scenery and charm, and a little judicious planting with the weeping-willow [*Salix babylonica*], the drooping elm [*Ulmus ssp*], the birch [*Betula ssp*], as well as the graceful palms [eg. *Washingtonia ssp*] or pillar-like tree ferns [eg. *Dicksonia antarctica*]...” (*Annual Report* 1878-79, pp. 80-81). These types of statements were commonplace throughout the 1870s-1960s, so a large part of this **Report** reviews the works and aspirations occurring.

In 1877 the City Bridge was erected across the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri joining King William Road. This bridge, the second on the site, lasted until the late 1920s when engineering concerns about its structural stability to handle tram cars and increasing heavier amounts of vehicular traffic resulted in its demolition, and the erection of the present Adelaide Bridge in 1930-31. As part of these construction works, City Gardener William Pengilly planted Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees along King William Road, and London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolius*) trees along Frome Road in the late 1870s. These trees struggled during the summer of 1883-84 and City Gardener Richard Patterson found that they had been planted “in small holes cut out limestone” and sought to enlarge the holes and have them “filled in with suitable compost.” This assessment of tree health is another example of the poor quality of works and supervision undertaken by Pengilly between 1878-1884 (*Annual Report* 1880-81, p. 109; 1883-84, pp. 116-117).



Figure  
Extract of an untitled plan depicting Government Reserves along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri as lithographed by E Spiller, Government Printer in c.1886, for Karrawirra/Park 12, as prepared for documentation associated with early 1880s discussion about a “Proposed Exhibition Grd”. Note the reserves along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri edge including the “Sappers and Miners Cottages”, the “Proposed Carriageway Drive” that became Victoria Drive, the “Site of the Former [Foot] Bridge” over the River, the “Powder Magazine” near the site of the Union Building today, the proposed alignment of Pulteney Street extension through the present University of Adelaide campus today, a semi-rectangular reserves “1” and “2” on the River’s edge of unspecified colonial government purposes that were proposed to be given to the Corporation. Source: ACC Archives.

The construction of Albert Bridge, at Frome Road, was commenced in 1879. It occupied the site of an earlier timber carriage bridge that was washed away with floodwaters in the 1840s. The Corporation first sought the construction of Albert Bridge in August 1871 seeking funding assistance from the colonial government. In the absence of the road bridge a timber pedestrian bridge was in place in the 1863-69. This bridge was positioned south from the Frome Road bridge on a 45° angle across the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri. A photographic image of this bridge depicts its south-eastern visual termination point as focusing upon the former Exhibition Building in Frome Road. Finally, after considering various options including the relocation of the old City Bridge on King William Road, the Corporation let a tender to Davies & Wishart, under the supervision of city surveyor JH Langdon, to a design by (John Harry) Grainger & Worsley for a new road bridge (*The Register* 9, 10, 15 August 1871; 18 November 1874; 24 April 1875; 9 March 1876; 9 May 1877; 5 September 1878; 29 January 1879; 15 May 1879; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 277-278).

The Albert Bridge foundation stone was laid by Mayor Henry Scott in August 1878, and the bridge opened on 7 May 1879 by Mayoress Mrs Jane [William] Buik at a large public gathering. It spanned 120 feet (39.4m), with a central span of 60 feet (18.3m) between two central *caissons* filled with concrete. Tea Tree Gully sandstone complimented imported cast iron work obtained in England. The bridge cost £9,000 (*The Register* 9, 10, 15 August 1871; 18 November 1874; 24 April 1875; 9 March 1876; 9 May 1877; 5 September 1878; 29 January 1879; 15 May 1879; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 277-278).

During July-August 1880 Adelaide hosted the Adelaide Exhibition of Arts & Industries in structures associated with the [Royal] Adelaide Agricultural & Horticultural Society. The exhibition grounds included the series of buildings, levels, and grounds associated with the Society that occupied land to the east of Frome Road (Tainmundilla/Park 11) and a large portion of the lower grounds of the present University of Adelaide North Terrace campus. The Corporation was a large contributor to the organisation of this Exhibition, chaired by (Sir) Mayor Edwin Thomas Smith. The colonial Government granted the Exhibition Committee the leasehold right to use these lands for the purposes of the Exhibition. This was a precursor exhibition to the larger and more significant Adelaide International Exhibition that was held in 1885 on the same grounds (*Annual Report* 1880-81, pp. 28-31; 1884-85, pp. 9-12).

The other initiative the Corporation entered into in 1879-80 was the engagement of John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880). In this *Report* (1880) Brown recorded that the area in Karrawirra/Park 12 consisted of the best “soil and capabilities for ornamentation” that any other Park Land block. The soil was rich, of a good depth, and the block itself was central offering several natural features and outlines “making it a good field for the operations of the Landscape Gardener.” He was critical of the extant tree plantation along the river-banks as having no ornamental character, resulting in too much “sameness,” and recommended the removal of “all the Gums [*Eucalyptus* spp] and the most unpromising of the Cypress [*Cupressus* spp].” In terms of the *Eucalyptus* spp. he noted that they were unhealthy, displaying “early decay,” and should be removed before the compromise the landscape. The Cypresses (*Cupressus* spp) were too dense in planting resulting in a “formal and church-yard appearance” proposing a major thinning and the provision of species of “greater variety of foliage and combination of contrasts” (Brown 1880, p. 21).

As part of the design, detailed in his Plan 17, Brown recommended that a carriage drive be established along the northern banks of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri; approximately along the present alignment of War Memorial Drive today.

Brown also observed that an existing tree plantation along Avenue Road (now Sir Edwin Smith Avenue) was quite healthy and should be incorporated into any design. His particular attention was drawn to the healthy stands of non-*Eucalyptus* spp growing within the Sir Edwin Smith Avenue - Frome Road corridor and the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri. He was impressed with their growth, health, and quality of form, recommending the select felling of unhealthy *Eucalyptus* spp specimens in this precinct:

*With the exception of the Eucalypti [Eucalyptus spp], the other kinds of trees planted here are doing remarkably well. I think it is now evident that the Gums [Eucalyptus spp] which occupy this portion of the grounds are not of a character to make the most of its capabilities in an ornamental point of view. The soil here is of a good rich quality, and the site being somewhat sheltered, it is capable of growing a great variety of forest flora to fair dimensions and representative forms. Under these circumstances, I have to advise with regard to the plantations under notice, that the greater portion of the Gums [Eucalyptus spp] should be removed—leaving a few only of the better ones as representatives of their class; and that, afterwards, trees of a more ornamental character be planted in the Park. Of course, this operation of removing the trees and replanting others, would have to be performed in a gradual manner, so that the present clothed appearance of the ground would always be maintained (Brown 1880, p. 21).*

