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Weston Park Built Element Inventory

Godden Mackay Logan

Heritage Consultants



Weston Park

Appendix A

Built Element Inventory

Report prepared for ACT Government
Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS)
July 2011

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Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Weston Park—Appendix A—Built Element Inventory, undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system. Godden Mackay Logan operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
09-6482	1	Built Element Inventory, Draft Report	November 2010
09-6482	2	Built Element Inventory, Final Draft Report	April 2011
09-6482	3	Built Element Inventory, Final Report	July 2011

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A.0 Weston Park Built Element Inventory

Godden Mackay Logan (GML) has prepared a series of Built Element assessments to form this Inventory as an appendix to the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The assessments are of individual built elements within the park and they provide a general and physical description of the exterior and interior (if applicable), a brief condition and a heritage significance ranking. Heritage significance is graded in the CMP according to the following Table A.1, and is discussed further in Section 4.0 of the CMP.

Table A.1 Grades of Significance rankings.

Grade of Significance	Explanation
Exceptional	<p>Elements of Exceptional significance or heritage value embody ACT Heritage values in their own right and make an irreplaceable contribution to the heritage values of the place as a whole. At Weston Park elements of exceptional significance are generally associated with the historic Phase 1: 'Up to and including the TCG Weston Period (pre1912–1926)' described in Section 3.1.1.</p> <p>Elements of Exceptional heritage value or significance must be retained and conserved. They require the highest level of care in their management. Such elements are particularly sensitive to change and can be compromised by inappropriate development or impacts.</p>
High	<p>Elements of High significance or heritage value embody ACT Heritage values in their own right and make a significant contribution to the values of the place as a whole. At Weston Park elements of high significance are generally associated with the historic Phases 2: 'Post TCG Weston (1927–1958, including Bruce, Hobday, Moore and Pryor) and Phase 3: 'Phase 3: Post Pryor, the NCDC Period (1958–1960s, including Boden, Clough)' (phases described in Section 3.1.1).</p> <p>Elements of High heritage significance should be retained and conserved. They require a high level of care in their management.</p>
Moderate	<p>Elements embodying Moderate heritage values demonstrate a moderate level of significance and make a contribution to the overall heritage significance of Weston Park. Generally this relates to elements of the later historic phases.</p> <p>Elements of Moderate heritage significance should be retained and conserved. They require care in their management.</p>
Low	<p>These elements are of relatively Low heritage significance to the place as a whole and generally do not make a contribution to the overall heritage values of Weston Park. These elements are more robust and can tolerate a high degree of change, removal or replacement.</p>
Intrusive	<p>Intrusive elements detract from the significance of the place.</p>

This report is divided into precincts with a cover page and precinct map outlining all the elements within each precinct. As not all precincts contain built elements, only those that do are included. Each individual assessment is also accompanied by a collection of photos and a small map showing its location within the sub-precinct. The precincts of Weston Park are described further in Section 1.0 of the CMP, and an overall plan is shown at Figure A.1 below.

All photos are supplied by GML unless otherwise noted.

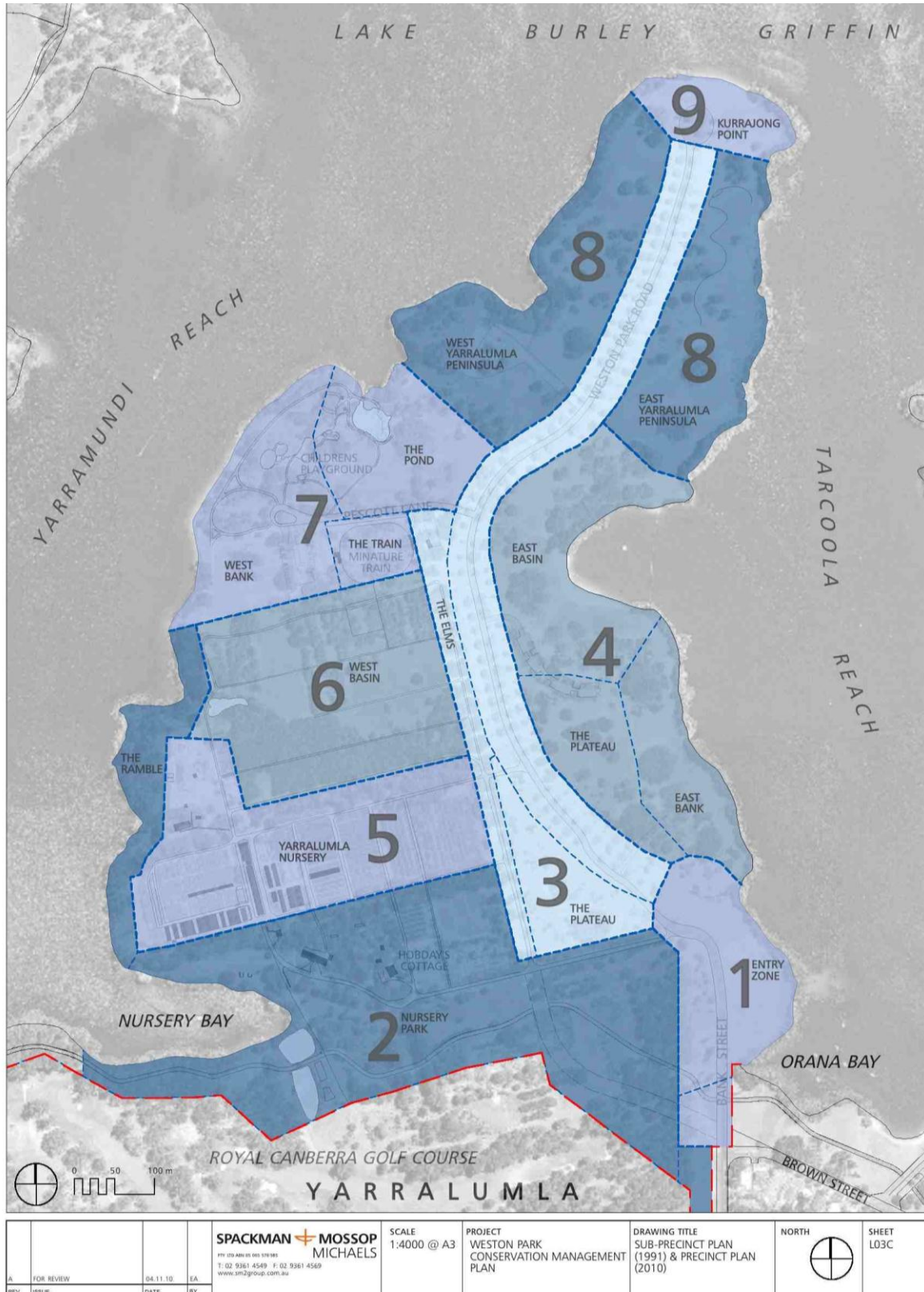


Figure A.1 Precinct plan of Weston Park. (Source: SMM)

A.1 Precinct 2 (Nursery Park and The Ramble)

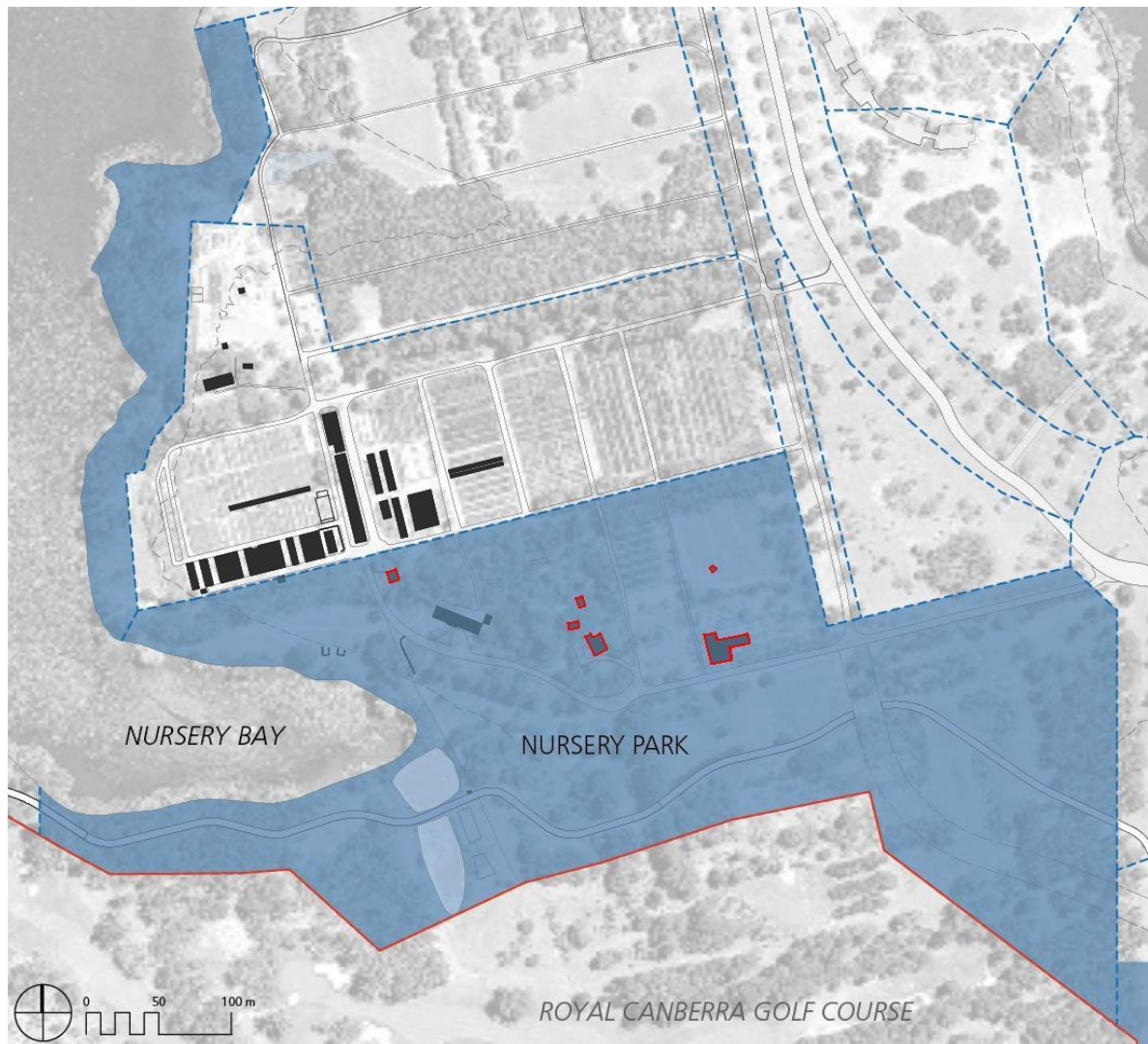


Figure A.2 Weston Park Precinct 2. Elements highlighted in red. (Source for the base plan: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Nursery Park
Name of element	Yarralumla Nursery



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The Yarralumla Nursery building is the public shop and is made up of three large open spaced, single pitched roof structures, which are aligned side by side. The building on the west side closest to the carpark was the oldest of the three, dating from the 1960s, and was originally salvaged from the Parks and Garden Depot in Kingston. After a fire which destroyed the building in 2001, it was rebuilt with most of the pressed tin roof tiles saved.</p>		Moderate
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>Open spaces with some internal partitions to provide storage rooms and toilet facilities.</p> <p>Large, timber, top-rail sliding doors allow access to the main structure on the western side and internally.</p>	The building is in good condition due to its regular use as a shop; however the two newer elements are in better condition than the third, western, structure.
Exterior	<p>The older, western-most structure is a timber panel-clad building with a steel truss constructed roof. The middle structure is of timber frame construction and has alternating Perspex and timber ceiling panels allowing light into the shop floor. The eastern structure is more open, comprising a frame and roof but no walls.</p> <p>The roof of the western structure is pressed tin, painted red.</p>	Good condition, general maintenance.

Images



Figure: Internal view of older western structure, showing steel construction and clad roof.



Figure: Internal view of middle structure showing timber construction and Perspex clad roof.



Figure: External view of two newer structures.



Figure: External view of western entry of main nursery building, showing timber clad exterior and top-rail sliding entry door.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Nursery Park
Name of element	Hobday's Cottage and surrounds.



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The cottage was built in 1923 as a residence for the Chief Nurseryman and was lived in by John Peace Hobday and his family until 1944. It was later lived in by the Moore family in the 1950s but then ceased to be used as a residential building and became a commercial facility. It is currently used as the Yarralumla Gallery and Oaks Brasserie and has been recently refurbished.</p>		<p>Exceptional (New work to Hobday's Cottage and surrounds is deemed intrusive.)</p>
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>Cottage has been recently refurbished and is evident through the newly replaced floorboards and white painted walls and ceiling.</p> <p>Timber-framed sliding-sash windows. Timber, double front doors with glass panels.</p> <p>Fireplace in southeastern room has been boarded up.</p> <p>Industrial kitchen in northwestern side of cottage, three other corner rooms converted into art gallery spaces.</p> <p>Eastern lean-to storage room, likely a later addition.</p>	<p>Good condition as building has been consistently maintained and recently refurbished.</p>
Exterior	<p>Full brick cottage, rendered rough cast stucco textured walls, painted beige. Low masonry external walls painted green and terracotta tiled gable roof.</p> <p>New deck addition on northern side of cottage with permanent marquee established. Non original paving surrounds building.</p> <p>Shed at rear of cottage in garden, painted in same scheme. Masonry construction, timber framed roof with insulation. Timber double doors.</p> <p>A toilet block is situated on the rear western side of Hobday's Cottage and provides service facilities for patrons of Yarralumla Gallery and Oaks Brasserie. It is a small red brick construction structure with gently sloped green metal roof.</p>	<p>In good condition due to recent repairs and maintenance works.</p> <p>Shed has also been recently refurbished.</p> <p>The toilet block is in good condition due to regular use and maintenance.</p>

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: External view showing marquee on north side.



Figure: External view showing later addition on eastern side.



Figure: Internal view of gallery space in southeastern room.



Figure: Internal view of front double entry doors.



Figure: Shed at rear of Cottage.



Figure: Internal view of shed.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Toilet block on western side of Hobday's Cottage.



Figure: Toilet block entrance.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Nursery Park
Name of element	Timber Cart / Mobile Office



General Description		Heritage Significance
One of two timber carts used by Weston during the early years of the Yarralumla Nursery as a mobile office. This one is in the better condition of the two.		High
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	Open space, currently used as storage.	Poor. Overcrowded storage.
Exterior	The small cart is of timber construction, with horizontal timber panels. Mounted on cast iron wheels for mobility. Pressed metal tin roof with metal chimney stack.	Poor. Some rotting of the wood, spider webs. Needs some general maintenance.

Images



Figure: External view showing iron wheels support and timber stairs.



Figure: External view of timber cart, top-hinge windows visible.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Precinct	Nursery Park
Name of element	Toilet Block



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>One of the older buildings in the Nursery Park precinct, the toilet block is located within the English Garden and surrounded by thick vegetation. The toilet block provides male, female and disabled facilities for the public.</p>		High
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>The main portion of the building is divided into two parts for male and female facilities. The male area is larger. It has concrete floor and an asbestos sheet ceiling. The cubicle doors are timber. The later skillion roofed addition contains the disabled toilet and is newer with more modern facilities and tiled floor. The southern side of the addition accommodates storage.</p>	<p>The disabled facilities are in better condition than the older building but overall in good condition.</p>
Exterior	<p>Masonry construction consisting of red brick walls, and terracotta tiled roof. Glass louvered windows along the western wall line up with the cubicles on the inside. Later addition added on eastern side, with small single pane high windows.</p>	<p>Good condition, is reasonably well maintained.</p>

Images



Figure: Later skillion roofed addition for disabled facilities.



Figure: Western wall of toilet block.

A.2 Precinct 3 (The Plateau, The Elms and Weston Park Road)

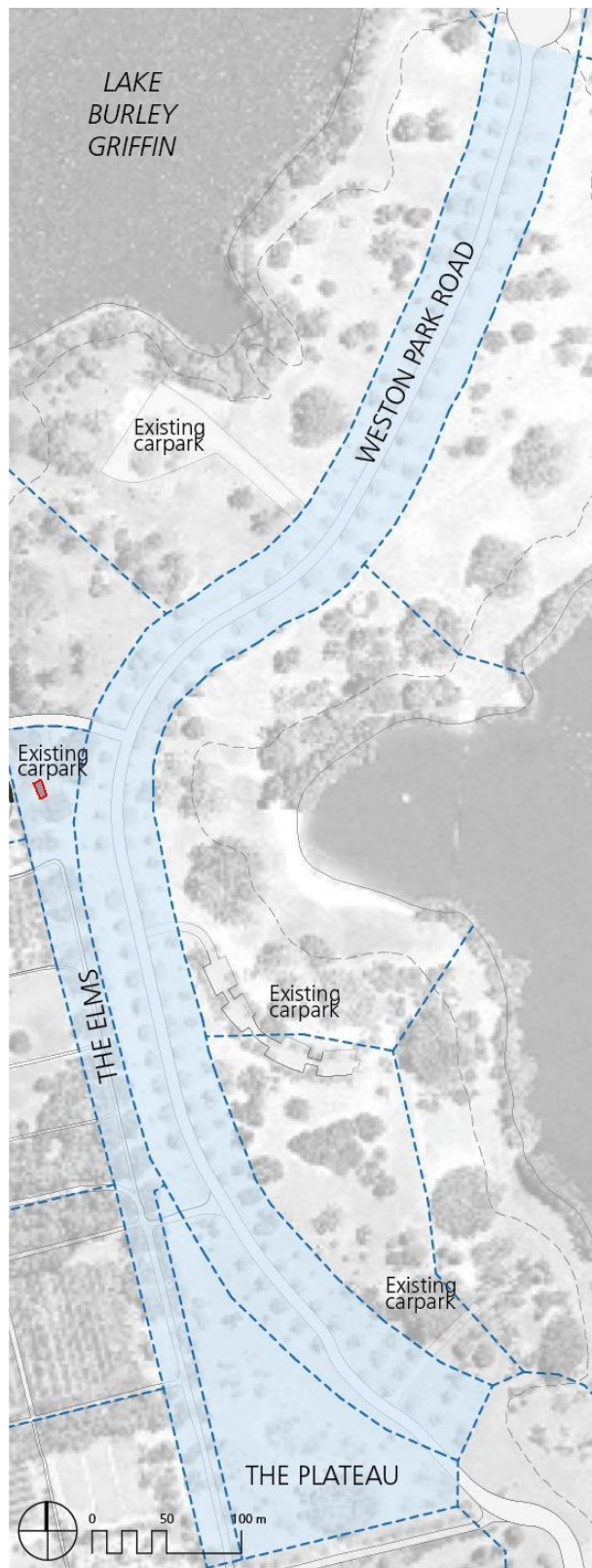


Figure A.3 Weston Park Precinct 3. Element highlighted in red. (Source for the base plan: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	The Elms
Name of element	Toilet Block



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>This toilet block, dating from approximately the 1960s, is a different design compared to the others featured in the park, but there is another toilet block of the same design located to the east of Weston Park along the road adjacent to the lake edge. The Elms toilet block is located adjacent to a car park off Weston Park Road to the east of the Train Tunnel.</p>		Moderate
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	The building has facilities for men at one end and women at the other, divided in the middle by an enclosed storage room. The toilet areas are open to the elements by the cantilevered roof not attached to the walls.	Good condition but needs maintenance.
Exterior	Red brick construction on a concrete slab. Raised flat cantilevered roof with pressed metal sheeting, supported by internal columns.	Good condition but needs maintenance.

Images

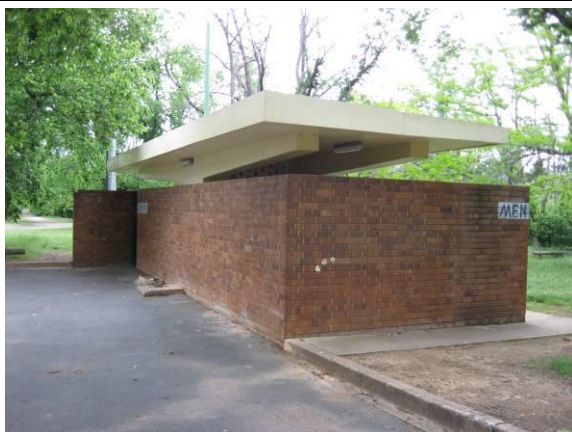


Figure: View of toilet block from car park.



Figure: Southern end of toilet block, showing Train Tunnel in background.

A.3 Precinct 4 (East Bank, East Basin, The Plateau)

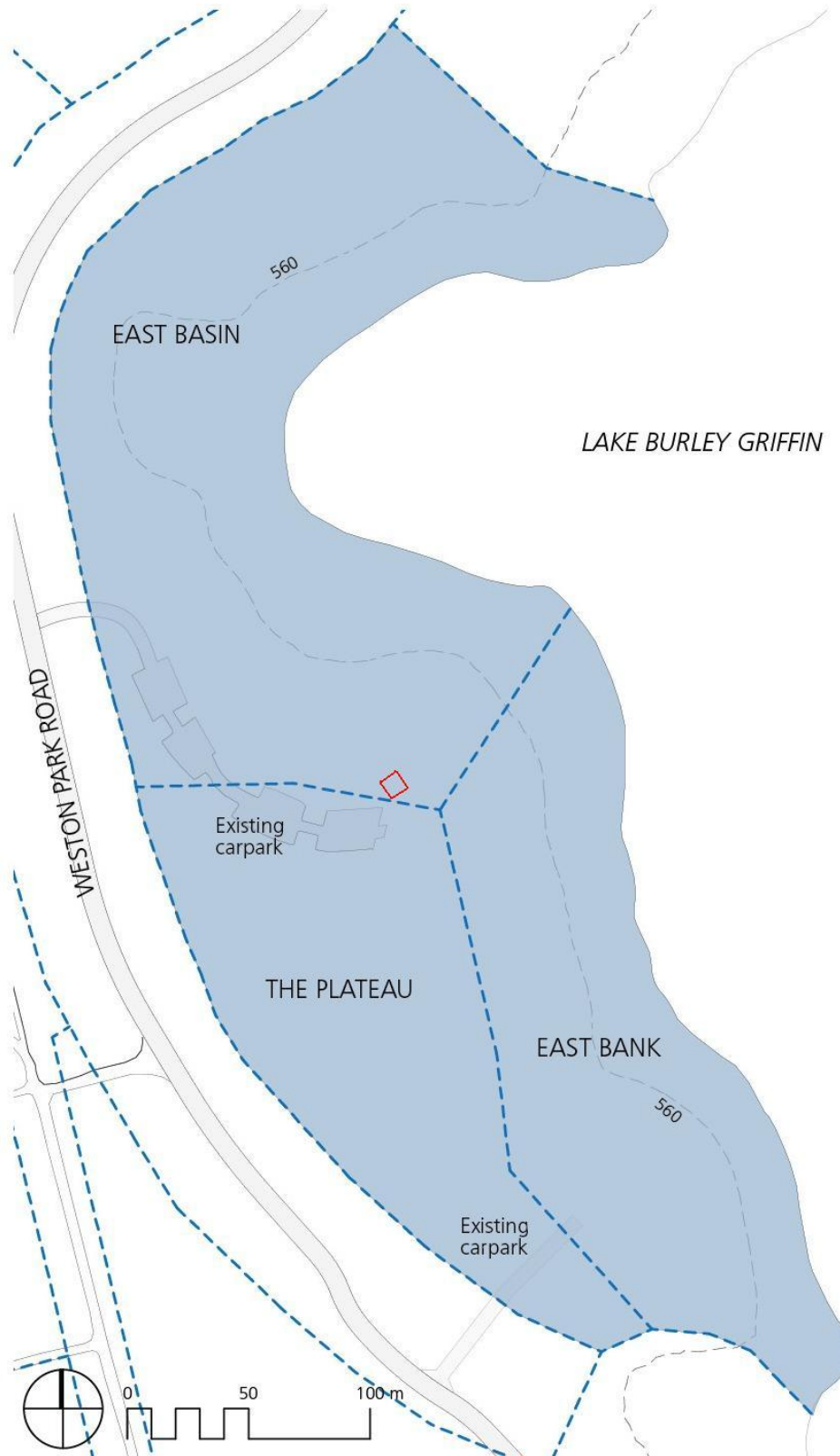


Figure A.4 Weston Park Precinct 4. Element highlighted in red. (Source for the base plan: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	East Basin
Name of element	Toilet Block



General Description		Heritage Significance
This modern public toilet facility is adjacent to the car park and provides facilities to visitors using the nearby barbecues and swimming at the beach.		Low
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	Two unisex toilets divided by two small storage cupboards.	Good as is reasonably new and well maintained.
Exterior	Green painted concrete constructed building with corrugated-iron roof and pink-painted steel pole supports. The rear of the building is shaped like two 'V's revealing the interior, and the surrounding area is paved.	Good as is reasonably new.

Images



Figure: Rear of toilet block structure.



Figure: Beach at East Basin showing pontoons and Black Mountain Tower in distance.

Images



Figure: Nearby barbecue facilities with toilet in background.



Figure: Other barbecue facilities on eastern side of Weston Park.

A.4 Precinct 5 (Yarralumla Nursery)

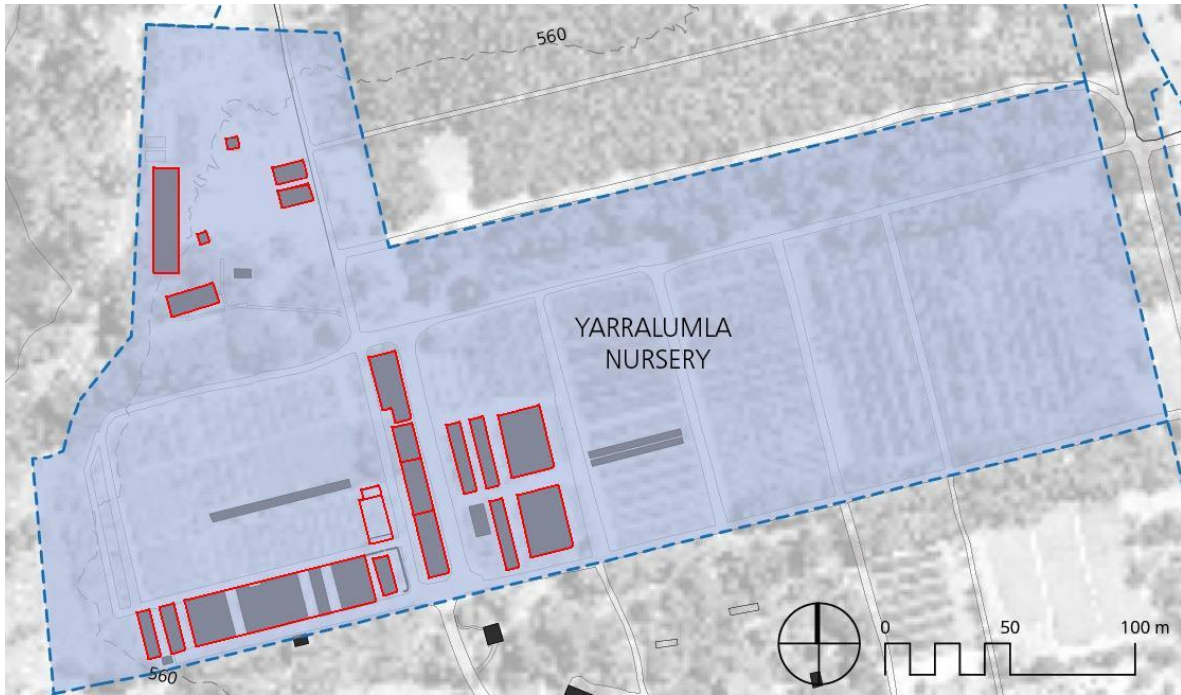


Figure A.5 Weston Park Precinct 5. Elements highlighted in red. (Source for the base plan: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Dispatch Office



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The Dispatch Office, as it is currently known, is the northern most structure in a row of gabled roofed, similarly constructed workshops. The office is separated from the next structure with a small laneway. These buildings were built as the original research office, cutting, potting, seed storage sheds and equipment store room for Weston in 1915.</p>		Exceptional
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>The interior is divided into several distinct areas. The northern end of the building contains an office space and reception area, and more individual offices and a kitchen area are built into the rear lean to. The middle section of the building is a meeting room with archival displays and library, and the southern section of the building contains a staff break out room with a kitchenette.</p> <p>Timber-paneling clad walls and ceiling in office space. Central chimney column of masonry construction. Regularly spaced doors to verandah but no longer accessible. Large top-rail sliding doors.</p> <p>Meeting room has timber flooring and carpet tiles. Dado and picture rails, timber architraves. Step up into break out room. Large timber sash windows. External door has glass panel insert.</p> <p>Verandah space has been filled in to extend break out room and has a sloped ceiling. Front wall lined with top hung windows.</p>	<p>Reasonable condition as the space is constantly used and has been adapted over time.</p> <p>Some general maintenance required.</p>
Exterior	<p>Walls are timber framed with white painted corrugated-iron sheeting. Brick pier raised base. Concrete slab, later rear lean-to addition masonry. Concrete built up around base.</p> <p>Box gutter drains, timber framed sash windows. Front verandah later closed in with timber-framed top-hung windows.</p> <p>Red painted corrugated-iron roofing, brick chimney stack. External air conditioning units attached to walls. Run-off kerb slopes away from building.</p> <p>Southern external wall of building has corrugated-iron sheeting, with original double doors still visible though no longer accessible.</p> <p>Northern external wall has a single large sash window.</p>	<p>Reasonable overall. Slightly damaged gutters and drainage is an issue. Paint peeling, spider webs. Windows in poor condition, paint flaking, split timber.</p> <p>General maintenance required. Trees on northern wall an issue, close to building, heavy leaf matter and gutter problems.</p>

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Rear, eastern side of Dispatch office showing lean to addition.



Figure: Front entry door, with vegetation build up against north wall.



Figure: Damage to lower walls visible, drainage issues.



Figure: Northern end of Dispatch office.



Figure: Interior ceiling of office space.



Figure: Southern end of Dispatch Office, laneway between buildings visible.

Images



Figure: Interior view of staff break out room. This room uses the width of the building including the verandah space.



Figure: Interior view of meeting room situated between the office space and break out room.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Propagation Facility



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The Propagation Facility, as it is currently known, is the northern most section of a building consisting of three adjoined workshop buildings. The three sections vary in length and visually step up the site to the south. The Propagation Facility is the smallest of the three workshops and is separated from the Dispatch Office building at the north of the row by a small laneway. The buildings are accessible from the front main road as well as by a smaller laneway at the rear of the buildings. These buildings were built as the original research office, cutting, potting, seed storage sheds and equipment store room for Weston in 1915.</p>		Exceptional
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>Divided in two on the inside, the main entrance door leads to a workshop area with benches, and at the northern end of the building is an adjoining room which can be accessed from the rear side of the building.</p>	Reasonable, due to regular use.
Exterior	<p>Masonry construction base built onto concrete slab. Timber-framed wall construction clad in white painted corrugated-iron sheeting. It has a red painted corrugated iron roof and box gutter drains. A concrete ramp leads up to the cream painted timber doors on the eastern side.</p> <p>Two windows on front wall, one smaller top-hung timber window and a larger casement window. There are a row of top-hung windows which are situated high on the rear wall and one smaller window on the northern wall, in the laneway, facing the Dispatch Office.</p>	Reasonable condition. Roof needs painting and building needs general maintenance.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Row of three workshops, stepping up the site.



