

### 3.2.3 W. T. Peterson Community Oval – Former Fitzroy Cricket Ground

The Brunswick Street Oval, officially named as the W T Peterson Community Oval, has been in continuous use as a sporting ground since 1863. It was developed and managed by the Fitzroy Cricket Club until the c. 1970s. The original oval was expanded for football in 1882, and again in 1934, before being reconstructed in the 1980s by the then-Fitzroy City Council.

The oval itself retains its mid-twentieth dimensions and form. Formerly ringed by earth embankments, concrete terracing and brick retaining walls, the 1980s oval redevelopment lowered the profile of the surrounding embankments and planted them with lawns and park trees. The embankment to the north-east corner of the oval, adjacent to the tennis court, is likely more reflective of the original height of the earthworks in this section of the ground than those around the rest of the facility.

Inside the embankments, a brick spoon drain, black cyclone wire fence, and external asphalt path presently encircle the oval. A ringing path (c. 1870s), fence (pre-1901) and brick perimeter drain (c. 1912) all constitute early elements of the oval's perimeter, although the present fabric all dates to the 1980s redevelopment of the oval. A continuous timber bench once ran around the perimeter in the later part of its use as a professional oval.<sup>210</sup>

The path is lined on the outside by a row of Oak trees, comprising a mix of Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*). Where the embankments face onto Brunswick Street and Freeman Street they are planted with rows of London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) and bounded by tall concrete kerbs; Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) are planted around entrances to the oval from the Freeman Street corner and opposite Church Street. All of these trees date to the 1980s redevelopment.

To the front of the Grandstand an area of level ground contains two small sections of lawn divided by asphalt paths. These were installed as part of the 1980s greening, but did not anticipate the ground's reuse by increasingly popular amateur football, which has reintroduced a level of traffic for which these surfaces are inappropriate.

At the south-east corner of the oval there are four concrete and artificial turf practice wickets in a fenced cyclone wire enclosure over a timber retaining wall. An initial set of practice wickets appear to have been installed in this location with a concrete backstop following the 1980s redevelopment of the oval; the enclosure was subsequently expanded, netted and surfaced with artificial turf.



Figure 45 Peterson Community Oval, viewed from top of embankment at north-east corner



Figure 46 Brick drain, cyclone wire fence and asphalt path to perimeter of oval, with low modern treed berm surrounding.





Figure 47 Row of London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) on Freeman Street frontage



Figure 48 Cricket practice nets

### 3.2.4 Grandstand service areas

Areas to the west and north of the Grandstand were redeveloped in the 1980s. These areas were formerly occupied by the 1905 grandstand (destroyed by fire in 1977), by the timber Entrance Pavilion (formerly situated between the two grandstands, constructed in the 1980s in its present location) and by various service structures, enclosures and hardstands.

The 1980s works created a new asphalt-paved vehicular path from Brunswick Street to service the grandstand, tennis club and the new community room, providing service vehicle access as well as informal car parks for users of the facilities. The vehicle route is kerbed between Brunswick Street and the grandstand, but is otherwise treated as a shared use path, with kerb-free connections to smaller pedestrian paths to the oval, to the Sportsman's Memorial and through the timber pavilion to the Edinburgh Gardens paths.

New areas of lawn and plantings of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) were established along the vehicle path.

Behind the grandstand, the car park/hardstand area was originally hedged, and was planted with a bordering row of Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*). The hedging was removed c. 2010, but the Jacaranda trees remain. A pair of Bocce Courts were constructed on the northern edge of this area, below the diagonal gardens path, c. 1990. Originally fenced, these were subsequently replaced with a single, unfenced court (Figure 50).

A large above-ground rainwater storage tank was installed in the 2000s.





Figure 49 Service areas and c. 1980s landscaping to the rear of the grandstand



Figure 50 Bocce Court, looking east

### 3.2.5 *Freeman Street Entrance Gatehouse*

An MMBW plan from 1894 shows a long building located in the approximate location of the extant gatehouse, however this building is identified as a timber building (Figure 51). It appears that the ground floor of this building contained some sewered facilities, such as toilets or urinals, while the upper floor was possibly a viewing area. An MMBW plan from 1901 shows a similar arrangement with the addition of urinals to the south of the building (Figure 52). While the building identified in these earlier plans is in approximately the same location as the existing building, the shorter length and timber construction indicate that this is an earlier building on the site.

An annual report from the Fitzroy Cricket Club in 1905 describes the newly erected gatehouse as a 'handsome booth, built in brick, at the corner of Brunswick and Freeman streets', designed by architect Mr. E Twentyman.<sup>211</sup> The brick building is visible in an oblique aerial from c. 1925 and this is the current building at the site. The image shows an entry to the ground to the east of the building, an open arched entry at ground level to the west (possibly housing amenities) and mounding to the ground level of the north façade. It is noted that the gatehouse previously formed part of the formal boundary treatment surrounding the oval, constructed of walls, fences and various outbuildings.

The former entrance gatehouse is a double storey red brick building on a narrow rectangular plan. The building has a corrugated metal clad roof with distinctive pyramidal roofs to either end, surmounted by turned timber finials. Eaves have a beaded tongue and groove board lining with a carved timber valance to the north elevation only. The south elevation is divided into seven regular articulated bays, four of which are gabled. The walls are articulated by brick pilasters and detailed in a continuous band of render along the ground floor and a moulded stringcourse at the first floor level. The four gabled bays have a rendered segmented arch at the ground floor and paired timber louvres at the first floor. Alternating bays are square-headed and finished with a dog-tooth brick course surmounted by a rendered panel. Two of the bays contain small louvred vents with rendered lintels and chamfered sills. The ground floor bay to the western end contains a painted sign which reads: 'VISITING MEMBERS' GATE CORNER ➔'.

Abutting the centre of the north elevation is a recent timber stair providing access to the first floor. The ground level is constructed of face brickwork; with the lower section laid in English Bond (alternate header and stretcher courses) and the upper level in Garden Wall Bond. The brickwork and mortar to the lower section is lighter in colour, possibly due to it being covered by soil for a long period of time. The west end is partially overpainted. A double-leaf flush panel door is located to the centre of the ground floor. Tie-rod plates, coinciding with the interior stabilising structure, and various fixtures are located on this façade. The first floor has a weatherboard infill, between the two end brick walls and a brick column at the western end. The weatherboards are punctuated by a non-original flush panel door and non-original tripartite timber-framed, double-hung sash windows fitted with metal security bars. A small red brick addition with a flat concrete roof is located at ground level at the western end of the north elevation. An electrical cupboard is fixed to its east side.

The east elevation is formed by a recessed brick panel at the ground floor with a rendered segmented-arched head and non-original double-leaf flush panel door. At the first floor is a blank recessed brick panel. The west elevation is similarly detailed, although there is an infilled window/door opening at the first floor; a door is not evident in this location in Figure 54. The ground level arrangement, including the rendered arch over the early entry, has been modified and the lower section of the façade has been overpainted.

Internally, at ground floor level, the length of the building has been truncated by concrete coffers with steel plates and tie rods. There is also a low-height concrete coffer on the southern side. These were

installed to provide structural stability, c. 2010s, amongst other refurbishment works.<sup>212</sup> These spaces are utilitarian storage spaces. The western-most extent of the space was inaccessible.

The first floor, accessed by the external staircase, has a modern toilet in the east end of the building. The interior space has been refitted with modern timber windows, new ceiling with coved cornices, modern plaster lining behind the weatherboards. There is a step up in the floor level at the western end. This space is utilitarian and used mainly for storage.

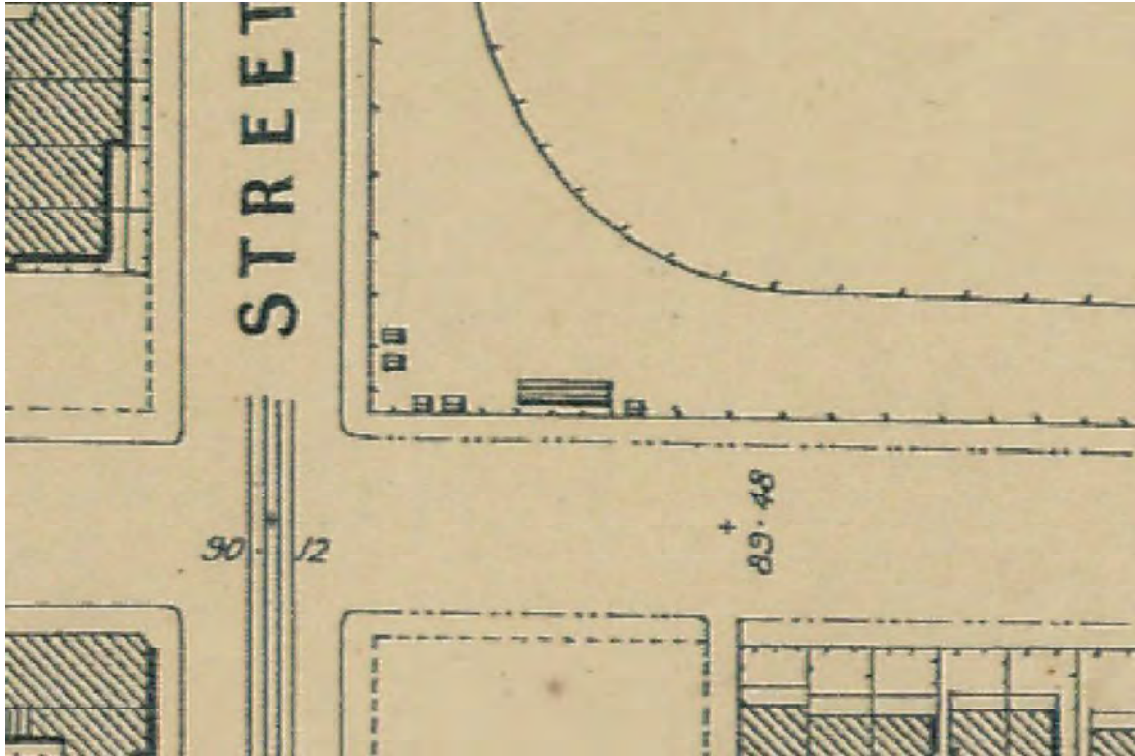


Figure 51 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Plan No. 29, 1894  
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection



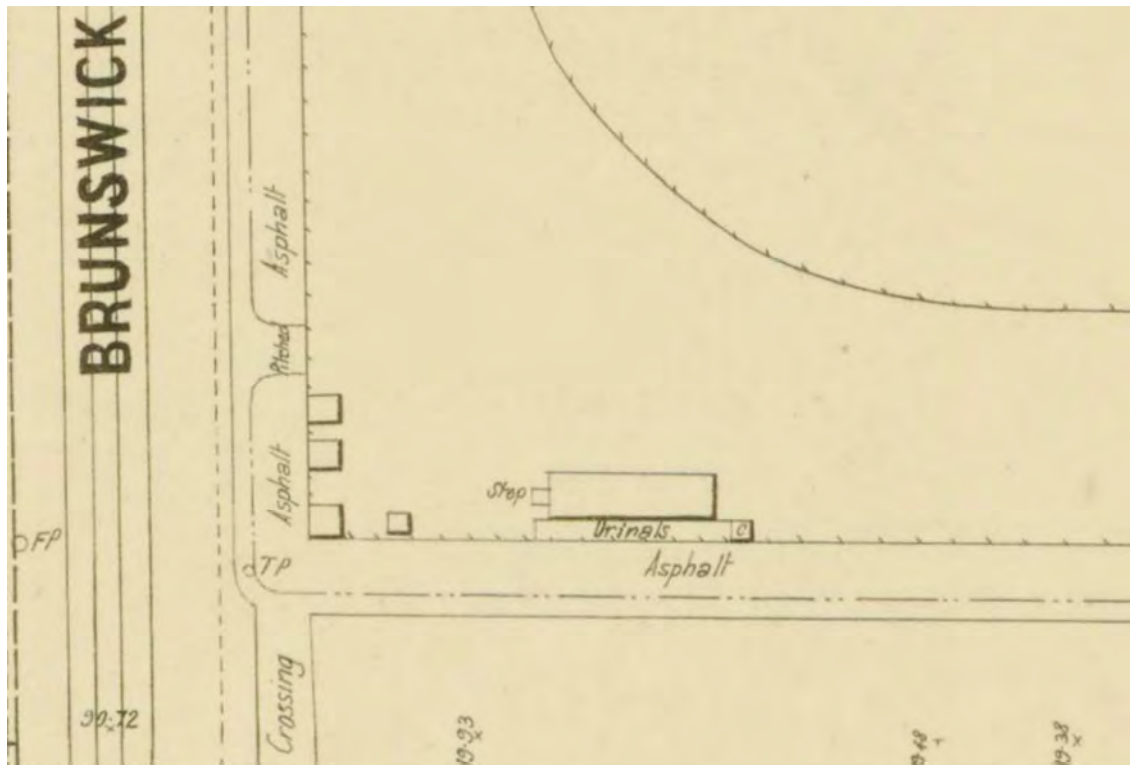


Figure 52 Detail of a c. 1901 MMBW plan 1258 showing the gatehouse and other structures to the boundary of the grounds

Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection



Figure 53 Detail of an oblique aerial view of the gatehouse in c. 1925-1940; the image also shows a fence enclosing the grounds, with an entryway to the east (at left) and other lightweight structures to the north-west (right)

