

1901 was the year of Australia's federation and the opening of Parliament. To perform this function, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall & York travelled through Adelaide in July 1901 *en route* to Melbourne to open parliament in the Exhibition Buildings. During the visit to Adelaide the royal couple stayed at Government House, and ventured across to Adelaide Oval on 5 July 1901 to plant two Small-leaved Moreton Bag Figs (*Ficus platypoda*) on the northern mounds of the Oval, as reported by *The Register*:

ROYALTY HAS AN ARBOR DAY.

Towards the close of the demonstration the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall were asked by His Excellency, the Governor, on behalf of the Cricket Association, to plant trees in honour of their visit, and their Royal Highnesses readily acceded to the request. A spot was selected on the north-western mound overlooking the asphalt tennis courts, and the guard of honour, under Capt. Bourne, moved across to protect the site from the immense crowd. Attended by the whole royal and viceregal suites present the hill to the strains of the national anthem. Lord Tennyson, in handing the spade to the Duke, said that it had been specially made for the purpose, and was the gift of the president of the association, Sir Edwin Smith. Mr. W. Gill, Conservator of Forests, superintended the planting, and in the prepared hole he held a strong young specimen of the Ficus australis [Ficus platypoda], a fig tree native of New South Wales, while His Royal Highness heaped the soil around the roots. A stake having been sunk the Duke tied the plant firmly with a red ribbon. At an appropriate distance a second fig tree was securely fixed by the Duchess, with first the spade and then red ribbon. Her Royal Highness had previously planted a palm at the Botanic Gardens. Tree guards were at once put over the newest additions to oval ornamentation, and three hearty cheers, led by Sir Edwin Smith, were given. The trees will grow. His Royal Highness said so. From the mound the royal party passed down to the north of the tennis courts and entered their carriages, enthusiastic applause accompanying them on their drive homeward. The blade of the implement used was silverplated, and the handle, decorated with red, white, and blue ribbon, of polished walnut [Juglans nigra] [sic.] (Anon 1901, p. 32)

In 1901 the Corporation gained an additional small portion of land to the south-west of the Rotunda Reserve from the state Government. Pelzer was again busy re-contouring this land and filling the depressions in before establishing lawns and planting “a variety of ornamental shrubs and trees.” Between the Rotunda Reserve and the Baths was the “Railway Cutting”; an incision that enabled railway access from the Railway Station to the Jubilee Exhibition Oval and the showgrounds. Pelzer re-contoured both sides of these banks, setting out couch grass, shifting barb wire and picket and wire-netting fencing around, shifting the “horse lawn-mower shed” to better locations (*Annual Report 1902*, pp. 29, 31). These “ornamental shrubs and trees” included:

*Trees—3 planes [Platanus ssp], 1 English elm [Ulmus procera], 3 upright poplars [Populus alba 'Pyramidalis'], 3 sterculias [Brachychiton populneus], 3 white acacias [Robinia pseudoacacia], 6 sugar gums [Eucalyptus cladocalyx], 4 cupressus [Cupressus ssp], 1 cytisus [Cytisus ssp], 2 pittosporums [Pittosporum ssp], 2 pepper trees [Schinus aerea var molle], 4 white cedars [Melia azedarach var australasica]. Shrubs—7 caprosmas [Coprosma repens], 7 oleanders [Nerium oleander], 4 rhamnus [Rhamnus ssp], 1 amorpha [Amorpha ssp], 1 pampas grass [Cortaderia selloana], 4 aberias [Doryalis caffra]; and hedge of aberia [Doryalis caffra] [sic.] (*Annual Report 1902*, p. 30).*

Two years later the Corporation obtained an additional strip of land along the southern flanks of Lake Torrens. This time it was “a strip of land at the rear of the Old Survey stables, about 40 feet [12.2m] wide,” which was proposed for planting and lawns by the Corporation. Notwithstanding this desire Pelzer reported that the area was left undeveloped and fenced off (*Annual Report 1903*, p. 27; 1906, p. 42; 1907, pp. 54, 56; 1909, p. 48).



Figures

Two period postcards of the Lake Torrens edges and activities.

Above: a 1905 scene taken from the Pinky Flat area today looking south-east towards the Corporation's original cattle yards and the cattle yard buildings, a low 'Victoria Bridge' deceptively hidden in the image, with a family of swans in the foreground.

Below: a scene taken during a collegiate rowing day, hand dated “23 November 1905”, depicting an assembly of college rowing boats but with the former Adelaide Rowing Clubhouse, and a mess of railway sheds in the background leading up towards the Railway Station building. Note also in both Lake Torrens postcards, the trees along the edge of the southern flank of the Lake including Weeping Willows (*Salix babylonica*), pines (*Pinus* ssp), and Italian Poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*). Source: private collection.



Fencing works also continued to occupy Pelzer's and Campbell's staff. During 1900-01 post and rail fencing on Montefiore Hill was again replaced with the interior fence being removed totally this time. New fencing was also erected in the "Oval paddock" of 30 post and 4 wire panels and 69 panels of fencing with barbed wire was proposed for the western boundary of the Rotunda Reserve and at the "Railway Cutting" together with 39 panels of white painted picket and barbed wire near the Rotunda. Why barbed wire is being used in this instance is not stated by Pelzer. The "catching yard" opposite St Peter's Cathedral was shifted in 1902 to a site on "Montefiore Hill Road," new post and rail fencing erected along the length of the northern embankment of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, and tree guards replaced in Oval Road. 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 posts 3.6m apart. George Wills & Co was the appointed contractor and fencing both sides of Montefiore Road was included in his first contract (*Annual Report 1899-1900*, p. 296; 1901, p. 44; 1902, p. 31; 1904, p. 74; 1905, pp. 41, 55). (*Annual Report 1903*, p. 46)

The matter of a suitable statue honouring Colonel Light arose in Corporation debates in 1902 but with the lack of available funds the matter was deferred. But in 1903 the Corporation re-confirmed its commitment to the project as also the past guarantee of £1,000 from the state Government. In the following year the Corporation again re-affirmed its commitment to the project but this time proposed that the statue be positioned in King William Road at the intersection of Flinders and Franklin Street, and not on top of Light's grave in Light Square as originally envisaged. The newly constituted Committee, including Superintendent of Public Buildings CE Owen Smyth, Sir Edwin Thomas Smith, Under Secretary LH Sholl, RK Thomas, and the Master of the School of Design, HP Gill, wasted no time with the task calling for designs for both the statue and a new grave memorial and received nine for the statue and 13 for the memorial. The commission for a bronze statue, 2.7m high, was awarded to Scottish sculptor W Birnie Rhind of Edinburgh for a tender of £1,000, and architects Messrs Garlick Silbley & Wooldridge were responsible for the pedestal at a cost of £510. The Committee expected the statue to be unveiled in early 1906 with an inscription on the pedestal reading "Colonel William Light first surveyor general, fixed the site and laid out the city of Adelaide in 1836. Erected by citizens 1906" [sic.]. The statue was unveiled by the state Governor Le Hunte on 27 November 1906 (*Annual Report 1902*, p. 13; 1903, p. 11; 1904, p. 13; 1905, p. 7; 1907, p. 15; Cameron 1997, pp. 47-53).

In 1903 a review of all Corporation depots and rubbish tips in the Park Lands noted that there was no rubbish tips located in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 (*Annual Report 1903*, pp. 28-29).

Various members of the public were donating trees and shrubs to the Corporation in the early 1900s, and most of the new Poplars (*Populus* spp) were being sourced annually from the Woods & Forests nurseries. A further 92 trees were planted along the "banks of the River Torrens" in 1903. In addition, 5 white cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*) and 4 ash (*Fraxinus* spp) street trees were planted along Pennington Terrace, 25 Plane Trees (*Platanus orientalis*) along King William Road in the same year. Tree root trenching also occurred around select street trees in King William Road and Frome Road. Town Clerk Torrington 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. There was also the planting of "133 various poplars [*Populus* spp], 3 lagunarias [*Lagunaria patersonii*], 17 pines [*Pinus* spp], 1 elm [*Ulmus procera*], 5 tamarisks [*Tamarix aphylla*], 4 white cedars [*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*] and 2 willows [*Salix* spp] along the "river banks" and "1 tamarisk" (*Tamarix aphylla*) and 5 shrubs at the Rotunda Reserve together with 5 Planes (*Platanus* spp) and 1 elm (*Ulmus procera*) in King William Road (*Annual Report 1903*, pp. 25, 44, 45; 1904, pp. 9-10, 39, 63-64, 65).



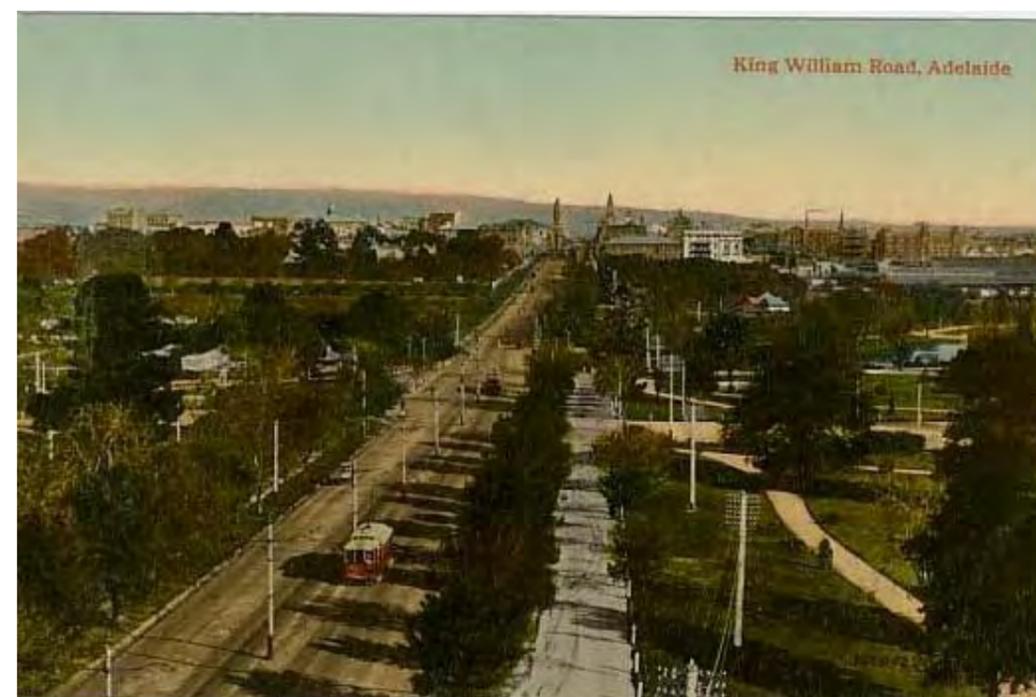
Figure

Two period water-coloured postcards from c.1900-1910 depicting scenes around Pennington Gardens West. It is very clear from these images that Pelzer, in creating Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens, kept several of the original plantation trees on site as well as shifting semi-mature specimens in the both Gardens to give an established atmosphere and character.

Above: a water-coloured postcard of Pennington Gardens West providing much detail of its internal pathway design, tree and shrub plantings, rusticated timber structures at the junctions of pathways, the old power line, and the extensive mature trees in the Gardens.

Below: a scene looking southwards down King William Road depicting the newly established Gardenesque style Pennington Gardens West to the right with its sweeping gravel pathways, the tramway and tramway poles, a wide straight carriage drive or promenade in the centre, and the old power line in the right centre.

Source: private collection.



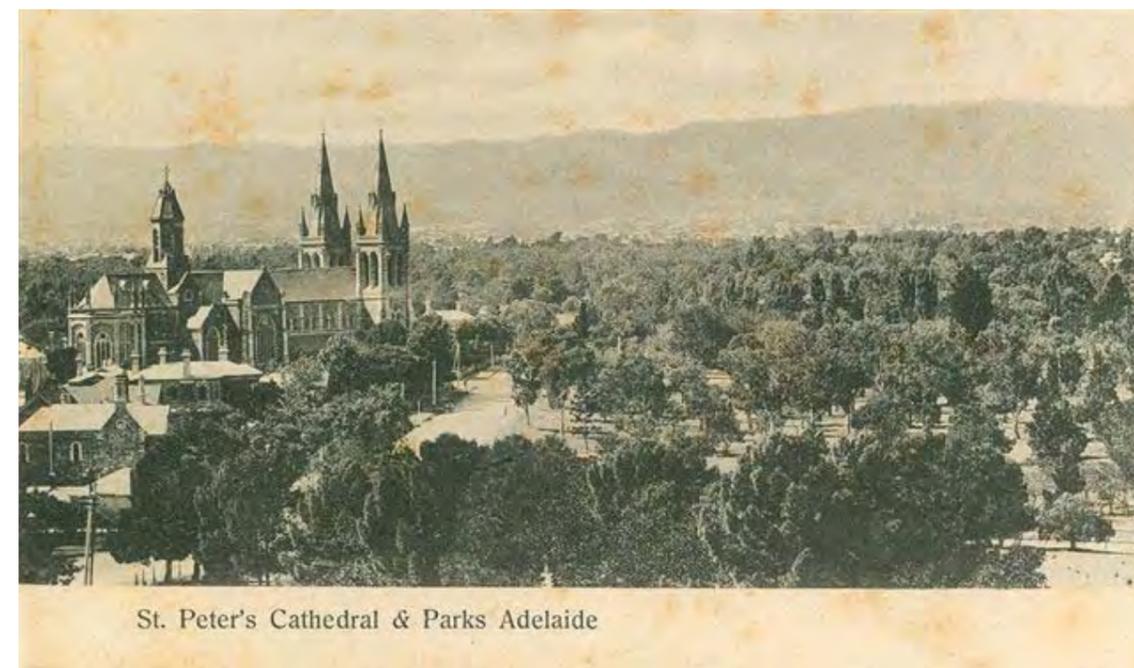
In 1903-10 Pelzer commenced the creation and renovation of several gardens in the Park Lands. In 1904 his attention turned to Pennington Gardens East, that he proposed to be “grassed and planted with shrubs and flowers similar to the gardens in Brougham and Palmer Places” and shifted fencing to accommodate these works. These works included ploughing and harrowing, removal of the “steep bank on the western side ... planting Couch grass ... according to the plan which I have submitted to you.” He also expressed a wish for additional funds to commence Pennington Gardens West in the following budget. Surprising Pelzer reports little on the garden establishment works in Pennington Gardens West compared to the works in East. Establishing the West Gardens was on his list of tasks in 1906 (*Annual Report* 1904, pp. 39, 63, 66; 1905, p. 41; 1906, pp. 12, 43, 63).

The Rotunda Reserve remained a popular venue for gatherings and band concerts in the 1900s and 1910s. Pelzer had to replace the lawn around the Rotunda in 1905, “which had been very much worn by people congregating there during concerts.” In 1907 the Corporation resolved to name the ‘Rotunda Reserve’ ‘Elder Park’ (*Annual Report* 1905, p. 53; 1907, p. 53; 1910, p. 22).

Street and garden planting activities also continued. Some 150 trees were planted along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri banks, 6 Pepper (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*) trees, 5 planes (*Platanus* ssp) and 1 Elm (*Ulmus procera*) along King William Road in 1904, together with a thorough pruning of the King William Road elms (*Ulmus procera*) “so as to allow free circulation of air between the branches,” and the establishment of two clumps of pines (*Pinus* ssp) on Montefiore Hill. Pelzer prioritised the planting of Poplars (*Populus* ssp) along both the north and south sides of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri and along Victoria Drive, as well as Weeping Willows (*Salix babylonica*) on the north bank of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri in 1905. “50 various poplars [*Populus* ssp], 23 weeping willows [*Salix babylonica*]” were again planted in 1905, and primarily poplars (*Populus* ssp) and pines (*Pinus* ssp) in 1906 together with the replacement of 24 Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees in King William Road due to damage and age (*Annual Report* 1904, p. 63; 1905, pp. 42-43, 54; 1906, pp. 41, 62; 1907, p. 55).

In 1906 Pelzer started initial work of creating Pennington Gardens West. He fenced the land off from the “Oval paddock” and started harrowing the ground. In the following year a 215 Kaffir Apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) hedge was planted along the division fence between the Garden and the paddock, a rockery erected, couch grass planted and flower beds established with summer annuals and the land was duly named ‘Pennington Gardens West’ in 1907 in honour of Colonization Commissioner James Pennington. The planting of pedestrian avenues on Montefiore Hill, through the ‘paddock’ was also proposed (*Annual Report* 1906, pp. 61, 63; 1907, pp. 52, 56, 72). Pelzer’s 1907 report summarises the development of this Garden:

Pennington Park West.—In this new garden 12 beds, of various shapes and sizes, and one large flower border have been laid out, trenched, and planted with Cannas, various herbaceous plants and annuals. The steep bank along King William Road has been filled in with soil, so as to form a gradual slope. Seven large lawns of couch grass have been laid out and planted. A hedge of Kaffir apple [Dovyalis caffra] has been planted along the fence which divides the Reserve from the Oval Reserve. A large rockery has also been erected in the northern portion of the garden (Annual Report 1907, p. 71).



Figures

Above, a period water-coloured postcard from c.1900-1910 is a photograph postcard taken from Montefiore Hill looking towards the spires of St Peters Cathedral indicating the mature Gardenesque landscape in the foreground. Source: private collection.

Below: a c.1900 era photograph from St Peter's Cathedral looking south-west over Pennington Gardens West and the Adelaide Oval indicating the established Gardenesque landscape in the Gardens and the pavilions and Stands within the Oval leasehold, with the very established tree plantings along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri corridor to the rear. Source: Mortlock Library B7595.