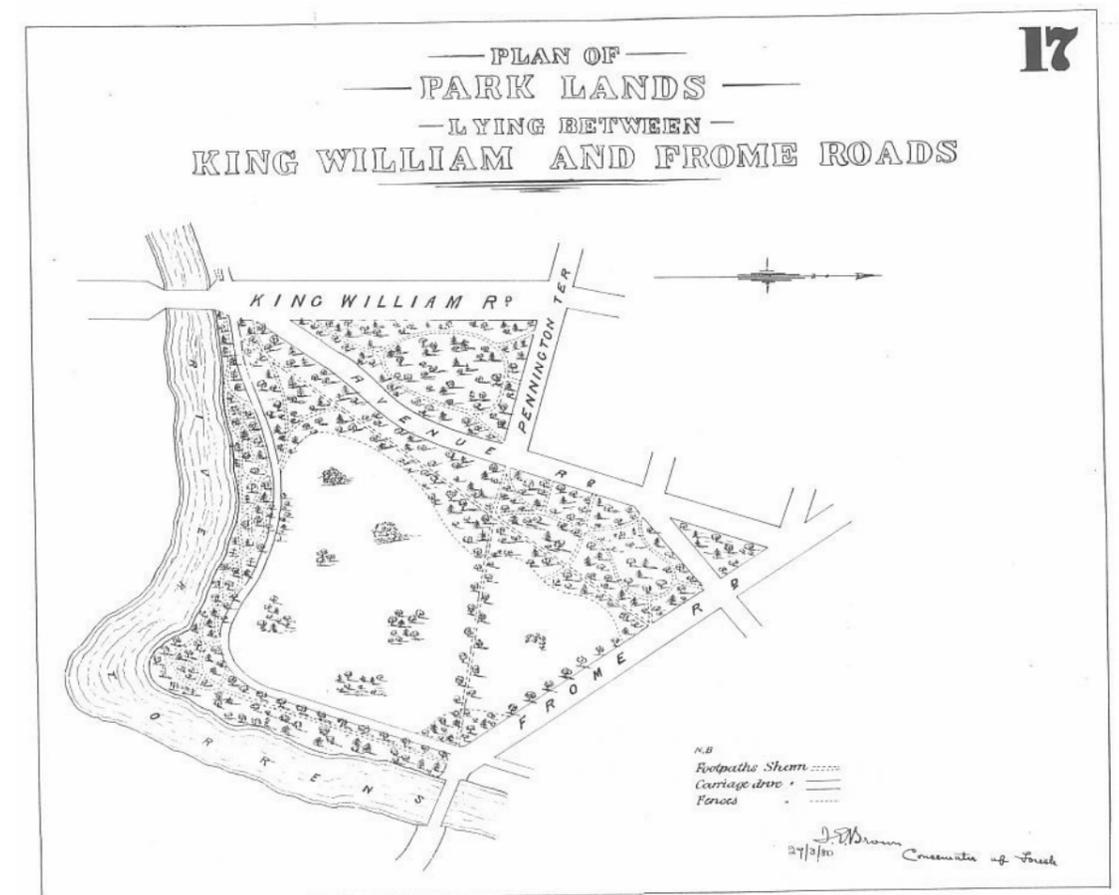


Figure  
Plan 17 prepared by Brown (1880) in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880) depicting the extensive tree planting proposed by Brown in the University portion of Karrawirra/Park 12 together with Roberts Place Reserve and Pennington Gardens East. A pathway was also proposed linking Pennington Terrace with the Frome Road Bridge, and a carriage way drive proposed along the northern bank of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri. Source: ACC Archives.

Brown’s tree planting recommendations for Karrawirra/Park 12 were:

<b>Nomenclature as used by JE Brown [sic.] (1880)</b>	<b>Current Scientific Nomenclature</b>	<b>Current Common Name</b>
<i>Schinus Molle</i>	<i>Schinus aerea</i> var <i>molle</i>	Pepper Tree
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana</i>	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson Cypress, Port Orford Cedar
<i>Cupressus Benthamii</i>	?	
<i>Pinus Insignis</i>	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey Pine
<i>Pinus Sabiniana</i>	?	
<i>Pinus Longifolia</i>	?	
<i>Pinus Halepensis</i>	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine
<i>Pinus Gerardiana</i>	<i>Pinus gerardiana</i>	
<i>Pinus Canariensis</i>	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Pine
<i>Pinus Jeffreyi</i>	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Western Yellow Pine
<i>Pinus Ponderosa</i>	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Western Yellow Pine
<i>Pinus Montana</i>	<i>Pinus monticola</i>	Western White Pine
<i>Cedrus Deodara</i>	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar Cedar, Himalayan Cedar
<i>Cedrus Atlantica</i>	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas Cedar
<i>Cedrus Libani</i>	<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon
<i>Abies Douglasii</i>	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Abies Excelsa</i>	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Abies Menziesii</i>	?	
<i>Abies Orientalis</i>	<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Caucasian Spruce
<i>Picea Pinsapo</i>	<i>Abies pinsapo</i>	Spanish Fir
<i>Picea Amabilis</i>	<i>Abies amabilis</i>	Pacific Silver Fir
<i>Picea Nobalis</i>	?	
<i>Picea Balsamia</i>	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir
<i>Thuja Gigantea</i>	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Giant Thuya, Western Aborvitae, Western Red Cedar
<i>Thuja Menziesii</i>	?	
<i>Juniperus Virginiana</i>	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Pencil Cedar, Eastern Red Cedar
<i>American and Turkey oaks</i>	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> [?] and <i>Quercus ceriis</i>	Burr Oak and Turkey Oak
<i>American and English ash</i>	<i>Fraxinus americana</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	White Ash and English Ash
<i>Poplars (all the common kinds)</i>	<i>Populus</i> ssp.	
<i>Ficus Macrophylla</i>	<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	<i>Platanus x acerifolius</i>	London Plane
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
<i>Legunaria Patersonii</i>	<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>	Norfolk Island Hibiscus
<i>Araucaria Excelsa</i>	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine
<i>Paulownia imperialis</i>	<i>Paulownia tomentose</i>	Royal Paulownia
<i>Biota orientalis</i>	<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Bookleaf Cypress, Biota
<i>Carya alba</i>	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Hickory
<i>Tristanea conferta</i>	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Queensland Brush Box
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Common Yew
<i>Eucalyptus corynocalyx</i>	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum

In conjunction with his recommendations for the Park Lands, Brown also recommended the establishment of “a Nursery and its management, in order to the rearing of young trees suitable for the purposes of the Corporation (Brown 1880, p. 4). While his reasons were specific his proposed site was adjacent to the Park Ranger’s residence in Tulya Wodli/Park 27. Notwithstanding this it is worthy to quote his logic as to the purpose and establishment of the Nursery as it mirrors, albeit in a smaller scale, the reasoning that Pelzer used to recommend and establish the ‘Frome Road Nursery’ in Karrawirra/Park 12. It is also important to note that the

spatial and functional design proposed by Brown was conceptually adopted by Pelzer in the development of the ‘Frome Road Nursery’. Brown wrote:

*All trees used in the formation of ornamental grounds and parks require to be grown specially for the purpose, in order that by having plenty of fibrous roots, well-trained stems, and the characteristic points and peculiarities of each different specie fully developed, the trees planted may assume the forms required, and the anticipation of the designer in regard to outlines, groupings, and combinations, be realised.*

*This amount of attention cannot be given to the young trees by public nurserymen; and besides, by having a private nursery the plants can always be had at command, and by rearing them of a good size before they are put out, immediate effect can be produced on the ground being operated upon.*

*In order that my suggestions regarding the planting of the Park Lands of this City may, if adopted, be carried out with every chance of ultimate success, I have to advise that a small Nursery be established by the Corporation for the purpose of growing the young trees required, of a character likely to conduce to this end.*

*I have, therefore, to offer you a few suggestions regarding its formation and management.*

*A suitable site for the purpose could be got on that portion of the Corporation grounds adjoining the residence of the Park Ranger. This part appears to me to be well adapted to meet the exigencies of the case, as the soil is of a good deep loamy nature, thereby likely to excite the trees to throw out plenty of fibrous roots and attain a fair size in a short time; the site is sheltered, so that the specimens would be allowed to assume the establish their characteristic peculiarities of habit without any particular care or training, while the situation commands an ever continuous supply of water, all essential qualities and requisites in a nursery devoted to the rearing of trees required solely for ornamental purposes ... I have to recommend that the ground enclosed for the purposes of a nursery be at least two acres [0.8ha] in extent. This should be laid off in an artistic and commodious manner in accordance with the outlines of the ground, and enclosed with a “paling” fence. An open drain three feet [0.9m] deep would be necessary round the whole of the enclosure on the inside, ending in an outlet to the river on the lowest part of the site, so as to avoid flooding in the rainy season. Afterwards, the ground would require to be trenched to about two feet [0.6m] in depth, so as to take out all obstructions and make the soil of a free nature, suitable for encouraging expanded roots and easy of being detached from them without much injury to the ramified fibrous roots when the plants come to be removed to the Park Lands (Brown 1880, p. 4).*

Brown also proposed a major renovation of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri edge to craft a more Gardenesque setting. This recommendation applied to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankments from the present Morphett Street bridge to the Hackney Road bridge, and while general in its description occasionally makes specific references to portions within each Park. Conceptually this recommendation was quite detailed in its planting design strategy, adopting a strong Gardenesque philosophy, and was accompanied by a suite of lithograph images so to portray the visual outcomes Brown was seeking to achieve.

The following is therefore a summation of his recommendations but includes specific references to Karrawirra/Park 12 where made.

Brown proposed a “thorough system of improvement of the banks of our River” to create “the most attractive feature in the landscape of the City lands. It is a work which, from its character and extent, would no doubt be a very expensive one; but its popularity and undoubted necessity would warrant its being done at any cost.” To achieve this outcome he proposed a detailed engineering survey of the River embankments showing all existing surfaces, changes to surfaces and contours, all existing trees and proposed tree plantation locations, and any amenities to be included (Brown 1880, pp. 10, 11).

