

Winifred West Park

Conservation Management Plan

Address: Main Street, Mittagong

For Wingecarribee Shire Council



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Cover Image: Looking across the park towards Regent Street, photo taken on 11 May 2021

WINIFRED WEST PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN			
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Figure 1. Winifred West Park in 1982 (Berrima District Historical Society)

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1. Executive Summary

This document provides a Conservation Management Plan for the ongoing care and management of Winifred West Park, Mittagong. Conservation best practice is defined by Article 6 of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013 as a process which firstly understands significance, then develops policy and finally manages in accordance with policy. This Conservation Management Plan provides an assessment of significance and policy to manage significance. A maintenance strategy is also provided to guide to the ongoing maintenance of the significant features of the Park.

The heritage significance assessment of Winifred West Park has been updated and provides the basis for the Conservation Management for the Park set out in this document, for full significance assessment see Section 7.

In summary Winifred West Park is historically significant because it

- provides physical evidence of the historic role of local government in providing facilities for its citizens in mid-20th century NSW.
- demonstrates the rising ascendancy of car transport in the 1950s and the need for a for a rest stop on the main road south, the Hume Highway.
- demonstrates the increase in tourism in the 1960s which lead to construction of a tourist information centre in the Park in 1969. And demonstrates the steady growth of tourism in the Southern Highlands.
- Reflects the national preoccupation with space travel in the 1960s, expressed in everyday objects such as children's play structures in the form of a Rocket Slide installed in 1968 and removed 1993.
- has historic association with Winifred West, a community leader, an innovative and skilled educator and keen gardener.

Winifred West Park has aesthetic significance

- as a cool climate garden characteristic of the Southern Highlands.
- as a seasonal park with its floral display in the Spring and for its autumnal leaves in Autumn.
- for its visual relationship to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway line in Regent Street. The repetition of Cyprus planting in the park creates harmony between the two heritage items.

Winifred West Park has Social significance

- has a special association with the Mittagong and Southern Highlands community who have demonstrated attachment to the place when changes are made or proposed.
- has special association for the local community together with the wider public who have travelled via or visited Mittagong and have nostalgia for the Rocket Slide play structure located in the playground until 1997.

Winifred West Park has representative value as

- a fine representative example of a cool climate public park in the Southern Highlands of NSW established in the 1950s.
- a good example of a public rest park created to meet the needs of mid-century Australian travellers, on the move due to the introduction of paid annual leave and the increased availability of car transport.

Winifred West Park is significant at a local level.

The state heritage inventory data sheet for Winifred West Park has been updated and is included in Appendix B.

Winifred West Park should be managed according to the conservation policies contained within Section 11 of this document. Decisions on elements within the Park are to be guided by the grading of relative significance in Section 9.

Figure 35 provides a sketch plan with the Park divided into three zones. These zones described in Section 5, provide a way of understanding the layout of the Park according to its history and significance. Zone one facing Main Street is the most significant area of the Park, it has the most significant plantings and historic elements and was the first part of the park established. Zone two is the area where the playground is located and was originally home to the rocket play structure. The area has a more open quality. The third zone is the east side which is enclosed on three sides by reasonably dense row plantings and has more of a feeling of an outdoor room. This part of the park provides an opportunity for landscaping inspired by Winifred West, her garden style is described in section 4.7.

There is an opportunity to improve the presentation of Winifred West Park to Main Street. The Park has never fully recovered from the removal of the Information Centre, consequently the corner facing Church Lane and Main Street lack's structure and definition. This needs to be remedied in future planning along with appropriate signage and a consistent park furniture palette appropriate to the significance of the Park.

As a priority Wingecarribee Shire Council should have an arborist prepare a tree assessment and management strategy for the trees of exceptional, high and moderate significance. The tree management strategy together with this CMP will inform the Winifred West Park Plan of Management.

2. Introduction

2.1. Report Objectives

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) aims to provide Wingecarribee Shire Council with a document to facilitate the conservation of the heritage values of Winifred West Park. The CMP will provide the foundation for the preparation of a Plan of Management for Winifred West Park.

2.2. Methodology and Structure

This Conservation Management Plan is guided by the documents published by the former Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage. It is also heavily reliant upon the methodology outlined in J S Kerr, The Conservation Plan, The National Trust of Australia (NSW), sixth edition, 2004. Best practice conservation in Australia also follows the guidelines of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter 2013). Terms used in this CMP are defined in the Burra Charter. Also contained within the Burra Charter is a flow chart outlining the steps which should be undertaken to plan for and manage a place of cultural significance (Appendix A). Steps one to five of the chart and the associated articles contained in the charter are about understanding significance and developing policy, it is these steps which inform the methodology of this CMP.

2.3. Terms

The following terms are found in Article 1 of the Burra Charter and provide the definition of terms used in this document.

Place means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place including elements, fixtures, contents and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of a place, and its setting. Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves restoration or reconstruction.

Preservation means maintaining a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material.

Adaptation means changing a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a place, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

Compatible use means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a place that is part of or contributes to its cultural significance and distinctive character.

Related place means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

Related object means an object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not at the place.

Associations mean the connections that exist between people and a place.

Meanings denote what a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

2.4. Location

Winifred West Park is comprised of Lots 1,2 and 3 Section 2 DP 1289 and Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 Section 2 DP 1289. Situated between Main Street and Regent Street, Mittagong NSW 2575 in the Parish of Mittagong, County of Camden in the Southern Highlands Region.



Figure 2. Location of Winifred West Park, Regent Street, Mittagong (Google, 2021)

2.5. Study Area

The study area for this Conservation Management Plan is Winifred West Park in its entirety as shown in figure 2.



Figure 3. Winifred West Park outlined in yellow. (SIX Maps, 2021)

2.6. Authorship

This report was prepared by Louise Thom, heritage consultant and Megan McGrath, research assistant. All photographs unless otherwise specified were taken by Megan McGrath.

2.7. Report limitations

This report does not include Aboriginal Cultural Heritage apart from a Basic AHIMS (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) search which revealed that on 1-02-2022 there were no registered Aboriginal sites on Winifred West Park.

This report does not assess the potential for historical archaeology.

None of the diagrams are to scale, they have been estimated using GIS measurements. Unfortunately, a survey of the site was unavailable.

2.8. Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Berrima District Historical Society and Wingecarribee Shire Council for their assistance in accessing historical documents.

3. Heritage Status

3.1. Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010

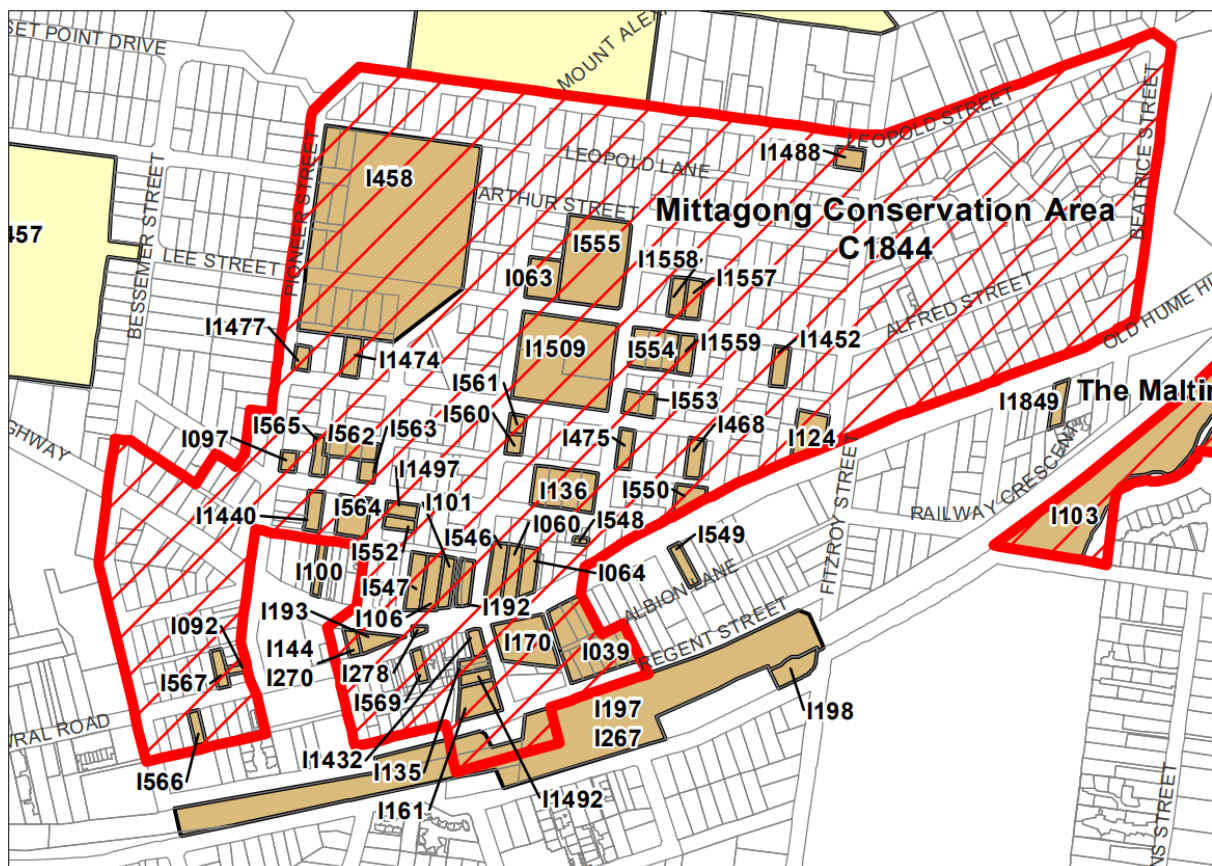
Winifred West Park is listed in schedule five, items of environmental heritage, as a heritage item of local significance. The description in schedule five is:

Winifred West Park, Regent and Main Streets and Church Lane, Mittagong,

Lots 1–3 and 16–21, Sec 2, DP 1289; Lot 1, DP 668762

Local Significance item number I039 (Shown on heritage map in Figures 4 and 5)

Winifred West Park is also located in the Mittagong Conservation Area, shown hatched in Figure 4.



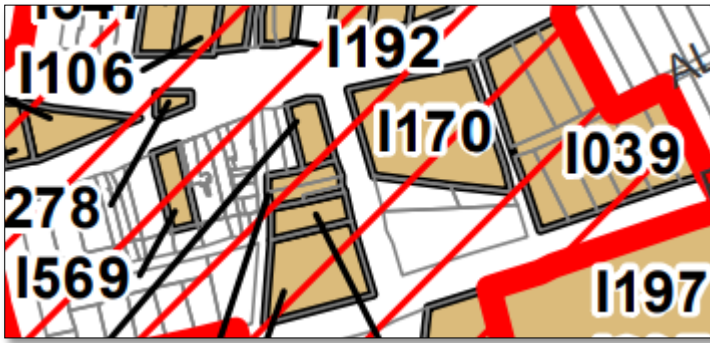


Figure 5. Winifred West is numbered heritage item I1039 in WLEP 2010

3.2. Heritage items in the vicinity

Winifred West Park is adjacent, across Church Lane, to St Stephen's Anglican Church and grounds, 106 Main Street, Mittagong.



Figure 6. St. Stephens Anglican Church viewed from Winifred West Park



Figure 7. One of the significant trees on the St Stephen's Church site.

Winifred West Park is adjacent, across Regent Street, to Mittagong Railway Station, Regent Street, Mittagong, State significance. The relationship between the station and the Park is emphasised by the border plantings of Cypress on each site.



Figure 8. Border planting of Cypress along Regent Street beside Mittagong Station

4. Historical Background

4.1. Aboriginal history

Aboriginal groups traditionally occupying the Southern Highlands were the Gandangara (Gundungara) and the Dharawal (Tharawal). People living in the highlands relied upon vegetable sources such as tubers of the yam daisy, wattle seeds and orchid tubers. They caught fish and crayfish in the rivers and hunted possums and larger grazing animals.

The traditional lifestyle of Southern Highlands Aboriginal groups was disrupted when colonial settlement began in the early 19th century. This impacted water sources and affected vegetable and animal sources essential to their diet as well affecting their health through the introduction of disease, particularly the influenza epidemic of 1846-7. Some Aboriginal people adapted by working for the new settlers. (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2016)

The Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Nattai rivers continue to have particular cultural significance to the Gundungurra people. Another place of high cultural significance is Nungungungulla (Jubilee Rocks) which has been recognised as an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for its pre-historic and historic significance.

4.2. Exploration and early settlement

One of the first Europeans recorded to have entered the county of Argyle was John Kennedy, uncle to Hamilton Hume. In 1817 Dr Charles Throsby explored the southern district, accompanied by Hamilton Hume, Joseph Wild and John Rowley. Throsby had the previous year explored the Illawarra. Throsby made several trips to the Berrima District between 1817 and 1821. (Jervis, 1986)

A small settlement was established at Sutton Forest which together with Throsby Park, formed the beginnings of the occupation of the district. In 1821 Survey-General Oxley commenced surveying lands for the making of grants. In 1821 William Chalker (also referred to as Charker) settled in Lower Mittagong (also known as Chalker's Flat). Chalker was a former convict who became the Principal Overseer of Government Stock at the Cowpastures and received 200 acres of land for his services. Chalker died in 1823, leaving his wife to remarry and see that the grant was issued. (Jervis, 1986)

Governor Macquarie ordered the commencement of the road south in 1819. It was finally surveyed and built by Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell in 1833. The road provided access to the district and settlement followed. A number of inns were built such as the Kings Arms, the Kangaroo Inn and the Woolpack Inn and in 1845 the Fitzroy Inn. In 1841 a land subdivision called the Town of Gainsborough was established, followed by Livingstone Township in 1842, however the subdivisions did not generate much interest. 20 years later, in 1861, Surveyor Campbell set aside land for village purposes, called the Village of Fitzroy. The land subdivision of the township of New Sheffield was offered for sale when the announcement of the railway station location became known. This led to much greater interest and in 1865 245 blocks were offered for sale and £3000 worth of land was sold. (Jervis, 1986)

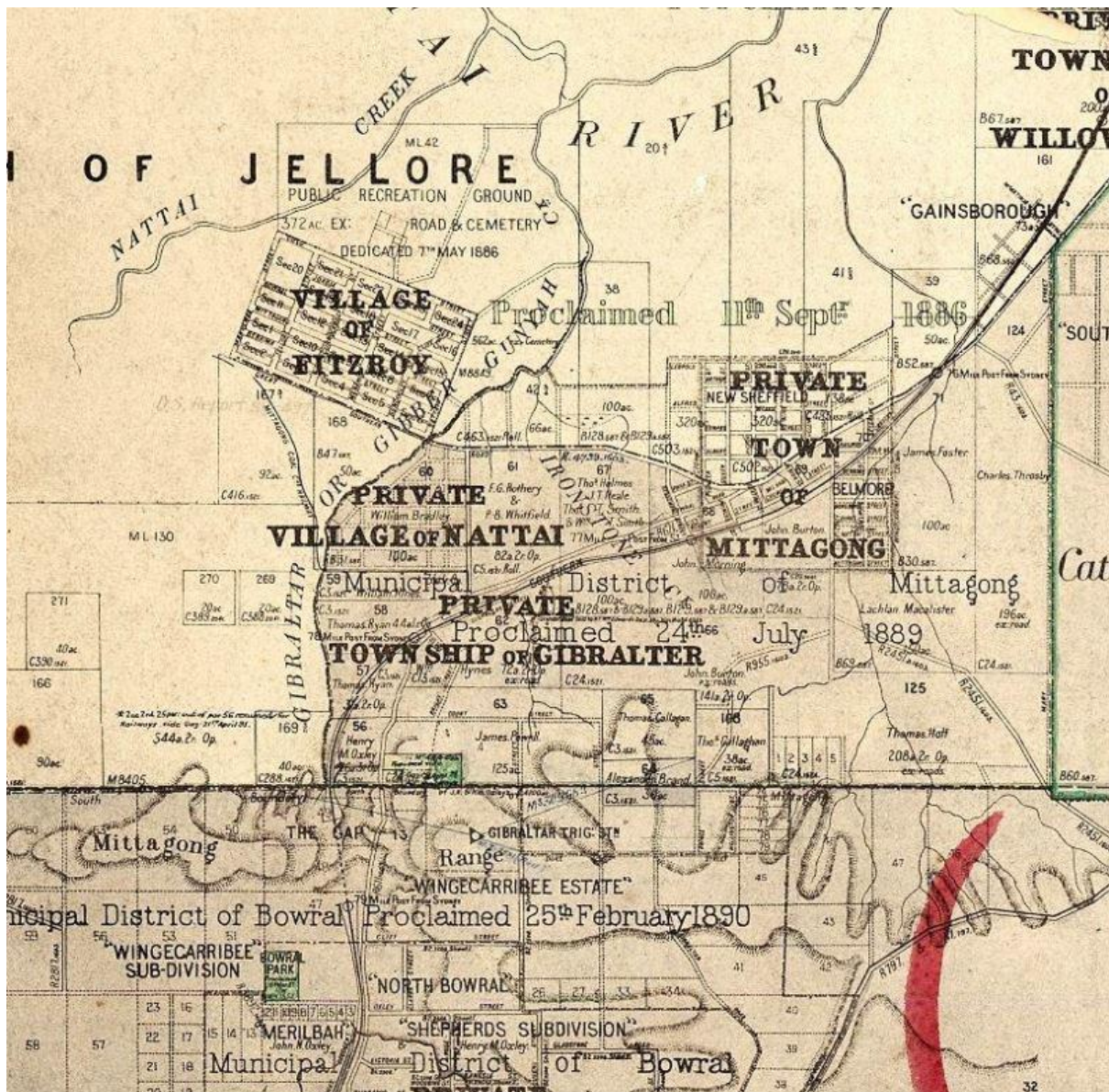


Figure 9. A portion of the Parish of Mittagong map showing the location of the land subdivisions. (Land Registry Services, 2021)

