2.2 Historical Context

Callan Park is a site of profound historical and archaeological significance. Extensive research has been undertaken and should continue to be referenced with regard to the sites heritage. It is important to note that the following section is intended to provide a brief background and overview of the sites history and is not intended to provide any new or in-depth historical analysis of the landscape heritage or tree planting for Callan Park or Broughton Hall.

Primary research and extensive historic analysis was outside the scope of the Tree Management Plan. Background research and reading has been undertaken to assist with the appropriate ranking of tree significance and the subsequent mapping and identification of historically relevant trees and periods of planting.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The site contains evidence that dates to the middle to late Holocene maritime cultural landscapes that are associated with the Wangal clan, part of the Eora or Dharug tribes (SHI). The presence of Aboriginal middens and rock engravings at Callan Point highlights the importance as a cultural landscape long before European settlement. Callan Park was uniquely significant for the Aboriginal community's survival as it provided access to freshwater creeks and ample terrestrial and marine resources, as well as rock shelters and pools along the shoreline. (GML, 2020).

According to the State Heritage Inventory, "The grounds are of scientific significance on a regional level for their archaeological value of the rock engravings and Aboriginal middens. There is potential for further insights into Aboriginal artefacts through ongoing studies, possibly including contributions from archaeologists." Aboriginal occupation along the foreshore of Callan Park dates back to at least 4500 years ago with multiple sites identified around the surrounding bays. Although the construction of the Kirkbride precinct caused damage and disruption to some Aboriginal sites, significant views and cultural connections remain . As such Callan Park continues to serve as a valuable educational resource, both for the Aboriginal community and for the wider public. (GML, 2020)

Early Estates

Beyond its indigenous heritage, Callan Park encompasses two grand Victorian-era gentlemen's estates - Garry Owen and Broughton Hall. In 1819 - 1821 original land grants were made to Ralph, Butler and Austen. In 1839 John Ryan Brenan purchased portion 114 and built Garry Owen House. In 1840-1845 Brenan purchased some of the adjoining land holdings (originally Ralph's) to create a holding of 67ha and named the property Garry Owen Estate. Broughton House was built on the neighbouring property in c1841.

Garry Owen Estate is the oldest remaining residence in the district and serves as a prominent visual landmark. Its garden set out retains tradition of English gardens design notably "with an axial approach to the front door with a carriage loop." (SHI) The garden also retains some early plantings, including a large Bull-bay Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*).

Figure 2.6 - Illustrative render from 1879 of the purpose built Kirkbride Lunatic Asylum and its then best-practice design for the housing and treatment of the mentally ill. (Source: SLNSW - Sydney Illustrated News and NSW Agriculturalist and Grazier)