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

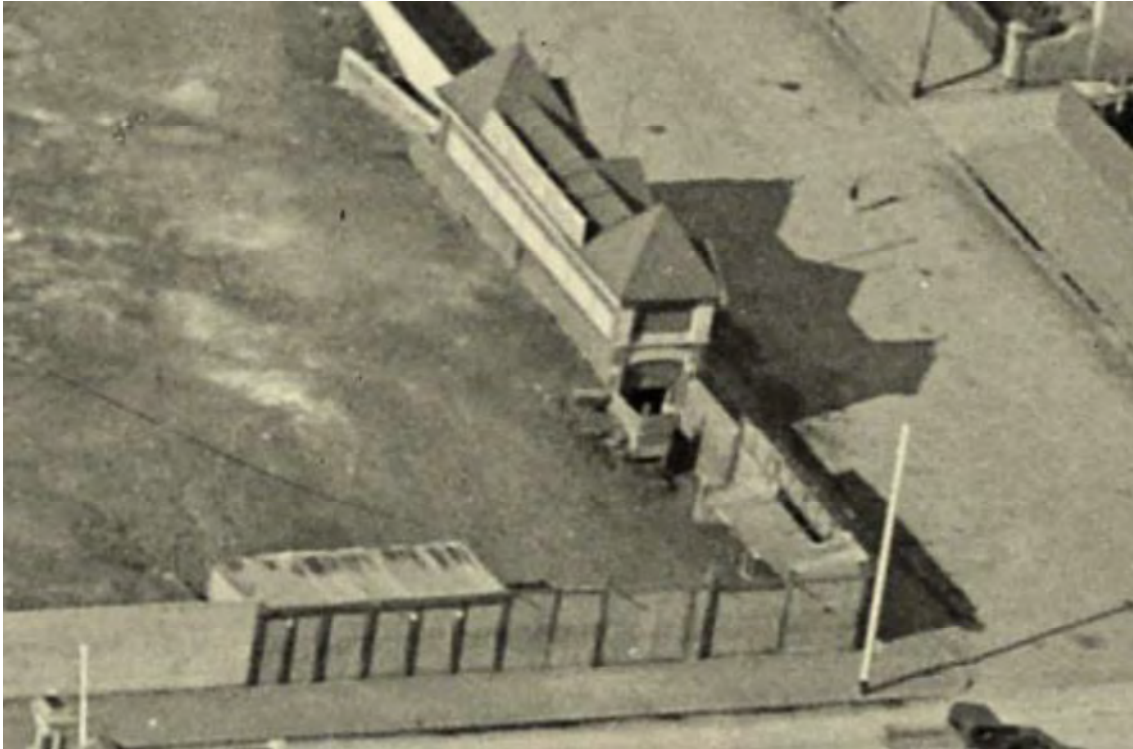


Figure 54 Detail of a c. 1925 oblique aerial image of the gatehouse, viewed from the west, showing the arrangement of enclosure to the sporting precinct, smaller related structures and mounding to the north side of the building; note the subterranean access from the west side at ground level

Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection



Figure 55 South façade of the Freeman Street entrance gatehouse at the original southern entrance to the oval/sport precinct





Figure 56 The north elevation of the entrance gatehouse showing the weatherboard section at the upper level and the later addition (indicated)



Figure 57 East elevation of the entrance gatehouse



Figure 58 West elevation of the entrance gatehouse; note the former ground level entry has been infilled

### 3.2.6 Timber Entrance Pavilion

The date of construction of the original entrance pavilion was constructed is unknown, though it is likely that this was part of a significant series of works undertaken in c. 1905 which included the construction of the new grandstand and entrance gatehouse at Freeman Street. Contemporary writings describe works as such 'Two attractive entrances, in keeping with the new building were erected-one at Brunswick-street, and the other to replace the old buildings in the gardens.'<sup>213</sup> It was originally located between the two grandstands as part of the boundary arrangement (Figure 59) an arrangement



maintained until the 1980s (Figure 60). The pavilion was relocated to its current location in the 1980s as part of the redevelopment works to the oval (Figure 33). The original pavilion was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1996, and the extant pavilion was reconstructed to match the original.<sup>214</sup>

The entrance pavilion (Figure 61) is a utilitarian, timber-framed building on a narrow, rectangular plan. It has a framework of stop-chamfered timber posts and beams with V-jointed board cladding. Passing through the centre of the pavilion, are two wide openings fitted with V-jointed board gates and surmounted by panels of diagonal boarding. The openings are flanked at either end by bays fitted with narrow V-jointed board doors.

The gabled roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel with cast iron cresting and a central gablet to either side. The eaves are battened and feature a carved timber valance, with a timber valance also on the north and south sides.



Figure 59 Detail of a c. 1930s oblique aerial photograph showing the timber entrance pavilion and the Sportsman's Memorial to the north of the grandstands  
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection

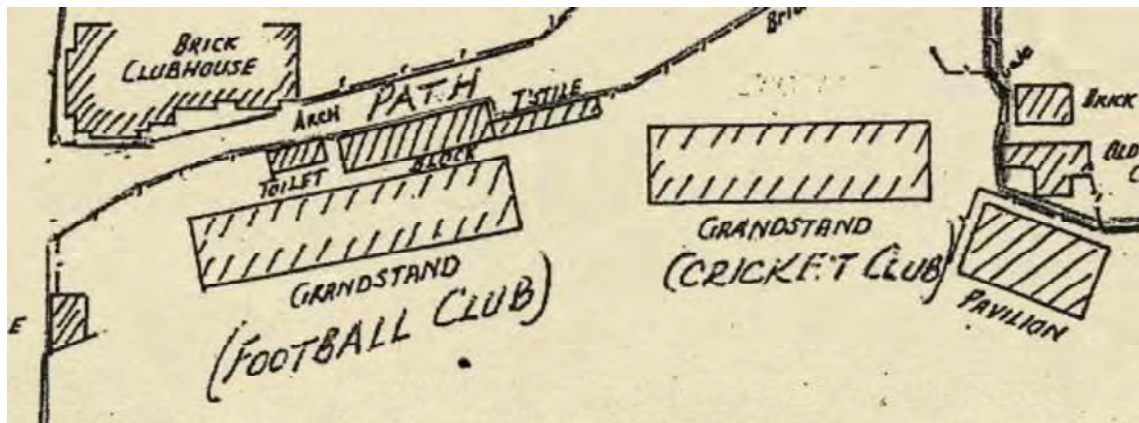


Figure 60 Detail of c. 1966 Department of Crown Lands Survey of the Edinburgh Gardens showing the arrangement of the timber entrance pavilion (described as turnstile) to the north of the grandstands; note the arch identified on the path refers to the Sportsman's Memorial  
Source: Lovell Chen archive



Figure 61 The reconstructed timber entrance pavilion in its current location, viewed from north-east

### 3.2.7 *Sportsman's Memorial*

The Sportsman's Memorial, a commemorative arbour, was erected in 1919 by the various sporting clubs which occupied the Edinburgh Gardens and dedicated to fallen servicemembers who had been connected with the clubs.<sup>215</sup> The arbour originally stood over the main path running along the northern side of the cricket ground, immediately south of the Fitzroy Bowling Club, east of the club's pavilion (1913) (Figure 62, Figure 63). In the 1960s, the bowling club pavilion was demolished, and a new clubhouse was constructed to the diagonal boundary of the club's allotment, immediately adjacent to the path and arbour.

As part of the 1980s redevelopment of the community oval, the Edinburgh Gardens entrance path was relocated to the south and a substation constructed at the west end of the arbour, works which were complete by 1987.

The Sportsman's Memorial is a concrete arbour supported by six Tuscan order columns resting on pedestals with simple moulded caps (Figure 64, Figure 65). The perimeter beams have a textured rendered frieze and a moulded cornice and support a series of parallel rafters. The beam to the east elevation contains a central pediment with pressed cement swags surmounted by a moulded cornice. Below the pediment is a recessed panel with the inscription 'IN MEMORIAM' in incised lettering. Urn finials, located at either end of the east beam, have been replaced. On the south elevation, the beam contains a marble plaque which reads: 'THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE FITZROY CRICKET, FOOTBALL, BOWLING, BASEBALL AND TENNIS CLUBS TO PERPETUATE THE MEMBERS WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919'. The plaque originally appears to have been fixed to the panel on the east elevation. A bronze-framed cabinet for the display of a memorial wreath is fixed to the west wall of the adjacent substation. An exposed aggregate concrete floor has been installed, along with an ornamental arrangement of low trimmed rosemary hedges has been established around it and the approach from the main path. A large image has been printed on the south side of the adjacent Bowls Club and is

visible through the arbour, part of a refurbishment of the memorial completed in 2019.<sup>216</sup> The arbour is presently accessed by way of a small footpath from the south (perpendicular to the structure's original path of approach).

The structure exhibits some cracking to the western beam adjacent to the substation.



Figure 62 Anzac Day service at the Sportsman's Memorial, 1932  
Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection



Figure 63 Detail of an oblique aerial photograph from c. 1925-40 showing the unimpeded arbour;  
the c. 1913 bowling club building is to the right of the image  
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection





Figure 64 Sportsman's Memorial, looking north, with the Bowling Club building at the rear and substation to the left



Figure 65 Sportsman's Memorial, looking west; note the Bowling Club abutting the harbour (at right)

### 3.2.8 *Chandler Drinking Fountain*

The Chandler Drinking Fountain is a square-plan, polished granite basin on a plinth of rock-faced Harcourt granite (Figure 66). Two semi-circular bowls extend outwards from the sides of the fountain and are fitted with non-original bubblers. Surmounting the fountain, is a small four-sided 'temple' form with arched openings between polished granite columns and a domed top with an orb finial. The whole of the fountain rests on a bluestone plinth.

An engraved inscription on the side of the fountain reads: 'PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF FITZROY BY COUNCILLOR D J CHANDLER JULY 1926'.

The fountain is located at the intersection of the two diagonal, public gardens paths, outside the former north entrance to the football grounds. It is now directly across from the (relocated) timber entrance pavilion, but was not originally associated so directly with this structure. The entrance pavilion was located to the south on a different alignment to control access from the park entrance path to the secured grounds of the oval.

Ornate drinking fountains housed in stone plinths became a popular style for commemorative and memorial fountains during the first two decades of the twentieth century, with grey Harcourt granite a popular choice.<sup>217</sup> In addition to service as City Councillor, Chandler was a prominent local identity who was president of the Fitzroy Football Club from 1911 to 1931. Although typical of 'donation' fountains of the period, many of which were installed to burnish the legacy of local councillors, the Chandler Drinking Fountain enjoys the added context of its direct association with the Fitzroy Football Club.

The fountain is in generally sound condition with only minor mortar loss between the two plinth stones and efflorescence to the underside of the arches to the upper section.



Figure 66 Chandler Drinking Fountain viewed from the north-west

### 3.2.9 *Fitzroy Bowling Club and green*

The Fitzroy Bowling Club comprises a clubhouse, greens and various ancillary structures. The clubhouse is a utilitarian brick building on a long rectangular plan with single and double-storey wings. It has a flat roof with an aluminium fascia and walls with a bagged render finish and aluminium-framed windows. There is one ten-rink synthetic green and one seven-rink synthetic green, with a central stacked stone retaining wall and various plantings including rose bushes, box hedges, edible produce and succulents around the perimeters. The site is enclosed by a chain mesh and galvanised pipe fence, with the main entrance from Brunswick Street passing through a wrought iron memorial gate with red and brown brick piers. Other structures on the site include prefabricated sheds, open sided roof structures and earlier steel-framed shelters to the centre of the green with corrugated sheet awnings. A pair of flagpoles are located on the western fence line and the perimeter of the greens is surrounded by tall light poles. Several other memorials to club members are located around the greens.

The establishment of a bowling green on the site was approved in 1877 by the Fitzroy Cricket Club in its capacity as the Committee of Management.<sup>218</sup> Subscriptions from the public and members of the Cricket Club raised £160 towards the laying of a two-rink green. Within the next two years an additional rink was laid. A timber shed, which had initially served as the Club's pavilion and canteen was replaced by a timber cottage, relocated from the Collingwood Commercial Cricket Ground.<sup>219</sup> An MMBW plan of 1896 shows the early arrangement of the bowling green with the timber cottage at its northern end (Figure 67). The cottage would appear to be that visible in a 1912 photograph of the bowling club which also shows the greens enclosed by a timber picket fence with a hedge along the Brunswick Street/St Georges Road boundary.

In 1893, financial difficulties prompted the Bowling Club to become affiliated with the Cricket Club (Figure 68). A further two rinks were added in 1910-1911 and in 1913 construction of a new members' pavilion was commenced at a cost of £1,600 (Figure 69).<sup>220</sup> This pavilion was also designed by Architect Edward Twentymen, in an honorary capacity, and was described at the time as 'the club's jubilee effort'.<sup>221</sup> In 1929-30 the paths around the bowling greens were paved with old stone flags, donated by the Fitzroy Council.<sup>222</sup>

A memorial gate was erected on 17 September 1943 in honour of Mr W Hannah, President of the Club from 1936 to 1942. During the 1947-48 season a memorial fountain was erected in memory of T S Rowe, secretary of the club for 16 years, and an additional fountain was placed between the two greens to honour the 1946-47 champion fours.<sup>223</sup>

Between 1969-70 the pavilion was demolished to make way for a new clubhouse. Building works were completed by 1971 at a cost of \$95,000.<sup>224</sup>

In the late 1990s the site underwent a general upgrading and redevelopment. This was carried out as part of the amalgamation of the Fitzroy Club with the Victoria Club to form the Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Club. Shortly after, the Ladies Bowling Club also relocated to the site, from its location in the centre of the Gardens, and was integrated into the new Club. The upgraded facilities included the enlargement of the clubhouse, installation of a synthetic surface to the green nearest the clubhouse, additional storage sheds, and the relocation of a shed from the Brunswick Street boundary to the eastern boundary adjacent to the Gardens. A new fence was constructed around three sides of the perimeter in chain mesh and to a height of two metres.



