

---

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS & SQUARES

3.1.4 Nanto Womma/Park 6 Report



**Nanto Womma/Park 6****Historical Overview: Site Context**

Arising from Light's plan, Nanto Womma/Park 6 consists of 42.1ha of land bounded by Medindie Road, Robe Terrace, LeFevre Terrace and Kingston Terrace. No spatial change of these boundaries has occurred.

In the late 1800s Nanto Womma/Park 6 was often called the 'North Adelaide Pound Paddock' by Corporation staff.

**Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations**

There are several specific references to Kaurna sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Nanto Womma/Park 6 (Hemming 1998).

On 24 April 1845 Moorhouse wrote to the Colonial office asking for a cart ...

*... and a team of bullocks to be supplied 2 or 3 days ... (to remove firewood from the Parkland in North Adelaide to Walkerville School) ... The wood has been cut down by the School Children but the distance is too great for them to carry it (GRG 57/7/1, Protector of Aborigines letter book 1840-57, cited in Hemming 1998, p. 54).*

This request was a reflection of the already denuded condition of the Adelaide Park Lands and that Indigenous people were already experiencing the hardship of locating available timber for their camp fires (Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 31, 58).

In 1846 Nanto Womma/Park 6 was proposed by the Police Commissioner as an Aboriginal Reserve or 'Native Reserve'. The proposal included the issuance of metal tags or tattoos to Aboriginals so that they could be identified, sent to the 'Reserve', and that those without identified would be 'sent away'. The purpose was to "clean up the city streets" of Indigenous people however this proposal did not eventuate (Hemming 1998, p. 54; GRG 24/6/1846/342, CSO letters received, letter from Commissioner of Police, 23 March 1846; Draper *et al* 200, pp. 30, 58).

Draper *et al* (2005, p. 58) has pointed to the existence of a burial site in Nanto Womma/Park 6 but that its actual location is unclear. Hemming (1998) and Harris (1998) have also pointed the possibility that burial sites, traditional camps and ceremonial grounds may have existed at Nanto Womma/Park 6 but that there is no documentation to validate these conclusions (Draper *et al* 2005, p. 58).

**Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations**

From the 1850s to the late 1870s Nanto Womma/Park 6 was used for grazing, fire wood collection, and agistment. It was fenced in white-painted timber post and wire in the late 1860s, and by this time most of the indigenous vegetation had been effectively removed from Nanto Womma/Park 6.

With the engagement of John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880) Brown recorded that Nanto Womma/Park 6 varied in its adaptability to accommodate trees due to soils, the limestone base and the exposure of the Park (Brown 1880, p. 19). He noted the specific characteristics of the site in detail:

*About one-half of the whole extent embraced is somewhat high-lying, and has a strong layer of limestone underneath. This is that portion immediately adjoining LeFevre-terrace. Before any part of this is taken up for planting, I have to advise that the ground be thoroughly trenched and the limestone carefully removed*

*from it, and, that afterwards, the holes made for the reception of the trees be filled up with good rich well-prepared soil ...*

*The other half of the enclosure, or be flat lying towards Walkerville, is of an excellent description for the growth of various kinds of trees, and for their attaining to considerable heights and dimensions and beauty for form. The soil on this portion is of a strong retentive nature, and of considerable depth. The ordinary treatment as regards ploughing and digging of holes, &c., will be sufficient preparation here previous to planting (Brown 1880, p. 19).*

To Nanto Womma/Park 6's advantage, Brown noted the need to conserve the "fine and extensive view ... of the Mount Lofty Ranges" and seeking to beautify Nanto Womma/Park 6 overall. While peripheral planting was recommended, similar to his recommendations for other park land blocks, he proposed the development of a carriage drive to sweep through this block. Unusually he proposed, as distinct from other carriage drive recommendations, that this one not be lined with trees. He noted the extant light scatter of vegetation already growing on Nanto Womma/Park 6 and also the established lineal pedestrian routes connected various adjacent streets with North Adelaide and Walkerville. He also drew criticism of the City Gardener, William Pengilly, established tree plantations along the crest of LeFevre Terrace and the upper portion of Kingston Terrace as being unsuitable for the soil and limestone conditions they were experiencing thus resulting in stunted and poor growth (Brown 1880, pp. 19-20).