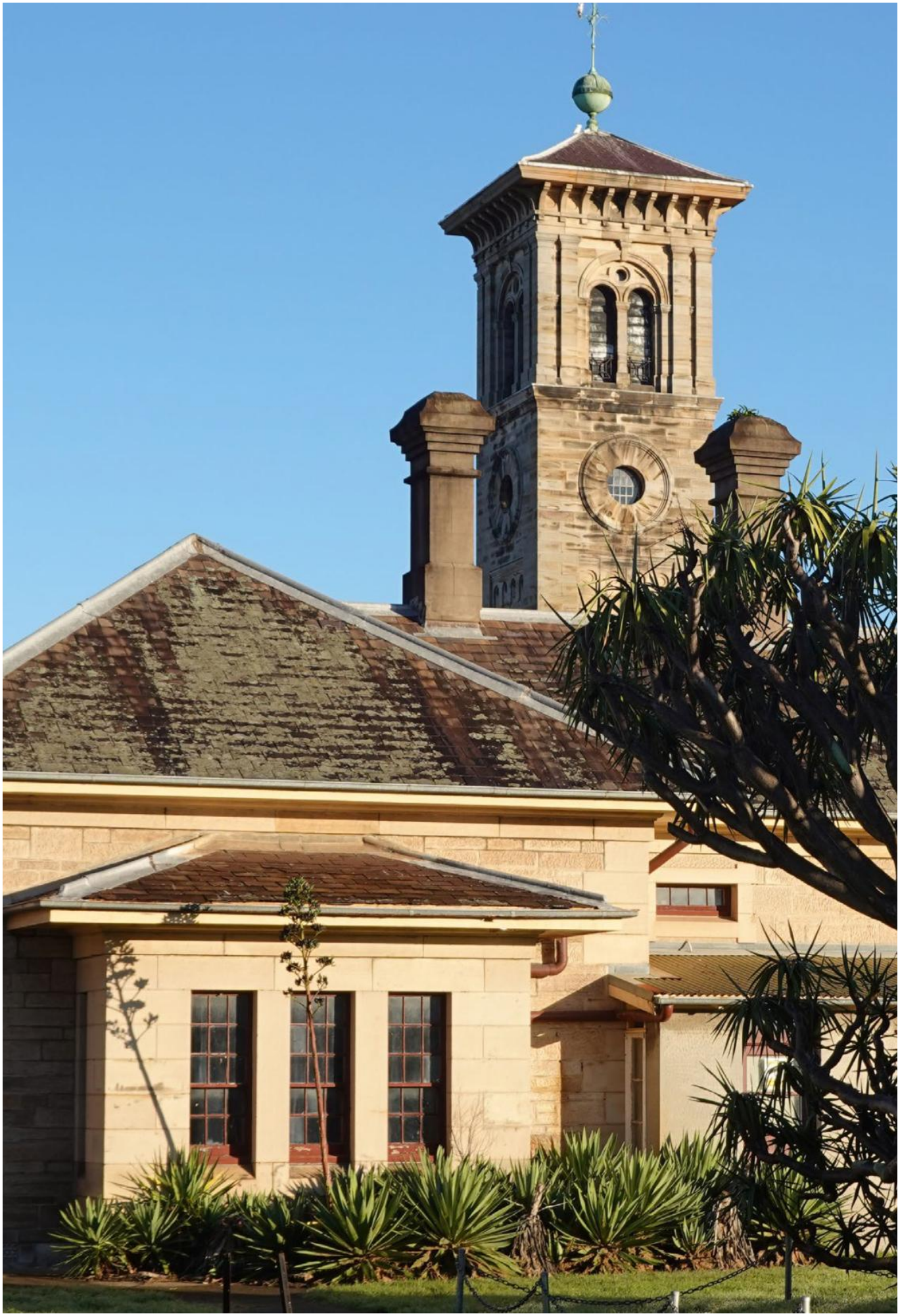

Figure 2.7 - View of the impressive Kirkbride Lunatic Asylum and its prominent tower from the east.

Summary of Significant Periods and Historical Time Line of Callan Park

Pre 1820s
Aboriginal occupation, with natural vegetation. Blackbutt forests on ridge tops, woodlands dominated by Ironbarks and Scribbly Gums on the slopes, Casuarina and Scribbly gums on the rocky foreshores with mangroves, and Casuarinas and Paperbarks in lower lying swampy areas.

1819-1821
Original land grants to Ralph, Butler and Austen

1839
John Ryan Brenan purchases portion 114 and builds Garry Owen House.

1840-1845
Brenan purchases adjoining land holdings (originally Ralph's) to create a holding of 67ha and named property Garry Owen Estate. Kalouan was built and Garry Owen House probably completed at a similar time.

1841
Austenham House had been constructed on Portion 115

1841
Brenan purchases additional lot and builds Broughton House to the west of Garry Owen Estate.

1864
Brenan became bankrupt and was forced to sell his Garry Owen Estate. Broughton House sold to John Keep who renamed it Broughton Hall.

1865
Garry Owen House and Estate sold to John Gordon, who renamed it Callan Park.

1874
Callan Park acquired by the NSW Government. Garry Owen house altered and opened as an annex to Gladesville Asylum. Charles Moore and John Sheahan responsible for laying out grounds and ground works, soil improvement and plantings commence.

1878
Plans for mental hospital completed, various gates, lodges and residences completed.

1878
Kalouan sold to John Keep thereby amalgamating Broughton Hall and the Kalouan estates. Keep established extensive pleasure gardens around both houses, incorporating lawns, ponds and summerhouses. Tree plantings included various Araucaria, Ficus, and palm species.

1878
Callan Park made a separate institution.

1880-1885
Kirkbride constructed in Callan Park and land below the gardeners cottage reclaimed.

1885-1889
Extensive development of the grounds, farm paddocks, key plantations and gardens laid out and planted under the direction of Charles Moore.

1912
Balmain Road widened, main gate relocated and Broughton Hall sold to William and Frederick Langdon.

1915
The Langdons offer Broughton Hall and gardens as a convalescent hospital for shell-shocked soldiers. The property was then resumed by the NSW Government for repatriation care.

1921
Broughton Hall Psychiatric Centre opens under the superintendence of Dr Sydney Evan Jones

1920-1940
Development of Broughton Hall gardens by Jones as a therapeutic environment for patients and construction of numerous support buildings. Popular interwar plantings included Callitris, Jacaranda, Illawarra Flame Trees and numerous palms.

1925 -1930
War memorial erected. Construction of Broughton Hall Administration blocks (B125). Callan Park Nurses Home constructed

1932
Kaluoan House demolished and construction of the Kitchen Block.

1961
Boundary wall along Balmain Road lowered.

1962-1964
New administration, day hospital, Evan Jones Theatre complex and medical officers flats built south of Broughton Hall (UTAS area) with the architect being Michael Dysart.

1976
Callan Park and Broughton Hall amalgamated to become known as Rozelle Hospital. Reduction in the numbers of gardening staff.

1994-1996
Main psychiatric hospital shut down. Kirkbride building adapted for use by Sydney College of the Arts.

1998
Formation of Friends of Callan Park

2008
Rozelle Hospital closed.

2020
Sydney College of Arts vacates Kirkbride building.

Figure 2.8 - Broughton Hall garden in 1957 illustrating the early planting of Lemon Scented Gums, palm and conifer planting and the sunny open lawns graced by specimen trees from the 1930s and 1940s. The meandering paths weave their way around the garden and trees. (Source: MHNSW)

Figure 2.9 - Broughton Hall garden today continues to provide a valuable therapeutic setting for ongoing health-related uses. Alongside the dense rainforest garden are sunny open lawns graced by specimen trees from the 1930s and 1940s. Meandering paths continue to weave their way around the garden and trees.