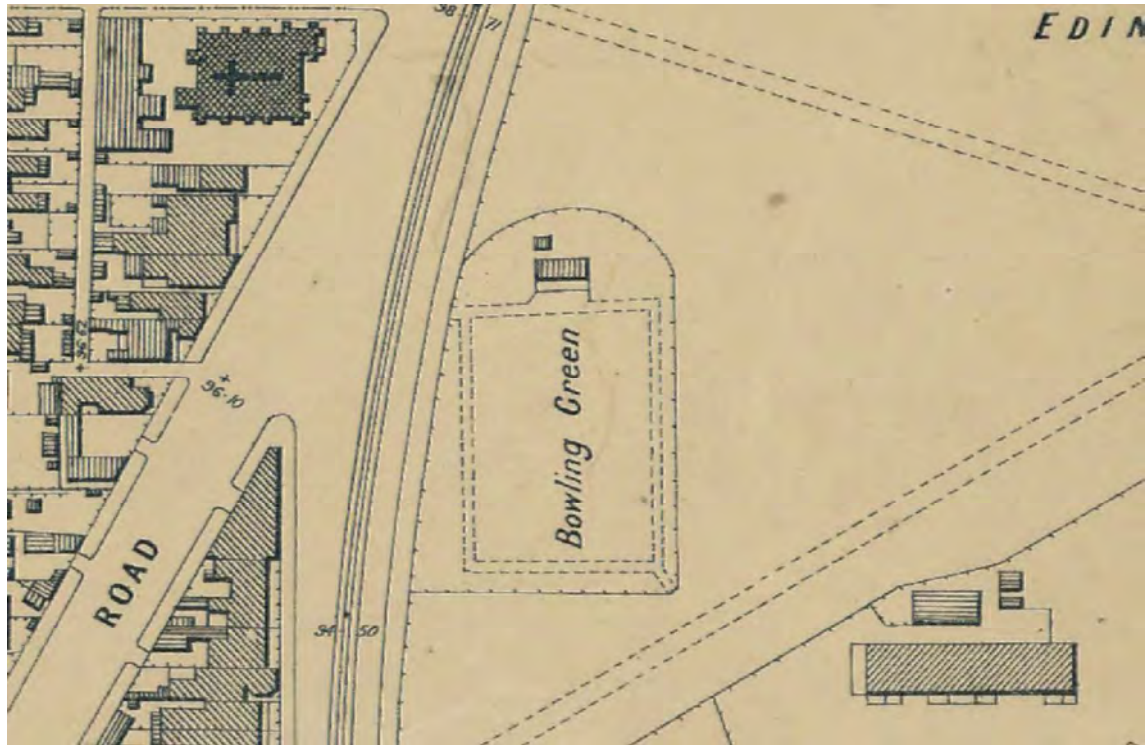


Figure 67 Detail of MMBW plan No. 29, c. 1896 showing the Bowling Green.  
Source: State Library of Victoria, Maps Collection 821.09 A 1894-(29)



Figure 68 The Bowling Green, 1912  
Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-13

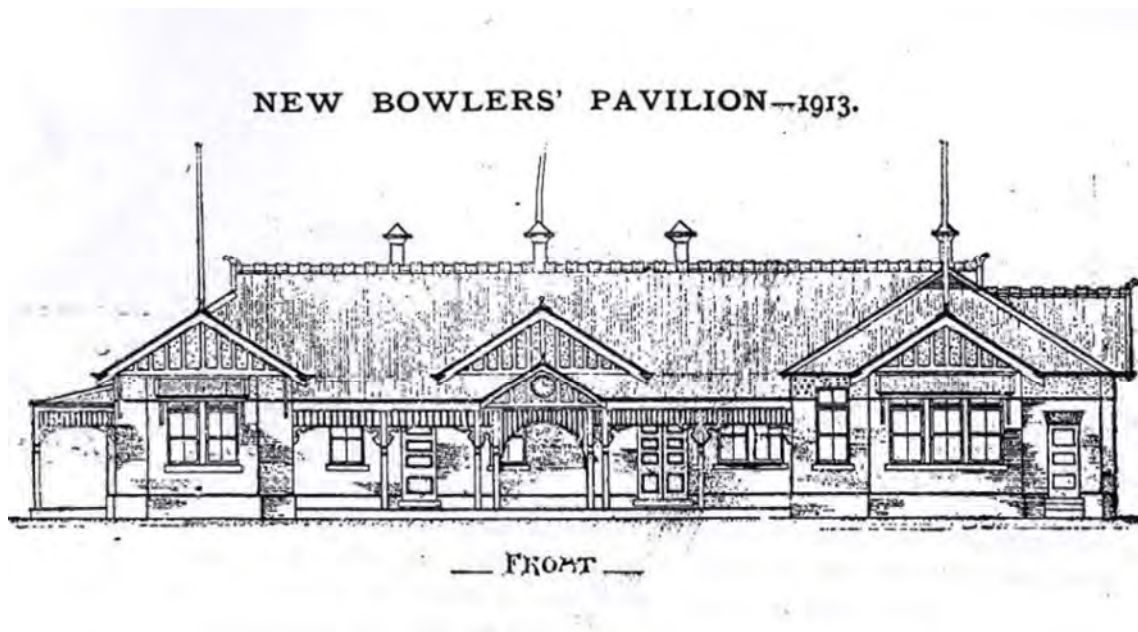


Figure 69 Elevation of the new bowlers' pavilion, c. 1913  
 Source: Fitzroy Cricket Club Annual Report 1912-1913



Figure 70 The new Fitzroy Bowling Club in 1975, shortly after its construction  
 Source: Yarra Libraries, FL606





Figure 71     Fitzroy Bowling Club and green viewed from the north-west



Figure 72     Hannah memorial gates at the entrance to the Bowling Club





Figure 73 Bowling club looking east over the rinks

### 3.2.10 Tennis Club and courts

The tennis club is located to the east of the grandstand. The site contains six *en-tout-cas* courts with a high galvanised steel pipe and Cyclone wire fence to the perimeter. The clubhouse, located to the west side of the courts, is a single-storey, timber-framed building with battened fibro-cement cladding above a weatherboard plinth. It comprises two parts: a gambrel-roofed section at the northern end and skillion-roofed section at the south, each with corrugated galvanised steel roof cladding. The skillion-roofed section has a timber-framed verandah extending along the east elevation, facing the tennis courts. The skillion section backs onto the red brick wall of the Community Hall.

The main entrance, located on the south elevation of the gambrel roof section, has a bracketed awning and a non-original flush panel door. Extending across the north elevation of the gambrel-roofed section is a verandah supported on timber posts with prominent carved timber brackets and a central gablet. The wall behind the verandah contains a recent glazed, timber-framed, double-leaf door, flanked on either side by paired timber-framed, double-hung sash windows, and a large new glazed opening on the eastern elevation. A new timber deck runs around north and east sides of the building.

The tennis club was established in 1888.<sup>225</sup> Fitzroy Cricket Club records for that year note the demolition of a tennis court, described as an 'adjunct to the bowling club', to make way for the new grandstand.<sup>226</sup> Tennis courts first appear in plans of the Gardens dated c. 1901 (Figure 74). Asphalt tennis courts, occupying the site of the existing courts, are shown along with a number of buildings and structures. Two small rectangular plan buildings are located along the south of the tennis courts, the one to the west side is marked 'pavilion'. The existing clubhouse may possibly be the building visible directly to the right of the grandstand, albeit in a modified form. In 1894, two tennis courts were constructed at a cost of £57 and a third tennis court was added in 1901-1902.<sup>227</sup> By 1929-30 there were

five tennis courts, two asphalt and three resurfaced with concrete. A ladies dressing room was added to the tennis pavilion between 1933-34 at a cost of £54 and a new shower and toilet block constructed 1953-5. An additional tennis court was erected in 1955-56.<sup>228</sup>

A 1966 plan of the cricket ground shows the tennis courts with a cyclone wire fence to the perimeter and two small buildings in the south west corner (Figure 75). One is of brick construction while the other is labelled 'old fibro and weatherboard clubhouse'. This is presumably the existing clubhouse although it appears to have since been relocated further to the north.

Between 1979 and 1987 an additional wing was added to the rear of the tennis clubhouse providing updated facilities including new change rooms and kitchen. This abuts the Community Hall to the west.

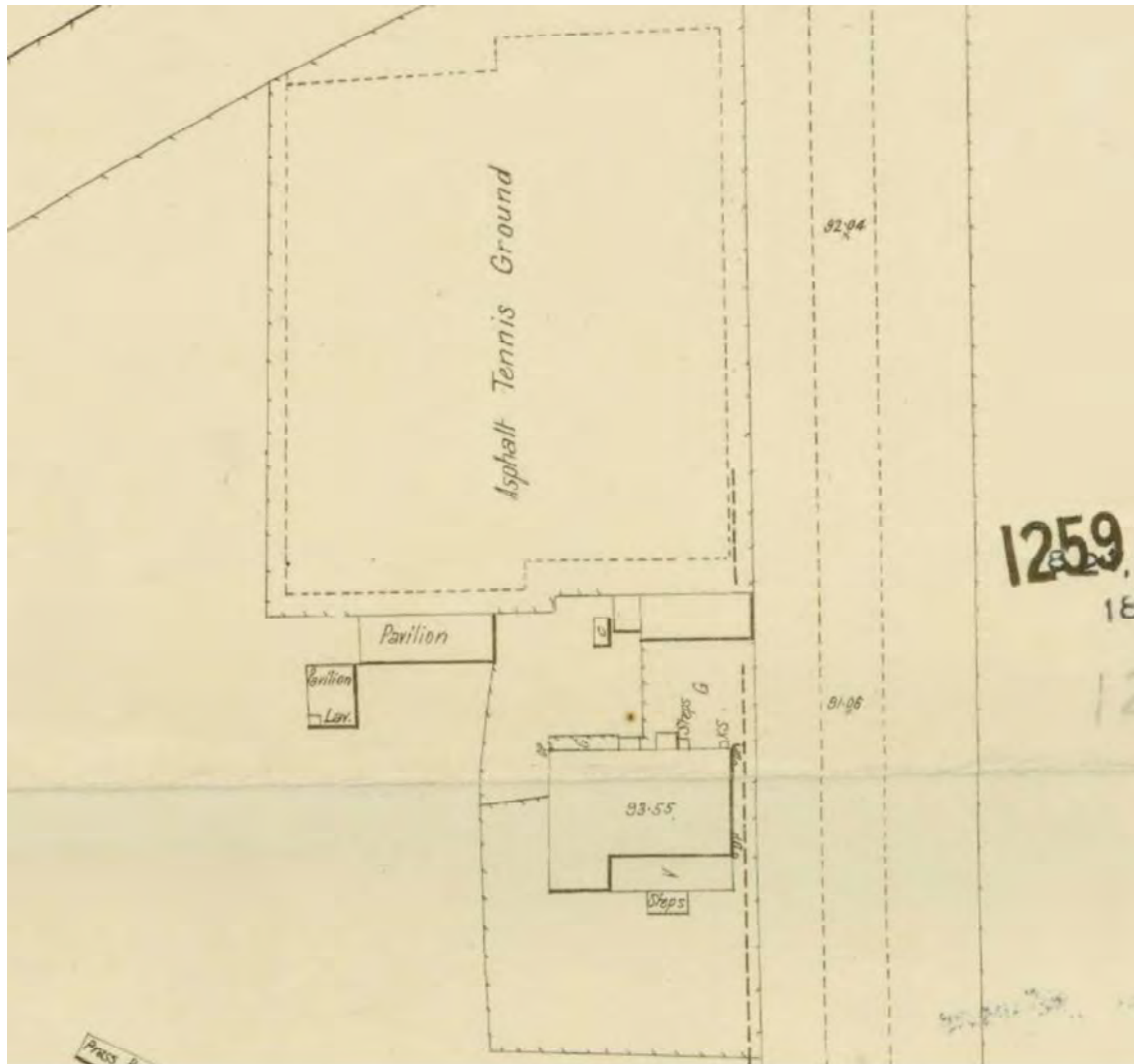


Figure 74 Detail of a c. 1901 MMBW plan showing the arrangement of the tennis club  
Source: State Library of Victoria Map Collection

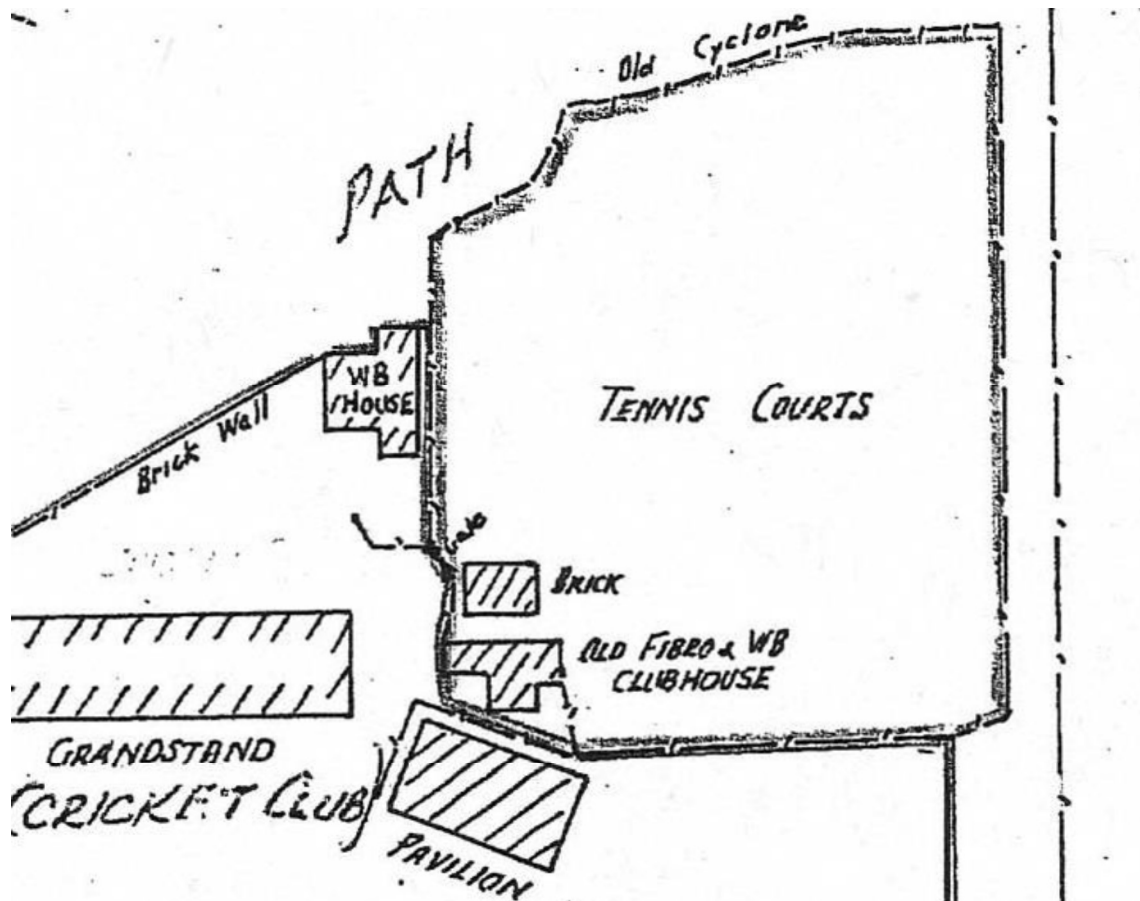


Figure 75 Detail of c. 1966 Department of Crown Lands Survey of the Edinburgh Gardens showing the tennis club  
Source: Lovell Chen archive