Figure: View of western, rear side of the building.



Figure: Rear access road.



Figure: Laneway between Dispatch Office (right) and the Propagation Facility (left).

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Potting Shed



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The Potting Shed, as it is currently known, is the middle section of the building consisting of three adjoined workshops. These buildings were built as the original research office, cutting, potting, seed storage sheds and equipment store room for Weston in 1915.</p>		Exceptional
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>Similar to surrounding workshops, this building contains workshop and office space provided for the potting process.</p>	Reasonable as currently in use.
Exterior	<p>The Potting Shed is similar in construction to the workshops either side, with a masonry constructed base built onto a concrete slab. Timber-framed wall construction clad in white painted corrugated-iron sheeting.</p> <p>The building has a red-painted corrugated-iron roof and box gutter drains. A concrete ramp leads up to the two metal roller doors on the eastern side allowing vehicle access. This side also has top-hung timber windows.</p>	Reasonable as the building is currently in use. The roof is in need of painting and there is vegetation growing on the eastern wall. The vines are causing some external damage to the walls.

Images



Figure: Main view of the Potting Shed, adjoining the Dispatch Preparation Workshop.



Figure: View of vines causing damage to external walls.



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Dispatch Preparation



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>Dispatch Preparation, as it is currently known, is the most southern and longest section of the building consisting of three adjoining workshops. These buildings were built as the original research office, cutting, potting, seed storage sheds and equipment store room for Weston in 1915. The large open area of the Dispatch Preparation shed was originally used as stables, housing the horses which pulled the carts.</p>		Exceptional
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>This workshop shed is divided into several spaces; there is the large open Dispatch Preparation space to the north, and the southern end of the building includes smaller spaces providing seed storage in a climate controlled room and general storage.</p> <p>There is no internal cladding in the main open area so the timber structure is visible.</p>	<p>Reasonable. Minor structural repairs have been undertaken. Some timber rafters have been replaced and steel column bases installed for added support. Some visible sagging of beams.</p>
Exterior	<p>Dispatch Preparation is a large shed structure built onto a concrete slab. Timber-framed wall construction clad in white painted corrugated-iron sheeting. It is a single pitch roof with a lean to addition on western side.</p> <p>It has a red-painted corrugated-iron roof and box gutter drains. The roof sits slightly separate to the walls allowing cross ventilation through the space. Metal roller doors mirror each other on each side providing a drive through for vehicles.</p> <p>The southern end of the building has an external Dutch door into store room.</p>	<p>Reasonable. Needs general maintenance and painting. Damage around windows due to vegetation growth.</p> <p>Gutter damage on external rear wall, falling off.</p> <p>Vermin control an issue.</p>

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Interior of Dispatch Preparation looking west. Steel base visible on structural column.



Figure: Interior of Dispatch Preparation looking north.



Figure: Interior of Dispatch Preparation showing new column supports.



Figure: Dispatch Preparation shelving.



Figure: External western doors of Dispatch Preparation.



Figure: South western store room.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Southeastern corner of Dispatch Preparation building, showing vegetation damaging window.



Figure: Southern end of Dispatch Preparation building showing Dutch entry door.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Glasshouse 6 (Display House)



General Description		Heritage Significance
Glasshouse no 6 is situated on the western side of the workshop buildings and sits opposite the aquatic plants pond. It is named the 'Display House' and is a large glasshouse approximately dating from the 1960s and was initially established with exotic species and tropical plants.		High
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	The interior layout of the glasshouses is large and open, and contains a chimney. It was landscaped internally with an artificial creek in the form of the new lake, however now just contains more plant samples.	Reasonable to poor.
Exterior	It has uneven, low red brick walls and an angled glass and steel frame. Two topiary plants feature at the entrance, an elephant and a bear.	Poor, some of the glass is damaged and parts of the frame in disrepair. Some maintenance required.

Images



Figure: Topiary featured outside Display House.



Figure: Interior of Display House.



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Aquatic plants pond



General Description		Heritage Significance
This early pond was used for experimental aquatic plants. It is located opposite the large display glasshouse no. 6.		High
Physical Description		Condition
Exterior	The pond is a concrete lined large rectangular pool with decorative rock lining the edges. It is split level with the southern end slightly deeper than the northern end. It is currently being used to store plants temporarily as it is drained.	Poor for its intended use.

Images



Figure: Drained pool, with water collecting due to recent rainfall.



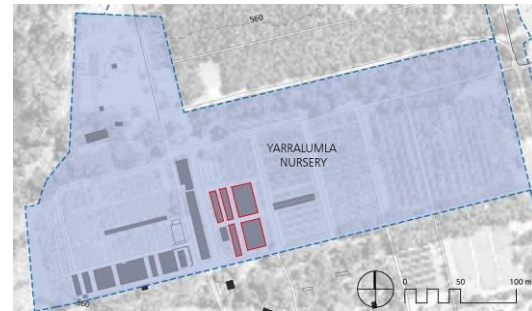
Figure: Currently used to store plants.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Glasshouses 20-24



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>Five glasshouses are situated on the eastern side of the workshop buildings. Two of them, nos. 22 and 23 are large more modern structures constructed from glass and steel, whilst the other three are similar in design to the glasshouses located on the western side. Glasshouse nos. 21 and 24 were built in the late 1920s, whilst nos. 22 and 23 were built in 1987/88. All the glasshouses are currently in use.</p>		<p>Glasshouses 20, 21 and 24 have high significance whilst glasshouses 22 and 23 have moderate.</p>
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	Concrete base flooring with raised shelves for storage.	Poor. Maintenance required.
Exterior	<p>No. 24 is of masonry construction with full height walls approx 1.8m high on which the pitched roof sits. It has been roughly painted white on the front. It has a concrete ramp entrance and no permanent doors.</p> <p>Opposite no. 24 is glasshouse no. 21 which is similar in design, but has been concreted around up around the building and has glass panel doors.</p> <p>No. 20 has lower masonry constructed walls with the remaining height made of glass. This top part of the wall angles out allowing for ventilation and water runoff. The roof is steel framed construction with glass panel inserts. The base of this structure has also been concreted around, preventing necessary drainage from the building.</p> <p>Glasshouses nos. 22 and 23 are large aluminium- framed structures on concrete slabs with double gable roofs.</p>	<p>Generally poor condition. The glasshouses are run down and some of the masonry needs replacing (evidence of damage already exists).</p> <p>Masonry damage on corner of no. 24 visible, possibly from insertion of pipe.</p>

Images



Figure: Glasshouse no. 24 with white painted front.



Figure: Glasshouses no. 20 and 21.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Wall damage visible on glasshouse no. 24.



Figure: Glasshouse no. 20.



Figure: Glasshouse no. 22 on left and no. 23 on right.



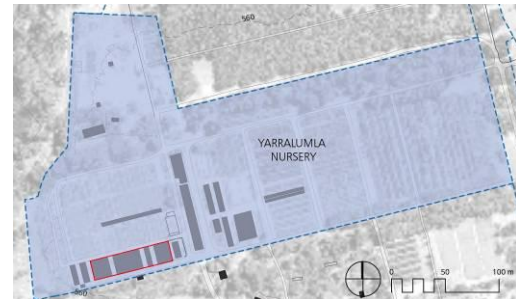
Figure: Rear of glasshouses 20 and 21 with large contemporary glasshouse no. 22 in background.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Glasshouses 25-32



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>Glasshouses nos. 25-32 are situated on the western side of the workshop buildings. They run numerically in a row toward the lake on the west. The overall area is concrete paved with a vehicle access road. Many of the spaces between the glasshouses have been enclosed with fences and some roofed for extra storage but these are not counted as separate elements.</p>		Moderate
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>The interior layout of the glasshouses is generally the same with brick piers supporting metal shelving on the two side walls and a free-standing island bench which runs the length of the structure.</p>	Reasonable. Drainage a potential issue with water collecting in some places.
Exterior	<p>The general construction of the glasshouses consists of a low masonry walls topped with a timber or steel frame structure and glass roofing. Cross ventilation is incorporated into the design.</p> <p>No. 25 has had work commenced to restore the building including a new timber frame. No. 26 has grey masonry walls which is full height in the front and has no glass remaining. The glasshouses nos. 27-32 are newer concrete block based structures, varying in design.</p>	Generally of reasonable condition as they are newer structures or have been recently restored. Some maintenance required.

Images



Figure: Looking east toward workshop buildings. Glasshouse nos. 25, 26 and 27 are visible on the right with the large Display House, glasshouse no. 6, on the far left.



Figure: Glasshouse no. 25 with new timber frame.

Images



Figure: Glasshouse no. 26 with full height wall at front.



Figure: Interior of Glasshouse no. 25 showing brick pier shelving.



Sub-Precinct Yarralumla Nursery

Name of element Glasshouses 33-34



General Description		Heritage Significance
Glasshouse nos. 33 and 34 are two of the older glasshouses and are situated on the western most end of the row of structures on the western side of the workshop buildings.		High
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	Concrete base with run off grooves on each side. Metal shelving raised from floor to accommodate plants.	Poor. Drainage a major issue with water collecting at southern end of no. 34
Exterior	No. 34 has masonry constructed low walls approx. 1.2m high. Glass inserted timber framed upper walls and roof. Concrete slab base. Steel i-beam watering structure built over timber frame, with guttering attached. Timber door. No. 33 has similar low masonry walls to no. 34 but is topped with a steel framed angled pitched roof with glass inserts. Large ventilation holes in masonry walls with timber sliding panels still visible on no. 33.	Poor. External gutter damage and missing windows. Timber damaged, flaking.

Images



Figure: Glasshouse no. 33.



Figure: Glasshouse no. 34 showing steel frame construction over the top of timber roof.

Images



Figure: Interior of glasshouse no. 34.



Figure: Water collecting at southern end of glasshouse no. 34. Ventilation holes visible.



Figure: Gutter damage on western wall of glasshouse no. 34.



Figure: View into glasshouse no. 34 from western side.



Figure: External guttering attached to timber frame. Poor condition visible.



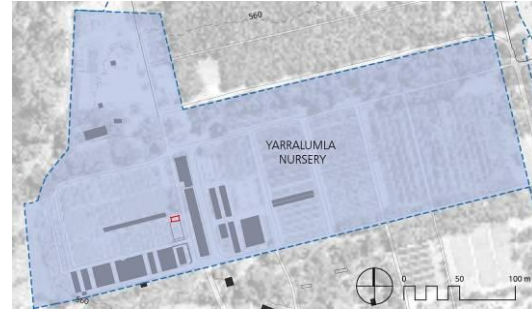
Figure: Timber ventilation panels on glasshouse no. 33.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Original Plant Issue Building



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>Early building in the Yarralumla Nursery where the public could come and collect their free issue plants. The building ceased this use in the early 1960s when the new Yarralumla Nursery Shop Building was brought over from the Kingston Parks and Gardens Depot. It is attached to the back of the Display House glasshouse no. 6.</p> <p>This building was recently (October 2010) refurbished, which included removing asbestos ceiling, repainting, replacing windows, and removing verandah attachment.</p>		High
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	The building is divided into two parts, one area is lockable and has potential use as an office, and the other is an open workshop type area. Some of the glass louvres have been replaced, but most of the original remain. The two spaces are visually connected by sliding glass windows.	Good, as has been recently restored.
Exterior	Concrete block low walls with timber upper frame construction. Concrete floor, corrugated-iron roof and red-painted guttering. Down pipes are not yet connected.	Good.

Images



Figure: Building as it was in July 2010.



Figure: Newly restored workshop end of building. Access to glasshouse no. 6 at rear.

Images



Figure: Western wall, showing glass louvres.



Figure: Interior of office space showing window link to workshop.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Mess Hall and Fuel Store



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The mess hall, which dates from the 1940s/50s, was divided into two separate areas for men and women, the men having a larger space and lake views. The mess hall is still used as a staff break building, but is no longer gender divided.</p> <p>The fuel store, located just to the north of the mess hall, dates from the late 1950s.</p>		<p>Mess Hall has high significance and the Fuel Store has low significance.</p>
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>The interior of the hall, originally divided into separate spaces for men and women, includes a lunch room, locker room, showers and toilet facilities. Large communal room on western side has windows on all three sides providing views towards the lake.</p>	<p>Reasonable condition as used daily.</p>
Exterior	<p>The hall is a single-storey timber-framed structure, built on a concrete base. It is clad with paneled asbestos cement with timber framed windows and has a corrugated galvanised iron gable roof.</p> <p>The fuel store is a brick structure, with a concrete floor, galvanised iron skillion roof and timber double doors.</p>	<p>Reasonable condition, maintenance needed.</p>

Images



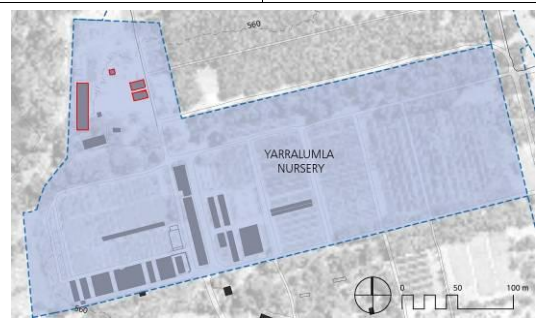
Figure: Fuel store building. Mess Hall visible in background.



Figure: Mess Hall, eastern entrance.



Sub-Precinct	Yarralumla Nursery
Name of element	Contemporary Sheds



General Description		Heritage Significance
The northern part of Yarralumla Nursery is the location of four contemporary sheds used for the current maintenance and running of the Nursery.		Low
Physical Description		Condition
Exterior	<p>The largest shed, presumed to be constructed in the late 1980s, is a large modern steel framed structure with unpainted galvanised iron cladding, a skillion roof and reinforced concrete floor. It has seven roller doors of varying heights with two covered under a portico attachment.</p> <p>Two smaller, metal sheeting clad, sheds are built side by side, and constructed on concrete slabs with two roller shutter doors covered by a metal portico roof. These sheds are possibly mid 1990s constructions.</p> <p>The final smallest shed, built possibly in the late 1950s, is of steel pipe construction, built on a concrete slab, clad on three sides with galvanised iron and has a timber framed skillion roof which is also clad in galvanised iron.</p>	Generally good as all are currently in use. The smallest shed in poorest condition, due to its age and as it is more open to the elements.

Images



Figure: Two, double roller door sheds.



Figure: Smallest older shed.

A.5 Precinct 7 (The Pond, West Bank & The Train)

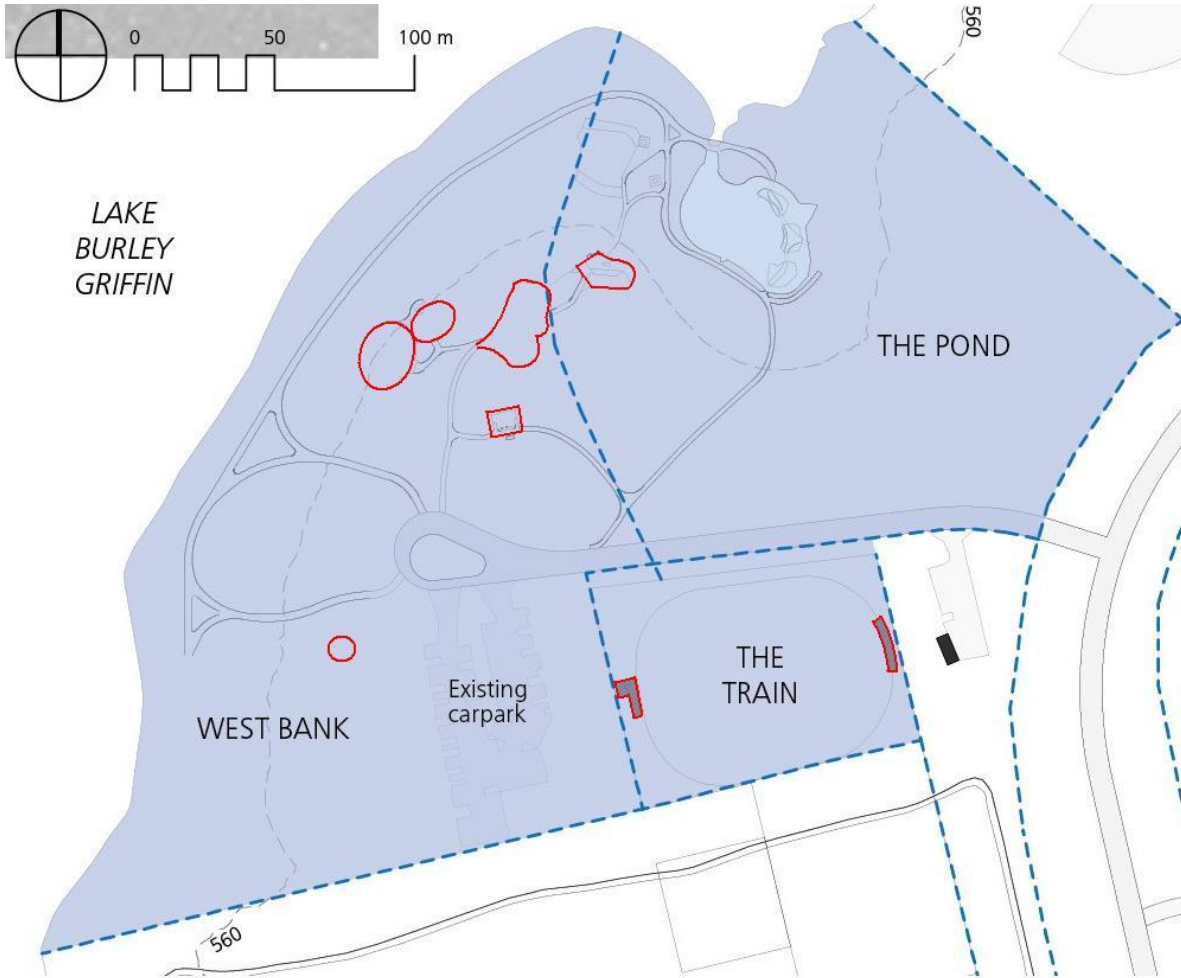


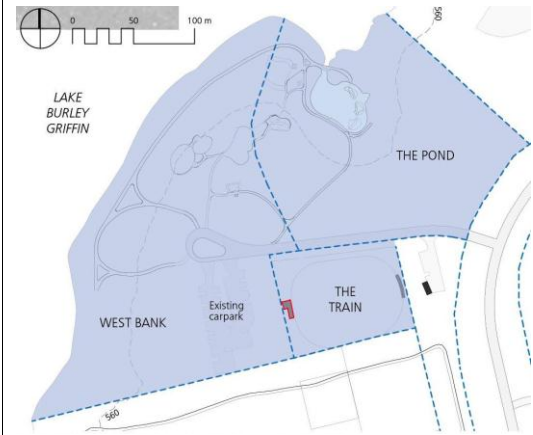
Figure A.6 Weston Park Precinct 7. Elements highlighted in red. (Source for the base plan: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	The Train
Name of element	Miniature Railway



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>The building provides a café and seating as well as acting as a station stop for the miniature train. The building and train first opened at Weston Park in 1971 by the ACT Government but now is privately owned and run by the Mele family.</p>		Moderate
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	<p>Main structure of building is not accessible to public and houses the kitchen and café service area. There is a service counter at the front for purchasing take-away food and train ride tickets. The enclosed verandah space is available for seating.</p>	Reasonable to Poor.
Exterior	<p>Concrete slab base with concrete stairs and ramp access. Building is a long single pitched roof structure with surrounding verandah.</p> <p>Building is green-painted corrugated-iron clad to approx. 1m high then yellow painted timber clad walls. Red-painted beams and edging. The verandah is of timber construction with corrugated-plastic windows and green-cloth shelter for cover.</p> <p>A lean to addition attached to the rear of the building is of corrugated-iron construction and painted green.</p> <p>A new timber paling fence has been constructed along main road between station shop and tunnel and awaits painting. Timber post and paling fence adjoins tunnel to station shop on the south side of the track and is in disrepair. Many posts are falling over or missing. Originally painted green but is peeling.</p>	Reasonable to Poor. Maintenance needed.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Interior of Verandah on western side of building.



Figure: Shop front counter on northern side.

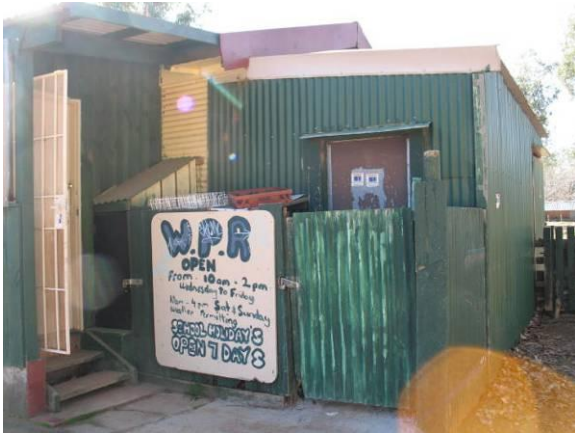


Figure: Lean to addition on southern end of building.



Figure: Eastern external wall of building.



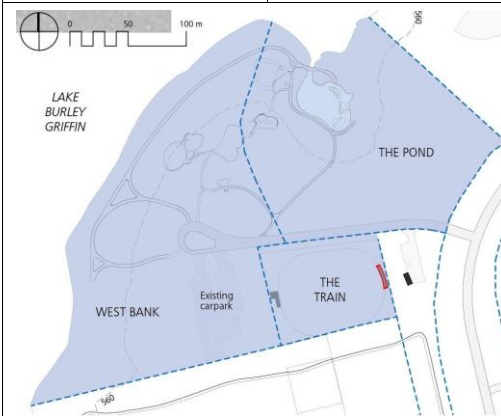
Figure: View of fence from Tunnel on southern side.



Figure: View of new fence between tunnel and station shop.



Sub-Precinct	The Train
Name of element	Tunnel



General Description		Heritage Significance
The tunnel in which the miniature train travels through on its route is a free standing shed.		Moderate (As part of Miniature Railway)
Physical Description		Condition
Interior	A concrete slab base with the train tracks set in. The walls are lined with timber panels decorated in painted cartoon characters with some stuck on the wall, creating depth to the image. The internal timber roof structure is visible with some trusses covered with timber panels also decorated in painted cartoon characters.	Poor. The images are blackened in many places and the overall interior is quite dirty.
Exterior	The tunnel shed is a single pitched structure which curves slightly with the route of the train track. Timber clad exterior with large iron doors at each end which are lockable for security. The roof is clad in pressed metal sheets with shallow eaves allowing water runoff away from external walls.	Poor. The timber is split and cracking in many places and the roof needs leaf litter removed. The eastern external wall is bowing from pressure and requires structural work.

Images



Figure: Interior entry of tunnel.



Figure: View from exit toward entry of tunnel.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: External eastern side of tunnel. Damage visible.



Figure: Cartoon painted panels line the interior.



Figure: Colourful decorated painted panels line the interior.



Figure: Cartoon painted panels line the interior.



Figure: Animated cartoon panels painted along interior.



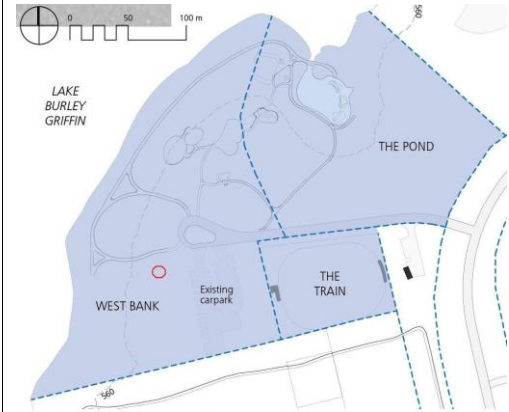
Figure: Painted images of cartoons on interior of tunnel.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	West Bank
Name of element	White Play Sculpture



General Description

This sculpture is a collection of four pieces designed by artist David Tolley, who also designed the similar pieces situated in Commonwealth Park.

Heritage Significance

High

Physical Description

Exterior

All of the pieces are constructed from fibreglass, with three of the four solid, and one hollow. They vary in shape and design but have a generally organic feeling. There are many layers of paint, with a green coating layer visible beneath the peeling white top layer. The sculpture is set into the ground, sturdy for children to climb on, and surrounded by a tanbark ground covering.

Condition

The individual pieces are in good condition but need repainting.

Images



Figure: View of various pieces of sculpture.



Figure: Closer view of sculpture with paint peeling.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: The sculpture in context with trees behind.



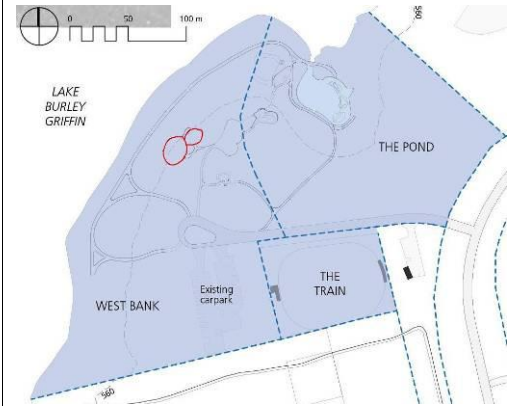
Figure: The view of the sculpture with the lake in the background is one which can be seen on arrival from the car park.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	West Bank
Name of element	Spider Web Climbing Frame and Swing Set



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>These two children's play areas are newly constructed and surrounded by tanbark ground covering. They replace the original 1960s playground equipment on this site including the 'mouse house' climbing contraption and nearby tree houses.</p>		Low
Physical Description		Condition
Exterior	<p>The Spider Web climbing frame area consists of two steel poles with red rope in a 'spider web' pattern design stretched out to the ground creating a tent shape.</p> <p>The swing set area consists of two timber-beam T-frames with each arm supporting a chain linked rubber seat swing.</p>	Excellent, due to their recent construction.

Images



Figure: Overall view of Spider Web climbing frames.



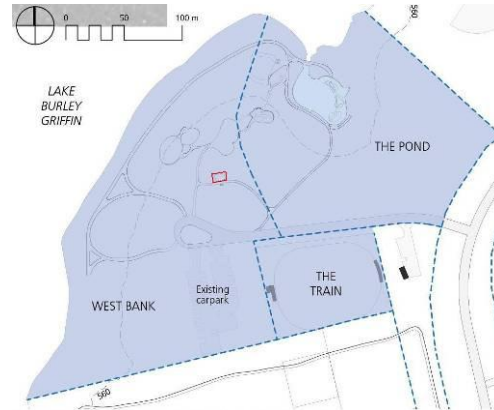
Figure: Swing sets.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	West Bank
Name of element	Toilet Block



General Description		Heritage Significance
This toilet block serviced the West Bank and Train Precincts as this area of Weston Park accommodates a large numbers of visitors including school groups. In October 2010 this building was demolished to be replaced with new facilities.		N/A
Physical Description		Condition
Exterior	Treated pine constructed toilet block. It has a raised metal roof and is of similar construction and dating to large BBQ area also within this precinct.	Reasonable.

Images



Figure: View of the edging of the car park, with natural materials of timber and rocks. The toilet block is visible in background.



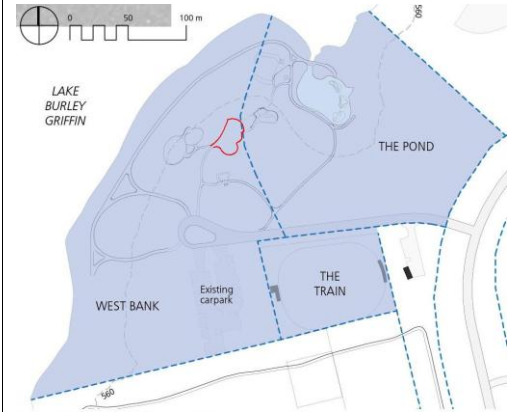
Figure: Demolished site of toilet block October 2010 (Source: SMM)

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	West Bank
Name of element	Play space



General Description

This concrete paved play space was originally constructed in 1982 for the NCDC in collaboration with local schools and organisations to mark the International Year of Disabled Persons. It was recently upgraded in 2008-09 and is currently a mixture of original and new play equipment.

Heritage Significance

High

Physical Description

Exterior

The large play space contains various types of play equipment. The overall area consists of concrete pavement and masonry walls, in a circular, organic design. The paint scheme is blue and white, as well as some decorative artwork.

A curved water feature raised on a concrete platform consists of a natural rock bed and a dam blocking system. This water feature is surrounded by a ramp with an external wall water feature and musical elements. A steel open archway covers a portion of the ramp and further up is a timber bridge with foot activated sound chimes.

Other equipment includes a concrete and rock-based slide which sits in the centre of the play area, a sandpit with two mechanical sand excavators, a balancing spinning disc and a new 'playspace boat' made from steel and plastic.

Condition

Good, as much of the equipment is new or recently painted.

Images



Figure: View of play space. The steel arcs originally supported a tyre swing, but beneath now is a balancing spinning disc.



Figure: Sandpit and digging equipment.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: Detail of water feature with natural look rock bed and dam blocking system.



Figure: Masonry wall, newly painted design. The hole contains a PVC pipe connecting to another opening for talking through. The now demolished toilet block in background.



Figure: Musical elements line the ramp on the outside wall.



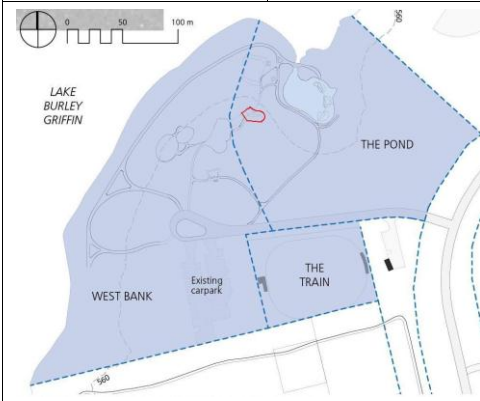
Figure: View down from ramp along water feature.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



Sub-Precinct	The Pond
Name of element	Barbecue Shelter and surrounds



General Description

This shelter is the largest sheltered communal barbecue area in Weston Park and is north facing towards the recreational pond and Lake Burley Griffin. The pond is a man-made shallow concrete pond with 6 timber bridges crossing it at several locations. The largest bridge is at the junction from the pond to the lake and includes handrails on both sides. The pond area has a Japanese feel with the low timber bridges and willow trees. A 'natural' look rock feature wall closes in the pond from the eastern side.

Heritage Significance

Moderate

Physical Description

Interior

Inside the shelter are three picnic tables on a concrete base. A barbecue is also on the concrete base but is situated outside the shelter.

Condition

Reasonable.