The railway from Sydney to Parramatta was completed in 1855 demonstrating the improvements in transport that could be possible if the line were to be extended to rural areas such as the Bathurst, Singleton and Muswellbrook and Goulburn. John Whitton became Engineer-in-Chief of the NSW Railways in 1856 and set about making this a reality. The line from Liverpool to Campbelltown was one of the first sections of line completed in 1862. The line was extended to Picton in 1863 and was extended on to Mittagong via a large loop line in 1867, before continuing to Moss Vale in the same year. Mittagong Station opened on 1 March 1867 with the opening of the line. (NSW Heritage, 2021)

4.3. The Mittagong Land Company

The Mittagong Land Company Limited was established in 1884. John Frazer transferred 140 acres of land near Mittagong Railway Station to the Mittagong Land Company Limited on 3 July 1884 (Certificate of Title 702-56). See figure 2 for detail. The town of New Sheffield is marked on the map

and excluded from the land sale. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mittagong Land Company was George Alexander Murray.

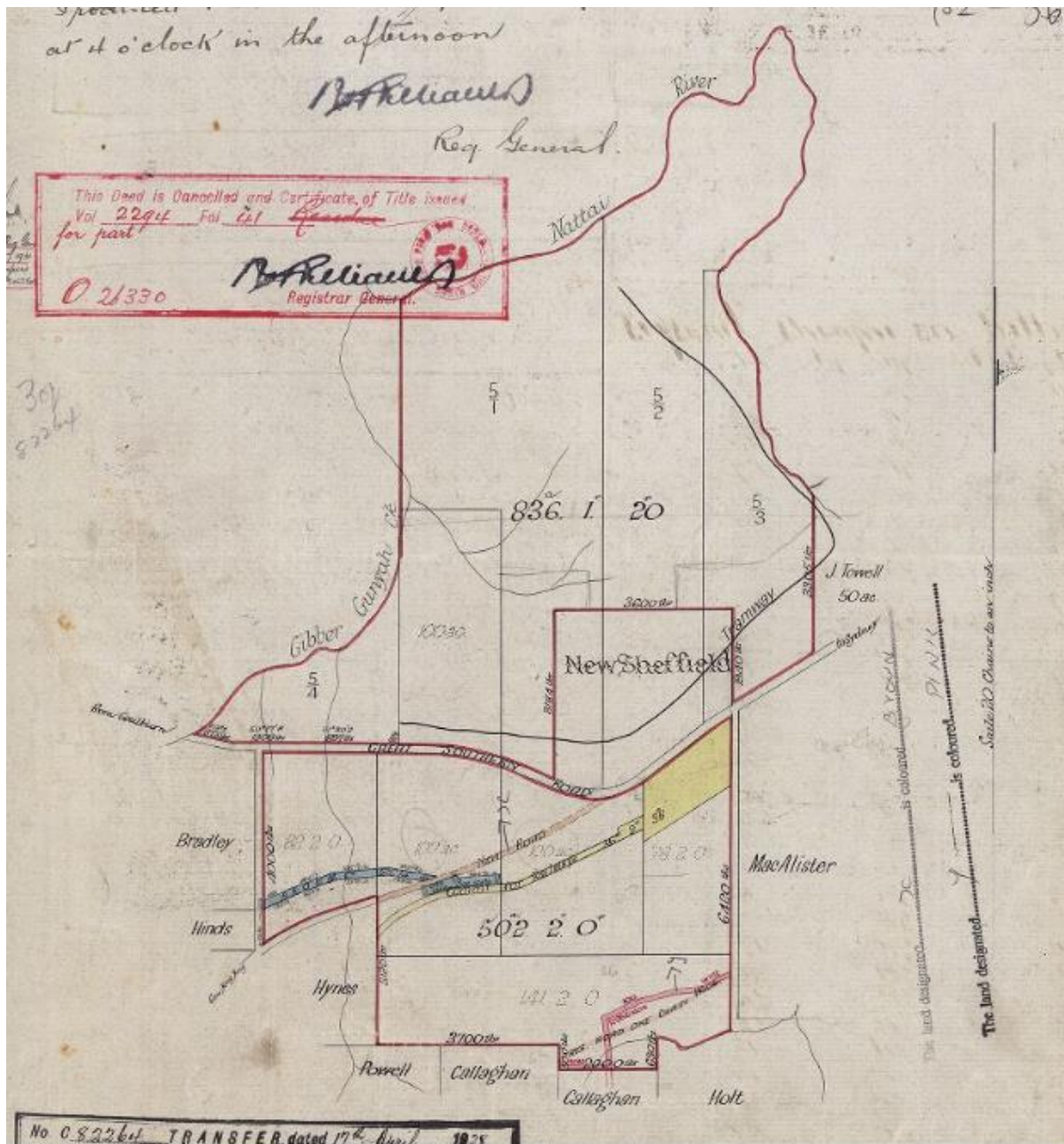


Figure 10. Vol. 702 Fol. 56 The holdings of Mittagong Land Company Limited outlined in red. New Sheffield is excluded from the Title.

The Company gradually purchased parcels of land in the town, including lands near the Mittagong Railway Station CT Vol. 728 Fol. 146).

On 5 April 1884 notice was given of the sale of the former Fitzroy Iron Mines Estate. The advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald read:

MITTAGONG,
The most accessible
SANATORIUM OF THE SOUTH.
2069 feet above sea level.
HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE SALE BY AUCTION
ON THE GROUND.
All that valuable and desirable property on both sides and surrounding the
MITTAGONG RAILWAY STATION,
Once well-known as the
FITZROY IRON MINES ESTATE,
And now the property of the
MITTAGONG LAND COMPANY, Limited
With a Certificate of Title
Under the
REAL PROPERTY ACT
DAY OF SALE
26th APRIL, 1884
TIME, 2 o'clock p.m.
This valuable estate has been
Carefully subdivided into
ELIGIBLE BUSINESS ALLOTMENTS,
CHOICE VILLA SITES,
And GARDEN and ORCHARD AREAS,
The latter varying in size from 3 acres upwards. . .

Newspapers of the time reported the land sale as the “Grand Land Sale at Mittagong”, with a special train coming from Sydney bringing over 500 people. 120 lots were sold for a total of £13,809. (Goulburn Herald, 1884)

In 1886 reports were made that the Mittagong Land Company

“. . . are affecting important improvements in street forming, clearing and tree planting in Mittagong. The extensive system of tree planting which they are adopting is worthy of commendation.” (Bowral Free Press and Berrima District Intelligencer , 1886)

The 1912 Certificate of Title shows DP 1289. The extent of lands owned by the Mittagong Land Company can be seen in the diagram from CT 2294-41 shown in Figure 4.



Figure 11. Vol 2294 Fol. 41 Which was surveyed as Deposited Plan 1289 (Land Registry Services, 2021)

Mittagong Land Company leased the Fitzroy Iron Works site to Mr. W. Sanford who manufactured colonial galvanised corrugated iron sheet, which was reportedly the first to be manufactured in Australia. (Launceston Examiner, 1886)

At the Annual general meeting in 1887 the Company resolved to form a different company to develop the coal and iron deposits on the residual land at Mittagong. (Sydney Morning Herald, 1887)

A further sale of Mittagong Land Company unsold lots took place in 1906.

4.4. Site specific history of Winifred West Park

The land upon which Winifred West Park was to be located was originally part of 78 acres 2 roods (portion 69) owned by John Burton by Crown Grant 13 July 1855.

The Mittagong Land Company Limited became proprietor of the lands immediately adjacent to the railway in 16 January 1886; 15 acres and 14 perches as shown in Figure 12 that was originally set aside as part of the railway lands.

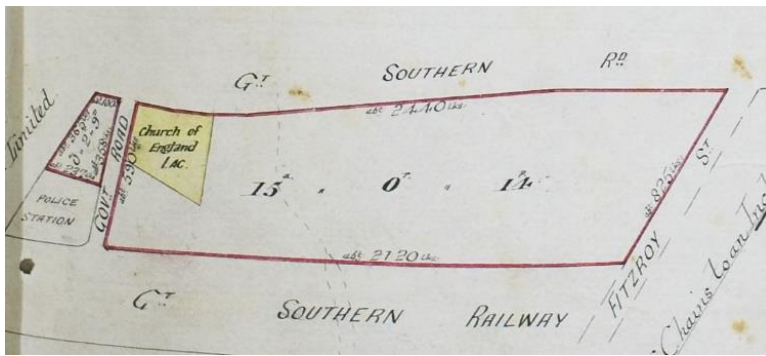


Figure 12. CT Vol. 728 Fol. 146 (NSW Land Registry Services, 2021)

The Deposited Plan (DP 1289) shows the subdivision of the land which was to become Winifred West Park as Lots 1, 2 and 3 and Lots 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 Section 2, Figure 13.

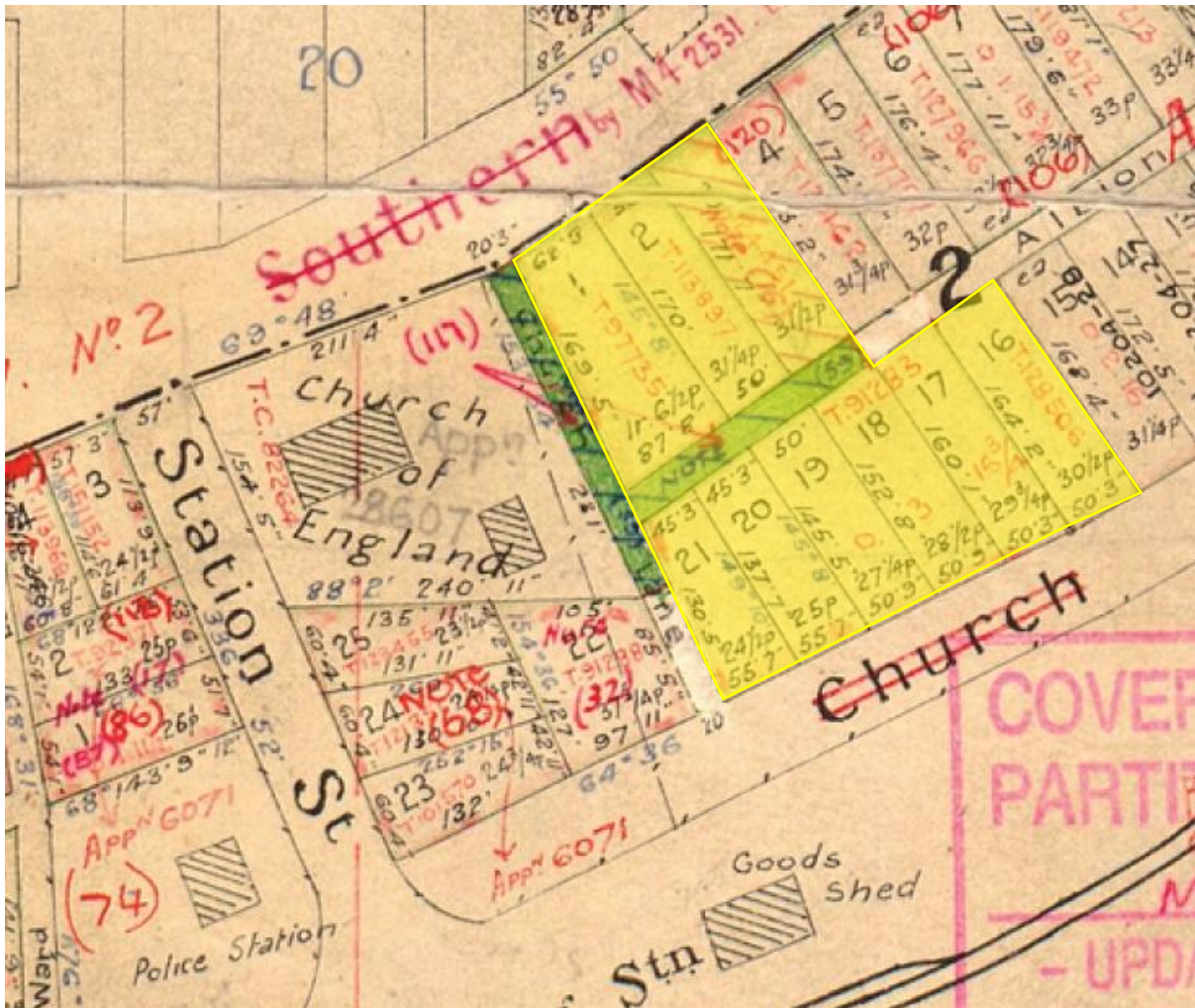


Figure 13. Extract from DP 1289. Township of Mittagong. Winifred West Park is highlighted in yellow. (NSW Land Registry Services, 2021)

Land Title History

As shown in Figure 13 Winifred West Park is situated on 9 lots and a closed lane. These lots are in the Deposited Plan for the Township of Mittagong – DP 1289. Each of these lots has its own land ownership history up until it was acquired by the Council of the Shire of Nattai. The first elections for the Shire Council of Nattai were held in 1906. The name Shire of Nattai was changed to Shire of Mittagong on 2 March 1949 (Government Gazette No.37). The Shire of Mittagong later became part of Wingecarribee Shire.

Table 1. Land Title History of Winifred West Park (NSW Land Registry Services, 2021)

Lot	Land Title History	Certificate of Title
Lot 1	<p>John Wright, a chemist from Mittagong, purchased Lot 1 Section C DP1289 from the Mittagong Land Company Limited on 14 Oct 1882. He sold the lot to William Henry Adams of Braidwood on 6 August 1886 who then transferred the parcel to Robert Adams, farmer from Braidwood, in 1912.</p> <p>William Adams sold Lot 1 to Thomas Envy Westbury, a groom from Mittagong, on 4 Dec 1912.</p> <p>Thomas Westbury transferred Lot 1 to the Council of the Shire of Nattai on 26 Oct 1948.</p>	Vol.760 Fol.229
Lot 2	<p>John Lyster Waters, constable of Mittagong, purchased Lot 2 on 8 November 1886 from the Mittagong Land Company. On 27 September 1887 Waters transferred Lot 2 to William Henry Adams, the owner of Lot 1. As with Lot 2, William Adams transferred Lot 2 to Robert Adams in 1912. Adams sold to Thomas Envy Westbury a groom from Mittagong on 26 November 1912. Thomas Westbury transferred Lot 2 to the Council of the Shire of Nattai on 26 Oct 1948, when he also transferred Lot 1.</p>	Vol. 812 Fol. 175
Lot 3	<p>Robert Viles, a saddler from Moss Vale, purchased Lot 3 from the Mittagong Land Company Limited on 24 August 1887. Viles sold Lot 3 to John Lake, a livery stable proprietor from Mittagong, on 20 February 1892. Lake sold Lot 3 to Louise Albertine Stevenson of Mittagong on 9 March 1927. Stevenson sold to Arthur Brassey, Esquire of Bowral, on 10 August 1927. The Shire of the Council of Nattai resumed the land on 15 September 1947.</p>	Vol. 848 Fol.14
Lot 16	<p>The Commercial Banking Company took possession of several lots in DP1289 including Lot 16 in Section 2 in 1905. Some lots were sold and the residue transferred to Frederick William Scott, a Civil Servant from Petersham in 1908.</p> <p>In 1944 The Council of the Shire of Nattai purchased Lot 16 from Frederick Scott (CT. 5442-137).</p>	<p>Vol.1644 Fol.155</p> <p>Vol.5442 Fol.137</p>

Lot	Land Title History	Certificate of Title
Lot 17 Lot 18 Lot 19 Lot 20 Lot 21	Alexander Speed Webster of Sydney, Merchant transferee under instrument of transfer from the Mittagong Land Company Limited numbered 91282 became the proprietor in fee simple of many lots in Mittagong including Lots 17-21 Sec 2 DP1289 on 21 st May 1885. Harry Carrick Webster, of Glasgow, Scotland, Lead and colour merchant applicant in transmission application 17552 became proprietor in fee simple of several lots around Mittagong including Lots 17-21 Sec 2 DP1289, on 3 Feb 1906. Webster transferred these lots to the Council of the Shire of Nattai 12 July 1920.	Vol.742 Fol.87 Vol. 3075 Fol.118 574699
Part Albion Lane	Note 59 on Deposited Plan 1289. "Now Crown land." Gazette 9/2/1968	Vol. 10818 Fol.111

Whether Lots 1 to 3 were developed when they were purchased or resumed by Nattai Council is unknown. Their transfer history shows they changed hands and could have been built upon. It would have been unusual not to build on these lots as they faced Main Street and would have had commercial value.

