



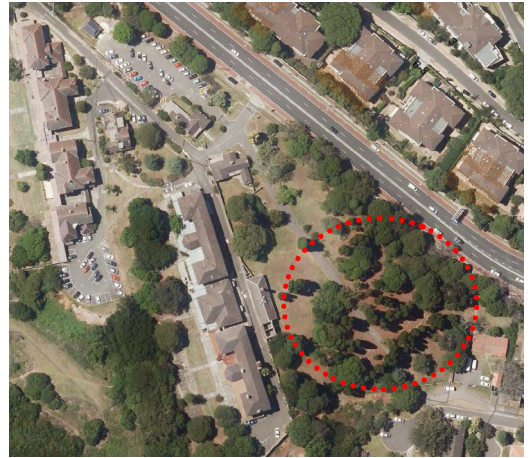
# HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

## SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### TREE PROFILE SHEET

#### 1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street: Victoria Road  
Suburb: Gladesville  
Post Code: 2111  
GPS: Co ordinates : northing 6253999.215, easting 327441.772  
Other: Located within Gladesville Hospital site



#### 2. DETAILS

##### Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>	Northern Cypress Pine
multiple specimens	

##### Contributory Items:

<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson Cypress
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Monterey Cypress
<i>Cupressus funbris</i>	Chinese Funeral Cypress
multiple specimens	

##### TREE ID:

Public or Private Type: Public–government institution  
Group or Individual: Group  
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 16.10.2014

#### 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cypress Grove, Gladesville Hospital, is historically and socially significant as tangible evidence of the former Asylum Cemetery. The grove is a physical marker of the burial ground and a poignant reminder of the graves (*historic and cultural/social/commemorative*).

A large part of the collection of trees dates from the mid-to late 19th century and reflects the thematic planting styles and various overlays of the period, particularly the influence of Charles Moore (Director, Royal Botanic Gardens 1848-1896) (*historic value*).

The historic specimens of *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine) have outstanding botanic rarity value as a rare example of the species used in a cultural landscape. The specimens are considered to have a direct association with Charles Moore and the showcasing of Australian plants to the world through their exhibition at the Paris Exhibition, 1855 (*botanic/scientific, ecological and historic values*).

The Cypress Grove makes an important visual contribution to the site and is a visual connection between the Asylum Cemetery and Gladesville Hospital (*aesthetic and historic values*).

At a group level, the Cypress Grove is considered to be one of Hunters Hill's most important cultural landscape items in terms of the unique combination of aesthetic, botanic/scientific, ecological, historic, cultural/social/commemorative values.



## GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL, GLADESVILLE - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### 4. IMAGES



### 5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

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

### 6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local  State  National

### 7. BACKGROUND

The scheduled item Cypress Grove is located on a level lawn area between the old asylum wall on the west and Victoria Road on the east. The grove, part of the former Asylum Cemetery (Gladesville Cemetery) is located adjacent to Gladesville Hospital.

The Gladesville Hospital and grounds are listed on the NSW Heritage Register (s.170 NSW State Agency Heritage Register). The precinct is of particular architectural and historical significance as the first purpose built 'lunatic asylum' in New South Wales.

The Gladesville Cemetery (Asylum Cemetery), incorporating the Cypress Grove, although a distinct part of Gladesville Hospital is located outside the stone boundary wall. Its boundary on Victoria Road is important as the most publicly exposed area of Gladesville Hospital (originally the site was seen predominately from Parramatta River).

The location of the Lunatic Asylum at Tarban Creek (later called Gladesville Hospital) was idyllic, on a ridge above a valley sloping down to the Parramatta River, with Tarban Creek on the adjacent side.

The earliest reference to the Gladesville Hospital grounds was made in 1839, when the first Superintendent, John Thomas Digby, suggested the enclosure of two acres for use as a garden plot. During an enquiry of 1855, attention was drawn to the fact that the inmates were shut in from the view of surrounding land, and in 1863, it was noted that the site had no green trees and no gardens.<sup>1</sup>

It was not until Dr Frederick Manning became Superintendent in 1869 that substantial improvement to the grounds commenced. Under Manning and his successor, Dr. Eric Sinclair, a pastoral environment came to dominate because of its perceived therapeutic effect. This was consistent with the Victorian idea that pleasant or beautiful surroundings would help ease the mental anguish of the inmates. Manning and Sinclair were relatively successful in obtaining funds for appropriate buildings and under them the landscape and menagerie developed.

A vineyard was planted c1868 and, in 1870, it was reported that a number of trees were planted and enclosed with fences. The Director of the Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore, donated a large number of young trees for the gardens and grounds during the early 1870s.<sup>2</sup>

By 1890, the grounds had become an extensive parkland, with areas of cultivation that supported the hospital. The grounds continued to be cultivated and the gardens maintained until the 1950s when declining inmate numbers and changing government attitudes led to the abandonment of the gardens and their subsequent deterioration.



