

8 Recommendations

8.1 Introduction:

The objective of this Landscape Master Plan is to recognise, maintain and promote Narryna's 19th century garden as a setting which is sympathetic, compatible and enhances the heritage value of site.

As a precursor to considering the Recommendations it is appropriate to refer to the definitions of the various actions that can be undertaken to achieve this objective.

The *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* or Burra Charter defines these actions as follows:

Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a use; retention of associations and meanings; of looking after a place includes **maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaption** and **interpretation**; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.¹

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

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration. It is recognised that all places and their components change over time at various rates.

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

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new materials into the fabric.

Adaption means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.²

Each of the Recommendations in this section of the Landscape Master Plan are in two parts.

Firstly the **Objective** – which is the action that is considered appropriate and

Secondly the **Strategy** – which is to be adopted to achieve the Objective.

At the end of this section is a table indicating the schedule of recommended works in order to implement the Landscape Master Plan.

¹ *The Illustrated Burra Charter*, Australia ICOMOS, 2004, Article 14

² *The Illustrated Burra Charter*, Australia ICOMOS, 2004, Article 1

8.2 Objectives and Strategies:

Objective 1:

The objective is that Narryna has a garden which complements the house built by Andrew Haig c.1835.

Strategy:

Restore the front garden to a plan sympathetic with the garden of a Georgian house.

Remove modern cultivars from the present garden

Create borders planted with historic cultivars of the 19th century.

Relocate the floodlights to a more appropriate location where they do not have a negative impact on the appreciation of the front garden.

Grade the front gravel at the entry from the Hampden Road footpath to eliminate the 'step' and create a level entry.

Objective 2:

Establish a kitchen garden at the rear of the house.

Strategy:

The design of the kitchen garden should reflect the style of an early 19th century productive garden.

Grow heirloom varieties of plants similar to those recorded in the Diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood and found in nursery catalogues at the time of Captain Andrew Haig.

Objective 3:

Recognise the Peate family association with the site

Strategy:

Re-establish the two tree ferns planted in front of the lattice fence separating the front and back gardens on the eastern side of the house.

Re-establish part of the lattice fencing installed by the Peate family.

Re-establish part of the tree fern avenue between the stables and the house.



Photo 8a. John Peate in the garden

Source: Peate family album 1937 - 1946

Narryna – Landscape Master Plan.

Objective 4:

Retain the Camellia Garden specifically within the area added to the property in 1896 and also include some early varieties in the front borders.

Strategy:

Dedicate the Camellia Garden to feature 19th century varieties of Camellias

Azaleas to also be 19th century varieties

Underplant with appropriate cultivars found in 19th century gardens

Remove the sandstone steps and urns and reinstate missing stones to mark Haig's original boundary.

Objective 5:

Re-establish the alignment of internal fencing in the back of the property to separate the stable yard from the garden and the garden from the carpark.

Strategy:

Reinstate fences to the alignment indicated on the Darling's Survey Field-book notes c.1905

All fences in this area to be split paling and of varying height.



Photo 8b. Example of an early Hobart split paling fence

Source: TMAG collection Q1991 14 486

Objective 6:

Expand the size of the Carpark to the area earlier bound by the fences shown in Darling's Survey Field Book notes c.1905.

Strategy:

Adjust the set- out of the Carpark to comply with the Australian Standard Code for Carparks.

Objective 7:

Develop a program of outdoor events to encourage better use of the site for community activities and educational programs

Strategy:

Upgrade and adapt the present Smithy and Vehicle Store to provide an area for outdoor events.

Consider adaption of the stores / shed external to the north wall of the courtyard for a serving kitchen to service these events.

Objective 8:

Use the garden as a resource for education on the development of early colonial gardens.

Strategy:

Publish a booklet with information on early colonial productive gardens with special reference to Robert Knopwood's Cottage Green and the exotic and native plants grown in gardens at the time of Andrew Haig. Reference can also be made to the early camellia cultivars grown in the Colony and the popularity of growing the Tree fern - *Dicksonia antarctica*.