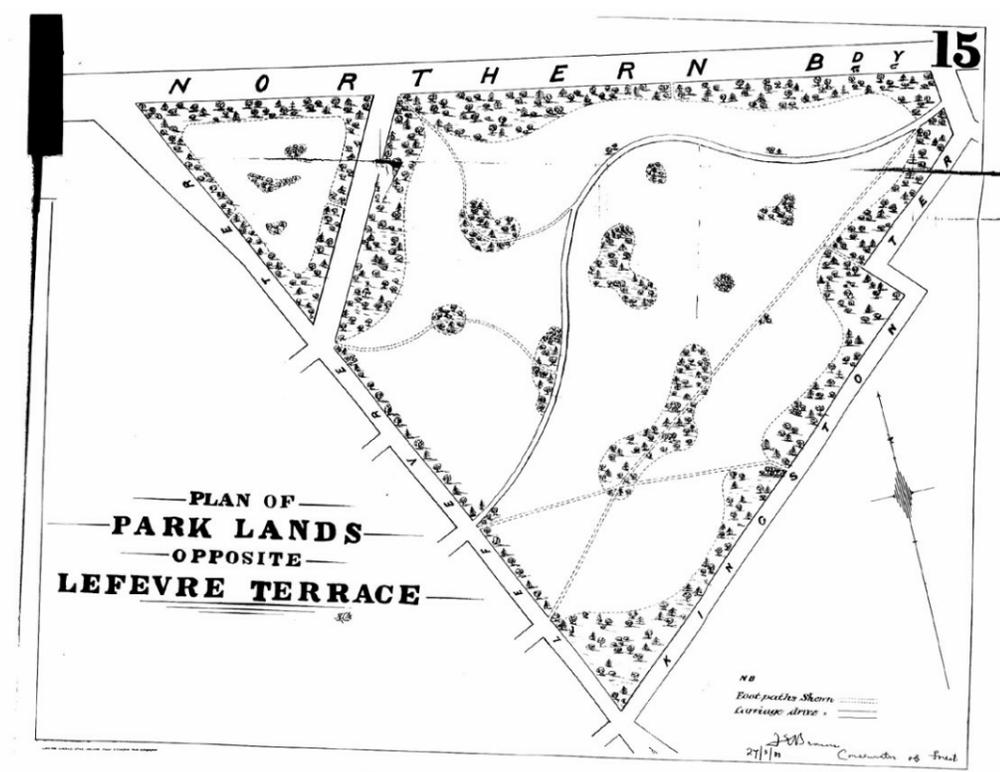


Figure  
Plan 15 prepared by Brown (1880) in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880).

One of the more important design aesthetics of this site is the view seen to the east of the site, being the Mt Lofty Ranges:

In considering as to the best method for the beautifying of this portion of the Park Lands, I have endeavoured to so arrange the various plantations that, while making the most of the capabilities of the site as a whole, the fine and extensive view from LeFevre-terrace of the Mount Lofty Ranges in the back ground might be as little interrupted as possible. (Brown 1880, p. 19).

Brown’s specific recommendations were:

I propose that a Carriage-drive be constructed through the block to enter from LeFevre-terrace opposite Tynte-street, to wind N. by E. in a gradual and pleasant curve until within about 150 yards [137m] of the northern boundary, from which point the curve will be continued in a direction almost S.E. until the middle of the flat is reached, when it should run due East to the angle of the boundary of the block at Walkerville.

The present footpaths from Tynte-street and Archer-street to Walkerville and Kingston-terrace to be retained.

I recommend the following new footpaths in the block under notice. One from LeFevre-terrace opposite to intersection with Barton-terrace to curve N.E., then due E. through plantations until it joins the Carriage-drive; another to enter from northern boundary road at intersection line with road to Medindie, this to cur[v]e first due South, then S.E. and finally N.E., until junction with Carriage-drive on brow of hill. Besides these, there are several entrance-paths from the streets through the plantation to the Park as marked on Plan.

The existing strip of plantation along LeFevre-terrace is in a very unhealthy condition. The trees are Eucalypti chiefly. The cause of their unhealthiness is simply unsuitableness of the site to the habitats of the trees planted. The trees are daily becoming more unsightly, and I have therefore to advise that they be gradually removed and that in their place a row of good strong plants of the following kinds be planted alternately at thirty foot apart:--Ficus Macrophylla [Ficus macrophylla], Pinus Halepensis [Pinus halepensis], Pinus Insignis [Pinus radiata], Schinus Molle [Schinus aerea var molle], and Melia Azedarach [Melia azedarach var australisca].

The trees in the plantation opposite Kingston-terrace are, generally speaking, healthy. This is especially the case on the flat towards Walkerville, where the soil is of a congenial nature to the requirements of the trees planted. On the hill towards LeFevre-terrace, however, some of the trees are of a stunted growth and will not make good ornamental specimens. I have therefore to recommend that all such as are of this character should be removed, and others of a more suitable nature used in filling up the gaps.

I advise that plantations be formed round the outside boundaries of the block under notice, and that clumps of different shapes and sizes be formed in the Park, all as represented on the Plan [sic] (Brown 1880, pp. 19-20).

Unfortunately none of these specific recommendations appear to have been implemented except the peripheral tree plantations. The carriage drive was not constructed and the formal ornamental trees proposed for the LeFevre Terrace flank were not planted.

Brown’s tree planting recommendations were:

On the higher part of the block, I recommend that the following kinds of trees be planted in the enclosures proposed:--

Nomenclature as used by JE Brown (1880)	Current Scientific Nomenclature	Current Common Name
Pinus Halepensis	Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine
Pinus Laricio	Pinus nigra var. maritima	Corsican Pine

Pinus Insignis	Pinus radiata	Monterey Pine
Pinus Canariensis	Pinus canariensis	Canary Islands Pine
Pinus Pinea	Pinus pinea	Stone Pine
Pinus Pinaster	Pinus pinaster	Maritime Pine, Cluster Pine
Pinus Maritima	?	
Cedrus Deodara	Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar, Himalayan Cedar
Ficus Macrophylla	Ficus macrophylla	Moreton Bay Fig
Schinus Molle	Schinus molle	Pepper Tree
Grevillea Robusta	Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak
Cupressus Uhdeana	?	
Cupressus Sempervirens	Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress
Cupressus Torulosa	Cupressus torulosa	Himalayan Cypress, Bhutan Cypress
Sterculia Hetrophylla	?	
Robinia Pseudacacia	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust, False Acacia
Melia Azedarach	Melia azedarach var australasca	White Cedar
Casuarina Stricta	Casuarina stricta	Drooping She-oak, Mountain Oak