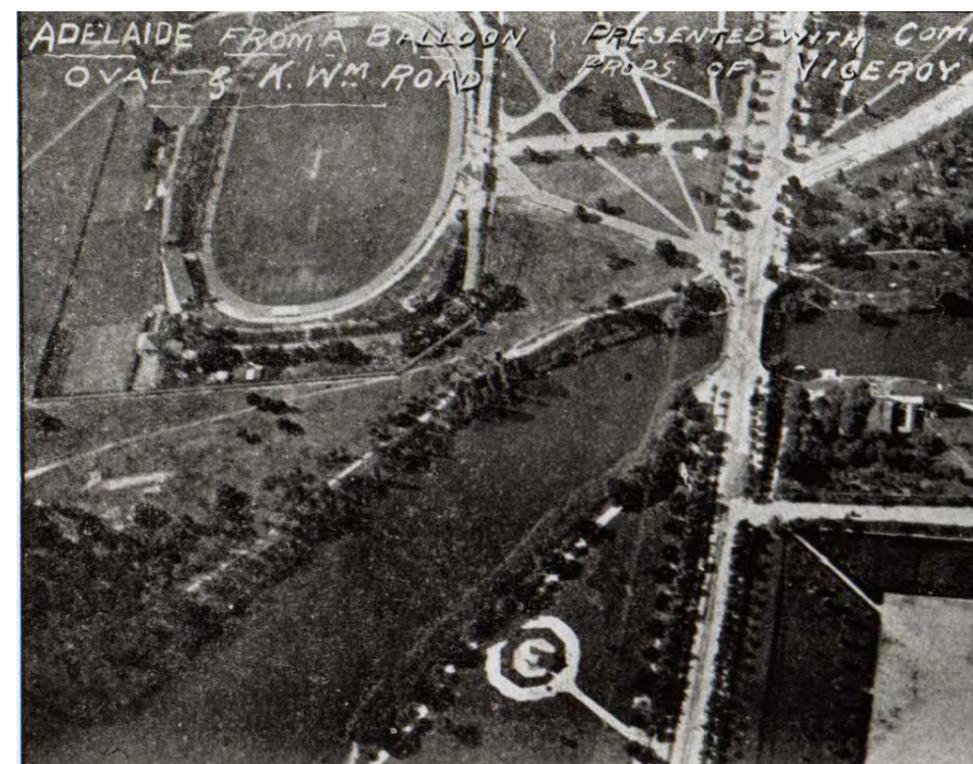
Thus by 1908 some 15 trees, 96 shrubs, 100 roses (*Rosa* spp), 15 climbers and 18 palms (*Phoenix* spp) had been planted in Pennington Gardens West in addition to the hedging. In the centre of the Garden, Pelzer created a “large circular space, which forms the inter-section of four paths, a rustic rose bower” was erected. A new entrance to the Garden, then fenced around its perimeter, was also created in the north-west corner, and six garden seats were positioned in the Garden. Additional planting included 72 white acacias (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) on Montefiore Hill, referring to the establishment of a tree lined pedestrian avenue, and 15 white cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) that were planted in the ‘Adelaide Oval Reserve,’ referring to another tree-lined pedestrian avenue being planted in the future Creswell Gardens as well as the erection of painted cast-iron opening posts (*Annual Report* 1907, pp. 71, 73; 1908, p. 44).

The plantings in Pennington Gardens West and Elder Park were heartily endorsed by various period letters to the editor that Mayor Lewis Cohen eagerly incorporated into his *Annual Report* of 1909:

Brougham Gardens, Elder Park, Pennington Park, and Osmond Park now present a very pleasing appearance. It is worthy of note that the public show a keen appreciation of the value of the lawns and flower beds, and it is satisfactory to know that the blooms are scarcely ever interfered with. Additional beauty might be introduced into Pennington Park by the simple device of interspersing among the flower beds a few small lakes and fountains (The Advertiser in Annual Report 1909, p. 44).

The City Council has embarked on a somewhat extensive programme of planting for this season, with the object of further beautifying the parks around Adelaide, but the outlay involved will indirectly prove reproductive, because the more attractive the city is made the greater is the likelihood of it becoming a still more popular rendezvous for visitors. To begin with, that portion of Pennington Park, south of the Adelaide Oval road [Creswell Gardens], is being planted with couch grass and laid out in irregular shaped gardens. A fountain is being erected near the Oval gate, and a pathway has been cut down and along the river bank near the lake’s edge. Between the fountain and the bank, rockeries are to be formed, and by the time the summer is here this new garden promises to be as attractive as the two other blocks on the east and west of King William Road (Unknown newspaper article, 24 May 1909 cited in Annual Report 1909, p. 44).

Pelzer would have been exceedingly pleased with these positive reviews of his park and garden creation, and Cohen continuously used these reviews to support his desire to beautify and improve the city landscape. Such reviews were also supported by user figures that Pelzer obtained in 1909 that recorded that an average of 4,000-5,500 adults and 350-400 children used Pennington Gardens West daily during the weekdays, and some 1,500-2,500 adults and 250-750 children used Elder Park daily during the week days rising to 2,500 and 500 respectively for the latter on Sundays. The second quotation refers to the development of Creswell Gardens and one of the ex-1885 International Exhibition fountains that was relocated into the Garden by donation by the late Premier Hon Thomas Price. The second quotation also refers to bank sloping and levelling works occurring to the immediate west of Adelaide Bridge (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 45-46, 48, 49).



Figures

Above: a photograph of Adelaide Oval, Creswell Gardens, Lake Torrens banks, and Elder Park taken from a balloon in c.1907. Note the established pathway system, as developed by Pelzer, and initial plantings in the Gardens, and a grove of River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) to the bottom left on the ridge above Pinky Plat. Source: Mortlock Library B34765.

Below: a water-coloured period postcard depicting a semi-mature White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) pedestrian avenue established by Pelzer in c.1910 obviously using semi-mature tree stock from the Corporation’s Nursery that is extant today linking the Gardens to Light’s Vision. Source: private collection.



In November 1909 the Corporation was petitioned by the Secretary of the John Creswell Memorial Committee, JA Riley, to erect a “sign-board with the words ‘Creswell Park’ on it.” The petition included an amateur sketch of the sign and its proposed location. The arch-sign was installed in October 1910. The City Gardener, August Pelzer, reported that “two 10-foot [3.0m] gates have been erected” in this Garden so whether this was a mistake or two signs erected is unclear but only one sign appears in subsequent documentation. John Creswell was an Adelaide businessman with a strong passion for cricket and other sports. He was honoured in the since demolished Creswell Stand, and served as Secretary of SACA from 1883 until his death in 1909. He was one of the founders of the South Australian Football Association, played for the South Park Football Club during his youth, served as Secretary of the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club together with other sporting associations during these years. Creswell’s talent was in organising events whether small, sporting or for the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society Annual Shows. Following his untimely death the committees of SACA, the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society met to discuss “the best method of perpetuating the memory of the late John Creswell.” Suggestions included a new pavilion at the Oval as well as a Garden (Swanbury Penglase Architects 2001, ART: 001).

Pelzer reported on these improvements in greater detail. In Pennington Gardens West, during 1909, he planted an additional 26 trees, 20 shrubs, and 1 palm tree (*Phoenix* spp), constructed the north-western access pathway 3m wide, and had to alter the location of the south-eastern entrance due to the widening of the Oval Road resulting in Pelzer planting a rose (*Rosa* spp) hedge along the northern flank of the Road. He had also to relocate all fencing along Oval Road resulting in its re-erection together with “67 opening posts and 3 passenger posts” resulting in a park of some 2.1ha and later planted a short hedge of Golden Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum* ‘Aurea’) and erected a “rustic pergola” near the western perimeter (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 63, 64, 65; 1910, p. 23; 1911, p. 64).

In “Creswell Park” and on the embankment to Lake Torrens the works were more extensive, as follows:

CRESWELL PARK.—Five lawns of various sizes have been planted here. An ornamental fountain has been erected in the centre of one of the lawns, and flower-beds have been laid out around the fountain and planted.

Two large shrub and flower-borders have been laid out and planted along the Oval fence for the purpose of hiding the fence.

Along the bank of the Torrens Lake a large rockery has been erected and planted with various alpine and other plants. A winding path has been formed along the foot of the rockery, and rustic guard-railings have been erected along this path—with two recesses in which rustic seats have been erected, a good view of the Lake and the rockery is obtained from these seats.

*A date palm [*Phoenix dactylifera*], about 20 feet [6m] high has been transplanted from Victoria Drive to this Park. Fifty-three various trees, 133 shrubs and 5 palms have been planted about the lawns and borders (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 63, 64).*

This quotation answers where one ‘accent gateway’ date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) that was planted in Victoria Drive in 1886 was relocated to. In addition, iron hoop fencing and wire-netting fencing was erected at Creswell Gardens resulting in a garden with an area of 1.6ha. Further to these works, Pelzer laid out a 10.6m diameter flower bed, planted a hedge of Kaffir Apple (*Doryalis caffra*) along the western boundary, lowered the access path to the Oval across Creswell Gardens by 30cm to enable better drainage, and planted roses (*Rosa* spp) in various beds (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 63, 64, 65; 1910, pp. 23, 51, 52, 53; 1911, p. 64).



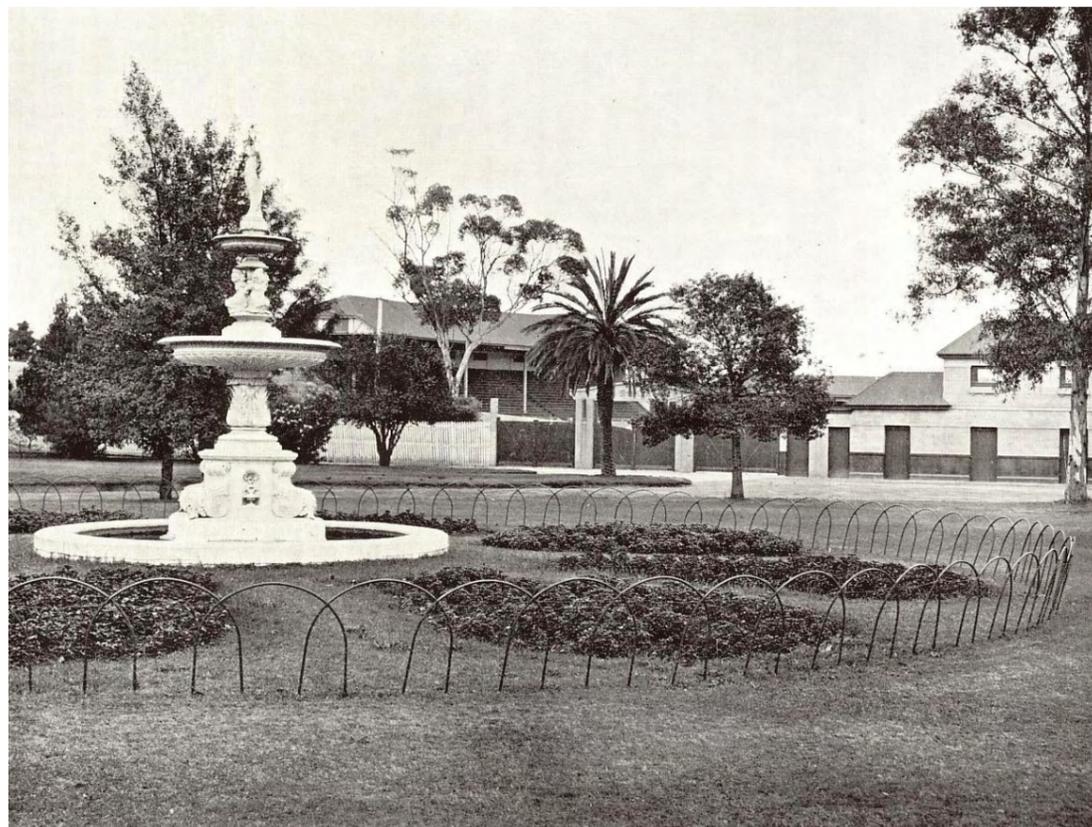
Figure

Extract of a photograph featuring the City Baths, King William Road, and the Festival Centre site dated 1903. Note the young Oriental Plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) established along King William Road west side, young tree plantings around the Elder bandstand, the mature trees on the former escarpment of the railway line behind, the north-south old powerline, and thence the dense plantation line of trees established by Pelzer along the northern flank of the Baths. Mature English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) are also growing alongside the Lake edge and walk in front of the bandstand. Source: Campbell 1998, pp.18-19.



Figures

Above: the Creswell Fountain as originally erected in front of the former Exhibition Building on North Terrace. Note the small base water bowl compared to that reconstructed by Pelzer. Source: ACC Archives HP0596.
 Below: a photograph of Creswell Gardens in 1928 depicting the fountain with a different base water bowl, a Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), the extant *Eucalyptus* ssp to the far right, metal hoop fencing around the perennial and annual garden beds with lawns within. Source: Anon 1928, np.



Figures

Above: photograph of the "Oval & Creswell Gardens" in c.1910 at a cricket match day. Note the Creswell Fountain with its four circular flower garden beds, the white painted posts restraining pedestrians from accessing the Garden lawns, the extant *Eucalyptus* ssp near the Creswell Gate today, the Kaffir Apple (*Doryalis caffra*) demarking the Oval leasehold from the Gardens. Source: private collection
 Below: a photograph of the 'Creswell Gardens' embankment gardens that Pelzer established in c.1908, which was prior to the development of War Memorial Drive, with its rusticated timber walkway railings, random rubble stone walling, mixed flowering shrub and succulent shrubberies, Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) specimen to the far right, and young trees having been planted. Source: ACC Archives HP 1354.



Elder Park continued to be a focus of city improvement ideas in the 1900s and 1910s. The Corporation continually attempted to gain additional land to extend the Park, and in 1908 Mayor Lewis Cohen first proposed “a refreshment kiosk and rest-house” to be erected. This proposal was costed at £1,000 and assumed that a tenant would operate the restaurant. In the meantime, Pelzer created a new path surrounding the existing Rotunda some 6m wide and added an additional flower bed. Cohen’s suggestion was enthusiastically taken up by Senator Vardon and Sir Edwin Thomas Smith, with Smith donating £1,000 towards the cost of a “refreshment Kiosk.” Thus Cohen was pleased to report in late 1909 that the Kiosk was “now in course of erection and will be a handsome structure, which will add very considerably to the beauty of this popular reserve” (*Annual Report* 1908, pp. 19, 44; 1909, pp. 7, 47; 1910, pp. 6, 53).

The detailed version of this Kiosk was stated as:

The site of the Kiosk commands a fine view of the Lake and the surrounding Parks, and the building itself will be of artistic design. It will, when completed, occupy an area of 50 feet square [4.6m²], octagonal in form, with the centre portion enclosed on three sides with half glass and fitted with folding doors and sliding sashes. The outer portion will be in the form of a verandah with stairs from it leading to the terrace on four sides of the Kiosk. At the rear will be a kitchen, servery, and cellar, and at the southern end of the verandah accommodation for ladies will be provided. The roof is to be of a red compressed fibre cement tiles, and the whole of the woodwork of Californian red pine [Sequoia sempervirens], stained and varnished externally and oil-stained inside. The enclosed pavilion in the centre, as well as the ladies’ cloakroom and kitchen, will have a handsome tiled floor. Provision will be made also for the storage of extra chairs.

*Mr. Alfred Wells, Architect, prepared the design. Nine tenders were received for the erection of the Kiosk, the process ranging from £1,083 to £1,314, and that of Messrs. A.R. Madden & So, at £1,083 17s., was accepted (*Annual Report* 1909, p. 23).*

The kiosk was opened on 17 March 1910 by Sir Edwin Thomas Smith and first leased to Misses Dodd & McMullen for a period of “three years at a rental of £156 per annum” to provide the refreshments. In advance of the opening the Corporation allocated a budget of £100 to Pelzer to undertake a garden around the new structure. Architect Alfred Wells was also designing the West Terrace band stand, in Wirranendi/Park 23, at the same time (*Annual Report* 1909, p. 48; 1910, pp. 22, 24).

Pelzer made a lot out of the £100 budget and undertook considerable landscape development. He also erected new fencing, filled in an open drainage swale and covered it with jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) decking, and erected cast iron opening posts. In the following year he regraded and sowed lawn near the City Baths erecting three new seats, and pruned the extant Pepper trees (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*) in the Park to encourage their growth (*Annual Report* 1910, p. 53; 1911, p. 64).

Works in 1910 included constructing a boat landing stage below the new Kiosk:

*ELDER GARDEN.—After the completion of the Kiosk, the surrounding ground was laid out, forming three lawns of various sizes and shapes, and footpaths, including a path leading from the newly-erected Torrens Lake landing stage to the Kiosk. Six flower beds of various shapes have been laid out and planted, and a rockery built along the foot of the northern terrace of the Kiosk. Various trees, shrubs, palms [Phoenix spp], etc., have been planted on the lawns (*Annual Report* 1910, pp. 51, 52).*



Figures

Above: a photograph of the newly erected Elder Park Refreshment Kiosk, taken in c.1910 a structure since demolished to make way for the Festival Theatre complex. Note the mature Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) to the right in a bed of shrubbery.

Below: another c.1915 photograph of the newly erected Elder Park Refreshment Kiosk. Note the Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and Mexican Washingtonia (*Washingtonia filifera*) specimens to the right in the lawn that was indicative of an exotic early Edwardian landscape design being applied in the public domain in Adelaide at the time together with the perennial and annual garden beds around the north-western flank of the Rotunda.

Source: ACC Archives HP1151 and HP0296.



Perhaps not to be outdone by the Smith donation and reflecting the charitable nature of this period, Mr Thomas Barr Smith donated £450 to the Corporation to undertake landscape improvement works on the land originally transferred to the Corporation in 1903 along the edge of Lake Torrens. This sum was spent on various works including the establishment of the 35 specimen ‘Populus Fastigiata’ (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’ or *Populus simonii* ‘Fastigiata’) line ‘Barr Smith Walk’ along the southern flank of the Lake. Improvement works also continued at the Adelaide Oval in the 1900s and 1910s. A tea house and new turnstile were erected and installed in 1908. Mayor Lewis Cohen heightened the standing of Sir Edwin Thomas Smith’s and Barr Smith’s donations, together with Angas’ and Simpson’s donations, to the 70th anniversary celebration of the City. By this time Elder Park consisted on 3.8ha of developed park (*Annual Report* 1903, p. 27; 1906, p. 42; 1908, p. 41; 1907, pp. 54, 56; 1909, p. 48; 1910, pp. 6, 23, 24, 51, 52; 1917, pp. 28-29, 41).