Objective 9:

Establish a maintenance plan

Strategy:

Refer Section 11: Maintenance Plan

8.3 Narryna Landscape Plan:

As part of the Landscape Master Plan two drawings have been prepared:

1. Existing garden plan
2. Proposed garden plan.

It is recommended that the Proposed Garden Plan should be complemented with drawings to include the location of services such as electrical cables, water pipes and drains and irrigation system.

8.4 Boundary Fencing:

In most cases by re-establishing a fence in the original form and height that is in keeping with the age of the house, it reinforces the historic identity of the property.

Today at Narryna, there are neighbouring visual intrusions that would still be evident even if this were done.

It is recognised that the use of split paling fences was extensive during the period 1835 to 1850, however at Narryna, the original side boundary fences were stone walls.

It therefore would be inappropriate to replace the existing timber boundary fences with split palings.

In any event the replacement with say a split paling fence would not contribute greatly to the heritage appreciation. Further, split paling fences are likely to cost more than the legally recognised standard paling fence and as a result the additional cost to neighbours is unlikely to be acceptable.

As a result it is recommended that along the eastern boundary dense planting be used to screen the fence and minimise the visual impact of the neighbouring properties.

Notwithstanding the above it is appropriate to reinstate the fencing within the site with timber replicating historic fences.

The Recommendations with respect to boundaries, garden walls and fences are:

8.4.1 Hampden Road Boundary:

The timber panel on the eastern end should be replaced with a set of gates to facilitate a better understanding of this later acquired piece of land. It is recommended that high timber gates constructed of jointed boards in an Edwardian style would be suitable. However before any work is undertaken, it is recommended that an archaeologist investigate to see if there is any evidence of a former driveway.



Photo 8c. Early Gates Colville Street Battery Point

Source: Cripps collection

Stone front fence: The poor condition of the front fence necessitates early works and the advice of a specialist consultant in stone conservation should be sought.

8.4.2 James Street Boundary:

No work is suggested to the stone wall on this boundary.

8.4.3 Rear Boundary (7 Knopwood Street):

Investigate the legal status of the gate in this fence. If no legal rights exist then replace it with timber palings to match existing fencing.

8.4.4 Eastern Boundaries:

The northern end of this fence and its return to the new eastern boundary comprises a tea tree fence which is in very poor condition.

It is recommended that if funds are available, the northern end of the fence be re-instated with a stone boundary wall similar to that constructed on the James Street boundary.

If funds are not available, replace the existing tea tree fence with a new 1800mm high hardwood timber paling fence. As a continuous concrete footing exists under the existing fence there is little to be gained from using treated pine boards. Sawn hardwood boards are therefore recommended.

The new eastern boundary fence should be considered in two halves:

The rear half appears to be the original fence to the boundary but has little historic significance and it is in very poor condition. It is recommended it be replaced with a new paling fence to match the fence described immediately above.

The southern half of the eastern fence ends at Hampden Road. This low height paling fence is reasonably new and it is in good condition. It is suggested that no work is required at the moment, however, long term replacement with a traditional 6 ft. paling fence would reduce the visual intrusion of the neighbouring building.

8.5 Original Eastern boundary wall:

This bluestone rubble wall amidst the planting and Camellia garden on the east side of the front garden is the only remaining evidence of the original boundary wall. The steps are a later addition. As noted elsewhere the stones of the wall should not be altered or disturbed.

It is recommended that the stone steps be removed and the resulting gap in the original boundary alignment be reinstated. The urns should also be removed.

As recommended in the Kennedy Study any work to this wall should be undertaken with the involvement of an archaeologist. Consideration should be given to the partial reconstruction of the middle section of this wall to reinforce the understanding of the property containment provided by the original boundary walls.