In addition to the above, the following other kinds should be used for the plantation on the flat:--

Nomenclature as used by JE Brown (1880)	Current Scientific Nomenclature	Current Common Name
Araucaria Excelsa	Araucaria heterophylla	Norfolk Island Pine
Araucaria Cunninghamii	Araucaria cunninghamii	Hoop Pine, Moreton Bay Pine
Pinus Sabiniana	?	
Pinus Longifolia	?	
Cedrus Atlantica	Cedrus atlantica	Atlas Cedar
Abies Excelsa	?	
Ulmus Suberosa	Quercus suber	Cork Oak
Ulmus Campestris	Ulmus procera	English Elm
Fraxinus Americana	Fraxinus americana	White Ash
Fraxinus Excelsoir	Fraxinus excelsior	English Ash
Populus Nigra	Populus nigra	Black Poplar
Populus Canescens	Populus canescens	Grey Poplar
Populus Dilatata	Populus nigra ‘Italica’	Lombardy Poplar
Platanus Acerfolia	Platanus x acerifolius	London Plane
Legunaria Patersonii	Lagunaria patersonii	Norfolk Island Hibiscus
Tristanea Conferta	Lophostemon confertus	Queensland Brush Box
Juniperus Virginiana	Juniperus virginiana	Pencil Cedar, Eastern Red Cedar
Thuja Menziesii	?	
Cupressus Lawsoniana	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawson Cypress, Port Orford Cedar

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

Notwithstanding Brown's activities, Pengilly also proceeded with planting activities. In his report of 1883 Pengilly records the planting of "various kinds of trees" numbering 300 in Park Land blocks 1 to 9 as well as 5 new plantation resulting in an overall tree plantation total of 3,082 trees (*Annual Report 1882-83*, p. 134).

In the subsequent financial year the Corporation acquired a substantial amount of fencing materials from England, including wrought iron posts, wrought iron field gates, cast iron corner posts, galvanized iron pillars together with 117,950 yards (107,853m) of 7-ply galvanized wire. The purpose was to totally replace the existing "old and dilapidated post and two rail fence" that enclosed most of the Park Land blocks to the Terraces. The cast iron posts and pillars were marked with "Iron Duke" and "Letterewe" branding. Upon arrival, the Park Lands and Gardens staff commenced the process of re-fencing the Park Lands (*Annual Report 1883-84*, pp. 56-57). William H Campbell, as Park Lands Ranger, trialled this new fencing on South Terrace and found that he could erect it at a cost of 2¼d per foot. His conclusions were that the fencing was cost-effective, ornamental, offered opportunities for addition access points, and "in a measure complies with Councillor [FW] Bullock's intention to allow of perambulators, &c., having access to our reserves." Notwithstanding this purchase, staff often proceeded with re-fencing works using old materials (*Annual Report 1884-85*, pp. 102-103).

During 1885 the Park Lands Ranger, William Campbell, erected 16 panels of wrought iron ornamental fencing along the Kingston Terrace frontage to the Park. An additional 17 panels of post and 3 rail timber fencing was erected to surround the Kingston Terrace 'blinding' pit in the following year as well as an additional 33 panels along Kingston Terrace and a further 26 to encircle the Kingston Terrace sand pit. Campbell erected a further 123 panels of timber fencing in 1889 (*Annual Report 1886-87*, p. 112; 1887-88, p. 81; 1888-89, p. 134). In 1889 he erected a further 198 timber post and 3 railed fence panels around Park 6. At this stage Campbell starts calling Nanto Womma/Park 6 the "North Adelaide Pound Paddock" and some 33 panels of wrought iron ornamental fencing was erected along the LeFevre Terrace frontage to Nanto Womma/Park 6 (*Annual Report 1889-90*, p. 119, 120).

The Pound paddock was clearly extensively used for grazing purposes from the 1870s. By the 1890s Campbell was struggling to control the introduced weeds that had taken control of much of this pasturage. He noted that:

*A weed known as the Wild Onion (Asphodelus tenuior) [Asphodel; Asphodelus fistulosus] has given a great deal of trouble this year. It has completely taken possession of many of the grazing paddocks in North Adelaide, and for several months in the year renders them almost unfit for use, as cattle will not touch it. At considerable expense it has been grubbed this year; but numberless young plants are certain to have been missed, and it would take three years to eradicate them. All these efforts must, however, be futile so long as private land in the vicinity remains stocked with it; and the Corporation is powerless to deal with the evil until it be proclaimed a noxious weed (Annual Report 1894-95, p. 65).*

With Pelzer's appointment a rigorous planting program of the Park Lands was and it appears that Pelzer somewhat faithfully referred to and used Brown's *Report* (1880) as the guiding master plan for his planting activities. Notwithstanding this activity, Pelzer appears to have placed little priority upon the North Parklands, deferring to urgent needs in the East and South Parklands.