By 1948 the Shire of the Council of Nattai owned Lots 1,2 and 3 and Lots 16 to 21.

When the Council of the Shire of Nattai acquired Lot 3 in 1947 the site had been reserved for a Shire Hall.¹ The Shire Hall was not built on the site but was built in 1954 on the corner of Bowral Road and Main Street. The foundation stone of the Shire Offices was laid on the same day as Winifred West Park. (Southern Mail, 1954)

¹ Deposited Plan 1289 shows a note that states Lot 3 Section 2 was reserved for a Shire Hall (Note 16) and was Gazetted on 25/7/1947.

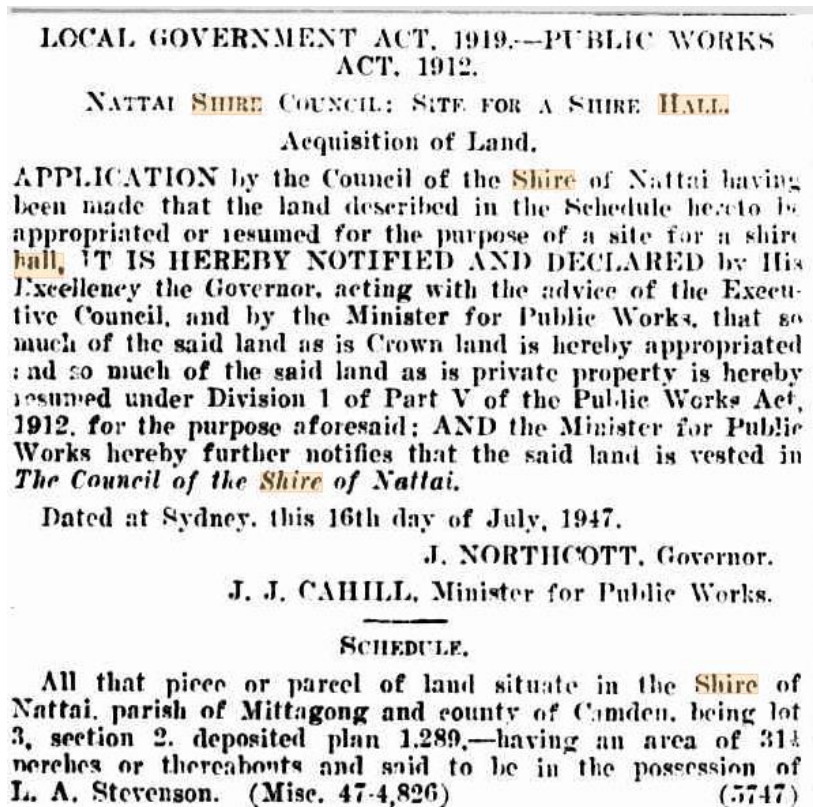


Figure 14. Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW : 1901 - 2001) Fri 25 Jul 1947 [Issue No.86]

In 1953 the Minister for Lands announced special grants for reserves and recreation areas for the purpose of their general improvement. The £20 grants went to 12 local recreation areas but Winifred West Park was not officially established at this time. (Government Grants for Parks, 1953)

In May 1953 Mittagong Council wrote to the Minister for Works requesting a Government Grant or a pound for pound grant to assist Council with several works. Item (e) on the list of requests was "Public lavatories and shelter with seating on Council's land, State Highway, Mittagong". (The Southern Mail, 1953)



Figure 15. The Southern Mail, Bowral 9 Oct 1953

The request was again made to the Minister for Public Works when he visited the area in October 1953 (Figure 15). During this visit the Minister announced he would provide a grant of £960 which represented 50% of the estimated cost of the park. This was conditional on Council providing the other 50% to complete the works to the satisfaction of the Department of public Works. The Minister, Mr. Blake Pelly, M.L.A., stated

... that if the Council decides to accept this offer, the Rest and Recreation Centre when completed would prove a boon to the many through travellers and visitors to Mittagong. (The Southern Mail, 1953)

4.5. Winifred West Park

In January 1954, Sydney architect, E. Nicholls wrote that he was preparing working drawings and specifications for shelters and conveniences in Winifred West Park. (Southern Mail, 1954)

In April 1954 tenders were advertised for the *construction of shelters and conveniences at Winifred West Park, Mittagong*. Plans and specifications were available for inspection at the Shire Office. (The Southern Mail, 1954)

Winifred West Park was officially opened on 10 December 1954 by the Minister for Works and Local Government. The opening took place at the Park after the opening of the new Shire Council Offices nearby. Guests were led to the Park by a marching band where a platform had been raised in the centre of the Park for speakers and seating provided for guests. The Park was believed to be the only park on the Hume Highway between Sydney and Goulburn, which at the time carried 3000 vehicles every 24 hours. (Southern Mail, 1954)

Initially Winifred West Park comprised Lots 1, 2 and 3. The other lots were used as a Council depot and remained burdened with buildings until 1963. A 1963 aerial photograph shows buildings on these lots prior to the use of the park.



Figure 16. Winifred West Park in 1963. The southern portion of the park is still burdened by buildings. (NSW Government, 2021)

By 1970 the south of the park had been cleared of buildings except for a Council garage in the south western corner. The north of the park had a new community building and a tourist information centre. A rocket play structure had also been installed.



Figure 17. Aerial photo taken August 1970. The tourist information centre is located on the top left corner of the park, the community building on the top right and the southern area has been cleared. The rocket is in the centre left. (NSW Government, 2021)

The Tourist Information Centre

A tourist information centre was opened in the park in 1969. It was a modern glass walled design with its roof inspired by the shape of an autumn leaf and was located on the corner of Church Lane and Main Street. In 1997 a new Tourist Information Centre was built on another site further to the north east and the structure in Winifred West Park was demolished.



Figure 18. The tourist information centre designed by architect Mr East. (Berrima District Historical Society)

The Rocket Play Structure

The Mittagong Dalia Festival Committee were the driving force behind getting a rocket for Winifred West Park. Their application for a 10-metre-high rocket climbing structure with a slippery slide was approved by Mittagong Shire Council in June 1968. Dunlop Steel Fabrications, based in Bowral built the structure and the \$705 cost was covered by the Mittagong Bowling Club. (Morton, 2018)

Rocket play structures were popular in the 1960s in Australia. Inspired by the international preoccupation with space travel they are an example of how events such as the space race, which led to the moon landing in 1969, became embodied in everyday objects.

In the 1990s concerns about safety and structural integrity of the rocket had to be addressed and the rocket was removed in 1993. (Morton, 2018) The other rockets around Australia suffered the same fate and it isn't known if any original rockets survive. Unfortunately, the cultural value of the rocket ships was not appreciated at the time and conservation was not considered an option.

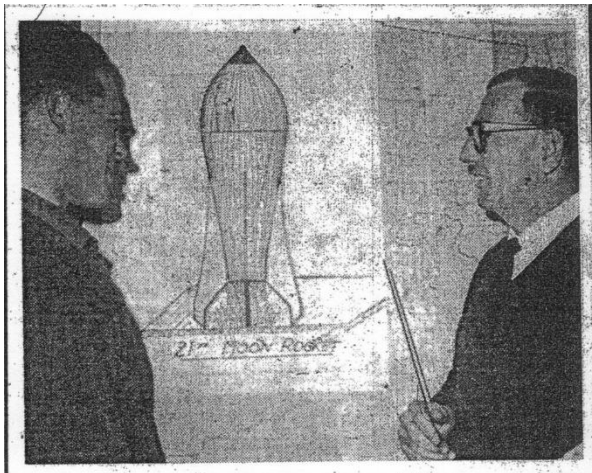


Figure 19. Dahlia Festival President, Brian Elliot, and Shire Engineer, Claude Henderson examine the sketch of the proposed rocket slide. (Berrima District Post, 1968)



Figure 20. Rocket shown prior to its removal. (Berrima District Historical Society)



Figure 21. The rocket arriving in 1968 (Berrima District Historical Society)



Figure 22. The 1982 aerial photograph shows the park has been developed as a unified and planned park. The rocket play structure has its own playground. (NSW Government, 2021)

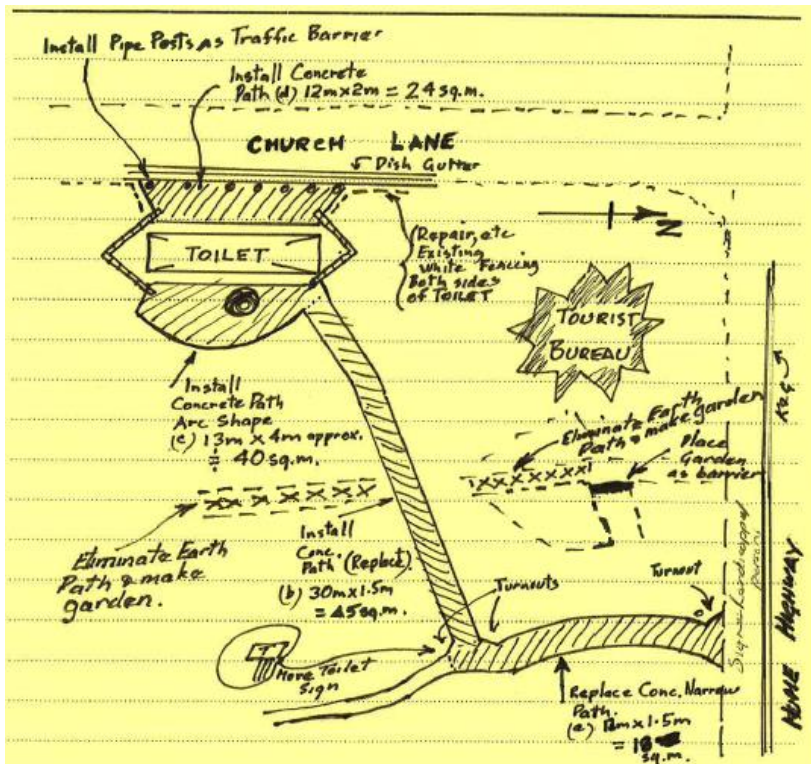


Figure 23. A diagram by a Council engineer shows how the paths are to be laid out in relation to a proposed toilet block in 1981. (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 1981)

A new toilet block was built in the park in 1981. This structure was originally face brick with a concrete roof. The structure is still extant in the park but has been rendered and painted and has a new internal fit-out.



Figure 24. Winifred West Park from Main Street, with the tourist information centre, photo circa 1982 (Berrima District Historical Society)



Figure 25. Winifred West Park looking towards Regent Street. The rocket slide is on the right top of the photo. Note the original concrete picnic shelters designed by Nicholls and the seats under the Indian Cedar. Only the seats remain. Photo circa 1982. (Berrima District Historical Society)

Water Tank

In 2008 the site opposite the park, across Church Lane, was proposed to become a retail, commercial and residential complex. The developer, Mr Helmut Rohde, installed a water tank in Winifred West Park to store stormwater from his development which would in turn provide water to the Park.

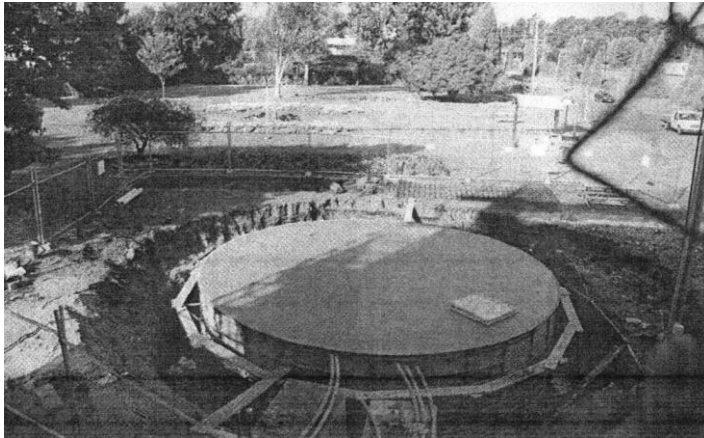


Figure 26. The 120,000-litre water tank buried in Winifred West Park in 2008. (Sydney Morning Herald, 2008)

Unfortunately, the development never eventuated, and Council was left with the water tank. The tank was subsequently backfilled and the turf over.

Tulip Festival

An annual tulip festival is held in the Southern Highlands every year. Winifred West Park played a significant role in the festival until recently. The festival was celebrated with plantings of tulips in Winifred West Park, Mittagong; Leighton Gardens, Moss Vale; and Corbett Gardens, Bowral.



Figure 27. Tulips in Winifred West Park in 2018. (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2009)

Bird Sculpture

At one time there was a metal sculpture of a bird thought to have been located in one of the front garden beds. The sculpture was cut off at the legs and stolen.² During the research for this Conservation Management Plan no further information about the bird has been uncovered. There may be other structures that have been removed from the Park but these have not been identified either. It is likely a more thorough search of Council files would provide more information.

² Sarah Websdale Farnese, Heritage Planner, Wingecarribee Shire Council

4.6. Evolution of Winifred West Park in diagrams

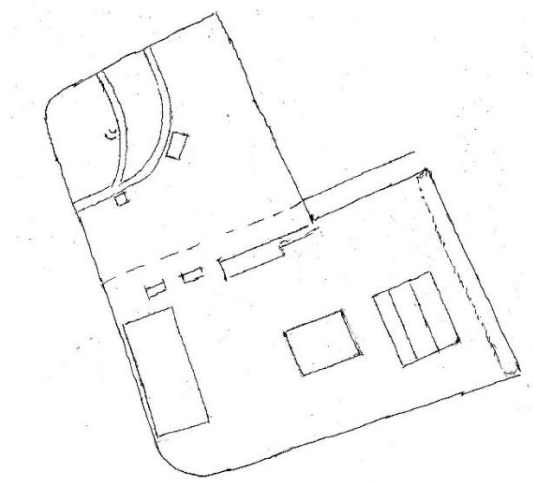


Figure 28. Layout in 1963. Only the northern half of the park is developed. Council depot buildings are extant on the southern portion. No trees are evident on the northern half of the site.



Figure 29. Layout in 1970. The tourist information centre and the community building have been built. There is some landscaping and pathways. The rocket is in-situ and the buildings on the southern half have been removed, with the exception of the Council garage.

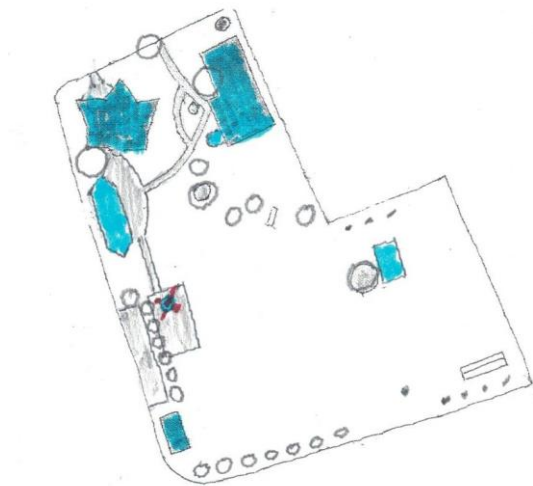


Figure 30. Layout in 1982. The toilet block, a car park along Church Lane and some concrete picnic shelters have been built; and more trees have been planted.