There is no remaining surface evidence of this wall north of the Camellia Garden and it is recommended that markers be placed on the ground / pavement surfaces along the alignment of this wall in order to interpret its original extent.

8.6 Internal Fences and Walls:

8.6.1 Stone Retaining Wall:

Along the driveway on the western side of the front garden is an old stone retaining wall. This retaining wall requires repairs and maintenance. (Refer Maintenance section 7. 8)

The picket fence to the top of this wall while similar to and replacing an earlier picket fence does not exactly replicate that fence.

It is recommended that when funds permit it should be replaced with a replica of the original.

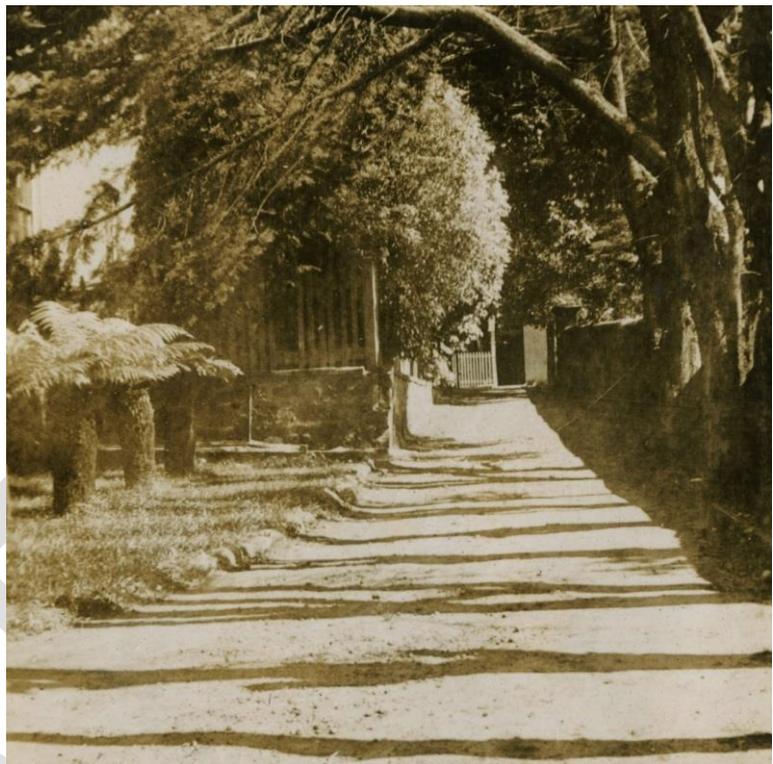


Photo 8d. Side Entrance Narryna

Source: Peate family album 1937-1946

It is recommended that in the interim the existing gate at the southern end of this fence be replaced with a picket infill to match the existing fence.

Consideration should also be given to repainting the fence a traditional white colour.

8.6.2 East side dividing fence:

The Eastern fence separating front and back gardens is doglegged for no apparent reason.

During the period the Peate Family lived at Narryna this separation was a lattice fence. It is recommended that the existing fence be removed and that the separation of gardens be with a lattice fence.

It is also recommended that in front of the lattice fence separating the front and back gardens two mature tree ferns are planted as seen in the Peate family photo 8a.

8.6.3 Gates and side fence between the Kitchen Wing and Stable building:

These are square topped pickets which are recent replacements. It is recommended that they be replaced with a set of gates (no side fence) 1800mm high gap jointed split palings to match the recommended northern fence to the Stable Yard.

8.7 Stable Yard and Carpark:

There is picket fencing to the internal boundary of the Carpark. Part of the fencing is covered with ivy, an invasive creeper and declared environmental weed, which should be removed.

It is recommended that new fencing be built to the alignments and extent shown on Darling's Survey drawings complete with gate.

The new fences should be split hardwood palings with matching gates. It is recommended that the fence and gate to the Carpark be 1800mm high and to the garden 1200mm high.