Figure 76 Tennis Club viewed from the east



Figure 77 South wing addition of the tennis clubhouse showing the face red brick wall behind of the Community Hall

### 3.2.11 Concrete substation

The concrete substation is located to the south of the Bowling Club and abuts the Sportsman's Memorial, creating a symmetrical presentation to the east and west elevations. The substation comprises a monolithic appearance, with square pilasters, a concrete parapet and metal louvres doors on the western side. The building is constructed of brick with a concrete render finish.

The substation was constructed in the 1980s.



Figure 78 Detail of aerial from 1979 (left) and 1987 (right) with substation visible in the later image but not in the earlier aerial  
Source: Land Victoria



Figure 79 South elevation of the substation





Figure 80 West elevation of the substation

### 3.2.12 Community Hall

Located to the east side of the grandstand, the Community Hall is a steel and timber-framed building with a gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The east elevation comprises a brick wall with a stepped parapet, arched at the apex. Extending across the north of the building is a verandah with timber lattice screens while both the north (Figure 81) and south elevations contain large, timber-framed glazed sliding doors. At the eastern end, the wall is a face red brick wall which directly abuts the rear of the tennis club house buildings.

Internally, the Community Hall is a lightweight addition, with sliding glazed walls to the north and south elevations (Figure 82). The roof has a low pitch with beaded lining boards and exposed metal trusses to the ceiling internally. Suspended strip lighting extends along each side of the hall. The floor is clad in timber-look linoleum over a concrete slab.

The building was erected in the early 1980s as part of the redevelopment of the oval undertaken by the City of Fitzroy, reputedly to the design of Peter Elliott Architect.<sup>229</sup>





Figure 81 Community Hall viewed from the north



Figure 82 View of the interior of the Community Hall, looking east

### 3.3 EDINBURGH GARDENS

Edinburgh Gardens is a large open space reserve created by the Victorian Government in the 1860s and managed and developed by the City of Fitzroy (pre-1883) and then by a Committee of Management representing the city and the government's Lands Department. Although temporarily reserved in 1862, as detailed above the initial development of the site appears largely to have been confined to the sporting precinct in the south-west, where various clubs enjoyed permissive occupancy and organised the improvement of the sports fields and surrounding grounds themselves.

The public reserve, while apparently employed for haycutting, agistment and the depositing of nightsoil, streetscrapings and other debris, was only laid out as a public gardens from 1880, when a first phase of plantings on the perimeter and in interior 'clumps' (undertaken by the City of Fitzroy) was succeeded by establishment of the principal planted avenues in 1883-85 when the site came under the authority of a joint Committee of Management appointed by the city and the Lands Department.

Development in the 1880s appears to have been economical, and occurred largely contemporaneously with the lobbying, planning and reservation of the branch railway line. Removal of some of the 1880s developments was nevertheless required by the works to construct the railway and to drain and fill the creek gully, and the 1883 plan provides a good sense of what would have been removed: one diagonal path section, parts of the two east-west avenues that ultimately crossed the railway, and a number of the earlier planted enclosures installed by Fitzroy City Council in 1881. The works overseen by Bickford also included plantings to the creek gully that were removed in its subsequent filling. Many of these trees would have still been young when installation of the drain and railway occurred later in the decade, and it is also possible that some were salvaged and utilised elsewhere, although no record of this or subsequent works adding several other path sections c. 1888 has been identified.

The layout of the gardens, although formalised through the introduction of the avenues and other ornamental plantings, does not appear to have been based on what could be characterised as a formal plan for the place as a whole. Skirting the club-managed precinct in the south-west, the plan implemented by Nicholas Bickford imposed a network of largely rectilinear path segments connecting various destinations around the gardens perimeter and intermediate nodes directed by the geography of the existing site. The 1883-1885 works by Bickford for the Committee of Management also maintained many of the preceding plantings, and introduced new plantings where the deposit of nightsoil had been judged completed. However, rather than a grand vision of planted vistas and detailed gardens, the path network and plantings described were a new practical infrastructure established as a layer on top of previous works.

The avenues laid out in 1883 have been described as following pedestrian desire lines, and this is partly accurate in that they serve to connect the surrounding streets by way of linked linear path segments. However, these were not the committed diagonals of 'true' desire lines, like those seen in Fawkner Park and Yarra Park. Instead, the Edinburgh Gardens path alignments are irregular or 'kinked' to meet each other and other nodes. Notably, the paths were not only arranged with respect to the former creek gully, but also to meet two footbridges which had presumably been located at the most favourable crossing sites along the watercourse.

Although planted as avenues, the details of the pathway plan and the plantings' description by observers at the time offer evidence that these were essentially driven by the expedient need to provide an effective pedestrian experience: maximising ease of survey and construction, as well as the horticultural resources available, while being considerate of a need for physical economy. Similarly, the description of the plantings provided by N.M. Bickford in 1885 reinforces the notion of these avenues as internal horticultural spaces, with the primary tree plantings bordered on both sides by dense shrub selections like *Pittosporum* and *Privet*.

Although Bickford employed northern hemisphere shade trees for the principal avenues established in 1885, the full complement of trees used in the 1881 and 1885 plantings was notably more varied, and included extensive use of Australian and New Zealand Pittosporums, as well as ‘the most ornamental kinds of Eucalyptus.’<sup>230</sup> He also retained a previous planting of Monterey Pine and Pittosporum (and which had also previously included Blue Gums, these plants having failed due to a blight) on the gardens’ circular boundary, as well as establishing a new ‘evergreen walk’, an avenue that alternated Monterey Pines and Peppercorn Trees and which was backgrounded by further plantings of Bhutan Cypress and Eucalypts. Eucalypts were also employed as background plantings to the avenues in other areas—aerial photography shows such a planting in one of the north-east triangles, and a single specimen of Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) survives from a similar row to the south of the English Oak avenue.

Throughout the 1890s and early twentieth century, members of the public would agitate periodically in the local press in favour of further native plantings. The boundary pines, removed in 1914, and most of the Pittosporums were replaced by the row of Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton propulneus*) extant today. Other species also appear to have been included into these perimeter plantings at an early date, including Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*), each represented today by one-two examples.

In addition to the extensive shrub plantings established by Bickford, a more detailed horticultural layer was added to the gardens from the 1890s, with the establishment of ornamental gardens around major monuments (the former Jubilee Fountain and Queen Victoria statue), in various circular plantings around the site, in association with an eastern ornamental pond, and on the street frontage to Brunswick Street and Albert Crescent. Later, ornamental plantings would also be established around the Memorial Rotunda. Over time, the effects of economy, drought, tree growth and changing public expectations and priorities for the city’s principal recreational reserve would result in the attrition and reduction of this horticultural layer, with the structure of avenue, boundary and feature trees being the primary legacy of the nineteenth and early twentieth century planting of Edinburgh Gardens.

In parallel to the gardens’ evolution as a planted reserve, expanded recreational offerings were introduced, reflective of the evolution of new recreational constituencies and an evolving public role in recreation and related concerns (ie. early childhood health and education). New facilities were accommodated within the gardens (playgrounds, sports courts), and space was made for a new public oval in the south-east. The ultimate resumption and redevelopment of the Brunswick Street Oval as a community oval in the 1980s was an important milestone, and this movement continued through subsequent playground improvements, development of a skate bowl, and current interest in further improvements to the sporting precinct.



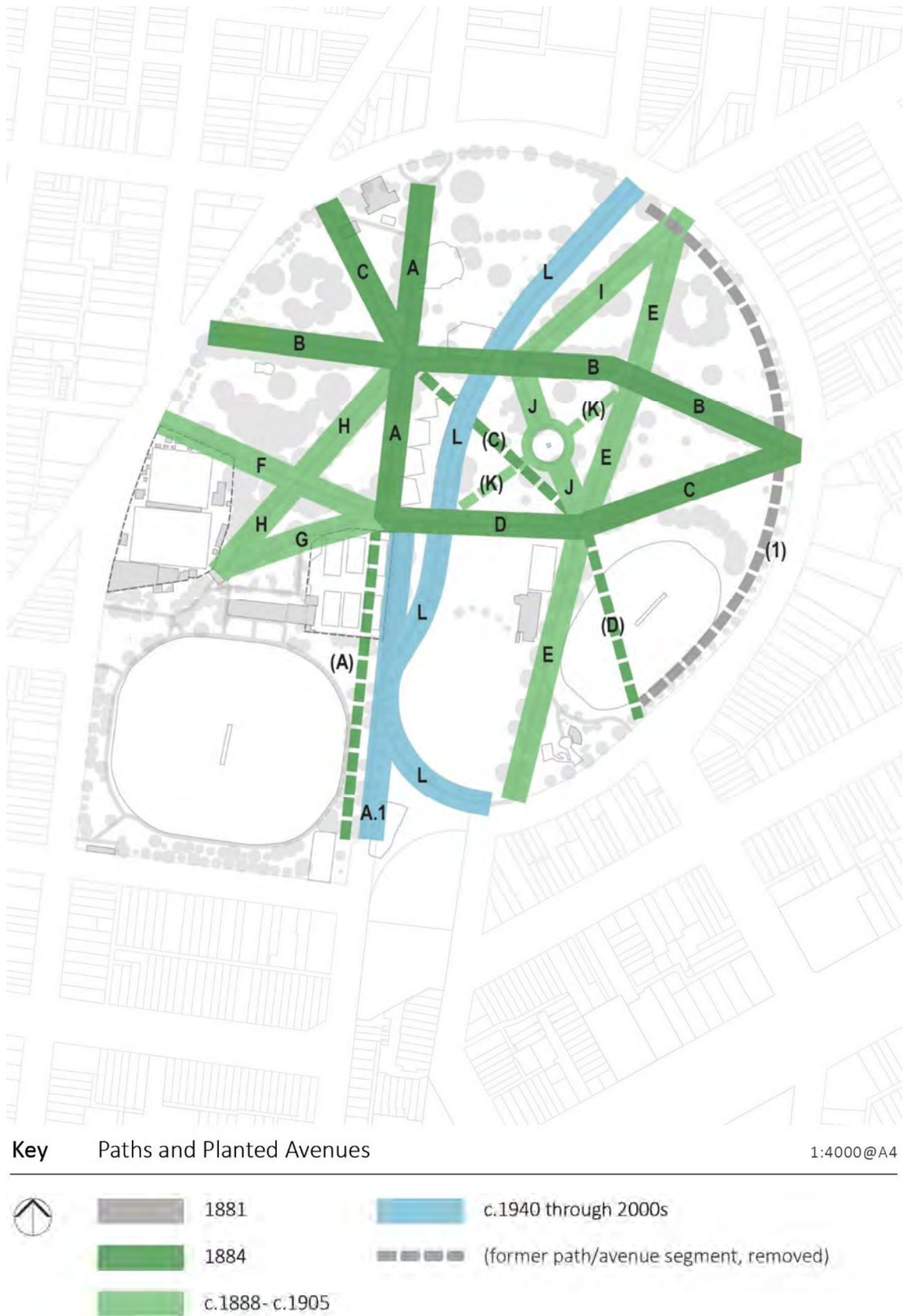


Figure 83 Chronology of major paths and avenue plantings; refer to Table 1 for tree species and other details



**Key** Notable Early Tree Features and Specimens

1:4000@A4




	Exotic specimens		Native specimens
			
<b>Ba</b>	Flame Tree ( <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> )	<b>Ln</b>	Bay Laurel ( <i>Laurus nobilis</i> )
<b>Bp</b>	Kurrajong ( <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> )	<b>Lp</b>	Norfolk Island Hibiscus ( <i>Lagunaria pattersonia</i> )
<b>Cd</b>	Deodor Cedar ( <i>Cedrus deodara</i> )	<b>Pc</b>	Canary Island Pine ( <i>Pinus canariensis</i> )
<b>Cs</b>	Italian Cypress ( <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> )	<b>Pu</b>	Sweet Pittosporum ( <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> )
<b>Eb</b>	Southern Mahogany ( <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> )	<b>Qi</b>	Holm Oak ( <i>Quercus ilex</i> )
<b>Ec</b>	River Red Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> )	<b>Uh</b>	Dutch Elm ( <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> )
<b>Hm</b>	Monterey Cypress ( <i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i> )	<b>Up</b>	English Elm ( <i>Ulmus procera</i> )
<b>Es</b>	Sydney Blue Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> )		

Figure 84 Plan showing other early tree features and specimens

### 3.4 Path network and avenue plantings

Following creation of the Committee of Management in 1883 (jointly appointed by the Lands Department and the City of Fitzroy), works quickly proceeded to establish a network of paths and avenue plantings through the gardens. The committee reported in December 1883 that trenches had been surveyed and marked out along either side of the paths with the object of creating ornamental avenues, which would be installed at the proper season the following year.<sup>231</sup> The report included a plan of the trenching works for these avenues (refer to figure). In June 1884 approval was given for trees to be planted in the Edinburgh Gardens.<sup>232</sup> Prior to the planting, the prepared trenches were filled with street scrapings, presumably containing manure, as a soil improvement measure.