*From the sinuous and irregular character of the river and its banks, there are very great capabilities for the designing of many rare and striking effects.*

*One of the most important points to be attended to in improving the subject, would of course be the presenting as much variety and contrasts as possible, and, in order to attain this end, all the natural contours and irregularities of each part would have to be carefully studied, embraced, and, if necessary, on occasions enlarged or extended. Anything approaching to regularity or mechanical stiffness should be rigidly avoided.*

*The banks of the River as a whole ... are very variable as to their character and formation generally. In some places we have jagged precipitate bluffs, the soil on which is being gradually loosened and washed into the bed of the river by the rains; in others they form a pleasing slope from the ridge to the water's edge; while again in some parts—particularly to the south of the Adelaide Bridge—we have them made up of a series of flats, knolls, and terraces (Brown 1880, p. 11).*

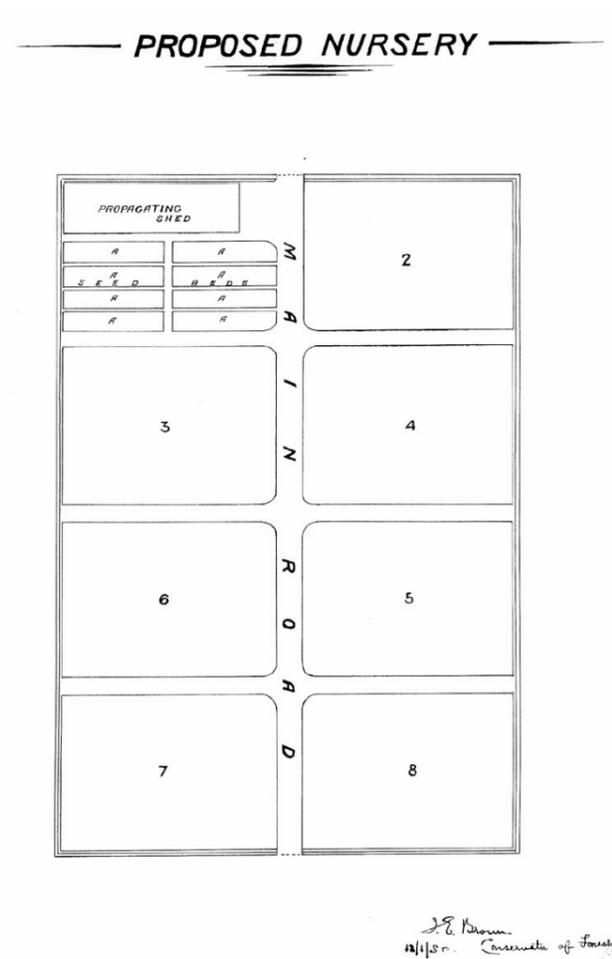


Figure  
Plan of a Proposed Nursery prepared by Brown (1880) in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands*.

Key recommendations in implementing this program of works included:

- ❖ Banks should be levelled to 45° more or less;
- ❖ Avoid uniformity in slope forming;

- ❖ Make the banks “as natural as possible” and take advantage of “hollows, ledges, ridges, knolls, flats, and water-washed crevices and gullies;”
- ❖ Where already sufficiently sloped leave unchanged;
- ❖ “Natural flats, ridges and terraces, have grand natural features for ornamentation” and should be taken advantage of;
- ❖ Consolidated crushed rock levelled footpaths, 2.4-3.0m wide should be constructed adjacent to the River banks and follow the natural windings of the landscape sinuously winding around natural clumps of trees;
- ❖ Tree planting plans should be meticulously prepared having regard for the “desired effect;”
- ❖ The “system of planting suitable ... would be of the most approved ornamental kind;”
- ❖ Regularity of newly planted tree distances should be avoided;
- ❖ Tree distances should have regard to mature foliage canopy and spread;
- ❖ Clump trees of different spreads, often of “six different kinds of trees of which No. 1 will measure 10 feet; No. 2, 12 feet; No. 3, 15 feet; No. 4, 50 feet; No. 5, 40 feet; and, No. 6, 30 feet in diameter” as depicted in the following diagram;
- ❖ The “distances at which the tree should be planted apart must be such as to allow each to attain to its open natural habit and full spread of branches, and thus realise the pictorial view intended;”
- ❖ Do not plant the banks “regularly all over with trees”
- ❖ “We must have single trees standing out prominently alone in places, groups of one kind and of several kinds judiciously intermixed in others and so on,” (Brown 1880, pp. 11-12).

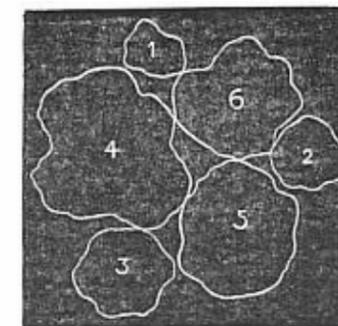


Figure  
Plan 4 prepared by Brown (1880) in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands*.



6

Sketch shewing Avenues and River Banks

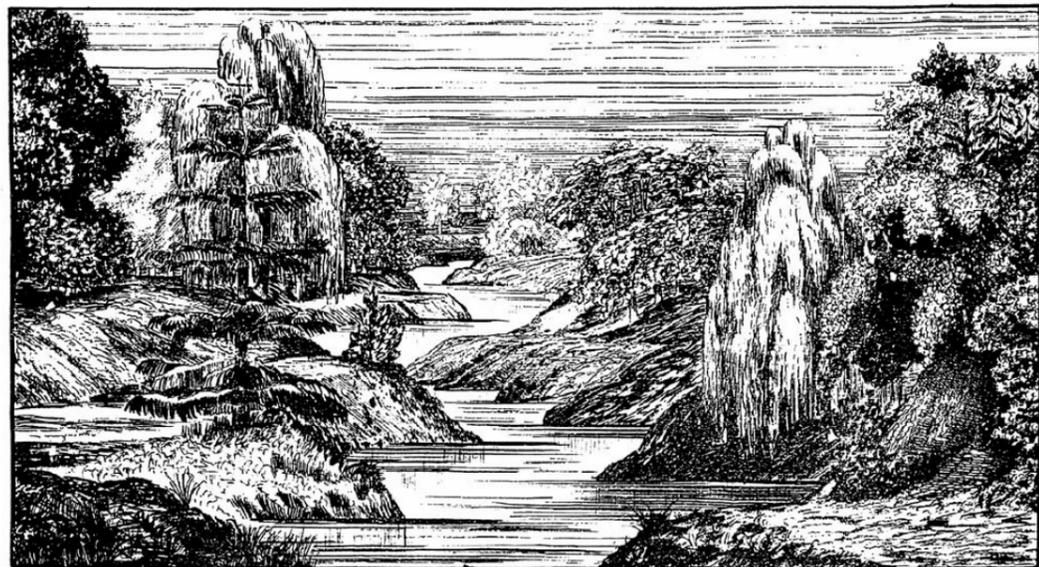
*J. Brown*  
1880 Cal. 7.



13

Sketch shewing River and Park Scenery

*J. Brown*  
1880 Cal. 7.



11

Sketch shewing undulating River Banks

*J. Brown*  
1880 Cal. 7.

Figures

Three lithograph images prepared by Brown and included in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880) that provide visual representations of the landscape he was trying to craft along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri with his detailed planting design recommendations. One image depicts a strong Gardenesque park atmosphere in No. 13, and another a rather rustic somewhat Picturesque slant in planting and river bank re-contouring measures along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri in No 9. No. 11 depicts random decorative planting of exotic evergreen and deciduous trees and a sense of intrigue in the undulating river bank formations. No. 9 provides a view along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri that reinforces its organic and undulating flows and the use of particular exotic deciduous trees (in particular Weeping Willows (*Salix babylonica*)) to create an often Picturesque and rugged scene. Source: City of Adelaide Archives.

Overall these were very specific and deliberate recommendations for Karrawirra/Park 12 and in particular in terms of the landscape experience Brown was trying to craft along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri corridor. The specificity mirrors the detailed planting design principles devised for the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri Linear Park segments in the 1970s (Hassell 1975).