This will result in an expansion of the size of the Carpark to provide 2 extra spaces.

Adjust the set-out of the Carpark to comply with the Australian Standard Code for Carparks.

8.8 Front Entrance:

At present there is a difference in level between the Hampden Road footpath and the entrance to the property. As well as being a trip hazard for visitors entering the site, the front entrance to the property does not comply with requirements for disabled access.

It is recommended that the existing step at the front entrance be eliminated by building up the level of the gravel to create a level access.

8.9 Landing adjacent Front Door:

At present there are two modern terra cotta pots on either side of the front door. These are inappropriate and should be removed.

8.10 Fountain:

The fountain although not original is an appropriate feature to bring formality to the front garden. There is however a problem with the discharge of water from the fountain bowls. It is therefore recommended that both bowls be re-levelled to give uniform discharge around the perimeter of the bowls. It is recommended that early professional advice on the deterioration of the fountain stonework be obtained.



Photo 8e. The fountain Source: Cripps collection

Narryna – Landscape Master Plan.

There is a narrow garden bed surrounding the base of the fountain which looks colourful for a short time when the plants are in flower but for the rest of the year looks untidy.

It is recommended that the planting of iris be thinned out to allow planting of additional species that will flower after they have finished blooming in order to maintain the visual quality and interest of this central feature of the garden.

It is recommended that seasonal / succession flowering could be achieved with the present Candytuft *Iberis sempervirens* (summer / autumn flowering), the *Iris ensata* (spring flowering) together with additional groupings of an early variety of red geranium (summer / autumn flowering).

8.11 Urns:

It is recommended that the urns be removed from the garden.

8.12 Flood lighting:

It is recommended that more appropriate flood lights be investigated which have a smaller casing to reduce the impact of this technology.

It is further recommended that the flood lights be relocated from their present position in the lawn to a location where they do not create glare for people exiting and entering the building.

An alternative to the use of flood lights to light the façade of the building may be the use of up-lighting set close to the building in either the gravel path or the edge of the lawn.

8.13 Trees:

The trees are the main structural element of the garden and therefore the assessment of the health of the trees and their contribution to the garden is vitally important.

As trees age and decline disease becomes more prevalent and there is little value in retaining those that detract from the garden's visual quality such as those in the shrubbery in the back garden.

It is recommended that the trees be assessed by a qualified arboriculturalist.

As the garden is open to the public there is a duty of care to ensure that there is no danger from falling tree limbs, and therefore it is recommended that this assessment be done on a regular basis.

The last written report on the trees was done in January 2004, although it is understood that an inspection has been made 'recently' by the Hobart City Council.

It is recommended that Council be requested to confirm this report in writing.

8.13.1 Trees in the front garden:

The large English ash *Fraxinus excelsior* (HCC Report tree no. 220772) has a number of limbs that appear to be dying back.

Urgent tree surgery is required.

It is recommended that the small replacement Ash be removed from its present location in the lawn and replanted along eastern boundary to help with the screening of the house at number 101 Hampden Road.

On the western side of the garden there is a Silver Birch *Betula pendula* which was planted by the Governor Sir James Plimsoll on 30 November 1982 to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Van Diemen's Land Folk Museum. Silver Birch trees have grown in Tasmanian gardens from the nineteenth century however they can mature to a height of 15 metres. This specimen at Narryna appears to be less than half its potential height and at the moment the top of the tree exceeds the height of the building.

While it is acknowledged that this tree has some significance in the recent history of the site, its position and size are of concern. The Birch is constantly dropping catkins, leaves etc. which block the gutters of the house and the damaged and displaced sandstones adjacent the tree are problematic. It is recommended that an arboriculturalist be consulted to seek advice as to whether the roots could also be causing damage to the building.

As a result of the above it should be considered prudent for the tree to be removed.

8.13.2 Trees in the back garden:

The tree identified in the Hobart City Council Report as Hoheria no. 220705 is a New Zealand Kowhai. The tree is diseased and dying and it is recommended that it be removed.