Pelzer described the Elder Park landscape extension works as follows, noting the relocation of an 1886-planted ‘accent gateway’ date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) from the corner of Frome Road and Victoria Drive to the site:

That portion of garden west of the band stand reserve and along the Lake frontage has been laid out as a garden. This area was originally overgrown with marsh mellows, castor oil trees, reeds, etc., and was a dumping place for old tins, brick bats, etc. The ground has now been cleared, and the steep banks graded, so as to form a gentle slope, and planted with various trees, shrubs, palms [Phoenix spp], cannas [Canna spp], and other herbaceous plants. A hedge of Cupressus Lambertiana horizontalis [Cupressus macrocarpa ‘Lambertiana’] has been planted along the fence dividing the Garden from the railway land. A winding pathway, twelve feet [3.65m] wide, has been formed, and the area between this path and the water’s edge filled in and couch-grass lawns, and planted with groups of Pampas grass [Cortaderia seloana], variegated bamboos [Bambusa spp], Acanthus [Acanthus mollis], etc. A row of upright poplars [Populus alba ‘Pyramidalis’] has been planted on the northern side of the newly-formed path. A large date palm [Phoenix dactylifera], weighting about three-and-a-half tons [3,556kg], which was growing near the corner of Frome Road and Victoria Drive, has been taken up and removed to Elder Garden and planted on the lawn on the Lake frontage near the new landing stage (Annual Report 1910, p. 51).

Of these gardens improvements *The Advertiser* on 11 March 1910 wrote in glowing terms in an article entitled ‘Our Beautiful City – Progress and Expansion – A Model Metropolis’:

There have been many changes in Adelaide during the last four or five years, and they have all been for the better ... The City Gardener has a special aptitude for his interesting and attractive work, and by his skill he has completely transformed many of the spaces under the control of the Municipality ... The Torrens has within late years been receiving special attention from the City Council, and the improvement in the land along its banks has been marked. The lawns and parterres of flowers in the vicinity of the kiosks and the rotunda are the favourite resort of thousands of people, and the rockeries near the City bridge and the adjacent plantations all help to enhance the picturesqueness of the landscape. Creswell gardens and the other cultivated plots on each side of King William Road, in the vicinity of the Cathedral, have completely changed the aspect of that part of the City, and it is interesting to know that as a result of the enterprises of the council the Cathedral chapter are about to bring the immediate surroundings of that edifice more into consonance with their environment [sic.] (The Advertiser, 11 March 1910 cited in Annual Report 1910, p. 23).



Figures

Above: a c.1915 photograph of the south bank of the Lake Torrens in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 following completion of construction and planting activities by Pelzer in creating the ‘Barr Smith Walk’. Note the regular semi-mature fastigiata White Poplar (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’) trees lining the edge of the ‘Walk’ and Lake. Source: ACC Archives HP1693.

Below: a c.1910 photograph of the City Baths, following renovations, indicating the retention of its Elizabethan style façade, electricity poles, and the Victorian era cast iron electricity posts erected in the centre of King William Street to service the electrified tramway system. Source: Moreton 1996, p. 93; SLSA B2099.



In successive years Pelzer continued to make incremental improvements to Elder Park. In 1911-12 he was adding new shrubs to several of the flower borders and re-constructing the pathway around the kiosk. Some 4 trees and 74 shrubs were planted in 1912, additional wire netting was erected in the new extended portion of the Park, with a further 40 shrubs being planted and fencing renewed in the following year. Pelzer top dressed the lawns in 1914 with 330 loads of manure and had to extensively pollard 4 elderly Pepper trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*) that had been indirectly poisoned by arsenic spraying on the old railway line that dissected the Park from the City Baths. In the same year 4 wattle trees (*Acacia* spp) were planted in the Park as part of the 1914 Wattle Day activities together with 2 flowering peach (*Malus* spp) and 16 roses (*Rosa* spp). These Pepper trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*) were extensively pollarded in 1924 because they were reputedly causing structural and gutter damage to the Baths being only 0.9m from the base of the building. Despite this action the Corporation determined in 1925 to grub out the Pepper trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*) and replace them with 7 new Jacaranda trees (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) planted some 3m from the structure at a cost of £40. In 1917 a “leaf mould pit (10 feet [3.0m] by 4 feet [1.2m] by 5 feet [1.5m] deep” was established within a large shrubbery in the Park. A new water line, some 30m long, was also installed underground across the Park in 1918 (*Annual Report* 1911, p. 61; 1912, pp. 98, 99, 100; 1913, pp. 49, 62, 64, 65; 1914, pp. 80, 81; 1917, p. 41; 1918, p. 32; 1924, pp. 35-36, 38; 1925, pp. 15, 33-34, 35).

Incremental improvements also regularly occurred in Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens in the 1910s. The wide path along the flank of the Oval was re-contoured in 1912 to reduce stormwater entering the Adelaide Oval leasehold and some additional 11 trees and 32 various shrubs were planted; 4 trees and 32 shrubs were planted in Creswell Gardens. The main path through Creswell Gardens was widened in 1913 and “six additional cast iron opening posts” erected and the planting beds in both Creswell and Pennington West were extended with iron hoops being positioned around all beds. Tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*) and Weeping Willows (*Salix babylonica*) were pollarded in the rockeries along the northern flank of Lake Torrens in 1914. Pelzer also planted 8 wattles (*Acacia* spp), 1 English Oak (*Quercus robur*)—discussed below—together with 2 flowering peach (*Malus* spp), 2 Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp), 2 *Erythrina* spp, and 62 roses (*Rosa* spp) in Creswell Garden and some 20 roses (*Rosa* spp) in Pennington Gardens West. In 1915 three gates in these Gardens were replaced by “perambulator openings” (*Annual Report* 1912, pp. 98, 99; 1913, pp. 49, 62, 65; 1914, pp. 80, 81; 1915, p. 76).

During the 1910s the trees along King William Road continued to give Pelzer some degree of concern as to their health and condition. Some 11 poorly Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees were replaced in 1908. During 1915 Pelzer noted that the Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees along King William Road were under stress. They had a “very sickly appearance ... have suffered greatly from the severe drought experienced last summer ... [and were] also affected with “leaf scorch” (*Gleosporium nervisequum*), a fungous disease which attacks the young shoots of plane trees.” The latter was diagnosed by the Victorian Government Pathologist, DM McAlpine, and to remedy the situation Pelzer proposed extensive pollarding works during the winter of 1916. This was not the only observation of tree stress—the Frome Road plantations were also affected—arising from the previous summer drought but it was the tree plantation that concerned Pelzer the most. Notwithstanding this conclusion, Pelzer removed and replaced 28 Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees in King William Road (*Annual Report* 1908, p. 45; 1912, pp. 98, 99; 1913, p. 64; 1914, p. 82; 1915, pp. 67-68, 69; 1916, pp. 29-30, 44, 45; 1917, p. 42; 1919, p. 47).

Leading to Montefiore Hill, Pelzer had established a White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) tree-lined pedestrian avenue commencing on the western flank of Pennington Gardens West. Pelzer appears, in the 1910s, to have undertaken select tree clump plantings on the Hill perhaps in advance of a larger landscape design proposal. On the latter, there was nothing in what William O'Brien or John Ednie Brown had previously written to indicate any pre-envisaged scheme, and it was only in Light's original plan that a feature was proposed to made of the Hill

with a road leading up Montefiore Road and then branching to reach Strangways and Pennington Terraces resulting in an oval road pattern centred upon the Hill lookout itself. For many years only the eastern branch of this road design was created, resulting in an ideal setting to overlook Adelaide Oval and the regular cricket matches. The main clumps were formed from Aleppo Pines (*Pinus halepensis*) and Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) of which 12 of the latter were planted in 1912. Pelzer pruned the large Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and elderly Pepper trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*) on the Hill in the 1914 while removing the stakes around the White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) pedestrian avenue trees because they “are now large enough, and do not require any more support.” He also renewed some 16½ chains of post and rail fencing on the Hill around new tree plantings with post and wire fencing (*Annual Report* 1911, p. 63; 1912, p. 99; 1914, pp. 81, 83).

Tree planting along the “banks” of the Lake and River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri also continued in the 1910s. Some “30 various trees” were planted in 1908. With improvements along Lake Torrens several rowing club boat houses were erected, some in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 and some near Jolley's Boathouse in Karrawirra/Park 12. On the southern flank of Lake Torrens, in this Park, the Mercantile Rowing Club erected their “new and extensive boat-house” in 1912. By 1913 Pelzer was calling ‘Pinky Flat’ ‘Montefiore Flat’ and he commenced planting in this area proposing clumps of trees together with the eastern flanks of the Lake opposite Victoria Bridge (Morphett Street Bridge). In 1913 he removed and replaced 35 chains of old post and rail fencing in this area with post and wire fencing. The Corporation also continued to dredge the Lake often depositing mud and soil in Elder Park enabling its progressive re-contouring by Pelzer and reclaiming ground from the Lake and the “unsightly weeds, rushes, and mud” that existed along its southern and northern shorelines. These works extended the lawns of the Park and reduced the water surface of the Lake particularly on the southern flank. As part of these works, Pelzer had earlier planted a line of 35 Populus ‘fastigiata’ (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’ or *Populus simonii* ‘fastigiata’) trees establishing the Barr Smith Walk along the southern edge of the Lake but this specific became susceptible to white ant infestation. Consequently he removed all these trees and replaced them with 35 “upright poplars (Populus Bolleana)” (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’). These works were undertaken during a period of prolonged drought in Adelaide that was finally broken by the 18 July 1917 storms and consequential River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri flood. The flood waters deposited a layer of silt 6-12 inches (15-30cm) thick over the Park and Walk and Pelzer took advantage of this “good garden soil” by sowing a new layer of couch grass throughout and repairing all the post and wire fencing. In the following year Pelzer extended the Walk pathway fully to Victoria Bridge (Morphett Street Bridge) (*Annual Report* 1908, p. 45; 1912, pp. 98, 101; 1913, pp. 50, 65; 1915, p. 36; 1916, p. 43; 1917, pp. 28-29, 41, 45; 1918, p. 32).

And, at Adelaide Oval, the new scoreboard was completed in 1911, to a design by F Kenneth Milne, together with a new lawn tennis pavilion. The roof of the scoreboard was renovated in 1919. In the same year the Mostyn Evan Stand was erected to a design by CW Rutt. On 18 May 1920 the Corporation accepted the surrender of the existing lease for the Oval and issued a new lease to SACA for 21 years, but revised the lease clauses on 20 June 1920 to permit the charging of entry fees for “international fixtures” and to enable activities under the *Licensing Act*. The bowling club house was completed in 1921 at a cost of £1,250 and various other improvements undertaken. Each year since the issuance of the leasehold, SACA regularly undertook maintenance and improvement works to the Association's facilities and grounds. The existing mounds were “extended and improved” in 1922 at a cost of £404 1/10 enabling increased crowds to be accommodated (*Annual Report* 1911, p. 91; 1919, p. 43; 1921, pp. 27, 32; 1922, pp. 20, 22; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 242-243).

In 1914 the Lawn Tennis Association of South Australia (LTASA) successfully lodged an application for a 21 year lease of land over most of Wikaparndo Wirra/Park 22 for the purposes

of establishing tennis courts and a clubhouse but did not proceed with developing this land. In September 1915 the Corporation considered and approved in principle an application from the Association for the termination of their existing lease of 2.4ha in Wikaparndo Wirra/Park 22 and the granting of a new lease of 1.33ha of leasehold land in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 subject to ratepayer consent. The matter brought some debate but was deferred awaiting the cessation of an agistment licence over the former Park, and the “termination of the war.” But the Association appears not to have undertaken any tennis court or building construction works on this land prior to the 1915 meeting. A ratepayer poll on 7 November 1919, 3,578 for and 1,749 against, endorsed the proposition enabling the Association to shift to Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 adjacent to the Adelaide Oval. Construction commenced on the courts in early 1920, and the new Tennis Ground was officially opened on 18 October 1921 (*Annual Report* 1914, pp. 18, 73; 1915, p. 35; 1916, p. 32; 1919, pp. 29-30; 1920, pp. 15-16; 1921, p. 26).

Immediately preceding the LTASA’s application was an application considered in May 1914 for the development of a “pleasure resort similar to ‘The White City’, Sydney, and ‘Luna Park’, Melbourne” on 1.69ha of land to the south-west of the Adelaide Oval leasehold. As could be expected, this application generated “great public interest,” and the Corporation voted 11 to 7 to grant a lease for 7 years with an annual rental of £600 subject to a public meeting for approval as required under section 97 of the *Municipal Corporations Act, 1890*. The public meeting disapproved the proposal 4,281 to 7,804 thereby resulting in no lease issuance (*Annual Report* 1914, pp. 89-90).

On 29 August 1914 the state Governor, Sir Henry Galway, on behalf of the Wattle Day League, planted an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) in Creswell Gardens to honour the fallen of the First World War. Eight Wattles (*Acacia* spp) were also planted around this English Oak (*Quercus robur*) but they do not remain today. This was the first memorial tree planted in Australia for the fallen of this war (*Annual Report* 1914, p. 80; Hawker pers comm., 2001).

The *Register* reported this event as follows:

*Treeplanters at work
An Historic Oak*

*A unique ceremony of historic importance was witnessed at Creswell Gardens during the morning. Shortly before 11 a.m. a company of metropolitan Boy Scouts arrived upon the scene. They were followed by the drum and pipe bands of the East Adelaide and Thebarton Public Schools. Lining up on both sides of the principal entrance the scouts, trim and erect, formed a guard of honour for His Excellency, the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) and Lady Galway, who drove in a few minutes later, and were received by the State and Federal President of the Wattle Day League (Mr. W.J. Sowden) and the Vice-President of the local branch (Mr. Herbert Solomon). His Excellency, accompanied by Messrs Sowden and Solomon, the vice-regal Private-Secretary (Hon. J Mulholland), and the officer in charge (Assistant Superintendent Scoutmaster Holden), inspected the ranks, spoke a few words to the school children, who were under Messrs. J.J. Fairweather and J. Donfiell, and the real business of tree-planting was begun. Eight wattles of various species were placed in different parts of the gardens, under the supervision of the City Gardener (Mr. A.W. Pelzer). The Governor was the first to place a plant in the ground, and as he finished the operation Mr. Sowden called for three cheers to mark the first tree planting operation of his Excellency in Australia. A hearty response was given. Others who performed similar ceremonies were Lady Galway, the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Glynn), and Mrs. Glynn, Mrs. A.H. Peake, the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. A.A. Simpson), Lady Butler, and Mrs. W.J. Sowden. The onlookers then gathered round a spot where a small oak [*Quercus robur*] was waiting for insertion in the soil.*

- Presidential Remarks -

Mr. Sowden said he would now, as Federal President, request His Excellency, on behalf of the Federal Wattle Day League, as well as the South Australian branch, to plant a British oak. They desired by

that means to commemorate the greatest war in the history of the world, and also what would probably by the most epoch-making period the world had ever seen, or ever would see. (Hear, hear.) With the consent of the Adelaide City Council, represented today by His Worship the Mayor, they proposed to exhibit upon an inscribed plate on the site a record to the effect that on Wattle Day, August 29, 1914, Sir Henry Galway, then Governor of South Australia, had planted a memorial oak to keep the people in perpetual memory of greater events which had now just begun in Europe. (Hear, hear.)

*... The oak which was to be planted was, like Australia, young. An older tree was not chosen because they sought to convey the idea that this oak in its infancy was synonymous with the beginning of the great cataclysm in Europe (Anon 1914, ‘The Golden Wattle’, *The Register*, p. 769A-B).*

Despite all these improvements, Lord Mayor Lewis Cohen still lamented the fact that the carriage drives or park ways envisaged and designed by John Ednie Brown in his *Report* (1880) had still not been implemented by the Corporation. “In my opinion the policy of delaying the building of park driveways is a wise one [sic].” This was a vision realised substantially by Lord Mayor Charles Glover in 1918 when the concept was linked to War Memorial repatriation and memoriam projects (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 49-50).

In March 1918 Lord Mayor Charles Glover tabled a proposal to construct a War Memorial Drive connecting Hackney Bridge to Port Road. A plan, tabled, identified existing park ways including carriage drives in Botanic Park, Victoria Drive, proposing the route to enable the construction of a “more permanent improvement to our City” than simply “carrying out expenditure in illumination.” Lord Mayor Glover proposed:

*My suggestion was that this year that portion lying between Frome Road Bridge and [Sir Edwin Smith] Avenue Road should be put in hand. The cost of grading, forming, draining, macadamising, and tar-dressing the roadway was estimated as about £850, to which must be added the cost of necessary tree-planting, fencing, etc., £150; making the total cost of this one section, £1,000. If this project commenced itself to the Council, I was prepared to contribute the sum of £500 towards the cost of this work, which should be carried out within the next month or two. I further suggested that the Council formally adopt the plan submitted to it embracing other portions of the works, the carrying out of which could be undertaken in the near future as opportunity presented itself (*Annual Report* 1919, p. 7).*

The whole scheme was seen as “a noble and permanent memorial to those who fought in the Great War.” This proposal was enthusiastically approved and the Sir Edwin Smith Avenue – Frome Road portion was opened on 30 October 1919 by the state Governor Sir Henry Galway. Construction on the King William Road to Montefiore Road section commenced in late 1919 and Pelzer cleared the alignment of trees and erected 26 chains of post and wire fencing along this section (*Annual Report* 1919, pp. 7-8, 28, 46; 1920, pp. 6, 31, 33).

With the hosting of the inaugural Australian Town Planning Conference in Adelaide in 1917, the South Australian Institute of Architects proposed in May 1919 the attachment of a bronze wreath to Light’s statue recording the event. The Corporation agreed to this proposal and the wreath was unveiled on 12 October 1919 by the state Governor to a ceremony arranged by the South Australian Town Planning & Housing Association. The statue was then at the intersection of King William, Flinders and Franklin Streets. This statue, and that of Queen Victoria were beginning to present problems to the Corporation in terms of increased vehicular traffic using the roads, and the Corporation’s City Engineer recommended their relocation to alternate sites in Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square (*Annual Report* 1919, p. 9; 1920, p. 6).

On 23 March 1920 Captain Sir Ross Smith and his brother Sir Keith and his airmen arrived in Adelaide completing their historic flight from London to Australia. The Smith’s were born in Adelaide, thus heightening their standing for their historic flight in the eyes of the community.