Brown also drew special reference as to the positioning and atmosphere of the proposed carriage drives:

*I have to recommend that a Carriage Drive and Footpath be made to run along the top of the banks on the north side, from which the citizens in their carriages or on foot could view the varied scene presented by hundreds of boats plying upon the water, and the intricacies of foliage, colour, groupings and combinations of the trees planted on the banks. The Carriage Road should be through an Avenue of trees, with the footpath betwixt it and the brink of the banks [sic.] (Brown 1880, p.12).*

But before any works were to be commenced a thorough survey and landscape design master plan had to be prepared. Brown stressed this point repeatedly in his discussion concluding:

*Before any alterations or improvements are made upon the banks of the description stated, the whole ground should be surveyed and delineated on plans showing carefully and clearly the portions of the various*

*surface features, together with their outlines, extents, heights, and other matter which it will be necessary to consider and embrace in designing for the improvement of the part. This done, the ground should then be inspected from various points of view, and, by mentally picturing the different effects likely to be produced when it comes to be planted, a decision may be arrived at as to what alterations are necessary in order to the best features of the site being most prominently defined, and the most striking contrasts permanently secured. To do this it will, I doubt not, be necessary to alter the natural features of the site to a considerable degree in places, by extending or shortening a terrace here, lowering or raising a knoll there, and deepening or filling up a hollow in another place; so that, when the works are completed, the whole ground operated upon will, when viewed from any one direction, present a combination of pleasing effects and contrasts (Brown 1880, p. 11).*

With Brown's appointment as 'Supervisor of the Plantations', upon the invitation of City of Adelaide Mayor [Sir] Edwin Thomas Smith in April 1882, Brown commenced foundational work in implementing parts of the *Report's* (1880) recommendations. The City Gardener (1867-83), William Pengilly (1825-1911) was advised that Brown shall have "general supervision of the tree planting in the Park Lands" and to "render Mr. Brown every facility for this purpose ..." (Town Clerk's Dept Outwards Letter Book, 1882/602/18). A fractious relationship occurred with Brown and Pengilly, and a specific incident over street tree plantings along Barton Terrace West prompted Brown's resignation from this position in August 1882. While the Corporation sought to remedy the situation, continued disobedience and contrary activities by the City Gardener and his workforce eventually prompted Brown's formal resignation on 1 June 1883. In his letter of resignation he wrote "I must for the sake of professional reputation, seek to be relieved of the responsibility." With this decision the Corporation determined to sack the City Gardener, and therein had a series of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1934) in mid 1899.

Notwithstanding Brown's activities, Pengilly also proceeded with planting activities. In his report of 1883 Pengilly records the planting of "various kinds of trees" numbering 100 in the Squares and in "Roberts-place." The nature of the species and the location of plantations Pengilly was establishing in the Park Land blocks is unclear. It would be logical that Pengilly also tackled plantings in "Park 12" at the same time although he does not specifically record this action (*Annual Report* 1882-83, p. 134).

In the subsequent financial year Corporation acquired a substantial amount of fencing materials from England, including wrought iron posts, wrought iron field gates, cast iron corner posts, galvanized iron pillars together with 117,950 yards (107,853m) of 7-ply galvanized wire. The purpose was to totally replace the existing "old and dilapidated post and two rail fence" that enclosed most of the Park Land blocks to the Terraces. The cast iron posts and pillars were marked with "Iron Duke" and "Letterewe" branding. Upon arrival, the Park Lands and Gardens staff commenced the process of re-fencing the Park Lands (*Annual Report* 1883-84, pp. 56-57).

William H Campbell, as Park Lands Ranger, trialled this new fencing on South Terrace and found that he could erect it at a cost of 2¼d. per foot. His conclusions were that the fencing was cost-effective, ornamental, offered opportunities for addition access points, and "in a measure complies with Councillor [William] Bullock's intention to allow of perambulators, &c., having access to our reserves." Campbell thereupon fenced Robert's Place using 14 chains of this new ornamental fencing. Notwithstanding this purchase, staff often proceeded with re-fencing works using old materials (*Annual Report* 1884-85, pp. 102-103).

As part of the celebrations of the colony's Jubilee in 1885, the colonial Government orchestrated the Adelaide International Exhibition. The Jubilee recognised the arrival of the first "vessel for the colonization" on 27 July 1835, and the "proclamation establishing a British Colony in South

Australia" on 28 December 1835. As part of these celebrations the Government enacted the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1883*, but was subsequently voted out of office by a vehement rural voting public, and the *Act* was repealed. Not to be deterred, the Exhibition's proponents succeeded in enacting the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1885, no 351*, to "acquire and dedicate" land on the eastern side of Frome Road, and the lower portion of the present University of Adelaide, comprising some 7.48ha, together with 3.2ha on the "upper level" along North Terrace. The land selection followed the recommendations of a Royal Commission set up in 1883 "to make arrangements for the international exhibition to be held in Adelaide" that considered nine sites three of which were in the park lands (Daly 1987, pp. 55-56; *Annual Report* 1884-85, pp. 9-12).

A permanent Exhibition Building was proposed for the North Terrace site together with a spur railway line from the "North-terrace terminus, under King William-road," to enable the movement of "stock, machinery, &c., to the Exhibition." Included in the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1885*, was the reservation of land along the southern River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri "to form an extension of the Botanic Park drive;" this land was not included in the original *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1883*. All the land designated was allocated to the Exhibition Trust and had to revert to the Government following the exhibition from June 1887 to January 1888. This legislative reservation concerns the identification and reservation of land to enable the construction of the present Victoria Drive, which prior to 1885 did not exist, and its transferral from the colonial Government to the Corporation, and the Corporation surrendering its title to a road "leading from opposite Pulteney-street to Frome-road." Thus in one piece of legislation the Corporation gained Victoria Drive and its frontage to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, and surrendered its title over an undeveloped road that dissected the proposed Exhibition site. The government allocated £32,000 to the construction of the Exhibition Building and associated works. Rail access to the site was however not to occur until 1903 (Daly 1987, pp. 56, 62-63; *Annual Report* 1884-85, pp. 9-12).

Victoria Drive, following gazettal of the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1885*, was laid out and constructed in 1887. As part of the construction works, the Sappers & Miners cottages and the northern gun powder magazine were demolished. The Drive was named in honour of Queen Victoria, and opened on 2 June 1886. In all Corporation references to Victoria Drive in the 1880s, it is clearly intended that the drive be part of a carriage-way drive system through the Park Lands rather than connecting or arterial road, and that a deliberate tree-planting strategy be employed to enhance its character. City Gardener John Woods Hayes was managing these plantings (*Annual Report* 1885-86, p. 52; 1886-87, p. 15).

*... forming a continuation of the beautiful drive through the Botanic Park ... to the Adelaide Bridge. English elms [Ulmus procera] and sugar gums [Eucalyptus cladocalyx] have been planted alternately on each side of the drive, and at both sides of the eastern and western entrances splendid date palm [Phoenix dactylifera] have been placed which add much to the beauty of the scene (Annual Report 1886-87, p. 15).*

The Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) and Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) have since been removed, and the English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) are in a senescent condition today. However, the Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) may be today part of the Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis* and *Phoenix dactylifera*) collection extant at the adjacent Torrens Parade Ground. Park Lands Ranger also erected 37 panels of post and wire fencing along this newly created road in 1886, and a further 40 panels along the south-side of Victoria Drive in 1887. In addition, "diagonal fencing" panels were relocated from Elder Park and repainted before being "erected along the top of the embankments" along Victoria Drive (*Annual Report* 1886-87, p. 112; 1887-88, pp. 81, 82).

Fencing predominated in the Corporation's Parks Lands Ranger's and City Gardener's *Annual Reports* throughout the late 1880s and 1890s. During 1886 Campbell erected 29 panels of post

and wire fencing along the western side of Frome Road along the main portion of Park 12, and 12 panels of wrought iron ornamental fencing along Avenue Road. A further 12 panels of ornamental fencing was erected on both sides of King William Road in 1887 due to damage caused by “vehicular traffic” damaging the original two-wire cable fencing. Eighteen panels of post and wire fence was erected in 1889 along the western side of Frome Road through Park 12, and a further 36 panels opposite the Zoological Gardens in 1889 (*Annual Report 1886-87*, pp. 111, 112; 1887-88, p. 82; 1888-89, p. 135; 1889-90, p. 119).

Progressively, from 1882, the role and function of the ‘Inspector of Boats and Collector of Licence Fees’ changed in the 1880s despite the “healthful amusement and recreation for untold numbers of the public” that the Torrens Lake now provided. On 4 March 1889 the Corporation proposed the transfer of boat inspections and licensing to the Water Police Constable *in lieu* of the ‘Inspector’. As part of this arrangement, the Corporation ceded occupancy of the ‘Inspectors’ Cottage, immediately adjacent to Jolley’s Boathouse, to the Police. This Boathouse was erected in 1888 by George Jolley following the destruction of the original Boathouse by fire. The original Boathouse was located on the banks of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri next to the Victoria Bridge of Morphett Street. On 31 July 1905 the Corporation also revised and consolidated existing by-laws pertaining to the control of uses on Torrens Lake into *By-Law XX* (Jenkin 2005, pp. 46, 47; *Annual Report 1889-90*, p. 58; *Town Clerk’s Docket* 513 of 1889; *Town Clerk’s Outward Letter Book*, 1889, Acc 602, Item 25; ACC *By-Law XX*; Thornton nd, pp. 3-4).