The trees in the 'shrubbery' along the eastern side were not listed in the HCC Report. They include cotoneaster, and elderberry and as such are most likely seedlings and of no significance.

The removal of these trees which have no value either historically or visually is recommended. The rubbish and under planting should be removed. The planting includes declared environmental weeds wandering (bridal) creeper and ivy both of which must be removed.

8.14 Existing Garden:

The present front garden consists of an axial garden beds and borders along the east and west sides

The rear garden consists of rose garden, tree peony and border against the picket fence to the courtyard.

Plants are both transient and surprisingly enduring. Some of the plants such as those found around the perimeter of the drive and the carpark could be the same early varieties that were originally in the garden. However through time and the changing ownership of the site and weed invasion many plants have been lost.

Today many of the plants found in the garden are modern cultivars that were not grown in gardens of the 19th century.

The work to the garden involves returning the garden to an earlier form by the removal of accretions such as inappropriate plant material and inappropriate layout and groupings of plants.

There needs to be the services of a regular gardener to maintain the garden.

The time required will vary depending on the status of the garden and the time of the year. For example the time required to maintain the garden may be one day a week increasing to two or more, when the kitchen garden is established. In spring and summer there will be the need for a greater number of hours than in winter when plants are dormant and the lawn does not require regular mowing.

As well as a paid regular gardener, a volunteer group of gardeners (Friends of Narryna Garden) should be formed to assist with the maintenance of the garden.

It is anticipated that this group would work in association with the volunteers from the Camellia Society.

It is important that all who work in the garden are aware of the Landscape Management Plan so that their work collectively promotes the objectives of this document and does not have an adverse impact on the integrity and historic significance of the site.

The garden staff and volunteers should work within the requirements of the Maintenance Plan.

8.14.1 Existing Front and Side Garden:

It is recommended that the front garden be restored to create symmetrical borders relative to the main access and sympathetic with the garden of a Georgian house.

As part of this work all modern cultivars are to be removed from the garden and the front garden planted with historic cultivars of the 19th century.

Refer to Section 9 Garden Plantings for details.

8.14.2 Camellia Garden:

The present Camellia Garden is situated on the eastern side and straddles the old internal east boundary stone wall and the area added to the property in 1896.

It is recommended that the Camellia Garden be retained specifically within the area added to the property in 1896.

It is further recommended that tall growing 19th century varieties are planted along the new eastern boundary to facilitate screening of the adjacent property.

As camellias were one of the fashionable plants in 19th century colonial gardens, it is recommended that some early cultivars also be grown in the front borders.

The Camellia Garden should be dedicated to those varieties of camellias and azaleas that were grown in the 19th century (i.e. progressively remove 20th century varieties.)

It is hoped that the expertise and contacts of the Camellia Society can be drawn upon to help with the sourcing of suitable old varieties.

As part of the work to this area of the garden the sandstone steps and urns should be removed and the missing stones reinstated to mark Haig's original property boundary.

8.14.3 Garden against the house adjacent the opening gates between the Kitchen Wing and Stable building:

A report prepared by architect John Button in December 1985 recommended the removal of concrete paving from this area as the condition of the pavers was hazardous and causing problems with drainage. This may have led to the creation of the garden in this location. However there would not have been a garden in this part of the stable yard and most importantly its presence only encourage dampness into the building fabric.

This garden and the planting on the adjacent corner of the stables should be removed.

The ginger lily *Hedychium gardnerianum* and hollyhock *Alcea rosea* are plants found in 19th century gardens and therefore should be retained for planting elsewhere in the garden.

8.14.4 Existing Back Garden:

The planting in the back garden consists of a rose garden, some border planting and a mature tree peony.

The tree peony is an early variety which came from the garden formerly owned by Sir William Crowther. It is however in a location where it needs to be moved in order to do work to the carpark.