Figure 2.10 - Broughton Hall c1900 illustrating the early planting and garden arrangements. (Source: Inner West Library - Keep Family Collection)

Broughton Hall

Broughton House was sold to John Keep in 1864, who renamed it Broughton Hall; Keep also purchased the neighbouring property Kalouan in 1878, and developed extensive pleasure gardens around both houses, including lawns, fish ponds and summer houses. (Kalouan had previously been owned by David Ramsay Jr, son of well-known nurseryman David Ramsay. Kalouan House was demolished in 1932.)

Annandale timber merchants William and Frederick Langdon bought the combined properties in 1912. During World War I, the Langdons opened Broughton Hall and gardens as a convalescent hospital for shell-shocked soldiers. In 1918, the property was formally resumed by the NSW Government for repatriation care. Broughton Hall functioned as No. 13 Australian Army Hospital until 1921 when it became NSW's first psychiatric clinic for voluntary patients.

The Broughton Hall gardens featured many notable plantings. Early photos from around 1900 show the extensive gardens and trees, including numerous palms and semi-mature Araucaria. The rainforest gully is also discernible, with ferns and palms planted amongst remnant Eucalypts.

Dr Sydney Evan Jones, appointed as the superintendent in the Psychiatric Clinic, made further contributions to the garden in the northern area of the precinct which he designed as a therapeutic environment for the patients. The Japanese inspired gardens were mostly planted around c1930s, and included the red arched bridge and water course. Jones encouraged the convalescent patients and the unemployed to help with the construction of the garden.

Popular interwar plantings included extensive planting of species such as *Callitris columellaris* (Coastal Cypress Pine), Jacaranda and Illawarra Flame Trees and numerous palms. Photos from 1957 indicates the *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gums) had been planted at the northern end, and are likely to date to mid to late 1940s. The Callitris and many palm trees were well established in the 1960s and 1970s. Numerous Willows and Poplars that can be seen in early photos were planted along the water courses but have since been removed.

The 2009 Broughton Hall Landscape Conservation Management Plan (by Colleen Morris) describes two notable phases of tree planting , first in the later half of the 1800s during the Keep ownership, and then additional planting undertaken in the 1930s and 1940s. This has lead to a landscape composition consisting of heavily treed and vegetated areas, balanced with more open areas. There has been some later infill planting that has then altered this to some extent.

The mid to late 1800s planting most notably included the following, and was probably influenced by Charles Moore.

- *Ficus macrophylla* (Morton Bay Fig)
- *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig)
- *Ficus obliqua* (Small-leaved Fig)
- *Magnolia grandiflora* (Biull-bay Magnolia)
- *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine)
- *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine)
- *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine)
- *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook Pine)
- *Agathis robusta* (Queenland Kauri Pine)
- *Agathis moorei* (White Kauri Pine)
- *Syzygium moorei* (Coolamon)
- *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel)
- *Camellia japonica* (Japanese Camellia)
- *Howea forsteriana* (Kentia Palm)
- *Washingtonia robusta* (Washington Palm)
- *Washingtonia filifera* (American Cotton Palm)
- *Syagrus rommanzofianum* (Queen Palm)
- *Salix babylonica* (Willows) (since removed)
- *Butia capitata* (Jelly Palm)
- *Jubaea chilensis* (Chilean Wine Palm)
- *Phoenix sylvestris* (Indian Date Palm)
- *Dendrocalamus giganteus* (Giant Bamboo)

In the 1930s and 1940s a significant round of tree planting appears to have also been conducted and supplements the existing extensive population of trees noted above. Morris (2009) records that "a total of 415 unnamed palms were dispatched from the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens in 1932". This interwar planting notably included the following:

- *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm)
- *Phoenix sylvestris* (Indian Date Palm)
- *Archontophoenix aleaxndrae* (Alexander Palm)
- *Archontophoenix cunninghamii* (Bangalow Palm)
- *Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese Cedar)
- *Callitris columellaris* (Coastal Cypress Pine)
- *Populus nigra 'Italica'* (Lombardy Poplars) (that have since been largely removed)
- *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda)
- *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree)
- *Brachychiton discolor* (Queensland Lacebark)
- *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box)
- *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm)
- *Erythrina x sykesii and E. indica* (Coral Tree)
- *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gum)
- *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Firewheel Tree)
- *Calodendron capense* (Cape Chestnut)
- *Salix babylonica* (Willows) (since removed)
- *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked Apple)
- *Planchonella australis* (Black Apple) (although none were positively recorded in 2025).

In the 1950s notable planting included some *Cupressus sempervirens 'Stricta'* (Pencil Pine) (around the niche pond and rill). Since the 1970s some self sown trees have been allowed to grow or been planted and have included:

- *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Hackberry)
- *Olea europea subsp cuspidata* (African Olive)
- *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar)
- *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gum)
- *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp She-Oak)
- *Casuarina cuninghamiana* (River She-Oak)

The large *Ficus macrophylla* (Morton Bay Figs) along Wharf Road to the south-east of Peppercorn and Broughton Hall are not clearly discernible in the 1950s aerial obliques, however the *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook Pines) are, and were planted symmetrically on either side of the entry path.