The Corporation threw a civic reception for the event. Following the death of Sir Ross Smith in 1922, a public appeal was led by *The Register* resulting in £1,500 to establish a suitable memorial for which the Corporation under Lord Mayor Sir Lewis Cohen established a Committee on 13 October 1922 to further this objective. By September 1923 some £4,500 had been raised, and the Committee announced a competition for which 18 entries were received. The Committee selected a site in Creswell Gardens on 5 November 1923, partially due to Ross Smith's original advocacy to erect a memorial to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade on the site. The Committee projected a cost of £5,000 for the statue. In 1927 construction commenced on the statue timed to be unveiled on 10 December 1927 by Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Murray; the anniversary of the landing of Sir Ross Smith in Australia. The bronze statue, designed and sculptured by London sculptor Frederick Brook Hitch with pedestal was to be 7.9m high. The statue carries four bronze reliefs depicting the events of the flight (*Annual Report* 1920, p. 5; 1922, p. 2; 1923, p. 3; 1927, p. 23; 1928, p. 1; Cameron 1997, pp. 96-100; *Register* 8 September 1922, p. 6; 13 October 1922, p. 6; 21 September 1923, p. 8; 2 December 1924, p. 9; 12 December 1927, p. 8; ACC Archives file 1229/22).

By 1920 the gardens in Pennington Gardens West, Creswell Gardens and Elder Park had been well established, and Pelzer reports only minor planting and improvement works thereafter. Creswell Gardens was however subject to the development of War Memorial Drive thereby dividing the Garden into two portions—the main Garden portion and the Lake edge rockeries. Pelzer reported that the impact upon Creswell Gardens, of the Drive, included:

*In Creswell Gardens neat cast-iron guard posts have been erected five feet [1.5m] apart along the edges of the lawns opposite the War Memorial Drive, so as to prevent vehicles from crossing the lawns. The flower border above the rockery has been made wider, and a pathway has been constructed on the strip of land between the flower border and the War Memorial Drive [sic] (*Annual Report* 1921, p. 36).*

Pelzer appears to have re-positioned most of the guard posts and gate posts in Creswell and Pennington Gardens West, especially in Oval Road, at the same time. The Kaffir Apple (*Doryalis caffra*) hedge in Pennington Gardens West was extensively cut to reduce its height in 1922. Some 62 trees were also planted on Montefiore Road, all seating in the three gardens were renewed, and timber gate posts in Pennington Gardens West replaced with cast iron versions. The rustic timber railings, bridges and arches in Creswell Gardens were reinstated in 1923 by Pelzer. Sheet piling on the River Torrens embankments had to be undertaken in Creswell Gardens in 1925 because of erosion damage by the River waters. The Creswell Gardens rustic railings and the Pennington Gardens West rustic rose (*Rosa* ssp) bower were repaired in 1925 (*Annual Report* 1921, pp. 38, 39; 1922, pp. 26, 28, 29; 1923, pp. 36, 39; 1925, pp. 33, 36).

By the 1920s the Corporation had noted the deteriorating condition of the City Bridge. This was the bridge across the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri at the present Adelaide Bridge site. The narrow bridge, erected in 1877, was now struggling to sustain the heavy vehicular traffic, congestion, the demand the tram cars placed upon the structure. The question of a replacement bridge was first raised in the Corporation on 4 November 1907. With these difficulties in mind the Corporation prepared plans for a new bridge, to be called the 'Adelaide Bridge', which was officially opened on 5 March 1931 by the State Governor. A bridge some 40.2m wide with footpaths and carriage ways of the same dimensions of King William Street south of the bridge was proposed. The design by the City Engineer involved a three hinge reinforced concrete structure with a 36.5m main span and two 11.58m span bow-string arches over sub-portal footways. Construction commenced in June 1929 and works completed at the end of 1930. Eight trees were removed as part of the bridge construction works (*Annual Report* 1920, pp. 17-18; 1921, p. 24; 1929, p. 34; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 241-242; Veale 1932, pp. 37-50).



Figures

Above: a 1928 photograph of the Sir Ross Smith statue in Creswell Gardens. Note the War Memorial Oak (*Quercus robur*) tree with plaque to the left, and flower garden bed surrounding the Creswell Garden fountain to the far right. Source: Anon 1928, np.

Below: a 1928 photograph of Pennington Gardens West indicating the maturity of ornamental trees specimens and the gardens at that time. Note the mature Golden Weeping Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Aurea Saligna') to the left, and the flower beds with *Canna*'s (*Canna* ssp) and *Weigela* ssp to the right with metal strip edging being used. Source: Anon 1928, np.



King William Road street trees continued to a source of regular maintenance works for Pelzer in the 1920s. In 1923 he discovered that several of the large Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees were “infested with white ants.” He directed the clearing of these hollows and in-filling of “cement-concrete” to address the situation (*Annual Report 1923*, p. 37).

In late 1922 SACA lodged an application to construct a grandstand at the southern end of the Oval to a projected cost of £16,000. The Corporation approved this work, as did a public meeting, and by late 1923 the grandstand was nearing completion. By late 1923 some £9,014 6/11 had been expended on the stand and £942 10/9 had been expended on further extending the mounds, apart from other works, with £28 to sink a well. In 1925 new entry gates were erected to the Oval at its north-west corner and Pelzer erected three large bridges over open drains to enable vehicular access into Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 from Pennington Terrace at SACA’s expense. The purpose of these works was to enable the gently sloping land to the north of the Oval to be used for intermittent car parking. This action was clearly necessary due to the increasing traffic and car parking problems associated with events at the Oval. The Corporation was forced to erect ‘no standing signs’ along War Memorial Drive, and to regulate egress points for car parking, in 1930 to deal with this problem. In 1928 the curator’s residence was erected within the leasehold at a cost of £1,151, and concrete terracing installed on the northern mounds at a cost of £908. Additional concrete terracing, costing £906 12/6, was undertaken in 1929, and in the following year the Mostyn Evans Grandstand was erected to a design by architect Charles W Rutt. In 1935 the Phil Ridings Entrance Gates were erected to a design by architect Philip Claridge and at the same time the Players Rooms Additions under the Sir Edwin Smith Stand were also undertaken under Claridge’s direction (*Annual Report 1923*, pp. 19, 34; 1925, p. 36; 1927, p. 32; 1928, p. 41; 1929, pp. 31, 36; 1930, p. 15; Swanbury Penglase Architects 2001).

In the same year the LTASA sought an extension of its leasehold in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 by 1.0ha which was approved. A public meeting on 27 April 1923 endorsed this recommendation thereupon the Association commenced construction of a new club house which the Corporation approved plans for on 27 August 1923. On 18 August 1924 the Association sought further permission to extend its leasehold 18.3 x 97.5m on its southern perimeter, which the Association withdrew in favour on an application for a 0.1ha area of land. The Corporation agreed to this second application subject to no buildings being erected thereon and the transfer exchange of a 0.1ha of unused land held by the Association back to the Corporation. These applications were associated with plans for the construction of a permanent grand stand on the land. The Corporation considered this development at length over late 1924 and early 1925 and finally granted the Association the required land together with permission to erect the permanent stands on 19 January 1925 “conditional upon the applicants carrying out any planting of trees, shrubs, etc., required by the City Gardener” on the entire leasehold land. These works and arrangements were agreed to at a public meeting on 4 June 1925 and the lease thereupon entered into. As part of these works, Pelzer had to reinstate fencing and access gates along War Memorial Drive adjacent to the Association’s developments (*Annual Report 1923*, p. 19; 1924, pp. 30-31; 1925, pp. 14-15; 1926, p. 42).



Figures

Above: a 1928 photograph of Pennington Gardens West looking south-west wards from an English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), with extensive trunk failure damage evident, to the Adelaide Oval and Stands. Note the flower garden beds on the right, and the Gardenesque style planting of palms (*Phoenix* spp), many of which are extant today, in the middle-ground of the photograph. Source: Anon 1928, np.

Below: a 1928 classic, and often photographed, scene of Pennington Gardens West looking north-east towards the spires of St Peter’s Cathedral, with the rusticated rose arbour in the centre of the garden and pathway evident, as well as the Gardenesque style of landscape design plantings, the use of palm (*Phoenix* spp) specimens, and the flower garden beds often dominated with Canna’s (*Canna* spp.). Source: Anon 1928, np.



The River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri again flooded in 1923 depositing a layer of silt on the lawns of Elder Park and Barr Smith Walk this time resulting in “considerable damage.” Silt 7.6-15cm was deposited, and the “very large, stately Date-palm” (*Phoenix dactylifera*) was broken by the accompanying storm which Pelzer removed and replaced with a mature spreading White Poplar (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’). A new box drain, about 18m long, was also dug to divert water from Barr Smith Walk directly to the Lake. Some 395 “Various trees” were also planted in association with the War Memorial Drive construction. In the following year Pelzer managed the filling of a “large cavity” in the southern banks adjacent to the Commonwealth Boathouse from sheet-piling works, and repaired trees and pathway surfaces of Barr Smith Walk affected by these works. Additional sheet piling works was undertaken on the northern escarpment of the River in 1925, and Pelzer had to reinstate all the pathways (44 chains) in Elder Garden including the Barr Smith Walk in the same year largely due to a heavy rainstorm in February 1925 washing away parts of path together with parts of flower beds (*Annual Report* 1923, pp. 37, 38; 1924, p. 38; 1925, pp. 33-34).

As part of numerous road-widening works in the 1920s, the Corporation considered options as to the exit of Montefiore Road onto Palmer Place. This intersection was beginning to cause regular vehicular accidents because of the intersection itself and the poor sight lines on the curve. The road itself also had a grade of 1:13½ with a 2 chain radius curvature at its sharpest point. Two options were put forward by the Corporation’s City Engineer, the second of which was eventually undertaken in the mid 1960s, but the Corporation approved works on the first. This road widening was commenced in late 1924 and completed in late 1925 (*Annual Report* 1924, p. 8; 1925, p. 74). These options were:

- (1) By widening the roadway to 40 feet [12m] throughout, taking down and re-erecting the fence on the western side, making a new footway on the western side, and cutting back the slope of the hill for a distance of about 30 feet [9m] from the fence in order that traffic might have a clear view of vehicles coming in the opposite direction, the estimate cost of which work was £420.
- (2) By making an entirely new roadway of 40 feet [12m] in width opposite the end of Jeffcott Street, the estimated cost of which was £1,420 (*Annual Report* 1924, p. 8).

As a consequence Pelzer grubbed 24 trees on the Hill, and took up and relocated fencing, to enable the road widening works. Montefiore Drive was widened on the uphill side and necessitated the removal of 1,000 cubic yards of earth which was deposited on the eastern side to gently landscape the slope of the hillside and was thereupon planted with grass seeds. A new concrete footpath was also laid on the western side for a length of 91m but there is no report of any new street trees being planted (*Annual Report* 1924, pp. 38, 40, 83; 1925, pp. 35, 74; 1926, p. 42).

Where Montefiore Drive met the Barr Smith Walk, Pelzer raised the ground level, widened the Walk entrance and top-dressed the lawns with sandy loam. At the same time he covered over the open drain near the Walk and removed the “old dilapidated fence” dividing the Walk from railways land and erected a new “neat “Cyclone” fence.” Soil was excess from the Montefiore Drive widening project (*Annual Report* 1926, p. 40; 1927, p. 32).

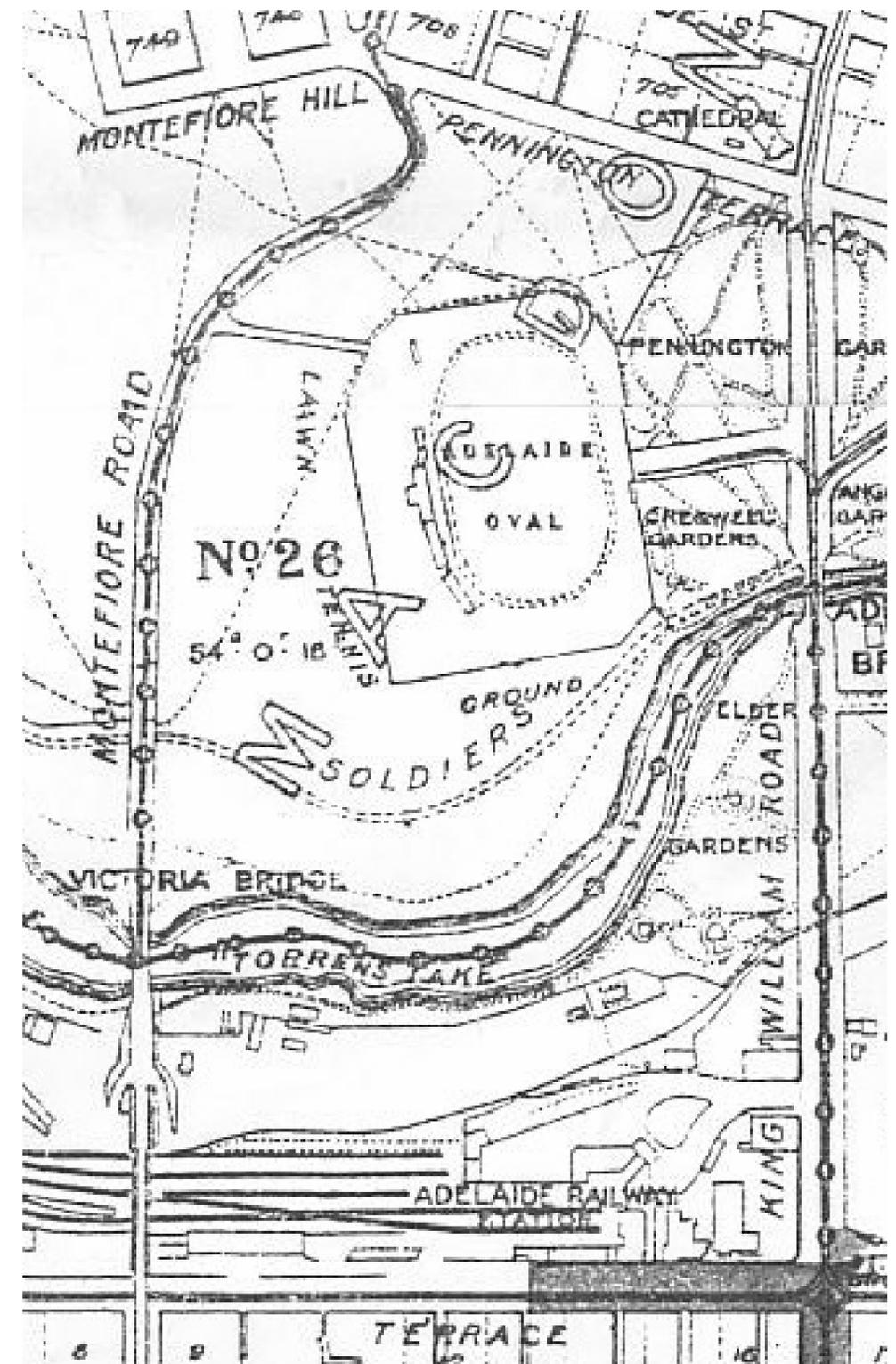


Figure
An engineering map dated 14 November 1927, comprising a ‘Plan Showing Improvements to Pavements’. A valuable document as it indicates the extensive system of pedestrian pathways through Pennington Gardens West, Creswell Gardens and Elder Park that Pelzer had established. The alignment of “Soldiers” War Memorial Drive (“Soldiers”) as it dissected Creswell Gardens into two portions, and the detailed circuitous pathways system around the Elder Bandstand and the refreshment pavilion in Elder Park are also shown. Pathways along the flanks of Lake Torrens and across Montefiore Hill are also indicated. These are formalised pathways also, and not simply pedestrian desire lines. Source: ACC Archives.

King William Road was widened in 1926-27 extending it eastwards and alienating land from the Torrens Parade Ground and the Government House Grounds. Pelzer had to remove 8 Plane (*Platanus orientalis*) trees and 21 “large date-palms” (*Phoenix dactylifera*) as a consequence, and re-grade the new bank between the Road and the House Grounds, or ‘Domain’, and address excess highly-mineralised ground water that was experienced. These palms were located in a line parallel to King William Road. Tenders for the road construction works were let in August 1927 to Messrs Townsend & Traeger at £2,429 16/3 and Messrs F Burgoyne & Co at £2,941 13/1 for bituminous paving. The Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) were apparently shifted in the Parade Ground Reserve are part of the extant collection of palms (*Phoenix* spp) today. Pelzer also removed all old post-and-rail fencing and replaced it with sawn jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) posts with three-wires (*Annual Report* 1926, p. 40; 1927, pp. 9, 29-30, 32).

Prior to the late 1920s a spur railway line ran from the railway station to the Jubilee Oval to enable the movement of goods and animals to the showgrounds. The line passed underneath King William Road with the western side possessing stone abutments, balustrading and pillars, but the eastern side protected by only post and wire. In conjunction with road tenders for King William Road widening, the future of the railway easement arose. The state Architect-in-Chief sought in September 1927 the Corporation’s interest “to accept control of the land formerly traversed by the railway-line.” The Corporation eagerly accepted this proposal and responded back inviting the opportunity to take charge of the former railway-line reserved land on the western side of King William Road. In late 1927 the Corporation was successful in gaining the western reserved land necessitating a legislative amendment in state Parliament, and in 1929 directed landscape treatment works for the western side. In 1929 the Corporation was successful in obtaining the eastern alignment of the spur railway land, and Pelzer took additional spoil from the Adelaide Bridge construction project and filled in the cutting before grassing over the land; works estimated at £150 (*Annual Report* 1924, p. 83; 1927, p. 20; 1928, p. 30; 1929, p. 26; 1930, p. 22).