In 1892 the old Corporation-developed quarry in the Parade Ground Reserve was filled in and a formal flat Parade Ground established. A Drill Hall, originally located behind the Museum, was also relocated and re-erected adjacent to the Ground. Works on the Ground included levelling, laying of piping and drains, and the planting of palm (*Phoenix* spp) trees. This shift, formalised in the *South Australian Defences Act, 1895*, enabled the Commonwealth Government to formally take charge of the land, from the Government Domain, in 1901 upon federation. Prior to 1893 the Military Parade Ground was located in the South Australian Museum forecourt on North Terrace (Heritage SA file 14617; Daly 1987, p. 51).



Figure  
Extract of a ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide and Park Lands’ dated 1895 as prepared by the Surveyor General’s Office, delineation land reservations at the time as well as subsequent alienations as indicated in hand annotations. In terms of Karrawirra/Park 12, note the road reservation widths of ‘Roberts Place’ and ‘Avenue Road’, the approximate location of the yet to be constructed Corporation ‘Nursery’ and Victoria ‘Drive’.  
Source: ACC Archives.



Figure  
The 'Military Parade Ground' in c.1890s as featured in a water-coloured postcard looking north-west across the Ground. Note the diagonal axial path in the foreground (since removed) and its continuation across the Ground (still extant). White painted posts holding five wires on the left and right, and young palm (*Phoenix* spp) plantings in the foreground lawns. Source: private collection.

During 1893 (City) Head Gardener Hayes replanted the Pengilly-planted, and Patterson-replanted Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees along King William Road with “an avenue of Date Palms [*Phoenix dactylifera*?] and English elms [*Ulmus procera*].” Clearly the original species had not been successful probably more to the manner of planting than the species itself. But again the trees struggled to develop (*Annual Report* 1893-94, p. 69; 1898-99, p. 150). In desperation at this continued failure to enable tree healthy growth, City Gardener Pelzer acted quickly in late 1899 recording that:

*The trees along King William Road have been dug around. Most of these trees have a poor and hungry appearance, and the soil in which they are growing is of a very bad nature, being mostly pipe-clay, lime-rubble, &c., and next winter, when the trees are dormant, I propose to have trenches dug the full width between the asphalt and the kerbstone, three [0.9m] or more feet away from each tree trunk, according to the size of the trees, and the earth taken out to a depth of at least four feet [1.2m], and replaced by a good loamy soil, mixed with bone dust and well-rotted manure (*Annual Report* 1898-99, p. 150; 1899-1900, p. 294).*

Pelzer also removed 30 palms (*Phoenix* spp) from King William Road in 1901 and relocated them to the Brougham Place gardens, and for future use in the Frome Road Nursery. In the same *Annual Report* he noted that his trenching of the Plane Trees (*Platanus orientalis*) along King William Road and Avenue Road (Sir Edwin Smith Avenue) had brought a healthy improvement to the streetscape, and that gaps in the plantings were replaced with mature specimens that he excavated and transported from sporadic plantings elsewhere in the park lands (*Annual Report* 1901, p. 42).



Figure  
The Adelaide Bowling Club “temporary club house” in c.1900 as depicted in a watercolour postcard. While ‘temporary’ it was clearly a fashionable Federation style timber fretwork design with finials and gables. Image is looking south-south-west along the Kintore Avenue alignment. Source: private collection.

The Corporation also reconstructed a drainage line that traversed the Frome Road exhibition land, with a 0.9m wide underground drain that egressed into the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, at a cost of £138 7s 9d, as a separate drain to the existing stormwater line that drained Frome Road itself (*Annual Report* 1893-94, p. 69; 1894-95, p. 66).

During 1897 the Corporation considered several recommendations from its Engineer-in-Chief concerning flooding along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, the weir and Torrens Lake, and general embankment observations. While there were numerous recommendations and suggestions, several centred upon enabling ease of flow along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri watercourse before its waters reached Lake Torrens. In particular, the “steep banks near Frome Bridge should be sloped down, and the projecting angles should be rounded off.” This recommendation mirrors Brown’s *Report* (1880) planting design strategy recommendations for the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri in this precinct (*Annual Report* 1897-98, p. 72).

In the same year, the Adelaide Bowling Club was founded with much assistance from the Superintendent of the Public Works Owen Smyth. While Joseph Bower imported the sport into South Australia, it was Smyth who arranged the allocation of 0.41ha of land on the Government Reserve, in a rectangular shape, on what today forms the northern portion of Kintore Avenue road reserve. The Club occupied this site until 1958 (Daly 1987, pp. 59, 150). This was the first sporting club to specifically obtain use of the Government Reserve in the Park Lands matched also by the first 24 hour liquor licence in the state being granted to the Club. Smyth created a five year lease with an annual rental of £10, and that was revised in 1902 with a 21 year lease with a special water concession:

*Our present lease of five years will expire on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1903 so that in accordance with the concession granted to you, we are to enjoy the use of water free of charge for a period of six years from that date, nominally till the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1909* (Letter, Honorary Secretary, Adelaide Bowling Club to Commissioners of Public Works, 24 July 1902, docket CPW 729/02; cited in Daly 1987, p. 59).

By December 1898 the bowling green had been developed and a ‘temporary’ Club House had been erected (Heritage SA file 101194). From the 1940s onwards the state Government and the Corporation variously pressed for the extension of Kintore Avenue and the removal of the Adelaide Bowling Club on traffic movement grounds. But discussions were complicated between the Corporation and the state Government as many Club members were involved in these two organisations.

With Pelzer’s appointment as City Gardener to the Corporation in mid 1899 a rigorous planting program of the Park Lands was undertaken and it appears that Pelzer somewhat faithfully referred to and used Brown’s *Report* (1880) as the guiding master plan for his planting activities. A key recommendation was the development of the ‘Frome Road Nursery’ in Karrawirra/Park 12, an action that Pelzer immediately sought to implement in 1899-1900. Pelzer took considerable interest in the development of this nursery as can be evidenced by his *Annual Reports* of its activities (*Annual Report* 1899-1900, pp. 295-296; 1902, p. 31; 1903, p. 44).

1899 was also important in the first mustering of volunteers and troops on the newly formed Parade Ground as a departure point for the Boer War. The first contingent of 125 South Australian soldiers assembled and left in October 1899 from the Ground farewelled by large crowds. The Drill and Gun Sheds, then located behind the Museum, were thereupon dismantled and reassembled on the Ground by November 1899 (Heritage SA file 101194).

There are regular references in Pelzer’s *Annual Reports* to the Corporation about minor earthworks and tree planting activities on the slopes near Albert Bridge from 1899 onwards. These references appear to relate to land downstream of Albert Bridge within Karrawirra/Park 12 and not upstream in Tainmundilla/Park 11 as the works coincide with the construction and development of War Memorial Drive. There are no distinct references to planting upstream of Albert Bridge until discussions commence in 1919 about the construction of War Memorial Drive through Warnpangga/Park 10.

On 29 March 1900 Pelzer tabled before the Corporation an ambitious plan to establish the Corporation’s second plant nursery to support his planting strategy. The first nursery was established in 1899 adjacent to the Adelaide Gaol in Tulya Wodli/Park 27 for “the purpose of ... fencing, shade houses and obtaining young trees” (*Digest of Proceedings* 1898-99, p. 202). For the second nursery, Pelzer proposed a site in Karrawirra/Park 12 between University Oval and the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri to enable the “cultivation of trees.” It appears that Pelzer desired a nursery specifically designed to enable the propagation and nurturing of street tree specimens whereas the Tulya Wodli/Park 27 nursery was to be used for normal flower and shrub cultivation for Corporation displays, although numerous tree specimens continued to be propagated at this nursery. The Corporation adopted this recommendation on 9 April 1900, and the nursery in Tulya Wodli/Park 27 began to be colloquially known as the ‘West Park Nursery’ and the new nursery in Karrawirra/Park 12 as the ‘Frome Road Nursery’ (*Town Clerk’s Dockets* 157 of 1900 and 1164 of 1900; *Digest of Proceedings* 1899-1900, p. 188; *Annual Report* 1899-1900, p. 106).



Figure

‘The Parade Ground, Adelaide’, in c.1903. Photograph of the Torrens Parade Ground looking to the north-east depicting, in the foreground, the escarpment with its newly planted palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) trees, the single line railway line running from the Railway Station to the Exhibition Grounds, hedging surrounding the Parade Ground, the crushed rock surface of the Ground, the relocated Drill Hall and another structure that served as the barracks. Behind the barracks are the timber spires of the bowling club pavilion. Source: ACC Archives HP1534



Figure

Return of the first contingent of South Australian soldiers from the 1899-1902 Boer War parading on the Military Parade Ground in c.1900, looking south-east across the Ground to the dome on the Exhibition Building. Note the young planted palms (*Phoenix* spp) and fencing in the foreground, and the hedge along the northern flank of the Ground. Also, the established English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) along Victoria Drive. Source: ACC Archives: MLSA B45675.