Exterior

The shelter is constructed from treated pine and sits on a concrete base. A path leads down to the structure from the playground area. It is irregular in form with columns, partial walls and a timber pergola. It acts as a windbreak, facing north with an angled sheet metal roof.

The rear, southern side of the shelter is set into the slope with the treated pine poles alternating in height to provide support to the roof while allowing cross ventilation and visual openings.

Reasonable. It requires general maintenance to tidy around outside including leaf matter build up on roof and gutters.

Some of timber in the bridges needs replacing or repair.

Images



Figure: Front opening of shelter. Picnic tables and BBQ visible.



Figure: Rear of shelter. View from play space.

Weston Park

Built Element Assessment

Images



Figure: View north from shelter towards lake.



Figure: View west toward shelter from opposite side of pond. Large bridge with handrails shown on right.

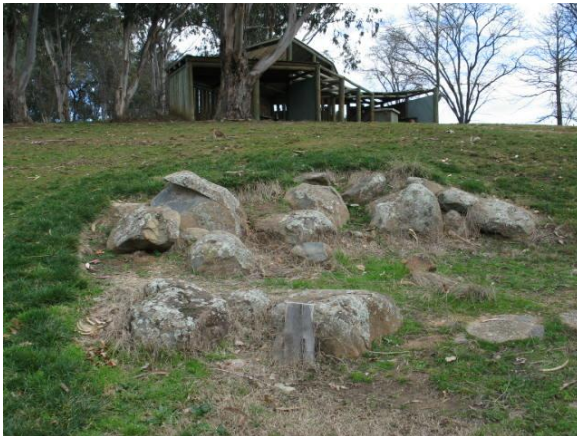


Figure: Small rock feature with shelter in background.



Figure: View from shelter across pond to bridges and rock feature wall.

A.6 Precinct 8 (West & East Yarralumla Peninsula)

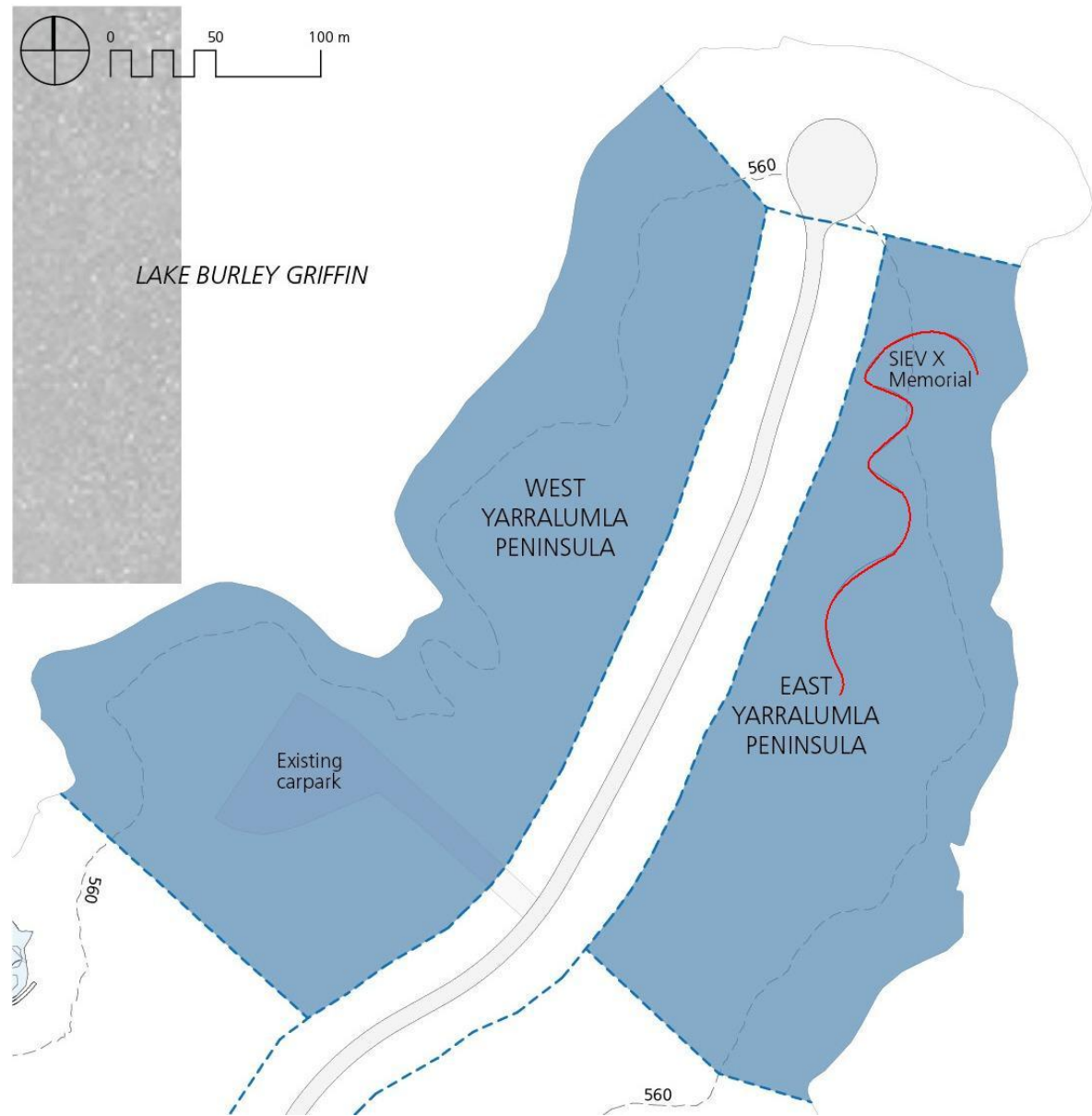


Figure A.7 Weston Park Precinct 8. Element highlighted in red (Source for base plan: SMM).

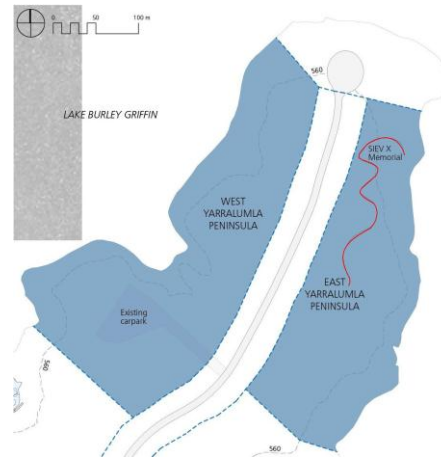
Weston Park

Built Element Assessment



(Source: <http://www.sievxmemorial.com/>)

Sub-Precinct	East Yarralumla Peninsula
Name of element	SIEV X Memorial



General Description		Heritage Significance
<p>353 poles have been constructed as a memorial to those who died on the refugee boat SIEV X in October 2001. Each pole represents a person who died, smaller poles for children and larger poles for adults. The poles were hand raised temporarily on the site on the fifth anniversary of the sinking of the SIEV X but were not dug into the ground until permission was granted for a temporary exhibition on the sixth anniversary in 2007. Requests were made to extend the six-week temporary exhibition and the memorial is still standing today.</p>		Low
Physical Description		Condition
Exterior	<p>The poles of various heights are made of timber and painted white. They have been decorated with a panel of artwork by various community associations and school groups. Each pole is labeled with the name and sex of the deceased person (if known) and the participating group whose artwork is featured.</p>	Fair. Some of the poles are in need of repainting. Damage due to constant exposure to weather.

Images



Figure: Explanatory signage alongside the SIEV X poles.



Figure: Detail of artwork on poles.

Images



Figure: View north, showing detail of artwork on poles.



Figure: Poles in context in the landscape with kangaroos.

Appendix B

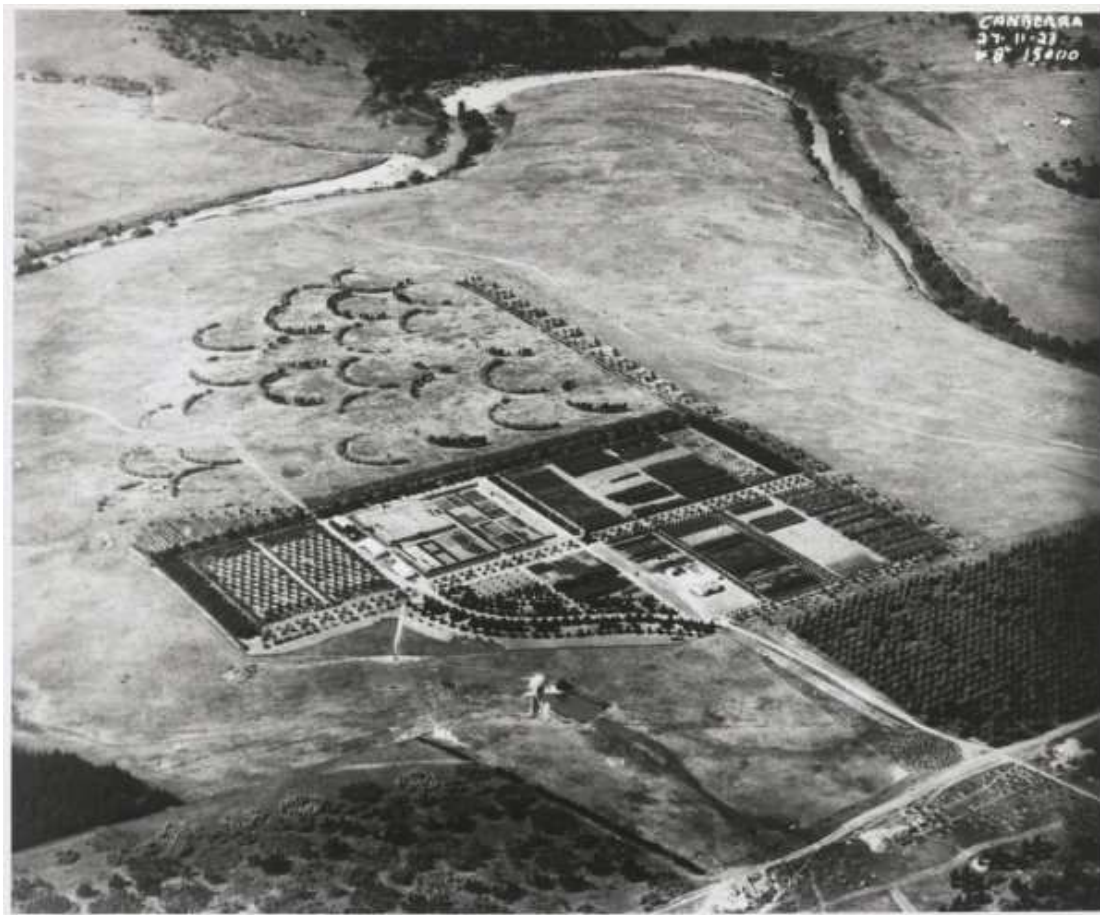
Weston Park Cultural Landscape Assessment

Appendix B: Weston Park Cultural Landscape Analysis

B.1 Review of Documentary Evidence

Appendix B has been prepared by Geoffrey Britton Environmental Design & Heritage Consultant, September 2010. This section provides an analytical assessment of the documentary evidence for Weston Park. Historic photographs are analysed as well as archival plans, followed by a review of the physical evidence.

Photography



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-an11030057-79-v

Figure B.1 Oblique Aerial: Charles Mildenhall Collection 1923 (Source: National Library of Australia nla.pic-an11030057-79-v)

Figure B.1 is an important early image from 1923 which clearly indicates both the extent and characteristic orthogonal layout of Weston's 'first class Forest and General Nursery' developed to this point. Of note are the following:

- The early access road arriving at the nursery from the south with lines of plantings along the double curved section.
- Hobday's Cottage recently completed (with little surrounding vegetation).
- The long lines of shelterbelt plantations enclosing and defining the nursery areas.

- The line of the three main nursery buildings is clearly evident, as are several other smaller structures within the central nursery area and, to the north, Hobday's Cottage.
- The Elm avenue (which still remains today at its original length) appears to follow and may interpret the early-nineteenth-century portion boundary between Terence Aubrey Murray (portion 5 – Yarralumla homestead) and portion 6, all of which was within Frederick Campbell's land in 1881.
- A large dense plantation of conifers (possibly Monterey Pine) defined the southern and southeastern part of the Nursery area.
- A dam existed to the south of the Nursery and southeast of what has become Nursery Bay of the Yarramundi Reach of the lake.
- North of the Nursery (between the northern plantation and the Elm avenue) an extensive series of arcing shelterbelt plantings is evident.
- In the lower left part of the photograph there is large area of dense rings of trial plantings of various species that is defined on the eastern side by a long line of dark, coniferous plants.
- To the immediate north of this area there is a very dense block of coniferous plantings—the area that is now Nursery Bay.
- At the intersection of the current study southern boundary and the former site entry drive there is shown a large experimental circle of recent (early 1920s) plantings and a thin wedge of plantings from the circle and extending to the north.
- Part of what was to become Weston Park Road (the southern part) is evident as a track but terminates to the northwest at the former Molonglo River.
- The overall site beyond the Nursery and experimental works appears to have been thoroughly cleared of almost all indigenous woodland trees.



Figure B.2 Charles Mildenhall Collection c1926 (Source: ACT Heritage Library 007890)



Figure B.3 Charles Mildenhall Collection c1926 (Source: ACT Heritage Library 007891)

The ACT Heritage Library holds two Mildenhall (ground level) photographs (Figures B.2 and B.3), purportedly taken at the Nursery; though at c1926 it is difficult to determine exactly the direction of view as there are no large landmarks (such as Black Mountain or the western ranges) and it is impossible to reconcile edges of the scenes with the extent of plantation enclosure evident in the 1920s aerial photography.

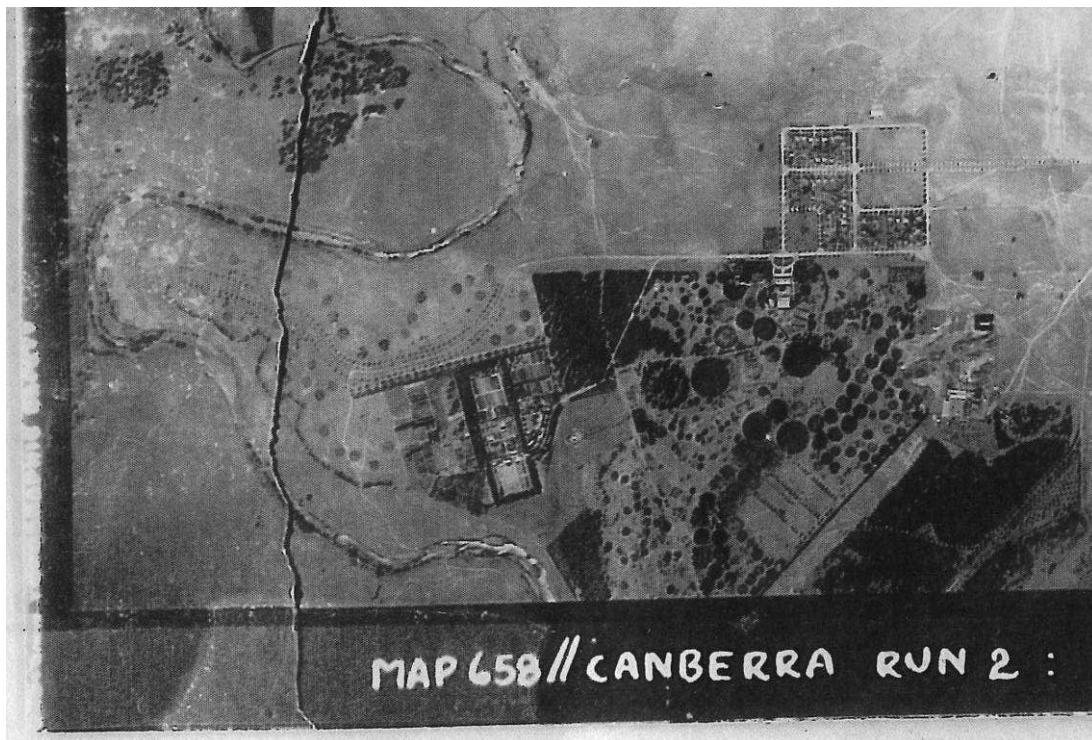


Figure B.4 1944 Aerial (Source: NSW Lands Department Map 658/Canberra Run 2)

By 1944 (Figure B.4) the overall site remained largely pastoral with the nursery area well defined and enclosed by plantations as it was in the 1920s. The most important additions since the earlier photography was the planting of the major avenue along Weston Park Road, a line of plantings following the future lake edge contour around the northern section of the site and many circular experimental plantations either side of the curvilinear ridgetop avenue.

Other observations from this image include:

- The dense circular plantations (36 are clearly evident though there may be more) also appear to mark out the approximate later outline of the lake and also reveal that the latter eventually covered a substantial amount of land.
- Scrivener Dam and Lake south of the Nursery are visible.
- Internal nursery sections have likely varied from year to year although in 1944 there appear to be numerous buildings within and outside the central nursery area.
- The area around Hobday's Cottage is now well vegetated.
- The early site entry drive is clearly evident and is shown to have come from well to the south, passing to the west of the 1927 Forestry building though later with another drive, bypassing the southern section, extending from Banks Street and passing through the dense plantation at the southern nursery boundary.
- This latter entry layout appears to reflect the intended alignment of residential streets and subdivisions from the Griffin's plan and roughly accords with the present Brown Street and the western part of Alexandrina Drive.
- Also related to the apparent realisation of Griffin's urban planning layout is the orthogonal street pattern associated with the imposing Forestry School building, where the southern half of the layout is shown in this photograph.
- There is little evidence of regenerating indigenous woodland, with much of the site beyond the Nursery and experimental works remaining largely cleared.
- The plantation in the location of the present Nursery Bay is evident within fencelines.
- Compared to the 1920s photography the experimental plantations south of Nursery Bay are now more dissipated.
- Many very substantial experimental plantations are evident throughout Westbourne Woods.
- The area to the immediate northwest of the Nursery office buildings appears to have many substantial plantings, the same area today is largely cleared.



Figure B.5 1945 Oblique Aerial: Charles Daniel Pratt Collection (Source: State Library of Victoria Acc. No. H91.160/352)

Figure B.5 is an excellent oblique aerial image which serves to corroborate details from the previous photography as well as confirm other information not readily discerned from the other image (being a planimetric aerial). For example, it is now clear from the CD Pratt photograph that the largest plantations, the enclosing avenues around the central Nursery area (and even rows of taller plantings within it and to the north) and plantations along roads are mostly coniferous species.

The photograph misses the northern part of the site but provides a clear view across the southern part of the site from the east looking in the direction of Mt Stromlo to the lower reaches of the former Molonglo River with the Yarralumla homestead complex in the background.

Other points of note include:

- Weston Park Road is well formed along the ridgeline with its major plantings of cedar (inner) and robinia (outer) already well advanced.
- The circular experimental plantations demonstrate extremely variable results from the species within, some plants have attained excellent growth, while there are many gaps indicating failures.
- The outer line of these circular plantations appears to follow site contours and pre-empt the later lake edge.
- Various structures are evident including Hobday's Cottage and outbuildings, the main nursery buildings and various ancillary structures.
- The broadly undulating area to the immediate north of the central Nursery rectangle is shown with numerous low bedding laid out, lines of tall conifers to the north and an inscribed drainage line running through the middle towards the Molonglo River to the west.

- The Elm avenue plantings extend further to the north, past Pescott Lane, though no track appears to accompany the avenue at this point.
- The access road accompanying the Elm avenue is located on the eastern (outer) side—not within the avenue.
- The dam south of the nursery area is just visible beyond the maturing lines of conifers along the earlier entry road.
- Both the block of conifers (within an area that is now Nursery Bay) and the spaced circular experimental plots (now partly within the golf course) to the southwest of the nursery area are clearly evident and seem to include mostly coniferous species.
- The path of an earlier access road extending off Banks Street is visible through the large southern block of conifers.
- To the south of the study area the extensive and substantial experimental arboretum rings dominate the precinct around the Forestry building.
- Several earlier buildings are shown near the Molonglo River near the present Brown Street/Alexandrina Crescent.
- Since the 1944 photograph more of the Griffin street layout has been formed near the Forestry School building.



Figure B.6 Aerial, possibly 1950s or early 1960s (Source: National Library Australia nla.pic-an14324452-21-v Richard Clough Collection)

While the version available of Figure B.6 is of limited use, it is still possible to identify important work that had been carried by this time. Since the 1944 photograph more of the perimeter planting has been undertaken, completing the line of trees that defined the future lake edge around Weston Park.

Owing to the resolution of the image only the dense, broad bands of the shelterbelt and circular experimental plantings read clearly. Of the former, three parallel plantations defining the Nursery area are evident. This means that a third line of trees (further to the north and south of the present miniature railway site) has been added since the 1944 imagery.

Of note also is that at this time the two larger blocks of coniferous plantations, to the southeast and southwest of the Nursery, have been substantially thinned. Also the line of conifers immediately west of the Elm avenue, that made up part of the central Nursery shelterbelts, appears to have been removed since 1945.



Figure B.7 Pre-lake Oblique Aerial, possibly 1950s or early 1960s (Source: National Library Australia nla.pic-an14324452-367-v Richard Clough Collection)



Figure B.8 Pre-lake Oblique Aerial, possibly 1950s or early 1960s (Source: National Library Australia nla.pic-an14324452-63-v Richard Clough Collection)

Both Figures B.7 and B.8, taken before the lake was filled from 1963, show only a part of the study site at the extreme southwestern corner. They confirm that coniferous shelterbelt trees enclosed the central Nursery to the west and south, lined the early entry drive and made up the plantation (now thinned internally) in what is now Nursery Bay.

Figure B.7 shows the early dam to the south of the Nursery though now with other formations close by and the remnant southwestern experimental plots incorporated into the golf course layout. Another road is shown extending from the main nursery area to the south and terminating at a building near circular

plots. The later entry drive passing through the former southern pine plantation from Banks Street appears to be still in use at this time.

Both of these photographs confirm that the former southern pine plantation had been largely cleared, except for the eastern, southern and western edges, and was being used at this time for other nursery-related plantings.



Figure B.9 1968 Oblique Aerial (Source: National Archives of Australia A7973 INT 1015/13)

Taken from high over Government House looking to the east some years after the lake has filled, Figure B.9 provides valuable information about almost the entire study site. It confirms that the nursery area has been greatly expanded into the former pine area to the south and southeast (now Nursery Park) and a new plantation of *Eucalyptus bicostata* (some of which remains) has been undertaken to the north of the Nursery in the area of the present miniature railway.

Other observations from this image include:

- Most of the large circular experimental plantations north and east of the Nursery appear dense and well grown, contrasting, like islands, with the expanse of dry grass surrounding them.
- Numerous tracks have developed across the grassed areas to the north and east of the Nursery.
- Numerous recent plantings appear in the grassed areas near the southern dam.
- The swale upstream of the southern dam has been converted into another dam.

- The access road to the immediate east of the dams remains.
- The northern half of the dense coniferous windbreak along the western shore (and positioned obliquely to the parallel nursery windbreaks) has been replaced by an inlet off the Yarramundi Reach.



Figure B.10 1968 Oblique Aerial (Source: National Archives of Australia A7973 INT 1015/38)

Figure B.10 confirms many of the observations from the previous image though, additionally, it shows that the southern end of the main Weston Park Road has been bypassed with an awkward new straight section of pavement coming from the new nursery entry road. Such a bizarre transition likely occurred as a result of the need to reinforce the new Nursery access as the dominant roadway.

Associated with this change of access are signs that the former southern entry has been diverted to a subsidiary track off Banks Street to the south of Nursery Park. The original curved part of the drive immediately to the south of the Nursery appears to remain in use. A large, isolated columnar tree towards the southern end of Nursery Park appears to accord with an existing old *Populus deltoides*.

To the immediate east of the southern section of the Elm avenue a large plantation of new trees appears and some of these trees may have survived.



Figure B.11 Oblique Colour Aerial n.d. possibly 1970s/1980s (Source: Yarralumla Nursery Archives)

Although undated, Figure B.11 is an excellent oblique aerial photograph which records a considerable amount of detail of the central nursery precinct and the Nursery Bay area. It confirms that all of the earlier entry drives have been abandoned with the double-curved section only providing a link between the Hobday's Cottage grounds and the main Nursery buildings.

Other pertinent observations include:

- Most of the shoreline along Yarramundi Reach and Nursery Bay is densely vegetated with layers of mixed species.
- Nursery Park is now largely abandoned as an operational nursery area although the area north of Nursery Park (including the present retail nursery area) appears to remain operational.
- A curvilinear path (and cycleway) meanders through Nursery Park.
- The long building (now demolished) to the west of Hobday's Cottage is apparent along with various outbuildings.
- A considerable number of new glasshouse has appeared in the main nursery area.
- Most of the entire former Nursery (now West Basin sub-precinct) north of the early Nursery appears to have been abandoned and the southern section is in the process of being covered by the present thicket of *Quercus* sp.

- The large, and formerly dense, plantation of *Eucalyptus bicostata* north of the Nursery (West Bank sub-precinct) is now much sparser.
- The Weston Park Road is now mostly reduced to the cedars with very few robinias remaining.
- Many of the earlier circular experimental plantations have also thinned considerably with some being reduced to a few trees.
- The plantation of trees to the immediate southeast of the Elm avenue is now reduced to small groups of remnants.



Figure B.12 2008 Aerial (Source: Google Earth)

Recent aerial photography from 2008 (Figure B.12), indicates that replacement Robinias have been planted alongside the avenue of cedars along Weston Park Road with the exception of the awkward southern end where the unaligned road pavement precludes proper conservation practice.

Other remarkable survivors of the earliest nursery development phase include:

- The Elm avenue (remaining at its original length, though now with an access road within the avenue rather than on the eastern side).

- The dam to the south of the Nursery, though now slightly modified in outline.
- Two of the original lines of coniferous windbreak plantings forming long parallel rows to the north and south of the original 1915 nursery area.
- Part of the original entry drive from the golf course boundary to the Nursery offices.
- The three early in-line Nursery buildings and the 1923 cottage for John Hobday (though the cottage has been altered and the grounds, while containing some early plantings and fencing, has been recently compromised with a new, unrelated layout).
- Remnants of the early southern pine plantation now framing Nursery Park.
- Remnants of Weston's early circular experimental plots in the southwest corner of the study site.
- Numerous other early plantings survive such as those along the double-curved entry drive, within Nursery Park and the main Nursery area.
- Much of the original orthogonal layout of the Nursery site remains legible.

Other slightly later plantings also survive such as many of the circular experimental plots within the broader park area and around the lake edges. Additionally, a particular attribute of the place is the continuing use of the site as a nursery since 1915 and maintaining such a function in the Nation's capital since the first nursery at Acton from 1912. Also associated with this is that the park component of the site is a realisation of a very early intention for the peninsula, as it clearly figures as a major recreational landscape element in successive Griffin plans (refer to the following section).

Evidence of the implementation of Griffin's street planning layout appears scarce within the study site as, since the oblique entry drive has been almost entirely removed, only Weston Park Road demonstrates any resemblance to the various 1910s Griffin plans. Beyond the site, however, more of the Griffin's urban layout is evident, particularly with the whole precinct of gridded blocks from Banks Street onwards.

Archival Plans

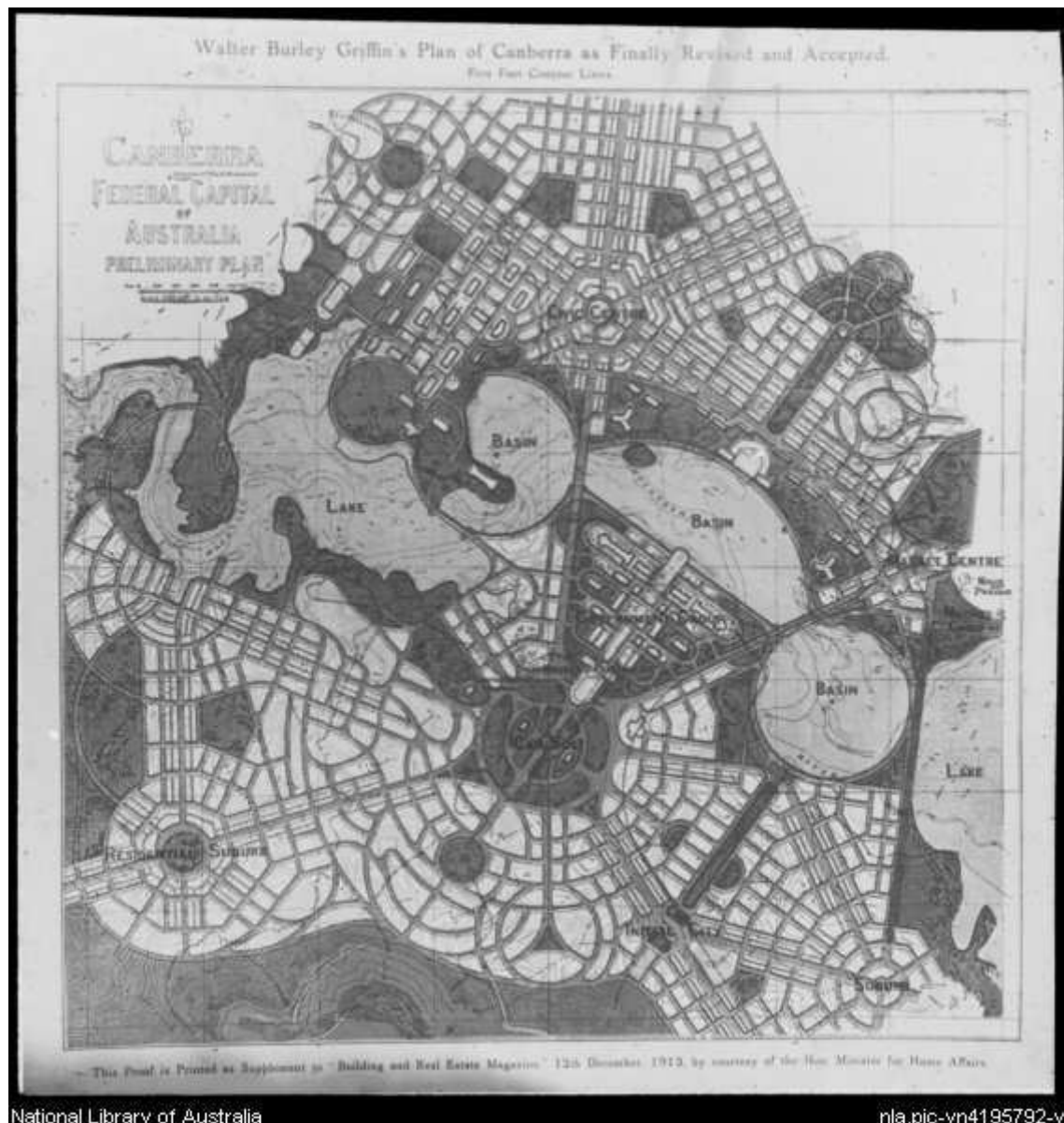


Figure B.13 1913 Griffin Preliminary Plan (Source: National Library of Australia)

The 1913 revised Griffin Preliminary Plan of Canberra (Figure B.13), provides an interesting insight into the early design intentions for the Weston Park precinct. It clearly indicates the reservation of this peninsula as a substantial landscape area albeit with a through road linking Black Mountain peninsula and Yarralumla.