Two reports confirm that planting of the avenues proceeded in 1884: a third-party account published in the *Leader* newspaper in July 1884, and an annual report to the Committee of Management from the Lands Department's gardens curator, Nicholas Bickford reprinted in the *Mercury and Weekly Courier* in August 1885. The two reports are generally consistent, although the Bickford report contains greater detail on the plantings associated with each avenue.

The originally planted trees and shrubs along the boundary fence of the garden, by the Alfred Crescent, "Pines and Pittosporums" have been preserved, a few that had died having been replaced with others; the same has been done in dealing with the few clumps planted within the grounds.

The new works and improvements commenced with the calling for tenders for the cartage of gravel to the gardens, the laying out of walks, and trenching strips of ground of one rod in width on each side of such walks for the planting of avenues of trees, as follows.

1<sup>st</sup> walk, north and south, leading from the wicket entrance opposite Best-street. Width of path, 14 feet; length, 22 chains. Planted into an English Elm avenue, the elms 30 feet apart. The path is fringed with *Pittosporum Nigrescens* [ie. *Pittosporum tenuifolium*], and at the back of the trenched ground the whole length is planted with *Pittosporum Undulatum*, "the sweet-scented Pittosporum."

2<sup>nd</sup> path, leading through the garden from the entrance opposite Rowe-street to the wicket at St George's-road, near St Luke's Church. Length, 20 chains; width, 14 feet; also planting into an Elm avenue. This path is fringed with hardy flowering shrubs, consisting of *Laurustinus* (white), *Tecoma Capensis* (red), and *Plumbago Capensis* (blue), at the back, planted with *Pittosporum Undulatum*.

3<sup>rd</sup> path, leading from the same wicket entrance at Rowe-street, then in a southwesterly direction, crossing over the bridge at the gully, thence to the Fitzroy Cricket ground. Planted from the starting point to the bridge into an English Oak avenue, fringed with yellow Jasmine, "*Jasminum revolutum*," and *Laurustinus*, and planted at the back with *Pittosporum Crassifolia* [*Pittosporum crassifolium*]. At the bridge, this path joins the evergreen walk, which leads from the entrance gate opposite Grant-street to the bridge, thence to the Fitzroy Cricket ground. The evergreen walk is planted with *Pinus Insignis* [ie. *Pinus radiata*], alternate with *Schinus Molle* (the pepper tree), fringed with *Cupressus Torulosa*, back-ground with five varieties of Eucalyptus, including the lemon scented, the scarlet flowering, and the Gippsland mahogany. From the bridge, going north west, to the entrance gate at Reid-street, is a continuation of the English Oak avenue, fringed with the hardy double flowering Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum floribundum*) [ie. presumably *Ligustrum sinense*].

The street scavengers are continuing to deposit the street manure in the Gardens, which is utilized to fill up and fertilize the poor and low ground, a shallow trench is dug, in which the manure is put, and the earth taken from the trench is thrown over as a covering. This



will, of necessity, become a rich soil, well-adapted for the growth of trees. A clump of the most ornamental kinds of Eucalyptus have already been planted in one of the prepared sections.<sup>233</sup>

The paths described in the Bickford report are consistent with those shown on the 1883 trenching plan. Further segments were added on a similar basis as occupancy and management of the reserve was rationalised, including the addition of several path segments across the sports precinct after resumption of the former north club oval and other segments in the north-west and east. As additional paths were added to the gardens, treed avenues were developed along these as well. A number of paths and associated plantings would seem to have been added c. 1887-1888 in conjunction with filling of the creek, construction of the railway and resumption of parts of the cricket club occupancies. A second flourish of planting may have occurred c. 1900-1905, with additional diagonal paths formalised and construction of a circular garden around the new Queen Victoria Statue.

Some segments of the path system may not have been planted in this initial period of development, including the entrance path through the sporting precinct from St Georges Road, and the former north-east to south-west diagonal that was associated with the Queen Victoria circle.

The historical avenue layout that survives today was largely complete by c. 1905 when it appeared on a street directory map reproduced in the 1987 *Edinburgh Gardens Landscape Study*. Those historical plantings (both extant and former) and more recent additions are tabulated in Table 1 and mapped in Figure 83.

The known avenue tree plantings are inventoried in the following table, including their original composition and the status of the avenue (or segments thereof) today.

Table 1 Edinburgh Gardens avenue tree plantings

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
(1)	1881	City of Fitzroy	Monterey Pine, Blue Gum, Pittosporum	Removed, save for 2x Remnant Pittosporum.  The exterior row was replaced with a row of Kurrajong c. 1920s, and the path was removed c. 1940.  (no longer treated as an avenue, refer section 3.5.1)
A	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Elm (north segment)  Mix of English Elm and Dutch Elm (central segment – twentieth century replantings)	North segment: west row largely intact, east row replanted early twentieth century and has gap from former nursery yard  Central segment: Entire avenue removed c. 1950 for Ladies Bowling Club and partially replanted at the time. Some surviving trees from 1950 replanting, with gaps filled by a recent replanting  South segment: Entire avenue and pathway removed c. 1938

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
<b>A.1</b>	<i>c. 1940</i>	<i>City of Fitzroy</i>	<i>English Elm (suckers)</i>	<i>Present, self-grown single row, slated for removal</i>
<b>B</b>	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Elm	Largely intact to original 1884 planting.
<b>C</b>	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	English Oak	East segment replanted with English Oak late 1940s.  Central segment removed (railway c. 1888).  North-west segment variously replanted, most recently with Holm Oak.
<b>D</b>	1884	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford)	Evergreens (Monterey Pine and Peppercorn)	No longer present.  South-east segment removed for Alfred Crescent Oval, central segment replanted with Holm Oak, no west segment.
<b>E</b>	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), after creek filled in	English Elm, Dutch Elm	North and central section largely Dutch Elm with 1-2 English Elm; Dutch Elm a possibly early twentieth century planting.  South section English Elm, presumed original with gaps.
<b>F</b>	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), through former north oval	English Elm	c. 1888 planting generally present, north side only above bowling club.
<b>G</b>	c. 1888	Committee of Management (N.M. Bickford), through former north oval	English Elm	c. 1888 planting to north side of pathway only (4 originals, 1 c. 1930s replacement).  South side of the c. 1888 avenue was replaced c. 1930s and removed c. late 1940s.

Avenue	Est. date	Origin	Composition	Status
H	c. 1905	Committee of Management	English Elm	Substantially intact to original c. 1900s planting.
I	c. 1905	Committee of Management	Mix English Elm and Dutch Elm	<p>Mix of English Elm (middle of rows) and Dutch Elm (ends), with a gap in the centre</p> <p>The planting appears to have terminated short of the Falconer Street entrance originally or from an early date, perhaps due to railway access requirements (much later, the K174 steam locomotive occupied this site as a static display, but the gap existed in 1945).</p> <p>It is not known if the Dutch Elm specimens are original or early, pre-1940s replacements</p>
J	c. 1905	Committee of Management	Dutch Elm	Central circle is incomplete, either due to losses or intentionally (ie. an original garden treatment subsequently removed). Minor gaps in the avenue planting.
K	c. 1905	Committee of Management	---	Pathway K appears to have never been planted as an avenue
L	c. 2009	City of Yarra	Smooth-barked Apple, Lemon-scented Gum	Variously either double row avenue or single row

### 3.4.1 Pathway format and materials

As described above, the pathway network provided in Edinburgh Gardens was essentially utilitarian in its layout and intent, although it was extensively embellished with surrounding tree and shrub plantings. Entry points on the network corresponded to the surrounding street pattern and almost all paths ran in straight line segments to connect with major intersections as well with the two former locations of footbridges across the creek that was removed c. 1888.

More localised paths in shorter segments were established around major garden features, including the former Jubilee Fountain, Queen Victoria statue and ornamental pond. As these features were removed or declined in prominence, many of the associated secondary paths were also removed, although some segments remain around the Queen Victoria Plinth and behind the Emely Baker Centre (former Jubilee Fountain garden). A semi-circular pathway running parallel to Alfred Crescent was also removed in the 1930s or 1940s. In addition to the original shrub plantings detailed by Bickford, additional ornamental features were likely added later along the path network, with evidence surviving of some of these features in the form of raised bluestone edging and other details.



New paths have also been created and new avenue plantings established along them, as detailed above. Most prominently, a long curving path has been constructed along the former railway corridor following the removal of the branch line and depot in the 1980s. New paths surrounding the Brunswick Street oval were also added in the 1980s as part of its redevelopment as a community oval.

Relevant characteristics of the pathways and evidence for the date of introduction for their current material details are provided in the discussion below and summarised at Table 2. An example cross-section and a selection of representative bluestone edging details are collected in Figure 55, the latter representing the main bluestone edging arrangements found throughout the site. Photographs showing the variety of typical conditions are included as Figure 87 to Figure 93, while details from historical aerials show the introduction of new path surfaces and edging across the twentieth century at Figure 94 to Figure 96.

#### *Path entrances*

No consistent format to the early path entrances from St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent has been identified. Oblique aerial photography from c. 1925-1940 shows that Avenue F flared into a wider, oval-shaped area at its entrance from St Georges Road, with the flared area edged with raised bluestone rubble kerbs (refer further detail on kerb and channel treatments below) and white painted gate posts to either side of the entrance. Whether there was a similar treatment at the entrance to Avenue B is not apparent, however a similar circular nodal area is also visible on the 1931 aerial photograph just inside the entrance of Avenue C (adjacent to the present Emely Baker Centre).

These flared entrances appear to have been removed by the early 1940s, and are not apparent on the c. 1940s oblique aerial or the 1945 conventional aerial. However, the forked arrangement of the Avenue A entrance opposite Best Street, which is evident in conventional 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs and takes in three specimens from the *Brachychiton* row (refer section 3.5.1), remains extant.

Other entrances from Alfred Crescent and from Napier Street appear in the 1931 photograph to have been treated plainly, although ornamental floral areas were later provided around them.

Although not always resolved in the available photography, it is evident that bollards or gate posts were once present at a number of the entrances, and likely in a variety of forms as evidenced by the distinctive treatments of the entrances seen in early photographs.

#### *Path surfacing*

The initial c. 1880s path surfaces were reported by Bickford to have been formed of gravel with a coating of tar that was then blinded with sand and street sweepings. Essentially this was a form of lightweight bituminous surface (using coal or gas tar), similar to modern 'chip seal' techniques. On a c. 1901 MMBW plan, the major paths are identified as being asphalt paved, an account of a 1906 visit to the gardens also recounts that 'asphalt footpaths ran in all directions.'<sup>234</sup>

Other images appear to show granular surfaces. The 1906 postcard image of the ornamental pond in the north-east shows the secondary path around that feature to have been gravel; the major avenue in the background is also painted as a gravel surface although there is not enough detail from the original photograph to confirm this.

A photograph from the 1920s (Figure 86) shows what would appear to be a major path surfaced with gravel, with a pronounced central crown and trenched gravel gutters to either side. While not determinative, aerial photography of the 1920s-1940s also shows bright pathways which may be considered somewhat more likely to have been a granular rather than a tar or asphalt surface.

Oblique aerial photographs from c. 1925-1940 and c. 1940 show most of the gardens paths to have been evidently brighter than the surrounding tar or asphalt footpaths to Brunswick Street, St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent. An exception to this was a section of darker path surface within the sporting precinct, on the short but presumably heavily used path from Brunswick Street to the north gate to the oval (above the gap between the former pair of grandstands). The 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs also show a darker surface at the forked entry from Alfred Crescent to Avenue A (across from Best Street), suggesting that this area had been paved with the adjoining footpath, and contrasting with the bright surface of the pathway south of the fork.

A 1937 article on the construction of a new path (Avenue A.1) from the Napier Street entrance (after expansion of the cricket ground) notes that this path would be asphalt paved.<sup>235</sup>

Today, all paths are asphalt-paved, a change that appears to have occurred in the decades subsequent to 1931, during which time any previous granular surfaces were replaced. The change in reflectivity of the pathways is marked between the 1931, 1945, 1951 and 1969 aerial photographs, and may reflect the gradual paving of the path network with modern asphalt during this period. Although a twentieth century development, the asphalt is similar to the paths' described original treatment of tarred gravel, and appropriate to the gardens' high level of usage, access requirements and position on shared path and cycling networks.

#### *Path edging*

No mention is made of path edging in the c. 1880s newspaper reports on the development of the Edinburgh Gardens. Neither is bluestone edging evident on the path shown in the 1920s photograph, except in the foreground where the ornamental shrubberies on the path border (likely at an intersection) appear to have had bluestone rubble walls.

A c. 1925-1940 oblique aerial photograph shows the widespread but discontinuous use of this large bluestone rubble edging around intersections and planting beds in the area immediately north of the sporting precinct. It is evident from this photograph that the rubble edging was used principally as an edge to garden and shrubbery beds, and at street entrances on the west side of the garden where the paths were flared or forked. Along the north side of the tennis courts, it is evident that a kerb was also in place, although it is not clear from the image if this was the current honed bluestone masonry kerb or rubble kerb similar to those seen elsewhere in the photograph. Other sections of the paths visible in that aerial, and in a similar oblique view from c. 1930-40, appear to lack edging or stone masonry guttering.