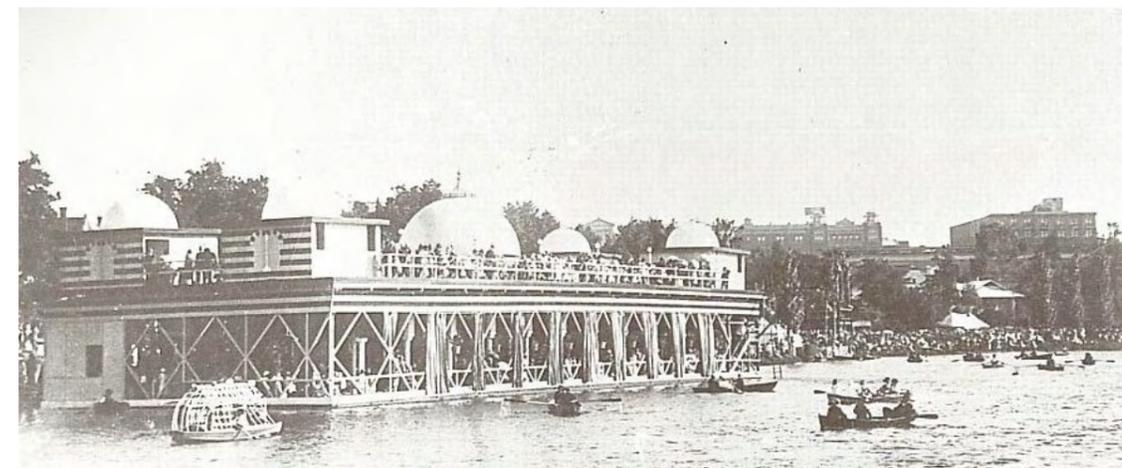
In 1926 Pelzer installed an automatic sprinkler system in Creswell Gardens and reinstated its pathways near the Oval again due to stormwater patterns. This appears to be the first Garden that he installed “the ‘Elder’ automatic irrigation system” in Adelaide altering his previous watering program (*Annual Report* 1926, p. 40). The system:

... does away with delivery hoses. The taps are so placed that the water is evenly distributed over a large area. The sprinklers have a flexible nozzle attachment, and various shaped areas can be watered. It is claimed that on a moderate pressure they will distribute water over a large area than any other device known. The large-size sprinklers deliver 25 gallons [95L] of water a minute (Annual Report 1926, p. 40).

The irrigation system was installed in Pennington Gardens West in 1929 (*Annual Report* 1929, p. 33).

New “large iron hoops” were also installed in Creswell Garden “so to prevent people from walking on the edges of the lawns” (*Annual Report* 1927, p. 32).

No substantial works had been undertaken on the City Baths since 1910 although it had been subject to continual maintenance and upgrade works by the lessee and the Corporation. In 1927 the City Engineer prepared plans and documentation for scheme “to modernize the swimming-baths” costed at £15,000. The matter was discussed in the Corporation but deferred due to the cost of the project. Despite this, the Baths continued to experience minor renovations and upgrades to its fabric and machinery (*Annual Report* 1927, p. 27; 1928, pp. 43-44; 1929, pp. 31-32; 1936-37, p. 29).



Figures

Above: an image of the Floating Palais on Lake Torrens, with extensive public use, in c.1925-26. Source: Morton 1996, p. 104; SLSA B44607.

Below: an extract of an aerial photograph by photographer D Darian Smith taken in c.1929-30 of the Elder Park precinct clearly depicting the Floating Palais on Lake Torrens, the mature c.1899 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) along the flank of the Park to the Lake as present to the Corporation by the Conservator of Forests Walter Gill, the Elder Bandstand, the Elder Refreshment Kiosk partially obscured in an extensive garden, the lawn expanse of the Park dotted with mature Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*), and the fastigiated White Poplar-lined (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’) Barr Smith Walk to the right leading around the southern edge of the Lake. The ‘Railway Cutting’, between the Park and the Baths is also evident on both sides of King William Road. Source: D Darian Smith Collection. Atkins Technicolor.

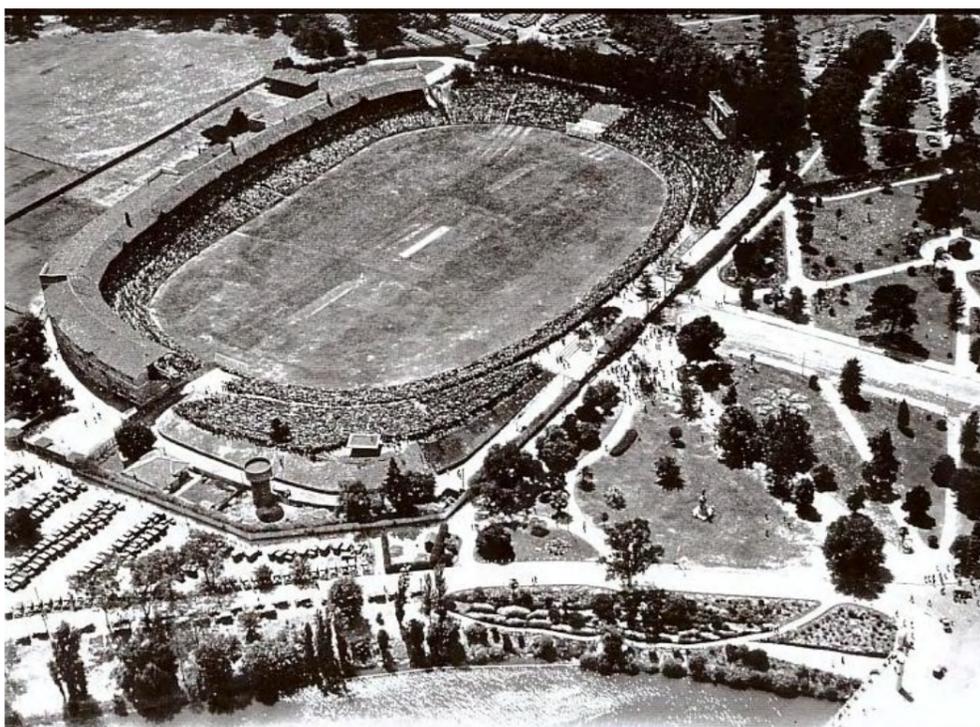




Figures

Above: a c.1930 aerial photograph of the Adelaide Oval, probably taken by photographer D Darian Smith, looking eastwards during a very popularly-attended match day. Note the establishment mature plantings in Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens. Source: SACA archives.

Below: a c.1930 aerial photograph of the Adelaide Oval, probably taken by photographer D Darian Smith, looking eastwards during a very popularly-attended match day. Note the layout and plantings in the landscape gardens along the Lake Torrens embankment, the former water tower near the Adelaide Oval Caretaker's Residence, mature tree plantings and extensive gravel-covered diagonal pedestrian pathways in Creswell and Pennington West Gardens, the eastern Kaffir Apple (*Doryalis caffra*) hedge on the Adelaide Oval fence-line, and the intricate flower bed designs around the Creswell Gardens fountain. Source: SACA archives.



Figures

Above: a 1928 classic, and often photographed, scene of Pennington Gardens West looking north-east towards the spires of St Peter's Cathedral, with the Gardenesque style of landscape design plantings, the use of palm (*Phoenix* spp) specimens and English Elms (*Ulmus procera*), and the flower garden beds often dominated with Canna's (*Canna* spp.). Source: Anon 1928, np.

Below: a 1928 photograph of Elder Park with the c.1899 Walter Gill donated English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) specimens lining the metal-strip edged gravel pathway that led to the Barr Smith Walk with its Poplar (*Populus* spp) avenue as seen in the background. Source: Anon 1928, np.



With road widening works in King William Road parts of the stormwater pipe system in Elder Park were ripped up requiring Pelzer to reinstate a large portion of the lawns. At the same time the railway spur embankments were regraded and seeded with grass (*Annual Report 1927*, pp. 20-30).

At the end of 1927 Sir Tom Bridges retired as state Governor and Sir Alexander Gore Arkwright Hore-Ruthven assumed the position. In retiring, Bridges thanked the Corporation but also penned some parting thoughts to Lord Mayor Sir Wallace Bruce as to aesthetics and the city landscape pertinent to Tarndanya Womma/Park 26:

Sir Wallace Bruce asked me if, before I left the country, I would give my views to the Civic Council on improving the beauties and amenities of the City of Adelaide. ...

It is no good crying over split milk, but I must confess that the building of the new Railway Station, in the position where it now stands, has somewhat upset my plans of beauty and has spoilt that magnificent piece of Park Land with the river running through it. I mention this as I believe it might have been avoided if there had been some kind of general plan of city improvement in existence to work to. ...

To improve the aesthetic appearance of the main streets and also help to solve the traffic problem, I consider the tramlines should be removed from the greater part of North Terrace and King William Street ... The statues could then be seen, and the magnificent vistas which our broad streets afford. ... The City Bridge over the Torrens is a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. Any great architect, one would think, would be glad of the opportunity of supplying a design for this bridge that will join the two Adelaides together. I hope that nothing inferior will be hurriedly erected. ...

*A tower like Grotto's Campanile in Florence on Montefiore Hill would also be very effective, and might be borne in mind for some future commemoration (Letter dated 19 December 1927 by Sir Tom Bridges cited in the *Annual Report 1928*, pp. 3-5).*

Here was public criticism of the visual impact of the new Railway Station upon the Lake Torrens visual catchment, concern over the design quality of the new 'Adelaide Bridge', and also a dream for a suitable commemoration on Montefiore Hill. The latter had its fruition in 1935 with the development of Light's Vision. On the aesthetic blight, the Corporation allocated £200 in 1929 to the planting of trees along the upper south bank of Lake Torrens "so as to hide the unsightly Railway-sheds from view from the War Memorial Drive" but these were planted in the Weir-Bridge section of river corridor. The railway station was a dream of railways commissioner WA Webb who sought a centre-piece to the growth of the railway system in the state. The neo-classical reinforced concrete station was built in 1926-27 to a design by Garlick & Jackman who won the commission through a design competition held in 1924 (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 251-252; *Annual Report 1929*, pp. 27, 35).

In 1929 the Corporation accepted a donation for a drinking fountain to be erected in Pennington Gardens West in memory of sporting figure J Reedman. The fountain was installed and unveiled by Lord Mayor John Lavington Bonython on 7 September 1929 (*Annual Report 1929*, p. 27).



Figures

Above: a 1928 photograph of the Creswell Gardens embankment plantings on the Lake Torrens flank looking eastwards. Compare this image to an earlier image that depicts the rusticated pedestrian walkway railings and immature plantings. Evident now are mature flowering gardens, palm (*Phoenix* spp) and Cabbage Tree (*Cordyline australis*) specimens, with the old 'City Bridge' with its metal casings in the rear. Source: Anon 1928, np.
Below: a 1928 photograph of Elder Park looking eastwards through a canopy of mature c.1899 Walter Gill donated English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) trees, a wide lawned expanse with Victorian era cast iron seat benches under each tree. Source: Anon 1928, np.



While road widening works were being undertaken on North Terrace, the Corporation also determined to commence the demolition and construction of a new bridge on King William Road of a suitable width to accord with road widening works being undertaken in the Road. Plans were prepared for a new bridge, to be called the 'Adelaide Bridge' that was officially opened on 5 March 1931. A bridge some 40.2m wide with footpaths and carriage ways of the same dimensions of King William Street south of the bridge was proposed. The design by the Corporation's City Engineer involved a three hinge reinforced concrete structure with a 36.5m main span and two 11.58m span bow-string arches over sub-portal footways. Construction commenced in June 1929 by Messrs Essery & Cartledge and works completed at the end of 1930 (*Annual Report* 1920, pp. 17-18; 1921, p. 24; 1929, pp. 10-11, 34; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 241-242; Veale 1932, pp. 37-50). The Corporation also determined to erect four plaques recording historical information as to the past bridges and the bridge to be opened. The former plaques were proposed to state:

The first bridge over the River Torrens was situated 1,650 feet [503m] west of the Adelaide Bridge. The Town Surveyor, Mr. Alfred Hardy, supervised the erection in 1839. After being damaged twice by floods, it was destroyed in September, 1844.

On the 1st February, 1854, the first bridge on this site was commenced. The ironwork arrived from England in February, 1856, and the bridge was completed in October of the same year. The bridge was constructed and presented to the City by the Government.

*The Adelaide Bridge was erected under the supervision of the City Engineer, Mr. J.L. Hyndman. It was opened and named by His Excellency the Administrator, Sir. W.W. Cairns, K.C.M.G., on the 25th April, 1877. The span, 100 feet [30.5m] long and 54 feet [16.5m] wide, provided a roadway width 40 feet [12.2m] wide and footpath 7 feet [2.1m] wide (*Annual Report* 1930, p. 14).*

As part of the remodelling of Victoria Square in 1930, Pelzer had to consider the future of most of its statue collection. The statue of Hercules was proposed to be shifted, in his recommendations, from the Square to Pennington Gardens West which was acted upon in that year. This bronze statue on a short pedestal, donated by philanthropist William Horn, was originally unveiled in Victoria Square by Mayor Bullock. It is a copy of the Farnese Hercules excavated in Naples and signed by Athenian sculptor Glykon (*Annual Report* 1930, p. 19; *Register* 5 October 1892, p. 6; Cameron 1997, pp. 13-14).

On 29 February 1932 Pelzer retired and the Corporation commenced a reorganisation of the City Gardener's Branch (*Annual Report* 1931-32, p. 27). Following Pelzer's retirement a sequence of gardeners and a change of commitment to the gardens and the Park Lands is evident throughout the municipality notwithstanding the Centenary of South Australia celebrations in 1936. In terms of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 little improvement works were entertained from 1932 up until the 1960s (*Annual Report* 1935-36, p. 37).

In the 1930s the Corporation approved various improvements to the Adelaide Oval leasehold grounds. Renovations to the Smith and Creswell stands were undertaken (*Annual Report* 1933-35, p. 25).

While the LTASA was hampered by space in terms of growth and development, it did succeed in gaining a 21 year lease under the *Local Government Act, 1934*, over 1.0ha of land in the neighbouring Tulya Wodli/Park 27 immediately west of Morphett Street Bridge to erect additional tennis courts (*Annual Report* 1933-35, p. 25).

In 1933 the post and wire fence separating Elder Park from King William Road was removed. In the same year the National Rose Society donated 100 to 200 Roses (*Rosa* spp) to the Corporation whom decided to plant them in Creswell Garden. The Society appears to have

donated various collections of Roses (*Rosa* spp) to the Corporation in the preceding years (*Annual Report* 1933, p. 23).



Figure

A plan from the Swanbury Penglase Architects (2001) *Adelaide Oval Conservation Study Review* depicting the extensive pathway and circulation system extant in Pennington Gardens West, Creswell Gardens and the Light's Vision portion of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 in the 1910s-30s.

As one of the ideas floated as part of the State's Centenary celebrations in 1936, the Corporation recommended a feasibility study as to the cost of illumination of various gardens and public features including King William Road, Pennington Gardens East and West, the Adelaide Bridge and the Cathedral. The Corporation's City Engineer recommended that "pale blue and green lights should be used in the illumination of trees in ... the gardens adjacent to King William Road," and that flags and coloured lanterns to adorn the roadways be borrowed from the City of Melbourne Council. Costs for these illuminations were £90 with a running cost of £16 3s 4d for lighting the Adelaide Bridge, and £80 with a running cost of £11 13s 4d for lighting the trees along King William Road. Lighting and lanterns were erected along the length of King William Road, and also lit up the Adelaide Bridge and Angas Gardens (*Annual Report 1935-36*, pp. 6-7; 1936-37, pp. 7, 9).

As part of these works the Corporation also introduced a new decorative lamp standard, "very chaste in design ... to mark the Centenary," several of which still stand in Grundy Gardens and along the North Terrace Gardens:

[These] ... consist of the Paragon Senior type of globe, mounted on an ornamental concrete standard 12 feet [3.6m] in height. These lamps are most effective and lend character to ... reserves, the effect at night being particularly pleasing (*Annual Report 1936-37*, p. 9).

In addition to the illumination project, landscape treatments along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankment adjacent to the University thereby creating Grundy Gardens, and various other initiatives, the Corporation budgeted £559 for a "Montefiore Hill Look-out." Special band concerts were also scheduled in the Elder Park bandstand in September and October 1936 (*Annual Report 1935-36*, pp. 7, 8). While originally an idea that came from former state Governor Sir Tom Bridge in 1927, the Corporation eagerly took the idea on board as part of the celebrations following a suggestion by Councillor Arthur C Rymill. On 10 January 1935 the Corporation approved the site and proposal, and Councillor James C Irwin then working at Woods Bagot architects translated the proposal into a northern Italian focal point echoing Bridges' notion of a campanile and architect Walter Bagot's northern Italian design affinities. On 26 February 1935 the Corporation approved a plan for a northern Italian styled design:

... a report and plan, which set out that the balustrade of the look-out would be of Italian type, 3 ft. 2 in. high [0.97m], forming part of a semi-circle 65 ft. [19.8m] long. Provision was also made for paths, lawns, and shrubs. The total cost of the undertaking was estimated at £242 (*Annual Report 1935-36*, p. 34).

Subsequently, the Corporation agreed to the addition of "a £20 bronze plate, for the purposes of indicating various points in the City and surroundings, should be incorporated into the balustrade." But Irwin shifted the lookout proposal to a grander idea following a meeting with the Corporation's City Engineer, and on 28 April 1935 the Corporation considered and approved a larger proposal:

...the look-out [would] be more comprehensive than originally proposed. It was recommended that a balustrade 125 ft. [38.1m] long and three grass plots (in place of two) be provided, that the total area of path be 150 square yards [125m²] (instead of 75 square yards [62m²]), that there should be three seats (in place of two), and that the type of balustrading by Northern Italian (in place of Italian Renaissance). The cost of the work was estimated at £539 (*Annual Report 1935-36*, p. 34).



Figures

Above: a extract of a c.1936 aerial photograph Aquinas College and Lights Vision, probably taken by photographer D Darian Smith, that depicts the completed layout of Lights Vision including pathways, northern Italian balustrading, Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) plantings, the statue of William Light, a young White Poplar (*Populus alba*) at the eastern end of the balustrading, and the mature Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) behind. Source: Aquinas College collection.

Below: a c.1936 Rose Series P9450 photographic postcard of 'Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges, from Montefiore Hill Lookout' representing one of the first of the now classic iconographic images of Adelaide. Note the completed relocated Colonel Light statue and northern Italian balustrading with the also northern Italian newly planted Italian Cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) staked in timber 'cages'. Source: private collection.