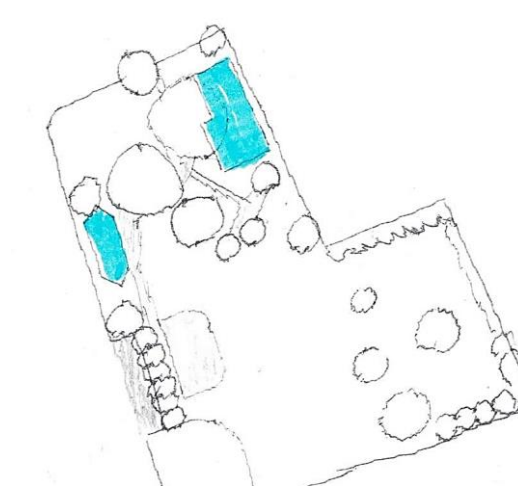


Figure 31. Layout in 2009. Tourist information centre has been removed along with concrete picnic shelters and building on corner Regent and Church Lane. Trees have been removed along Regent Street. The water tank has been installed on the corner and then filled in.

4.7. Winifred West

Biographical notes

Winifred Mary West was born in Frensham, Surrey, England in 1881. She studied at Newnham College in Cambridge and subsequently taught at Guernsey Ladies College. She became engaged to an Australian and followed him to New South Wales in 1907, however on the voyage she broke off her engagement. In Sydney she took on private pupils whilst also working at the Australian Museum drawing shells. An active hockey player from an early age, she helped found the NSW Women's Hockey Association in 1908. (Kennedy, 1990)

Briefly she returned to England where she taught at Harrogate Ladies College and then returned to Australia in 1912. Winifred West and her friend Phyllis Clubbe had firm opinions regarding the need to educate girls in a rural setting. Together they established Frensham girl's boarding school at Mittagong in 1913. (Kennedy, 1990)

Winifred West retired in 1938 and continued to undertake philanthropic works in Mittagong and Berrima. She remained Governing Director of Frensham and Holt Companies which were established to safeguard the school's existence. She was appointed M.B.E. in 1953 and C.B.E. in 1971. (Kennedy, 1990)



Figure 32. Winifred West when she was in her late 20s. (Berrima District Historical Society)



Less than a two-hour drive south of Sydney by modern motorway—140 kilometres—lie the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Some 300 metres above sea level, winter can often bring snow, and even in midsummer swirling mists descend in the late afternoon. The soil is deep, rich, red volcanic basalt loam in many parts and the annual rainfall can be as high as 1500mm. Cold-climate gardens of exotic autumn colouring trees, English-style, wide borders of perennials and scented northern hemisphere shrubs flourish. Colonial Governors holidayed there from the mid-nineteenth century. And, since then, the area has been the site of extensive summer retreats—‘Hill Station Gardens’—for successful Sydney professionals. This is a region vastly different from most of Australia, and this was the environment in which, in 1913, an Englishwoman, Winifred West, established Frensham School for girls.

(Forsyth, 2006)



Gardening

The connecting thread running throughout Winifred West’s life was undoubtedly her love of gardening and, until her death at the age of 90, she was continually transplanting, redesigning, planning and weeding. (Dixon)

Gardening was an integral part of the life of Winifred West. From the moment she arrived in Mittagong in 1913 she set about landscaping the grounds of the newly established Frensham School for girls. She set out to create an English garden within the Australian landscape.

For West the garden was a metaphor for living, demonstrating that the presence of beauty was possible—indeed, essential—through every aspect of life. (Forsyth, 2006)

Winifred West was an inspired educator who encouraged young women to express their individuality and creativity through gardening. She created gardens around Frensham School which demonstrated these ideals. Forsyth, through her research into the talks, speeches and papers by Winifred West, states that these recollections show how the garden was a platform for West to set forth her ideology. (Forsyth, 2006)

Winifred West’s Garden Style

Although Winifred West developed a fondness for the Australian landscape it was not something that directed her garden ideal. Her English origins were her source of inspiration, made possible by the climate and environment of the Southern Highlands. Having grown up in the quiet picturesque village of Frensham, UK she developed a love of English gardens from an early age.

West had a well-developed sense of aesthetic beauty and balance of composition. She studied art with Julian Ashton and did watercolour botanical drawings for the Australian museum before leaving to establish herself in Mittagong. At Frensham School she started establishing stone edged beds of English flowering perennials, spring bulbs and purple iris. The Frensham school garden is made up of

open spaces, terraces with stone retaining walls and private more enclosed spaces. The spaces were structured and uncluttered and distinctly English in origin. (Forsyth, 2006)

The Frensham garden was central to the life of the school. It was the place where garden lessons took place, performances, celebrations and school picnics. It was a place of beauty which was to encourage the student to cultivate not just the gardens but an aesthetic ideal. The purple iris became a school emblem, featuring in the gardens and in the colour of the school uniform. (Cains, 2001) A book published in 1992 illustrates the influence of the Frensham Gardens by Winifred West and their inspiration in gardens throughout Australia.³ Common elements in these gardens were hedges, wisteria covered pergolas and sunken gardens with the spirit of restfulness the common theme. (Dixon)

4.8. Travel and Tourism

The historic theme of travel and tourism is important in the consideration of the history of Winifred West Park. The creation of the park was driven by the need for a resting place on the Hume Highway. In the post-war period rising standards of living lead to greater personal investment in transport and travel. There was an increase in private car ownership among large sections of the population and greater leisure time as well as the introduction of long service leave. In 1958 three weeks paid annual holidays were introduced in New South Wales giving thousands of Australians an interest in domestic travel. Winifred West Park was strategically placed between Mittagong Railway Station and the Hume Highway. It provided and continues to provide a rest stop for the many travellers and tourists who visit Mittagong.

4.9. Landscape traditions in the Southern Highlands

Both private and public gardens are enormously important to the character and identity of the Southern Highlands. The seasons of Autumn and Spring in particular draw visitors to the region. This is supported by open garden weekends which make it possible to view significant private gardens and annual flower festivals in public gardens such as the Tulip Festival in Corbett Gardens.

4.10. Conservation of historic gardens

There are different approaches to the conservation of historic gardens. The conservation of a garden can include a variety of factors, including the degree of intactness, available evidence, and financial commitment. The approach to conservation ranges from strict preservation to adaptation and reconstruction. (Patrick, 1987)

Winifred West Park is a public garden, so it has an additional overlay of factors for consideration. The identified significance of the park lies in its spaces and fabric. The Park must serve a functional purpose and be low maintenance. These factors will play a role in the decisions made about the conservation of the Park.

³ *Echos of Dreamland*, by Ann Hawker, Macquarie Pastoral Press, 1992

5. Physical Evidence

5.1. Park Plan

Winifred West Park is 0.7065 hectares in area and is bordered to the north by Main Street and the south by Regent Street to the west is Church Lane.



Figure 33. Aerial View of Winifred West Park in May 2021 (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2021)

Winifred West Park has an L shape configuration and is located between Main Street and Regent Street in Mittagong. The western boundary of the park is defined by Church Lane. To the east Albion Lane runs in an east west direction and forms part of the northern boundary. The Park shares its eastern boundaries with 23 Regent Street and 98 Main Street.

There are two buildings in the park and one small car parking area. The larger building (building A) is leased by the Country Women's Association and the South West Local Health District for an Early Childhood Centre. Building A was constructed circa the 1960s and is built of face brick with blade

walls and feature panels of sandstone facing with a flat metal roof. The smaller building B is a toilet block with brick rendered walls painted grey and a trapezoidal metal roof.

Other objects within the park include C, a children's playground and D a sundial on a stone base. There are picnic facilities within the park and a sheltered BBQ, marked E on the map.

Winifred West Park has border plantings which define different spaces within the park—these are shown as zones in Figure 35. The northern section, Zone One, is the most historically significant part of the park. The eastern boundary is defined by the CWA building and the western side by the toilet block. This part of the park has mature shade trees and other trees which contribute a structural aesthetic to the park. The zone is more densely planted and has an important presentation to Main Street. The zone has high amenity due to shade trees and the number of seats and the picnic table, as well as the toilet facilities.

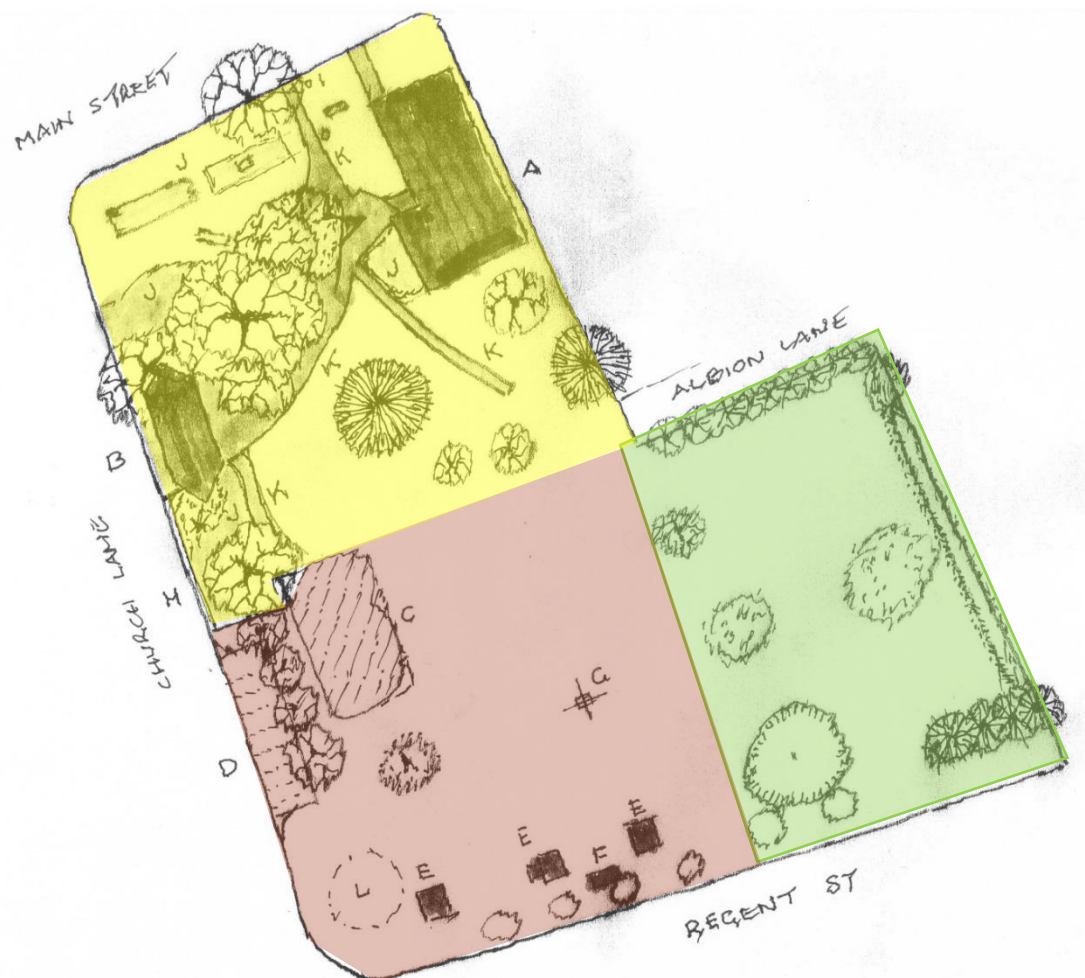


Figure 34. Sketch plan showing the three zones and built elements on the site. Not to scale. See table 1 for a guide to notations.

Table 2. Key to structures in the park and the three zones shown in Figure 35

A	Circa 1960s building leased by CWA and Early		Zone One
B	Toilet block		Zone Two
C	Children's Play Space		Zone Three
D	9 space car park		
E	BBQ Shelter, picnic table and chairs		
F	Bus shelter		
G	Sun dial		
H	Timber picket fence		
I	Original lamp posts		
J	Garden beds		
K	Paths and paving		
L	Location of filled-in underground water tank		

Zone Two has an open quality with the only substantial trees located to the west of the playground. It has a practical purpose, providing car parking, a playground, BBQs and picnic tables. Historically Zone Two had a lot more garden beds when the Park played an important role in the Dalia festival and the Tulip Festival. The border plantings are still small along Regent Street in Zone Two. This zone plays an important role for chartered coaches that park along Regent Street so that passengers can use the amenities. During Tulip Festival charter coaches stop at the park to view the floral display.

Zone Three has a quality of an enclosed garden. Its character is defined by the dense planting of Cyprus along the northern and southern borders. Along the eastern side is a hedge separating the adjoining property which is similar in form and height to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway. The two Eucalypts provide a vertical sculptural element to the centre of the space. The Photinia in the bottom left of the space has a well-formed habit and is a specimen tree of value. Zone Three has potential to be developed with a Winifred West theme as it has a garden room quality which was one design characteristic of her gardens.

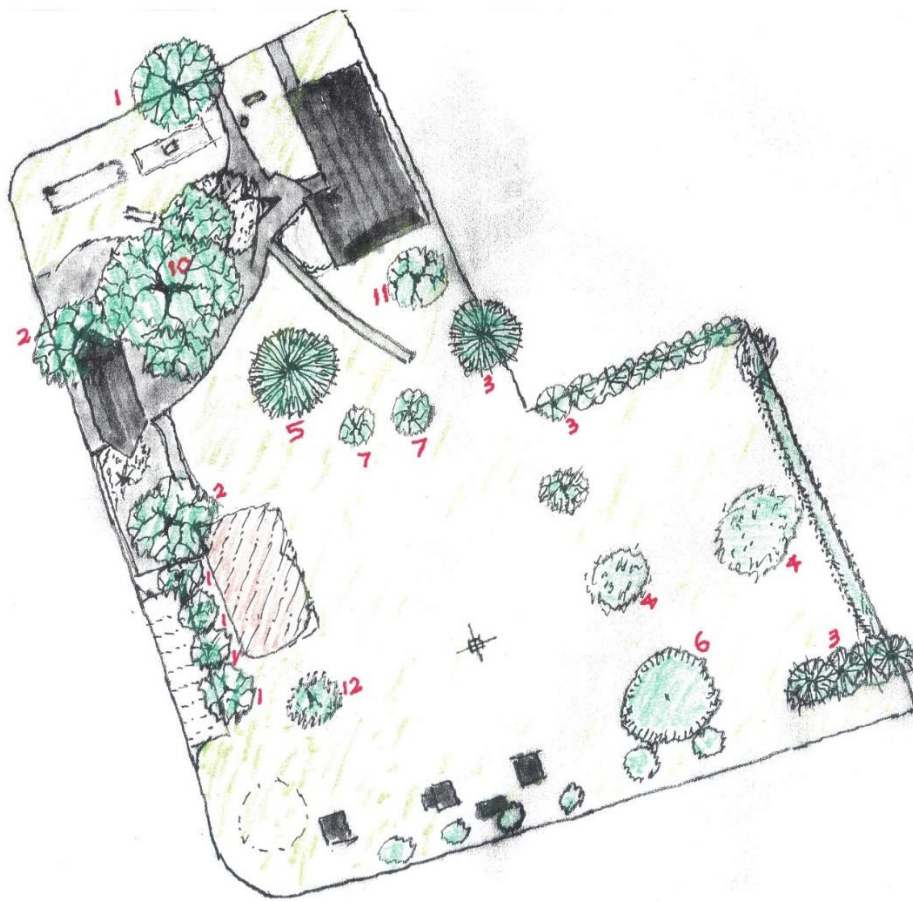


Figure 35. Sketch plan showing trees. Not to scale. See table 2 for a key guide.

Table 3. Key guide to trees shown in Figure 38. *Dates based upon aerial photography

Key	Species	Common name	Date Planted (Circa)*
1	<i>Liquid amber styraciflua</i>	Sweet Gum	1970/1980
2	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	1965/1975
3	<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	Bhutan Cypress	1970
4	<i>Eucalyptus spp</i>	Blue Gum Tree	Pre 1962
5	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Indian Cedar	1965
6	<i>Photina nigra</i>	Photinia	1980
7	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Lombardy Poplar	1965
10	<i>Ulmus glabra 'pendula'</i>	Weeping Cherry	1965
11	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	Purple Leaf Crabapple	1986
12	<i>Malus 'Echtermeyer'</i>	Weeping Pink Crabapple	1986

5.2. Photographic Evidence

General views



Figure 36. Looking from the south east across the park to the playground and toilet block, the sun dial is in the foreground.