The oblique aerals, which provide very good detail on this question, suggest that most of the honed bluestone pathway edges and channel gutters date to the mid-twentieth century, and are perhaps associated with the (re-) introduction of asphalt pavements within the gardens from the c. 1940s and later rounds of cyclical reconstruction and improvement.

Certain features can be distinguished as appearing on later aerals where there was no evidence that these were present on earlier images. As an example, the bluestone channel on the west side of Avenue A, north of the tennis courts (Figure 91) appears for the first time on a 1969 aerial image and is not visible on imagery from 1945 and 1951 (Figure 96). Similarly, the integrated bluestone kerb and channel on Avenue E at Alfred Crescent (opposite Falconer Street) does not appear to be visible on the 1969 aerial, and may have been installed after 1969 and before 1987.

Later, concrete kerbing was also introduced to the gardens. A section of concrete kerb along part of Avenue A is likely to have been installed with the 1970s construction of the Emely Baker Infant Welfare Centre. The redevelopment of the community oval introduced concrete kerbs throughout the new and realigned pathways through the sporting precinct.

*Path format*

Most paths within the gardens run between rows of avenue trees planted at a typical 9.0 metre (30 foot) spacing.

The paths themselves vary substantially in width between 3.0-4.75 metres, with 4.0 metres being perhaps the closest to a typical current value. It is evident that the later addition of bluestone channels and kerbing or edging to what were previously less developed tar or gravel paths is responsible for some of this variation, as in some cases kerbs and channels may have been constructed to the inside of the existing surface and in others to the outside.

Some paths were also evidently built to narrower standards originally, this goes for instance for Avenues H and I, which are diagonal paths added to the gardens layout c. 1905, and are just 3.0 metres in width with 7.5 metres separating the two rows of trees.

Policies with respect to management of pathway format and materials are provided in the Chapter 6.



Table 2 Edinburgh Gardens path format and materials

<b>Avenue</b>	<b>Path width (to front of kerb)</b>	<b>Edge / Kerb</b>	<b>Channel / Gutter</b>	<b>Date of edging and channels</b>
<b>A</b>	4 metres, including channels where present	Rough honed bluestone block, grading from flush edge to raised rubble in parts and replaced in one section with concrete kerb	Some sections with two-course bluestone channel to one or both sides	Channel at south end dates to 1950s-1960s
<b>A.1</b>	3.5 metres	n/a	Trenched channel from three courses of bluestone along west side of path	Trench drain may have been present in 1930s
<b>B (west)</b>	4.0 metres typical including flush edge	Rough honed bluestone block (flush edge)	None	Post-1940s
<b>B (central and east)</b>	4.5 metres including channels	One section with raised bluestone rubble kerbs (poss. former hedging beds at railway corridor), other sections channels only	Sections of two- and three-course bluestone channel to both sides of path	Rubble kerb c. early 1900s; bluestone channels likely c. 1950s-1970s
<b>C (north-west)</b>	4.75 metres, including channels	Channels only	Two-course bluestone channel	Bluestone channels likely 1950s-1960s
<b>C (east)</b>	4.5 metres including flush edge	Flush rough honed bluestone block edge; raised bluestone rubble kerb at west end intersection with Path E	At west end, three-course bluestone channels at intersection with Path E	Rubble kerb poss. c. early 1900s; bluestone channels likely c. 1950s-1970s
<b>D</b>	4.4 metres to front of kerb	Raised bluestone rubble kerb (former hedging beds at railway corridor)	Single-course bluestone channel/edge in front of rubble kerb	Rubble kerb c. early 1900s
<b>E</b>	4.0 metres including channels	Integrated kerb and channel	Two-course bluestone channel with kerb integrated	Likely 1970s

Avenue	Path width (to front of kerb)	Edge / Kerb	Channel / Gutter	Date of edging and channels
<b>F</b>	4.0 metres, not including flush edge	Flush rough honed bluestone edge, raised rubble kerbs at intersection with path H	None	Rubble kerbs c. early 1900s, flush edge likely post-1940s
<b>G</b>	3.5 metres not including kerb / channel, 4.5 metres entire section	Raised honed bluestone kerb south side only	Two-course bluestone channel north side only	c. 1925-1940 photography shows either a bluestone rubble edge or the present bluestone kerb.  Channel may be c. 1950s-1970s
<b>H</b>	3.0 metres to front of kerb	Rough honed bluestone kerb/edge; raised rubble kerbs at intersection with path F	None	Rubble kerbs c. early 1900s;
<b>I</b>	3.0 metres	Flush rough honed bluestone edge	None	Post-1940s
<b>J</b>	2.5 / 3.5 metres	Sections with bluestone edging of varying detail	None	Unknown
<b>L</b>	3.0 metres	None	None	n/a (path installed 2009)

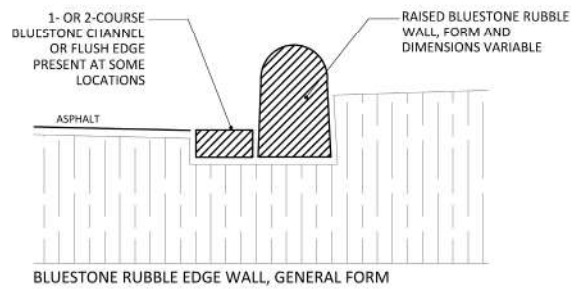
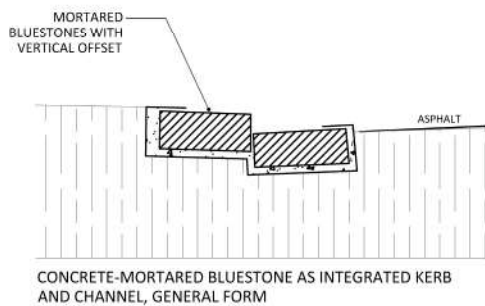
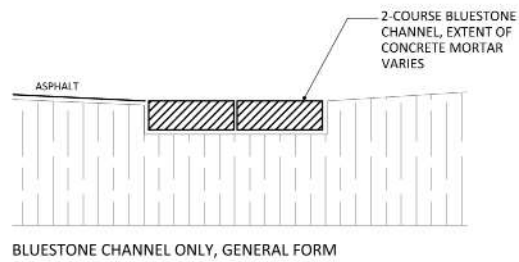
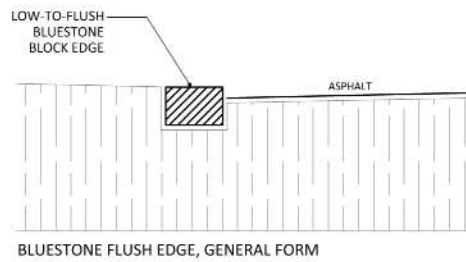
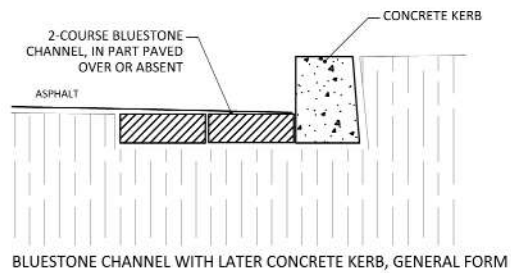
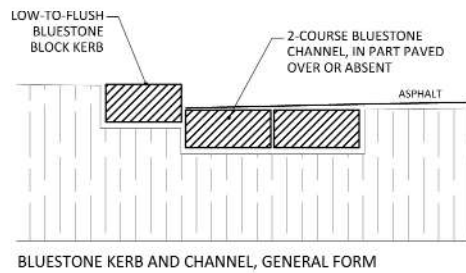
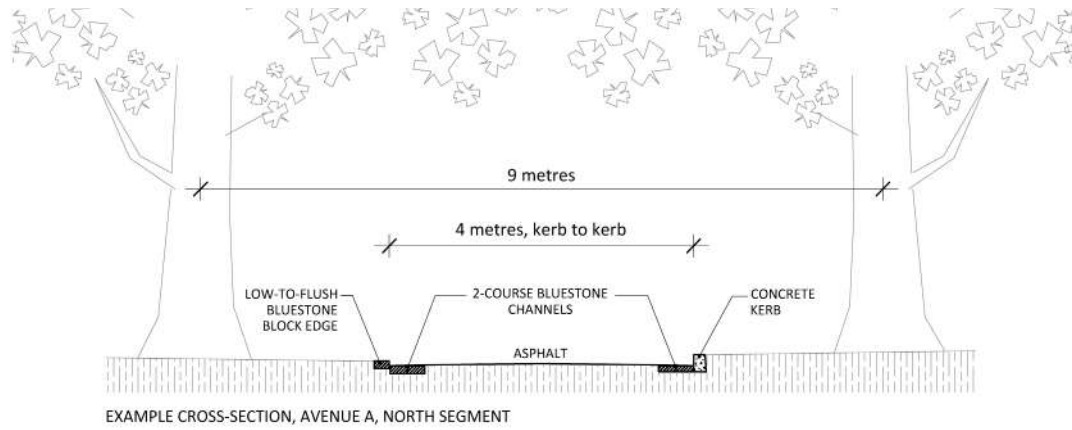


Figure 85 Example pathway cross-section and diversity of bluestone edging details





Figure 86 View along a path in the gardens, c. 1927  
Source: Fitzroy Local History Collection



Figure 87 Example of bluestone rubble edging; this form of edging is seen in photographs from the 1920s-1940s, and in many cases served to provide a front edge to garden beds and shrubberies, now removed





Figure 88 Example of a path with a flush bluestone edge; this edging may have been introduced with modern asphalt paving in the c. 1950s



Figure 89 Example of bluestone channel edge without kerbs; similar bluestone channels appear to have been installed in the 1950s-1960s





Figure 90 Bluestone channel and edge kerb; this feature appears from aerial photography to have been installed on Avenue A between 1951 and 1969



Figure 91 Bluestone channel with later concrete drainage pit at intersection of Avenues A, D and F; aerial photography suggests the channel was installed c. 1950s-1960s





Figure 92 Example of an integrated bluestone kerb and channel, with the outer course raised to form a low kerb above the inner course which serves as the gutter, and heavy concrete mortaring; this edging is likely to date to the c. 1970s



Figure 93 Modern (1980s) concrete kerb in vicinity of the community oval



Figure 94 Details from oblique aerial c. 1925-1940, showing apparent granular pathways with sections of bluestone rubble kerb  
Source: C. Pratt, State Library of Victoria





Figure 95 Details from oblique aerial, c. 1930-1940, showing pathway and edging treatments; notable in the top image is the removal of the previously 'flared' entry point at St Georges Road on Avenue F, seen in the previous image.



Figure 96 Details from aerial photography of 1945 (top) and 1969 (bottom), showing Avenue D around the former crossing of the railway line, with the former Ladies Bowling Club (current stormwater garden) visible in the centre of the 1969 image; a change in the configuration of the path intersection at the left is visible, including installation of a new bluestone channel (red arrow) seen as a bright line running across the path. Refer Figure 91 for a view of this bluestone channel today.



### 3.4.2 *Elm avenues*

Although the initial avenues developed by the Committee of Management were more diverse, additional paths and accompanying avenue plantings developed from 1888 cemented the dominance of the Elm tree at Edinburgh Gardens. While English Elm had been employed in the earlier plantings, Dutch Elm was subsequently introduced and avenue plantings today represent both species.

Developments within the gardens and the sporting precinct did have consequences for a number of Elm avenue segments (affecting both those original to 1883 and those added from c. 1888). Construction of the railway had effects on a number of central pathways. Subsequently, the expansion of the main oval and tennis courts in the 1930s resulted in relocation of the original lower half of the north-south avenue on that side of the railway, and removal of the associated avenue trees (which were not replanted due to issues both of space and crowd control around the oval. One side of the planting on the short diagonal path to the north of the sporting precinct was also removed during this period to allow for expansion of the tennis club facilities.

The 1948 construction of the former Ladies Bowling Club green (current stormwater garden) removed an additional section of the north-south avenue on the west side of the gardens. Between 1945 and 1951, several trees were lost from the avenue that now adjoins the west side of the Alfred Crescent Oval, however it is not clear if these were removed to facilitate early use of this area as a sports ground or were lost as a consequence of the 1940s drought. Formalisation of an oval in this location post-dates the loss of these trees (and required the removal of the former mound to the north).

Refer Figure 97 to Figure 103 for typical views within the Elm avenue plantings.



Figure 97 View west inside the principal east-west English Elm Avenue (Avenue B) from Rowe Street, one of the original c. 1884 avenue plantings





Figure 98 English Elm avenue south from Best Street entrance (Avenue A), another of the original c. 1884 avenue plantings



Figure 99 View east in the English Elms of Avenue B, from near St Georges Road





Figure 100 English Elm trees surrounding the five-way junction of pathways in the west of the gardens (Avenues A, B and H seen here) looking south towards the sporting precinct



Figure 101 English Elm trees on the south part of Avenue E, a c. 1888 planting that followed the filling of the original creek gully





Figure 102 A mixed planting of Dutch Elm and English Elm (Avenue I) running south-west from the Falconer Street entrance. The path and avenue are believed to be c. 1905, although the trees themselves were almost certainly planted at two different times



Figure 103 English Elms on one of the diagonal paths (Avenue H) into the sporting precinct; a c. 1888 planting established as part of the formalisation of the path network across the former north oval

*English Elm row east of the Tennis Courts (Avenue A.1)*

A row of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) is established along the east of the tennis courts and the abutting path (Figure 104). The trees are irregularly and closely spaced, often only two-three metres apart. Many appear to have originated as two or more plants which have self-grafted to form multi-trunk trees.