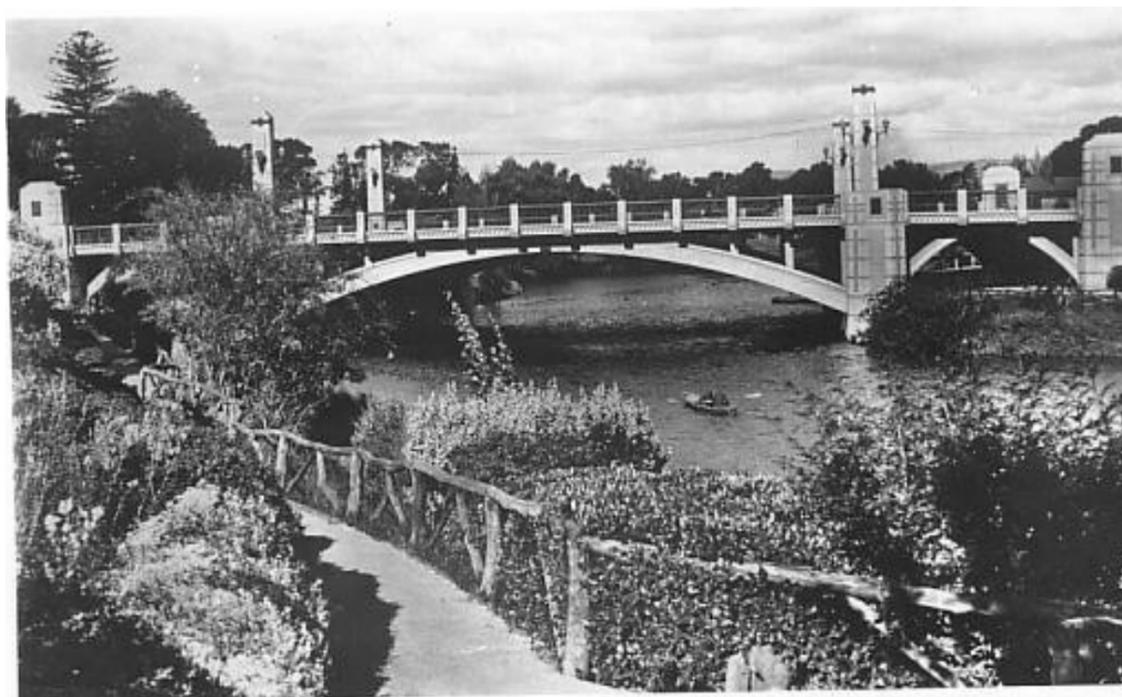




THE ROSE SERIES P. 9278 CRESWELL GARDENS AND LAKE TORRENS, ADELAIDE, S.A.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 9243 PENNINGTON GARDENS AND ST. PETER'S, ADELAIDE, S.A.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 9442 ADELAIDE BRIDGE, TORRENS LAKE, ADELAIDE, S.A.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 9231 PENNINGTON GARDENS, ADELAIDE, S.A.

Figures

Four Rose Series black and white photographs taken of scenes in Creswell Gardens and Pennington Gardens in the early 1920s as developed and planted by Pelzer. To the top left is a scene looking from Adelaide Bridge to the south-west illustrating the strong visual presence of the fastigiata White Poplars (*Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis') planted along the Barr Smith Walk disguising the railway sheds and buildings, with a rusticated pedestrian railing and eclectic embankment garden in the right foreground. To the bottom left is another scene of the rusticated pedestrian railings and the colourful embankment gardens. To the top right is a scene looking north-east through Pennington Gardens West towards the spires of St Peter's Cathedral with a rusticated creeper-covered structure in the middle-ground, Gardenesque tree and shrubs plantings including palms, and metal hoop garden barriers along the pathways. To the bottom right is another scene from Pennington Gardens West, looking southwards, indicating the mature trees and palms extant in the garden, and the use of perennial garden beds to delineate pathway intersections by Pelzer. Source: private collection.

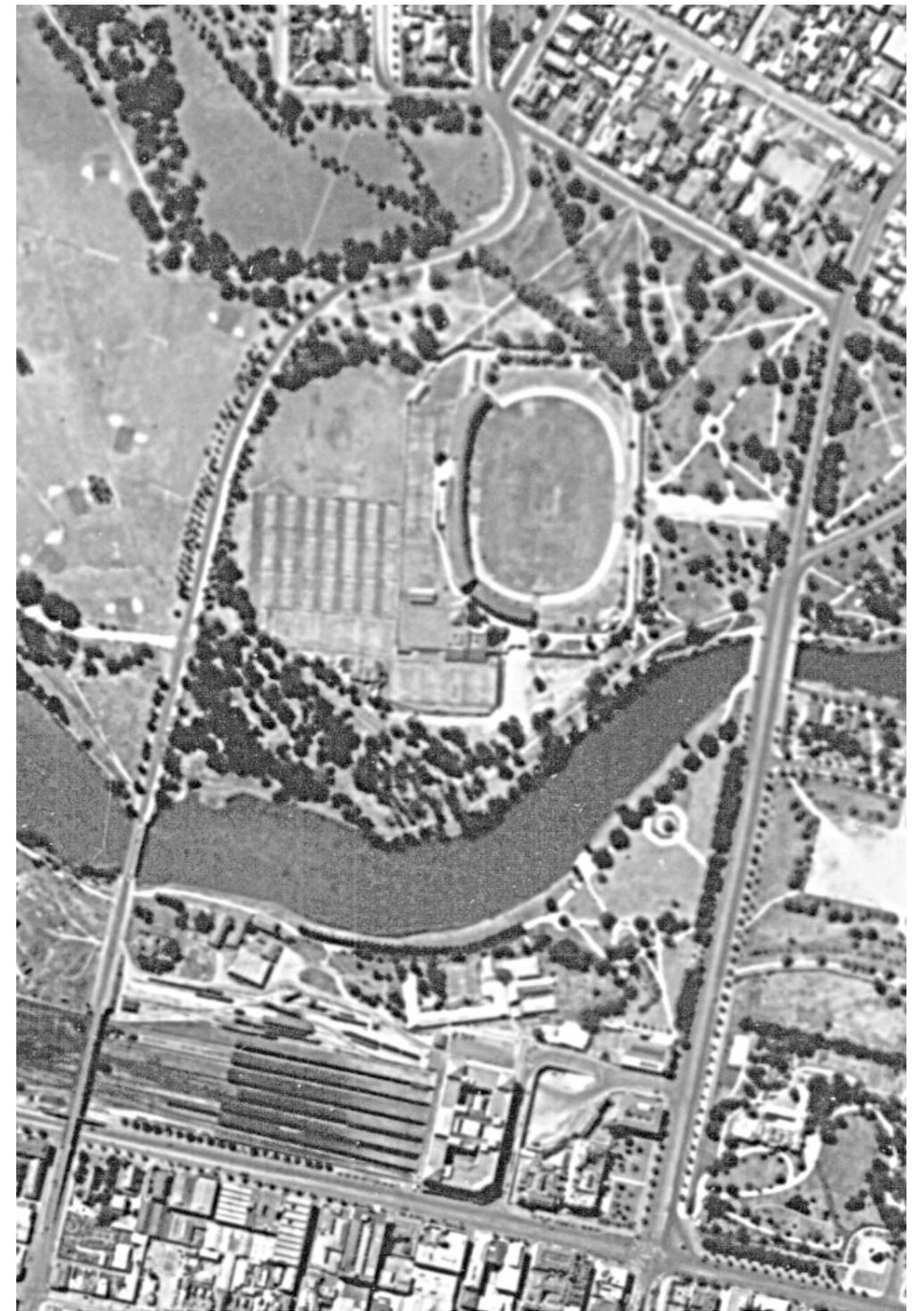
The shift from Italian Renaissance to northern Italian is interesting as it indicates the strong philosophical sway prominent architect Walter Bagot may have had in influencing Irwin and the Corporation over this design proposal. Bagot was passionate about the northern Italian design style; a style which he personally incorporated into renovations for 'Nurney House' in North Adelaide, and the 'Forest Lodge' garden in Stirling.

The result was a feature that enables an iconographic view of the Adelaide landscape today. Lord Mayor James Irwin summarised the works and the outcome as follows:

On the high ground at Montefiore, from which an excellent view of the City and foothills is provided, a white cement concrete balustrade of Northern Italian type, circular in plan, and 125 feet [38.1m] in length, was constructed. Adjacent to the balustrading, a 6-foot [1.8m] concrete slab footpath was constructed, together with two other concrete paths radiating from a centre and separated by triangular-shaped lawns. Three seats facing the City have been placed on the concrete paths. A plate fixed on a pedestal of the balustrading indicates, by means of named lines, the prominent buildings in the City. The look-out area has further been developed by regrading of banks by the Curator of Parks and Gardens. An entrance and path leading to pedestal and sundial will complete this work. Tourists and other visitors to the City may frequently be found viewing the beautiful setting of the City from this site (Annual Report 1936-37, p. 9).

To Curator A Stanley Orchard, the implications of this feature were considerable. He had to remove the extant post and wire fencing surrounding the site, remove some 17 trees to enable the development, ploughing and surface limestone removal, and entrance and pathway construction. In terms of vegetation, he planted nine specimens of Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Indian Coral Tree (*Erythrina indica*), Varnish or Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), and Illawarra Flame Trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*). Ten ornamental Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) "shrubs" were also planted "to harmonize with the balustrading," and formed a circular lawn expanse with stepping stone in advance of the positioning of the sundial. He was also directed by the Corporation to grade the land from the lookout down to Montefiore Road to a 45° slope for 1.8m, install a small 30 x 30cm retaining wall on this slope, remove additionally eight trees (Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis* and, Bunya Bunya Pine, *Araucaria bidwillii*), and install a water line (Annual Report 1936-37, pp. 21-22).

A further Corporation committee was formed to consider the design and siting of a sundial on 26 July 1937, which was approved at a cost of £36 10s on 11 August 1937. In January 1938, however, the Pioneers' Association of South Australia wrote to the Corporation making several suggestions as to amenity works in the municipality associated with the commemoration of the centenary of the death of Light. Included was a recommendation that Light's statue be shifted from its location at the intersection of King William, Franklin and Flinders Streets, and be relocated "to the vicinity of the Look-out." Amidst concerns about cost, the Corporation first stalled on this proposal, but subsequently agreed to shift the statue and place it on the site of the sundial at a cost of £179 and to move the sundial to a site further west at a cost of £15. The Corporation Committee also accepted the suggestion by Society President, Sir Henry Newland, that "Montefiore Lookout" be renamed "Light's Vision" (Annual Report 1936-37, pp. 12-13; 1938-39, p. 9; Cameron 1997, p. 53).



Figure

An extract of a 1935 aerial photograph of metropolitan Adelaide depicting Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 prior to the Lights Vision construction works. Note the tree planting patterns on Montefiore Hill and interconnecting tree-lined pedestrian avenues that are difficult to discern today, including the extant White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) avenue. Note the extensive pathway systems in Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens, their planting configurations, the rusticated arbour house in the former, the established and mature gardens and lawns in Elder Park, the c.1899 Walter Gill donated English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) and Italian Poplar (*Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis') 'Barr Smith Walk' in the Park, and the collection of former Government Surveyor buildings still extant between the Lake and the Railway Station yards at the time. Source: University of Adelaide.

In addition, the Committee proposed that a nameplate inscribed “Light’s Vision” be affixed to the balustrading at a cost of £12 and that an inscription be added to the statue pedestal stating:

EXTRACT FROM COLONEL LIGHT’S JOURNAL, 1839

“The reasons that led me to fix Adelaide where it is I do not expect to be generally understood or calmly judged of at present. My enemies, however, by disputing their validity in every particular, have done me the good service of fixing the whole of the responsibility upon me. I am perfectly willing to bear it; and I leave it to posterity, and not to them, to decide whether I am entitled to praise or to blame” (Annual Report 1936-37, p. 13).

While this larger project was being undertaken, Orchard was busy undertaking a host of different landscape projects throughout the municipality and Park Lands. In terms of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26, he closed several disused footpaths in Pennington Gardens West grassing them over, and dismantled a large rockery in front of the Elder Park refreshment kiosk and created a new flower bed. In Creswell Gardens, Orchard widened the fountain bowl from 3.5m to 6.9m and constructed a new bitumen path around the bowl 3m in width (*Annual Report 1935-36, p. 37; 1936-37, p. 11*). He also changed the water fountain operation:

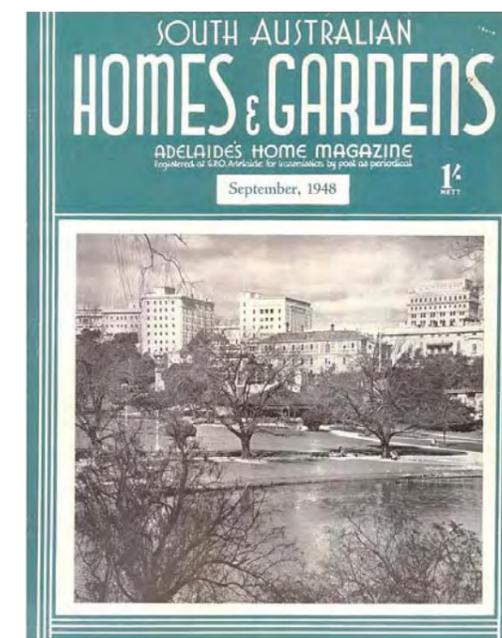
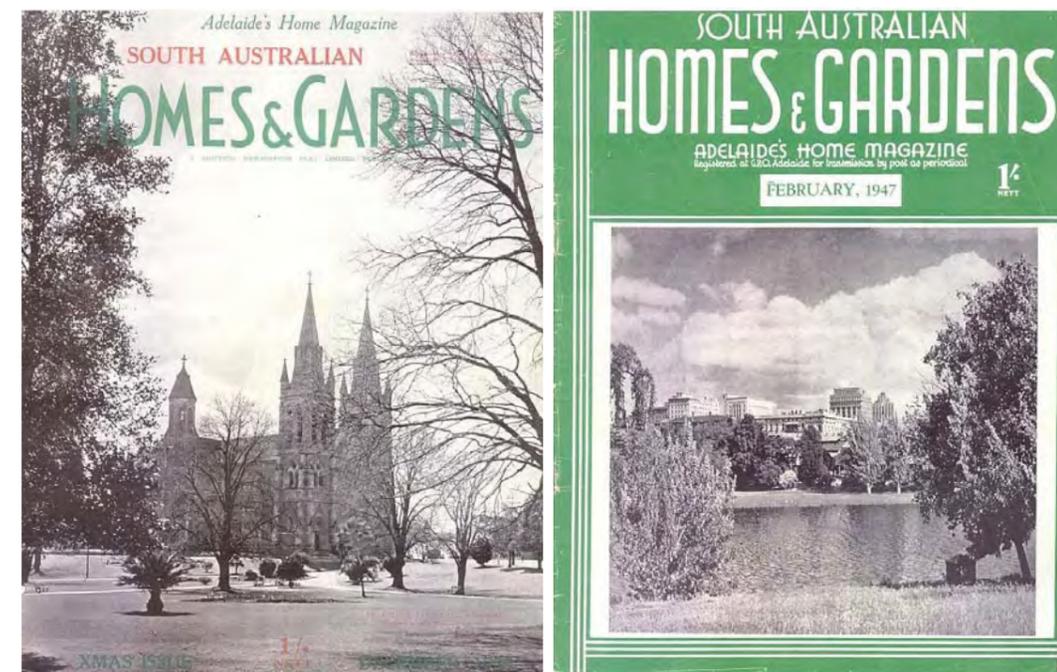
The main jet, which discharges from the small statue at the top of the fountain, has been altered to produce an umbrella-shaped spray showering into the top basin, which upon overflowing will fill the second basin, and, in turn, the main basin. Six jets have been fixed on the perimeter of the main basin, which spray into the middle basin, and another six jets spray vertically from the bottom of the main basins. A circulating pump and motor have been placed in a reinforced-concrete chamber adjacent to the fountain to pump the water from the ground-basin to the jets. The pump and motor are controlled by switch-gear fixed to a pole in Oval Roadway (Annual Report 1936-37, p. 11).

In late 1936 the LTASA submitted an application to the Corporation for renewal of lease and a master plan for the future development of its land. Included was a new grandstand costed at £10,000 to replace the existing structure and the construction of 4 additional courts. Further, it sought small extensions to its leasehold to the south-east, west and south-west, of which the Corporation approved the former two under the *Local Government Act, 1934*, but rejected the latter, and the lease was renewed for a further 21 years together with approval for a new stand and three additional tennis courts. This extension of lease land was approved at a public meeting on 11 August 1936 (*Annual Report 1933-35, p. 25; 1936-37, pp. 13, 22-23*).

The future of the City Baths was back on the Corporation agenda in 1938. The Corporation appointed a special Committee to consider and review the options for its future. Four proposals were put forward, the Corporation mindful that any swimming pool should conform to Olympic pool requirements of 50.29 x 15.25m (*Annual Report 1938-39, pp. 9-10*).

During World War II the Adelaide Oval was used as a military camp, and with victory in the Pacific children from around Adelaide put on a major demonstration within the Oval.

During 1949 the Corporation approved works to remove and re-contour ‘Long’s Point’, a pronounced small escarpment feature that jutted into Lake Torrens. The Point had, in the opinion of City Engineer William Veale, become a visual eyesore but it was more probably a nuisance location where youths jumped off the Point into the waters of the Lake.



Figure

Three front covers of the popular *South Australian Homes & Gardens* magazine, from Xmas December 1935, February 1947 and September 1948 that indicate the popularity of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 as a venue for populist photography as no other portions of the Adelaide Park Lands and Squares were featured on this magazine’s front cover during the life of its publication. December 1935 features a classic view through Pennington Gardens West towards St Peter’s Cathedral with its winter foliage of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) trees and Gardenesque style palm (*Phoenix* ssp) plantings). February 1947 features a view across Lake Torrens to the Railway Station with Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) and White Poplar (*Populus alba*) to the left foreground, English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) to the right foreground, and mature specimens of the fastigiata form of White Poplar (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’) across the Lake Torrens waters in full foliage. The September 1948 issue features a scene from the Creswell Gardens embankment gardens looking south through the winter foliage of the c.1899 Walter Gill donated English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) to the Elder Refreshment Kiosk. Source: private collection.

In 1953 the Corporation proposed and undertook a renovation to the Pinky Flat area “to regrade and beautify the north bank of the Lake” but also to enable the parking of 660 cars during sporting events. The developments were described in the Corporation Reports as “rehabilitation” creating a “panoramic garden” which involved plantings of 145 English Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees and forty fastigiated White Poplars (*Populus alba* ‘Pyramidalis’). This explains the geometric spatial arrangement of the extant Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees in this locality which would have aided the management of car parking. The scheme was costed at £5,500 and commenced in October 1953. During the course of these landscape changes, the Corporation also entertained and voted to change the name of the Flat being “not a suitable name for a beautiful garden” given its connotations (Council Minutes 7 March 1955; *News* 15 October 1953; *The Advertiser* 12 August 1953, 8 March 1955, 9 March 1955; Sumerling 2003, p. 95).