Figure 37. Looking from Regent Street across the park towards Main Street



Figure 38. View from corner Church Lane and Main Street

Trees



Figure 39. Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) in foreground and row of Sweet Gum (*Liquid amber styraciflua*) behind



Figure 40. Photinia (*Photinia robusta*)



Figure 41. Weeping Cherry (*Ulmus glabra* 'pendula')



Figure 42. Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*)



Figure 43. Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)



Figure 44. Indian Cedar (*Cedrus deodora*)



Figure 45. Blue Gum (Eucalyptus spp)



Figure 46. Lombardy Poplar (Populus nigra)

Structures and objects within the park



Figure 47. The sun dial is mounted on a stone plinth



Figure 48. The sun dial blade which tells time by casting a shadow is missing. The inscription says it was presented by the Rotary in 1990. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong.



Figure 49. Playground with toilet block in background



Figure 50. Toilet block looking back towards Main Street



Figure 51. CWA building, viewed from Main Street



Figure 52. Bus shelter, bins, BBQ and shelter, table, and chairs along Regent Street frontage



Figure 53. Seating and a bin, picnic table and seats towards Main Street. This seating was designed in 1954 and is in its original location.



Figure 54. Contemporary seating and original light standard with spotlight mounted on top.



Figure 55. Rock garden edging and paths, dating from early Park layout.



Figure 56. Plaque reads 'Winifred West Park'. The writing is covered by lichen and hard to read. It is in a garden bed at the front of the park.



Figure 57. Another original plaque, located in the garden bed. The inscription is not legible.



Figure 58. The contemporary picnic table and chairs are on a large concrete slab. A contemporary garbage bin is adjacent to the path, along with a bubbler. The other original light standard is to the left of the photo.

6. Comparative assessment

Premier Parks in Wingecarribee

The definition of a Premier Park is contained within Council's Parks Strategy 2016. (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2016)

Premier Parks include parks that are of significance to the Shire, often with an emphasis on horticultural displays.

The primary focus for Premier Parks is to create a place of beauty and tranquillity through high quality horticultural design and maintenance and other features as appropriate to the park's character. They also may contain heritage values. Acquisition could be a result of gifting of large privately developed gardens, or through deliberate acquisition and design.

Premier Parks will generally exhibit one or more of the following values and attributes:

- *Peace and tranquillity*
- *Horticultural excellence and diversity*
- *Tourist destination*
- *Particular unique feature or character*
- *Historic, artistic or cultural values*
- *Horticultural and/or environmental education.*

Premier Parks will be developed and maintained to the highest standard.

The four premier parks in Wingecarribee are Corbett Gardens, Leighton Gardens, Diamond Jubilee Park and Winifred West Park.

Corbett Gardens

Bendooley Street, Bowral

Statement of significance	Corbett Gardens has high significance at a local level as a distinctive public garden in the centre of Bowral. The land on which the Gardens were founded has had continuing use as open space from farmland, to vacant ground until its founding as a public park in 1912. Corbett Gardens is locally significant for its association with prominent Bowral resident, Ada Corbett whose energy and commitment with a group of like-minded local residents persuaded the Department of Lands to provide a grant to purchase the land for the purposes of a public park and to energise its transformation from an agricultural paddock to the Corbett Gardens we see today. The continuing interest of the local community in the place over many decades, has been an important to the maintenance and management of the place. The aesthetic character of the Gardens with its range and diversity of exotic trees some more than 50 years old contributes strongly to cultural significance. The use of the Gardens has varied over time from partial use as a bowling green then as a parkland and since 1957 has been a site for the Tulip Time Festival, an important fixture in the cultural calendar of the Southern Highlands.
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Figure 59. Statement of Significance for Corbett Gardens. (WSC-Attachments-to-Item-12.5-Corbett-Gardens-Draft-Conservation-Management-Plan) (Phillips Marler, 2015)



Figure 60. Corbett Gardens in 2020 during the Tulip Festival (Google, 2021)

Corbett Gardens is a significant public park located in Bowral. The park is well maintained and is the focus of the annual Tulip Festival. It was established in the early 20th century.

Leighton Gardens

Argyle Street, Moss Vale



Figure 61. Leighton Gardens in spring (Flickr)

The plaque in the gardens is inscribed:

*Commemorating the Centenary of Leighton Gardens,
named in honour of Moss Vale`s*

*illustrious Mayor and Dentist,
Dr. Henry Leighton Jones who initiated, then
orchestrated construction of these magnificent
gardens, which were opened on 7 December 1905
by Lord Jersey, former Governor of
New South Wales.*

*This plaque was unveiled in December 2005
by John Leighton Jones and
Wingecarribee Shire Mayor, Gordon Lewis.*

Leighton Gardens were established in 1905.

Diamond Jubilee Park and Fountain

Is located in Argyle Street, Moss Vale. The fountain made from stone quarried at Mount Gibraltar (between Bowral and Mittagong) to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

Comparison between the Premier Parks

Table 4. Comparative between the four Premier Parks

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Heritage listing	Established
Corbett Gardens	Bowral	0.8519	Local I529	1911
Diamond Jubilee Park	Moss Vale	0.0482	No	Date unknown
Leighton Gardens	Moss Vale	0.5366	Local I400 & I172 Pavilion	1905
Winifred West Park	Mittagong	0.7065	Local I039	1954

Winifred West Park is the only Premier Park in Wingecarribee established in the mid-20th century.

Other Heritage Listed Parks in Wingecarribee

Suburb	Item name	Address	Significance	Item No
Bowral	Centennial Park	Centennial Road	Local	I538
Bowral	Bradman Oval	Glebe Park, St Jude Street	State	I541
Exeter	Exeter Park	16 Exeter Road	Local	I1233
Berrima	Market Place	Old Hume Highway Public Reserve 518–30	Local	I233

Rocket Parks

Cold War playground equipment was intended to foster children's curiosity and excitement about the Space Race. It was installed during the Cold War in both communist and capitalist countries.

According to the home page of the Big4 caravan park in Deniliquin, the Moon Rocket in Scotts Park, Deniliquin was the first of 38 playground rockets built in Australia. Dick West brought plans back to Australia from America and constructed the Deniliquin 'Moon Rocket' in 1961. (Big 4 Holiday Park, n.d.)

Surviving rocket play structures from the 1960s are rare and have high social value due to the nostalgia that surrounds them. For example, in February 2021 the 50-year-old rocket in Central Gardens, Hawthorne, Victoria was earmarked for removal in a playground upgrade. A petition with over 4000 signatures was presented to the City of Boondara, prompting a rethink on alternative options. In June 2021 Council proposed a redevelopment of the park which involved keeping the Rocket. (The Age, 2021)



Figure 62. The original Rocket Slide in Central Gardens, Hawthorne, Victoria is still in-situ



Figure 63. Rocket-shaped playground equipment, Earlwood by Robert Hallams 25 Dec 1972 – 14 May 1978 (State Library of NSW, 2021)

The rocket slide design was duplicated in each park, including Winifred West Park. The rocket slide had four legs/fins, a central pole and ladder and four platforms. The whole structure was encased in a rocket shaped cage. The slide was attached to the second platform. Even though the rocket has been removed, Winifred West Park is still nostalgically referred to as 'Rocket Park'.

Due to the nostalgia associated with the rocket play structures in some parks they have been reinstated. The contemporary interpretation of the rocket is diverse, unlike the uniformity of the 1960s model. The main factor driving modern day design appears to be safety.



Figure 64. The rocket in Blackheath Memorial Park is similar to the original model.



Figure 65. Kirby Park (Rocket Park), 75 Frome Street, Moree



Figure 66. Warriewood Valley Playground Rocket Park, Casuarina Dr, Warriewood NSW

7. Significance Assessment

7.1. Cultural significance of Winifred West Park

The period between 1968 and 1988 was a key period of significance for Winifred West Park. There had been enough tree planting to give the park a vertical structure. The extensive and well-maintained garden beds gave the park a vibrancy. Colour was present all year round in the spring floral display or autumn leaves. This was supported by the dense and structural border plantings of Cyprus. Visitation was high due to the Tourist Information Centre and the Rocket Slide and supported by the new toilet block.

7.2. Significance Assessment Criteria

The following criteria have been used in the assessment of cultural heritage significance. These criteria are the standard criteria for use in NSW that have been prepared for use by the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet.⁴

For a place to be deemed to be significant to NSW or Wingecarribee it must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;
- b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;
- c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or Wingecarribee;
- d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW or Wingecarribee for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;
- f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;
- g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or Wingecarribee's - cultural or natural places; or - cultural or natural environments.

- a) *an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;*

Winifred West Park provides physical evidence of the historic role of local government in providing facilities for its citizens in mid-20th century NSW. The Park demonstrates the rising ascendancy of car transport in the 1950s and the need for a rest stop on the main road south, the Hume Highway. The introduction of paid annual leave in 1958 facilitated a rise in domestic travel and an increase in tourism by car and by train, driving the practical requirement for places where people could break their journey, such as Winifred West Park. The Park demonstrates the increase in tourism in the 1960s which led to construction of a tourist information centre in the park in 1969.

The Park has historic value as a place that reflects the national preoccupation with space travel in the 1960s, expressed in everyday objects such as children's play structures in the form of a Rocket Slide installed in 1968 and removed 1993.

⁴ See www.heritage.nsw.gov.au for more information.

The Park demonstrates the steady growth of tourism in the Southern Highlands. In the 1990s the original tourist information centre had to be abandoned for a larger facility. The Park also demonstrates the power of public protest and the attachment the community felt to the park. When it was initially proposed to place a larger tourist information centre, shops and restaurant in the centre of Winifred West Park there was public outcry and plans were dropped and another site chosen.

Fulfills this criterion at a local level.

- b) *an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;*

The Park has historic association with Winifred West, a community leader, an innovative and skilled educator and keen gardener. The high esteem with which the Mittagong community held Ms West is reflected in the naming of the park.

The Park is historically associated with the Dahlia Festival and the Tulip Festival.

Winifred West Park is associated with the former Council of Nattai and the former Mittagong Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council, as custodians of the park.

The Park is associated with the Mittagong Tourist Information Centre which was located in the park from 1969 until 1997. The Tourist Information Centre was a destination within the park, visitors to the centre by association also visited the Park.

The Park has minor association with the Country Women's Association of Mittagong and the Early Childhood Centre of Mittagong due to the location of the building within the park. However, these two historic associations do not contribute to the significance of the park.

Fulfills this criterion at a local level.

- c) *an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or Wingecarribee;*

Winifred West Park has aesthetic value as a cool climate garden characteristic of the Southern Highlands. It has value as a seasonal park with its floral display in the Spring and for its autumnal leaves in Autumn. The Park continues the tradition begun in 1820 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie described the area as a 'fine, extensive pleasure ground' and Throsby Park, Hillview and other grand estates created stately cold-climate landscapes with English trees, exotic conifers, and mass planting of Spring bulbs.

The Park has aesthetic value for its visual relationship to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway line in Regent Street. The repetition of Cyprus planting in the park creates harmony between the two heritage items.

The three aesthetically distinctive zones of the Park provide different sensory experiences which combine to enhance the overall aesthetic value of the park.

Fulfills this criterion at a local level.

- d) *an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW or Wingecarribee for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

Winifred West Park has a special association with the Mittagong and Southern Highlands community who have demonstrated attachment to the place when changes are made or proposed.

The local community together with the wider public who have travelled via or visited Mittagong until 1997 have nostalgia for the former Rocket Slide play structure. Discussion of the Rocket evokes childhood memories of family travel and play, both in Mittagong and other locations in Australia.

- e) *an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;*

Prior to the resumption of the future park by the Council of the Shire of Nattai there may have been residences or shops present on the land facing Main Street. The southern portion of the site was used as a depot and buildings were extant until 1970. There may be potential for archaeological finds relating to these structures and uses of the land, however such finds would be unlikely to shed light upon an otherwise unknown aspect of the history of Mittagong that is not readily available in documentary sources.

Does not fulfill this criterion.

- f) *an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's or Wingecarribee's cultural or natural history;*

Winifred West Park is not rare or endangered, it does not possess uncommon aspects.

Does not fulfill this criterion.

- g) *an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or Wingecarribee's - cultural or natural places; or - cultural or natural environments.*

Winifred West Park is a fine representative example of a cool climate public park in the Southern Highlands of NSW established in the 1950s.

The Park is an example of public rest parks created to meet the needs of mid-century Australian travellers, on the move due to the introduction of annual leave and the increased availability of car transport.

7.3. Summary Statement of Significance

Winifred West Park provides physical evidence of the historic role of local government in providing facilities for its citizens in mid-20th century NSW. The Park demonstrates the rising ascendancy of car transport in the 1950s and the need for a rest stop on the main road south, the Hume Highway. The introduction of paid annual leave in 1958 facilitated a rise in domestic travel and an increase in tourism by car and by train, driving the practical requirement for places where people could break their journey, such as Winifred West Park.

The Park demonstrates the increase in tourism in the 1960s which led to construction of a tourist information centre in the Park in 1969.

The Park has historic value as a place that reflects the national preoccupation with space travel in the 1960s, expressed in everyday objects such as children's play structures in the form of a Rocket Slide installed in 1968 and removed 1993.

The Park demonstrates the steady growth of tourism in the Southern Highlands. In the 1990s the original tourist information centre had to be abandoned for a larger facility. The Park also demonstrates the power of public protest and the attachment the community felt to the Park. When it was initially proposed to place a larger tourist information centre, shops and restaurant in the

centre of Winifred West Park there was public outcry and plans were dropped and another site chosen.

The Park has historic association with Winifred West, a community leader, an innovative and skilled educator and keen gardener. The high esteem with which the Mittagong community held Ms West is reflected in the naming of the park. The Park is historically associated with the Dahlia Festival and the Tulip Festival.

Winifred West Park is associated with the former Council of Nattai and the former Mittagong Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council, as custodians of the park and with the Mittagong Tourist Information Centre which was located in the park from 1969 until 1997.

Winifred West Park has aesthetic value as a cool climate garden characteristic of the Southern Highlands. It has value as a seasonal park with its floral display in the Spring and for its autumnal leaves in Autumn. The Park continues the tradition begun in 1820 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie described the area as a 'fine, extensive pleasure ground' and Throsby Park, Hillview and other grand estates created stately cold-climate landscapes with English trees, exotic conifers, and mass planting of Spring bulbs.

The Park has aesthetic value for its visual relationship to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway line in Regent Street. The repetition of Cyprus planting in the park creates harmony between the two heritage items.

Winifred West Park has a special association with the Mittagong and Southern Highlands community who have demonstrated attachment to the place when changes are made or proposed. The local community together with the wider public who have travelled via or visited Mittagong have nostalgia for the Rocket Slide play structure located in the playground until 1997.

Winifred West Park is a fine representative example of a cool climate public park in the Southern Highlands of NSW established in the 1950s. The Park is an good example of public rest parks created to meet the needs of mid-century Australian travellers, on the move due to the introduction of annual leave and the increased availability of car transport.

Winifred West Park is significant at a local level.

8. Curtilage

The heritage curtilage of Winifred West Park is the boundary created as Lots 1–3 and 16–21, Sec 2, DP 1289; Lot 1, DP 668762.

... the term "heritage curtilage" means the area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its significance. (Heritage Office (Premier and Cabinet), 1996)

9. Grading of Significance

According to the document *Assessing Heritage Significance*, different components and spaces within a building or place have varying degrees of value according to how they contribute to the overall significance of the place. (NSW Heritage, Premier and Cabinet)

Grading of significance is therefore applied in order to make decisions regarding the tolerance for change.