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The Asylum Cemetery was approved by the Bishop of Australia in 1845 and consecrated in 1847. It was originally fenced with a paling fence. In 1856, repairs to the gate and fence around the cemetery were probably affected and during 1866 a stone enclosed wall was erected. These walls, apart from the southern wall, were partly demolished by 1941 and completely removed following the widening of Victoria Road.

A register of the burials, held in the archives of the Health Department, shows that 1228 inmates were buried at the Asylum Cemetery. Many graves were paupers graves without headstones and most other headstones have been removed.<sup>3</sup> In 1964, 24 of the graves were relocated to the Field of Mars Cemetery at Ryde. At the northern end of the cemetery is a monument to Dr Manning and Dr Sinclair.

In classical antiquity, the Cypress was a symbol of mourning and, in the modern era, it remains the principal cemetery tree in both the Muslim and Western world. In the classical tradition, the Cypress was associated with death and the underworld because it failed to regenerate when cut back severely. Athenian households in mourning were garlanded with boughs of Cypress. Cypress was used to fumigate the air during cremations.

A lineal cluster of trees are located almost parallel to Victoria Road, between the 1920's Bush House at the Victoria Road entry in the north-west and the Henley Cottage precinct in the south-east. The extended site is generally level with an open canopy cover of locally indigenous, Australian native and exotic tree species distributed across the site. The cemetery landscape is dominated by a variety of conifers. The major planting is an avenue of trees *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine) and the species is present in the highest numbers. Many of the *Northern Cypress Pine* are growing as a double row avenue running roughly northeast to southwest across the southern end of the site.

Other species of Cypress including, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson Cypress), *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress) and *Cupressus funbris* (Chinese Funeral Cypress) are incorporated into the mixed group avenue planting scheme. These Cypress are likely to be from a more recent planting phase, however they contribute to the landscape quality of the cemetery site and are considered significant contributory items.

Historic plantings of *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon), *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine), *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) are located towards the south of the site adjacent to the Kitchen Block and along the boundary wall.

Most of the more recent plantings that surround the cemetery site contribute little heritage value and erode the integrity and significance of the earlier palette. Scattered throughout and along the boundary, are *Lophostemon confertus* (Brushbox), *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Tuckeroo), *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River She-Oak), *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum), *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda) and *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawara Flame Tree).

A newspaper article from 1933 (Sydney Morning Herald) reported on an unknown native tree in danger of extinction, *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine). In the article, Dr Stuart Scougall explains how the cypress trees at Gladesville Cemetery, long thought to be *Cupressus sempervirens* (Pencil Pine) were *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine). The correct identification was made by the Mr Cheel, Chief Botanist and Curator, at the National Herbarium. In the article, Mr Cheel expressed his belief that the trees at Gladesville were probably raised from seed by Mr Charles Moore when collecting material for the NSW exhibit at the Paris Exposition in 1855 or the International Exhibition in 1862. The then fifty Northern Cypress Pines were noted in 1933 of producing their first seeds and were at that time expected to live for up to 200 years.<sup>3</sup>

Photographer Harold Cazneaux recorded the Northern Cypress Pines at the cemetery in 1933. It is believed that the photographs formed part of the Bushland Exhibition at David Jones in the same year. The photographs show the Cypress as established specimens.

The historic planting scheme at the Asylum Cemetery is typical of the Victorian-era. Notably, the historic landscape character, planting palette and thematic styling is consistent with the approach taken throughout the extensive Gladesville Hospital site. Although fragmented and alienated these last vestiges of an important cultural landscape continue to illustrate the historic and social links between the Asylum Cemetery and Gladesville Hospital.

The Cypress Grove has significance in being a remnant of a mixed group planting laid-out as a cemetery. Many of the Cypress trees, notably the Northern Cypress Pines are believed to date from the establishment of the cemetery and remain as an integral component of the overall design and philosophy.

The Cypress Grove is historically and socially significant as physical evidence of the former Asylum Cemetery. The grove is a tangible marker of the burial ground and is a particularly poignant reminder given most of the graves were without headstones or have been removed.

A full conservation assessment should be undertaken for the Cypress Grove and Gladesville Hospital grounds and outlined within a Landscape Conservation Management Plan. Further investigation is required to determine the level of significance.



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### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Tanner & Associates (2001), *Gladesville Hospital Site Conservation Management Plan*, Volume II, Department of Public Works and Services, NSW.
- <sup>2</sup> Tanner & Associates (2001), *Gladesville Hospital Site Conservation Management Plan*, Volume III, Department of Public Works and Services, NSW.
- <sup>3</sup> Maley Jacqueline (2010), *Gladesville's Forgotten – In Life and Death*, Sydney Morning Herald, accessed 25.10.14 <http://www.smh.com.au/national/gladesvilles-forgotten--in-life-and-death-20100310-pzel.html>
- <sup>4</sup> Sydney Morning Herald (1933), *Stateliest Tree: Specie Almost Lost*, Sydney Morning Herald, NSW State Library, (REF: PXD 806/40-132)

### 8. ADDITIONAL IMAGES

IMAGE SOURCE: Gladesville Hospital, (1933) Harold Cazneaux, State Library NSW (REF: PXD 806/40-132)