The *Cupressus torulosa* (previously identfied by Morris as *Cupressus funebris*), *Magnolia grandiflora, Podocarpus elatus, Washingtonia filifera,* and *Syzygium moorei* around Broughton Hall likely date from the Keep era and are historically significant trees. The glasshouse near the niche and rill pond also dates from the Keep era.

The circle of trees around the 'Daintree' building probably pre-date that building and were part of an earlier open circular lawn. In 1963 photos of the Church Street frontage and buildings shows the palms flanking the building entry as quite small. They were likely planted in the 1950s.

Broughton Hall gardens and grounds are of historic importance as a large garden associated with former grand estates in the Sydney region. There are now few places where the extent and relationship of adjoining 1800s estates can be still appreciated in a relatively open landscape context. The Broughton Hall gardens are also of significant historic importance as a suite of themed gardens, informed by early 1900s design ideas, and designed for therapeutic care in the interwar period. They are of historic importance for the inclusion of Oriental inspired and Italian inspired gardens from the inter-war period, being unique with the extent of bridges and small and intricate garden structures that it contains, substantially completed prior to 1938.

The gardens have an outstanding aesthetic quality. The rainforest gully and adjacent lawns planted with groups of mature Araucaria is exceptionally significant as a substantially intact remnant of a Sydney inner city 1800s estate overlaid with later developments. It is of significance for its collection of palms and somewhat unusual rainforest species planted in a naturalistic rainforest style along a stone lined and picturesque watercourse, and the other remaining garden components being rare in the context of inner suburbs of Sydney. The common, and some more interesting rainforest species identified in the process of preparing the TMP within the rainforest garden and its nearby areas within Broughton Hall include:

- *Acmena ingens* (Red Apple)
- *Archotonophoenix aleandrae* (Alexander Palm)
- *Archotonophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm)
- *Arytera foveolata* (Pitted Coogera)
- *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree)
- *Brachychiton discolor* (Queensland Lacebark)
- *Brachychiton populneus x B. acerifolius* hybrid (Kurrajong Red Flower Hybrid)
- *Castonsopermum australe* (Blackbean)
- *Corymbia torelliana* (Cadaghi)
- *Cryptocarya obovata?* (Pepperberry)?
- *Dysoxylon fraserianum* (Rosewood)
- *Elaeocarpus kirtonii* (Silver Quandong)
- *Davidsonia pruriens* (Davdidson's Plum)
- *Ficus coronata* (Sand paper Fig)
- *Flindersia australis* (Crows Ash)
- *Flindersia bennettii* (Bennet's Ash)
- *Harpullia pendula* (Tulipwood)

- *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm)
- *Pararchidendron pruinosum* (Snow wood)
- *Polyscias elegans* (Celery Wood)
- *Rhodosphaera rodanthema* (Deep Yellow Wood)
- *Schizomeria ovata?* (Crab Apple)?
- *Stenocarous sinuatus* (Firewheel Tree)
- *Syncarpia hillii* (Faser Island Satinay)
- *Synoum glandulsoum* (Scentless Rosewood)
- *Syzygium moorei* (Coolamon)
- *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar)
- *Xanthostemon chysanthus* (Golden Penda)

The significance of the place means that extreme care needs to be exercised in all future activities that may be proposed for the Broughton Hall gardens, whether it be buildings, planting, landscape features or the place as a whole. Some key recommendations from the 2009 Landscape Plan were to:

- Conserve the rainforest gullly and the other parts of the Broughton Hall estate gardens.
- Remove infill planting which is intrusive on the 1800s period character.
- Reinforce the palm planting around some of teh buildings and especially the Glover St frontage.
- Retain and conserve the elements and areas identified as being of exceptional and high significance, including associated trees.
- When trees senecse, replace with the same species. The exception to this would be species that are no longer suited to the site circumstances such as very different light conditions, or trees now considered weed species or that would otherwise damage important historic elements of the pond system (eg. Willows or Poplars).
- Trees, including their root systems should be not disturbed or damaged by new infrastructure.
- Maintain thorough logs or records of work carried out and trees maintained or removed or planted.
- Remove dead or moribund trees.
- Remove self seeded and immature specimens of invasive species and young and immature *Syagrus* palms.
- Remove young trees of little significance growing immediately adjacent buildings and important historic garden elements.
- Commence propagation of seeds or cuttings of significant trees such as the *Calltris columellaris* (Coastal Cypress Pine) and *Syzygium moorei* (Coolamon).
- Reinstate the previous *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) that once graced the carriage loop to Broughton Hall and potentially remove the intrusive *Liquidamber styarciflua* (Liquidamber) on Church St and the misshapen Jacaranda near this location.
- Remove paving and improve the growing conditions of trees to the immediate west of Broughton Hall which includes the (*Podocarpus elatus* (Plum Pine), *Magnolia grandiflora* (Bull-bay Magnolia) and *Cupressus torulosa* (Bhutan Cypress) *(Previously identified by Morris as C. funebris*).
- Remove inappropriate small conifer planting in the brickwork near the Chinese Gateway.
- It is noted that the Macadamia planted near B135 was a recommendation of the above 2009 plan.
- Reintroduce *Callitris columellaris* (Coastal Cypress Pine) where they have been removed and not replaced.