The earlier version of the 1913 plan—the 1912 Griffin Competition Plan (Figure B.14)—labels the area of land encompassed by the two adjacent peninsulas as ‘Botanical Gardens’ indicating an important landscape use of the precinct and an intended landscape transition from Black Mountain down into the suburbs to the south.

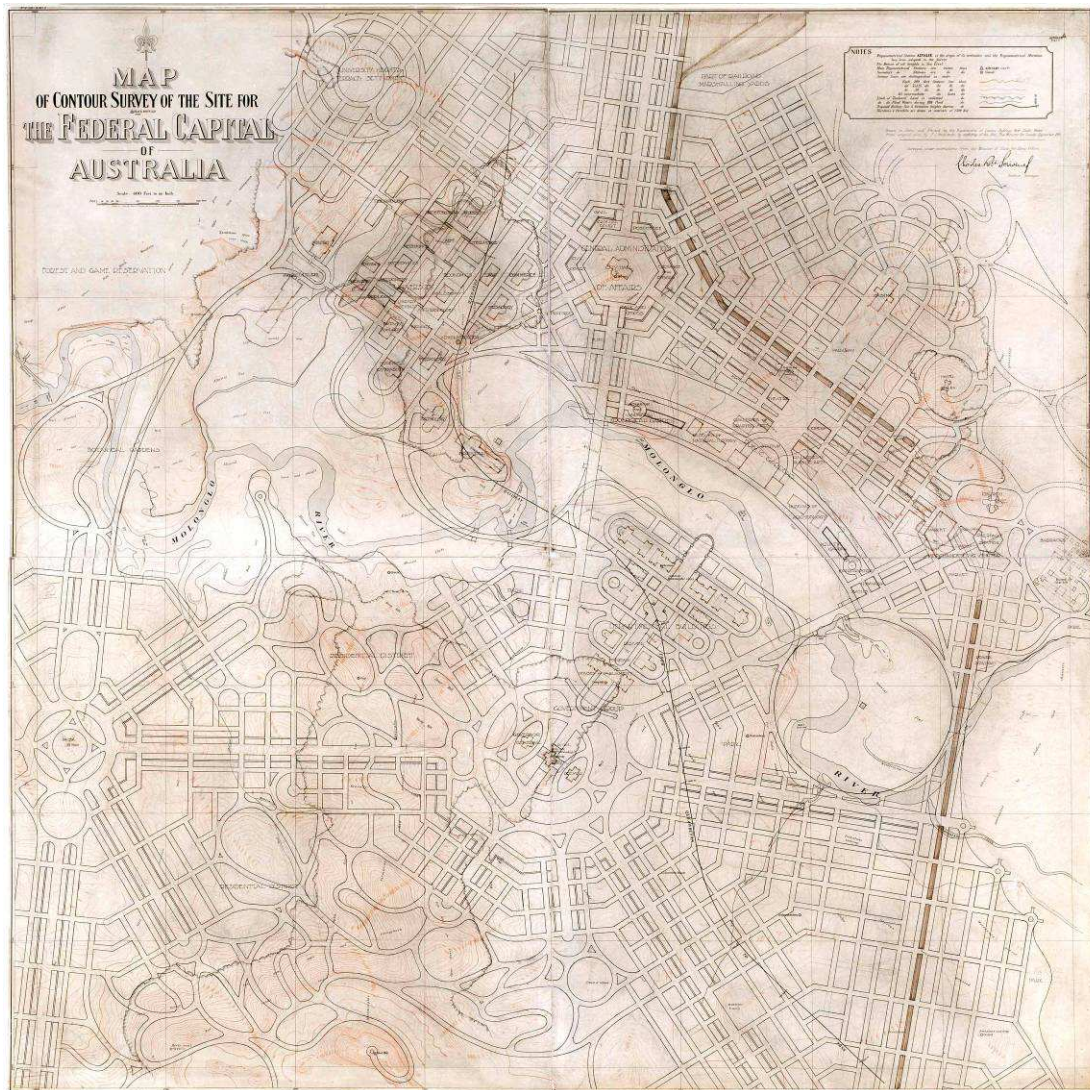


Figure B.14 1912 Griffin Competition Plan. Contour Survey of the Site. (Source: NCA. The Griffin Legacy. 2004)

While the link road and bridge never eventuated, the broad curvilinear form of the road—echoing the same expansive radius proposed for the east and west lake basins—has been partially realised in the present Weston Park Road, where it forms the long ridgetop arc around the eastern inlets of the Tarcoola Reach.

The 1913 plan also shows the intention of two gridded street systems whose axes intersected in the vicinity of the present Orana Bay. As observed above, the north-south blocks of orthogonal streets were finally built by the 1940s to form the old suburb of Yarralumla, while the more obliquely oriented axis of streets were only tentatively realised—mostly in the alignment of Brown Street and the now defunct earlier nursery entry road off Banks Street.

In fact, this latter road bears an uncanny resemblance to the alignment and even length of the short, central street that features in the fan-shaped arrangement of street layout at the extreme western edge of this Griffin design.

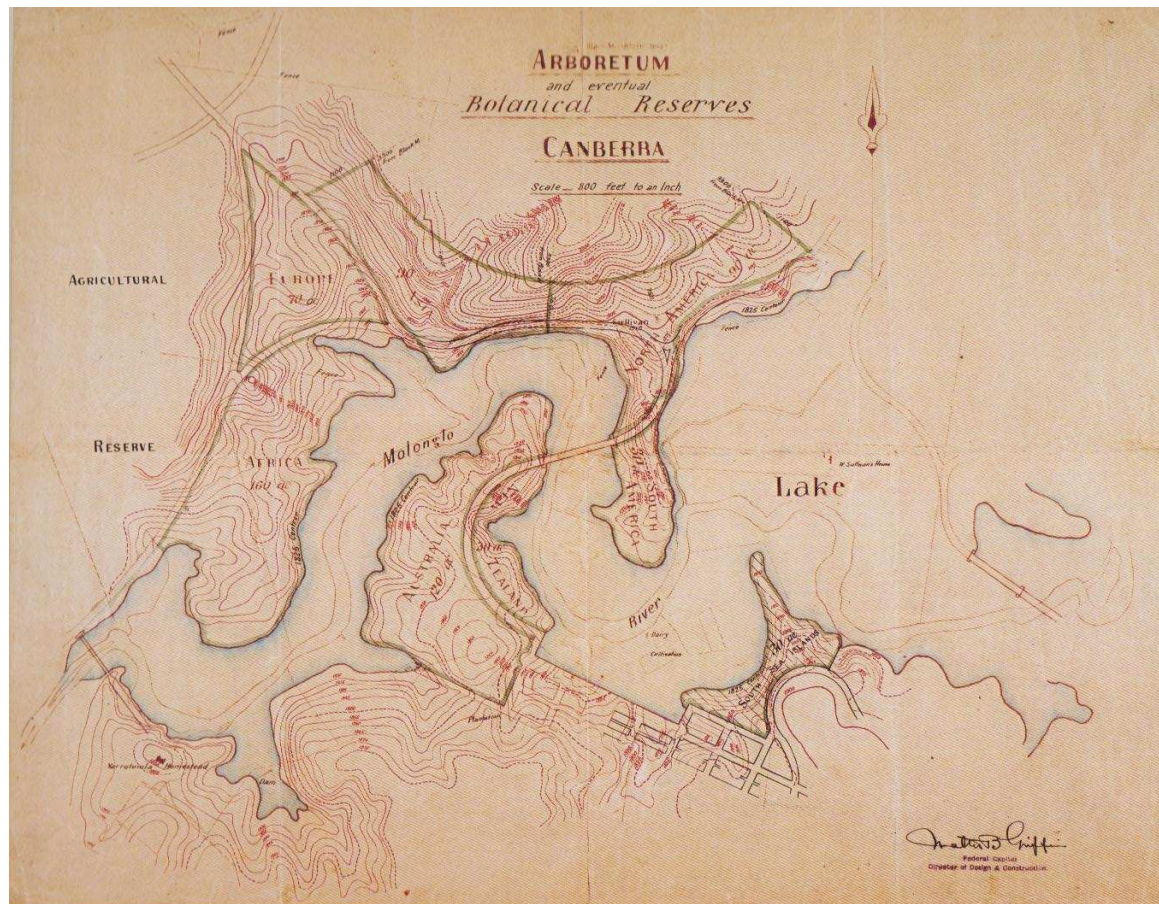


Figure B.15 Griffin's 1915 Plan of the Continental Arboretum. (Source: NCA. The Griffin Legacy. 2004.)

Griffin's plan issued in 1915 (Figure B.15) specifically addresses the precinct around the Weston Park peninsula and chiefly concerns the spatial organisation of the planned Continental Arboretum that was only partly implemented. Of particular note is the broadly curved access road along the peninsula's ridge that retains the sweeping arc of the 1913 plan and pre-empt the present ridgeline Weston Park Road.

Other points of note are the plantation annotated to the south of the 120 acre 'Australian' arboretum area, possibly indicating an existing experimental or windbreak plantation by TCG Weston, and the boulevard-like esplanade with apsidal termini defining the future location of Orana Bay. This feature was intended, here, as part of the entry to the peninsula.

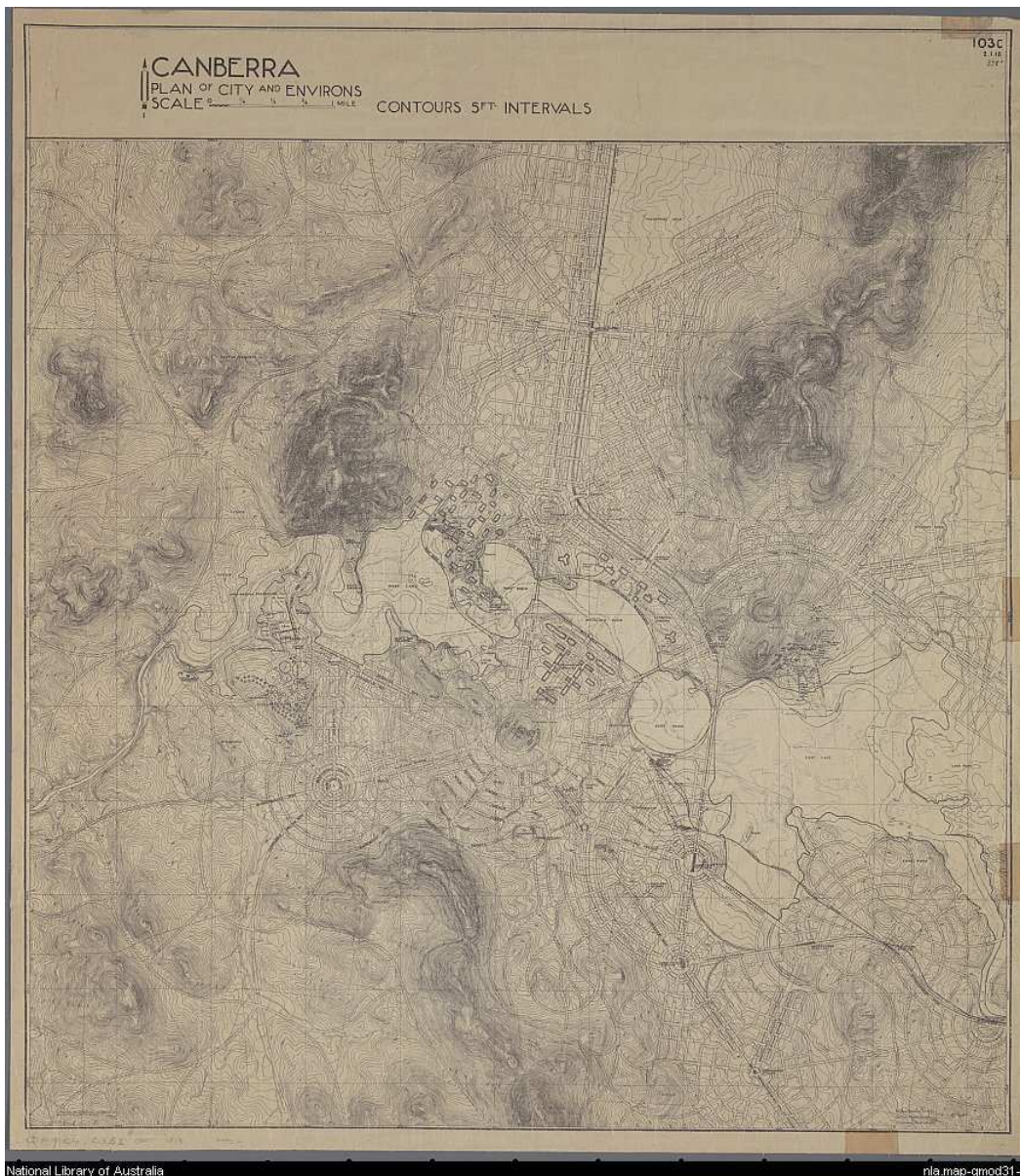


Figure B.16 1918 Griffin Plan (Source: NCA. The Griffin Legacy. 2004.)

The 1918 city plan continued, and reinforced, many of the features of the revised 1913 plan including the lake form and the general street layout for Yarralumla based on the broad triangle (rather than the original 1912 competition octagon) with its intersection of street axes at the entry to Weston Park.

This plan edition also acknowledges the existing nursery layout and even TCG Weston's extensive complex of circular experimental plantations to the south, which confirms the early beginnings of this important work. The alignment of Weston Park Road is shown in almost its exact present form except that it is here connected to a bridge at the foot of Black Mountain.

Seemingly for the first time on an official plan the curvilinear character of the ridgetop road is shown juxtaposed, and in slight tension, with the orthogonal layout of the nursery. Also at this time the use of the park and a broad area around it was further designated for the Continental Arboretum where the Weston Park site was to interpret Australian and New Zealand flora. A later development designated the site for a Zoological Park continuing the insistence on the site being used for a major landscape-oriented function.



Figure B.17 1925 Gazetted City Plan (Source: National Archives of Australia A12707.)

The 1918 Griffin Plan also became the basis of the Gazetted City Plan of 1925 (Figure B.17) which effectively set the agenda for city planning until the 1950s when Sir William Holford, a British town planner, came to Canberra and introduced various revisions and planning schemes to enhance development.

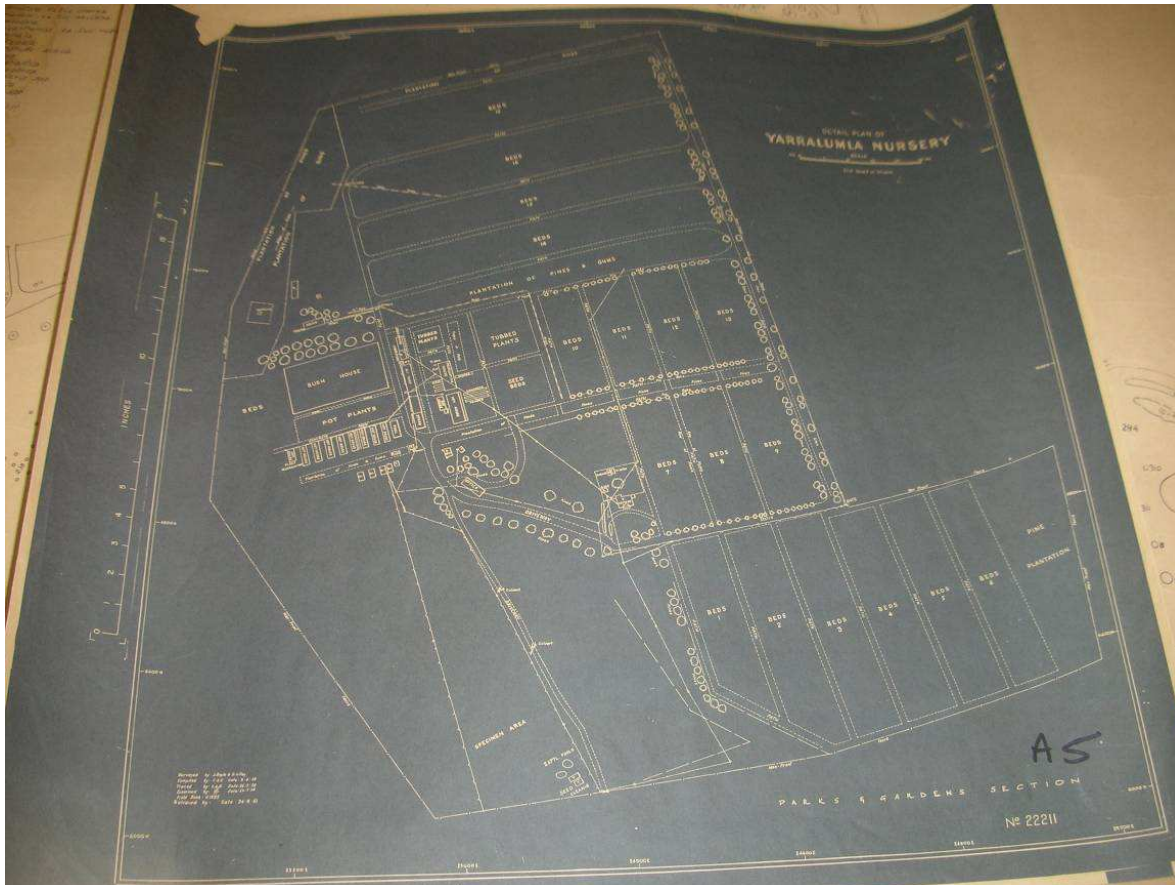


Figure B.16 Detail plan of Yarralumla Nursery 1958 (Source: Yarralumla Nursery Archives)

The 1958 Nursery plan (Figure B.16) confirms the abandonment of the earlier entry road—both in its original alignment directly from the south and the later 1920s alignment through the pine plantation that is now Nursery Park. The plan also helpfully confirms a fenceline along the eastern edge of the Elm avenue, though it is not known if the avenue was introduced using an earlier Yarralumla estate farm fence as a starting point. Curiously, the old dam is not shown.

Other important details revealed on this plan include:

- A record of earlier layout, plantings (including a hedged pathway on the western side) and outbuildings around Hobday's Cottage—the layout being largely overlooked in the current construction scheme.
- A record of the full nursery bed layout within a consistent orthogonal grid arrangement.
- Confirmation of the major shelterbelt plantations, including general plant species.
- A record of the positions of earlier plantings along the former entry drive to the west of Hobday's Cottage and along the western edge of the future lake and northwest of the 'bush house'.
- An access road is shown within the Elm avenue and various gates are shown along the fence next to the avenue.

- The southern track is shown from the Nursery to the boundary with the golf course and at the extreme southern end 'experimental pools' and sheds for 'seed cleaning' are labelled.
- The numerous buildings servicing the nursery are shown and labelled, including buildings that have since been demolished.

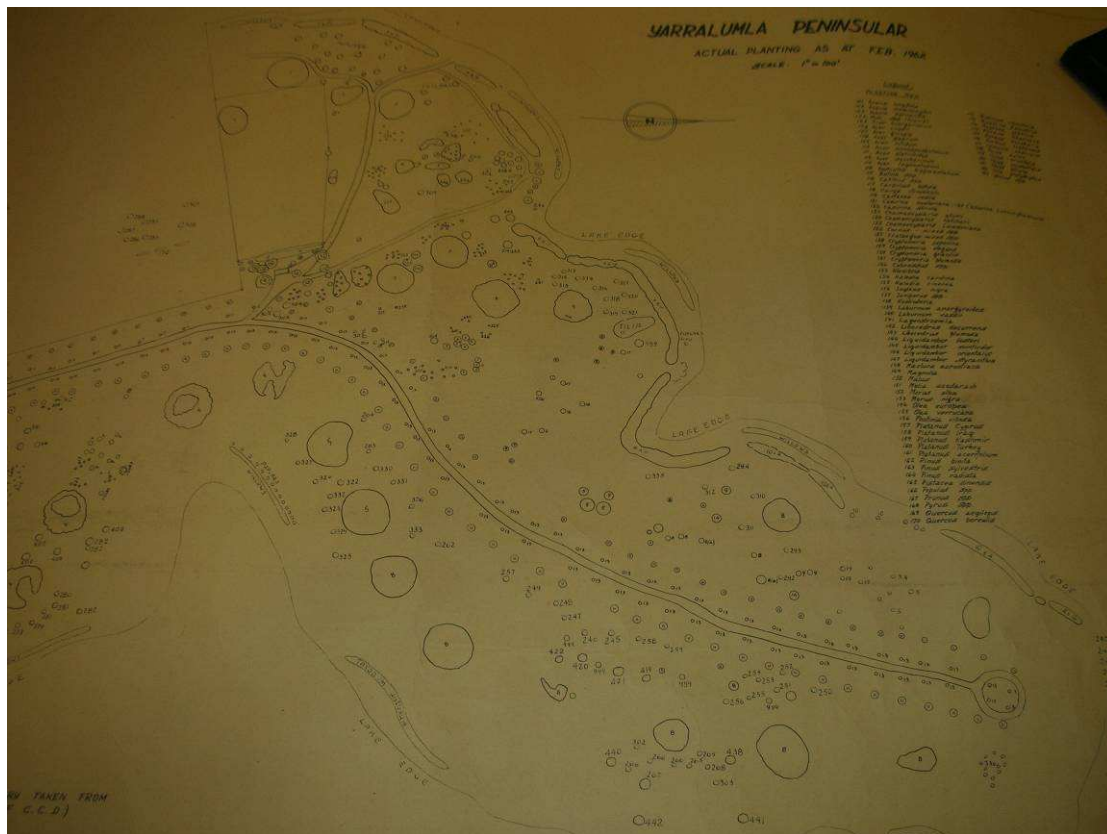


Figure B.17 Yarralumla Peninsula: Actual Planting Feb. 1962 (Source: Yarralumla Nursery Archives)

Figure B.17 is an important plan which represents a crucial record of plantings across the peninsula, but outside the Nursery, with additional species lists up to 1964 (despite the date of the plan) along with a record of many earlier plantings. The many numbered species lists contain numerous rare or uncommon species in cultivation in Canberra (even for 2010), though most of these appear not to have survived.

The plan also records occasional rock outcroppings along the peninsula which is a reminder that explosives were readily used in the 1910s and 1920s to provide deep soil for the circular experimental plantations.



Figure B.18 Lakeshore Zoning & Arterial Roads, n.d. Western Lakes Area, Canberra, ACT, Rankin & Hill (Dwg. No. 2030 – 1B)
 (Source: Yarralumla Nursery Archives)

Although undated, Figure B.18 includes an earlier, possible 1960s proposal to introduce a vehicular bridge from Banks Street to the southern end of Black Mountain peninsula. The plan documents lakeshore plantings around the whole of Lake Burley Griffin with the following species nominated for the Weston Park peninsula:

- A = *Salix babylonica*
- C = *Salix vitellina*
- D = *Salix alba*
- E = *Taxodium disticum*
- J = *Salix purpurea* & *Populus alba*

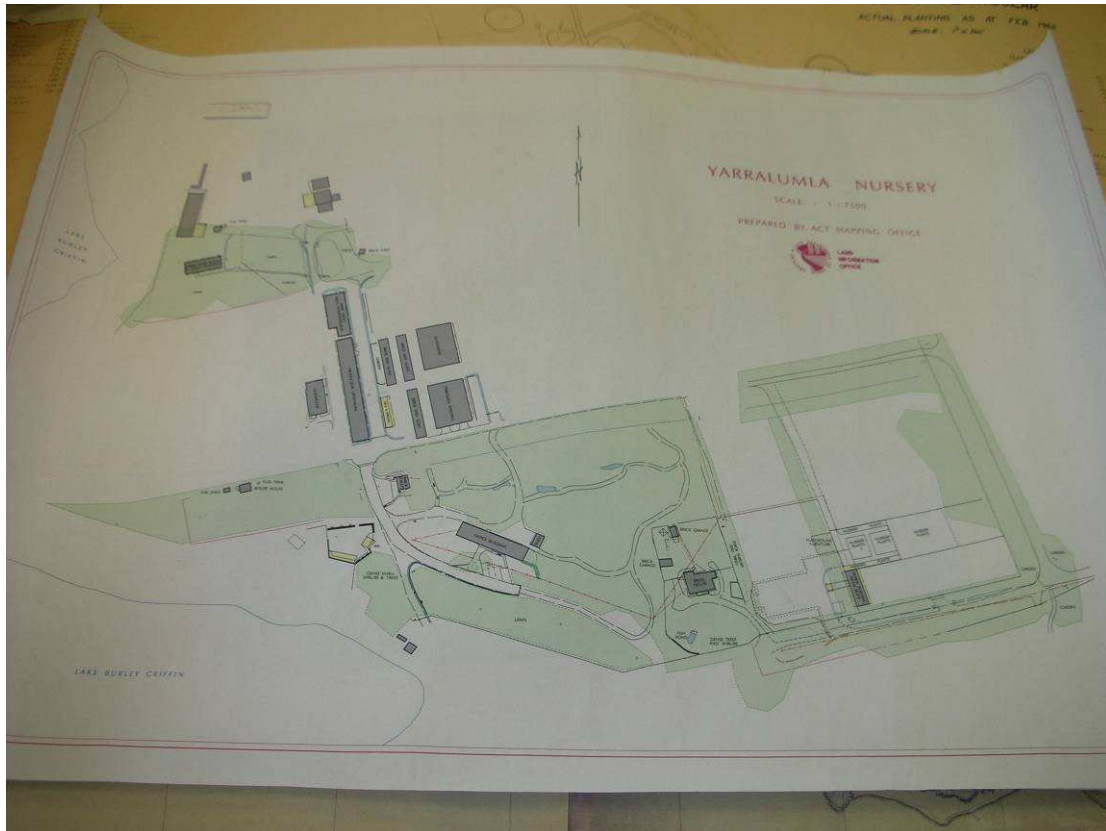


Figure B.19 Yarralumla Nursery Scale 1:7500 n.d. ACT Mapping Service, Land Information Office (Source: Yarralumla Nursery Archives)

Figure B.19, an undated plan, concentrates on the non-bedding areas of the lower nursery precinct and provides a record of principal buildings and outbuildings along with some accessways. By this stage even the double-curved former entry drive west of Hobday's Cottage has been largely abandoned and the new entry is shown from the east.

The current retail nursery area is shown with its carpark, main building and entry forecourt. Also shown is a screen of 'thick shrubs and trees' in between the carpark and Hobday's Cottage grounds. The latter is described as having a fish pond and 'dense trees and shrubs' with most of its earlier layout confirmed from previous documents.

Between Hobday's Cottage and the main nursery buildings there are various other office buildings and service structures, though all of these appear to be from the 1950s/1960s period or even later. Within this triangular area a network of informal (curvilinear) paths is shown together with several small ponds.

B.2 Review of Physical Evidence

Interpretation of the Griffin plan for Canberra

At least four aspects of the 1910s landscape planning intent of the Griffins are still manifest on the Weston Park peninsula:

- Weston Park was consistently indicated to function as a major landscape element within the Griffin plan for Canberra—either as an arboretum, botanic garden or zoological park—and it realises the Griffin intention for a landscape transition between the pervading Black Mountain

precinct to the north and the suburbs to the south, as well as a large area of greenspace to flank of the western side of the city centre.

- The intended Continental Arboretum concept, with Australia and New Zealand flora within the present area of Weston Park, has been partly realised in the extant circular plantations of Australian tree species.
- The remaining evidence of the former southern access road's oblique alignment interprets the early Griffin street layout (as does Brown Street) (refer to 1915, 1918 and 1925 plans).
- Weston Park Road along the ridge interprets the original circular access road of the 1913 Griffin plan but closely follows the proposed alignment of the 1918 Griffin plan, and while the drive was planned in the 1910s and a track is known to have indicated this route by 1923, the actual avenue planting was undertaken after 1923.

The Nineteenth-Century Yarralumla Estate Layout

The existing 1910s Elm avenue appears to interpret the former portion and paddock division from 1830s that related to the Yarralumla estate when established and jointly owned by Sir Terence Aubrey Murray (whose earlier family properties were at Lake George and Woden) and Thomas Walker (of Yaralla in Sydney)¹. The dam to the south of the Nursery is either an existing one from the former farm or was constructed as part of the early nursery infrastructure. Fencelines, particularly that along the eastern side of the Elm avenue, may also date from the Yarralumla period.

Early Nursery Layout

One of the most tangible formal layers apparent at Weston Park is the strong orthogonal layout of the 1915 nursery. A network of accessways and nursery plant lines within bays help to convey this form, though the most dominant lines are the two major windbreaks to the north and south of the original nursery area.

Together with the Elm avenue, the three early in-line nursery buildings, Hobday's Cottage of 1923 and any contemporary outbuildings and 1920s plantings, the two long, parallel (mainly coniferous) windbreaks, the early entry drives from the south, outlying (ie beyond the main Nursery area) early plantings and the many internal nursery accessways constitute the surviving fabric and layout of the early nursery development of the 1910s and 1920s.

Experimental Plantings

A crucial initiative of TCG Weston was the early establishment of experimental plots throughout various locations, but particularly concentrated around what now comprises the adjacent golf course and the grounds of the Forestry School. After Weston's departure in 1926, further horticultural trials were conducted and continued at least into the 1960s. Evidence of some of these trials remains in the large circular plots along the peninsula (planted in the 1930s) while others, associated with experimental aquatic plant trials in the 1950s and 1960s, can be seen near the southern boundary of the study area.

Whether regarded, in essence, as experimental plantings or otherwise, a continuous line of mixed tree species was completed around the future lake edge by the 1950s. A substantially dense edge of willows and other species remains around much of the lake shoreline at Weston Park.

Surviving Locally Indigenous Vegetation

A review of documentary evidence suggests that the whole of the peninsula was heavily cleared at least by the nineteenth century, with little indication of surviving older locally indigenous trees. The draft Tree Assets report by Geoff Butler & Associates (Appendix D) records the presence of two trees that have some potential to be elements of the former indigenous vegetation: a Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and an unidentified eucalypt both in Precinct 4A (The Plateau).

Rare/Uncommon Plantings [& Remaining Stock as a Plant Collection]

- Hillgrove Spotted Gum (*Eucalyptus michaeliana*)—rare
- Small-leaf Gum (*E. parvula*)—uncommon? in cultivation in Australia
- Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana*)—rare in cultivation in Australia, particularly old plantings
- Mesa Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)—rare? in cultivation in Australia
- California Black Oak (*Q. kelloggii*)—rare? in cultivation in Australia
- Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*)—rare? in cultivation in Australia

B.3 Endnotes

- 1 <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020241b.htm?hilit=Terence%3BAubrey%3BMurray>

Appendix C

Weston Park Social Values Assessment & Survey Results

Appendix C: Social Values Assessment & Survey Results

C.1 Introduction

Appendix C has been prepared by Chris Johnston of Context Pty Ltd, December 2010, in association with Godden Mackay Logan (GML). Information about the consultation with government stakeholder undertaken by GML in May 2010 has been incorporated in this report and in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP). This section of the report investigates the nature and scope of social and aesthetic values held by the Canberra community and groups within that community for Weston Park. Research for this investigation has included review of previous heritage assessments, community surveys and consultation data about the park, targeted surveys of park user groups and local residents, exploration of the park as a place of artistic inspiration, and a focus group with long-term employees of Yarralumla Nursery. Section C.5.1 lists the organisations that participated in the consultation.