Figure  
A photograph looking south-east across the Military Parade Ground in 1893, possibly taken at the opening of the Ground depicting its first Military Parade. Note the young palm (*Phoenix* spp) trees and white painted post and double rail fencing in the foreground, and the diagonal pathway leading up the escarpment in the background. Source: ACC Archives; MLSA B5384.

By November 1900 Pelzer reported on the development of the ‘Frome Road Nursery’, or ‘planting-out ground’ that:

... had been laid out in the North Park Lands below the Albert Bridge, near the River Torrens, covering an area of two acres [0.8ha].

The fence consists of jarrah [*Eucalyptus marginata*] posts and twelve barb wires, and ... a hedge of African box thorn [*Lycium ferocissimum*] planted along the fence.

The Nursery has been laid out in beds 100 feet [30m] long and 33 feet [10m] wide, with paths 6 feet [1.8m] wide between the beds, and a roadway 12 feet [3.6m] wide.

So far four of the large beds have been trenched to a depth of 2 feet [0.6m], and twenty loads of manure have been worked into each of them. The beds have been laid out with mounds and ridges, and the trees planted on the mounds 4 feet [1.2m] apart each way and alternate in the rows.

By planting the trees on mounds their work of lifting them, when ready for removal, will be greatly facilitated, and the ridge will serve as channels for the purpose of watering the trees in the summer (Annual Report 1899-1900, pp. 295-296).

Pelzer also advised that the Forest Department, then administered by Conservator Walter Gill, had provided some 750 trees of several varieties that were growing now successfully in the Nursery. The donation included 250 Plane (*Platanus orientalis*), 200 Elm trees (*Ulmus* spp), “50 White Acacias (Robinia) [*Robinia pseudoacacia*], 200 White Cedars (Melia) [*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*],” 25 Spreading Poplars (*Populus alba*), 25 Upright Poplars (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’). The nursery perimeter fencing was also completed (Annual Report 1899-1900, pp. 295, 296).

With the turn of the century Pelzer focused part of his attention on the creation of formal parks in the pocket triangles created in Light’s Plan. From 1899 Roberts Place Reserve, comprising

approximately 0.2ha, received Pelzer’s attention. Pelzer planted several Cotton Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) in the reserve following a donation of 100 palms (*Washingtonia* spp) from politician George Brookman, obtained from Henry Sewell’s Payneham Nursery, together with Elder Park (in Tandanya Womma/Park 26), Palmer and Brougham Place Gardens, and various Squares (Annual Report 1899-1900, p. 293; 1910, p. 23). Pelzer reported the design, development and planting of Roberts Place in late 1901:

Roberts Place Reserve has been laid out according to the plan, which you approved. The dying and stunted gum trees have been grubbed and removed with the exception of six, which were topped and ringed, and climbers such as ivy [*Hedera helix*], tecoma [*Tecoma* spp], and ampelopsis [*Ampelopsis* spp], have been planted to cover them. The ground has been ploughed, barrowed, and levelled, and a mixture of couch and perennial rye grass seeds have been sown and has come up freely. The banks of the storm-water catchment, running through this reserve, have been sloped off preparatory to being planted around the large Moreton Bay fig [*Ficus macrophylla*] tree which is growing therein, and paths from the three entrances have been made. One of the paths crosses the storm-water catchment, and a substantial foot-bridge has been put across it. Six palms have been planted on the lawns, and three elm [*Ulmus procera*] trees along the western fence. Next planting season I purpose planting plane trees along the other boundary fences [sic] (Annual Report 1901, p. 41).

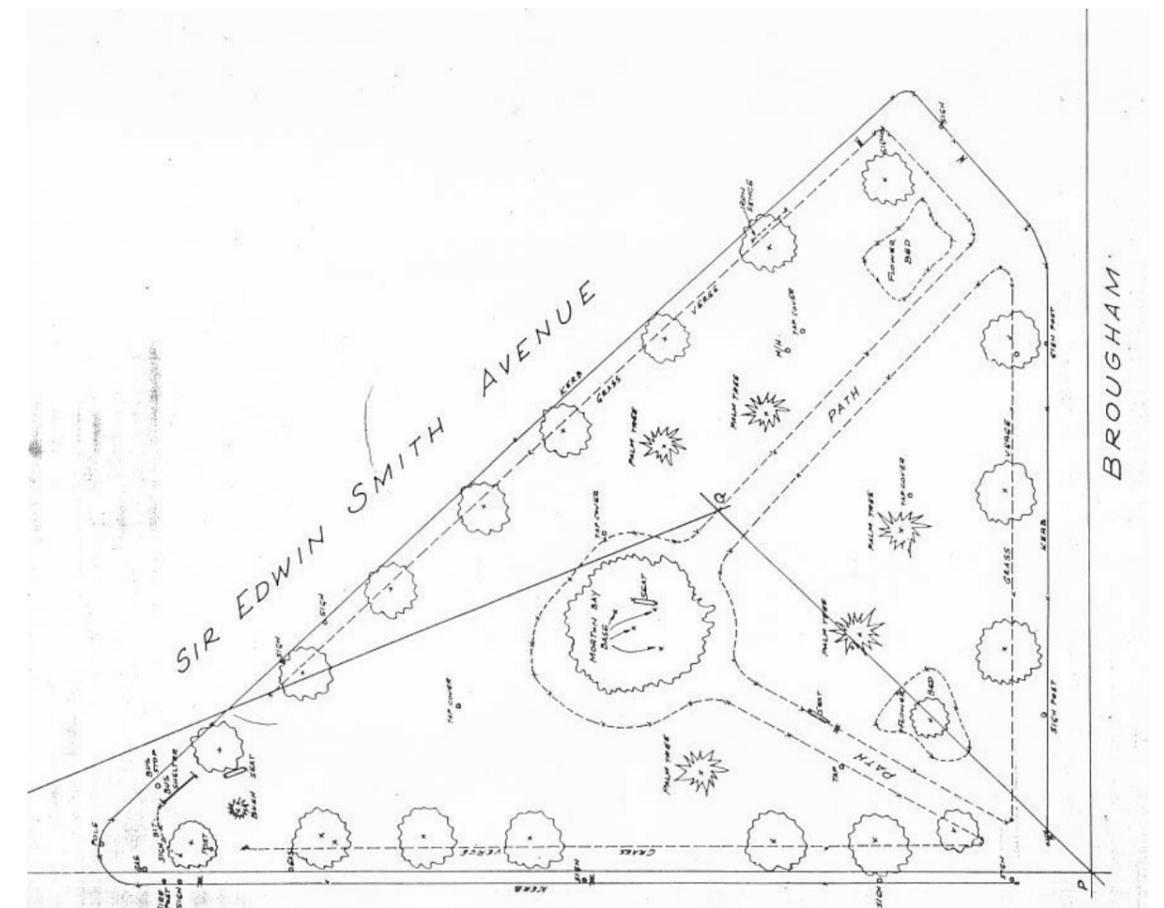


Figure  
Detailed plan of Roberts Place Reserve, as surveyed in 1920, depicting the central Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) and the pathway system extant at that time, together with the five extant palm (*Phoenix* spp) trees, two flower beds and seating. Source: ACC Underground Ducts & Lighting plan, Z79/20.

By 1901 the Frome Road Nursery was in full operation. Pelzer reported that all trees were doing well, and that six additional beds of 30m x 10m were being established. The latter were to accommodate seedlings and specimens obtained from the Mount Macedon Forests Department Nursery in Victoria and the South Australian Woods & Forests Department including:

550 plane trees [*Platanus orientalis*]  
 475 elm trees [*Ulmus* ssp]  
 350 white cedars [*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*]  
 40 white acacias [*Robinia pseudoacacia*]  
 50 poplars [*Populus* ssp]

and the former nursery beds were to accommodate seeds and cuttings of:

48 sugar gums [*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*]  
 36 lagunarias [*Lagunaria patersonii*]  
 65 ash trees [*Fraxinus* ssp]  
 16 pepper trees [*Schinus aerea* var *molle*]  
 50 prunus [*Prunus* ssp]  
 15 ailanthus [*Ailanthus altissima*]  
 70 aberias [*Aberia* ssp]  
 20 rhamnus [*Rhamnus* spp]  
 15 pampas grasses [*Cortaderia selloana*]  
 8 laburnums [*Laburnum* ssp]  
 12 oleanders [*Nerium oleander*]  
 15 veronicas [*Hebe* ssp]  
 15 tecomas [*Tecoma* ssp]  
 70 coprosmas [*Coprosma repens*] (*Annual Report* 1901, p. 43).