Tree peonies are very difficult to move and therefore it is recommended that it only be moved with the guidance of a specialist in these plants. It should be moved to one of the front borders.

The Rose garden is a recent addition to the site as the roses were planted in 2011 following their removal from the Customs House in Davey Street as part of stage 1 of works to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Early photos of the Custom House taken in c.1900 show no evidence of a rose garden on the site and it is thought that the roses are late 20th century varieties.

They are inappropriate for the Narryna garden and therefore should be removed.

8.15 Kitchen Garden:

There is little recognition in the Battery Point / Sullivans Cove area of the historic importance of the Reverend Robert Knopwood, the first Chaplain of Van Diemen's Land. His diary records the development of his garden at Cottage Green part of which is the present Narryna site.

Knopwood's diary kept between 1803 and 1838 records details of a very productive garden.³

Although no records exist of this part of the garden at the time of Haig's ownership, with the uncertainty of fresh produce in the Colony, it can be assumed that one would have existed at the time of his ownership.

In addition later records such as aerial photographs of the 1920's and 1940's show dense planting of mature trees which impedes any view of garden beds.

³ M. Nicholls ed. *The Diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood 1803 – 1838, First Chaplain of Van Diemen's Land*, Tasmanian Historical Research Association 1977

However photographs of the time of the Peate family's ownership show a very productive fruit and vegetable garden. Whether any of the planting in this garden remain from an earlier period is a matter of conjecture.

It is recommended that a kitchen garden be re-established in the back garden. The layout of the beds should be in keeping with the form of a productive garden of the early 19th century.

Given the various past uses of the back garden it would be prudent to undertake soil testing before establishing the new garden.

The garden should feature heirloom varieties of fruit and vegetables similar to those recorded in the diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood and found in nursery catalogues at the time of Captain Andrew Haig.

At present there is no gardener's store, designated garden rubbish area or place for storage of equipment such as the wheel barrow which is left out under shrubs in the back garden.

As part of the kitchen garden infrastructure, a gardener's store, garden rubbish, composting area should be established between the toilets and the back eastern and rear boundaries of the site.

8.16 Staff Carpark:

Re-establish the planting of tree ferns in this area as seen in early Peate photos.

The tree ferns should be spaced in the row of ferns at a width to allow parking between the ferns.

It is recommended that they be mature ferns so that parking can be underneath the ferns. The ferns should also be planted approximately 1.5metres from the building to avoid any damage to the building from watering the ferns.

8.17 Planting along drive and Carpark:

The planting in these areas is seeded or remnant planting of varieties that were grown in the 19th century: agapanthus, echium, wallflower *Cheiranthus* and hollyhock *Alcea rosea* and English marigold *Calendula*.

Their retention is therefore recommended.

8.18 Garden Edges:

It is recommended that the design of the front borders be formalised by planting a low hedge of Box (*Buxus sempervirens*).

The remaining garden edging to be retained as 'trenched'.

8.19 Lawns:

The front lawns require regular maintenance. See Maintenance Section 11.

Adjustment to the edges of the lawns will be required following the works to the pavement surrounding the house.

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It is recommended that a new area of lawn will be established adjacent the eastern side fence and front garden. In addition the area of lawn should be maintained and extended on the north and western sides of the Smithy for public events and 19th century games. There may also be the need for some lawn areas in the back garden when Kitchen Garden is established.

8.20 Garden Seats:

There are two Coalbrookdale garden seats located on either side of the front door.

This is not an appropriate location.

It is recommended that they be symmetrically placed relative to the fountain and located in front of the side border gardens.

At present the seats are painted green, but in early photos they are white.



Photo 8f1. Garden seat – white.

Source: Narryna collection

It is recommended that following paint scrapes, they be repainted to their original colour.



Photo 8f2. Garden seat - green.

Source: Cripps collection

Photos from the Peate family albums show one or two iron and timber seats of a different design. These seats are no longer in the garden.