Grading	Justification	Key to diagrams
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an item's local or State significance.	
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element or function of the item's significance Alterations do not detract from significance.	
Moderate	Elements with some heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item often through provision of a function which is integral to items significance.	
Little	Neutral in relation to significance. Difficult to interpret.	
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	

9.1. Zone One (Refer to Figure 35 for map of zones.)

Table 5. Explanation to grading of significance in Zone One

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
Built			
CWA Hall	Little	The hall has a functional community use. Users of the building use the park. The building is not integral to the significance of the park.	The hall could be removed as its function could exist elsewhere without impacting the significance of the park.
Toilet Block	Moderate	The toilet block provides a practical purpose which is essential in the significance of the park.	Some tolerance for change.
Light standards	High	The light standards were moved into the park when the park was created. Originally these lights lined the main road of Mittagong.	Standards should be retained in-situ and not moved as this is their original location. The top of the standards currently have uncharacteristic spot lights, they should be changed to reflect the original. If brighter lighting is required new light posts should be provided or the luminescence of the reinstated lights be enhanced.
1950s seats	High	Designed by E. Nicholls in 1954 these seats are the only park furniture surviving from the original park.	No tolerance for change
Contemporary seats, table and chairs	Little	The fabric of the seats and picnic tables doesn't have value. However the provision of seats and picnic tables in the park is important to maintain its use.	The seating and tables can change so long as they are replaced with alternatives. See policy on park furniture.
Bin	Little	The bin doesn't have value, however the provision of a bin in the park is important to maintain its use.	The bin can change so long as it is replaced with an alternative. See policy on park furniture.
Stone plaques and Trachyte plinth	High	The trachyte rock and plaque located in the front garden bed and the stone	The rock and plaques must be retained in Zone One in a prominent location. The rock and plaque can be

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
		plaque in the garden bed have historical value.	moved from its current location the other plaque is associated with the garden bed.
Picket fence	Little	The picket fence around the toilet block does not have a clear purpose or relationship to the park. It is out of character with the park as the rest of the park is open in character.	The picket fence can be removed. It needs to be rationalised with the small garden to the south of the toilet block.
Paths	Moderate	Original paths help tell the story of the park. There have been changes to the paths over time.	Original paths should be retained where they contribute to the use of the park.
Rock garden edging	High	The original stone edging around the garden beds is characteristic of the period of the original park. It provides evidence of the original garden design.	Little tolerance for change. Should be retained in-situ.
Trees and plantings			
<i>Liquid amber styraciflua</i>	Moderate	Although this tree is actually on the footpath it is important to the form of the Park. It draws the eye into the Park when viewed from Main Street.	The form, habit and foliage display are important. Tolerance to change but must be replaced with similar in same location.
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Exceptional	Located north of the toilet block, this tree has value as an early planting.	No tolerance for change unless due to ill health. If required should be replaced by same species.
<i>Ulmus glabra 'pendula'</i>	High	Very important original tree.	No tolerance for change unless due to ill health. If required should be replaced by same species.
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Exceptional	Very important original tree.	No tolerance for change unless due to ill health. If required should be replaced by same species.
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Moderate	Not as significant as the other <i>Quercus</i> but contributes to overall significance of the park.	The form, habit and foliage display are important. Has some tolerance for change but must be replaced with similar in same location.

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Exceptional	Very important pair of original trees	No tolerance for change unless due to ill health. If required should be replaced by same species.
<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	High	Not planted until 1970 but a tree with a strong form that relates to trees adjacent to the railway. It is a strong element on the eastern edge of Zone One.	No tolerance for change unless due to ill health. If required should be replaced by same species.
<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	Moderate	Small colourful tree. Contributes Autumn colour to the location behind the CWA Hall.	Has tolerance for change. Contributes structure to the location behind the CWA Hall.
<i>Gardens next to CWA</i>	High	Original garden beds with stone edging. The stone edging date to the early creation of the Park.	The original garden beds together with the stone edging should be retained for floral display. The plants in the beds are of no significance and can be changed.
<i>Garden next to toilet block</i>	Little	This garden bed doesn't have any relationship to the rest of the park.	It has a high tolerance for change.

9.2. Zone Two

Table 6. Explanation to grading of significance in Zone Two

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
Built			
Playground	High	The fabric of the playground is not of value however the amenity it provides to the park is integral to the park's significance.	High tolerance for change. Opportunities exist for reinstatement of significant rocket slide play structure.
Picnic Shelter	Little	Low contribution to significance of Park.	Amenity value, high tolerance for change.
Bus shelter	Little	Low contribution to significance of Park.	Amenity value, high tolerance for change.
Sundial	Moderate	Association with RSL not connected to significance of the Park.	Poorly located, compromises use of the park for other activities.

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
BBQs	Little	Low contribution to significance of Park.	Amenity value, high tolerance for change.
Carpark	Little	Low contribution to significance of Park.	Amenity value, high tolerance for change.
Underground tank	Intrusive	Prevents structured tree planting in this area.	Removal recommended.
Planting			
<i>Liquid amber styraciflua</i>	Moderate	This row of Sweet Gum Trees forms an edge to the west side of the park and screens the carpark from the park. The trees also provide shade for the playground and Autumnal foliage.	Low tolerance for change. The trees are an important element.
<i>Malus 'Echtermeyer'</i>	Moderate	A small specimen tree. Contributes colour.	High tolerance for change. The location is not significant.

9.3. Zone Three

Table 7. Explanation to grading of significance in Zone Three

Element	Grading	Justification	Tolerance for change
Plantings			
<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	High	These rows of Cypress are an important structural element in the park. They define the north and south borders of the zone. They pay tribute to the same trees planted in Regent Street beside the railway.	The gap between the Photinia and the row of Cypress could be closed with additional planting, so long as it was set back from the Photinia.
<i>Eucalyptus spp</i>	High	These two trees are not characteristic of a highland garden, however they play a role as sculptural specimen trees.	No tolerance for change.
<i>Photinia nigra</i>	High	This tree has a very well-defined habit and form. It anchors the corner of Zone Three	No tolerance for change.

10. Opportunities and Constraints

10.1. Opportunities and constraints arising from significance

The elements in Winifred West Park, both plants and man-made, should be managed according to their assessed level of significance. Proposals for works or maintenance to any element should first be assessed against the significance of the element and the heritage impact of the work upon that element and Winifred West Park as a whole.

The cultural significance of Winifred West Park requires that the park be maintained and used as a Premier Park. See 9.2 for a description of the Premier Park category.

There are trees of exceptional and high heritage value within the park. The maintenance of these trees should be guided by a tree management plan prepared by a qualified arborist. The maintenance of these trees is essential to the conservation of the cultural significance of the park.

The significance of Winifred West Park provides opportunities to enhance the park in a number of ways including the following.

- **Floral display:** The floral displays traditionally associated with the park have not been on display in the park in such mass planting in recent years. The historic and social value of the park as a tourist destination is dependent upon a high quality and abundant floral display. There are currently only two floral garden beds at the front of the park. The original garden beds in Zone Two have been removed. There is an opportunity to reinstate garden beds in Zone Two.
- **Rocket Play Structure:** There is a nostalgia driven desire for the return of the Rocket. The community still refers to the park as Rocket Park. The return of the Rocket would be in keeping with the social value of the park.
- **Winifred West:** Historically the park has association with Winifred West, a community leader, educator and keen gardener. The aesthetic and historic value of the park would benefit from introduction of Winifred West's design principles and ideas into the park design. This would enhance the cultural significance to the park.
- **Interpretation:** The significance of Winifred West Park could be conveyed in a meaningful way to enhance visitor experience. Historic themes could be developed and interpreted in each of the three zones. Care must be taken not to over interpret, or clutter the park.

10.2. Wingecarribee Shire Council policies and strategies

Wingecarribee Shire Community Strategic Plan 2031

A key issue identified by the community is 'Preservation of the character of the Shire.' The 2031 Plan identifies a 'strong sense of place', where heritage is valued and preserved and local parks and gardens are provided and maintained. Winifred West Park should be maintained and upkeep should be in keeping with the ranking of the park as a Premier Park.

Wingecarribee Shire Council Parks Strategy 2016

Winifred West Park is classified as a Premier Park, category 2. A Premier Park is *a unique site with many values, features and facilities that attract large numbers of people to use it. . . The primary focus for Premier Parks is to create a place of beauty and tranquillity through high quality*

horticultural design and maintenance and other features as appropriate to the park's character. Premier Parks will generally exhibit one or more of the following values and attributes:

- *Peace and tranquillity*
- *Horticultural excellence and diversity*
- *Tourist destination*
- *Particular unique feature or character*
- *Historic, artistic or cultural values*
- *Horticultural and/or environmental education.*

Opportunities exist to introduce or enhance the above attributes.

Attribute	Opportunity
<i>Peace and tranquillity</i>	Zone Three has the feeling of a partially walled garden. This zone could be landscaped to emphasise its garden room quality so that it can be used for contemplation. This theme relates to the design principles of Winifred West.
<i>Horticultural excellence and diversity</i>	Historic plantings show species diversity.
<i>Tourist destination</i>	If the rocket was reintroduced in the play space this would enhance the tourist experience. Continuing floral displays in Spring would also bring visitors.
<i>Particular unique feature or character</i>	The landmark character of the park needs to be strengthened. The corner of Church Lane and Main Street is undeveloped and out of character with the rest of Zone One.
<i>Historic, artistic or cultural values</i>	Former students of Winifred West, now landscape architects, have provided input into the design and upkeep of gardens originally designed by West at Frensham School. These landscape architects could be consulted to further understand the types of garden design advocated by Winifred West and whether these principles can be applied to the park.
<i>Horticultural and/or environmental education.</i>	More interpretive information could be provided.

Wingecarribee Shire Council Play Space Strategy 2016

Winifred West Park is the only Premier Park with a play space. It is one of 8 play spaces in Mittagong. The Play Space Strategy identifies play space renewal as a priority. The existing play space in Winifred West Park is described in the Strategy as not up to Premier Park level. When the Park play space is renewed an opportunity exists to reinstate a Rocket style play structure. Ideally it would be a rocket slide and as close to the original design as possible without compromising on health and safety. The Rocket is important in the historic and social significance of Winifred West Park, if it was reinstated it would enhance the significance of the park and improve the aesthetic value of Zone Two of the park.

Wingecarribee Shire Council Winifred West Plan of Management 2009

The historical summary in the POM refers to a history report prepared by Leah Day and Tim McCartney. This document was not found in a search of Council files.

The POM, written in 2009, states that *Winifred West Park is reaching a point where significant capital is required to main the Park as a floral showpiece*. This has evidently been acted upon as the size of the annual floral display has decreased accordingly. The POM provides a condition report of the man-made structures but not the plants. The long-term strategy for the Park recommends a replacement program for significant trees and a Tree Management Plan. Included in the Tree Management Plan was to be:

- *Replacement program*
 - *Including preference to water wise species.*
- *Water management.*
- *Preventative maintenance.*
- *Relieving soil compaction.*

The POM also notes that there are four significant trees on the Saint Stephen's Church site that should be taken into account with the overall aesthetics and future planting of the Park.

An opportunity with regards to the Plan of Management for Winifred West Park is to produce a Tree Management Plan.

Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010

Winifred West Park is a heritage item listed in schedule 5 of WLEP 2010. The Park is also situated within a Heritage Conservation Area. The objectives of WLEP 2010 for heritage are contained in Clause 5.10 as follows:

- (1) *Objectives The objectives of this clause are as follows—*
- a) *to conserve the environmental heritage of Wingecarribee,*
 - b) *to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*
 - c) *to conserve archaeological sites,*
 - d) *to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

The heritage significance of Winifred West has been reviewed and revised as part of this CMP. It is recommended that the statement of significance contained within this report be adopted as the accepted statement of significance for assessment and management purposes.

Wingecarribee Development Control Plan 2010

Contained within the Mittagong DCP chapter – Section 14 Commercial Core Heritage Precinct – are specific controls and objectives which relate to Winifred West Park.

B14.2 Preferred development outcomes

(a) Council is strongly committed to the preservation and enhancement of the heritage value of this Precinct and all redevelopment or alterations to existing buildings must achieve high quality urban design outcomes that are consistent with the heritage and cultural qualities of the streetscape, and encourage greater unification amongst discordant streetscape elements, such as footpath paving and street furniture.

The preservation and enhancement of the heritage values of the Mittagong Core Heritage Precinct is consistent with the preservation of the heritage values of Winifred West Park. There is opportunity to apply this objective to Winifred West Park through a more consistent high-quality choice of park furniture that is characteristic of the heritage values of the Park.

(b) Within this Precinct Council seeks to strengthen the natural geographic core of the Mittagong business centre in the vicinity of Winifred West Park and St Stephens Church as a focus for community activity by:

- (i) the creation of additional retail and commercial development opportunities,*
- (ii) the retention and enhancement of heritage items and other contributory buildings,*
- (iii) the protection and enhancement of Winifred West Park and the landscape setting of the St Stephens Church as key spaces, for the benefit of the community and visitors to Mittagong.*

There is opportunity to ensure that the setting of Winifred West Park is clearly defined. This could be done through enhancement of entry points and reinforcement of degraded edges such as the corner opposite St Stephen's Church.

B14.3 Additional development controls

(b) Development and infrastructure shall achieve high quality urban design outcomes that are consistent with the heritage and cultural qualities of the place, and encourage greater unification amongst discordant streetscape elements, such as footpath paving and street furniture.

There is opportunity to apply this control to Winifred West Park through a more consistent high-quality choice of park furniture that is characteristic of the heritage values of the Park.

10.3. Opportunities and Constraints arising from use

Access

There is only one formal entrance pathway into Winifred West Park from Main Street. This is an original path and is partially bordered by garden beds that are also original. This path also accesses the Baby Health Centre.

Opportunities exist for creating equal access and enhanced experiences for all, such as sensory experiences and facilities for the blind.

Views

Winifred West Park is centrally located on an important thoroughfare in Mittagong which provides views into the Park along its frontage to Main Street. The view from the corner of Church Lane and Main Street is an important one but it is not celebrated. The existing view is unstructured and has a service post (electrical?) in the centre of the corner which would otherwise provide a prime view into the Park. There is an opportunity to strengthen the corner by moving the service post to a more discrete location and providing low garden beds.

Facilities and furniture

The existing toilet facilities are well located and landscaped. The community sharps disposal bin adjacent to the toilet block is visually intrusive.



Figure 68. Services unit obstructing a main view into the Park from the corner.



Figure 69. The community sharps bin is painted in intrusive colour scheme.

Consistency in design of furniture

There are several different styles of furniture in the Park. There is an opportunity to have a style palette for furniture to give it consistency and improve the overall appearance. There are some existing seats (Figure.54) dating from the original Park, these should be kept and maintained.

Signage

There are currently numerous signs in various locations throughout the Park generally with rules for the park. There is no signage containing interpretation of the Park. There is an opportunity to improve the confusion presented by the signs in the Park. A signage strategy could be developed in conjunction with an interpretation strategy.

Events

The open nature of Zone Two lends itself to the hosting of events such as markets.

New Plantings

Being a public park there are considerable constraints for species selection. Management of the Park by necessity needs to be low maintenance. Species selection needs to be drought tolerant and suitable for a cool climate. There is a public expectation that there will be a floral display of Tulips on an annual basis.

11. Conservation Policy

11.1. Intention of conservation policy

The primary purpose of a conservation plan is to establish policies which will guide the future care and development of a place. (Kerr, 2000)

The conservation policy is developed from the previous information contained in this report including:

- Historical background and fabric analysis.
- Significance assessment and grading of components.
- Opportunities and constraints.

The conservation policy contained here is intended to facilitate the conservation and management of Winifred West Park.

11.2. Requirements for retention of significance

The principal aspects of the significance of the place that should be retained and conserved are:

- All the elements graded as exceptional, high or medium significance.
- Original trees dating from the key establishment period of the 1950s.
- Trees dating from the establishment of the southern portion of the park after closure of the works depot.
- Significant spaces defining the character of each zone.

Policy 1. The significance of Winifred West Park should be conserved in accordance with this Conservation Management Plan.

Policy 2. The significance assessment and grading of significance within this report should form the basis for decision making.

Policy 3. This CMP should be adopted as a guiding document for the care and management of Winifred West Park.

Policy 4. The principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) should be applied to future management and development of the place.

11.3. The importance of keeping records.

It is essential that records associated with the care, maintenance and cultural significance of Winifred West Park are maintained in a secure local location. Recording changes made in the Park – before, during and after works with descriptions and photographs provides valuable information for future asset managers and custodians. It is important to record details such as seasonal planting, relocation of garden beds or new plantings, or treatment of existing trees such as pruning, to facilitate long term management and conservation.

All documents relating to the Winifred West Park should be stored on a Wingecarribee Council file specific to Winifred West Park.

