

# Understanding the place—physical analysis

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A site inspection was undertaken on 22 April 2024 by the GML project team, accompanied by Central Coast Council representatives. The site inspection aimed to identify historic built heritage in the study area, significant landscape elements and archaeological remains.

At the time of inspection, a large portion of the public reserve was undergoing sewerage upgrade works—the area was fenced and GML did not have access to inspect that area.

All photographs were taken by GML on 22 April 2024 unless otherwise stated.

### 3.1 Site layout

The study area slopes downward to the west from Mann Street with a steep drop between Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

Memorial Park is a trapezoidal shaped area with a central podium where the Gosford Cenotaph is located. Several memorials, varying in size, materials and design, are dispersed around the park. The boundaries of the park are lined with trees and other vegetation.

Due to the topography of the study area and dense cultural planting, Memorial Park is largely separated from Rotary Park and the public reserve both physically and visually. An exception is a stairway that connects Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

The smaller Rotary Park is roughly triangular in shape and has a circular fountain—which has not been in operation for some time—located in its centre. There is a poppy sculpture in the middle of the fountain. The paths of the park follow a circular pattern, providing access to Vaughan Avenue, Dane Drive, and the southern public reserve.

The public reserve is located between Mann Street and Dane Drive. The slope falls steeply from Mann Street to Dane Drive and has dense vegetation. The reserve contains a lawn and concrete pathway.



Figure 3.1 Aerial view of the study area showing the three zones. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)

## 3.2 Site description

### 3.2.1 Memorial Park

Memorial Park is defined by Vaughan Avenue to the north, Mann Street to the east and the surrounding slopes to the south and west. The park is predominantly a large expanse of lawn, punctuated at its centre by a compacted gravel podium built around the Gosford Cenotaph and the Boer War Memorial. The podium is bordered on its north, west and south by a low stone block retaining wall and metal balustrade fencing.

The mature trees along the Mann Street frontage sit within broad mulched zones contained by timber edging. Due to the density of shade toward the northern apex of the park, the lawns that previously existed in this area did not survive due to insufficient sunlight.

In addition to several memorials, the park contains a Ruwolt 1942 Howitzer field gun that is mounted on concrete plinths to the immediate south of the Cenotaph. A trench mortar, formerly mounted on a concrete plinth to the west of the Cenotaph, has since been removed.

The top of the western slopes of the park are demarcated by a low brick retaining wall that appears to have been inserted in the 1970s, likely at the same time as the staircase to Rotary Park. Matching brickwork can be found at the northern corner of the park, where retaining walls, garden beds and a set of stairs were constructed. At the southern end of the park, sections of low Koppers log pedestrian barriers line the top of the slopes.



Figure 3.2 Looking south through the Memorial Park.



Figure 3.3 Stone block retaining wall and metal fencing to central podium.



Figure 3.4 Broad mulched zones below fig trees along Mann Street.



Figure 3.5 Shaded and mulched area at the northern apex of the Memorial Park.





Figure 3.6 Ruwolt 1942 Howitzer field gun.



Figure 3.7 The buckled brick retaining edge at the top of the Memorial Park's western slopes.



Figure 3.8 Brick retaining walls and stairs at the junction of Vaughan Avenue and Mann Street.



Figure 3.9 Koppers log barriers downslope from the Cenotaph.

The Memorial Park contains a substantial number of mature cultural plantings. Many of these likely date from the first phase of park beautification in the late 1880s. They include fig trees (*Ficus macrophylla*, *rubiginosa* and/or *obliqua*) along the Mann Street frontage and the Hoop Pine to the west of the Boer War Memorial.

Various conifers (like *Pinus* and *Araucaria* species) were also planted as sentinels in the late 1880s around the park boundaries, including along Mann Street. Many of these became prominent landmark features of the park's setting before their removal from the mid-twentieth century onwards, due to poor health.

Photographic evidence suggests that figs and pines may have been interplanted in the original planting arrangement along the Mann Street frontage. The alignment was originally separated from the road corridor, being set behind a timber picket and, later, aris rail fence.



Figure 3.10 View of mature and infill fig plantings along Mann Street from St Mary's Anglican Church. Mature Hoop Pine and dense Hill's Fig canopies in background.



Figure 3.11 Late nineteenth century and infill fig plantings along the Mann Street frontage.



Figure 3.12 The Cenotaph, and a mature Hoop Pine in the background, likely planted in the late 1880s.



Figure 3.13 Southern extent of the park, showing very mature *Ficus macrophylla* at centre background. Semi-mature eucalypt and Brushbox lie between the fig tree and Cenotaph.

Other extant plantings in and around the Memorial Park appear to have been made in the 1930s including the Casuarinas on the western slopes. The alignment of Hill's Figs and the Livistona Palms on the northwestern boundary appears to date from the 1960s/1970s, except for the very large Hill's Fig on the corner of Mann Street and Vaughan Avenue, which was likely planted c1930s.