This row of English Elm dates to the early 1940s when it established along the fenced boundary to the former rail corridor. The close spacing and often doubled position of trees and leaders, and their inconsistent size in early aerial photographs, suggests the trees established by suckering.

The trees of the original north-south avenue east of the sports precinct (part of Avenue A) were removed between 1934 and 1938 to permit expansion of the oval and tennis courts, and the path relocated to an adjacent strip of land purchased from the Railways Department. Newspaper coverage at the time indicates that the city had determined not to replant trees in this location because of maintenance and crowd control concerns associated with the walled sporting oval. There would have been limited space in any event for a formal planting in association with the relocated path.

As part of the transaction and the path relocation, a fence would have been erected where the line of trees is now located. It is posited that suckers from the root systems of the previous avenue's removed trees regrew along the new fence, protected by the fence from weeding and maintenance. In several specimens the remains of the former fence can be discerned protruding from sections of the trunk which have grown over and around them.

In 1954 the National Can Company occupied the site and remained there until the cessation of the industrial activities in 1996 when the land was converted to parkland by Yarra City Council. The boundary fence was removed around that time.

The trees have generally been evaluated as poor examples of the species with an inherently weak structural form. In accordance with the Edinburgh Gardens Avenue Replacement Plan (John Patrick Pty Ltd, 2015), the City of Yarra plans to remove the Dutch Elm row east of the tennis courts c. 2020-2021.





Figure 104 Self established row of English Elm to the east of the tennis club, on former alignment of fencing associated with the railway corridor and the National Can Company

### 3.4.3 Oak avenues

#### *English Oak avenue (south-west from Rowe Street entrance) (Avenue C)*

A single avenue segment running south-west from Rowe Street is planted with English Oak (*Quercus robur*) (Figure 105). This avenue was originally planted with English Oak in the 1884-85 plantings undertaken by the Committee of Management and reported by Nicholas Bickford. The Oak planting originally continued along further path segments: a NW-SE diagonal path segment that formerly crossed the centre of the park (removed for the railway), and the extent diagonal path from the Reid Street entrance (from which the original avenue was long-removed, but which has recently been replanted with Holm Oak, see below)

Although originally planted with English Oak, the segment from Rowe Street has subsequently been replanted. It is evident from examination of aerial photography that the current Oak trees date to the late 1940s, when they replaced an earlier planting (presumably the original Oaks, but this is not known with certainty). Early aerial photography also makes it clear that both iterations of the avenue were set *to the inside* of additional rows of trees. These appear to have been Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), as a single specimen of that species survives south of the English Oak avenue on this alignment and Nicholas Bickford specifically reported having used this arrangement on other avenues in the gardens, with native gums serving as a 'background' to the European avenue trees.

Several young infill specimens are present on the avenue's south row: in the centre where it abuts the remains of an Elm circle north of the Alfred Crescent oval; and at the east end adjacent to the Rowe Street. The trees are relatively small even for their 1940s date, presumably a result of periodic drought stress, constrained soil conditions and competition within the avenue.



Figure 105 View towards east in avenue of English Oak (*Quercus robur*) (Avenue C) originating at Rowe Street entrance, an original planting of the 1884 avenue system but with trees dating to the late 1940s

#### *Holm Oak plantings*

Recently, several path sections have been planted with Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*):

- short path segment west of the English Oak avenue (crossing former railway) (formerly part of the Evergreen Walk, Avenue D) (Figure 106)
- path running south-south-east from the Reid Street / St Georges Road / Alfred Crescent intersection (formerly the north-west segment of the Avenue C English Oak planting) (Figure 107)

These avenues adopt a tough, drought tolerant and evergreen Oak species that was historically used elsewhere in the gardens (refer 3.6.3 below). They also reference the original continuity of the English Oak Avenue, which took an indirect course through the gardens from Rowe Street to Reid Street.

It is noted that due to its dense, rounded canopy, the Holm Oak functions quite differently as an avenue tree: it will produce less of the arcing form and dappled shade of the Elm and English Oak Avenues, instead growing into trees of dense structure and deep shade. A tough, slow-growing tree that has performed well in Edinburgh Gardens, the effect of the current plantings once mature should be reviewed before applying Holm Oak as a selection to further avenues within the gardens.





Figure 106 Recently established avenue planting of Holm Oak on a segment of the former 'Evergreen Walk' north of the basketball court



Figure 107 Holm Oak planting (possibly two generations) on the north-west segment of Avenue C, originally an English Oak avenue planted c. 1884

#### 3.4.4 Gum avenue (contemporary) (Avenue L)

Following removal of the railway corridor, a new path and avenue planting were established down the former alignment of the corridor, serving as a continuation of the Inner Circle Rail Trail north of Alfred Crescent. Unlike the nineteenth century avenues, the path runs through a series of curves from its north entrance (between Fergie Street and Falconer Street) to its turn back east to meet Alfred Crescent just east of Jamieson Street at the south end of the gardens. The upper curve, from Alfred Crescent to the crossing of Avenue D, reflects the former alignment of the railway through the gardens, while the lower curve, from south of Avenue D to Jamieson Street, is an invention of the late twentieth century that does not match the layout of the former railway depot.

This avenue is planted with a pair of native Eucalypt species: Smooth-bark Apple (*Angophora costata*) and Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) (Figure 108). The outcome has not been completely consistent: some path sections were either only planted to one side or have suffered subsequent failures of planted stock; some sections of the avenue planting have also not established well and are markedly smaller.

A row of the same pathway is also established on the southernmost segment of Avenue A.1, south of the English Elm fencerow and the junction with main Gum Avenue on Avenue L.



Figure 108 Avenue planting of native gum trees on the curved pathway (Avenue L) installed on the former railway corridor

#### 3.4.5 *Evidence of railway*

Marking the former path of the railway spur, two sections of rails have been retained within and adjacent to Edinburgh Gardens. One exists at the intersection of Avenue D and Avenue L, east of the tennis courts and south-west of the Queen Victoria Plinth garden (Figure 109). The other is located just outside of the gardens where the railway formerly crossed Alfred Crescent (Figure 110).

Although likely to be the rails and ties present on the site at the time of the railway's decommissioning, this has not been confirmed.





Figure 109 Rails embedded in the pavement of Avenue L in south part of gardens



Figure 110 Rails crossing Alfred Crescent, just outside of Edinburgh Gardens

### 3.5 Boundary plantings

#### 3.5.1 *Brachychiton* rows / former east perimeter avenue

Rows of *Brachychiton* trees forms much of Edinburgh Garden's circular perimeter, from Watkins Street on the St Georges Road side all the way around to Grant Street on Alfred Crescent. The older trees are Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), into which a hybrid cultivar (*Brachychiton populneus* x. *acerifolius*)<sup>236</sup> have been interplanted since the late 1980s in order to fill gaps. Additional infill plantings of Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) have been established in recent years, an introduction of a new species that in appearance and formal character is much less congruent with the original Kurrajongs than the earlier hybrid infill.

A boundary planting on the perimeter of the gardens had been installed by 1881, when a newspaper inventoried a row of Monterey Pine and Blue Gums 'half a chain apart' (ten metres). That there was a planting to the gardens' perimeter is confirmed on the 1883 trenching plan, which shows what is likely to have been a fenced tree planting running along the park edge from Brunswick Street North to Jamieson Street. The Blue Gums were soon reported to be succumbing to a 'black blight' (perhaps a psyllid attack), but the pines had apparently been more successful. In 1884-85, the perimeter planting was described as being composed of 'Pines and Pittosporums', which had been retained through the works undertaken by the Committee of Management and Nicholas Bickford. A c. 1906 postcard (coloured photograph) of the former circular pond south of the Rowe Street entrance shows the perimeter pathway and a row of pines to the outside. The removal of 'some imposing pine trees, which have formed a sheltering wall along the border of the park near Alfred Crescent'<sup>237</sup> was reported in 1914.

The west Kurrajong row on Brunswick Street and St Georges Road would appear to date to the beginning of the twentieth century, either in conjunction with the initial construction of scalloped annual display beds in this earlier or as part of later improvements to these beds, and almost certainly prior to 1914.

The Kurrajong row to the east side of the gardens appears to have been established in the 1920s, following the 1914 removal of the Monterey Pines, and succeeded or augmented an earlier planting of native evergreen trees that with the pines had previously formed an avenue to a perimeter pathway (removed pre-1945) that ran parallel to Alfred Crescent.

The form and history of each of these plantings is discussed in more detail below.

#### *West Kurrajong rows, St Georges Road and Alfred Crescent*

Kurrajongs occur in two rows along the west edge of the gardens to St Georges Road and the beginning of Alfred Crescent. Interrupted at the Emely Baker Centre, then again at Best Street by an arc of Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) (refer section 3.5.3), one Kurrajong section runs from Watkins Street to the start of Alfred Crescent (Figure 111 and Figure 112), with the second short row located to the east of the Emely Baker Centre (Figure 113).

In the southern section, there are two Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) specimens interplanted into the row, one at its north end adjacent to the Alfred Crescent intersection, and one between the two widely spaced Kurrajongs at the south end.

This extent is consistent with but extends somewhat further south than the fenced boundary planting that appears to be shown (pre-existing) on the 1883 plan. Some plans from the early twentieth century depicted the western arc of the gardens boundary with scalloped garden beds.



A limited portion of these scalloped beds, and the two southernmost Kurrajong trees, are visible in a c. 1925 oblique aerial. This photograph, which captures the specimens with the wider than normal separation that remains extant today, appears to confirm that the trees occupied formal positions within the perimeter garden beds along the St George Street boundary.

The scalloped beds and the Kurrajong row can also be identified on aerial photographs from 1931 and 1945. These photographs show the gap between the two southernmost trees, as well as another gap further north in the vicinity of a large Mahogany Gum specimen within the park. They also show trees in both the positions now occupied by the Native Frangipani specimens, including a small tree that is consistent with the smaller stature of the southern specimen.

The scalloped beds were used for extensive floral displays in the early twentieth century; associated with this use and present at reasonable size in photographs from 1925 and 1931, the west Kurrajong row would appear to date to the beginning of the twentieth century.

The interruption of the Kurrajong row at the Emely Baker Centre also predates that building's construction, as the early aerials show the row interrupted by an elaborate garden in this location associated with the former fountain.



Figure 111 Kurrajong (*Brachychiton propulneus*) row, St Georges Road north from Brunswick Street





Figure 112 Kurrajong row, St Georges Road south from Alfred Crescent



Figure 113 Kurrajong row, east of the Emely Baker Centre on Alfred Crescent

*East Kurrajong row, Alfred Crescent*

To the east of the former railway corridor, a row of Kurrajong trees extends south along the gardens' boundary (Figure 114 and Figure 115). Infill plantings of other types of *Brachychiton* were established to



fill gaps in the Kurrajong row, mostly south of Rowe Street where the original planting had suffered significant attrition presumably due to soil and moisture conditions. The first infills appear to have taken place between 1987-2003, particularly at the south end of the row beside the Alfred Crescent Oval (Figure 116) and employed a hybrid cultivar (*Brachychiton populneus x acerifolius*) that is broadly similar in mature form to the neighbouring Kurrajongs. More recent infills within the row have employed Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*); still juvenile trees, once mature these plantings will be less congruent in their formal appearance to the original Kurrajong trees and may have consequences for the overall perception of this planting as a historical and aesthetic feature.

The presence of a doubled row (eg. avenue) of trees to much of the east perimeter of the gardens is shown indicatively on the 1905 map, with a perimeter path running from the then-railway corridor along the Alfred Street edge to Grant Street. The path also shows up on the c. 1894 MMBW plan 29. Following removal of the pines, the perimeter path along Alfred Crescent was retained, and was present in the 1931 aerial, but removed by the time the gardens were re-photographed in 1945.

The current Kurrajong row appears at a juvenile scale in the 1931 aerial photograph, and becomes more legible in the 1945 and 1951 images. Other larger trees were also present to both sides of the former pathway in these aerials, representing the older (c. 1890-1914) avenue planting. Three native trees are present today in positions that are consistent with this older planting. Two Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) – one to the inside of the Brachychiton row and one within the row itself – are almost certainly specimens of the 1880s planting. A specimen of Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) is also loosely associated with the Pittosporum and Kurrajong row plantings; the date of this planting is less certain.



Figure 114 Kurrajong row, with incongruent replacement plantings of Illawarra Flame Tree, beside Alfred Crescent Oval



Figure 115 Kurrajong row, with infill plantings, on Alfred Crescent near Falconer Street



Figure 116 Older hybrid *Brachychiton* planting in flower at the south end of the Alfred Crescent Kurrajong row; other than the obvious difference in flowering time and colour, the hybrid cultivar otherwise presents as broadly congruent with the original Kurrajong trees in form and spatial effect





Figure 117 Two specimens of Sweet Pittosporum within and adjacent to the present Kurrajong row are likely remnants of the c. 1881 'Pines and Pittosporums' row/avenue planting that encircled Edinburgh Gardens in the first decades after its formal planting



Figure 118 A specimen of Queensland Brush Box appears to be associated with the other plantings in this area, but is of uncertain date and origin

### 3.5.2 Alfred Crescent Desert Ash row

A short row of nine mature Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and one Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood') is present along the northern frontage of the Gardens to Alfred Crescent (Figure 119), opposite the Primary School.

The Ash row appears to have been established in the 1960s, as it is visible at a juvenile scale in aerial photography from 1969.

The planting re-established the formal planted boundary in this section, which although shown on certain early plans had been removed before the 1931 aerial photograph. This section of the gardens included the old caretaker's cottage and nursery facilities, and may have been implicated occasionally in works to the railway corridor. Although a linear row of trees is present in aerials to the inside of this location, it appears likely that following removal of the original Monterey Pine boundary in 1914, no further planting occurred on the outer perimeter of this section until the Ash trees were installed in the 1960s.