Copies of this CMP and historical information should also be lodged with the local history section of Wingecarribee Shire Library, so they are publicly available for reference.

Policy 5. Records must be maintained to record any change or maintenance in Winifred West Park with annotated drawings and photographs.

Policy 6. All records associated with Winifred West Park must be stored on a Wingecarribee Shire Council file dedicated to the Park. A copy of this CMP and any historical information is to be provided to the Wingecarribee Shire library.

11.4. Curtilage, views and setting.

Policy 7. Maintain the historic lot boundary curtilage of Winifred West Park.

Policy 8. Prior to making any changes, other than maintenance, within the curtilage an assessment must be made of the impact of the proposed work on the significance of the Winifred West Park, including placement or removal of objects, buildings or structures or plantings.

11.5. Maintenance.

Policy 9. Prepare and implement a Maintenance Strategy with regular cyclical inspection schedules of the significant plants and spaces, prioritising actions in accordance with need.

11.6. New work.

Policy 10. If new work requiring introduction of new trees, structures, garden beds or intervention into existing significant landscape elements is proposed it shall be preceded by a heritage impact assessment.

11.7. Personnel

Policy 11. Appropriately qualified staff and contractors should be the only ones to undertake repairs and maintenance Winifred West Park. Skilled and experienced trades people should be engaged.

Policy 12. A copy of this CMP should be made available to all personnel working in Winifred West Park.

11.8. Treatment of uncharacteristic elements

Policy 13. Elements defined in the grading of significance as intrusive should be considered for replacement when the opportunity arises. No new uncharacteristic elements are permitted in the Park.

Policy 14. A Park Furniture strategy should be prepared to provide a suite of furniture to be used in the park. The guidelines should also include retention of existing furniture of significance.

Policy 15. Fences are not characteristic of Winifred West Park. If fencing is proposed it must first be assessed in a heritage impact statement.

11.9. Temporary Structures

Policy 16. Temporary structures should be only used where they do not damage the fabric of the Park and they should only be kept on site for a minimum amount of time.

11.10. Signage

Policy 17. The existing signage within Winifred West Park is numerous and often intrusive. A signage strategy should be prepared that examines all signs and all requirements for signs and addresses them with a single signage palette.

Policy 18. Winifred West Park currently does not have an entrance or arrival sign. The Park name should be displayed on the Main Street entrance. The design of the sign should be non-intrusive and not impact the heritage values of the Park.

11.11. Interpretation

Interpretation is a means of sharing the significance of the place and any stories associated with the place. It is essential that interpretation does not impact the significance of the place.

Policy 19. Interpretation of the Winifred West Park is recommended but must not negatively impact its heritage values.

11.12. Archaeology

Whilst no archaeological potential has been identified at Winifred West Park Council should be aware of their responsibilities in the case of unexpected finds.

Policy 20. If an unexpected archaeological object of potential significance is located in the Park in the course of works then this work should cease until the advice of a qualified archaeologist is provided and any necessary permits are approved.

11.13. Adoption of the CMP

Policy 21. This Conservation Management Plan should be adopted by Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Policy 22. The adopted CMP should be issued to the Manager of Operations and distributed to the staff responsible for care and maintenance of Winifred West Park.

Policy 23. This CMP should be reviewed after 10 years.

12. Maintenance Strategy

Winifred West Park is a heritage asset and should be maintained in a manner which retains heritage significance, with the objective of preventing deterioration and avoiding the need for expensive “catch-up” maintenance and major repairs.

12.1. Terminology

The terms fabric, place, preservation, reconstruction, restoration, adaptation and conservation used throughout this report have the meaning given them by the Burra Charter.

The following definitions also apply.

Cyclical Maintenance

Cyclical maintenance is work required to be carried out on an agreed cycle. The regular expenditure of a small amount of maintenance funds is more cost effective than large injections of capital every 20 years or so. Cyclical maintenance can usually be carried out by the property manager and does not require specialist tradespeople.

Corrective Maintenance:

Corrective maintenance is listed as a once only maintenance item in the cyclical maintenance table in order of the significance of the item requiring work. It is usually carried out by specialist tradespeople.

Emergency Corrective Maintenance:

Emergency Corrective Maintenance is work that must be initiated immediately for health, safety, security reasons or that may result in rapid deterioration. For example, pruning after storm damage, graffiti removal or repairing broken glass. A daily response system detailing who is responsible for urgent repairs should be prepared.

12.2. Asset management

Recording the asset

Prior to implementing a maintenance program, Winifred West Park must be recorded and described to provide property managers with basic information.

- Landscape plan
- Inventory of trees and significant shrubs
- Condition assessment of trees by an arborist
- Inventory of significant structures
- Details of services
- Conservation Management Plan
- Photographic archival record.
- Records of previous maintenance and plantings

12.2.1. Maintenance Log Book

All maintenance work must be recorded. The log of maintenance should include the following information:

- Date of work.
- Description of work.
- Why the work was considered necessary.
- Who commissioned the work.
- Name of person/company contractor who carried out the work, and warranties.
- Cost of the work.
- New plants introduced and their location shown on the landscape plan.
- Pruning and/or tree removal, shown on the landscape plan and described.
- Annual garden bed upgrades and planting.
- New structures.
- New garden design.

The log book must be kept by the park manager and a copy, regularly updated, stored in Council's filing system on a file dedicated to Winifred West Park.

New structures and new trees may require development consent. Refer to Section 12.4 of this report.

12.2.2. Periodic Inspection

The park manager should inspect the park at periodic intervals. It is recommended an inspection occur four times per year in line with the seasons or special events.

The inspection should be recorded with detailed observations about the condition of the park. It should also note the performance of new plants. The written record must be kept with the log book and a copy with Council's file. Written records are essential to provide background on prior maintenance and management for new asset management staff.

12.2.3. Preparing a budget

It is essential that the maintenance of Winifred West Park is included in Council expenditure. There are three types of budgets recommended (Heritage NSW, 1998):

Committed expenditure – This covers the regular maintenance to the War Memorial that happens annually.

Variable expenditure – This covers the prioritised maintenance to the War Memorial that happens every few years. For example, removing the lichen from the roof tiles.

Managed expenditure – this is for unplanned maintenance. For example, graffiti removal

12.3. Maintenance strategies

The following strategies are for the maintenance of Winifred West Park as it is currently. The introduction of new trees or reconfiguration of the layout must be informed by an adopted landscape plan which has been informed by a heritage impact assessment and follows the policies of this Conservation Management Plan.

12.3.1. Trees and Shrubs Maintenance

Strategy 1. A tree maintenance program or tree management strategy should be established and followed including:

- a program for regular inspection of the trees and shrubs for any necessary pruning, infestation or wound management;
- replacement recommendations;
- inspection records.

Strategy 2. Where stress or damage or decline is assessed in any tree then the advice of an arborist must be sought. The advice must consider the significance of the historic trees before recommending drastic action such as heavy pruning or removal.

Strategy 3. New specimen trees.

If new specimen trees are proposed they must be in accordance with an approved landscape plan for the park that has been supported by a heritage impact assessment.

Strategy 4. Record keeping.

Pruning or removal of trees must be recorded prior to works with photography, a description of the work and why it is necessary and a supporting plan showing the location of the affected tree.

Table 8. Suggested timing of routine maintenance activities for plants

Landscape Element	Maintenance actions	Timing
Trees and Major Shrubs	Check for signs of disease, rot, dead wood and treat as necessary. Carry out tree husbandry operations such as staking, protection	Cyclical – every 3 to 6 months
Minor Shrubs	Check for signs of disease, rot, dead wood and treat as necessary. Prune as necessary, in accordance with species requirements, to improve shape, flowering or fruiting. Check for fungal attack during humid weather months and spray	Cyclical – every 3 to 6 months
Herbaceous plantings	Prune as necessary, in accordance with species requirements, to improve shape, flowering or fruiting. Check for fungal attack during humid weather months and spray as necessary.	Corrective
Rockerries	Weed and maintain regularly.	Cyclical - monthly
Lawn areas	Aerate worn areas in September if necessary and reseed or returf if necessary. Condition soil and top dress and fertilise turf in September e.g. with combined topdressing and organic fertiliser. Spray lawn weeds with selective herbicide if necessary at start of active growth season. Increase frequency of mowing if necessary, depending on growth. Gradually increase frequency of watering and mowing to full summer program during October, with an approximate two weekly cycle. Taper off mowing and watering during March and fertilise, if necessary, with an approximate four weekly cycle. Spray winter lawn weeds during late October if necessary. Use native grasses or low-growing species for any new turfed areas.	Spring/ Summer
New floral displays	Annual plantings according to type	Cyclical

12.3.2. Built elements and objects

Strategy 5. CWA Hall

The hall is not significant to the Park however the building has contributory elements such as paths, signage and walls which provide a background to historic rockeries. Maintenance of these elements should be consistent with maintenance of elements in the Park. Any new proposed signage will require consent.

Strategy 6. Toilet Block and Community Sharps Disposal Bin

The toilet block is currently well maintained. It is recommended this maintenance regime continue. A 'Community Sharps Disposal Bin' has been placed outside the toilet block. This bin is painted in bright primary colours of red and yellow which make it highly intrusive in the Park. It should be painted neutral colours to blend with the toilet block, relocated or screened from view.

Strategy 7. Historic light standards

The two highly significant light standards have been altered with the addition of a spotlight on top of both posts. The spotlights should be relocated, and the top of the lights restored to match the light standards at the Mittagong War Memorial. Both posts require repainting. First check for original colour scheme by making paint scrapes. The existing paint may be lead paint so take appropriate measures. Clean the paint off using a product such as the ones made by Let's Clean Pty Ltd. Repaint with an oil-based paint suitable for metals.

Strategy 8. Furniture

Historic concrete benches

Retain in existing location. Do not repair cosmetic damage such as chips unless they are a safety concern. Where structural damage occurs seek advice from Council's Heritage Officer before making any repairs. Do not paint unpainted concrete.

Contemporary Bins, BBQ and shelter and seating and water fountain

These elements have no heritage value, but serve a practical purpose, they should only be relocated when identified in an approved landscape plan for the Park.

Strategy 9. Plaques

- Winifred West Park sign on granite boulder located in front garden bed.
- Stone tablet located in garden bed
- Metal plaque commemorating the Bicentennial located in garden bed

The plaques are difficult to read. The two stone plaques have a patina of age. They are unlikely to be in their original location, however they should not be moved until an approved landscape plan has been adopted. They should only be cleaned with warm soapy water using a gentle soap.

Strategy 10. Signs

Prepare a signage policy to reduce the number of signs in and around the park. Remove signs where practical to do so.

Strategy 11. Playground

Maintain the existing playground on its existing footprint. Where any major changes to the playground are proposed consent will be required.

Strategy 12. Sundial

A more suitable location for the sundial should be found in the landscape plan or at another location. The sundial can then be repaired as it is currently missing its style (gnomon), the part which is meant to cast a shadow

Strategy 13 Garden Beds

Original rockeries

The rock edging of these garden beds and their layout is significant to the Park and must be maintained without alteration. Leaves and dirt should be removed from the edging strip and between the rocks. Keep the edges of the garden beds exposed. Where practical reintroduce floral displays to the garden beds. The plantings in these beds can be perennials or small shrubs with showy flowers. Native plants are not characteristic of the significance of the Park.

Garden beds at front

These garden beds should be dedicated to floral displays. A planting schedule should be prepared to respond to each season. Leaving the beds uncultivated has a detrimental impact on the Park, they should be maintained year round. The planting of Tulips is essential to the significance of the Park. The front garden beds facing the highway present an important view of the Park. Mass planting of Tulips should be undertaken at the start of the cool season, on line with planting of Tulips in Corbett Gardens.

Strategy 14 Car Park

Maintain as a car park. Retain the visual separation from the Park by maintenance of the *Liquid amber* trees.

Strategy 15. Paths

Maintain all paths in their current configuration until a landscape plan has been adopted. No new paths are to be formed unless part of proposed paths in an adopted landscape plan. Inspect regularly for trip hazards and respond to safety concerns as a priority.

Strategy 16. Personnel

All personnel must be suitably qualified to undertake maintenance tasks. Tree management must be undertaken by an arborist. Repair of concrete benches must only be done after seeking expert advice.

12.4. Heritage Exemptions for minor works and maintenance Cl 5.10 (3) WLEP2010
Under Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan clause 5.10(3) provides for minor works and maintenance to be undertaken to heritage items without the need for consent⁵.

Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010

5.10 (3) When consent not required.

However, development consent under this clause is not required if—

(a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development—

(i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree or place within the heritage conservation area, and

(ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or

(d) the development is exempt development.

When assessing whether a work or activity requires consent ask the following questions:

1. Is the work minor or maintenance?
2. Will the work impact the heritage significance of the item?
3. Are all replacement materials “like for like”, ie the same material and profile replacing the same material with the same profile.

12.4.1. The Heritage Exemption Process

In order to be granted a heritage exemption it is necessary to follow a few steps in order to meet the requirements of the LEP.

Step One – Notify Council

Put the details of the proposal in writing to Council (Strategic Planning). Include enough information that the officer assessing the application can assess whether consent is required. The following is a list of what it is good to include:

- Detailed description of the proposed works
- Site plan or aerial photo marked to show the location of the proposed works.
- Photographs of the location where work is proposed
- Photographs of existing materials, with captions

⁵ ‘Consent’ refers to the requirement for development consent where a development application (DA) would need to be lodged for assessment by Council’s Development Assessment officers. A DA most likely would require a Statement of Heritage Impact report.

- Product brochures of proposed replacement materials.
- Colours proposed, specify name and brand or provide swatch.
- Trade quotations describing how the proposed works are to be undertaken.
- Other photographs including the following:
 - photo from the street;
 - photo of the part of the property affected by the works
 - close up photos of the affected area of the property.
 - All photos to be captioned with a description of the content of the image.

Step Two – Council assessment

Council officers, likely to be the heritage officer, will assess whether the work is minor or maintenance and whether it would have an adverse heritage impact. They will decide whether the works require consent.

Step Three – Notification from Council

Council will inform the applicant in writing whether consent is required.

12.4.2. Works within Winifred West Park likely to require consent

Landscape Masterplan

Future works that are not minor or maintenance require consent. Planning for the future development of Winifred West Park should start with a landscape masterplan which is based on this Conservation Management Plan.

New trees

Proposed planting of new trees, especially specimen trees, requires development consent as this could potentially impact the heritage significance of the Park. If the tree was to replace one that has died in an existing grouping such as the Cyprus boundary plantings, then replacement with the same species of tree would not require consent.

Demolition or alteration of structures or objects

Table 5 and Figure 68 show the grading of significance of elements within the Park. Removal of elements marked as intrusive and coloured yellow are intrusive and can be removed without the need for development consent providing the Heritage Exemption process is followed.

All objects classified in Figure 68 and Table 5 as having Exceptional, High or Moderate heritage value are considered to have significance and will therefore require development consent prior to alteration or removal.

Elements shown as having Little heritage value are potentially eligible for a Heritage Exemption depending upon what is proposed. The work should be referred to the Heritage Advisor for guidance.

New buildings or structures/elements

All new elements or buildings within the Park are likely to require development consent accompanied by a Statement of Heritage Impact referenced to this CMP.