Other trees, including Brushbox specimens west and south of the Cenotaph, a maturing eucalypt between the Cenotaph and Mann Street and Pecan trees on the northwestern slopes, are all plantings from the second half of the twentieth century. A Phoenix Palm abutting a very large fig specimen at the southern end of the Memorial Park is likely self-seeded.

It is not clear when the Lone Pine abutting the Cenotaph was planted.



The Sister Sumner memorial tree (*Grevillea banksii*) may be the original specimen planted in 1933. Available sunlight to it is severely restricted by the abutting Hill's Fig canopy.



Figure 3.14 The very large c1930s Hill's Fig on the corner of Mann Street and Vaughan Avenue.



Figure 3.15 Dense Hill's Fig canopies (left) framing the northwestern boundary of the Memorial Park.



Figure 3.16 The Hill's Fig canopies around the northwestern side of the Memorial Park, as seen from the western end of Vaughan Avenue.



Figure 3.17 Casuarina stands on the western slopes of the Memorial Park.

The northern and southern ends of the Memorial Park and its western slopes contain various shrubs and groundcovers, most of them planted either in lieu of lawn (in heavily shaded spaces) or to help reduce erosion and provide a low vegetative 'finish' on the park's western hill. Such species found in the park include *Clivia*, dwarf Nandina, *Agapanthus*, *Murraya*, dwarf Cupressus and *Rosa* species. Several small trees or large shrubs have also been used on the park's western slopes, including Crepe Myrtle and Lilly Pilly.



Figure 3.18 Massed groundcovers under the very large Moreton Bay Fig at the southern end of the Memorial Park.



Figure 3.19 Massed Clivia under the very large Hill's Fig at the northern apex of the Memorial Park. The Sister Sumner memorial tree was wrapped in tapestry for Anzac Day commemoration.



Figure 3.20 Massed Agapanthus, dwarf Nandina and other groundcovers on the Memorial Park's western bank.

The Memorial Park contains various utilitarian fixtures and fittings including bench seating, lighting and rubbish bins.





Figure 3.21 Typical aluminium bench facing into the Memorial Park slightly downslope from the Mann Street footpath.



Figure 3.22 Rubbish bins abutting the Mann Street frontage.



Figure 3.23 Typical light posts through the centre of the park with curved arm and reflector plate.



Figure 3.24 One of four caged spotlights, positioned at the corners of the Cenotaph.



Access from Gosford Memorial Park to Rotary Park is via a broad set of stairs that were cut into the western slopes of the site in the early 1970s. The stairs commence directly downslope from the Cenotaph podium steps. The zone between the two contain an Aboriginal midden (site 45-3-4824 described in Section 3.4.2 below). There is no formal pathway across this area and the trunk of a large Brushbox lies within the gravel apron at the top of the stairs. The concrete stairs are framed by tiered brick planter bed walls.

Whilst an axial relationship between the Cenotaph and the Rotary Park fountain and sculpture was evidently a consideration at the latter's time of design and construction, the staircase is not exactly perpendicular to the Cenotaph.



Figure 3.25 The western steps of the Cenotaph podium. Note, however, the three flag poles located between the Cenotaph and the Boer War Memorial, signal the north as the 'front' approach to the Cenotaph.



Figure 3.26 The large Brushbox trunk within the pedestrian apron at the top of the stair. This zone also contains an Aboriginal midden.



Figure 3.27 Looking west down the stairs to Rotary Park, flanked by the hand-knitted poppy tapestry Anzac Day display and mature Casuarinas on the western slopes of the promontory.



Figure 3.28 Looking east up the stairs from Rotary Park to Cenotaph.



Figure 3.29 Stair landing showing metal handrail, cracked and bulging brick wall.

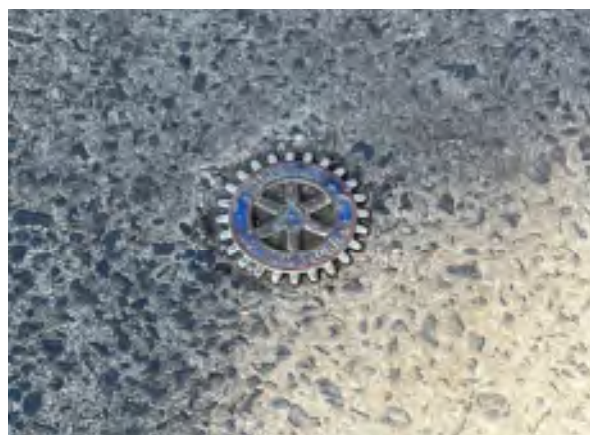


Figure 3.30 Rotary Club insignia set into the centre of the stair landing.