It is recommended that Narryna try and obtain a couple of these seats for use in the back garden.



Photo 8g. Margaret Peate and friend in the garden.

Source: Peate family album 1937 – 1946

8.21 Courtyard:

The surface of the courtyard comprises sandstone flags a few of which are broken. It is recommended that the badly broken flags be replaced.

The courtyard contains a collection of pot plants – modern terra cotta and timber wine barrels (containing citrus) a table and chairs, a bench seat, a modern sun umbrella and ephemera.

The courtyard would greatly benefit from the removal of these items and their replacement with settings more appropriate to the character and significance of this area of the site.

While courtyards in the 19th century were commonly used for growing citrus, the containers presently used are modern and inappropriate. It is recommended that the citrus be transferred to more appropriate containers.

There is also an old sandstone trough, the provenance of which is unknown, and this could be used for growing plants such as a collection of succulents which do not require much water.

There is also some planting against the wall of the laundry which should be removed.

On the outside wall of the staff kitchen adjacent the door into the staff toilets is a wall mounted garden tap with hose attached. The hose is a trip hazard for staff entering and leaving the toilets.

On the other side of the door into the kitchen is an early gully trap which has had its tap removed. It is suggested that this illegal situation be remedied by re-instating the tap in this location.

It is further recommended that hoses not be used in the courtyard. A far better result would be to water the potted citrus by means of a watering can of a suitable style.

8.22 Ephemera:

By the nature of Narryna being a museum it appears to have been a repository for historic ephemera which although interesting, have no direct link with the site.

This is particularly the case with some of the items that are found in the garden for example the milestones and the anchor of the Katherine Sharer and the Crushing Wheel of an old cider press. It appears that some of these items came via the Public Works Department.

It is recommended that these items be removed from the garden and courtyard.

8.23 Public Toilets:

The present toilets are out of date and do not comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia. It is therefore recommended that a Building Surveyor provide advice on the building classification and facilities required.

It is recommended the upgrading works to the toilet building be extended to include a gardener's store.

It is recommended that the screening to the toilets be a lattice screen to match the other internal lattice fences. The area would be improved by planting suitable varieties of geranium or jasmine against the screen.

8.24 Stable Yard:

The present Stable yard has a bitumen surface. It is recommended that investigation be undertaken by an archaeologist to see if there are any remnants of an earlier cobbled surface.

If this is the case then consideration should be given to uncovering at least a sample area as part of the interpretation.

It may be prudent for this investigation to commence in the existing garden against the kitchen wing.

8.25 Garden Paths:

8.25.1 Paths against the House:

On the eastern and western sides of the house there is at present sandstone flag paving. It is recommended that this be lifted and the paths reinstated with terra cotta paving tiles to their original level and extent as shown on Darling's Survey drawing.

It is recommended that the flagged path across the front of Narryna and the steps at the western corner be removed. Replace these with new gravel path ramped up to the existing landing at the front door. Retain flags for reuse as flooring in the adapted Smithy building.

NB. This would continue to provide the legally required universal access without the need to provide a removable ramp.

8.25.2 Circular Entrance Path:

No work required.

8.25.3 Path to toilets:

It is recommended that this concrete path be replaced with gravel.

8.25.4 Path to Smithy:

Remove existing concrete path and lay new gravel path in new location.

8.26 Smithy Building:

Although this building is a replica and dates from c.1965, its appearance is not visually intrusive.

There has been a proposal to demolish and replace the building with a modern structure to provide a facility for outdoor events. This however is an expensive option.

The site of the 'Smithy' is however ideal for public events.

Whilst the shingle roof requires replacement the building structure itself is in reasonable condition and it is difficult to justify its demolition and replacement with a structure of a similar size.

It is therefore recommended that the Smithy be re-roofed with corrugated sheeting, the enclosed Smithy's shop be removed to allow the area to be adapted for use as an exhibition, public and educational space. This would create one large open space nominally 13 metres by 6 metres.