Campbell also had to deal with the social establishment of North Adelaide because of their adjoining residences to the Park Lands and probably had to compromise on fencing and planting activities to satisfy their wishes. The most interesting wish was the establishment of a golf course in Nanto Womma/Park 6 adjacent to LeFevre Terrace by several influential leaders in resident in North Adelaide that also enabled the establishment in 1893 of the North Adelaide Ladies' Golf Club:

*The Ladies' Golf Club in North Adelaide is fairly started now, and the members are most enthusiastic over their new amusement. Doubtless the hot weather, combined with grass-seeds, will have the effect of drying up some of their ardour before long. The gentlemen have graciously placed their links at the disposal of the ladies on Monday afternoons, and on any morning of the week, but I believe if any young lady were to be found trespassing on these same links of a Saturday afternoon the punishment would be swift and complete ... The links are on the Parklands opposite LeFevre's Terrace ... Tea and golf do not seem to associate themselves in the mind in the easy way that tea and tennis do. Nevertheless I have heard of pleasant little tea-parties taking place at some of the members' house on the Terrace between the rounds ... [sic] (Observer 18 November 1893).*

Influential families on LeFevre Terrace at that time included the Swifts, Marryat, Ayers, Stow and Peacock. By 1899 this golf course had ceased to exist and a new 9 hole golf course had been established in the better watered and sheltered grounds in Piltawodli/Park 1 as the 'Adelaide Golfing Club' (*Observer 18 November 1893*; Nagle 1971, p. 63; Sumerling 2003, pp. 64, 78).

In 1903 a review of all Corporation depots and rubbish tips in the Park Lands considered the removal of limestone excavation holes in Nanto Womma/Park 6 on Kingston Terrace but recommended its permanent reservation. The purpose of this reservation was to enable the service of 'blinding' gravel provision to roads (*Annual Report 1903*, pp. 28-29).

Pelzer's first attention in Nanto Womma/Park 6 was drawn to planting activities along Kingston Terrace perhaps due to the location of the Corporation works depot and the above 'blinding' pit. In 1903 he first planted 4 trees along Kingston Terrace, some 32 White Cedar's (*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*) along the Kingston Terrace road reserve and 25 False Acacia's (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) along the LeFevre Terrace road reserve. In addition, the soil around "41 stunted elm trees" (*Ulmus procera*) was renewed with the sinking of trenches around their roots and the provision of introduced "good loamy soil mixed with bonedust." "Perambulator" gates were also hung along the Kingston Terrace frontage to enable pedestrian access into Nanto Womma/Park 6 (*Annual Report 1903*, pp. 44, 45, 46).

In 1904 the Corporation commissioned fencing contractors to erect the "Anchor" style of sawn jarrah post and wire fencing. The style consisted of six-wire fencing with jarrah posts 3.6m apart. George Wills & Co undertook the fencing of the Robe Terrace frontage with this new type of fencing and Pelzer matched this work with the planting of 111 Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) along the road reserve and an additional 40 Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) within the Nanto Womma/Park 6 paddock within some 68 panels of new standard post and wire fencing. Some 4 White Cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*), 3 pines (*Pinus* sp), and 4 elms (*Ulmus procera*) were also planted in the Kingston Terrace road reserve. He also planted hedges of Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) and African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) around the Kingston Terrace works depot yard (*Annual Report 1904*, pp. 39, 63, 64, 66, 74).

In 1905 Fred Scarfe of Medindie, of Harris Scarfe associations, donated £25 to the Council towards the cost of planting 70 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) trees along the Medindie Road reserve (*Annual Report 1905*, p. 41). Scarfe resided at 16 Robe Terrace, on the corner of Avenel Gardens Road and Robe Terrace, so his gesture was in part to enhance his drive to and from work. Some of these English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) trees remain today albeit in a senescent and stunted condition. Mayor Theodore Bruce recorded:

*The result was a splendid opportunity eagerly availed of by the North Adelaide, Prospect and Walkerville Schools. About 2,000 scholars assembled, and were, at the conclusion of the working portion of the*

*programme, the recipients of sweets given by Mr. Scarfe, and the customary half-holiday from the School Board.*

*This practical demonstration of Mr. Scarfe's appreciation of tree-planting is an excellent example which many of our wealthy citizens might beneficially follow, and I hope that whilst the Council are improving in a general manner individuals will assist, as in Mr. Scarfe's case, in localities where the benefits are more localised (Annual Report 1905, p. 41).*

During 1905-07 Pelzer commenced a tree planting program focussed upon the north eastern parklands. He commenced replacing gums in LeFevre Terrace, pollarding gums in Kingston Terrace, and planting an "avenue of trees ... along [a] path in Paddock No. 6." A new plantation was also established along the edge of Kingston Terrace at its eastern end, new English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) planted along a footpath that joined the eastern extremity of Kingston Terrace (then Fuller Street) with Hawkers Road, together with the erection of some 20 circular tree guards within the paddock. White painted timber guard posts were also erected along Medindie Road presumably to protect the newly planted trees. In 1906 Council awarded the sheep agistment licence for the north Parklands to Mr FW Kilsby of Mitcham enabling a flock of 2,000 sheep to graze on the parklands overall, and Pelzer replaced some 11 gums fallen due to "heavy winds" in the Park (Annual Report 1905, pp. 42, 54, 56; 1906, pp. 43, 44, 62, 64; 1907, pp. 53, 55, 73).