Understanding these community-based values is critical in the assessment of criterion (b) and (d), aesthetic and social significance; these criteria place a specific emphasis on community associations and values. The resultant assessment is contained in detail below and against the criteria in Section 4.0 of the main CMP.

The Indigenous cultural and social values attributed to Weston Park were outside the scope of this report.

C.2 Concepts

This section explores the social and community-held aesthetic values of Weston Park for communities with identified connections to the Park, building on rather than repeating previous investigations of these values, and setting Weston Park within its Canberra-context in terms of the values.

Understanding these values will help ensure that these values can be conserved through the policies and actions contained in previous sections of the CMP.

As is detailed below, understanding of these values for Weston Park is based on a range of sources including previous heritage studies, community values investigations and face-to-face research on the values held by specific communities.

What is social significance?

Social significance is generally defined as the strong or special associations that a place may have for a particular community or cultural group for social or cultural reasons. Under the *Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)*, social significance is defined as criterion (d):

Highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

Social significance is a value held by today's community. While historical research may be able to demonstrate considerable longevity and continuity of association, this is not enough to demonstrate social significance. Rather, the associated communities or cultural groups must hold these values. Therefore the task of social significance research is to understand the nature of the associations with a place and whether this gives rise of significance in the terms of the definition. It also involves understanding whether significance resides in the fabric of the place or in other aspects such as its use, accessibility or aesthetic appreciation.

What is aesthetic significance?

Aesthetic value is the emotional response by individuals to a place or natural or cultural elements within it.¹ While visual elements such as outstanding landforms, or compositional qualities are often preferred in understanding aesthetic value, non-visual attributes (eg sound, smell or particular understandings about the place) which evoke response, feeling or sense of place can also be valued aesthetic characteristics.

Emotional response to place can be either positive or negative, though again the former is more commonly documented. Examples of responses which indicate aesthetic value might include awe, inspiration, mystery, fear or sense of peace.

Research into aesthetic response can involve direct consultation (interviews, surveys), observation and research into the expression of aesthetic values through art, poetry, photography, and literature.

Cultural features or landscapes and natural features of landscapes with evocative qualities, symbolic or other associated meanings that are recognised and regarded as outstanding by community groups might also provide examples of aesthetic qualities.

Under the Heritage Act aesthetic significance is defined in criterion (b) as:

Exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group.

C.3 Methods of Assessment

C.3.1 Introduction

A range of methods was used to identify and understand the social and aesthetic values of communities with associations with Weston Park, the nature of those associations, and whether these associations gave rise to social and community aesthetic values.

The methods used and the rationale for selecting these methods is provided below.

C.3.2 Defining communities and cultural groups

Criteria (b) and (d) refer to 'the community or a cultural group'. In this report we use 'community' as shorthand to include 'cultural group'.

We have adopted a broad definition of communities and cultural groups as those that can be defined by shared culture, beliefs, ethnicity, activity or experience.

C.3.3 Framework

The methods used to understand social and community-held aesthetic values can be generally described as ethnographic research, that is qualitative social research that seeks to understand a 'community' (or society or culture); in this instance, the research is seeking to understand associations and meanings that may be embodied in a place. For example:

- understanding the history of a place and its cultural and community setting: research, interviews;
- visiting the place with community members: visits, walks;
- mapping the place and connections: drawing, mapping and speaking about the place;
- hearing from community members: interviews; structured surveys; workshops and focus groups; story-telling;

- talking to key informants: interviews with people with special knowledge about the place and associated communities such as other researchers, community leaders, commentators and observers; and
- observation: participant observation; behavioural mapping (who uses a place and how); analysis of community 'expressions' (eg local and public art; logos; imagery; events).

By using multiple data sources, information can be compared and contrasted, enabling a richer understanding to emerge. As well, the use of multiple data sources in combination (triangulation) increases the reliability of the data. It does not offer a statistically validated sample. Iteration, that is the testing of preliminary ideas through continuing 'rounds' of research is also valuable in increasing the reliability of the results.

In this project, these methods are generally described as 'stakeholder engagement' as this accords with the preferred language of Land Management and Planning Division (LMPD). These methods were combined with review of existing studies and other materials, thus creating a rich, multi-faceted data set.

C.3.4 Defining the scope and approach

A key factor in defining the approach in this project was the amount of previous research into community perceptions and values already undertaken on Canberra's parklands. This research included:

- Research into community social and aesthetic values for Lake Burley Griffin undertaken by Context for the *Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Assessment, 2010*: the work included an online survey, focus groups and analysis of a variety of other datasets and considered the values of Canberra community and the broader Australian community. The client was the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the project therefore focused on the areas of NCA responsibility being the lake and lake edge.
- National Trust of Australia's (ACT) *Study of the social value of Lake Burley Griffin and its setting*² which included an extensive online survey of the use and values of Lake Burley Griffin as a whole, and of each of the adjoining parklands including Weston Park. The report provides a wealth of data and detailed analysis. The Canberra community was the target of the survey.
- The *Weston Park Draft Master Plan, 2009* included four rounds of consultation during the development of the Plan. The consultation included individual and small group interviews, attending local group meetings, drop-in consultation at Weston Park, and online survey.

Studies of the history and development of Lake Burley Griffin's parks³ and of Weston Park⁴ contributed valuable background material in relation to the development of community associations and attachments over time. For example, Ramsay⁵ analysed the development of Weston Park and the Nursery, noting that the late 1960s (as the lake was being filled) saw the development of new recreation facilities at Weston Park including facilities for children (play structures, a large play pool, a miniature railway, maze) four sandy beach areas, picnic areas, and a cycle track around the lake that crosses through the southern part of Weston Park. Ramsay describes this as *The Recreation Period (1969-1989)*⁶. In her assessment of significance, she notes a number of aesthetic values, including those related to 'cultural activities' areas such as the 'recreation area' (presumed to be the children's play area)⁷. However, she does not identify any aspects of social significance.

Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery was added to the Register of the National Estate (RNE) in 1992. The listing notes the following community-held aesthetic values:

Weston Park is important for its design and aesthetic qualities valued by the community which consist of: a variety of views, intimate and open, or enframed, some with activity and some tranquil and some with imposing terminal features such as Government House and Black Mountain; a variety and contrast of vegetation form and colour; a variety of spatial characteristics; areas of visual landscape themes which relate to cultural activity such as the experimental research area, the nursery beds area and the recreation area; visual stimulation from the variety of bird life; and, grandeur of some tree specimens in the nursery area (Criteria E.1 and F.1).

The RNE listing also notes that historically:

*The landscape is important for demonstrating cultural phases, significant for the evolution of Canberra, as follows:
...and the recreation period demonstrated by the development of recreation and amenity features (Criterion A.4).*

Two earlier master-planning documents, *Weston Park Master Plan Principles Plan Report, 1991* and the *Weston Park Master Plan Report, 1999* provide some useful insights into the development of the park as a recreation resource.

The 1991 Report by Strine Design lists the following features as part of the children's play area: tree forts; a playground for the disabled; the train; play sculptures within the landscape; the 'Mouse House' and other recreation facilities as including 'barbecues and picnic tables, pontoons and netted swimming areas'⁸.

The 1999 Report recognises Weston Park as 'one of the most intensively used sections of the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore'⁹, and as a place where a variety of public activities occur at different times of the year. Examples mentioned include 'festivals, sporting events (triathalons) and seasonal social gatherings...in and around the existing barbecue areas with the West Bank precinct'¹⁰ being the most popular'¹¹. Issues with the safety of the play area and wading pool were noted, including water quality concerns associated with the 'ornamental pond'¹².

The 1999 Report also notes the development of several other features that may attract particular types of visitors including the English Garden, developed in the 1960s and included in the park itself in 1993, and a number of more recent memorials:

- English Garden entry wall and memorial plaque
- Compassionate Friends Memorial Seat – upper embankment in the south-east of the park
- Family and Friends of Drug Law Reform Memorial Stone, on the east side of Weston Park Road just north of the Pescott Lane junction¹³.

Yarralumla Nursery is also a strong attractor within the park, having served as the primary source of trees for both public and private plantings as well as offering information and education for home gardeners. Specific aspects of its history in relation to the general community are noted on the ACT Library website¹⁴ and include:

- Weston developed a demonstration orchard in 1916 where pruning and spraying techniques were demonstrated to assist home gardens.
- A free plants scheme for homeowners started in 1930 as a way of encouraging them to select species that that would help link gardens with public plantings; the scheme ran for 49 years to 1979; after 2 years in abeyance, it was restarted in 1981. There are a number of images on the *Picture Australia* website showing Canberra families collecting their free plants.

A draft ACT Heritage Register Citation (not adopted) noted that Weston Park 'has significance as an outdoor recreation space with children's play areas, two tree houses, barbecue facilities and lakeshore beaches'¹⁵.

And several studies of other places in Yarralumla have included extensive community engagement, and some of these materials have also been reviewed.

C.3.5 Draft Weston Park Master Plan 2009

A draft Masterplan was developed for Weston Park in 2009¹⁶ and its finalisation is pending this CMP. The draft Weston Park Masterplan (draft WP MP) identifies some of the values of Weston Park, in part from the community consultation undertaken and in part from past heritage studies. Weston Park is described in the draft WP MP as 'a place for the whole community and an important tourist destination'¹⁷ although there is no data about its use by people from outside the ACT. The draft WP MP notes that the park has 'distinctive heritage and cultural values' including its history and association with the shaping of Canberra's landscape. Its long recreational use by ACT residents is indicated through the use of images of the Children's Play Pond in 1981 and today, free tree days at the Nursery, the miniature train, and events such as Christmas and Father's Day celebrations in the park. These uses and hence associations are recognised as going back to the 1960s, that is 40-50 years.¹⁸

Susan Conroy guided extensive consultation processes designed to document the 'values, concerns and priorities of users of the park' as part of the draft Master Plan through interviews (group and individual), an online survey, an information session and community meeting. The work is documented in Appendix 1 to the draft WP MP and is referenced here as Conroy (2009)¹⁹ as it has separate pagination.

In the first stage of the consultation, comprising interviews, on-line survey and a drop-in session, Conroy²⁰ identified the following specific park qualities to be conserved:

- Informal, open and varied park environment that is not overly structured or manicured – the feeling of a natural environment.
- Shade, openness, grasslands.
- A park-like, spacious environment in the heart of the city.
- The mix of introduced and indigenous plantings.
- Being a place for families and children oriented activities.
- Being a place for community celebrations and events such as Father's Day, club recreation competitions such as cross country and marathons, community fund raising events, etc.
- The heritage values of the park which are associated with the development of Canberra's landscape, ie the association of Charles Weston, Lindsay Pryor, and others; the planting of experimental tree species as well as the trialling of planting methods.
- The natural shoreline.
- The views and vistas.
- The small businesses such as nurseries, restaurant/café/gallery, mini train.
- SIEV X memorial.²¹
- Off-leash dog area with shade, seating, water access.

The draft WP MP itself notes that Weston Park is valued for:

- its links to the early landscape history and heritage of Canberra;
- its character as an informal, open, spacious park with a seamless relationship to the lake edge and a mix of indigenous and introduced plantings;
- the English Gardens, mature tree plantings, the Nursery and informal open park spaces;
- the miniature railway as a longstanding recreational asset; and
- Yarralumla Nursery which embodies 'positive associations with nature and education' through the retail nursery and the allocation of free plants by new property owners.

Some people also commented on the value of the SIEV X memorial and other art works.²²

Reviewing the raw data from the two surveys based on the scope of the present project, the most mentioned attributes were:

Attributes	No.
Open spaces	10
Mature trees	10
Natural/bush feel	9
Peace, quiet, seclusion	8
Lake edge/ lake surroundings	5
Landscape	3
Views, outlook, water views, watching activity on the lake	6
Yarralumla Nursery	4
History	3
Play areas	3
Lack of buildings	3
English Gardens	2

There was one mention each of Compassionate Friends Memorial, SIEV X Memorial, Hobday's Cottage, Gallery and Brassiere, kangaroos, birdlife, areas for families and groups, walking track along the lake, train, ponds, swimming areas, boating facilities, loss of the forts play structures.

Asked what they would like to see improved, many people wanted more children's play areas, and several asked for the return of the forts and cleaning up of the play pond.

An online survey was also used as part of the community review of the final draft master plan. Similar questions were asked as in the first survey, with a similar range of responses. Conroy notes that the sense of tranquillity was identified by 45% of respondents as the most valued attribute, with 38% valuing the park for its child-friendly qualities, 27% for its access to the lake and ponds; other attributes were views and vistas, trees and the miniature railway. The activities supported in the draft Master Plan appear to be strongly linked to the expressed values: for example upgraded picnic, play and gathering spaces were strongly supported (94%); lakeside loop path (87%), and events spaces (74%, with those not in support concerned about impacts on quiet enjoyment and the natural/landscape qualities of the park).

The media articles about the potential closure of the train in March 2009 prompted a very strong response about people's feelings of connection to the train. For example:

I valued the opportunity to take my grandson for a ride on the miniature train and am concerned that there are plans for its demise. It has given lots of kids, and their folk, lots of pleasure and complements the other family friendly aspects of the park

The railway is something I grew up with and share through the generations. It's a place where children and children at heart can escape and enjoy the surroundings.

It is not uncommon to find that such connections are most strongly revealed when a place or attribute is under threat. It would be interesting to know the community reaction when the first were proposed for removal.

The majority of those who participated in the two consultation surveys were regular users of the park, at least once a month or weekly.

C.3.6 Use and Users of Weston Park

Weston Park (including the Nursery) is one of Canberra's most popular and well-used parks²³ and has been popular for many years.²⁴

The ACT Government commissions market research on visitation to its parks on a regular basis, with the most recent data supplied being 2007/2008.²⁵ This survey revealed that 59% of ACT residents surveyed had visited Weston Park in 2007-2008, with an average of 3.5 visits and therefore an estimated total visitation of 750,029. Of the 29 Town and District Parks, Weston Park was the third highest ranked in terms of the percentage of ACT residents visiting (after Black Mountain Peninsula and Glebe Park both of which also attracted a strong number of return visits) and fourth in terms of the estimated total number of visits (following Black Mountain Peninsula, Yarralumla Bay and Glebe Park). Positive comments from respondents about the park noted that it is 'well presented', in 'excellent condition' and the 'children's playground is in excellent condition'. Criticisms included 'insufficient picnic tables and seating' and 'insufficient walking tracks'.

Another survey of long-term trends in visitation²⁶ analysed data over a 10 year period, revealing that the percentage of ACT residents visiting Weston Park had remained relatively consistent over the period, ranging from a high of 62% in 1997 to a low of 50% in 2006. Based on multiple visits, the highest total number of visitors was 778,800 in 2002 and the lowest 591,993 in 1999. For around 15% of respondents, Weston Park was the 'town or district park' they most often visit, resulting in the conclusion that Weston Park was the 'most popular favourite Town and District Park (followed by Black Mountain Peninsula).

Issues interpreted from notes taken at the meeting by GML from individual participants at the stakeholder session in May 2010 are as follows:

- There is a program to remove up to 150 dead and dying trees from Weston Park. There is a need for strategic tree advice and management policies about a replacement program.
- Some of the large old trees in Weston Park and the Nursery are being damaged by birds (mainly cockatoos).
- Irrigation across the park needs to be consistent and have a management policy to distinguish between (for example) maintenance of native grasslands and historic trees.
- A suggested management approach to the area's surrounding trees was given by mulching, rather than mowing, to allow the native understorey to grow.

- Identification and retention of nesting wildlife sites is important.
- Open Space Planning section of TAMS proposed to undertake a landscape audit of trees in Weston Park to help with the identification and analysis of the numerous significant trees and tree groups in Weston Park.
- There are several hundred exotics (deciduous and evergreen) such as Robinia trees. Some of these species are considered weeds and in standard situations in the ACT would not be replanted. The 2009 draft WP MP recommends their removal as they impact upon natural sites. The participant asked if this recommendation fits with the historic heritage values of Weston Park.
- The draft WP MP indicates several species selection issues which were subsequently identified as irregular, such as suggesting that no red box, yellow gum species should be planted.
- The distinct rows of cultural plantings such as the area behind the miniature railway require specific management policies for the style of historic/ heritage planting, rather than following the standard maintenance regime used for park areas.
- At Weston Park there may be a connection with ACT Government initiatives and actions groups, including the 'Lakes Planting Project' (see note below) and to ACT wetlands action groups (eg the Molonglo Catchment Group).
- Managing the weed species which have cultural heritage value along the lake shore is problematic because the management regime is shared between jurisdictions. That is, between TAMS maintenance for Weston Park and the NCA for Lake Burley Griffin.
- Weston Park could be better used for events. Suitable access, toilets and parking for the several large events which involve thousands of people is needed. This results in difficulties for planning, which need to be re-organised each year.
- There is a lack of access to eastern side of the peninsula. It is not well utilised and there is a lack of parking.
- Only one entry to the park and pedestrian circulation is sometimes difficult. The intersection at the entry is cause for car and pedestrian safety.
- The large area of open parkland and the problems with gaining access for easy car parking make the park difficult for recreational and event uses.
- If it is implemented the bridge proposed in the draft WP MP could prove to be problematic, it is not an ideal location for a bridge.
- Access to Weston Park by boat and a link to the arboretum were suggested as opportunities for the park.
- It is important to retain an overall 'park' feeling, rather than a series of recreational areas and the open space is highly valued. Some infrastructure is needed to create the right balance for recreational use and conservation of the landscape character.
- Increasing the pedestrians and cyclists activities within the park is encouraged; Roads ACT are proposing a bicycle loop through a portion of park to improve cycling facilities.

- The installation of high quality signs would help to encourage more pedestrian and cycle usage.
- A 'Community Path' was suggested as an opportunity.

The ACT Government 'Lakes Planting Project' to improve the landscape high-use areas around lake foreshores and cycle paths was announced by the Chief Minister and Minister for TAMS, Jon Stanhope, in October 2009. It involved the planting over 2,600 new trees along cycle paths and lake edges around Canberra. The east and west sides of the peninsula of Weston Park were identified as sites for this work.²⁷

C.4 Analysis of Existing Data

This section looks at the existing data on social and community held aesthetic values from previous studies and other sources.

Two recent projects considered the social significance of Lake Burley Griffin, and one also analysed community held aesthetic values.

C.4.1 NCA—Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Assessment

A Heritage Assessment for Lake Burley Griffin was prepared by GML and Context for the NCA from 2006-2010. As part of the process of developing a Heritage Assessment the consultants undertook a number of consultations to gain an appreciation of the social and community-held aesthetic significance of Lake Burley Griffin, including an online survey, focus groups and individual discussions. This work was complemented by analysis of other data including artistic and creative sources, visual images used in tourism materials, use of the lake for community activities and events. This project focused on the lake and the lake edge and was limited to consideration of the areas managed by the NCA..

The online survey was open to Canberra residents and people from elsewhere, and the focus groups and interviews concentrated on those with specific connections to the lake, including those involved in its design and construction and its management today, and those involved with lake-based activities.

There were 515 responses to the online survey, the majority from Canberra residents past and present. The survey demonstrated that Lake Burley Griffin was strongly valued as:

- a social and recreational resources;
- for its high degree of naturalness;
- for its many aesthetic qualities – visual, aural and ephemeral;
- as a place that was widely experienced and enjoyed; and
- for its contribution to the visual and landscape setting for Canberra.

The lake as a whole place was highly valued. The survey also sought to identify parts of the lake that were of particular importance and why, however the scope of the project meant that adjoining parklands were not specifically included.

Weston Park was mentioned on 10 occasions in response to open-ended questions, and in particular when asked to identify places, qualities or views that make Lake Burley Griffin of particular importance to the respondent. Some examples of these responses are highlighted below:

Having a view of and ready access to the Lake from the National Gallery, the National Library, the High Court, Reconciliation Place, the Portrait Gallery, Commonwealth Park. [+ also Weston Park has similar appeal]

Tranquil waters - vistas from lake up into surrounds landscape cultural buildings changing autumn tones and mature trees - dramatic plantings along NGA and national library strip, sculpture in the landscape BBQ areas and play equipment for children to play on at Weston Park ability to walk and cycle around the waters edge ...

The scout hall and Weston Park which have been so important to my growing up from youth

The foreshore area stretching from Stirling Park to Weston Park and around to Government House is particularly significant to me. When I was younger, my dad would bring me to Weston Park to play and as an adult I continue to love the walk along the south west of the foreshore.

Asked about a favourite view, 6 responses described a view that included Weston Park:

Looking from the site of the former Weston Park Treehouse down Yarramundi Reach towards Govt House. This is the middle of the rowing regatta course, and offers views of water, land, trees and mountains.

View of Black Mountain from across the lake (from Weston Park) - encapsulates all those issues that for me symbolise the importance of the lake, including introduced weeds such as the willows, poplars etc, the parkway, Black Mountain Tower within an otherwise relatively intact natural setting.

As I row down the rowing course near Weston Park, looking towards Black Mountain w/the shallow water, reeds, ducks on one side and the beach of Weston on the other, Gov Generals place behind, mountains in the distance, it's just so perfect.

Looking from the southern side of the lake north to Black Mountain Peninsula, Weston Park, Black Mountain, also the natural areas around the Jerrabomberra wetlands and where the mouth of the Molonglo flows in the dam; also around Scrivener Dam and near government house - all natural or parkland outlooks which are very tranquil and peaceful.

Black Mountain picnic area. Seated area that looks down the lake toward the Museum, Commonwealth Ave Bridge. Other area is at Weston Park watching the rowing regattas. Regatta Point looking across to the National Institutions

It used to be from the Tree House at Weston Park - what a tragic loss for both children and adults alike! It was a spectacular viewing platform, especially for the Winter Time Trials for rowing.

In relation to artistic and creative works, Lake Burley Griffin appears to be a popular source of inspiration for local amateur artists and writers with local reputations, but has not featured in any nationally significant artistic or creative works nor has it inspired the work of nationally notable artists or writers.

Lake Burley Griffin is widely depicted in tourism images as a distinctive Canberra backdrop or setting, and is used to communicate the picturesque qualities of the lake and the opportunities it offers for relaxation and exciting public events.

C.4.2 National Trust—Study of the Social Value of Lake Burley Griffin and its Setting

Pipitone²⁸ undertook a substantial community survey for the ACT National Trust in 2009. The project was designed to understand how the Canberra community use and value Lake Burley Griffin. The National Trust initiated the survey because of the redevelopment pressures on Lake Burley Griffin including the 'Weston Park Masterplan'.

The survey sought general information about visits to the lake, and detailed information about 22 specific places. One of these was Weston Park. The survey was offered online and in hard copy form between 13 February and 6 March 2009, and 758 responses were received. A copy of the survey is still available online at <http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au/survey/> although the survey has closed and no further responses are possible. The survey was open to the Canberra community and there was no targeted sampling involved. The survey sample was slightly older than the Canberra population, with people under

34 significantly under-represented and those over 55 significantly over-represented. This may reflect the age of the membership base of the initiating organisation. Pipitone concluded that the sample size is sufficient to interpret the results for all age groups except for 12-24 and 75+.²⁹

The survey offers some important insights into the values of Weston Park as a place, and also in comparison with other places around Lake Burley Griffin that were considered in the survey.

Weston Park was one of the two most visited places with >90% of respondents having visited Weston Park, and was fourth in terms of the number of visits per year (3.66 visits per year averaged across respondents). Based on this data, Pipitone estimates Weston Park will receive 1,219,800 visits from 333,200 ACT visitors in 2009, and that this will increase to 1,382,000 visits from 377,500 ACT visitors by 2010 based on ACT population projections.³⁰

Looking across the age groups surveyed, Weston Park had been visited by respondents across all age groups. For those in the 12-24 age group it was the most widely visited place equal to Black Mountain Peninsula; third most widely visited for 25-34 age group; and one of a group of several most widely visited amongst the 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64 age groups.³¹ Given the specific attractions designed for children (playground, a miniature train and until recently the maze), it is expected that there would be a strong <12 age group accompanied by adults. The age groups visiting Weston Park most often each year are those 35 and older with between 3-4 visits.

Asked to identify the most important reasons for visiting Weston Park, respondents were asked to select from a list of all that applied to them, resulting in multiple reasons being given for most places.³² Compared to other places, Weston Park ranked the highest in terms of the relative frequency of reasons for visiting for 'relaxation' and 'special memories'.³³

Reason for visiting	% of respondents visiting Weston Park for this reason	% of respondents across all places
Relaxation	58%	29.2%
Views	45%	41%
Exercise	40%	36.2%
Cycle/walk past	37%	35.5%
Functions	27%	23.6%
Special memories	13%	5.9%
See what's new	12%	14.3%
Art/sculpture	7%	17.9%
Get from A to B	5%	9.3%

Pipitone³⁴ analyses the relative importance of each reason for each place by dividing the number of reasons given for visiting by the total number of people visiting:

Reason for visiting	Relative importance of each reason for Weston Park
Exercise	42%
See what's new	42%
Functions	35%
Art/sculpture	24%
Views	20%

Reason for visiting	Relative importance of each reason for Weston Park
Get from A to B	18%
Relaxation	<10%
Cycle/walk past	<5%
Special memories	<5%

There were some differences in the reasons for visiting Weston Park by age group:

- ‘special memories’ was most important for the 12-24 age group;
- relaxation was more important to 65-74 and 12-24 age groups (and very important overall);
- views were more important to those 75+ and progressively less important for each age group, with 12-24 the lowest;
- exercise was more important for those in all age groups from 35 to 75+ than for the two younger age groups; and
- ‘functions’ was slightly more important for 35-44 age group, compared to younger and older age groups.

There were also differences by birthplace, with those born overseas more likely than Australian-born to visit Weston Park for ‘relaxation’ and for the ‘views’.

Pipitone³⁵ notes that Weston Park was the place ‘where memories was given as a reason to visit more frequently than any other place and was also the most liked place for important memories’.

Compared to those born elsewhere in Australia or overseas, special memories were a more important reason for visiting for the ACT born (24% compared to 12% for the whole sample) and as Pipitone notes, a ‘higher percentage than for any other place, and much higher than the average of 5.9% for all places.³⁶ She suggest that this is probably because Weston Park ‘would be expected to form part of the childhood memories of people who grew up’ in Canberra, and because Weston Park is the site of several memorials (SIEVX memorial and several smaller memorials, as listed above).

Pipitone’s analysis divided the range of reasons for visiting into ‘short stay’ and ‘long stay’ reasons. Short stay reasons were cycle/walk past and ‘get from A to B’ and long-stay reasons were ‘exercise’, ‘art/sculpture’, ‘functions’, ‘see what’s new’, ‘special memories’ and ‘relaxation’. Weston Park was assessed as being visited slightly more often for long-stay than short-stay, but was well behind the places assessed as ‘long stay’ all of which are cultural institutions (eg National Gallery of Australia).

Compared to the other places in the 7 most visited places list³⁷ Weston Park was most like Kings Park, but with ‘relaxation’ the most commonly stated reason for visiting Weston Park³⁸.

In the past Weston Park appears to have been a popular location for functions but today Commonwealth Park appears to have the dominant role.³⁹

In terms of valued attributes, what people ‘specially like’ about Weston Park compared to all places was: as follows⁴⁰:

Reason for liking	% of respondents for Weston Park	% of respondents across all places
Picnic	14.4%	14.2%
Important memories	10.4%	7.6%




Reason for liking	% of respondents for Weston Park	% of respondents across all places
Nature	8.1%	39.8%
Sport/exercise facilities	6.6%	17.5%
Views	6.4%	53.4%
Design	3.2%	21.5%
Buildings	0.9%	18.7%



Compared to other places, Weston Park ranked highly for views (equal to Commonwealth Park and the National Carillon), nature (highest followed by Commonwealth Park), picnic areas (second behind Black Mountain Peninsula) and important memories (highest followed by Commonwealth Park).

Asked about 'unpleasant' or 'disliked' aspects of a place from a list of 12 characteristics, 45.3% of those who had visited Weston Park had a negative comment to make, second highest after Kingston foreshore.⁴¹ Compared to other places, Weston Park scored highly on the following disliked characteristic: 'too hot' (highest), 'too open' (3rd highest), 'heavy undergrowth' (highest), 'too isolated' (highest), and 'poor maintenance' (highest).⁴²


Of the 60 photographs of views tested in the survey, the view from Weston Park to Government House was the 6th most popular.⁴³ There were 6 views associated with Weston Park, and the response to each and its overall ranking is shown below.⁴⁴ The question asked was 'Are any of these views particularly important to the way you enjoy this place?'

No.	Image	Description	% rating this view as important	Overall ranking
A		View along road <i>View along road entering Weston Park, looking through trees open grass areas and tree avenue.</i>	25.6%	53

No.	Image	Description	% rating this view as important	Overall ranking
B		<p>View to Black Mountain <i>View framed by tree canopy, and over open grass area and shrubby plantings to Black Mountain in the distance.</i></p>	42.9%	25
C		<p>View to Government House <i>View from the water's edge across the lake to Government House in the distance.</i></p>	55.8%	6
D		<p>View towards Parkes Way</p>	44.5%	19

No.	Image	Description	% rating this view as important	Overall ranking
E		View to beach <i>View to eastern beach and picnic area, Weston Park.</i>	43.9%	21
F		View to Yarramundi Reach from Weston Park NOTE: This view was <u>NOT</u> on the Weston Park survey page.	41.4%	30

As well three other images were shown on the survey pages for Weston Park:

Image	
	View of the footbridge in the playground

Image



'Henry Moore-like' play sculpture (David Tolley)



View of eucalypts through to lake

In her analysis of the values of the lake and specific places, Pipitone⁴⁵ defines six categories of places, based on the types of reasons why people visit:

- national institutions – 6 places;
- the popular places – 6 places;⁴⁶
- the going places – 6 places;
- the relaxation places – 4 places;
- the hidden places – 3 places; and
- the sense of places (that is where 'special memories' was found to be a highly significant reason for visiting) – 11 places.

Weston Park is included in 3 categories – 'the popular places', 'the relaxation places' and 'the sense of places'. Comparing the places in Canberra that are 'the most important for Canberra's developing sense of place', Pipitone⁴⁷ suggests that Weston Park is the most important, followed by Albert Hall, Nara Park, Commonwealth Park, National Carillon, Black Mountain Peninsula and others. In making this assessment she draws out four key reasons:

- they connect people with their past;

- they give the community its distinctive character;
- they satisfy important functional needs; and
- they evoke emotions⁴⁸.

These ideas are all closely aligned to the concept of social significance. Pipitone does not however, attempt to analyse Weston Park or the other sense of place category places against these reasons.

