



# HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

## SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### TREE PROFILE SHEET

#### 1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 44  
Street: The Point Road  
Suburb: Woolwich  
Post Code: 2110  
GPS Co ordinates : northing 6254410.199, easting 331268.444  
northing 6254391.856, easting 331264.692



#### 2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney Blue Gum

Public or Private Type: Private  
Group or Individual: Individual x 2  
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 22.07.2014

#### 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) is considered to have high aesthetic value, having attained considerable height and canopy spread within a short period of time. The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) and *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) have group significance as important contextual elements and are supportive of the historic and aesthetic character of this garden (*aesthetic value*).

The London Plane Tree and Sydney Blue Gum are associated with Dr Frank and Dr Joan Croll, former residents of 'Kanimbla'. From the early 1970's, Dr Joan Croll was involved in the environmental campaign to protect Kelly's Bush, Hunters Hill (*historic and cultural/social/commemorative value*).

The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) and *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) are considered to have group significance at a local level in terms of aesthetic, historic and cultural/social/commemorative value.

#### 4. IMAGES



London Plane Tree (*Platanus acerifolia*)



Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*)



## 44 THE POINT ROAD, WOOLWICH - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### 5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

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

### 6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local  State  National

### 7. BACKGROUND

The *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) and *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) are located in the front garden area of 44 The Point Road, Woolwich. The site is listed in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan 2012 Schedule 5 Item 320.

The dwelling at the site, known as 'Kanimbla', dates from c.1890. The residence sits on a double block, and was originally built to face the Lane Cove River to the north. The house has been owned by the same extended family for over 100 years.<sup>1</sup>

*Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) was first listed as a cultivated species at the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, in 1828. It is noted that *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) during the 19th century was used in a broader sense to include the *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree).<sup>2</sup>

The London Plane Tree was planted by the previous owners, Frank and Joan Croll in 1958,<sup>3</sup> reputedly to commemorate their wedding. The Croll's left the property in the early 1960's only to return in 1970.<sup>4</sup>

Dr Joan Croll AO (b. 1928) is a breast physician and radiologist. From 1975 until her retirement in 1997 she was a persistent worker in the field of breast cancer, promoting the introduction of breast ultrasound and mammography. In the early 1970s, Croll's fight alongside thirteen other women (known as Battlers for Kelly's Bush Hunters Hill) to stymie a housing development on Sydney bushland led to the world's first Green Ban and the birth of urban environmentalism. Her late husband, Frank Croll, (1929-2003) was a leading consultant physician with a special interest in cardiology.

The London Plane Tree is considered an excellent example of the species for the Hunters Hill area. It has attained a considerable height and spread within a relatively short timeframe.

*Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is a tall, fast growing species predominantly occurring in wet sclerophyll forests within 120 kilometres of the coast in mostly warm humid climates. The species extends north from near Batemans Bay on the south coast of New South Wales to north of Brisbane in Queensland.

The size of the Sydney Blue Gum suggests a planting date of c.1970. The specimen tree is regarded as a good example of the species.

Sydney Blue Gum is a common cultural planting throughout Sydney however mature examples of the species are unusual in the Hunters Hill area. Native trees gained popularity during the 1940's to 1950's as gardeners began to embrace a new Australian garden style being promoted by local designers including Betty Maloney and Edna Walling. The new approach became part of a wider focus on environmental issues during the 1960's to 1970's. Since this time, numerous Eucalyptus and Corymbia species have combined with other Australian natives to create a new aesthetic layer in Hunters Hill.

The London Plane Tree and Sydney Blue Gum are important contextual elements and supportive of the historic and aesthetic character of this garden. Both trees are considered associated with Frank and Joan Croll, in particular Joan Croll and her fight in the early 1970's for Kelly's Bush and urban environmentalism. As a group, these historic elements are visually prominent in The Point Road streetscape. The front garden, including established trees, is an important streetscape item.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Holliday, L (2012), *Heritage Report for 'Kanimbla', part of Heritage Impact Statement prepared by House Plans*, unpublished report.

<sup>2</sup>Sydney Living Museums (2014), *Colonial Plant Database*, accessed 10.09.14

<sup>3</sup>Holliday, L (2012), *Heritage Report for 'Kanimbla'*

<sup>4</sup>Holliday, L (2012), *Heritage Report for 'Kanimbla'*