In 1906 Pelzer fore-shadowed a tree planting program for the Northern Parklands but it is more likely an overall statement about the volume of tree planting work entertained in the above paragraph as no further elaboration was forthcoming (Annual Report 1906, p. 61; 1907, p. 53).



Figure  
Photograph looking north from Brougham Place towards Nanto Womma/Park 6, in 1907-08. Note the open landscape, established tree plantation on the corner of Lefevre and Kingston Terraces. The Corporation hopper is not visually evident in this image. Source: MLSA B3475.

During the course of the 1910s Pelzer undertook general maintenance works in Kandarilla/Park 3, Kangattilla/Park 4, Ngampa Yerta/Park 5 and Nanto Womma/Park 6 including replacement of derelict or damaged fencing, replacement of damaged street and park trees, and general care of the agistment paddocks. More "White Acacia" (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees were planted along LeFevre Terrace, trees were planted on the slopes of Nanto Womma/Park 6, and the Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) plantation along Robe Terrace was lopped (Annual Report 1910, pp. 52, 54, 65, 66, 67; 1912, pp. 64, 101; 1913, pp. 50, 66). Mr Kilsby's agistment contract was re-awarded to Mr CB Richards in 1912 (Annual Report 1912, p. 62).



Image:  
View from 'Nurney House' in Kingston Terrace, looking eastwards along Kingston Terrace to the Adelaide Hills, c.1910. Note the established tree plantation, white painted post and wire fencing, pathways egressing Kingston Terrace. Source: City of Adelaide archives.

In 1914 Pelzer re-surfaced the Archer Street – Medindie pedestrian pathway with consolidated and rolled limestone rubble, and in 1916 planted a Kaffir apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) hedge along the roadway to the refuse hopper in Nanto Womma/Park 6 from LeFevre Terrace. The hopper was located in LeFevre Terrace, to the south of the playground and approximately opposite Archer Street (Annual Report 1914, p. 80; 1916, p. 43).

The latter planting was clearly a response to aesthetically hide an impending problem. In 1917 the Lord Mayor Isaac Isaacs reported on the refuse hopper in Nanto Womma/Park 6 noting that "on several occasions during the last five years the Council has been urged by certain

ratepayers to remove the refuse hopper ...” He personally received a deputation that claimed that:

1. *Its presence was a misuse of the Park Lands;*
2. *It was extremely unsuitable, and entirely destroyed the natural beauties of the park in question; it was unsanitary and inconvenient owing to the fact that the dust and portions of the sweepings were continually blown into the neighbouring houses; and,*
3. *It had considerably depreciated the value of property in the neighbourhood (Annual Report 1917, p. 26).*

Following Corporation debate it was determined to discontinue the refuse hopper. Pelzer also re-sheeted the Archer Street – Mann Terrace pedestrian pathway in rolled consolidated limestone (*Annual Report 1917*, pp. 26, 42).

In 1918 the Corporation entertained but deferred a more detailed tree planting program for the North Park Lands under the motion of Councillor Cain. The proposal included a budget of £200 and included the following works:

- Park No. 2 (between Jeffcott Street and Prospect Road)—to be planted with clumps of trees.*
- Park No. 3—to be planted with a row of trees along the Main North Road.*
- Park No. 4—to have groups planted, and a row along the fence bordering LeFevre Road.*
- Park No. 6—groups at foot of the hill and isolated trees on top of the hill.*

*The total estimated cost of the foregoing is £200. It will be noted that the whole of the work suggested is in the North Park Lands, for the reason that, to minimise the cost of maintenance, watering, etc., it is necessary that it be confined to contiguous areas; and, while there are other parts that require planting ... the sites selected are those most urgently in need of attention (Annual Report 1918, p. 27).*

Playgrounds were a source of Corporation discussion throughout the 1910s in terms of their provision to promote the general health and welfare of school children. Such institutions were staffed with a supervisor either employed by the Corporation or the Education Department:

*... playgrounds were built in the poorest, most congested areas, and while appliances such as swings, slides and see-saws were considered beneficial to children’s fitness and health, an important aspect of the movement was adult supervision. Playground supervisors would oversee the children’s activities, give them moral guidance and mould their sense of citizenship (Gatley 2001, p. 36).*

*... playgrounds that were built in Adelaide tended to be considerably smaller than 5 acres in area, but they were divided by sex and age to the greatest extent practicable (Gatley 2001, p. 40).*

The first public playground established in the Park Lands was in Kurrangga/Park 20 and fittingly it was named after Mayor Glover, the benefactor of the playgrounds. The North Adelaide Playground in LeFevre Terrace was approved subsequently and was under construction at the same time as the Glover Playground. The site for this Playground was selected in 1919, and prompted by a donation of £500 by Lord Mayor Glover in November 1919 to establish a modern playground in the North Adelaide locality. The Corporation approved the site on 24 November 1919 and immediately directed Pelzer to the “work of preparing and equipping the playground” including 10½ chains of post and wire-netting (*Annual Report 1920*, p. 16-17, 32, 33).