Finally, Pipitone suggests that such places need 'especially sensitive management to ensure that maintenance and any future enhancement or development to not jeopardize their current or future iconic status'⁴⁹.

C.4.3 Conclusions

This wealth of existing community-based and other research provided a foundation for the present project, and provided a substantial amount of data on social and community held aesthetic values. As well, through the review and analyse of this material, the consultants were able to:

- identify the communities and cultural groups that may value Weston Park highly because of its strong or special associations for their community or cultural group; and
- generate key questions for exploration with each community or cultural group, or with representatives of, or suitable surrogates for, that group.

Based on the above studies and the extent of existing data, a number of aspects appear to provide a focus for this assessment:

- the importance of Weston Park as a place visited and liked because of its special and important memories for people born in the ACT: this is associated with the early establishment of Weston Park following the completion of the lake and the long-established children's play areas; and the importance of the Nursery as a source of plants for Canberra residents;
- the idea that Weston Park is important for Canberra's developing sense of place;
- the perceptions of the immediate local community of Weston Park as one of their local parks;
- the values held by those with a daily relationship with Weston Park and the Yarralumla Nursery through their work on-site;
- local artists and their use of Weston Park as a source of inspiration; and
- the other types of community uses and activities in the park as an indicator of its values.

C.5 Engagement with associated communities

C.5.1 Defining associated communities

Central to assessing social and community held aesthetic values is defining the communities who hold those values. The approach adopted was based on analysis of previous studies and other data, and based on the expectation that an associated community would have direct experience of the place. This could occur through:

- their use of Weston Park, including those involved in businesses in the park;

- their role in its design, care or management;
- living or working close to Weston Park; and
- their special appreciation of an aspect of Weston Park as a result of their involvement in broader environmental, heritage or community interests that relate directly to Weston Park.

It is possible that each associated community may value a place for different reasons and may attribute any values to different aspects of the place. Hence the importance of defining potentially associated communities comprehensively, recognizing that as the research progresses, the

The associated communities were initially broadly defined as potentially including:

- The Canberra community – those who use or have used Weston Park;

For leisure and recreation – walking, fishing, boating, dogs, picnics.

For play – playground area is a long tradition– and included the train and maze, play pond, the tree house/fort, the mouse house, play sculptures, playground as well as large open areas for informal play.

For informal gatherings – family and social groups as larger groups can be accommodated because of the nature of the place – examples include picnics, Christmas functions, annual BBQs, weddings, birthdays and other celebrations.

For community events – there are a wide range of community events held at Weston Park (see above).

- Community organisations – those involved in running community events and activities in Weston Park and on the lake;
- Nursery – people and organisations associated with the operation of the Nursery, including nursery management, site staff, trade suppliers; and
- Local residents – people who live nearby and for whom it is part of their local environment. It also probably serves as one of their local parks.

As well, there were three other stakeholder interests that were considered which may be able to offer insights into the social and community-held aesthetic values of Weston Park:

- History and heritage – those with a special interest in the history and design of Weston Park, the Nursery, Weston etc.
- Managers & carers – those involved in the hands-on management of the Park as a whole, and including those involved in past or present design and management decisions.
- Operators – people who run a concession/business in Weston Park (currently only one).

These three stakeholder interests were accommodated through a combination of interview and/or survey. 'Managers & carers' of the park were consulted only through the 'government stakeholders' consultation meetings and the operator of the railway through an informal on-site interview. Managers and carers of the Nursery formed part of the Nursery focus group.

The organisations that contributed to the assessment of social and community-held aesthetic values are listed below.

Organisation	Meeting held	Survey	Focus group	Interview	Comment
Yarralumla Residents Association (YRA);	✓	✓			Consultation by phone, email, on-site meeting. YRA assisted with distributing an on-line survey through their membership email list.
SIEV X Memorial Committee;		✓			Emails; survey completed via phone interview with Steve Biddulph
Australian Garden History Society;		✓			
The Compassionate Friends ACT and Queanbeyan		✓			
Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc		✓			
Watercolours Outdoors on Thursdays (WOT)		✓			
Michael Kidd and 6 staff of the Yarralumla Nursery			✓		
Dr Peter Dowling, National Trust of Australia (ACT Branch).				✓	
<i>Lake Users Group</i> (coordinated through the NCA).		✓			All member groups were invited to respond to the survey;
<i>Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team</i>		✓			
<i>ACT Walkers</i>		✓			
<i>Athletics ACT</i>		✓			
<i>ACT Cross Country Club (Women's & Girls Jogalong)</i>		✓			

Lake User Group member organisations that responded to the survey are indicated in italics above.

The following organisations were invited to participate, but were unable to for a variety of reasons: Friends of Westbourne Woods; Australian Forest History Society; ACT Playgroup Association; Canberra Ornithologists Group; ACT Artists Society (they referred the survey to WOT who responded); ACT Writers (they placed an item in their newsletter, resulting in one individual response).

C.5.2 Methods

The table below summarises the engagement methods that were used with each defined community; details of what was done and the engagement achieved is then described below. Where there was existing data sufficient for the purposes of this analysis, the sources used are shown, and no further work was undertaken.

Associated 'community'	Questionnaire [Pipitone 2009]	Interviews and/or survey	Focus Group	Art, Literature, Tourism sources
Canberra community	✓			✓
Community organisations representing park & lake users		✓		
Nursery staff			✓	
Local residents		✓		
History & heritage		✓		✓
Managers & carers		✓		
Operators		✓		

C.5.3 Results

Park user groups Survey (

A short survey was developed and distributed to a range of organisations that represent park users (referred to as 'park user groups' below), namely

- Lake Users Group: a group convened by the NCA that comprises organisations that represent lake users; and
- other community organisations that arrange larger community events at Weston Park: these organisations were identified by Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS).

A total of 12 responses were received.

The park user groups primarily use Weston Park, not the Nursery, and some also use the lake for their activities. Most who responded represent sporting/recreation interests, with one each representing arts, wedding services, and two associated with memorials in the park. Most activities are either club events or public events, with some use of the park for social gatherings and training. Many of these groups use the park often, ranging from several times a year to weekly or fortnightly. Their reasons for using Weston Park varied, but most common is for its convenience, ease of access and parking, facilities and because the group has used it for many years.

For the two groups connected to memorials within the park, the location of their memorial is the key attractor. Their selection of Weston Park as the location for the memorial related to the qualities of the park as a peaceful place that allowed opportunity for reflection:

Weston Park offered a restful place – other places had too much traffic and did not offer that reflective spirit that was needed for the memorial. Here there is a sense of peace – it is a beautiful location. (PUG 11)

This quality was also the reason why many civil ceremonies are held there:

People choose for ceremonies because it is beautiful and has meaning for them. (PUG 9)

For many of the organisations that run sporting and recreation events in Weston Park, similar qualities made the park a great venue:

It is a beautiful park and appears well used by the general public. We get around 200 joggers and associated people when we hold our event every month. (PUG 8)

Park user groups value the design and landscape of the park, the magnificent views over the lake, and recognise its popularity with Canberra people. Some of the special qualities and areas within the park that they highlighted were:

The proximity of nature and the lake, good facilities and memories built up over 50 years in Canberra. Sense of community. Lack of commercialism. Public ownership. (PUG 9)

It provides the best viewing for regattas and is a landmark for rowers competing. Many important regattas have been hosted at this park, and this venue is a beautiful setting for racing and presentation ceremonies (PUG 6)

Quiet location, open space with water views make it a great location for large gatherings of people. (PUG 10)

Easily accessible, beautiful views of Lake Burley Griffin, a large area with natural landscaping, diverse sections with parts to cater for various interests and ages of people, pleasant walks. (PUG 5)

While most of the park user groups do not use Yarralumla Nursery for their events, five commented on what makes it special, responding from their own personal knowledge, emphasising its role in the history of Canberra, in creating Canberra's landscape and in its focus on native species.

The sense of public ownership and continuity of providing plants for Canberra for many, many years for homes, prestigious places, public gardens. It is an integral part of Canberra's history and soul. (PUG 9)

Yarralumla Residents Survey

A meeting was held with representatives Yarralumla Residents Association on-site to discuss their participation in the project, followed by design of an online survey by the consultants, similar in content to the park user groups survey. The survey was distributed through the Yarralumla Residents Association (YRA) to their members. The survey was only open to Yarralumla residents, and it was open for a period of 5 days. The aim of the survey was to find out more about the values of Weston Park for those who live closest, to add to what was already known about the values of Canberra community from the Pipitone survey in 2009. This survey is referred to as the Yarralumla residents survey in the analysis below.

Thirty eight people responded, most being members of YRA. Most visit Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery more than 4 times a year, many visit the park weekly or daily. Most have visited both the park and nursery for more than 10 years, and 58% and 38% respectively for over 20 years. This pattern appears to reflect the importance of both places over many years for Canberra residents as a whole.

The main reasons for visiting Weston Park included: walking, enjoying the views, enjoying nature, picnic and BBQs with family and friends, taking visits to see SIEV X memorial and kangaroos, taking children there to play, to enjoy the trees. Other activities included 'Easter egg rolling', visiting the café, cycling, picking blackberries and fruit, and as a canoe stop.

Asked about the aspects or parts of Weston Park that are special, the most common responses were: the lake/lake edge, views (generally including the lake), trees, wildlife, open spaces, various walking tracks and picnic and BBQ areas. The SIEV X memorial, the nursery and café also received favourable mentions.

Many responses mentioned children's play features, existing and past, as important, with the tree houses, 'mouse house' and the wooden walkways along the edge much missed. The train, pond play area and other play areas were all mentioned, along with the beaches and open spaces as good for children's play.

Weston Park is strongly valued as a family place, as stated below:

Enjoyed by generations of children in my family.

Remembering picnics, rambles at toddler/child pace with my parents and my child. Watching water birds. My parents have since died, and my daughter has grown up.

We have enjoyed many family picnics/ gatherings in this great location where kids can swim, there is lots of shade and convenient parking.

Family outings and particularly good vantage points to watch the rowing course and have rowing activities.

Qualities such as peace and tranquillity came through in many responses, often combined with trees, nature, wildlife and views. Several people mentioned that they liked seeing others enjoying the park.

Removing oneself from the rush and bustle of city life, great old trees, plenty of shade, no noise.

The ever changing nature - colour/texture/energy - lifts my spirits.

Water is always beautiful, and the views from the park are lovely.

Quiet times looking up at Black Mountain and across the water.

Feeling of being in a remote place when in reality is just five minutes from Parliament House.

Weston is not a beautifully designed and landscaped park and that is why I love it, it is a little piece of nature within the heart of Canberra.

The main reason for visiting the Nursery was buying plants.

Asked about their favourite memories of Weston Park, many people's memories involved being in the park with their children or grandchildren - playing, picnicking, riding bikes, feeding the swans etc, and with other family members.

Asked who might value Weston Park for the same reasons, many people suggested that everyone would, including other Canberra residents and visitors. The values of the park as a family and informal recreation area were again highlighted. One response captured it well:

Canberra families who enjoy exercise, social gatherings with families and friends in all its beautiful places. Also the individuals who go there to enjoy its beauty and for exercise. The groups of amateur painters who go there in groups to paint its beautiful scenery. Cyclists, bird watchers, dog owners, and Canberrans who want to show visitors how very special Canberra can be.

Summary of responses to the values statements

The park user groups and Yarralumla residents surveys sought responses to the following values statements. The full results are contained in Section C.11, and summarised below.

The following values statements gained **more than 80%** agreeing or strongly agreeing:

- Weston Park offers magnificent views of the lake.
- Weston Park is popular and well-loved by Canberra people.
- Weston Park has long been a favourite children's play area: playground, maze, tree forts, and miniature train.

Also **strongly supported** were the following:

- Weston Park evokes important memories.
- Yarralumla Nursery is important as the source of Canberra's trees.

- Weston Park and the Nursery are part of Canberra's history and identity.
- Weston Park is a great place for larger social gatherings, community celebrations and events.

Views were **more spread** on the following statements, although all were more supported than not:

- Yarralumla Nursery is a hidden treasure.
- Weston Park is located on the most beautiful stretch of Lake Burley Griffin.
- The tranquillity of Weston Park makes it ideal for commemorations, memorials and quiet reflection.
- Weston Park is a beautifully designed and landscaped park.
- Weston Park is the place for a picnic or BBQ.
- Weston Park forms the backdrop to my daily life.
- Weston Park is a place where you feel close to nature.

Yarralumla Nursery staff

A focus group comprising past and present staff/managers of the Yarralumla Nursery was held on 8 September. Seven people attended, 6 being current staff and 1 a previous manager. Each had a long association with the nursery. Discussion was focused through a series of questions posed by the facilitator. The group was recorded and the analysis has been based on a draft transcript.

Describing themselves and their workplace, it was apparent that the Nursery attracted highly dedicated people. Many had trained at the Nursery, and everyone recognised the important role the Nursery has played in building horticultural skills in Canberra and beyond. There is a strong sense of team and the Nursery is like a large community that also connects to others working in the industry. Some of those who participated had come to the Nursery for a short-term job or as an apprentice, and had just stayed. One person was the second generation in her family who had worked here.

The experience of working with plants and the sense of contributing to a beautiful environment appeared to be strong motivators. There was also a strongly shared desire to give back to the community through training young people and helping support jobs for people with many different levels of ability.

It's quite a proud thing for me, to work at the Nursery. I'm proud to be working here.

As a group they share a very strong sense of history: of the Nursery's history, of its contribution to Canberra, and of their history as a group of workers.

So this place is as old as Canberra and when you look around Canberra, all those old trees that are planted around Canberra came through here. And we're still doing it today, 96 years later.

And they have a remarkable knowledge of the history of the Nursery.

Part of the reward of working at the Nursery is a sense of contributing to the future. The following quotes reflect a conversation to which many of those present contributed, demonstrating these strongly shared sentiments:

The contribution the staff and the nursery have made towards Canberra as a garden city ... It was a place really to be proud to be working with. Every day, when I drive through Canberra, I can say to myself, well look, most of those trees my staff propagated. In 20 years we propagated 10 million trees, something like that.

And that's a wonderful feeling when I drive around. I think, oh, they're the babies that we propagated in glasshouse 22. The feeling that they're going to around so much longer than me, this massive tree when I'm long gone ...

We're growing those trees and they're being planted up on that (arboretum) for the next generation.

We'll all say to our grandchildren, well, your grandmother helped - she held the seeds.

Weston would have been doing what we're doing to the arboretum now, you know, that tree-less hill up there.

So someone did it for us and... And now we're doing it for the next generation.

For Nursery staff, they see the Nursery as a 'place of horticulture' and 'good horticulture' as this is connected to their pride in their work.

They love sharing and celebrating that history:

In 1994, we celebrated the nursery's ninetieth birthday with an open weekend. We opened the whole place to the public, everything was operational, all the cutting facilities, the potting machines were running, the whole place was running. And we had tours right around the place. And part of that celebration was a dinner in the potting shed. We contacted as many people (former staff) from around the world, well in advance, to see if they wanted to come. One of the previous managers before Frank, he came. He was in his 80s, he came up from Victoria. We had people come from all over the place.

It was just a fabulous night in the potting shed. The stories that were coming out - 'cause we had a lot of older people that had retired, plus we had all the new young people. Everybody came, the whole mix from new people that were at the nursery and had only been there twelve months

And in their experience, Canberra people all feel a connection to the Nursery, even if they don't know as much about its history as Nursery staff would like:

When you work at the nursery, any time you go out socialising ... and people say, where do you work, yeah, I'm at the nursery - it's always a conversation starter. My dad went and bought a house and got plants, blah, blah. My uncle worked there. And off it goes for the whole night. Its just amazing.

I don't think a lot of people realise the significance of the Nursery and just what we have done for the community and for all the plantings and the research, which is a bit of a shame. They all know about free issue though.

The 'free plants' scheme for newly built homes is one of the major connections that Canberra people have to the Nursery. For Nursery staff, they see their plants all over Canberra and feel a deep sense of pride in what the Nursery has achieved over its lifetime:

it's amazing when you walk through the streets, you're seeing exactly the same trees and shrubs along all the house - the neighbours are all the same, and you can still recognise them in the gardens.



Figure C.1 1981 Canberra residents collecting their free allocation of trees and shrubs from Yarralumla Nursery (Canberra Times, 03/08/1981)50

Nursery staff area aware of the important social purpose of the free plant scheme – to build a community and support people as they established themselves here:

... the government had a challenge to bring people to Canberra. Because of the climate and because it was new, there was no cultural infrastructure. There was very little infrastructure at all. ... So there wasn't a lot of social structure here for people to be encouraged to come to Canberra from Sydney and Melbourne, where it was very well established. So they had to do things. They had to give them incentives. One of the things was looking after their gardens, the big quarter-acre blocks.

Very early in the piece, they had demonstration orchards, which there are remnants of up around the top of the nursery up there. They had regular training sessions for people, open mornings and that for fruit tree pruning, maintenance and things like that. Encouraging people to stay in the garden, develop their gardens.

Their working environment is very important to them. They value working in a place that connects them to the environment – to wildlife, birds, weather. And they expressed the pleasure of creating beauty through their work:

Now the glasshouse is often empty but once upon a time you'd walk in and you would be greeted with a whole glasshouse full of gloxinias ... it was the most beautiful experience.

They strongly appreciate the beauty of the Nursery, the park and the lake as a living landscape:

there's blossoms out on the drive in ... go and walk into the blossoms ... There's just this beautiful, magical feeling. It brings back childhood or something.

it's an ever-changing landscape. It's never the same.

The best day of the week to come to the nursery is Sunday morning, when you're on watering duty, because Saturday the wildlife has settled back in and they've taken over. And when you come in on Sunday, they're in the habit of not seeing anybody and it's just beautiful here. It's serene and you walk around with a different view, and

you notice ... such and such (is) in flower ... Every time you walk out there, you're dealing with a living thing, plants. You've got 300,000 of them here, so there's a lot of change every week.

For this group, Weston Park and the Nursery are intimately connected – through the growth of the park out of the framework created by the nursery and the experimental plantings,

Asked about the places of most importance to them within the Nursery, there were many shared places and values:

An operating nursery: the whole place as a functioning 'real nursery' is very important to Nursery staff. The layout and buildings are designed to serve the vital functions of plant propagation and growth, and it is these flows of activity that represent 'good horticulture'.

The whole complex: closely linked to the idea of an operating nursery is the value of the complex of buildings, each serving a particular function as part of the nursery, the trees within and around the Nursery (and out into what is now the park), the smaller demonstration gardens and specimens within the main part of the nursery, and the view s out to the lake and parklands.

Big trees: the tree plantings in the Nursery and in Weston Park are very important; they represent the time they took to grow and 'they've seen a lot'. They also represent the people who have come before and who planted those trees.

English Garden: an area planted up as part of the nursery and containing some important plants in the specimen area that were the source of propagation material. The trees come for all over the world, some from seed brought back in Pryor's 'top pocket'.

Professor Pryor travelled extensively right through Persia. I used to call him the top pocket man 'cause he'd get pockets of little packets of seed and sit them in his top pocket. That's how the silk tree, the albizia, came to Australia, and a few others. Into the top pocket.

It's also a place where staff 'have the most wonderful barbeques'

Office building: this is a complex of buildings that have served a number of functions: the original office (the front door symbolizes where trees and plants go out to the whole of Canberra); the former stables (now label room); the storeroom at the other end where staff went for the issue of tools each day. This building evokes a wealth of memories for staff and is respected as part of the history.

(Its) very existence has created what we are today and has created what Canberra is today, the tree city.

As well this building complex contains the seed vault, significance records, card files and ledgers, a small collection of equipment that is no longer used, historical photographs.

Seed vault: The seed vault holds 'seeds dating right back to the first recordings, 1948 ... there is no way that could ever be replaced'. The importance of the seed vault for staff includes the contents, the way it has been set up and the recording systems/ledger.

Records, ledgers and equipment: Associated with the Nursery are highly valued by staff.

Glasshouses: the big old glasshouses are important as workplaces and as structures that 'still produce and function today without change'. Even though some have been replaced, their function is vital and staff appreciate that some of the older ones survive and continue to be used.

Old Garden Centre: located behind glasshouse 6, it evokes memories for those who worked there – 'where I learnt most about plant identification'.

Hobday's Cottage: as one of the buildings that was 'here in the beginning'.

Potting Shed: its history and stories for staff – reminding people of ‘lots of characters that have been through the potting shed’.

In talking about the Nursery, many memories and stories are evoked for staff, some connected to their own work and some about happenings, people and events:

... there was great pride in opening those shutters every morning. A lot of plant issue went through the big manual file system. Look through for everyone's card and get out their little manual card and write it in the book. So that's just got a lot of fond memories ... lovely little office ... you'd look out the window and feel like the queen. People coming up to the window and, can I help you please?

There are many stories and strong memories, and an oral history project with past and current staff would clearly be worthwhile.

Asked about Weston Park, Nursery staff sees the Nursery, Weston Park and Westbourne Woods as intimately connected – in their purpose, their role in shaping the landscape of Canberra, their overall landscape qualities and views. They recognize the importance of Weston Park as a family and play space, commenting on its use for picnics, as a place to see wildlife, a good safe place for children. They use the park for their own picnics and bring their children down to the park to play.

They are also aware of many special plants and trees out in the park, giving as an example a very large Sydney blue gum planted by Professor Pryor.

that was his favourite tree. He came here right up until he couldn't drive. He used to wobble around the bottom of the nursery about once a week, once a fortnight, with his two walking sticks and he used to go and stand - he couldn't sit down 'cause he couldn't get back up again - and go and lean against that tree and just soak it up.

History & heritage

Several organisations with an interest in the history and/or heritage of Weston Park were invited to contribute, and two did, one through a survey and the other by way of an interview.

The National Trust of Australia (ACT branch) sponsored the survey of social values of Lake Burley Griffin undertaken by Shirley Pipitone and described above. From the National Trust's perspective, Weston Park and the Yarralumla Nursery are both places that are highly valued by Canberra people, primarily as a consequence of the long use and association. Weston Park was one of the first parks developed after the lake was completed and quickly became the place to go for family picnics, and it has retained these connections for many people up to the present day. At the time it was also the most convenient place for a picnic.

Work and social groups use Weston Park as a place for annual gatherings, Christmas parties and celebrations, and this too is a long-standing pattern of use that continues today.

The play areas have a special place in the hearts of many Canberra residents, with people who once took their children to play there, now taking their grandchildren, and likewise parents who played there as children continuing the tradition with their own children. The play areas evoke powerful, nostalgic memories.

The Yarralumla Nursery is similarly an important place, the source of trees that grace most Canberra gardens, with their everyday presence in peoples' gardens evoking that sense of ongoing connection to the Nursery.

Because of these connections, the National Trust has advocated the development of an interpretive centre and plan for Weston Park so that it becomes the place where some key Canberra stories are told: the development of Canberra's tree plantings; Weston's role; the creation of the lake etc.

The Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) responded by way of a survey. AGHS is concerned about the conservation of significant Australian cultural landscapes and historic gardens, and has around 2000 members nationally, with the ACT, Monaro, Riverina Branch covering Canberra and its region.

AGHS recognises Weston Park as an important part of Canberra's history and heritage, acknowledges that it is valued highly for its landscape and recreational values by the people of Canberra:

The plantings in Weston Park and the adjacent English Garden are significant aspects of Canberra's landscape and have important links to plantings in both the city's public and private spaces.

AGHS note some aspects of particular importance in the Government Nursery, including:

A particular aspect of the Nursery which is of great interest to the AGHS is a set of records, still partly in use, that includes: A card index that covers the period from 1913 to the 1960s and provides information on seed acquisitions, cutting material and planting dates, along with various comments; Ledgers: Three large folios that are used for the seed inventory and cover from 1948 to the present. They record accessions and use of the seed bank and are actively used; Files and herbarium boxes.

This material illuminates a crucial part of Canberra's history. It constitutes an important record of the initial planting plans and plant experimentation that was carried out to develop and establish the Garden City concept for the then new capital city of Canberra from Charles Weston's time onwards.

AGHS noted the values of the English Garden, adjacent to the Yarralumla Nursery as:

This garden has an interesting and significant collection of specimen trees and shrubs. It has been an experimental site used by various managers at the Government Nursery at Yarralumla to trial species and cultivars for both the private and public domains in the ACT. Visiting aborigines also donated seeds and specimens over the years. Some of the trees within the English Garden are likely to be the genetic parents of many of Canberra's mature exotic trees, especially those that have survived in the older areas of Canberra. Overall the garden provides Canberrans and visitors with a great resource for both learning and pleasure.

AGHS expressed concerns about the preservation of the heritage significance of the Park, the English Garden and the Yarralumla Nursery and the issues raised are considered in Section C.12 and within the CMP as a whole.

Managers & Carers

The CMP consultant team met with government stakeholders in May 2010, at the commencement of the project. There was some discussion of heritage values, especially natural and horticultural values, and the sense of connection that the Canberra community has with Weston Park as a whole, with the miniature train, with former features like the maze and tree house, and noting that large events at Weston Park attract big crowds. Qualities highlighted included its open landscape character, views to and across the lake and its trees. The passion of the local community of Yarralumla for Weston Park was also noted, with many comments received on the draft Master Plan.

Operators

The operator of the miniature train was interviewed informally on-site while undertaking repair work. He explained the importance of the train for generations of Canberra people, recounting that people bring their children and then their grandchildren to ride the train and play in the nearby playgrounds. The train has been there for 39 years. He said that many people asked about the maze (closed several years ago) and he feels that it is greatly missed.

C.6 Review of Artistic and Creative Sources

A review of the visual art, literature and photography that have been inspired by Lake Burley Griffin since the flooding of the Molonglo River commenced in September 1963 was undertaken as part of the CMP for Lake Burley Griffin as a whole⁵¹. The basis of this analysis was the idea that the works of artists, writers and photographers provide information about places that have been, and continue to be, popular for their aesthetic qualities. This method has now been applied in numerous assessments of aesthetic values, and particularly in relation to community-held aesthetic values.

The conclusions from this wider review were that Lake Burley Griffin has long been a popular source of inspiration for local amateur artists and writers with local reputations but that there are few nationally notable artists or writers in any media that have produced works inspired by Lake Burley Griffin, nor were any significant works of art or literature of national or international recognition identified as associated with Lake Burley Griffin.

It was not possible to replicate this body of research during the present project; instead the following searches were undertaken of the Picture Australia website seeking to identify images of Weston Park or the Yarralumla Nursery. The specific search terms used were 'Weston Park', 'Yarralumla Nursery' and 'SIEV X'.

Forty five images related to Weston Park were located, most being photographs of social gatherings and events at Weston Park since the 1970s. There were several of the Canberra Festival raft race in the 1970s and 80s. There were also many images of Yarralumla Nursery, primarily people collecting their free plants. There are also many images of the early Nursery years.

A further search was made of the Auscape web site, a place where professional photographers post and sell images. There were no images of Weston Park nor Yarralumla Nursery. There were 228 images of Canberra including some of the lake⁵².

Contact was made with a number of Canberra-based art groups, seeking contact with art groups that use Weston Park. A watercolour group that regularly uses the park responded (and completed a park user group survey) noting that the park attracted the group at least quarterly because it offered a wide variety of landscape subjects and plantings of native species. Views and the adjacency of the lake were highly valued qualities.

A member of the Canberra Writers Centre, responding to 'what makes Weston Park special' said:

A place to go to renew your relationships, for family and children. To have friends and children with space to play. To begin relationships and refresh them; for lovers by day and night; for tending the ill. For the writing of That Special Letter. For the remembering; and the weeping, in the sunlight; for the beginning again

A poem, *The Carp-fishers* by John Stokes, was also submitted⁵³. It evokes the solitude of the place within the busyness of the city:

The Carp-fishers

Let there be two pines darkening
against a silver lake
and sun-gulled light, let
the drum-wave of the traffic begin
the shallow flush from head-high roofs
slanting down to the carp-fishers...

Let there be theology for the teeth
& practical fire

& soft tongues, brown
 lapped water wished
 along stone walls
 built hand, by hand, by hand.

Finally, a question was posted on the Canberra Photographers Flickr group asking about favourite locations for photography in Weston Park. There was one response offering an image of autumn foliage and the comment that:

the English Garden next to the Nursery is obvious for it's impressive collection of non-native deciduous trees and evergreen trees. Plus there are some nice lakeside places for sunset with reed-lined foreground and silhouettes of trees against water.

Snapshots

Popular images or snapshots can also offer an interesting insight into what people value about a place the images they take.

A review of images tagged as Weston Park on three popular image websites – Photobucket (www.photobucket.com), Flickr (www.flickr.com) and Webshots (www.webshots.com) revealed that most images were tagged as Weston Park⁵⁴:

Website	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery	SIEVX Memorial	Hobday's Cottage/ English Garden
Photobucket	4	0	1	0
Flickr	97	0	125	0
Webshots	4	1 (wedding)	3	0

Looking at the content of these images, three strong themes are:

- landscape – views of the land and water
- animals – kangaroos, swans, other birds
- people – people attending events at Weston Park (eg. belly dancing, Fathers Day 2009) plus photos of individuals, children playing etc



Figure C.2 Children playing in the mouse house c1981 (Source: Webshots website)

Generally the images shown are relatively recent; no doubt there are a wealth of other non-digital photographs held in personal photo collections by Canberra residents and these images could to be prove a valuable data source if they could be accessed. One example was located on Webshots – an image of children playing in the mouse house c1981.

C.7 Tourism Information

Tourism images are regarded in aesthetic values assessment methodologies as offering an expert opinion of places that are most likely to have a strong aesthetic appeal to the wider community and to be likely to attract people to visit that locality. Common sources of tourism images are websites, tourism brochures and postcards. Both websites and brochures may be used to help plan a visit, and as a guide when in the locality. Postcards are most often purchased while visiting to capture an aspect of one's experience of a place and to keep it as a souvenir or share it with others 'back home'.

The tourism materials looked at in relation to Weston Park was limited to websites and the set of brochures available from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre.

The following websites reviewed were the local Canberra tourist information websites:

Visit Canberra: <<http://www.visitcanberra.com.au>>: Visit Canberra is the main Canberra tourism website, and most other sites link to it. Weston Park is listed as an attraction under 'Outdoor and nature', described as containing 'Barbecue facilities, playground equipment, large tree houses, miniature railway and maze'. It is accompanied by an image of a family rollerblading along one of the paths. Neither the English Garden nor Hobday's Cottage is mentioned. (Accessed 22/6/2010)

Canberra and Region Visitors Centre: <<http://canberratourism.com.au>>: This website focuses on accommodation and tours. A review of the short tours within Canberra did not identify Weston Park as one of the promoted stops.

Tourism Australia: <<http://www.australia.com/destinations/cities/Canberra>>: Weston Park does not feature on this website as a major attraction, nor as a 'must visit'; there is a link to the TAMS website for local park information.