These lists provide a very important insight into what tree and flowering shrub species that Pelzer sought immediately to propagate ready for transportation into the municipality's streets and parks. He appears to have prioritised mass street trees in planes (*Platanus orientalis*) and elms (*Ulmus* ssp), a pattern and preference which had changed by the late 1900s. This tree raising pattern was evident in later years (*Annual Report* 1901, p. 43; 1902, p. 31; 1903, pp. 25, 45; 1904, p. 39; 1905, p. 65).

With this mass production of street trees at hand, Pelzer started extensive street tree planting. Further Plane Trees (*Platanus orientalis*) were added in Avenue Road in 1901, together with "various trees such as poplars (*Populus* ssp), willows (*Salix* ssp), elms (*Ulmus* ssp), &c., along the banks of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri." The Corporation allocated an additional £50 towards street tree planting in Avenue Road in its 1902 budget and these trees included 9 English Elms (*Ulmus procera*), 3 planes (*Platanus orientalis*), 2 Silver Poplars (*Populus alba*), 3 Pepper Trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*), and 1 Tecoma (*Tecoma* ssp) shrub. In Roberts Place, 8 Planes (*Platanus orientalis*), 3 Elms (*Ulmus procera*) were planted together with 1 Oleander (*Nerium oleander*), 1 Tecoma (*Tecoma* ssp), 1 Aberia (*Dovyalis caffra*), and 2 palms (*Phoenix* ssp). He projected that two rows of trees would be planted along Avenue Road in 1903. Along the "banks of the River Torrens" were 3 "white acacias" (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), 11 upright poplars (*Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis'), 7 Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), 20 spreading poplars (*Populus alba*), and "30 bushes of pampas grass [*Cortaderia selloana*]." It is difficult to ascertain where Pelzer was specifying as "banks of the River Torrens" in his reports as he was in the process of landscaping all River banks from the Frome Road bridge to the Morphett Street bridge having been allocated additional land from the state Government in front of the present Convention Centre, so the latter needs to be placed in context rather than being interpreted as spatially

accurate (*Annual Report* 1901, p. 43; 1902, pp. 20, 30, 31; 1903, p. 27). Notwithstanding this, Pelzer reported on River embankment works downstream of the Frome Road bridge in 1902:

*The steep banks ... are being gradually sloped off and planted with various trees, shrubs, &c., such as upright poplars [*Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis'], willows [*Salix* ssp], tamarisks [*Tamarix aphylla*], white acacias [*Robinia pseudoacacia*], silver poplars [*Populus alba*], pampas grass [*Cortaderia selloana*], &c. (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 31).*

By 1903 the tree stock in the Frome Road Nursery included:

150 Elms [*Ulmus* ssp]  
 413 Planes [*Platanus orientalis*]  
 50 Ash Trees [*Fraxinus* ssp]  
 50 White Cedars [*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*]  
 142 White Poplars [*Populus alba*]  
 175 Silver Poplars [*Populus canescens*?]  
 40 Balsam Poplars [*Populus tacamahaca*]  
 107 White Acacias [*Robinia pseudoacacia*]  
 26 Tamarisks [*Tamarix aphylla*]  
 20 Palms [*Phoenix* ssp / *Washingtonia* ssp]  
 34 Coprosmas [*Coprosma repens*]  
 150 Roses [*Rosa* ssp]  
 99 Pines [*Pinus* ssp]  
 34 Various Shrubs (*Annual Report* 1903, p. 25).

Various members of the public were also donating various trees and shrubs, and most of the new Poplars (*Populus* ssp) were sourced annually from the Woods & Forests nurseries. A further 92 trees were planted along the "banks of the River Torrens" in 1903, and Pelzer reported the completion of bank sloping works downstream of the Frome Road Bridge. Two further trees and 30 shrubs were planted in Roberts Place, 11 Plane Trees (*Platanus* spp) along Frome Road, 4 ash (*Fraxinus* ssp) and 5 white cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) along Pennington Terrace, 25 Plane Trees (*Platanus* spp) along King William Road, and 48 White Cedars (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees along Avenue Road in the same year. Tree root trenching also occurred around select street trees in King William Road and Frome Road. Town Clerk Ellery profiled the King William Road – its "shapely rows" – and Frome Road – "the finest of any public thoroughfare in Australia" – tree-lined avenues in two lantern slide lectures in August and September 1904 (*Annual Report* 1903, pp. 25, 44, 45; 1904, pp. 9-10, 39).

Fencing works also continued to occupy Pelzer's and Campbell's staff in the early 1900s. In 1902-03 "perambulator" gates were added to the fencing around Roberts Place and around Karrawirra/Park 12 generally. A fence was also erected around the Corporation's Sweepings Depot in the north-east corner of Karrawirra/Park 12; this was the corner of Frome Road and former MacKinnon Parade (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 31; 1903, p. 46). In 1904 the Corporation commissioned fencing contractors to erect the "Anchor" style of sawn jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) post and wire fencing. The style consisted of six-wire fencing with jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) posts 3.6m apart. George Wills & Co was the appointed contractor. In 1904 Campbell also erected 16 chains of "cable wire fencing with iron posts" along the west side of Frome Road north of Frome Road Bridge in Karrawirra/Park 12, and in the following year Pelzer installed two new "perambulator gates and bars" in the Roberts Place fencing (*Annual Report* 1904, pp. 39, 74; 1905, pp. 41, 55).



Figure

Extract of a photograph featuring the Torrens Parade Ground and Government House Domain, dated 1903, and looking south-south-east. Note the young Plane trees (*Platanus ssp*) established along King William Road east side; the second Adelaide Bridge and its dimensions against the Road itself; the line of young palms (*Phoenix ssp*) adjacent to King William Road in the Military Parade Ground land and the absence of palms (*Phoenix ssp*) on the southern embankment; interestingly the sheep grazing on the southern embankment; lines of young Plane trees (*Platanus ssp*) inside the centre of the Parade Ground expanse thus indicating it was smaller in dimensions than today's bitumen covered version; and extant walling along the northern and western flanks of the Government House. Source: Campbell 1998, pp.18-19.



Figure

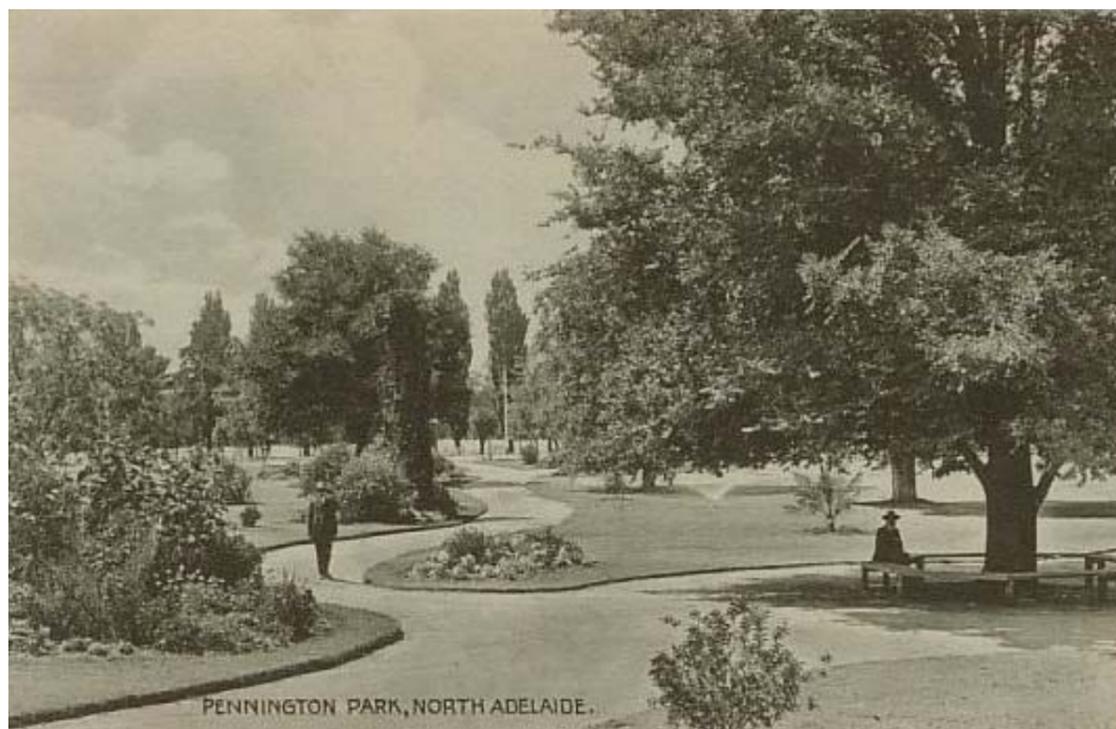
A period water coloured postcard depicting 'Pennington [Gardens East] Park' as designed and developed by Pelzer in c.1910. Note the picturesque circuitous pathway system; an obviously mature English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) that Pelzer incorporated into the design; the circular timber seat around the English Elm (*Ulmus procera*); extensive flower beds. The view is looking approximately westwards. Source: private collection.