Pelzer reported in 1920 that:

*The North Adelaide Children’s Playground in [Nanto Womma/]Park No. 6, is nearing completion. The area of the ground is about one and three-quarter acres [0.70ha], which has been enclosed with a fence of sawn posts, wire and wire-netting. Hedges have been planted along portion of the fence. The entrance to the playground is from LeFevre Terrace opposite Tynte Street. Provision has been made, among other things, for two large lawns, sand-tray, wading pool, swings, horizontal ladder, shade trees, seating accommodation, and a rustic shelter-house, including sanitary conveniences. In the eastern portion of the ground two large borders have been laid out and planted with various shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants. Two open stormwater drains had to be diverted, so as to be outside the playground (Annual Report 1920, p. 31).*

He summarised these works in the following year:

*In the North Adelaide Children’s Playground the rustic shelter-house has been completed, and has been dressed with a preparation (solignum), for the purpose of preserving the wood. At the rear of the shelter-house, a tool-house has been erected and four trees have been planted there, so as to hide the tool-house and the rear portion of the shelter-house from LeFevre Terrace (Annual Report 1921, p. 36).*

Pelzer also entertained minor improvements in Nanto Womma/Park 6. He re-surfaced several pathways, erected one tennis court, and installed several large iron gates in place of slip-panel openings. In 1921 he planted 65 Robinias (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) along the path near the Northcote Croquet Ground from Tynte to Jerningham Streets at a cost of £70, and actioned the 1918 planting motion moved by Councillor Cain together with a new planting along a pathway near Hawkers Road. He also had to raise the eastern fencing around the Playground to prevent depasturing horses from “destroying the hedge plants” (*Annual Report 1920*, pp. 31, 33; 1921, pp. 24, 25, 38).

During 1923 Pelzer undertook minor renovations to the shelter-house in the Playground by installing fixed battens “inside of the rustic work,” and re-water proofing the roof. As part of the management of the Playground, the Corporation successfully approached the Education Department to provide a supervisor to monitor the Playground. Pelzer also added three further tennis courts and four seats to Nanto Womma/Park 6 in 1924, and reinstated many paths in Nanto Womma/Park 6 following heavy rainstorms on 5-6 February 1925. In 1925 he also erected three extra swings in the Playground. He erected a raised “guard-fence” on the northern flank of the Playground for “preventing grazing horses from destroying the hedge” and undertook drainage works associated with pathways to prevent the pathways from being flooded. In 1927 the Nanto Womma/Park 6 agistment paddocks were placed under quarantine due a “pleuro-pneumonia” outbreak in animals agisted on the paddock. He also erected another tennis court in Nanto Womma/Park 6 in the same year, and another 2 in 1928. During 1927-28 an average monthly attendance of 4,000-7,000 children were recorded using the LeFevre Terrace Playground (*Annual Report 1923*, p. 36; 1924, pp. 32, 38, 40; 1925, pp. 34, 36, 41; 1927, pp. 29, 31; 1928, pp. 30, 45).



Upper & Lower Figures

Above, an image of the gravelled pedestrian pathway through the lower south-eastern corner of Nanto Womma/Park 6 which is largely extant today in alignment. Below, an image of the Glover Playground in Lefevre Terrace in 1928. Note the original Playground sign still extant today in the lower image. Source: ACC Archives.



Upper & Lower Figures

Two images of the Glover Playground on Lefevre Terrace in 1928. Note the young River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in the centre of the Playground which is a mature specimen today. Source: ACC Archives.





Figure  
 Above, an image of the gravelled pedestrian pathway through the lower south-eastern corner of Nanto Womma/Park 6 which is largely extant today in alignment.. Source: ACC Archives, HP 1667.