About Australia: <<http://www.about-australia.com/events/australian-capital-territory/events/>>: This website provides an excellent listing of events. No events were listed at the time of searching in Weston Park. (Accessed 22/6/2010)

National Capital Authority: <www.nationalcapital.gov.au>: Under 'Discover the National Capital' and 'Visiting' this website offers information on walking and driving tours along parts of Lake Burley Griffin, memorials and commemorative activities and an interactive map of Lake Burley Griffin. The latter highlights Weston Park as a 'key water recreation area with swimming, boating and picnic facilities, large childrens' adventure playground and miniature train.' The interactive map appears to be designed for local users although the walks and drives are for visitors. None of these go to Weston Park, the closest being a drive in the Yarralumla diplomatic district:

<http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/enjoythelake/Lake_Burley_Griffin/index.asp>

A set of the current tourist information booklets from the Visit Canberra website (or in hard copy from the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre) was reviewed seeking references to Weston Park as a place and for events held there⁵⁵. No references were found to any events considered of interest to visitors to Canberra. The Holiday Planner identified Weston Park as a place for 'outdoor adventures with kids' suggesting 'Pack a barbecue lunch and head to Weston Park, Yarralumla, where the kids can play in an adventure playground complete with climbing facilities.'

The 1999 Master Plan Report notes that both the Maze and the miniature train were listed in the Canberra Tourism and Events Corporation's listing of Canberra Products, Holiday Guide and in an individual brochure, noting that this information is distributed 'both nationally and internationally'⁵⁶.

This Week in Canberra <www.thisweekincanberra.com> is a guide to current activities and is also targeted at visitors. Weston Park is marked as an attraction on the map in the hard copy edition, but no listings were found for Weston Park.

Canberra has a number of walks and guided tours offered by private companies. None of the tourist bus tours around Canberra appear to include Weston Park, nor do the guided walks <www.canberradaytours.com.au>; <www.canberraregion.com.au>. The NCA's Lakeside Walk brochures do not include the Yarralumla sections of the lake.

The National Trust has produced two self-guided walks of Yarralumla: Tour 1 includes Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery. Weston Park is described as significant for its associations with Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens and designer of this park, and Yarralumla Nursery for its role in growing the plants used to establish parks and open spaces, as well as contributing to private garden plantings through the gift of plants to new residents up until the 1980s. In Weston Park, the tree house and maze (both demolished) and the large-scale adventure playground and miniature railway are noted as great attractions for children.

Tour 2 includes Westbourne Woods (now Royal Canberra Golf Club). It is significant as the largest arboretum in the ACT and was used by Weston as a testing ground for exotic and native tree species, and remains an important seed source for the replacement of trees planted throughout the city.

The set of postcards collected in 2006 as part of the analysis of images of Lake Burley Griffin was reviewed for the current project. None of the images include Weston Park or the adjoining section of the lake in either the foreground or middle ground.

C.8 Community Activities and Events

Lake Burley Griffin is the location for a wide variety of community events, both large and small. Weston Park has hosted a number of events including Canberra Day, Father's Day (currently held there), and a variety of Australia Day events in the past. It is an important viewing point for numerous rowing regattas, both winter and summer. A 'women and girls jogalong' is held monthly and cross country running events every week. Other events include Lake Burley Griffin Racewalking Carnival (June), ACT Cross Country Running Championship (July), Triathlon (October), Swims (November - Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team).

There are also important commemorative activities at Weston Park. At the SIEVX Memorial there is an annual event organized by the ACT Refugee Action Centre, along with informal visits by schools (around 3 a week) and visits by people connected to the event and for whom it may be the only marker for their loss.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a support group of bereaved parents and siblings, hold memorial events at the TCF Memorial Seat located at eastern section of Park several times each year, including Compassionate Friends International Children's Memorial Day (held on the closest Sunday to 28 January), The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelighting ceremony (held on the second Sunday in December) and a gathering for a shared morning coffee on Mother's Day. These events have been held for at least the last 8 years.⁵⁷

Father's Day is a celebratory event and the 2009 event is described on the TAMS website as:

Thousands of families came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and the biggest Father's Day Party in the Park in Weston Park. The crowd was treated to an array of live entertainment including the smooth sounds of popular Sydney band 'Superstitious', bollywood and swing dance shows, belly dancers, games for dads and competitions.

There was plenty on offer for all members of the family with fantastic rides and activities including rock-climbing, a giant slide, mini-golf, reptiles and ponies.

A special present for dad could be made at the kids craft or bought from the market stalls. ACT Street Machines came out on the day in abundance with a range of classic to modern cars shining in the sunlight.

There was a great variety of food on offer ensuring there was something for everyone.

The TAMS website by-lines Weston Park as - *Birthplace of horticulture in the National Capital*. The attractions of Weston Park are described as:

A beach and swimming area are located on the eastern shore, and there is plenty of room for picnicking. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues and public toilets. A large scale adventure playground for children which has climbing facilities and a tree house is a feature. There is also a miniature train. There is plenty of parking and also a cycle track runs through the park.



Figure C.3 Miniature train (Source: TAMS website)

One small image is provided for the park – that of the train, refer to Figure C.3.

The park is described as a ‘park for everyone’ noting that it is ‘is popular at weekends and on public holidays. Large and small groups congregate in the park, and the garden centre and associated commercial activities also attract large numbers of people. Walkers and cyclists find ample opportunity for quiet relaxation.’ Weston Park is classified as a District Park.⁵⁸

C.9 Community Perceptions, Meanings and Associations

This section of the report describes the values attributed to Weston Park that emerged from the investigations into social and community-held aesthetic significance described above.

C.9.1 The Australian Community

This project has not focused on the Australian community. In previous work on the assessment of heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin to the wider Australian community⁵⁹ it has been acknowledged that:

- There is limited available data that can be used to determine the values of the wider Australian community in relation to Lake Burley Griffin.
- Lake Burley Griffin is one of the distinctive and well-known attributes of Canberra and its design.
- Lake Burley Griffin is presented in tourism imagery and on many postcards as a significant and symbolic element of the Canberra landscape⁶⁰
- A National Perceptions Survey⁶¹ confirmed that Australians strongly recognise Lake Burley Griffin as a symbol of Canberra, third after Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial.

The Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Assessment 2008, concludes that Lake Burley Griffin is a 'valued aesthetic resource to the communities outside of Canberra' in relation to the Griffin plan, the 'setting it provides to the national institutions' and its reflection of the 'visual qualities of surrounding landscapes, activity and seasons in its waters' and that it is a widely recognised symbol of Canberra⁶². These values cannot be considered likely to directly apply to Weston Park. Weston Park is not a focus for activities that would be expected to attract a substantial audience of visitors from outside Canberra, nor does it appear to be on the tourist routes. The view of Government House across the Lake is important to Canberra residents and might be expected to be of interest to visitors but does not appear to be highly promoted.⁶³

C.9.2 The Canberra Community

The Lake Burley Griffin CMP identified five themes in the way the Canberra community responds to Lake Burley Griffin as a whole place:

Unifying Canberra: Lake Burley Griffin is regarded as 'unifying Canberra visually, symbolically and socially'. It creates a place for people to come together and interact – to enjoy the space. Visually, the expanse of water unifies the diversity of built and landscape features.

Realisation of the Griffin design vision: the Canberra community values the lake as fulfilment of the Griffin design, a unifying visual element as well as achieving a 'playground for the city'. As such it is a key part of the city's identity.

A marker for Canberra: for many Canberra people, Lake Burley Griffin is a marker of their home city and a symbol of Canberra.

A public and private place: Canberra people value Lake Burley Griffin as a place to be enjoyed for recreation and leisure, with use of the lake over many years leading to 'important associations and a deep appreciation of its aesthetic qualities'. Lake Burley Griffin offers a wide range of different opportunities for leisure activities – on and off the water. It is a place where people can get together, and a place 'resonant with personal memories and connections' and offers a place for 'retreat, reflection and contemplation'. A number of commemorative plaques and memorials are located around the lake.⁶⁴

Nature in the city: the natural landscape qualities of Lake Burley Griffin are highly valued by Canberra people, partly based on the contrast between built and natural areas, and often because of the opportunities it offers for a direct experience of nature – birds, animals, water, ephemeral weather effects (mists, sunsets) and seasonal changes (colour). The 'moods' of the lake were mentioned many times, as were panoramas along and across the lake, and to Black Mountain and the Brindabellas. And naturalness for respondents meant both indigenous and exotic trees, in both formal and informal contexts.

The valued qualities of Lake Burley Griffin identified in this earlier study provide some importance indicators about the potential aesthetic and social values of Weston Park. Looking at both values together, these qualities or attributes include:

- spatial qualities and the design unity created by a large body of water;
- combination of formal design and naturalness (created through plantings and habitats);
- ephemeral qualities; and

- the use of the lake (and adjoining land) for recreation, for public and private gatherings, celebrations and activities, and for some as a part of their daily lives.

The additional work undertaken in this project reinforces two of these themes; 'a public and private place' and 'nature in the city'. While one of the important values of Weston Park is 'its magnificent views of the lake', it clearly has many other important values for Canberra residents, locals and Nursery staff.

Three themes have emerged strongly for Weston Park:

- A spacious tranquil park.
- A park for play & picnics.
- A place of history, memories and connections.

Each is briefly explained below.

A Spacious Tranquil Park

Throughout the data there is a consistent valuing of the open and spacious qualities of the park, and often these are linked to the idea of its tranquillity.

The nature of the park, on a peninsula and surrounded by water, obviously helps create these qualities, and the nature of the current uses reinforces them. Weston Park is valued for its informality and its landscape diversity. These values are shared by the wider Canberra community, by local residents, by park user groups and by others such as artists. Moreover, it seems that these qualities are long-standing.

The scale of the park and the spaces available also attract community events as well as smaller, informal social gatherings.

A Park for Play & Picnics

The play spaces in the park, and the idea that the park is very child-friendly is a major attractor. Memories of playing in the park, or taking children there to play were raised throughout the surveys and in informal conversations in the park. Playing in Weston Park is an activity that has been shared across several generations and for many years.

Play and picnics seem to go together. Weston Park has been an important family picnic place since its development as a park in the 1960s, and this continues today.

As well, as children's play, the park is used for a variety of recreation activities, and seems to be a valued venue, not just for its location and facilities but also because of its visual and landscape qualities.

A Place of History, Memories and Connections

This is a more diverse theme, reflecting the many different connections that people feel to Weston Park and the Nursery.

For some, the history of the park and its connection to the development of Canberra is of great importance. This was very strongly reflected in the focus group with Yarralumla Nursery staff, by heritage organisations and by local residents.

Weston Park is a place that evokes special memories; this was revealed in the Pipitone survey and throughout the current project. In part this links to the period in which the park was developed and the opportunities it has offered generations of Canberra people. The Nursery is also prominent as a place of 'memory' and 'connection' for Canberra people, probably as a result of the free plants scheme, and even more so for those who work there.

For those who visit as part of commemorative activities, Weston Park offers a tranquil reflective space that is highly valued. These qualities are seen as enabling people to reflect on important memories that relate to tragic events in their own life, or the wider community's experience, rather than on memories of Weston Park itself, although over time, the commemorations will themselves become part of 'memories of Weston Park'.

C.10 Analysis against the Criteria

This section provides a brief analysis of the evidence presented in relation to indicators of each value and thresholds of significance.

No indicators for either aesthetic or social value have been established under the Heritage Act. Indicators used in previous assessments and that offer a widely accepted basis for assessment will therefore be used.

C.10.1 Social values

To define whether a place exhibits significant social values – that is if it *'is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations'* – the following indicators can be applied⁶⁵:

Important to the community as a landmark, marker or signature: this indicator is about the associations and meanings that a place may have because of its role as a landmark or signature place (icon) for a community, one that marks a community's place in the world physically and metaphorically.

Important as a reference point in a community's identity or sense of itself: this indicator is about associations and meanings that help create a sense of community identity such as places that help define community, spiritual or traditional connections between past and present, that reflect important community meanings, that are associated with events having a profound effect on a community, that symbolically represent the past in the present, or that represent attitudes, beliefs or behaviours fundamental to community identity.

Strong or special community attachment developed from use and/or association: this indicator is designed to recognise that a place that provides an essential community function can, over time, gain strong and special attachments through longevity of use or association, especially where that place serves as a community meeting place (formally or informally).

Other factors that can be considered include the relative strength of association, the length of association and the relative importance of the place to the identified community.

The evidence required to establish social significance is that the place is recognised and valued by an identifiable community or cultural group, and that their associations with the place and the social, cultural or spiritual values arising from this association are able to be documented and assessed against the criterion using agreed indicators.

Based on the evidence presented, it is concluded that Weston Park has very high social significance:

For the Canberra community, Weston Park is:

- A much loved and popular park, valued for its landscape character, openness and tranquillity.
- A familiar place enjoyed by families and social groups over many years, with people revisiting the park repeatedly.
- A place that evokes memories of childhood and imaginative play in a lakeside setting.

- A place chosen for special occasions because of its meanings and memories.

For some Canberra people, and particularly for local residents and very strongly for Nursery staff, Weston Park provides:

- A powerful and evocative connection to the creation of Canberra's integrated street landscape and suburban gardens.

For Canberra people, their long association with Weston Park now crosses several generations, building a wealth of memories – individual, family and community – and it is this quality that comes through most strongly from all of the data.

Pipitone⁶⁶ notes Weston Park as one of 11 places around Lake Burley Griffin that is helping build 'Canberra's developing sense of identity'. From the present project, it appears that Weston Park connects to particular aspects to this sense of identity – to family and community, to childhood and imagination, and to space and freedom apart from the nearby city.

The development of several memorials in Weston Park appears to be another indicator of a sense of community connection to this park, and one that will be enhanced and changed by the expressions of commemoration that accompany the ongoing presence of these memorials.

For those with a deeper and daily connection to Weston Park, as evident in the discussion group held with Nursery staff, those who have helped create and care for Weston Park and the Nursery have a very deeply felt connection to this place and a strong sense of pride in what has been achieved; it is an important reference point in their sense of collective identity. Recognising the many people who have trained here and connections with the wider landscape/horticulture industry, it seems likely that these values are shared beyond this group.

C.10.2 Community-Held Aesthetic Values

To define whether a place exhibits significant aesthetic values – that is if it '*exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group*' – the following indicators can be applied⁶⁷:

- The place or attributes within it creates **profound emotional response** in communities and individuals associated with the place (e.g. inspirational, awe inspiring, majestic, fearful, peaceful, tranquil, mysterious).
- Aesthetic response is **evidenced action, creative response or community attitudes** about the place.
- The place contains **outstanding landforms or compositional qualities** (e.g. combinations of colour, form, texture, movement; particular design features) can be identified through community or professional assessment as the source, or sources, of aesthetic response.

The assessment should demonstrate the particular *aesthetic qualities* exhibited by the place, and that these particular qualities are *valued* by a community or cultural group. *Valued* means appreciated, respected, esteemed, treasured, (etc).

Other factors which may be taken into account include:

- the strength and nature of aesthetic response;
- the extent to which the aesthetic response is special or particular to this place;

- the breadth of the aesthetic response (e.g. is aesthetic response shared across individuals and communities? is there consistency in the values held across the range of cultural groups?); and
- the extent of recognition of the place for its aesthetic characteristics across geographic and cultural boundaries.

Other factors which might be considered include longevity of aesthetic response for particular communities or cultural groups.

Based on the evidence presented, it is concluded that Weston Park has aesthetic qualities valued by the Canberra community. The aesthetic qualities that are particularly appreciated are:

- its peninsula setting surrounded by the lake, with the availability of views of water from throughout the park;
- its tranquillity, created by a combination of the peninsula form, the nature of the uses and the closeness to water and large trees; and
- its living landscape qualities, with the aesthetic qualities of seasonal change and growth, enhanced by the proximity of the Nursery with its own internal changing landscape.

These values are also strongly held by the local community and Nursery staff, with both of these groups having a closer and more frequent connection with the park than would be expected for Canberra residents as a whole.

These values appear to have considerable longevity, reflecting the place of Weston Park as the first park developed on the newly created Lake Burley Griffin; its design, location and facilities which have attracted families since the beginning; and its range of informal uses enabling an appreciation of the place itself.

The evidence of these values is derived from the multiple data sets considered above.

In terms of 'outstanding design', there was limited evidence that this is seen as an aesthetic quality that applies to Weston Park. Rather, Weston Park is characterised by its informality, and horticulturally-planned tree groups, and is seen as 'natural' rather than as a designed landscape.

C.10.3 Criterion D (Social)

Weston Park is a much loved and popular park, used for over 50 years. It has and continues to host many family and community events that both express and build a strong sense of connection to this place across the Canberra community, and similarly for the local Yarralumla community.

Weston Park represents an aspect of community identity that is connected to family and community. Weston Park is very much a place where people go with family, friends and colleagues to relax, enjoy the outdoors and each other's company. The train and the play equipment are the only 'attractors' within the park, and they are quite low key.

Weston Park is valued as a place chosen for special personal and family events (as well as larger community events) where meanings and memories are important (eg weddings, birthdays, commemorative events). It is an important and often chosen gathering place.

For Nursery staff, Yarralumla Nursery and other parts of Weston Park, represents the work of generations of staff in helping create Canberra's landscape. It contributes to a strong sense of shared identity and pride.

Attributes

Play as a use, an activity and an area within the park, as well as the specific play features that evoke memories (with the loss of several much loved play features mentioned often).

Built and landscape elements that form part of Yarralumla Nursery (see above) and that are important for their meanings and associations for Nursery staff.

Large and specific trees.

For particular individuals, parts of the park may have specific meanings, associations and memories.

C.11 Analysis of Social & Community Aesthetic Values

C.11.1 Presentation of the analysis

The results of the surveys carried out with park user groups and Yarralumla residents are presented below. The analysis is divided into three sections as follows:

The first section provides baseline data collected in the Yarralumla residents survey, and includes information on how often residents visit Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery, and why.

The second section provides baseline data collected in the park user groups survey, and includes information on the type of organisations that use the facilities, and the nature of use.

The third section summarises the values attributed to Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery by both Yarralumla residents and park user groups, and combines the data sets of both surveys.

C.11.2 Yarralumla residents: Baseline Data

The following responses are from the Yarralumla residents survey only.

Respondents who are residents of Yarralumla

Yes	No
38	0

If respondent answered No the survey concluded

Residents who are members of Yarralumla Residents Association

Yes	No
36 94.7%	2 5.3%

Note: Of these 38 respondents, only 34 completed the survey.

Residents: Frequency of visits to Weston Park

Frequency	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
Once a year (or less)	2	3
Quarterly / 4 times a year	10	15
Monthly / 10-12 times a year	8	16
Every week or fortnight (26-52 times a year)	8	2

Frequency	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
Other (please specify)	<i>Note: Some of these respondents did not indicate whether they were referring to Western park or Yarralumla Nursery, so have been included in Weston Park list.</i>	
6 times a year	1	
More than weekly	4	
Daily	4	
Hobday's Cottage occasionally for a lunch or a coffee		1
Oaks Brasserie		2
SIEVX Memorial	1	

Residents: Length of time respondents have been visiting Weston Park

Frequency	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
1-5 years	5	4
5-10 years	2	3
10-20 years	10	11 (38%)
More than 20 years	19 (51%)	11 (38%)
All my life	1	0
Total	37	29

Residents: Reasons for visiting Weston Park

Reason

Family celebrations. With children, grandchildren. Summer evening picnics with husband. Some rowing events-near the tree house site.

Walk the dog along the bike track on a regular basis,

It is a very peaceful, green and clean space. We walk in this space for not only physical health, but also for the enormous benefits it delivers for one's psychological wellbeing. The solitude of this area is a rare commodity, even in Canberra and it needs to remain pristine in order to fully reap health benefits.

Relaxing , peaceful & quiet walks

Walking, meeting friends, buying plants

It has the ability to assist with lowering the stress levels, the surrounds are just beautiful, and one feels that for a little while we can forget the rush and bustle of the city and life.

to walk, enjoy the views, show visitors the SIEV X monument

Kangaroos

for BBQs, I used to enjoy taking the children there before they destroyed all the great play equipment, birthday parties, bike rides, school fund raisers, walks,

beautiful setting

It's a lovely place to walk so close to home

The Grandchildren appreciate their areas

Reason

Exercise in a pleasant open area in an attractive and quiet setting

to visit SIEV X memorial; to enjoy the trees, to have a picnic with family

To buy plants at both nurseries

To entertain my grand daughter when she is in town at the play area

Went a lot more often to that actual Park when my own kids were little

It is a simple, natural area great for a walk or a picnic on your own or with family.

Picnics/BBQs, to spend quiet time by the lake.

walks, watch rowing, take visitors, family meetings/bbqs.

PEACE and QUIET

walking

Walking, flora and fauna, picnics, Easter egg rolling, to visit the SIEV X Memorial

Visiting the nurseries.

Coffee at the cafe.

Dog walking in the new dog enclosure

Walking around the lake

Walk in the park

to enjoy the park - see the lake, feel the wind, look out for wildlife, see what other people are around, watch children play, sketch

I go walking there

Coffee shop, nursery and for exercise

Picnic/BBQ, play with our children on the play equipment, explore with the children, cycle, walk, swim, boating

Walk

Cycle

Coffee

Nature

Nursery

To play at the 'digger' playground, to cycle, to swim, to pick blackberries, to go to the nurseries, to walk and picnic or barbecue, to pick fruit from the trees near the nursery, to collect firewood, and more including stops while canoeing.

Kids recreation area - picnics

Exercise, recreation, see the kangaroos with international visitors. Visit the SIEV-X memorial and show to others. Also go to WP for peace and quiet in many isolated spots.

It is nearby and I enjoy seeing the birds, Kangaroos and the Lake.

pleasant walk, close to the lake

I walk through Weston Park as part of my fitness/recreation routine.

For recreation and exercise

C.11.3 Park user groups: Baseline data

The following response sets are from the park user groups survey only.

Park user groups: Organisations that use the following places

Place	Yes	No	No response	Total
Weston Park	10 (91%)	1 (8%)	0	11
Yarralumla Nursery	5 (46%)	3 (27%)	3 (27%)	11
Lake Burley Griffin adjoining Weston Park/Yarralumla Nursery	4 (36.5%)	3 (27%)	4 (36.5%)	11

Note: Some respondents indicated 'Yes' to one or two places, but not 'No' to the others.

Park user groups: Organisation type

Type of organisation	Number
School	
Arts	1
Sports	6
Tourism	
Business/commercial operator	
Social welfare	
Government	
Heritage/conservation/environment	1
Other (please specify)	1 - Civil celebrant 1 - Self support group 1 - SIEV X Memorial Project
Total	11

Park user groups: Uses of Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery

Use/activities/events	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
Organised 'club' events	6	1
Organised 'public' events	4	1
Informal training	2	2
Social gatherings	3	
Other (please specify)	1 - Weddings 2 - Memorial Ceremonies 1 - Outdoor painting venues 1 - SIEV X nationwide memorial project	1 - Purchasing plant related supplies 1 - Storing bonsai and growing plants for the National Arboretum Canberra

Park user groups: Events held by organisations that are open to or designed to attract the public

Name of event	Date or Month held	Organisation
Lake Burley Griffin Racewalking Carnival	June	ACT Walkers
Women and girls Jogalong	1 st Sunday of every month except April	ACT Cross Country Club
Triathlon	October	Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team
Swims	November	Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team
Spectating for rowing regattas	Year round – winter & summer regattas	Rowing ACT
Rigging and boat storage for rowing regattas	February, March, May, October	Rowing ACT
Cross Country running events	weekly	ACT Cross Country Club
Local Canberra Refugee Action Centre annual event	Annual	Local Canberra Refugee Action Centre
ACT Cross Country Running Championships	July	Athletics ACT

Park user groups: Frequency of use of Weston Park and/or Yarralumla Nursery

Frequency	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
Once a year (or less)	2	
Quarterly / 4 times a year	3	3
Monthly / 10-12 times a year	1	
Every week or fortnight (26-52 times a year)	2	1
Other (please specify)	1 – twice a year 1 – N/A (SIEVX Memorial)	

Park user groups: Reasons why they use Weston Park or Yarralumla Nursery rather than another location

Primary reason	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
Convenience	8	2
Specific facilities	6 (1 respondent specified toilets)	3
Used it for a long time	6	3
Close to home for our members	3	1
Easy access & parking	8	2
Habit		
Other (please specify)	People choose for ceremonies because it is beautiful and has meaning for them. Change from other venues and venues being lost because of development.	

Primary reason	Weston Park	Yarralumla Nursery
	Proximity to staging area for Triathlons at Yarralumla Bay.	
	Adjacent location to rowing course.	
	Because we have our children's memorial seat there.	
	Large variety of landscape subjects.	Specific focus on native species of local region.
	<p>SIEVX Memorial: Canberra is the National Capital – and it is a national issue and related to the policies of the national govt – the issue was on the nation's conscience – so we wanted the memorial to be in the national capital and to be in the public eye – in a public place.</p> <p>The poles come from all over the country – came in from everywhere in cars and truck – so coming to the national capital was symbolic for all those who contributed.</p> <p>The winning design involved the poles emerging from a body of water – like the spirits of people finally arriving to the land – so it needed a setting with water (the final installation will have poles partly in the water)</p> <p>LBG is the national lake so here was better than any other lakes in Canberra</p> <p>It was a redeeming action to build it – strong Christian focus amongst many who contributed. There was the need to confront the dark side.</p> <p>In Canberra, memorials of civilian nature have to be on the southern side of the lake. Weston Park offered a restful place – other places had too much traffic and did not offer that reflective spirit that was needed for the memorial. Here there is a sense of peace – it is a beautiful location – and the form of the sculpture points to Parliament House so there is also that symbolic element in the siting of the memorial.</p>	

Park user groups: Additional comments

Park user groups: Comments

We need a traffic free course close to Lake Burley Griffin and have not found any other suitable venues (PUG 10 ACT Walkers)

Park user groups: Comments

As the jogalong is run by the ACT cross country club (ACTCCC), Weston Park offers both off road and asphalt track to run on. It also offers shade whilst running, and cooling breeze from the lake.

It is a beautiful park and appears well used by the general public. We get around 200 joggers and associated people when we hold our event every month. (PUG 8 ACT Cross Country Club Inc)

Although the finish area near Lady Denman Drive is well-known as a viewing area for regattas, many of our regattas finish near Pescott Lane (Masters regattas, sprint regattas, Col Porton Marathon). Because of traffic congestion we will increasingly use Weston Park as our principal regatta venue. Roads ACT want us to adopt Weston Park as our boat rigging and regatta venue. (PUG 6 Rowing ACT)

Our seat is in a beautiful setting in the middle of a stand of eucalypts. At memorial ceremonies each bereaved parent chooses a tree and places a flower at the foot of it in memory of their child who has died. This can be a profound experience. The seat and its setting both form a very special part of our organisation. Some members live a long way from the grave of their child, or there is no grave. In these cases the seat and setting can form a substitute, and provide quite a spiritual place.

On a more prosaic note, the picnic table and benches located near to the seat are very useful when we have a shared breakfast/meal (notwithstanding the fact that they are in poor repair).

A note about whether our activities are open to the public. Because of the nature of our organisation (a self-support group of bereaved parents – also bereaved siblings and grandparents) our activities tend to be 'in-house'. However, any bereaved parent would be welcome to attend any function held there.

Regular events:

The Compassionate Friends International Children's Memorial Day, held on the closest Sunday to 28 January

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle lighting ceremony held on the second Sunday in December

A gathering for a shared morning coffee on Mothers' Day

As well as shared experiences, the seat and surrounds are used by individuals or friends for private reflection – perhaps on anniversaries of the death of a child or other special days. Naturally we have no record of the frequency of this.

(PUG 5 The Compassionate Friends ACT and Queanbeyan)

My Club conducts cross country running events in Weston Park/ rear of nursery. We can run off road on terrain that is typical cross country. We can get courses up to 4km without crossing roads. (PUG 4 ACT Cross Country Club Inc)

SIEV X Memorial: Much of what happens at the memorials involves each of the schools that have a connection to the memorial. So 3 schools might go there each week – the schools that made the pole go but others go as well – as part of their study of asylum seeking issues that schools do today. These are schools from across Australia. Mainly secondary schools.

It's also a good spot with fresh air and open spaces – so a contrast for students who have been in Canberra visiting the cultural institutions.

Other people go there as well – people visiting from overseas – especially people with a cultural connection to the event and asylum seeker issues (Middle Eastern, Iraqi and Afghan peoples)

Also for people with relatives who drowned – it's the closest thing to a grave that there is. So survivors and families with close associations visit. (PUG 11 SIEV X Memorial Committee)

C.11.4 Values of Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery

The following data sets combine responses received from both the Yarralumla residents survey and the park user groups survey.

Why Weston Park/Yarralumla Nursery is important

Note: Some park user group survey participants did not respond to all Statements.

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	TOTAL
Weston Park offers magnificent views of the lake.							

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	TOTAL
<i>Park user groups</i>	8 89%	1 11%					9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	27 79%	7 21%					34
Weston Park is popular and well-loved by Canberra people.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	6 67%	2 22%				1 11%	9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	23 68%	10 29%				1 3%	34
Weston Park evokes important memories.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	4 50%	3 37.5%	1 12.5%				8
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	20 59%	11 32%	3 9%				34
Yarralumla Nursery is important as the source of Canberra's trees.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	4 44.5%	4 44.5%				1 11%	9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	20 59%	11 32%	3 9%				34
Weston Park has long been a favourite children's play area: playground, maze, tree forts, miniature railway.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	6 60%	3 30%	1 10%				10
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	20 59%	11 32%	2 6%			1 3%	34
Yarralumla Nursery is a hidden treasure.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	4 45%	1 11%	3 33%			1 11%	9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	14 41%	15 44%	4 12%	1 3%			34
Weston Park is located on the most beautiful stretch of Lake Burley Griffin.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	4 40%	4 40%	1 10%	1 10%			10
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	15 44%	13 38%	6 18%				34
The tranquillity of Weston Park makes it ideal for commemorations, memorials and quiet reflection.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	3 33%	4 45%	1 11%	1 11%			9

Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	TOTAL
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	14 41%	16 47%	2 6%	2 6%			34
Weston Park is a beautifully designed and landscaped park.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	1 11%	5 56%	3 33%				9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	15 44%	11 32%	8 24%				34
Weston Park is <u>the</u> place for a picnic or BBQ.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	1 11%	4 44.5%	4 44.5%				9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	16 47%	17 50%	1 3%				34
Weston Park & the Nursery are part of Canberra's history and identity.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	4 40%	6 60%					10
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	23 68%	10 29%	1 3%				34
Weston Park is a great place for larger social gatherings, community celebrations and events.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	2 22%	6 67%	1 11%				9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	9 26%	14 41%	5 15%	3 9%	2 6%	1 3%	34
Weston Park forms the backdrop to my daily life.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	1 11%	1 11%	4 45%	1 11%	2 22%		9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	11 32%	10 30%	11 32%	1 3%	1 3%		34
Weston Park is a place where you feel close to nature.							
<i>Park user groups</i>	3 33.3%	3 33.3%	2 22.2%	1 11.1%			9
<i>Yarralumla residents</i>	16 47%	16 47%	1 3%	1 3%			34

Yarralumla residents: Additional Comments

Additional, further comments provided in the Surveys in reference to the responses above:

I don't think that the access to Weston Park permits larger social gatherings and this sort of event would detract from other reasons people go to a park. The park is getting increasingly busy; it used to be a place for quiet reflection, less so these days.

