



# HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

## SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### TREE PROFILE SHEET

#### 1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 12  
Street: Mark Street  
Suburb: Hunters Hill  
Post Code: 2110  
GPS Co ordinates : northing 6255120.961, easting 27542.107



#### 2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig

Public or Private Type: Private  
Group or Individual: Individual  
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 25.09.2014

#### 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With highly impressive sculptural form, extensive buttressed roots and canopy spread the *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is considered to have high aesthetic significance (*aesthetic value*).

The Moreton Bay Fig may predate construction of 'Glenrosa' and be a remnant planting associated with farming practices on Mary Reiby's 'Figtree Estate' during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Fig is indicative of the historic popularity of Moreton Bay Figs during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Fig is considered to have rarity value in terms of its longevity within a residential setting (*historic value*).

The Moreton Bay Fig is believed to date from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century; an old example of the species for the Hunters Hill area (*botanic/scientific value*)

The *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is considered to have individual local significance in terms of aesthetic, historic and botanic/scientific value.

#### 4. IMAGES

IMAGE SOURCE: RTA, From the Skies, 1943





## 12 MARK STREET, HUNTERS HILL - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### 5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative  Historic  Botanical/Scientific  Ecological  Visual/Aesthetic

### 6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local  State  National

### 7. BACKGROUND

The *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is located in the rear garden area of 12 Mark Street, Hunters Hill. The subject site is listed in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan 2012 Schedule 5 (Item I227). The subject tree is also listed in the LEP (Item 284).

The small stone cottage, named 'Glenrosa', was built in 1883-4 by Carlo Cerutti a stone mason. Cerutti had previously lived in Joubert Street, Figtree Road and in Gladesville Road. The move brought Cerutti closer to the major construction of the day the nearby St Joseph's College. When it was built, 'Glenrosa' looked down over a valley of farms, orchards, dairies and piggeries.<sup>1</sup>

*Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is a large evergreen broadleaf species that is native to most of the east coast of Australia. The species was an early ornamental introduction to colonial gardens and became a major landscape element throughout much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This species remains as a significant historic and cultural element from Victorian-era planting schemes. The impressive scale and broad dense canopies of these evergreens were ideally suited to grand garden schemes. Charles Moore (Director, Sydney Botanic Gardens 1848-1896) promoted the use of Moreton Bay Figs and many other rainforest specimens throughout the mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The species was also planted in semi-rural locations for livestock shade.

The specimen Moreton Bay Fig is regarded as an outstanding example of the species. The tree has developed extensive and impressive buttress roots, some over 1 metre in height. The trees highly sculptural form provide the tree with outstanding aesthetic significance. With a height and spread over 30 metres, the tree is considered one of the largest in the Hunters Hill area (see also 2 James Street, Hunters Hill).

The original 'Glenrosa' has been extended upon over time. Notably, previous arboricultural methods have generally been sympathetically undertaken and have retained the integrity, form and overall scale of the tree.

Moreton Bay Figs potential to attain a large size and canopy spread has meant few examples of the species remain in a residential environment.

The 1943 aerial image of the area shows the Moreton Bay Fig as a prominent tree. The land surrounding 'Glenrosa' is relatively undeveloped. 'Glenrosa' appears to be the only dwelling at that time on Mark Street with a few dwellings occupying the adjacent Mary Street and John Street. It is possible the land to the west of 'Glenrosa' was still being used in 1943 for farming purposes. It is difficult to determine the exact planting time for the Moreton Bay Fig. An assessment of historic images suggests that the Fig may predate construction of 'Glenrosa' and was planted as a shade tree possibly for livestock that grazed the area during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Plan of the Municipality of Hunters Hill (1861) shows the area of land that is now Mark Street as part of Mary Reiby's, Fig Tree Farm. Didier Joubert, a merchant from Bordeaux, France, bought Mary Reiby's Figtree Farm in 1847 and over the next four decades subdivided the farm. In 1875, Didier subdivided the triangle of land bound by Gladesville Road, Augustine Street, and Ryde Road into allotments of one-eight to half acres. This triangle of land now incorporates Mark Street and 'Glenrosa'.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Don Godden & Associates (1989) *Hunters Hill Heritage Properties*, NSW