The 1954 Lake Torrens fountain, installed to mark the visit by Queen Elizabeth II to South Australia, was removed in 2006 and sent to the scrap yard as recycled metal. It was to be replaced by a new \$180,000 fountain that shot water to a height of 18m into the air (Day 2006, p. 22).

In a letter to the editor, former City Councillor and then east Adelaide resident JS Rees reported on the outcome of the landscape works in Pinky Flat:

*... so designed that it forms a modern car park ... Some 200 English ash trees [*Fraxinus excelsior*] and Lombardy poplars [*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’] form shady avenues across the lawns and almost 200 attractive shrubs assist in providing barriers for lining up cars. A central feature of Pinky Flat is the ornamental lily pond with fountains which play into it (JS Rees in *The Advertiser* 8 February 1958).*

But Rees also related that the debate about the nomenclature of Pinky Flat continued in the Corporation’s chambers. There was an aversion to the social and political connotations associated with ‘Pinky Flat’ recording that the area was unofficially called ‘Picnic Flat’. This debate resurfaced in 1959 when Sir Henry Newland proposed a change of nomenclature for the locality. Newland proposed the designation ‘Old Ford Gardens’ in reference to the old ford that was adjacent to the site, and was supported in seeking consideration of a change by both the Pioneers Association and the Royal Geographical Society leading to suggestions by the Councillors that the name should be ‘Alford Gardens’, ‘War Memorial Gardens’, ‘John Philip Reserve’, ‘Memorial Gardens’ all of which Councillor Sir Henry Rymill disliked and expressed that the existing name should remain. The matter was laid to rest by the Corporation in July 1959 with the name ‘Pinky Flat’ being adopted (JS Rees in *The Advertiser* 8 February 1958; S Cockburn in *The Advertiser* 12 June 1959; Anon, *The Advertiser* 12 June, 19 June, 20 June, 25 June, 27 June, 20 July, 21 July, 24 July 1959; *Sunday Mail* 10 November 1962; Sumerling 2003, p. 94).

During the course of this nomenclature debate a letter to the editor of *The Advertiser* was written by Shonnia MacDonald pertaining to the name. MacDonald, granddaughter of Charles and Ann Vickerman who were appointed teachers by Governor George Gawler, provided two interesting pieces of information on this tract of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri:

... Why not the name of the two old water carriers who carted water from the spring in the Torrens in the early days?

Their names were Chris and Henry Anderson. They lived on the bank of the river near where the Zoo is in the years between 1836 and 1840.

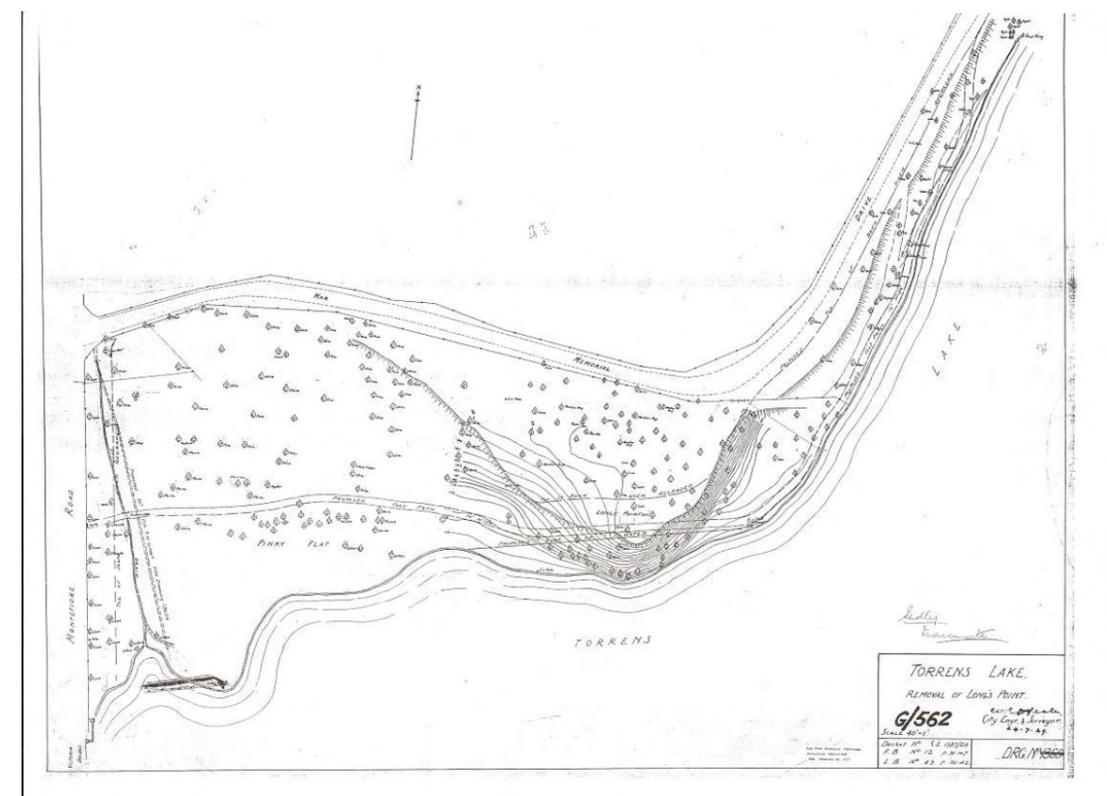


Figure
Plan of ‘Torrens Lake: Removal of Long’s Point’ dated 24 July 1949 as prepared by the Corporation’s City Engineer William Veale, indicating the extensive earthworks proposed to remove Long’s Point from the northern edge of the Lake. Source: ACC archives G/562.

*The tribe of aborigines which claimed and roamed that part of the river was the Permangh tribe. In fact it roamed and formerly occupied the Adelaide Plains. On this particular part of the river, there grew a little pink flower—like a star—which was known as “Pinkejoo-vor-benjeroo-vor ca-an-boo” which means “five little stars.” We Australians called it “Mother of Millions” (MacDonald in *The Advertiser* 25 June 1959).*

During March – August 1957 the Town Clerk, Colonel William CD Veale, undertook a study tour of council organisations and facilities in Europe and North America, and submitted his reports on various topics in October 1958. *Report No. 4* (1958) dealt with Parks and Gardens (Veale 1958) and made sweeping recommendations towards the renovation and development of several parks around the Park Lands, together with redevelopment of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri edges and the development of an 18-hole golf course. There were no specific recommendations for Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 and its River edges.

During 1964 the Corporation finally adopted and approved the 1924 second option as proposed by the Corporation’s City Engineer for the realignment of Montefiore Drive so that it directly connected to Jeffcott Street. These works were undertaken over 1964-65 and an extensive avenue of Lemon-scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) on mainly the western side were planted at the time.

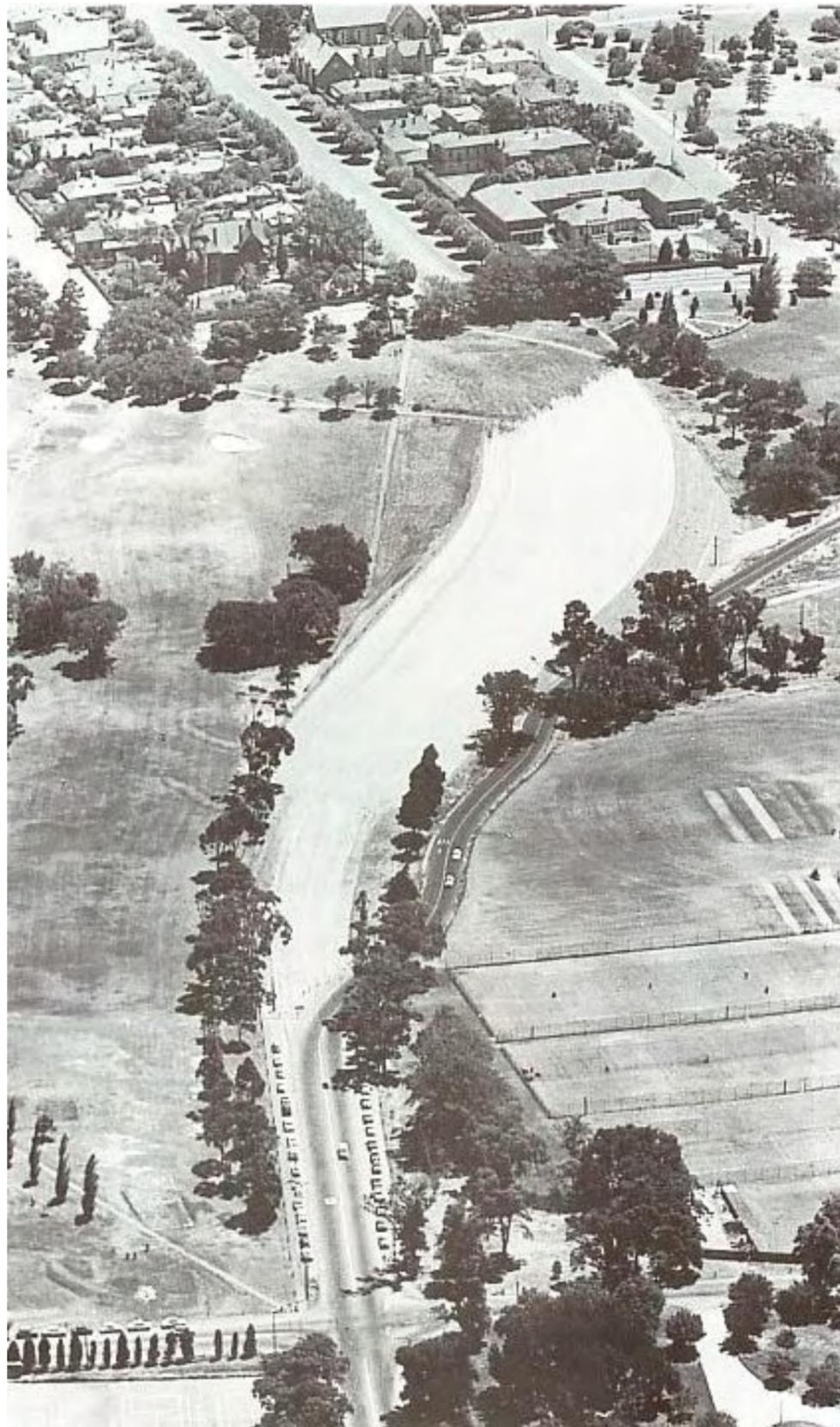


Figure
Road realignment works in progress on Montefiore Hill in 1964-65. Source: Morton 1996, p. 43; ACC archives HP3261.

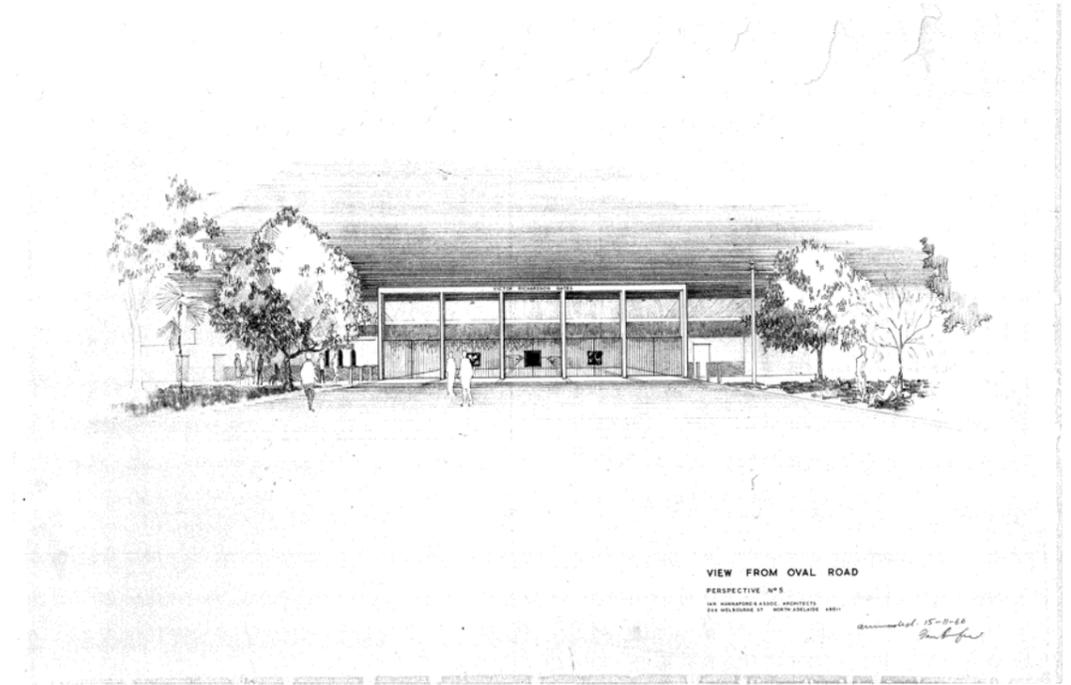


Figure
Perspective of the Victor Richardson Gates prepared by Ian Hannaford in 1967. Source: SACA Archives

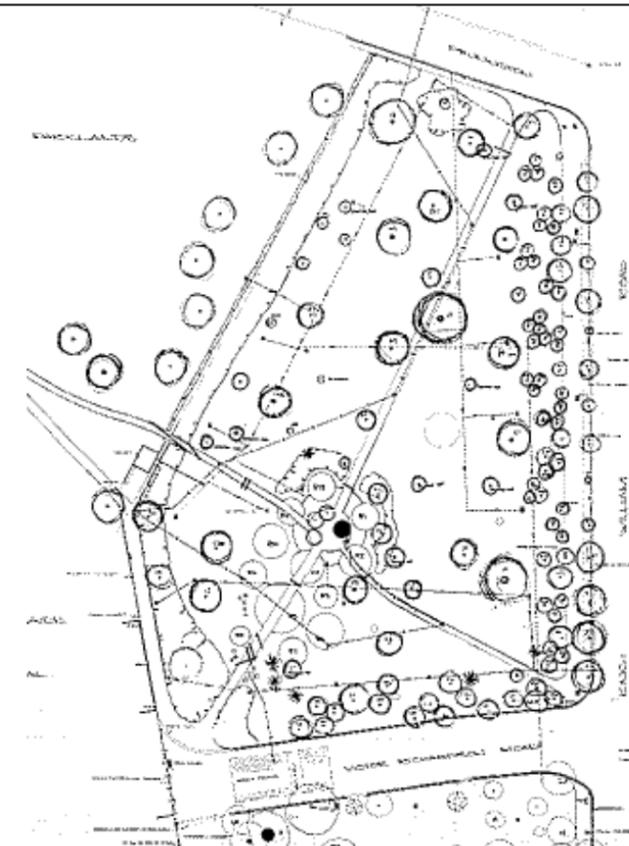


Figure
A plan of Pennington Gardens West indicating the layout and planting locations in the Garden in 1975 during construction works associated with the Laffer Garden installation.. Source: ACC archives B1/75/60.

On 28 October 1967 the Victor Richardson Gates, on Oval Road, were unveiled honouring sporting legend Victor York Richardson. The Gates feature five iron gates framed by iron pylons with a large central plaque reading “These gates were erected to honour Victor York Richardson, 1894-1969.” Mayor and architect James Irwin initiated the movement to honour Richardson and with a public appeal supported by the South Australian Cricket Association and the South Australian National Football League, some £5,000 was raised. Local architect Ian Hannaford supervised the design and sculptor John Dowie designed the friezes; the central plaque was added two years after the opening of the gates (ACC Archives file 2827/65; *Advertiser* 11 January 1966, p. 3; 30 October 1967, p. 3; Marsden *et al* 1990, p. 242; Cameron 1997, pp. 129-131).

In 1968 the state Government under premier Don Dunstan, through representations by Sir Robert Helpmann, proposed that a Festival Hall within a South Australian Performing Arts Centre be erected. Later in that year, Premier Steele Hall actioned this idea and proposed a site adjacent to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri at the present site; the subsequent Dunstan state government pursued this proposal and passed the *Adelaide Festival Centre Act 1969* to enable the project to proceed. The Centre followed from a growing political commitment to the Adelaide Festival of Arts that commenced in 1960, and acceptance by the state Government that the state needed a new Festival Hall to host the Festival in 1963. The ‘Carlew’ property was first proposed as the site for the Hall before the present site was selected. Ground work commenced on the Hassell designed complex in 1970, including the felling of numerous trees and the demolition of the Kiosk rotunda and a early 1960s erected Sound Shell structure. The new Festival Theatre complex was opened on 2 June 1973 by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, and in 1977 Queen Elizabeth II dedicated the Festival Plaza (Furlong 1988, p. 21; Campbell 1998, pp. i, xii, 1-23).

The Robin Michael Laffer rose garden was erected in Pennington Gardens West following a bequest from the estate of Robin Michael Laffer and was intended to be a gift to the Corporation and not strictly to create a garden. It is believed that Laffer had resided with his aged mother of 28 King Street, Brighton, prior to his death in May 1968. Mrs Robin Laffer died just before the opening of the garden on October 12, 1977.

At the Adelaide Oval, the Sir Donald Bradman Stand was opened on 20 January 1990 (Marsden *et al* 1990, p. 242).

In 1994 the Corporation renewed the lease to SACA for a period of 50 years to 30 June 2004 with an annual rental of \$19,084.80 per annum.

In 2000 SACA, in conjunction with the Corporation, commissioned the *Adelaide Oval Conservation Study Review* (2001) that considered the cultural heritage significance of the Oval, including the leasehold, views, the adjacent park lands in Tarndanya Womma/Park 26, and its Kaurna/Aboriginal significance (Swanbury Penglase Architects 2001). This Study Review underpinned the subsequent development proposals prepared by Hassell for the Oval that included retaining significance views and enabling the design and construction of an electronic scoreboard, the Clem Hill Stand, and the Chappell Stands.