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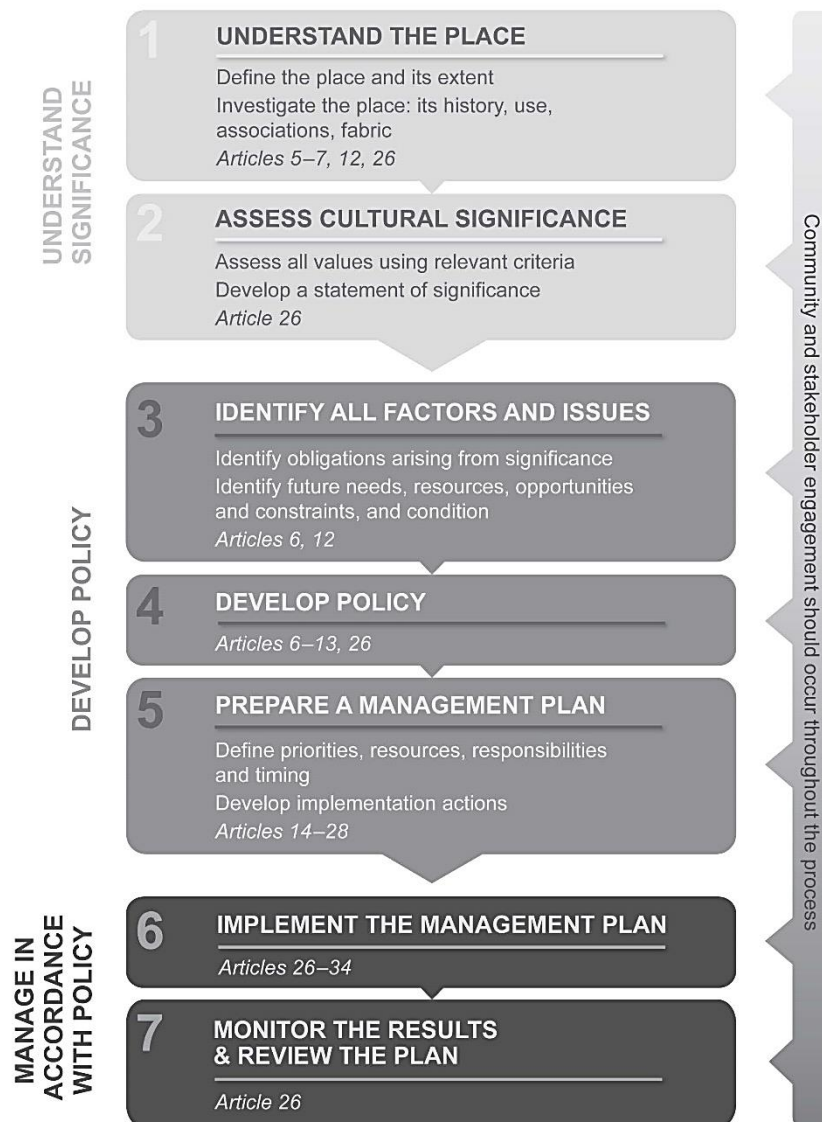
Appendix A The Burra Charter Process

The Burra Charter Process

Steps in planning for and managing a place of cultural significance

The Burra Charter should be read as a whole.

Key articles relevant to each step are shown in the boxes. Article 6 summarises the Burra Charter Process.



The Burra Charter Process: flow chart from the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013, p10*.

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Appendix B – Revised Heritage Data Form

ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Winifred West Park					
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Rocket Park					
Item type (if known)	Landscape					
Item group (if known)	Parks, Gardens and Trees					
Item category (if known)	Other – Parks, Gardens and Trees					
Area, Group, or Collection Name						
Street number						
Street name	Main Street					
Suburb/town	Mittagong				Postcode	2575
Local Government Area/s	Wingecaribbee					
Property description	Lot/Section/DP: 1/2/1289; 2/2/1289; 3/2/1289;16/2/1289; 17/2/1289; 18/2/1289; 18/2/1289; 19/2/1289; 20/2/1289; 21/2/1289; 1//668762					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	-34.451296			Longitude	150.449431
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	
Owner	Wingecaribbee Shire Council					
Current use	Public Park					
Former Use	Public Park, Council Depot					
Statement of significance	<p>Winifred West Park provides physical evidence of the historic role of local government in providing facilities for its citizens in mid-20th century NSW. The Park demonstrates the rising ascendancy of car transport in the 1950s and the need for a for a rest stop on the main road south, the Hume Highway. The introduction of paid annual leave in 1958 facilitated a rise in domestic travel and an increase in tourism by car and by train, driving the practical requirement for places where people could break their journey, such as Winifred West Park.</p> <p>The Park demonstrates the increase in tourism in the 1960s which lead to construction of a tourist information centre in the Park in 1969.</p> <p>The Park has historic value as a place that reflects the national preoccupation with space travel in the 1960s, expressed in everyday objects such as children's play structures in the form of a Rocket Slide installed in 1968 and removed 1993.</p> <p>The Park demonstrates the steady growth of tourism in the Southern Highlands. In the 1990s the original tourist information centre had to be abandoned for a larger facility. The Park also demonstrates the power of public protest and the attachment the community felt to the Park. When it was initially proposed to place a larger tourist information centre, shops and restaurant in the centre of Winifred West Park there was public outcry and plans were dropped and another site chosen.</p> <p>The Park has historic association with Winifred West, a community leader, an innovative and skilled educator and keen gardener. The high esteem with which the Mittagong community held Ms West is reflected in the naming of the park. The Park is historically associated with the Dahlia Festival and the Tulip Festival.</p>					

	<p>Winifred West Park is associated with the former Council of Nattai and the former Mittagong Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council, as custodians of the park and with the Mittagong Tourist Information Centre which was located in the park from 1969 until 1997.</p> <p>Winifred West Park has aesthetic value as a cool climate garden characteristic of the Southern Highlands. It has value as a seasonal park with its floral display in the Spring and for its autumnal leaves in Autumn. The Park continues the tradition begun in 1820 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie described the area as a 'fine, extensive pleasure ground' and Throsby Park, Hillview and other grand estates created stately cold-climate landscapes with English trees, exotic conifers, and mass planting of Spring bulbs.</p> <p>The Park has aesthetic value for its visual relationship to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway line in Regent Street. The repetition of Cyprus planting in the park creates harmony between the two heritage items.</p> <p>Winifred West Park has a special association with the Mittagong and Southern Highlands community who have demonstrated attachment to the place when changes are made or proposed.</p> <p>The local community together with the wider public who have travelled via or visited Mittagong have nostalgia for the Rocket Slide play structure located in the playground until 1997.</p> <p>Winifred West Park is a fine representative example of a cool climate public park in the Southern Highlands of NSW established in the 1950s. The Park is an good example of public rest parks created to meet the needs of mid-century Australian travellers, on the move due to the introduction of annual leave and the increased availability of car transport.</p>	
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/> No	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

DESCRIPTION	
Designer	Park furniture in 1954 E. Nicholls. Shire Engineer
Builder/ maker	Mittagong Shire Council
Physical Description	<p>Winifred West Park has an L shape configuration and is 0.7065 hectares in area and is bordered to the north by Main Street and the south by Regent Street to the west is Church Lane. To the east Albion Lane runs in an east west direction and forms part of the northern boundary. The Park shares its eastern boundaries with 23 Regent Street and 98 Main Street.</p> <p>There are two buildings in the park and one small car parking area. The larger building was constructed circa the 1960s and is built of face brick with blade walls and feature panels of sandstone facing with a flat metal roof, it is leased by the Country Women's Association and the South West Local Health District for an Early Childhood Centre. The smaller building is a toilet block with rendered brick walls painted grey and a trapezoidal metal roof.</p> <p>Other objects within the park include a children's playground and a sundial on a stone base. There are picnic facilities within the park and a sheltered BBQ.</p> <p>Winifred West Park has border plantings which define different spaces within the park. The northern section is the most historically significant part of the park with the most mature trees. The eastern boundary is defined by the CWA building and the western side by the toilet block. This part of the park has mature shade trees and other trees which contribute a structural aesthetic to the park. The zone is more densely planted and has an important presentation to Main Street. The zone has high amenity due to shade trees and the number of seats and the picnic table, as well as the toilet facilities.</p> <p>The area to the south of the park has an open quality with the only substantial trees located to the west of the playground. It has a practical purpose, providing car parking, a playground, BBQs and picnic tables. Historically this area had a lot more garden beds when the Park played an important role in the Dalia festival and the Tulip Festival. The border plantings are still small along Regent Street.</p> <p>This zone plays an important role for chartered coaches that park along Regent Street so that passengers can use the amenities. During Tulip Festival charter coaches stop at the park to view the floral display.</p> <p>To the east the Park has a quality of an enclosed garden. Its character is defined by the dense planting of Cyprus along the northern and southern borders which is similar in form and height to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway. Along the eastern side boundary with the neighbouring property is a hedge. Within this space are two Eucalypts which provide a vertical sculptural element to</p>

	the centre of the space. The Photinia in the bottom left of the space has a well-formed habit and is a specimen tree of value.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The Park is in good condition and is regularly maintained. Archaeological potential is low.					
Construction years	Start year	1954	Finish year	1968	Circa	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>The Council depot was closed, and the land cleared in the 1960s.</p> <p>A rocket slide and playground were installed in 1968. The rocket play structure was removed in 1993.</p> <p>The tourist information centre was built in 1969 in the north west corner of the site. The tourist information centre was demolished in 1997.</p> <p>An underground water tank was installed in the south west corner of the Park in 2008. It was never connected and was later filled in.</p>					
Further comments						

HISTORY

Historical notes	<p>Aboriginal groups traditionally occupying the Southern Highlands were the Gandangara (Gundungara) and the Dharawal (Tharawal). The Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Nattai rivers and Nungungungulla (Jubilee Rocks) continue to have cultural significance to the Gundungurra people.</p> <p>Governor Macquarie ordered the commencement of the road south in 1819. It was finally surveyed and built by Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell in 1833. The road provided access to the district and settlement followed. Mittagong grew as a village along the road with two inns established in the late 1830s. Coal and iron ore were discovered, and Fitzroy blast furnace and brickworks were established in 1849. A number of land subdivisions were made after this starting with Gainsborough then Livingston and Fitzroy. Not many lots were sold until the arrival of the railway in 1867, generating land sales in the new subdivision of New Sheffield. This was to become the Town of Mittagong. A group of land speculators created the Mittagong Land Company Limited in 1885 and purchased much of the Fitzroy Iron Mines estate in the Town of Mittagong, which they then set out to auction off in the 1880s and 1906.</p> <p>The land upon which Winifred West Park was established was originally owned by John Burton who then sold it to the Mittagong Land Company in 1886. The parcel of land was originally reserved for railway use.</p> <p>Winifred West Park was officially opened on 10 December 1954 by the Minister for Works and Local Government. The opening took place at the Park after the opening of the new Shire Council Offices nearby. Guests were led to the Park by a marching band where a platform had been raised in the centre of the Park for speakers and seating provided for guests. The Park was believed to be the only park on the Hume Highway between Sydney and Goulburn, which at the time carried 3000 vehicles every 24 hours. (Southern Mail, 1954)</p> <p>Initially Winifred West Park comprised Lots 1, 2 and 3. The other lots (16-21) were used as a Council depot and remained burdened with buildings until circa 1963. In the late 1960s the depot was closed and all buildings except the garage in the southern corner, were demolished. In 1968 a rocket slide arrived at the Park on the bed of a truck accompanied by a spaceman and bikini clad women. The rocket slide was indicative of global enthusiasm for space travel, a preoccupation that became symbolized in popular culture. Rocket play structures were popular throughout Australia in the 1960s and the memory of them evokes much nostalgia. For this reason, many still refer to Winifred West Park as 'Rocket Park'.</p>
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THEMES	
National historical theme	3 Developing local, regional and national economies 4 Building settlements and towns 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
State historical theme	Environment – preservation of open space, cultural landscape. Leisure Transport (tourism)

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	<p>Winifred West Park provides physical evidence of the historic role of local government in providing facilities for its citizens in mid-20th century NSW. The Park demonstrates the rising ascendancy of car transport in the 1950s and the need for a rest stop on the main road south, the Hume Highway. The introduction of paid annual leave in 1958 facilitated a rise in domestic travel and an increase in tourism by car and by train, driving the practical requirement for places where people could break their journey, such as Winifred West Park.</p> <p>The Park demonstrates the increase in tourism in the 1960s which lead to construction of a tourist information centre in the park in 1969.</p> <p>The Park has historic value as a place that reflects the national preoccupation with space travel in the 1960s, expressed in everyday objects such as children's play structures in the form of a Rocket Slide installed in 1968 and removed 1993.</p> <p>The Park demonstrates the steady growth of tourism in the Southern Highlands. In the 1990s the original tourist information centre had to be abandoned for a larger facility. The Park also demonstrates the power of public protest and the attachment the community felt to the park. When it was initially proposed to place a larger tourist information centre, shops and restaurant in the centre of Winifred West Park there was public outcry and plans were dropped and another site chosen.</p> <p>Fulfills this criterion at a local level.</p>
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	<p>The Park has historic association with Winifred West, a community leader, an innovative and skilled educator and keen gardener. The high esteem with which the Mittagong community held Ms West is reflected in the naming of the park.</p> <p>The Park is historically associated with the Dahlia Festival and the Tulip Festival.</p> <p>Winifred West Park is associated with the former Council of Nattai and the former Mittagong Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council, as custodians of the park.</p> <p>The Park is associated with the Mittagong Tourist Information Centre which was located in the park from 1969 until 1997. The Tourist Information Centre was a destination within the park, visitors to the centre by association also visited the Park.</p> <p>The Park has minor association with the Country Women's Association of Mittagong and the Early Childhood Centre of Mittagong due to the location of the building within the park. However, these two historic associations do not contribute to the significance of the park.</p> <p>Fulfills this criterion at a local level.</p>

Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	<p>Winifred West Park has aesthetic value as a cool climate garden characteristic of the Southern Highlands. It has value as a seasonal park with its floral display in the Spring and for its autumnal leaves in Autumn. The Park continues the tradition begun in 1820 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie described the area as a 'fine, extensive pleasure ground' and Throsby Park, Hillview and other grand estates created stately cold-climate landscapes with English trees, exotic conifers, and mass planting of Spring bulbs.</p> <p>The Park has aesthetic value for its visual relationship to the planting of Cyprus alongside the railway line in Regent Street. The repetition of Cyprus planting in the park creates harmony between the two heritage items.</p> <p>The three aesthetically distinctive zones of the Park provide different sensory experiences which combine to enhance the overall aesthetic value of the park.</p> <p>Fulfills this criterion at a local level.</p>
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	<p>Winifred West Park has a special association with the Mittagong and Southern Highlands community who have demonstrated attachment to the place when changes are made or proposed.</p> <p>The local community together with the wider public who have travelled via or visited Mittagong until 1997 have nostalgia for the former Rocket Slide play structure. Discussion of the Rocket evokes childhood memories of family travel and play, both in Mittagong and other locations in Australia.</p> <p>Fulfills this criterion at a local level.</p>
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	<p>Prior to the resumption of the future park by the Council of the Shire of Nattai there may have been residences or shops present on the land facing Main Street. The southern portion of the site was used as a depot and buildings were extant until 1970. There may be potential for archaeological finds relating to these structures and uses of the land, however such finds would be unlikely to shed light upon an otherwise unknown aspect of the history of Mittagong that is not readily available in documentary sources.</p> <p>Does not fulfill this criterion.</p>
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	<p>Winifred West Park is not rare or endangered, it does not possess uncommon aspects.</p> <p>Does not fulfill this criterion.</p>
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	<p>Winifred West Park is a fine representative example of a cool climate public park in the Southern Highlands of NSW established in the 1950s.</p> <p>The Park is an example of public rest parks created to meet the needs of mid-century Australian travellers, on the move due to the introduction of annual leave and the increased availability of car transport.</p> <p>Fulfills this criterion at a local level.</p>
Integrity	<p>Winifred West Park has the ability to demonstrate its heritage significance through its trees, landscape design, use and associations.</p>

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010, Heritage Item of Local significance I039

INFORMATION SOURCES**Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.**

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	Louise Thom Heritage	Draft Conservation Management Plan for Winifred West Park	2021	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Report	JRC Planning Services	Wingecarribee Heritage Study	1991	Wingecarribee Shire Council

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	
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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report	Draft Conservation Management Plan for Winifred West Park	Year of study or report	2022
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report	Louise Thom		
Inspected by	Louise Thom		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Louise Thom	Date	Jan 2022

IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View into Winifred West Park from Regent Street. Row of <i>Liquid amber styraciflua</i> on the left of the playground. <i>Cedrus deodara</i> and <i>Populus nigra</i> in the background.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> and one of the pair of <i>Populus nigra</i> viewed from Main Street. The Baby health Centre building is on the left of the photo.				
Image year		Image by		Image copyright holder	



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View from Main Street looking into the Park. Large <i>Ulmus glabra</i> in the centre of the picture.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Row of <i>Cupressus torulosa</i> on Regent Street and <i>Photinia robusta</i> in the foreground. Note the row of <i>Cupressus torulosa</i> on the other side of Regent Street alongside the site of the railway. Both groups of trees appear to have reached maturity and are the same form and height. Bottom right of the photo is the sun dial.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	The eastern side of the Park with the two <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View from within the Park looking towards the playground and car park.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View looking towards the playground and the toilet block				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council



IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	View along Regent Street with Winifred West Park on the left and <i>Cedrus deodara</i> alongside the railway on the right.				
Image year	2021	Image by	Megan McGrath	Image copyright holder	Wingecarribee Shire Council