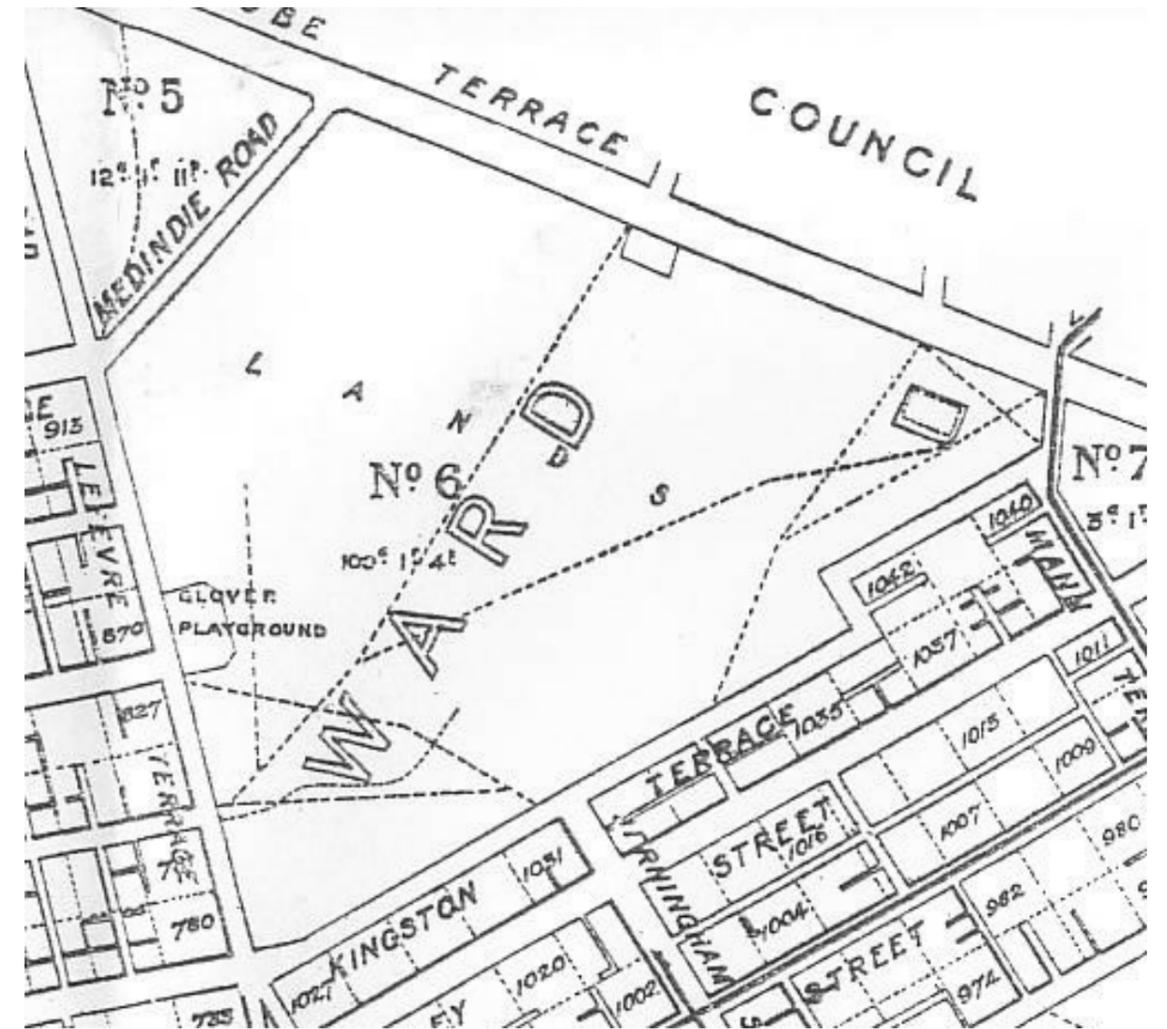


Figure:  
 Extract of a Corporation Plan prepared by the City Engineer entitled 'Plan Showing Improved Pavements', dated 14 November 1927, depicting the established pathway system in Nanto Womma/Park 6 together with the Lefevre Terrace Playground and Croquet Ground in the north-eastern corner of the Park. Source: ACC Archives.

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 Adelaide notwithstanding the Centenary of South Australia celebrations in 1936. In terms of Park 6 little improvement works were entertained from 1932 up until the 1960s (*Annual Report 1935-36*, p. 37).

operated in the 1890s (Nagle 1971, p. 63; *Observer* 18 November 1893). He also noted a “horse-riding tan track” around the periphery of Nanto Womma Park 6 and proposed that it be:

*... retained by relocating the section adjacent to Kingston Terrace to a position closer to the fence and the elimination of a short section of it which is located parallel to LeFevre Terrace and Medindie Road. The remaining length, however, would be nearly one mile (Veale 1958, pp. 75-76).*

He concluded that the topography of Nanto Womma/Park 6 offered considerable advantages to hosting a golf range, proposed that a “well-designed Golf House” be erected to the north of the Playground near Medindie Road intersection, with a café to serve light refreshments “on wide verandahs facing the hills,” and also proposed that the golf range be serviced by a water main via Jerningham Street from water from the Torrens Lake (Veale 1958, pp. 76-77). These works were however never implemented.



Figure

Extract of an aerial photograph of the metropolitan area of Adelaide depicting Nanto Womma/Park 6 in 1936 with its strongly defined pathway system, little developed but open woodland perimeter plantings and developed recreational facilities on the LeFevre Terrace and Kingston Terrace frontages. Source: University of Adelaide.