Kirkbride

In 1874, Callan Park was purchased by the NSW Government for the site of a 'Hospital for the Insane'. Garry Owen house was altered and opened as an annex to Gladesville Asylum.

Colonial Architect, James Barnett then worked in collaboration with Inspector of the Insane, Dr Frederick Norton Manning to produce a new complex of neo-classical buildings, which were designed to offer progressive patient care. These buildings were completed in 1885, and named after the American physician Dr Thomas Kirkbride.

Charles Moore (then Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens) and John Sheahan were responsible for laying out the grounds, soil improvements and plantings. The landscape setting of the Kirkbride block was purposefully considered and planned as a recreational and therapy space for patients, and the gardens, tended by the patients, produced food for the hospital. Several landscape plantings and features from this time remain around Kirkbride today.

Some outer buildings remaining from these early periods include the gatekeeper's cottage and attendant's cottage. The hospital gates, were originally completed in 1878, and were restored in 2022. The gates however were moved from their original location and are no longer located directly adjacent the gatekeeper's cottage.

Kirkbride remains the largest surviving 19th-century mental health facility in New South Wales and was the first designed with a therapeutic landscape established using the Gardenesque principles; its layout features long vistas, formal tree-lined avenues intended to both beautify the site and support patients' recovery through access to green, calming environments. It consists of a well-detailed Victorian Italianate water tower that is a visually prominent feature and an important local landmark as well as an architectural piece reflecting historical, cultural and aesthetic values.

The 10 enclosed ward gardens are a special feature of the complex; originally named 'airing courts' by Manning, Barnet spatially planned the courts to formally align with the buildings and layout. The courts intention was described in the 1868 Manning's Report on the Lunatic Asylum which stated that "trees for shade and ornament and laid out with gardens and thus made attractive in themselves. Recreational facilities (such as skittle-alley for males…) and provision of pet animals and birds were desirable." This provided "the garden 'corridors' on which patients formerly 'took the air' as part of their treatment and recreation" (GML, 2020). The hospital is particularly notable as the site of Australia's first mental asylum purposefully built and designed using the principles of the "therapeutic role of landscape" and "moral therapy" in the treatment of mental illness as promoted by Scottish publisher and designer, John Claudius Loudon, Thomas Kirkbride in the USA, John Connolly in England and Federick Norton Manning in Sydney (Morris, 2002,319) (SHI).

Figure 2.11 - The Kirkbride 'airing courts' with open and relatively sparse tree planting, a landscape that has dominated these spaces close to the buildings since the early 1900s

Charles Moore travelled extensively during his long tenure at the Botanic Gardens, and collected rainforest trees from Northern NSW and palms and Kauris (*Agathis spp*.) from the Pacific Islands (SHI). Moore's planting palette was widely used in the Kirkbride Pleasure Grounds and Broughton Hall areas. Distinctive planting features the avenue of Palms in the original formal entrance to the Kirkbride complex. In the Pleasure Ground (in front of the grand entrance of the Kirkbride complex) and there is a collection of rainforests and culturally significant tree planting including:

- *Ficus macrophylla* (Morton Bay Fig)
- *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackosn Fig)
- *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box)
- *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine)
- *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine)
- *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook Pine)
- *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak)

A wide variety of palm species were used, and many can be seen in photos of Kirkbridge from 1903. Species included:

- *Washingtonias robusta* (Washington Palm)
- *Washingtonia filifera* (American Cotton Palm)
- *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm)
- *Phoenix reclinata* (Senegal Date Palm)
- *Syagrus romanzoffianum* (Queen Palm)
- *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm)
- *Livistona decora (Syn L. decipiens)* (Weeping Cabbage Tree Palm)
- *Livistona chinensis* (Chinese Fan Palm)

The area also features a collection of conifers including *Cupressus sp*., *Cedrus sp*., *Pinus sp*. and *Juniperus sp*. The area retains a few examples of the remnant native vegetation such as *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum) and *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine) mainly on the banks north-west of Kirkbride Block, although notably one Turpentine remains near the Nurses Quarters.