Weston is not a beautifully designed and landscaped park and that is why I love it, it is a little piece of nature within the heart of Canberra - why must everything in Canberra be perfect.

What makes Weston Park and Yarralumla Nursery special (park user groups only)

Comments from the park user groups about Weston Park

The smell of the trees and the children's playing area (PUG 12)

The presence of the SIEV X Memorial (PUG 11)

Quiet location, open space with water views make it a great location for large gatherings of people. (PUG 10)

The proximity of nature and the lake, good facilities and memories built up over 50 years in Canberra. Sense of community. Lack of commercialism. Public ownership. (PUG 9)

Pergolas, good play equipment, shade from established trees, BBQ areas. (PUG 8)

Location and natural ambience (PUG 7)

Weston Park is the closest land to the rowing course. It provides the best viewing for regattas and is a landmark for rowers competing. Many important regattas have been hosted at this park, and this venue is a beautiful setting for racing and presentation ceremonies. There are good facilities and adequate space for boat racing and rigging. (PUG 6)

Easily accessible, beautiful views of Lake Burley Griffin, a large area with natural landscaping, diverse sections with parts to cater for various interests and ages of people, pleasant walks. (PUG 5)

Bush setting close to city, traffic free almost. Canberra's major recreational centre and needs to be kept like this. (PUG 4)

Its size; the variety of outlook; the recently added enclosed dog exercise area. (PUG 3)

It presents the opportunity for a connection between Weston Park, the Lindsay Pryor National Arboretum and the National Arboretum Canberra. (PUG 2)

Comments from the park user groups about Yarralumla Nursery

The sense of public ownership and continuity of providing plants for Canberra for many, many years for homes, prestigious places, public gardens. It is an integral part of Canberra's history and soul. (PUG 9)

The established plantings and adjacent Westbourne Woods are a superb backdrop to the rowing course and the lake. (PUG 6)

Although the nursery has played a significant part in the development of Canberra. If the nursery does not remain, the only use for the land is to extend Weston Park. Any other development in this area will detract from Weston Park and LBG. (PUG 4)

The focus on native species, particularly those of the local region. The competence of the staff in advising on care and maintenance of native gardens. The easy access and parking facilities. The wide variety of native plants from which to choose. (PUG 3)

The history and the close connection with the National Arboretum Canberra. (PUG 2)

Aspects or parts of Weston Park/Yarralumla Nursery that are important or special

Weston Park: Park user groups

The smell of the trees and the children's playing area (PUG 12)

Weston Park: Park user groups

SIEV X memorial

Also it is very unspoilt – there are swans and kangaroos – it is like the ‘edge of the wild’ – very restful quality. (PUG 11)

Large trees in Parkland setting. (PUG 10)

Location and natural ambience. (PUG 7)

The ambience under the blue gums near Pescott Lane is great. For big regattas, the closeness to the rowing is unique for viewing races. The large area to the north of the nursery is ideal for temporary boat storage and rigging. These boats are transported on large trailers, so that space for trailers, boats and rigging separate from spectators make this an ideal venue. (PUG 6)

My children and most children (now 35-45 years old) love the place. If Weston Park is to be developed or changed greatly, prepare for public uproar. (PUG 4)

For me, the recently added enclosed dog exercise area (PUG 3)

Yarralumla Nursery: Park user groups

The older cottages are an important part of Canberra’s history. Some of the older and established trees contribute to this history. (PUG 6)

Focus and knowledge of native plant species, particularly those from local region. (PUG 3)

The seed bank and the historic buildings and the very positive nature of the people. (PUG 2)

Yarralumla residents:**Aspects/parts of Weston Park & Yarralumla Nursery****Why they are special**

Access to water front that is natural as well as some areas that are manicured.

Bird life, waterscapes

Nature-silence, trees, The whole park in fact.

It brings joy and complete health benefits.

The Cafe

Removing oneself from the rush and bustle of city life, great old trees, plenty of shade , no noise

Wildlife

Great for Tourists -- and so close to the City

I loved the mouse house but it is gone now! And the tree houses boo hoo boo hoo

Tree's paths lake cafe

Beautiful peaceful area to both exercise and relax and totally enjoy the bush like setting

SIEV X memorial

To appreciate the plight of refugees. To realise how selfish we have become in Australia.

Kangaroos

because they are there

Large trees,

many planted by George Weston and other early arborists in Canberra

The space

because we all need to feel not constrained at times- nice to have a BIG area to move around in

The areas along the lake are special. Also the inland parts.

It is natural and unspoiled with just the right mix of manmade attractions.

picnic and bbq areas

pleasant views, facilities, open spaces, trees, lake

the little beach and BBQ areas on the eastern side

we have enjoyed many family picnics/ gatherings in this great location where kids can swim, there is lots of shade and convenient parking

Yarralumla residents: Aspects/parts of Weston Park & Yarralumla Nursery	Why they are special
Close views of the lake; animals and birds	Relaxation
Natural setting	
SIEV X Memorial	A unique and moving memorial and reminder of a shameful episode in Australia's history
Picnic area at the swimming pool area	Wonderful for family picnics and barbecues
The walking circuit around Yarralumla Nursery	It is quiet and relatively uncrowded to date. It is a natural setting. There are grand views down the lake.
lake views	the ever changing nature - colour/texture/energy - lifts my spirits
Green open space	It's as close as one can conveniently get to being in the country
Nursery	Convenience and range of stock
The train	Our children spent many happy times growing up with the train rides
Lake	sailing, water views
The SIEV X memorial	A beautiful and poignant site
The picnic grounds	Family enjoyment
Brisk walking or cycle along the road in early morning	Generally traffic-free or minimal traffic, a reflective walk or cycle along the tree-lined road
The whole Park	Open green space to enjoy walking in.
model railway for our grandchildren	now they have grown up a little, we don't use it so much, but we have passed many pleasant afternoons with them at Weston Park
The bike path which I enjoy by bike and on foot; both alone and with my daughter or friends	1. the way it changes during the seasons. 2. the glimpses of the lake. 3. proximity to bird life along it like Blue Wrens.
The bike path and its environment	There are many things to enjoy along its length, the lake view, distant hills, the bridge, the bird life.
Bike track	Dog walking and cycling
I love walking with children over the little bridges in the water area	it is a lovely contained area fabulous for exploring
The views	Peaceful when we need a quiet time
No traffic	
Model train track	Very exciting for young grandchildren al 7 of whom I have taken for rides over the years.
The train	Fond memories with my own kids
The quiet little road in to the park	You immediately feel away from other distractions
The 'tree house' beach area (we really miss the tree house)	family outings and particularly good vantage points to watch the rowing course and have rowing activities
The many safe spaces for children to play away from roads	
Kangaroos	A picturesque and important asset
Nurseries	Wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees plus friendly, knowledgeable service

Yarralumla residents: Aspects/parts of Weston Park & Yarralumla Nursery	Why they are special
feeling of space - only interrupted by a few buildings, paths etc	meditative
The lake	Water is always beautiful, and the views from the park are lovely
Coffee shop	Atmosphere
The loop road at the tip of Weston Park	picnics and quiet times looking up at Black Mountain and across the water
green space	great having a big park on our doorstep
The playground and nearby ponds and rocks	A great place to play and we cycle to get there, making it a really relaxed outing
The landscaping and playground	Family enjoyment
The park's juxtaposition to the Lake	Leads to serene setting
View near the Train turnoff- towards the water and further views, Looking to the east.	Pleasant to see.
views of the lake, trees	good for the soul
The lakeside open areas	Remembering picnics, rambles at toddler/child pace with my parents and my child. Watching water birds. My parents have since died, and my daughter has grown up.
The open areas at the lake shore.	Memories of happy times with family members, some of whom have grown up and some of whom have passed away.
Barbeque spots	socialising
taking my dog to a BBQ around the lake area as you enter the park	space, location, lake breeze, possibility of swimming in summer
the picnic areas	Great for family gatherings
SIEV X memorial	A fitting symbol of a very sad and embarrassing/terrible event in Australia's history
The play area	needs a bit of updating but still fun for my precious grand daughter
The playground area	Enjoyed by generations of children in my family
Used to love the tree house when it was there	Love my grandchild and friends to enjoy it
Bird life	
Water birds	Being close to nature
other people enjoying themselves or quietly 'being'	in many public places. people are hurrying and scurrying - a slow picture is a refreshing change
The peace	It's nice to get away from the noise of people and traffic
The whole park	For exercise, peace, space and for the views
The bicycle paths to the south of the park	Our children learnt to ride in the park
The beautiful landscape and extensive areas of mature trees.	A delightful area to walk and play and relax
The train	Family enjoyment (before this attraction became run-down)
Many quiet picnic spots	Full picnic and BBQ facility available, or just picnic under the trees without any facilities

Yarralumla residents: Aspects/parts of Weston Park & Yarralumla Nursery	Why they are special
The large trees along the dirt road/ pathway beside the train track. Think they are Elms	Gorgeous to see large, old trees.
picnic areas	
The children's playground.	Times spent there with my daughter, sometimes friends and their children too.
The children's playground.	Happy times when my daughter was young, sometimes just together, sometimes with others, friends and their children
Water front	Canoe and swimming
drinking coffee after a bike ride around the lake at the coffee shop there understaffed with bumbling teenagers!	beautiful setting, dog friendly, kid friendly, relaxed
Yarralumla Nursery	
The tree houses	Now removed for safety reasons, but I found that actually disputable, as, as far as I know, no one had been injured during use of the places.
The trees	
the headland opposite black mountain	A great sitting spot on a walk, also used with boating/ rowing with good access to the water
Views from Park towards Parliament House and Black Mountain	Connects the Park to the landscape and city
Peace and quiet	Feeling of being in a remote place when in reality just five minutes from Parliament House
potential for pleasure without spending money - lack of much commercialism - coffee shop tucked away, not central	there is enough commercialism elsewhere
The birds and animals	They are beautiful
The treehouses that used to span several trees on the western side	Many happy times exploring and climbing around the trees
The kids' beach area	Safe area, kids frolicking, generally removed from traffic
The elevated wooden walkways which used to be by the lake.	Walking up the steps and walking along them was like a magic experience for children, and by extension, the adults involved with the children.
The now demolished elevated wooden walkways which used to be down by the lake.	They provided a magic experience because of the treetop-like views they gave, which adults and children alike could enjoy.
Garden centre	Purchasing plants for my garden, information on plant care
attending the Yarralumla Primary School fun day with all the stalls and people	a great spot for a community event
the kangaroos.	All these are great for overseas visitors
The Park edge	Walking around the Park edge with the lake on one side and the peaceful park on the other is a privilege
not too neat and manicured but still with some equipment for children - space for games	different from Commonwealth Park or Botanic Gardens
The beaches	Beaching our little yacht and having picnics

Yarralumla residents: Aspects/parts of Weston Park & Yarralumla Nursery	Why they are special
SIEV X memorial	A beautiful reminder of a tragic event, and to pray for the victims of that event
The blackberry bushes dotted throughout the park.	The unexpected pleasure of finding a few ripe blackberries to enjoy, and watch the birds eating their share. I have shared this pleasure with my daughter for the last 27 years.
The blackberry bushes which used to be dotted throughout the park, and a few that still exist.	Every summer for 27 years, often with friends, and often with my daughter, I have enjoyed the simple pleasure of a few ripe blackberries, and also watched the birds as they ate their share.

Memories of Weston Park (Yarralumla residents only)

Comments from Yarralumla residents

Children's birthday parties and innumerable walks in all sorts of weathers.
Nature - the trees and animals in a peaceful non-built landscape.
Having family days there.
Kangaroos 'boxing' -- enthralled our overseas visitors
My children's birthday parties huddled in the shelters against winter wind with my friends and family
Peaceful area
Always the trees.
Before the Lake, they were a wonderful symbol of the early Canberra planners envisaged vision of a great park/ arboretum. Sadly the maintenance was allowed to lapse during the early days of ACT self government.
My own kids playing there
Watching the lake after a picnic lunch
a particularly enjoyable BBQ where I met some soon-to-be very good friends
The children's imaginative play on the tree house
Taking the children
Taking my children there at least once a month (more in holidays) when little from other side of Canberra on Saturday afternoons to play in tree house and other interesting play equipment (mouse house, etc)
Picnic and swimming across the lake to Black Mt Peninsula with my children on summer evenings
Easy access to parklands and water all through the year
Views across the water towards Government House on a fine summer morning or evening
Imagining with the children that a bear might live in the cave and then getting totally terrified when a huge Alsatian suddenly ran out of it
The fun our children had in the mouse house
The open space with so much of it free of any commercial activity and noise. No shops and only two discreet and sensible eating places
The treehouses
Teaching my son how to ride a bike there
Didn't grow up here, so it is not about memories -- it is part of our life Now.

Comments from Yarralumla residents

Feeding the swans - family bbqs

My memories are ALIVE. Don't let this super place be changed too much by any more roads. Lying under the trees with little kids as they grew up is a special memory for me.

When the children were younger playing in the Mouse House

see above

An unusually shaped gum tree (beside the bike path) which my mother used to like hugging every time she visited us in Canberra. We always did that walk when she came. My mother has passed away, but the tree is still there, although the area is sadly neglected. Now, when I see that tree, I remember how fond of it my mother was and the blissful smile she wore when in the presence of that tree.

A tree by the bike path which my mother loved. She used to stroke it and she liked to sit on it too as it has an unusual shape. I pass by the tree several times a week, and always remember how her face used to light up in its presence. My mother has passed away, but the tree is still there, although its surroundings are sadly neglected these days.

Other groups or people that are likely to value Weston Park for the same reasons (Yarralumla residents only)

Others who are likely to value Weston Park for the same reasons

Other residents, and residents of nearby suburbs. Some visitors. Cyclists who care to stop.

Visitors from other suburbs and non Canberrans.

Anyone who has visited there, I know many people outside of Yarralumla who visit it during the weekend for family picnics etc

Visitors to Canberra

most people who have been there!

All Canberra residents and visitors to Canberra

Over seas visitors

Most people who have been there

People who value the above

Residents of all over Canberra, as well as visitors from overseas, including people who work in Embassies and High Commissions

Residents from all parts of Canberra. And visitors from Sydney and other large cities

My children and many rowers and most families who have grown up in Canberra, especially on the south side

All of Canberra who are confined by urban infill/densification. Putting humans in little boxes is BAD psychology.

Families

Families picnicking, bbqing or just enjoying a few hours wandering around and using the play equipment and train, walkers, kayakers.

Those who value the uncrowded space in the centre of Canberra; those who value informal landscaping, nature and quiet family recreation

Families, small groups, individuals

My wife and children. My neighbours

Tourists - especially school groups visiting Canberra

The increasing number of people who cycle round the lake

A lot of the Yarralumla residents, and countless families from around Canberra.

Others who are likely to value Weston Park for the same reasons

Nobody, otherwise they would be using it at present

The residents of Yarralumla

Older residents

People with young children

Many Canberra residents and especially those that live close by

All of Canberra should be protective of this park.

Anyone who takes the time to wander across or along the park cannot help but appreciate its special pleasantness

Visitors and children

I'm sure many families with young children do so

Canberra families who enjoy exercise, social gatherings with families and friends in all its beautiful places. Also the individuals who go there to enjoy its beauty and for exercise, the groups of amateur painters who go there in groups to paint its beautiful scenery. Cyclists, bird watchers, dog owners, and Canberrans who want to show visitors how very special Canberra can be.

What needs to be done to protect the special qualities or parts of Weston Park

Survey No.	Response
Park user group 11	The toilets are poor standard and unclean – more/better toilets would be good. For our larger events we have brought in 'super-loos' but for smaller events and individual visitors, better toilets would be good. Better signage – present signs are very ad hoc and very commercial. There is a need for more uniform and informative signage, easier to read, and easier to use to find one's way around. A sign before you enter the park (at the T intersection) that points into the park and tells you what is there would be helpful.
Park user group 10	Staged replacement of trees to maintain parkland setting. Concentrate developed areas to nodes allowing most of park to remain open.
Park user groups 9	Make sure it is never taken over for commercial activities, or swallowed by Floriade. Weston Park would be greatly enhanced by an all weather publically owned venue with seating which could be used for all types of ceremonies. It needs to be non-religious and in keeping with its environment. I believe this would be very popular and become a beloved part of Canberra for many people. Celebrants should be consulted about its design and facilities.
Park user group 7	It has been well managed, so continue with same practices.
Park user group 6	The area to the immediate north of the Nursery needs to be identified as a rowing regatta venue. Future development must be compatible with this function. The possibility of permanent rowing facilities at this venue should be explored. Older cottages and immediate surrounds to have heritage listing and protection.
Park user group 5	Good park management
Park user group 4	Weston Park needs plenty of TLC and regular maintenance. Weston Park and the Nursery area go hand in hand. If the Nursery is no longer a requirement then that land now comprising the Nursery or nurseries can only become further parkland and incorporated into Weston Park. I know your survey does not seek info on LBG, however, any developments/works on the foreshores affect the Lake in numerous ways e.g. pollution, storm water.
Park user group 3	Maintain staff trained in nature species of the region.
Park user group 2	Funds allocated to the seed bank and building preservation.

Survey No.	Response
Australian Garden History Society	<p>AGHS has particular concerns about the preservation of the heritage significance of the Park, the English Garden and the Yarralumla Nursery and we have confined our comments in this questionnaire to these concerns.</p> <p>An area of particular concern to the AGHS is the English Garden ... Recently the AGHS, with the assistance of grants from the ACT Government, undertook a condition assessment of the English Garden and also produced an interpretation pamphlet and signage. The Condition Report provides an individual assessment of some 100 trees and concludes that there needs to be an intensive campaign of management and some replacement. The new pamphlet and signage were launched by the Chief Minister in April 2009. At this launch the Chief Minister announced that the ACT Government was earmarking funds to be spent on refurbishment of the English Garden and subsequently the AGHS provided its views to the Chief Minister on how the money should be spent. (PUG 1)</p> <p>AGHS has concerns in relation to maintaining the heritage values of Weston Park. In December 2008 we made the following comments on a draft master plan for Weston Park:</p> <p>'We note and welcome the reference to the identification and prioritisation of 'all sites that will require a Conservation Management Plan which will ensure the heritage significance and values are maintained and enhanced.' While Conservation Management Plans are an important mechanism for maintaining heritage values, we believe that concern for these values needs to be integrated throughout the whole of the Master Plan. In particular we would like to see acknowledgement in the Plan of the principle that any new structures and plantings need to be sensitive to, and not detract from, the existing heritage plantings in the Park.'</p> <p>AGHS would like to see the Yarralumla Nursery and its records (card index, ledgers, files and herbarium boxes) listed on the ACT heritage Register.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Keeping the balance between natural landscape and manicured landscape. Restricting the number of vehicles. If people really want to appreciate the natural beauty then they should be prepared to walk, cycle or catch a bus to the park. Canberra is well endowed with open spaces. Weston Park should not aim to be THE park that everyone focuses on. Commonwealth Park could well be the more event related venue; it is more accessible.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>NO built additions nor development. Protect the tranquillity of the park.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Money of course, and more employed people to maintain its beauty</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>watch out for private developments that will restrict the freedom of the setting, maintain the existing structures and play equipment instead of removing it as too 'dangerous'</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>An understanding from government and developers that this park must be retained due to the obvious development of units etc that are required in the inner areas of Canberra to allow the growth of our city. Population dense developments require open spaces near them to allow residents access to the outdoors which in turn keeps them physically and mentally healthy.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Regular maintenance</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Please leave it the way it is - don't fiddle with it. Why do we always have to have upgrades?</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Good roads to enable cars to access viewing areas - so that older people, who have fond memories of Weston Park, but who are too infirm to walk very far can see the wonderful vistas and wildlife.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Keep it essentially the way it is. Occasional police patrols, especially at night.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Careful control of traffic....limit speed drastically to make it children and pedestrian friendly. Maintain the vegetation, particularly the trees and renew the beach areas...kids love sand and water. Reconsider the tree houses and other adventure play opportunities. Provide seating and access to views etc to aged and disabled</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>NO encroachment; good maintenance.</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Leave it as natural as possible while providing up-to-date toilet and barbecue areas</p>
Yarralumla Resident	<p>Leave it as it is, apart from updating play equipment, looking after trees, mowing grass and enhancing landscape around train. Leave the train in Weston Park and work with the owner.</p>

Survey No.	Response
Yarralumla Resident	Retain the majority of the Park as undeveloped open space. Keep higher density attractions together and in well defined areas that do not impinge on the less developed and quieter parts. Retain the unique and special SIEV X Memorial
Yarralumla Resident	Remove some of the barriers along the roadside to open up more access to vehicles at a few more places in the Park with a view to spreading people around the park a little more.
Yarralumla Resident	Control and hopefully minimise the car traffic. Prevent car vandals from damaging the park with wheel spins and other intrusion through unauthorised entry.
Yarralumla Resident	Limit commercial developments, structures, tarmac paths; protect lake views; keep the undeveloped feel eg. no green lawns. Do not enclose parts of it for 'events' as for Floriade or require bookings for groups of less than say 100 people
Yarralumla Resident	It should be left the way it is. It needs no artificial enhancement. It's OK to have occasional large community gatherings, but most users are individuals or families who come to enjoy the fresh air, peace, views, and open space, features that are disturbed by large gatherings. A noise barrier on the big road below the Black Mountain would perhaps reduce the level of traffic noise at the north end of the park.
Yarralumla Resident	LEAVE IT ALONE; KEEP YOUR PLANNERS' HANDS OFF IT
Yarralumla Resident	No excessive development or road/traffic increases
Yarralumla Resident	Traffic control - we noted that hooning decreased when the night time boom gate went in some years back
Yarralumla Resident	Very little, just avoid too much change and interference.
Yarralumla Resident	Get rid of the SIEV memorial - this is just a Stanhope Government self-indulgence.
Yarralumla Resident	Keep traffic as it is, certainly no more roads to be built. Even the gravel roads are a special feature that should be kept. It is great that cars are kept out after dark. This has meant less hooning, and less rubbish on the roadside.
Yarralumla Resident	Maintain it and protect it.
Yarralumla Resident	eternal vigilance
Yarralumla Resident	Its beauty must be preserved, for all the wholesome, healthy activities it encourages people to enjoy. Care must be taken to preserve the vision of the early planners like Lindsay Pryor. It must be maintained and trees must be replaced and neglected areas restored; untidy areas strewn with fallen branches should be cleaned up and native shrubs should be planted so that small native birds can flourish.
Yarralumla Resident	it is a great place for family and community events, let us keep it like this and celebrate it.
Yarralumla Resident	I am not opposed to having cafe's etc being developed in the Park. In fact its time that the government developed European style cafe/restaurants along the lakes shorelines
Yarralumla Resident	Look after it'
Yarralumla Resident	Yes, keep the gates shut and the hoons out after hours so they don't drive their vehicles all over the grass
Yarralumla Resident	Do not spoil the vistas.
Yarralumla Resident	Please no BIG structures or BIG events; keep it to family, school, and small community events.
Yarralumla Resident	Improve maintenance and quality of facilities eg picnic areas, play equipment etc. Keep swimming beaches clean, maintained, topped up with sand, weeds removed. Irrigate grass at selected informal picnic areas. Mow grass more frequently to improve waking experience, construct a low maintenance unpaved walking path around the lake edge. Improve frequency of ranger visits to prevent dogs being brought into the Park (this problem will increase with the new adjacent dog exercise area).

Survey No.	Response
Yarralumla Resident	Consider allowing dogs on leashes in the Park and provide dog poop scoopers, plastic bag dispensers and disposal bins. This service is very common in Europe and in North America. More people would use the park if they could walk there with their dogs. This will become even more important if a walking/cycling track is made throughout the Park.
Yarralumla Resident	Yarralumla Nursery is careless about what happens to lake water after it has been used in the Nursery. Surplus water is discharged back to the lake by ramshackle drains which can overflow and obstruct the walking path. The unsightly two rowing coach catamarans that have been moored in Nursery Bay for more than 12 months should be returned to the responsible boat club, or otherwise removed. The park is not the dumping ground for surplus equipment which the rowing clubs can't look after. Tree and bush cutting contractors should clear up after themselves in a reasonable period of time. Frequently cleared timber and brush is left on the ground, often making it difficult or impossible to mow the grass in the area.
Yarralumla Resident	I think Weston Park would be better protected if it was a bit more used and therefore loved - so the facilities do need upgrading a bit - a good path for wheelchair users, more benches for the infirm, provide new unique equipment for children and teens (different from the usual plastic stuff – eg. the 'mouse house' and the tree houses)
Yarralumla Resident	Contradicting myself (!), a smooth wheelchair friendly footpath around the lake shore would be of benefit to the very old and the very young. The road is too busy for safe walking, wheelchairs, and children on bicycles.
Yarralumla Resident	The original concept and execution was perfect; leave it alone!!!
Yarralumla Resident	Major facilities should be kept out of WP. The occasional big picnic and associated concerts are terrific, but hopefully never on a regular basis.
Yarralumla Resident	Keep Weston Park available for all people. Stop cars at the entrance and have it as a walking/cycling area only.
Yarralumla Resident	I would like the wishes of the ordinary citizens of Canberra to be respected. Places like Weston Park promote simple, civilized, healthy forms of recreation; gatherings among friends and family groups for picnics and barbecues in beautiful surroundings, Individuals and groups go there to exercise or just to enjoy nature, to relax and perhaps to think about problems and get them into perspective.

C.12 Issues arising from social & community-held aesthetic values

C.12.1 General discussion

The following issues have identified from the stakeholder consultation, and in particular from the park user group and Yarralumla resident surveys, and the focus group.

Overall, the park is loved as it is. Many people expressed concern about the lack of recognition and protection of its heritage attributes and were concerned about change for the sake of change. The history and heritage values of the park need to be brought to the fore, with recognition of the vision of Canberra's planners and the horticultural achievements evident in Weston Park and throughout Canberra.

There is concern that the 2009 Weston Park Master Plan did not adequately consider the heritage values of Weston Park and the Nursery, and that the CMP and Master Plan need to be integrated to ensure that heritage protection policies and actions are undertaken.

The quality of the park as an informal and 'undeveloped' place is highly valued. Generally, there does not appear to be support for hardening of surfaces, greening of lawns, more structure and formality in the design. Improving the overall maintenance level was widely desired, but without changing the informal character of the park or making it into a highly manicured space.

The lake edge is important at Weston Park, and one response suggested the refurbishment of the edge while also retaining the 'original lake-rim treeline designed by Weston and Scrivener'. The water quality in the lake is also important and there is seen to be a need to ensure that the park and the Nursery do not impact adversely on the lake in terms of water quality and drainage.

Weston Park has had access to highly skilled horticultural staff through the Nursery. A continuing high level of horticultural input is essential if Weston Park is to conserve its horticultural heritage

Views are important in Weston Park and there is a desire that they be retained and not be cluttered or blocked. More seats, especially at viewing points were mentioned in a number of responses.

There is support for upgrading of some facilities, with toilets and barbeque areas identified as needing improvement. Better design and planting around the popular picnic and barbeque areas was suggested as a way of enabling increased use without groups impacting on each other.

Signs are inconsistent and unclear and not all features are sign-posted; there is a need for signs of consistent design and easier to use to find one's way around.

The play areas are highly valued, and retention of the current facilities is strongly desired. There is also a desire for the return of more creative/imaginative play spaces as these are some of the valued attributes of the tree houses and mouse house. There is a concern that the need for safety in play areas means a loss of opportunities for children to use their imaginations in their play. The retention of the train, a much loved attraction, was well supported.

The beaches are valued spaces and are seen as needing more maintenance and regular sand top-ups.

Traffic and the management of vehicles within the park is an issue. Reduction in vehicle speeds is desired, along with a little more parking and easier access to some good viewing spots by car to meet the needs of elderly people unable to walk far.

Additional mowing would enable more use of some areas for walking 'mown paths', and a gravel walking path along the lake edge is seen as another opportunity to improve access to walking.

New development, if it is to occur, should be within nodes and be clustered so as to retain the park as an open, spacious landscape and should reduce impacts on the horticultural values of the landscape.

There is concern about any increase in the scale of events held here, with the risk seen as reducing the tranquil qualities of the park. The events that are currently held there seem to be well-accepted, low impact and very popular.

The use of the park for the current range of community events is generally supported as long as the overall experience of the park remains as a spacious, open area able to be used by families and smaller groups as these are seen as the primary park uses.

Within the Nursery, there is seen to be a need to recognise and protect the heritage values of the buildings, other structures, plantings and internal gardens. The records and the seed bank are very important and a project is proposed to copy and safeguard these records. Continuing the program of seed collecting and use is a vital concern.

Improving community awareness of the history of the Nursery and the Park as a whole is desired, and opportunities for the public to visit the 'Government Nursery' area more often was suggested as one way of achieving this. Recording the 'stories' of the Nursery is an important priority, as is ensuring that the technical skills built up there continue to be passed on. The Nursery needs to remain a place of horticultural excellence.

A specific proposal was the restoration of the display house and reconstruction of its internal display which included a water feature based on the shape of Lake Burley Griffin. There is also a desire for a

new conservatory to be built, as an alternative to the conservation of the display house. The location proposed in the past is to the north of the Nursery and south of the train; some preparatory plantings of oaks were undertaken by Peter Sutton some years ago with this in mind.

Based on AGHS survey of trees in the English Garden, there is a need for an 'intensive campaign of management and some replacement is needed'.

Some park user groups have proposals designed to improve the facilities available for their uses. Those mentioned in the various responses include:

- An all-weather public venue with seating is desired for special ceremonies such as weddings.
- A rowing regatta venue in the area immediately north of the Nursery is proposed. The scope of this proposal is not defined but appears to allow multiple use of the area, possibility with permanent rowing facilities in this location.

Others have also suggested possible extensions of current activities including:

- Allowing dogs on a leash in the Park.

C.13 Policies

This section provides policies designed to recognise and safeguard social and community-held aesthetic values. These policies have been integrated with the general management policies for Weston Park in the main CMP report.

The conservation and management of the social and community-held aesthetic values of Weston Park as a whole requires policies designed to:

- retain the overall landscape qualities described as 'spacious', open and tranquil;
- retain the informal, undeveloped and natural qualities of the landscape;
- retain areas suited to quiet reflection;
- retain informal leisure and recreation as the primary uses including:
 - as a place for family and social gatherings
 - as a place for play
 - as a place for informal leisure (walking, viewing, art etc)
 - as a place for special occasions – for family celebrations (including weddings) and commemorations – so long as these respect the overall valued landscape qualities and do not adversely impact on other uses and users
- continue allowing larger community events and activities, with careful monitoring to ensure that these do not impact on the quiet enjoyment of the park for its primary use;
- ensure that changes to the scale, frequency and type of larger community activities and events would require a heritage impact assessment that included impacts on social and community-held aesthetic values;
- retain opportunities to see wildlife;