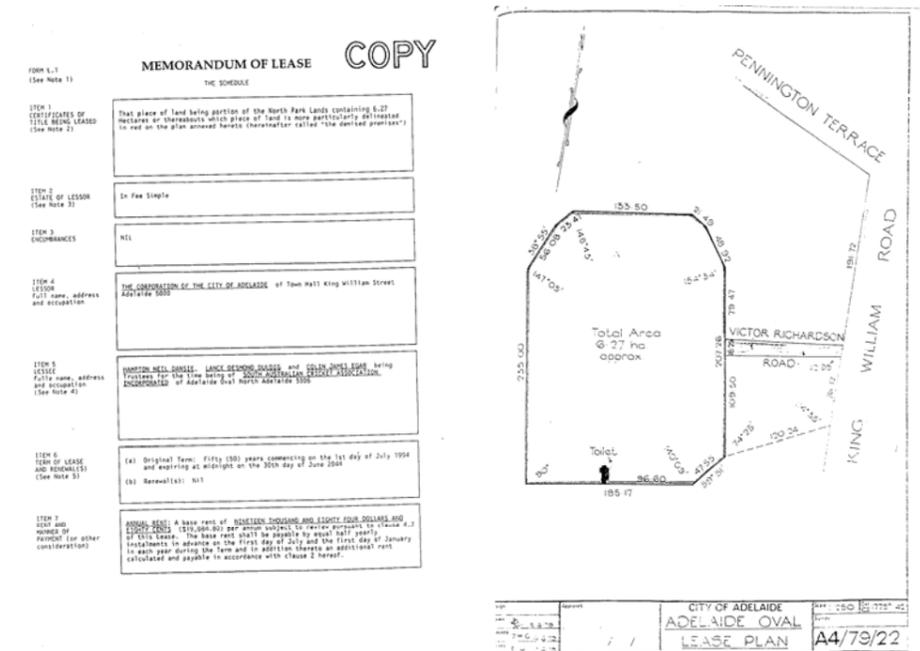
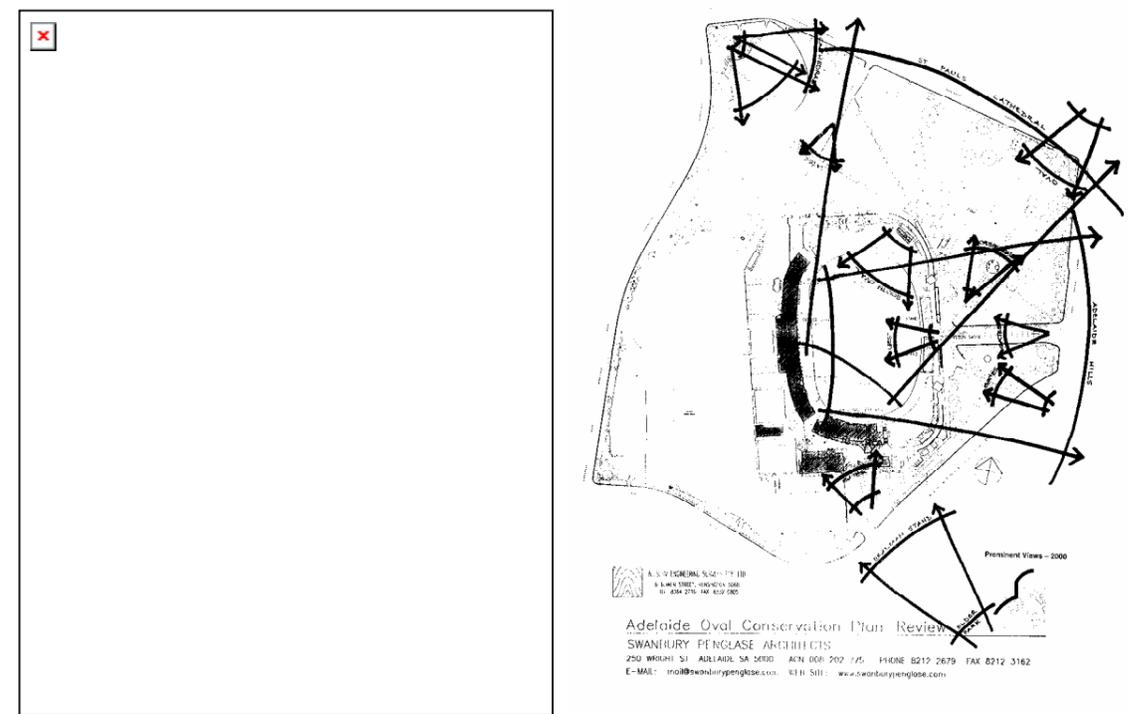


Figure
Extracts from the current lease to the South Australian Cricket Association for the lease of the Oval. Note the spatial delineation of the lease in the plan. Source: SACA Archives



Figures
Extracts from the *Adelaide Oval Conservation Study Review* (2001) mapping information as to significant views, vistas and visual corridors in the leasehold, and in Pennington Gardens West, Creswell Gardens and the Light’s Vision portion of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26. The left map depicts high significant vistas, and the right map depicts views, vistas and views or visual corridors assessed.

The *Study Review* (2001, p. 1.1) proposed the following 'Statement of Significance' for the Adelaide Oval leasehold area:

Concise Statement of Cultural Significance for Adelaide Oval:

Adelaide Oval, established in 1871, is of local, national and international significance as South Australia's primary venue for cricket – with matches held at the Oval since 1871 to the present day. Adelaide Oval has been the major focus for the development of sport within South Australia since its inception, providing a central venue within the Park Lands of Adelaide for the games of cricket, football and other sports. The place is of high social significance due to its association with famous sports people and events and is held in high esteem by the community.

The Oval's history is reflected in the progressive, informal development of the place, illustrated in the buildings and the commemoration of items. Significant buildings include: the Mostyn Evan/ George Giffen/ Sir Edwin Smith grandstand – the largest high integrity grandstand of the 1930 period within South Australia; several entrance gate structures and the highly significant 'arts & crafts' style mechanical Scoreboard.

Within the Park Lands context, the Oval, its vistas and its setting are of high cultural and landscape value. The Oval is considered by many to be the most picturesque in the world, due to its setting and open, informal character. The adjacent Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens are of landscape significance in design and as the ceremonial entrance to the Oval complex.

The *Study Review* (2001, pp. 1.1) also recommended the designation of the leasehold area as a State Heritage Place as follows:

Recommended Places of Heritage Value

It is proposed that Adelaide Oval be listed as a Place of State Heritage Value, including identified features of heritage significance within the Place.

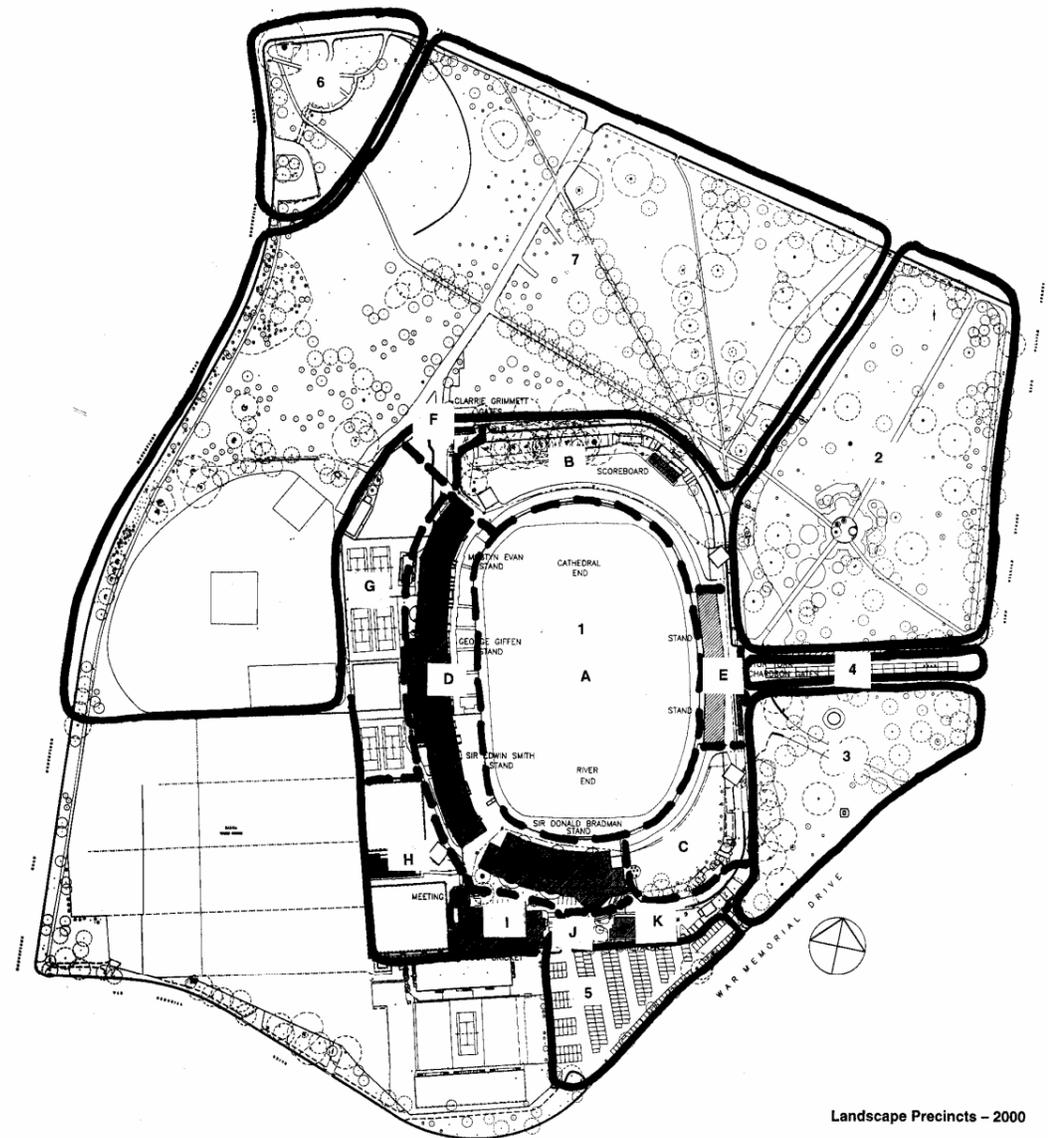
Adelaide Oval as a State Heritage Place

- including *primarily*:

- The Oval site – within the leasehold boundary
- Score board
- Sir Edwin Smith, George Giffen and Mostyn Evan Grandstand
- North and south grassed mounds
- High value views:
 - Internal view/ vista of the Oval itself
 - From the Oval Grandstands towards the Score board, northern grassed mounds, *Ficus sp.* Trees, Cathedral and spires
- Moderate value views:
 - South-east view to cityscape
 - East to hills escarpment
- Along Victor Richardson Drive axis & Victor Richardson Gates

- and *secondarily* (equivalent to Local Heritage (City Significance) listing):

- East entry gatehouse
- Clarrie Grimmett Gates
- Tea House (former)
- Victor Richardson Gates and sculptures (currently listed)
- Turnstiles, bench seats
- Moreton Bay Figs (north mound)



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Landscape Precincts – 2000



Adelaide Oval Conservation Plan Review

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Figures

Extract from the *Adelaide Oval Conservation Study Review* (2001) mapping places, components and spaces, excluding visual precincts, of cultural heritage merit.

During 2001 the Corporation also proposed the renovation of the now named ‘Torrens Walk’ instead of the previous ‘Barr Smith Walk’; the pedestrian promenade along the southern edge of Lake Torrens. These works were partially associated with urban design ideas articulated by Taylor Cullity Lethlean (2001) in their *North Terrace Precincts Development: Concept Design* (2001) report in terms of creating North Terrace – River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri linkages and enhancing circulation patterns. GDH and Oxygen, formerly James Hayter & Associates, were commissioned to prepare designs for this renovation, and their designs sought to address:

- *Celebration of Landform – the Torrens Lake is a natural north-facing amphitheatre. An optimal design would ideally retain and strengthen the north-facing river banks, taking advantage of sun and views to the water and Memorial Drive/ Adelaide Oval beyond.*
- *Linear Spine – The river features as a continuous open space spine through metropolitan Adelaide, providing a focus for movement, recreation and environment.*
- *Varied Edge – A variety of edge treatments to the river would provide greater interest and different opportunities for interaction between users and the water.*
- *Vehicular Movement – Although primarily a pedestrian space, the promenade would need to accommodate service and emergency vehicles, and vehicular access to rowing sheds.*
- *Civic Character and Urban Design Quality – The opportunity to promote Adelaide’s civic character through thoughtful and appropriate design, providing social and economic benefits.*

The adopted design solution for the promenade features a varied or ‘serrated’ edge, providing multiple opportunities for isolated activities and interaction with the river. Honed concrete pavers were selected as the most appropriate material for the promenade, satisfying functional and aesthetic considerations. This paving material was also deemed to integrate well with other high-quality contemporary elements such as street furniture and public artwork (Tuxworth 2006, p. 5).

This waterside promenade was completed in September 2002, and has received peer Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Royal Australian Institute of Architects awards for its urban design excellence. The nomenclature, ‘Torrens Lake Walk’, was introduced through this project supplanting the historical nomenclature of the ‘Barr Smith Walk’ (Tuxworth 2006, pp. 4-5).

Amery (1997; 2002, p. 271) proposed the toponym *Wilyaru Yerta*, meaning ‘Initiation Ground’, to Tarndanya Womma/Park 26. He drew the nomenclature from *wilyaru* meaning ‘the final stage of initiation which includes cicatrisation’ and *yerta* meaning ‘ground’. Amery also hypothesised that *Tarndanya Womma*, ‘Adelaide Plain’, could be a more relevant toponym for the Adelaide Oval and this name was later selected by the Corporation for designation over Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 (Draper *et al* 2005, p. 75).

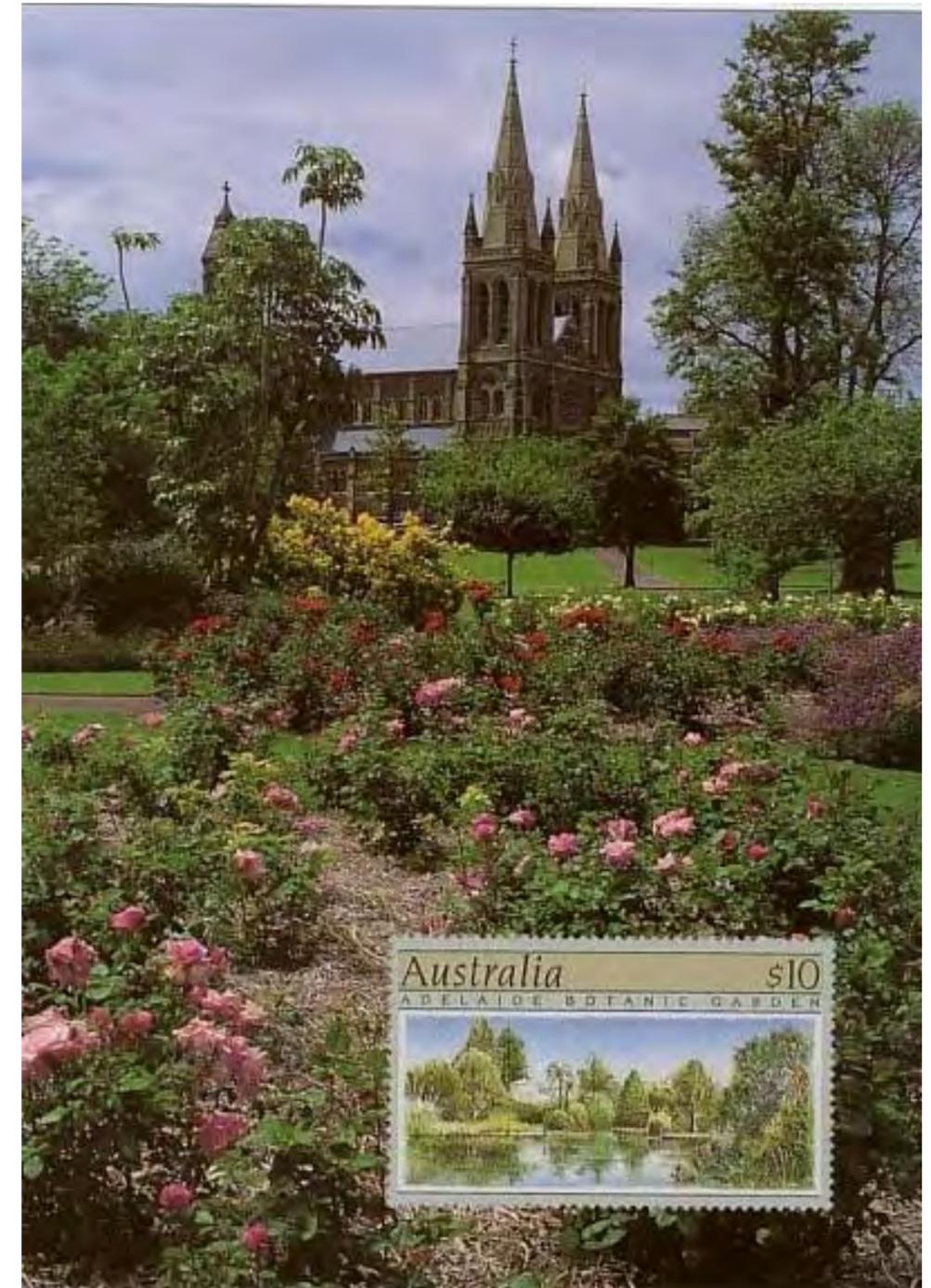
In reviewing the extant biological resources of Tarndanya Womma/Park 26 Long observed that:

Along the north bank of the River Torrens there is a planted garden terrace with a number of Australian native species for example, Anigozanthus sp. Kangaroo Paw and Rosemary Grevillea (Grevillea rosmarinifolia). Along the actual banks of the River Torrens some trees of Swamp Wattle (Acacia retinodes var. retinodes) and a few shrubs of Silky Tea-tree (Leptospermum lanigerum) have been planted.

Some indigenous native plants exist along this section of the River Torrens and include, Eucalyptus camaldulensis var. camaldulensis, Typha domingensis, Large Bindweed (Calystegia sepium) and remarkably one large colony of the pink flowering Slender Knotweed (Persicaria decipiens).

The remaining area of Park 26 is in the precinct of Adelaide Oval. The surrounding areas include gardens planted with a variety of exotic species. Areas along Montifiore Road towards the statue of

Colonel Light are avenues of Eucalyptus sideroxylon spp. sideroxylon and E. citriodora (Long 2003, pp. 50-51).



Figure

A colour photograph postcard released by Australia Post in c.2002 depicting Pennington Gardens West with a \$10.00 stamp depicting a period scene in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. This is a favourite vista that has historically been used for images ever since Pelzer developed and planted Pennington Gardens West. Source: private collection.