Figure 2.12 - The Kirkbride and the buildings and planting in 1955. (Source: MHNSW)

Figure 2.13 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903. Noting the previous willows along the creek line and extensive tree and other planting surrounding the buildings on the main platform. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.14 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903. Noting the extensive tree planting to the east of the cricket ground and the very sizeable trees along the Balmain Road side, even at this early time. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.15 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the diverse planting palette including palms and Cupressus sp and numerous Camphor Laurels. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.16 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, illustrating the pride with which the gardens were kept and the importance of tree planting. Many reasonably mature Araucarias can be seen in the background, even at this early time (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.17 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the diverse planting palette including palms and numerous pruned and shaped Camphor Laurels. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.18 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903 noting the diverse planting palette of palms in the inner courtyards. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.19 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903 noting the relatively cleared portion to the south-east of Kirkbride and numerous retained native trees to the east. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.20 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the relatively cleared portion to the north-west of Kirkbride and numerous retained native trees towards the harbour in the north. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.21 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the extensive tree planting to the north-east slopes below Kirkbride and the extensive use of Araucarias such as A. bidwillii (Bunya Pine) and A. hetrophylla (Norfolk island Pine). (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.22 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the extensive use of dense and large evergreen trees like Camphor Laurel (Source: State Library NSW)

University of Tasmania Campus

The University of Tasmania Campus (UTAS) is a complex of one and two storey painted brick buildings designed by Michael Dysart and built between 1962 and 1964. Originally built as the Broughton Hall Day Hospital, it has historical significance as part of the 1960s development of the site and social significance for former patients and staff. The planting in this area all dates from 1963s onwards.

It is physically separated from the remainder of Callan Park by Church Street and Wharf Road, and visually screened and defined by a row of large London Plane Trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) along Church and Glover Street. Unlike other areas of Callan Park, this area was developed entirely in the modern era, over a short timeframe and with one architect responsible for the design of the buildings and their layout.

More Recent History

Callan Park, in its current state, operates as a public recreational ground. Many of the original buildings are re-purposed and adapted to modern use through leasing arrangements or grants. The site was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in 1999. In 2002, the Callan Park Act was passed, with an aim to preserve public ownership of Callan Park and to protect its current features and restrict future developments (GML, 2020). The site holds high significance and has strong associations for both the local and broader community as an open space resource and its cultural and aesthetic value (Tanner Architect, 2002).

In the mid 1990s the local community formed a volunteer Bushcare group and commenced restoration of Callan Point and the embankments north-east of Kirkbride around King George Oval. This group is still active in native planting and weed control throughout this area and achieved significant natural regeneration in this portion of Callan Park.

The embankments northwest of the Convalescent Cottages was modified and re-graded in the late 1970s. Young planting is evident in the early to mid 1980s and it is assumed this is when the Hill's Weeping Figs and other trees were planted to stabilise the resulting steep slopes. Due to difficulty in access and maintenance it is assumed this is also when weeds such as *Celtis* and *Lagunaria* began to also proliferate in this area, and other areas. Due to their size and vigour, the Hill's Weeping Figs have dominated and create a substantial visual presence in this area. Due to the density of the planting they have intergrown canopies and individually many have imperfect and asymmetric forms. They do provide valuable stablisation of this very steep bank.

During the mid to late 1980s Glover Street Oval was formalised, creating a steep embankment fronting the harbour. Soon after the steep embankments were planted with native plants, dominated by *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp She-Oak) and *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River She-Oak). Again, due to difficulty in access and maintenance it is assumed this is also when weeds such as *Erythrina*, *Celtis* and African Olives began to also proliferate and dominate in this area. More recent efforts have seen the beginning of some native restoration work occurring in the south-east embankments of Glover Street Oval near Wharf Road.

In 2021-2024 some of the derelict buildings near the water front adjacent to Glover Street Oval at the end of Wharf Road were demolished and a new Waterfront Park was established.