The floor area would need to be paved in a sympathetic material such as brick or the stone flags from the garden paths or compressed gravel.

With the current improvement in outdoor heating and marquee design it would be possible to provide radiant heating within the structure and install drop down plastic skirts as infill to the two open sides during inclement weather. Options for seating / table arrangements are in Section 7.

To service the increase in public events it is recommended that the stores /sheds external to the north wall of the courtyard be adapted as a serving kitchen to service these events.

It is further recommended that a chair and table store be built at the southern end of the Smithy building and the area north of the Smithy be levelled and grassed for public events and 19th c. games.

8.27 Carriage Display Area:

It is recommended that the carriage be removed and also the timber baulks. This area should be cleared and prepared for its new recommended use as part of the Kitchen Garden.

Given the various past uses of the back garden it would be prudent to undertake soil testing before establishing the new garden.

8.28 External Garden Lighting:

There is a need to review exterior lighting in conjunction with the work to the Smithy and the toilets in order to make the garden suitable for evening activities.

A lighting consultant should advise on the best plan and infrastructure in order to meet Building Code requirements and at the same time to develop a plan which is sympathetic to the historic site.

8.29 Watering System:

Undertake investigative work (including pressure testing) to confirm if the present system is contributing to the problems of rising damp in the building. See Section 3

If there are physical problems found with the existing system, undertake immediate remedial work.

Investigate and obtain a professional report on the current watering system to see if it is suitable to be extended and upgraded to service the whole garden.

An 'As Constructed' plan of the existing watering installation which was emailed from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on 14 January 2009 has been located. There is a note on the plan which states:

'Exact layout and coverage of sprinklers to be determined on site'

It is therefore evident that this drawing may not show the position of the existing installation and it is important that there is a report on the system which identifies the exact location of the reticulation and all outlets.

Establish if the existing watering system can incorporate ground moisture sensors which could control the future operation of the system in selected areas.

Extend the existing watering system (if possible) to service the whole garden (back and front). In doing this work it is important that:

- All work be done by a professionals with expertise in watering systems, and
- That the watering system does not allow any spray or increased water load on to the building, and
- An *as installed* plan and operating manual be kept on site, and
- The watering system controls be located in a secure cabinet to avoid adjustment by unauthorised persons, and
- The total watering system is regularly tested and maintained

In addition it is recommended that garden management techniques to reduce water demand are implemented. Such activities should include increasing the application of organic matter which will enrich the soil and improve its water holding capacity.

As part of this work establish compost bins in the garden. The garden has a number of mature deciduous trees and their leaves together with lawn clippings and other green matter will provide a source of good organic compost for the garden.

8.30 Signage and Interpretation:

There needs to be a full signage and interpretation plan for the garden. It is important that the appearance including scale, colour, and form do not detract from the significance of the place.

One of the most important considerations with signage including interpretation panels, is their location.

It is imperative that signage be placed where it has the least impact on the heritage values or vistas of the site.

A number of the signs are poorly designed and in need of maintenance.

For example the sign at the front entrance has unfinished electrical cabling taped to the back which presents an unsightly appearance to visitors.



Photo 8i. The front entrance sign.

Source: Cripps collection

There needs to be a signage and interpretation plan incorporating policy and recommendations. It should include:

- Interpretation of the garden as an example of a Georgian villa garden of the 1840's.
- Information on plants growing in the garden especially those which are varieties referred to in Knopwood's Diary and plants which were available in nurseries at the time of Haig's ownership.
- Individual labels on plants are unsightly and should be avoided. The best option is a garden plan/s which includes plant and tree identification.
- The Camellia Society should be asked to provide a plan and information about the early varieties of camellias.

Interpretation panels could be located within or adjacent the Smithy. They could take the form of an interpretation 'book' which is kept on a removable stand.