There appears also to have been minor engineering works along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankment slopes near Albert Bridge (Frome Road Bridge) requiring the planting of trees (*Annual Report 1899-1900*, pp. 295-296; 1902, p. 31; 1903, p. 44). Pelzer reported that:

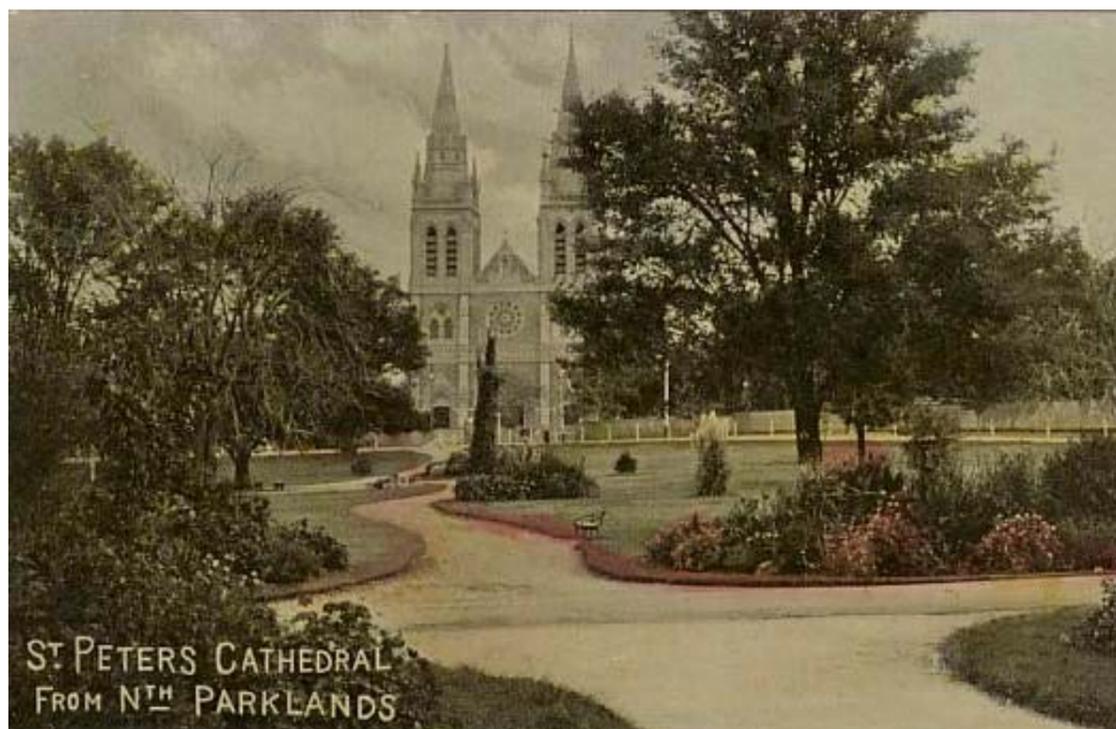
*The steep banks near the Albert Bridge are being gradually sloped off and planted with various trees, shrubs, &c., such as upright poplars [*Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis'], willows [*Salix ssp*], tamarisks [*Tamarix aphylla*], white acacias [*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*], silver poplars [*Populus alba*], pampas grass [*Cortaderia seloana*], &c. (*Annual Report 1902*, p. 31).*

In 1903 a review of all Corporation depots and rubbish tips in the Park Lands noted that there were no rubbish tips located in Karrawirra/Park 12 except within the confines of the Frome Road Nursery, a 'sweepings' depot in the north-east corner of Karrawirra/Park 12, and a dump for "street sweepings" and "street scrapings" on the northern corner of Frome Road and Victoria Drive. All were deemed important and thereby recommended for "permanent reservation" under the City Gardener and latter two under the City Surveyor respectively. Accompanying these policy determinations was a recommendation that Pelzer establish dense hedges to surround these compounds (*Annual Report 1903*, pp. 28-29).

### 3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND SQUARES



Figures  
Two period water coloured postcards depicting 'Pennington Park' or Pennington Gardens East as designed and developed by Pelzer in c.1910. Note the picturesque circuitous pathway system; an obviously mature English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) that Pelzer incorporated into the design; the circular timber seat around the English Elm (*Ulmus procera*); extensive flower beds. The upper view is looking approximately westwards, and the lower view is looking north-westwards along the axis of the yet to be developed Memorial Garden or Garden of Remembrance. Source: private collection.



In the same year, 1903, the South Australian Railways gained and constructed a railway line from the railway station to the Jubilee Exhibition grounds then occupied by the Royal Adelaide Agricultural & Horticultural Society. This was a spur line located between the Parade Ground and the northern Government House wall and included a bridge under King William Road. The line was regular used especially during shows to transport produce and stock. As part of the construction a 'Produce Depot' was also reserved dedicating an area specifically for railways purposes. The 'Depot' was thereupon leased to the South Australian Fruit & Vegetable Company for 21 years. The Company however went into liquidation in 1905 and the land was then leased to the Society for 21 years. The Society also re-leased its show grounds from the state government in 1908 for 50 years, which included land to the east of Frome Road within the same agreement (*Government Gazette* 15 January 1903; Daly 1987, pp. 62-63).

The Torrens Rowing Club was formed in 1903 to take advantage of the Lake Torrens waters, eventually erecting a boat house next to Jolley's Boathouse. In the following year, entrepreneur Frank Jolley introduced the first motorboat to cruise on Lake Torrens; a 9m long Stern Wheeler capable of holding 30 passengers (Jenkin 2005, pp. 46, 47).

In 1903-10 Pelzer commenced the creation of several gardens in the Park Lands. In 1904 his attention turned to 'Pennington Park' or Pennington Gardens East, that he proposed to be "grassed and planted with shrubs and flowers similar to the gardens in Brougham and Palmer Places" and shifted fencing to accommodate these works. He also expressed a wish for additional funds to commence Pennington Gardens West in the following budget (*Annual Report* 1904, pp. 39, 66; 1905, p. 41). He reported:

*The Reserve east of King William Road south has been ploughed and harrowed, and will be laid out and planted as a garden, according to the plan which I have submitted to you; the steep bank on the western side of the Reserve has been filled in, and a gradual slope towards the lower level has been formed; the work of levelling and planting Couch grass lawns will be taken in hand next month (*Annual Report* 1904, p. 63).*

Down on the Lake, the condition of the old 'Inspector of Boats and Licenses' wooden Cottage was now reported to be in a deteriorating condition. This was a cottage erected immediately adjacent to Jolley's Boathouse to accommodate the Inspector, and thereupon the Water Police Constable. The Corporation's own Sanitary Inspector deemed it to be in an unsanitary condition and directed its demolition in 1904. The structure was demolished and the Constable shifted his functions to the North Adelaide Police Station which was an unsuitable location to monitor the Lake (*Town Clerk's Dockets* 2307 of 1904; 527 of 1909; Thornton nd, p. 4). Constable J Robb's duties, in confirming his appointment to the Corporation, included control over the water from the Torrens Weir to Hackney Bridge and

*... to attend to all reports made of anything occurring in that locality ... also to search the Lake for bodies of persons who are missing ... [and] to prevent acts of indecency and bad language and accidental drowning (*Town Clerk's Docket* 4024 of 1904).*

Work on creating Pennington Gardens East was completed by 1905:

*This reserve has an area of about three acres [1.2ha]. From the various entrances, path. 10 feet [3.0m] wide have been made, dividing the reserve into five large lawns of various shapes, Plots of various designs have been laid out in the lawns and planted with Shrubs, Cannas [*Canna* ss], herbaceous, and other flowering plants [sic]*

*Ornamental trees and palms, etc., have been planted here and there about the lawns and a flower-bed 40 feet [12.2m] in diameter has been laid out in the centre lawn [sic].*