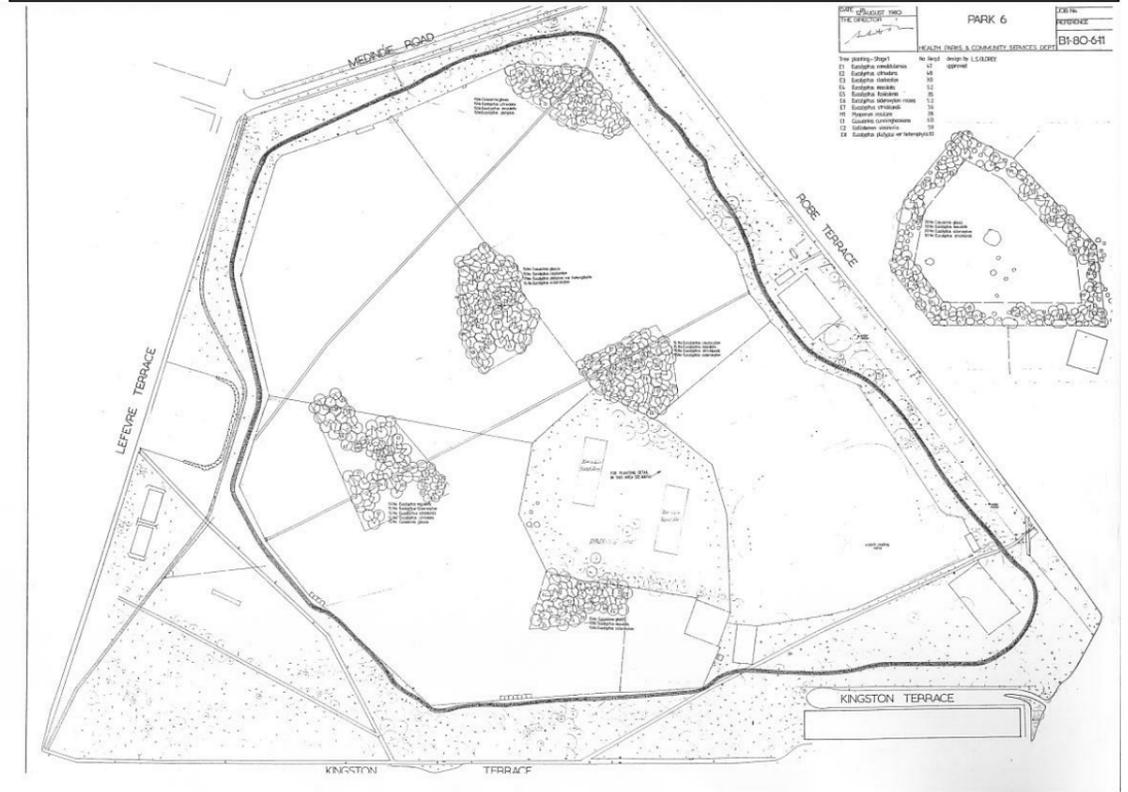
During March – August 1957 the Town Clerk, Colonel William CD Veale, undertook a study tour of council organisations and facilities in Europe and North America, and submitted his reports on various topics in October 1958. *Report No. 4* (1958) dealt with Parks and Gardens (Veale 1958) and made sweeping 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 specific recommendations for Nanto Womma/Park 6. Veale proposed to “recommend the establishment of a 9-hole Golf Range in the [Nanto Womma/] Park No. 6 adjacent to LeFevre Terrace ... [and] located in a central position” in Park 6 (Veale 1958, pp. 69-79, 132-133, 139). Perhaps Veale was seeking to reinstate an earlier golf course on this site was



**Figure**  
Aerial photograph of Nanto Womma/Park 6 in 1947 illustrating the extensive peripheral plantings extant around the edge of Nanto Womma/Park 6, limited internal clump vegetation, an established pathway and tan-track system around and within Nanto Womma/Park 6, and the recreational venues of playground, croquet club, and tennis courts scattered around the edges of Nanto Womma/Park 6. Note the lonely ornamental trees located in the centre of Nanto Womma/Park 6 which correlate with extant somewhat stunted specimens of Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) trees, and the extensive perimeter plantings established. Interestingly, the informal pathways that dissect Nanto Womma/Park 6 joining near the rear of the Glover Playground are no longer extant today and have been replaced a different internal informal pathway system. Source: ACC Archives.

**Figure**  
Plan of Revegetation Works proposed for Nanto Womma/Park 6 in 1980 by the City of Adelaide. Source: ACC Archives.



In 1980 the Corporation commenced a large scale native vegetation planting program in Nanto Womma/Park 6. The Corporation prioritised establishing four new plantations in the centre of Nanto Womma/Park 6, and one plantation in the northern corner of Nanto Womma/Park 6 drawing upon and enclosing existing 1870s-80s ornamental trees that were scattered around the Park. Species planted included River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Lemon-scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*), Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon* 'rosea'), River She-Oak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*), Weeping Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*), Strickland's Gum (*Eucalyptus stricklandii*), Moort (*Eucalyptus platypus* var *heterophylla*), and Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*).

Amery (1997; 2002, p. 269; Draper *et al* 2005, p. 41) ascribed the toponym *Nanto Womma*, meaning 'horse plain', to this park. The terms are drawn from the Kurna terms *nanto* meaning 'horse' and *womma* meaning 'plain'.

At present, Nanto Womma/Park 6 is mainly used for the agistment of horses, with a number of tennis courts and turfed areas. Vegetation consists of fenced areas of exotic and interstate native species protected from the horses throughout Nanto Womma/Park 6. There is a 'Trees For Life' Bush Care site in Nanto Womma/Park 6 where dedicated volunteers maintain a number of native plants: "There are also a number of fine River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *camaldulensis*), alongside Kingston Terrace" (Long 2003, p. 39). Long has concluded that:

*This site is one of the more 'natural' sites of the Park Lands and has an impressive diversity of possibly remnant locally indigenous grass species. The site naturally supports quite a diversity of remnant plants, including Wingless Fissure-plant (*Maireana enchylaenoides*), Vittadinia gracilis Woolly New Holland Daisy, Common Vanilla-lily (*Anthropodium strictum*), Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*) and Clammy Goosefoot (*Chenopodium pumilio*)' (Long 2003, p. 39).*