Figure 119 Desert Ash row on Alfred Crescent, a c. 1960 planting



### 3.5.3 *Elm Row Alfred Crescent south*

A short row of Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) was established on the southern part of the gardens boundary to Alfred Crescent in the c. 1990s, between Grant Street and Jameson Street (Figure 120).

This section is located west of the termination of the former boundary pathway at Grant Street. Although a row planting was indicated here in the 1905 map, the area may not have been replanted following the 1914 removal of pines from the Alfred Crescent boundary (unlike the arc of Alfred Crescent to the north, where new native trees were established as an avenue around the boundary pathway). No trees mark this section of the boundary in the 1931 and 1945 aerial photographs.

Since the installation of the elm row, a large playground has been constructed in this part of the park.



Figure 120 Elm row to southern end of Alfred Crescent, adjacent to south playground

## 3.6 Internal tree groups

### 3.6.1 *Elm circles*

A number of formal circles (or remnants thereof) of English or Dutch Elm can be found in the north-west and north-east quadrants of the Edinburgh Gardens. In each case, these tree groups are considered likely to be the remnants of more detailed ornamental planting features, which formerly included display beds and shrubberies and secondary paths, and one case an ornamental pond. Over time and as a result of changing maintenance conditions and increasing competition from the maturing Elm trees, the accompanying plantings were intentionally removed or lost to attrition, leaving only the circles of Elm trees in place to the present day.

#### *North-east Elm circle*

A circle of 13 Dutch Elm trees (*Ulmus x hollandica*) is set in one of the lawn areas in the north east of the Gardens (Figure 121). All but one of the trees are mature specimens. The thirteenth is a recent replacement for a missing specimen to complete the circle.



While a circular garden feature is shown to occupy this section of the Gardens on the 1905 map, the tree planting is not indicated. The feature is thought to have been a garden bed with a surrounding path. The *Annual Reports* for the Committee of Management in 1895 note that a new circle was established on the eastern side of the railway, fenced with iron pickets and planted with flowers and shrubs. This is possibly the same garden bed.

By the time of the 1945 aerial photograph a circle of trees with mature canopies was clearly present in this location, with a similar circle of advanced trees around the ornamental pond to the south-east (discussed below). That latter planting is thought to have been established in 1894-95 when the pond was established. A photograph of the latter, thought to be c. 1906, includes the apparent presence of juvenile elm trees around the periphery of the pond path which would be consistent with a mid- to late 1890s planting date. It is possible that the Elms in both locations were planted contemporaneously.

At the north-east circle, the garden bed and the circular path were removed by 1945, possibly in the 1930s when the path along the eastern side of Alfred Crescent was grassed over and hedges were removed from alongside the railway line.

#### *East Elm arc (former circle, north end of Alfred Crescent Oval)*

A semi-circle of seven mature Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) rings the northern end of the Alfred Crescent sports oval south of Rowe Street (Figure 122).

The 1905 map indicates a circular ornamental pond in this section of the Gardens, along with markings that may represent this tree planting and are consistent with the 'keyhole' form of the planting. The pond is also depicted and annotated in a 1926 plan for irrigation piping within the Gardens, however the plantings are not shown.

As referred to above, the 1906 postcard photograph of the ornamental pond (Figure 12, Chapter 2) may show evidence of the Elm planting, with one small tree clearly seen at left behind the pond (and evidence of two others), and the shadow of a further tree seen on the foreground surfaces in front of the pond. Aerial photography of 1931 shows clearly that the pond was enclosed by a complete circle trees, with a double row of the same species (and presumably a path) running north to meet it from the Grant Street entrance.

The pond was dry when photographed in aerial photography of 1945, during a drought period. It appears to have been removed by 1951, when the aerial photograph appears to show the site had been replaced with lawn, although the complete 'keyhole' planting of Elms remained in place at that date.

In the late 1940s there were proposals to clear the south-east corner of the Gardens to construct two sports ovals and a pavilion. Public opposition led the council to construct only a small single oval to the south, with 'the mound' and perhaps the pond initially retained (although it does not appear to have been present in 1951). However, c. 1966-1969 the oval was expanded following removal of the hillock, any remaining details of the pond and the southern half of the Elm keyhole, leaving only an arc of trees at the north end of the expanded oval.

#### *North-west Elm group*

A circle of nine English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) is present in the north-west of Edinburgh Gardens north of the Memorial Rotunda lawn. There are three gaps in the circle. Unlike the corresponding formation in the north-east section of the Gardens, this circle has three further Elms planted within the circle outline. All specimens are mature and are in good to fair condition.

Although the 1905 plan does not depict a circular planting of trees in the north-west of the Gardens, the 1945 aerial photograph does show such a formation. By this date the canopies are well developed and

are consistent with those of the trees in the north-east circle, thought to have been planted in the mid- to late 1890s (Refer to North-east Elm circle), and with some of the avenue plantings. Although no other evidence has been identified in support of a specific date, the circle appears to have been planted between the late 1880s and the early 1900s when similar ornamental plantings including structural trees were installed (refer above). It is possible that some of the extant trees reflect later (albeit early) infills; the 1945 and 1951 aerial photographs suggest some trees in the circle and adjacent avenue may have been lost in the 1940s drought and subsequently replaced. It is also possible that the additional trees to the interior of the circle are remnants of an original internal organisation of planting beds and pathways that has otherwise been lost.

#### *West Elm circle*

An additional small circle of English Elm trees is present east of the Memorial Rotunda, alongside one of the English Elm avenues that run diagonally into the sporting precinct and was added c. 1888. The circle is located between two of the Holm Oak rows (refer 3.6.3 below) and is visible on both the 1931 aerial photograph and a c. 1925 oblique aerial photograph.

The original purpose of this circle is not known. It does not appear on the c. 1905 plan of the gardens (although the main 'Edinburgh Gardens' label is located directly over it. Like other circular Elm plantings, this circle was likely established as a formal perimeter to an ornamental garden feature that was subsequently lost.



Figure 121 Circle planting of 13 Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) in the north-east of the gardens.





Figure 122 Dutch Elm arc (*Ulmus x hollandica*), formerly associated with a circular ornamental pond and now located at the north end of the Alfred Crescent oval



Figure 123 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) circle with further trees to the interior, in the north-west of the Gardens.



### 3.6.2 *Queen Victoria garden circle*

Formerly enclosed by a circle of Elm trees at the intersection of two crossing paths, the Queen Victoria statue (refer section 3.10.5) stood in the midst of an elaborate garden. While the NW-SE crossing path was planted with Elms and remains today, the SW-NE crossing path does not appear to have ever been planted with trees, and was subsequently removed (c. 1970s).

It is likely that the circle had originally been fully enclosed by Elm trees; however by the time it was seen in aerial photographs from 1931 and 1945 it had suffered attrition and been reduced to a mostly complete south-east arc and a rump of an arc on the north-west.



Figure 124 The Queen Victoria Plinth and garden is enclosed by a part circle and accompanying avenue of English Elm; a unplanted crossing path was subsequently removed and explains some of the 'missing trees' that would otherwise have formed a circular planting

### 3.6.3 *Holm Oak rows*

Three lateral rows of Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) are present in the area between the Memorial Rotunda and the sporting precinct. They are of long-standing, and do not appear to relate to neighbouring plantings, including the crossing Elm avenues in this area (established c. 1888 or later), or to any plantings associated with the Memorial Rotunda (constructed 1925). It is possible that the Holm Oak rows relate to plantings undertaken in the 1870s and early 1880s within the original cricket club allotments, including a 'ladies reserve' identified in some accounts, although it is also possible that the Oak rows were a municipal planting of the 1890s-1910s whose original intent has been lost.

The rows are visible on aerial photography of 1931 and 1945, already in a semi-mature state.

One of the Holm Oaks, possibly the one located at the north-east corner of the Bowling Club, has been listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Significant Tree Register for its outstanding size. Other aspects of the Trust's description appear to be incorrect, so there is some uncertainty as to whether the location identifying the registered tree at the Bowling Club boundary is correct.





Figure 125 A line of three Holm Oaks, one of the three remnant east-west rows of the species located between the Memorial Rotunda and the sporting precinct



Figure 126 The northernmost pair of Holm Oaks, just south-east of the rotunda



### 3.7 Other notable tree plantings

#### 3.7.1 Native *Eucalypts*

##### *Southern Mahogany Gums*

A large number of Southern Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) appear to have been established in the early gardens, as select specimens survive individually and in pairs throughout Edinburgh Gardens. Southern Mahogany Gum was one of several species of native Eucalypt reported by Nicholas Bickford as having been included in his 1884-1885 plantings at Edinburgh Gardens. Notably, Bickford employed the gum plantings as background rows to a number of the avenue plantings; they appear to have also been employed along the railway corridor and on St Georges Road.

##### *River Red Gums*

Three River Red Gums are situated in the north-west of the Gardens, opposite the Primary School. It is unknown whether the trees established prior to the initial European development of North Fitzroy and the creation of Edinburgh Gardens, or whether they were a c. 1880s-1900s planting. The trees may have established along a linear or quasi-linear feature (a small drain or fence line) that ran to the west of the former nursery site. The trees are visible in aerial photography of 1931.

##### *Sydney Blue Gum*

A single specimen of Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus salignus*) is present in the north-west of the gardens, in an area that was formerly within the nursery site. The tree is visible in aerial photography of 1931.



Figure 127 Two specimens of Southern Mahogany Gum at the north end of the gardens, positioned to either side of the former railway corridor





Figure 128 Two specimens of River Red Gum in the gardens' north-west



Figure 129 A single specimen of Sydney Blue Gum, located within the former City of Fitzroy nursery site in the north of the gardens

### 3.7.2 Conifers

From newspaper reports it is apparent that coniferous trees formerly represented a much more substantial component of the Edinburgh Gardens tree canopy than they do today. Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) were used in an encircling boundary planting (with Blue Gums and Sweet Pittosporum) established by Fitzroy Council c. 1880-81, while an Evergreen Walk reportedly installed in Bickford's 1884-85 plantings used Monterey Pines as an avenue with further exotic conifers planted as a backdrop.

Conifers were also clearly employed in some of the ornamental plantings established around major garden features like the Queen Victoria statue in the 1890s and early 1900s, and as group or specimen plantings in lawn elsewhere in the gardens, as there remain individual specimens and one small group representing several species. These include:

#### *Canary Island Pine (group x3)*

A group of three Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*), comprising two large specimens and a third smaller, in an interior lawn area in the north-east quadrant, adjacent to (behind) an Elm Avenue.

#### *Deodar Cedar*

A single large specimen of Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) present in another of the lawn areas, north of the Queen Victoria Plinth.

#### *Cypresses*

Single specimens of Monterey Cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), present near the central east-west path. The Monterey Cypress stands to the south of the path, adjacent to the former railway lands and crossing; the Italian Cypress is to the north-east, south of the Queen Victoria Plinth. The Monterey Cypress may be the sole survivor of an early hedge, while the Italian Cypress is likely to be a single remnant of a larger shrubbery or ornamental arrangement.



Figure 130 Group of three Canary Island Pines





Figure 131 Single specimen of Deodar Cedar, in the north-east of the gardens



### 3.8 Horticultural plantings

#### 3.8.1 *Ornamental display beds along the St Georges Road frontage*

Ornamental display beds in various forms have been present along the St Georges Road boundary since at least the early twentieth century; at one stage the Kurrajong row in this area appears to have been integrated with feature plantings

The display beds had declined in scale and intensity in the late twentieth century but have recently been renewed, including the restoration of a scalloped edge in line with that seen in early plans and aerial photographs.

Other ornamental plantings have also been present in various forms in this area, whether in association with the Memorial Rotunda or in the late 1800s and early 1900s as garden features possibly associated with the sporting clubs.



Figure 132 Ornamental planting beds to the boundary at Brunswick Street / St Georges Road; elements of the Kurrajong boundary row (early 1900s) and a specimen of Southern Mahogany Gum (possibly c. 1884) have been retained around the newly restored feature beds

### 3.8.2 *Bluestone planter north of Rowe Street*

A large raised garden bed (Figure 133) is situated in the north-east of the Gardens just south of the nearby Elm Circle. The garden bed is circular in form, with a diameter of about ten metres and a kerb constructed of brick-sized bluestone pitchers in a stacked bond arrangement, with a concrete mowing strip surrounding. The circular form is common to a layer of ornamental planting and decoration added to the Gardens from the late 1880s through the early twentieth century, when various water gardens, the Victoria memorial, and several other circular plantings were added to the site.

A circular bed was recorded in this location in the 1931 aerial photograph, although it does not appear on the 1926 gardens plan. It is not known if the bluestone kerb was an original feature of the bed, or added later; previous authors have interpreted it as a 1960s or 1970s construction based on the style.



Figure 133 Bluestone circular planter



### 3.8.3 *Rowe Street entrance planters*

The Rowe Street entrance is flanked by a pair of circular beds defined by raised concrete kerbs (Figure 134). The beds date from c. 1950s-1960s, when they were constructed over a previous 'bar' form planting that defined the entrance in the 1940s. Plantings in these beds are refreshed periodically by the City of Yarra.



Figure 134 Rowe Street entrance beds

## 3.9 Recreation facilities

### 3.9.1 *Alfred Crescent oval*

A sports oval occupies the south-east of the Edinburgh Gardens. It contains a cricket pitch and is graded to a shallow swale around the perimeter. It is set within a broader area of turf which is defined by surrounding avenue plantings and Alfred Crescent, and accommodates a children's playground to the south.

The oval was constructed in this area in the 1940s, and later expanded in the 1960s. It replaced an ornamental pond and formal tree plantings, as well as a mound added in the early 1900s. The arc of Elm trees at the north end of the oval are remnants of plantings formerly associated with the pond.

The sports oval was further enlarged and improved in the early 1980s.