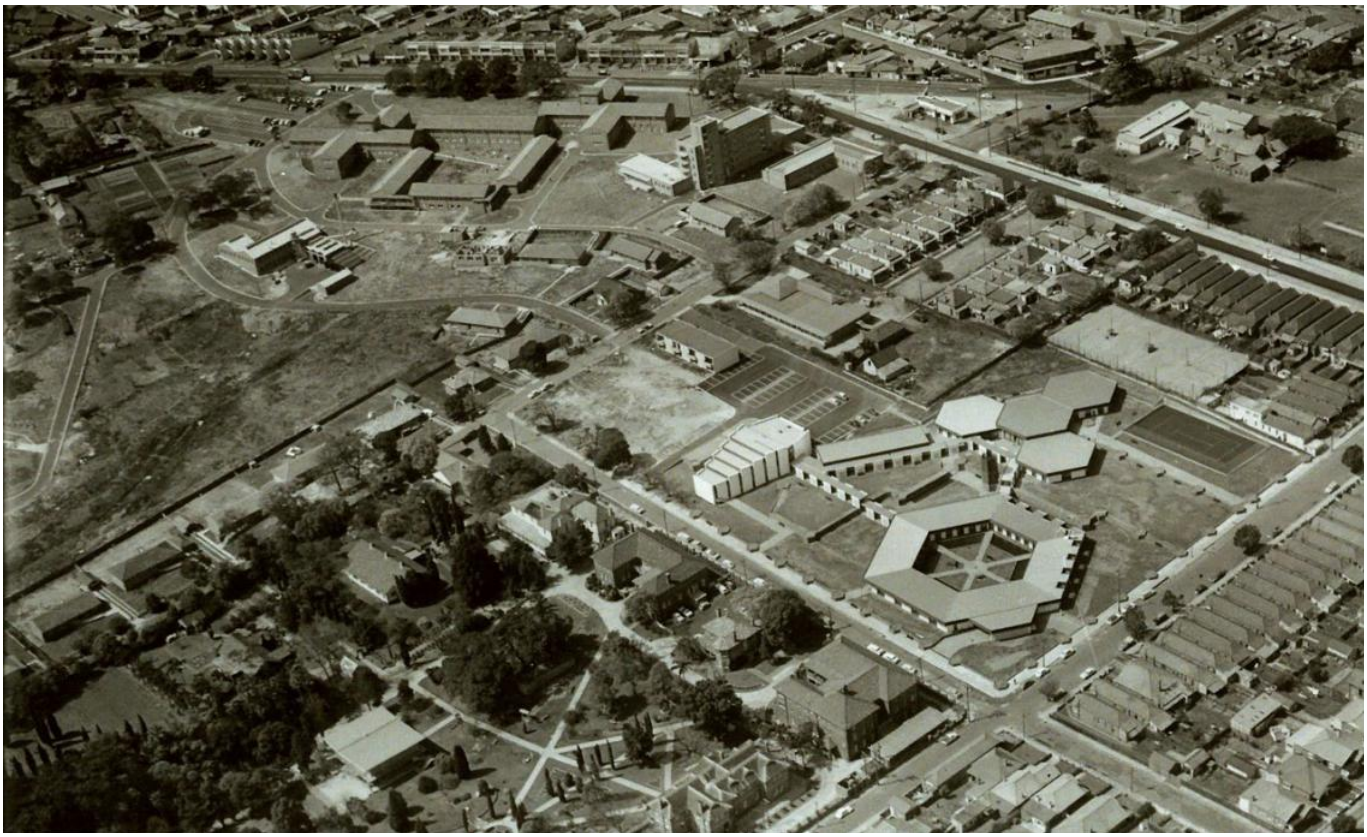

Figure 2.23 - Callan Park, Broughton Hall and the UTAS area in 1963, noting the recently completed Broughton Hall Day Clinic (now UTAS) with no tree planting evident around it other than trees near the corner of Wharf Road and Church Street. (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.24 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting what may be the large Brush Box (T3786) that still graces this courtyard to the south-west end of Kirkbride in the foreground. (Source: State Library NSW)

2.3 Heritage Significance

Callan Park holds multiple regional and national recognitions for its cultural, historical, archaeological, social, aesthetic and horticultural significance. This Tree Management Plan is informed by the most current significance assessments and heritage conservation policies.

Callan Park has State and local significance for its layered history. It retains evidence of its use and occupation by the Gadigal Wangal people through Aboriginal archaeological sites that exist in the Park. Callan Point represents a rare example of the pre-European foreshore in Iron Cove.

Two grand Victorian houses from the 1830s and 1840s—Garry Owen and Broughton Hall are located in Callan Park and reflect the growth and expansion of Sydney in the mid-nineteenth century. These are of State significance.

Callan Park retains layers of development related to the treatment of mental health. Callan Park Hospital, established on the site in the 1870s, was the first purpose designed mental health institution reflecting the philosophies of 'moral therapy'. The areas of the site surrounding the Kirkbride Block provided the hospital with space for active and passive recreation for patients but were also used to produce food for the hospital. Many of the original and early buildings remain with the Kirkbride Block and the main entrance gates. The landscape retains several original plantings and features from the 19th century. The use and development of Callan Park for mental health treatment continued through the twentieth century and is reflected in the many intact buildings and landscape of the site. It is highly significant that much of the original fabric, character and setting for this major Victorian period design remains intact within a highly developed inner-city locality.

Callan Park Hospital was at the forefront of several developments in health care in Australia including allowing the classification (or separation) of patients. It was the site of the early development of staff training practices and the first to employ female nurses in male wards.

This area includes vegetation originally planted as part of the hospital, including a prominent corridor of Port Jackson Fig trees and Brush Box along Balmain Road. It is important to protect, restore and interpret the Callan Park Mental Hospital's original pleasure gardens and these boundary plantations.

In the 1920s Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic was the first voluntary mental clinic in NSW and was a pioneer enterprise in the field. The approach taken to mental health treatment by Dr Evan Jones is reflected in the gardens of the Broughton Gardens and NGO precinct, which were developed as an overlay over the 19th century gardens of Broughton Hall, and which remain highly intact. It is listed under the State Heritage Register (former Rozelle Hospital Landscape) and is classified on the National Trust Register.

Callan Park has historic significance for its use as an army repatriation hospital. From 1915, areas of the site were developed and used for the mental health treatment of returned soldiers. Evidence of this remains in intact purpose-built ward buildings, structures and associated landscape features within the Park. It is also reflected in the rock carvings at Callan Point.

Callan Park has significance for its special association with several people and groups of historical importance in NSW. It is associated with the Gadigal Wangal people, whose historic use of the site is evidenced through shell middens and rock shelters. John Ryan Brenan and the Keep family are associated with the Victorian estates that once occupied the site. Thomas Kirkbride, Dr Frederick Norton Manning, James Barnet and Charles Moore contributed to the development of the site as a facility for the treatment of mental health. Dr Sydney Evan Jones, the Colonial Architect's Office and NSW Government Architect's Office are associated with the site's later layers of development. The site has significance for its association with Douglas Grant and Raymond McGrath who designed war memorials at the park.

Callan Park east of Wharf Road, the site of the original Callan Park Hospital, demonstrates landscape design excellence. The overall composition of the hospital site was carefully planned with the monumental Kirkbride Block set high on the ridge surrounded by generous gardens falling towards the waterfront. Today the mature nineteenth century/early twentieth century landscape, distant views to Iron Cove juxtaposed with areas of regenerated natural vegetation and rocky shoreline provide an area of open space of considerable aesthetic appeal. This is complemented by the sandstone buildings built as part of the original hospital which remain intact and which display design excellence in themselves. The composition of large sandstone buildings and dominant tower of the Kirkbride Block surrounded by mature vegetation is a landmark in the local area. Together these comprise a cultural landscape of exceptional significance.

The Broughton Hall Gardens and NGO Precinct have aesthetic significance for its gardens. The once elaborate 19th century grounds laid out around Broughton Hall were further developed in the 1930s and remain largely unchanged. The UTAS Precinct, designed with integrated buildings and landscape, represents a high degree of creative achievement.

Callan Park is important to Aboriginal people because it provides evidence of the long history of Aboriginal ownership and occupation of the Sydney area. It also includes evidence of the involvement of Aboriginal servicemen in World War I and II through the Harbour Bridge War Memorial attributed to Aboriginal ex-serviceman Douglas Grant.

The park has social significance related to its use for mental health treatment—for patients treated at the hospitals and clinics at the site and for staff who worked or trained there. Callan Park is an important and highly valued recreational and open landscape space for the local community. It contributes to the local identity and sense of place.

Figure 2.25 - Callan Park and Kirkbride in 1903, noting the extensive, diverse and closely spaced tree planting between Kirkbride and the Convalescent cottages . (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.26 - Broughton Hall in 1939 illustrating the richness and extent of tree planting and attention to garden making. The young assemblage of Calltris is a feature together with palms and retention of the more mature and earlier Araucarias throughout the garden to the north of Broughton Hall in the background (Source: State Library NSW)

Figure 2.27 - Broughton Hall in 1957, illustrating the maturing Callitris and young Corymbia to the right and a semi-mature Date palm to the left (Source: MHNSW)

Figure 2.28 - Broughton Hall in 1939 and its water gardens and oriental inspired bridges with WIllows lining the watercourse. (Source: State Library NSW)

The site has significance for its potential to yield information about mental health treatment from the late 19th century through to the early 21st century. Callan Park is rare in NSW as an intact nineteenth century mental hospital facility that has layers of development added over time. It also contains rare items such as the gardens in the NGO and Broughton Hall precinct and the rock carvings at Callan Point.

The Callan Park landscape is significant as it exhibits key landscape attributes—chiefly cultural planting and landscape access features—found commonly in the grounds of both grand 19th century estates and historic institutional sites across NSW.

The landscape of Callan Park is of exceptional historic, aesthetic and social value. In a post-European-settlement context, this landscape has acted as a purposefully developed recreational and utilitarian setting for almost two hundred years, as the parklands of prominent 19th century estates, as the grounds of health facility institutions and in recent decades as a multi-purpose public reserve. The prominent and spatially intact landscape, fundamental to the design and operations of both estate and institution and its historical, aesthetic and social relevance to Callan Park cannot be overstated.

The Kirkbride Block, Garry Owen House and Broughton Hall must be understood in the context of their broader designed landscape. The continuity in landscape character and land use is highly significant at Callan Park, as is the substantial palette of significant contributory landscape features present which collectively show a high degree of creative achievement and aesthetic appeal.

The parklands east of Wharf Road are significant because they preserve the original northern portion of the Garry Owen Estate (north of Balmain Road), they enable appreciation of the estate's former scale, ridgetop setting and marine frontage. They also preserve much of the spatial form of the extensive recreational and working landscape zones established as part of Callan Park Hospital, enabling appreciation of the exceptionally significant landscape masterplan prepared for the hospital. This includes the visual association between the buildings and gardens of the Kirkbride Block with the broader landscape around that platform, a key design ambition of the late 19th century site layout. The parklands contain a substantial palette of landmark cultural plantings and a wide array of fabric realised from the late 19th and early 20th century design for the hospital's grounds. They also contain evidence of the progressive adaptive reuse of parts of this prominent property's landscape through the 20th century.

Figure 2.29 - Broughton Hall in c1900 and already highlighting its significant palm and rainforest species dominated Rainforest Gully from this early period. (Source: Inner West Library - Keep Family Collection)

Figure 2.30 - 1930 aerial photo of Callan Park, overlaid with the 2025 surveyed tree population. The photo illustrates the intense tree planting well established along Balmain Road and the western, eastern and southern sides of Kirkbride. Of note is also the presence of the Norfolk Island Hibiscus along the harbour and the extensive planting around Broughton Hall. By the 1930s, the historic layout of key elements of the site were in place and the many trees were well established or becoming established. (Background Photo: NSW Spatial Services)