### 3.2.2 Rotary Park

Rotary Park lies at the junction of Vaughan Avenue and Dane Drive on land reclaimed from the foreshore in the 1930s. It is identified by signage placed near the Norfolk Island Pine at the corner of Vaughan Avenue and Dane Drive.

The main feature of the park is a non-operational fountain lined with small multicoloured tiles and contained by pebblecrete walls. At the centre of the fountain pool is a temporary sculpture (installed in 2015) by Margrete Erling titled *Poppy Sculpture* constructed of aluminium, galvanised steel, sheet metal and fibreglass resin. The base of the sculpture is made of steel plates with a tread pattern and floor lights installed. The entire artwork is mounted on a plasterboard plinth and designed to be moveable. It was originally intended to be erected for commemorative events then disassembled to be moved or stored until needed again. The sculpture was not intended as a permanent or long term feature of the park.

The fountain also contains a commemorative plaque and a time capsule mounted within a stone plinth.

An encircling pedestrian footpath connects to paths that extend along the base of the Memorial Park's western bank (and then to Vaughan Avenue) and to a path that projects through the reserve further east along Dane Drive.

Rotary Park is otherwise quite spartan in composition, only containing several semi-mature Honey Locust trees (planted for shade abutting park benches) and several semi-mature Norfolk Island Pines that appear to have been planted in 1973. Some minor land remodelling occurred on the outer edges of the circular loop path to provide some enclosure for the fountain from the abutting arterial roadway.





Figure 3.31 Rotary Park showing signage near Norfolk Island Pine.



Figure 3.32 Looking south through Rotary Park showing Poppy Sculpture in fountain.



Figure 3.33 View over the Rotary Park fountain to the Cenotaph in the Memorial Park.



Figure 3.34 Looking north through Rotary Park to the carpark on Vaughan Avenue.

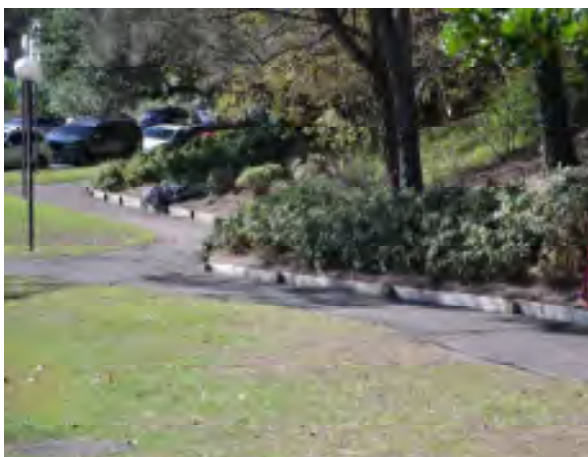


Figure 3.35 The bitumen footpath along the base of the Memorial Park bank.



Figure 3.36 Bench and rubbish bins in Rotary Park.

A collection of small trees is dotted through the lawns and garden beds at the southern end of Rotary Park. These include a Tuckeroo, paperbarks and a eucalypt.

Those plantings and a toilet block form a de facto boundary between Rotary Park and the long stretch of public reserve between that park and the southern end of Mann Street, at Dane Drive.



Figure 3.37 Toilet block on the southeastern side of Rotary Park.



Figure 3.38 Stand of small trees including Tuckeroo and Bottlebrush beside the Rotary Park toilets.

### 3.2.3 Public reserve

The public reserve between Rotary Park and the southern end of Mann Street along Dane Drive is a reasonably nondescript parcel of land. It contains semi-mature Fig species (*Ficus macrophylla*, *rubiginosa* or *obliqua*) and Paperbarks abutting Dane Drive, with a large Eucalypt and a large Paperbark more centrally located. Five semi-mature Ficus specimens form an arced alignment near the junction of Gertrude Place and Mann Street.

The dense planted skirt to the main bend in the road at the southern end of Mann Street largely contains adventitious species, including African Olive, Privet, Hibiscus and Lilly Pilly. Five very large Eucalypts, likely regrowth of endemic forest, are situated on the southern slopes of the Memorial Park and have substantial canopies. These trees cast considerable shade over the lawns of this linear public reserve for much of the day.



Figure 3.39 Small native trees at the northern end of the linear public reserve fronting Dane Drive.



Figure 3.40 Looking north toward the Dane Drive-abutting public reserve (partly cordoned off for services works).



Figure 3.41 Looking east along the public reserve between the Memorial Park and Dane Drive.



Figure 3.42 Looking north toward the study area from the southern side of Dane Drive, showing the large Eucalypt canopies that lie along the southern skirt of Memorial Park.





Figure 3.43 The semi-mature Figs around the southern end of Mann Street near Gertrude Place.



Figure 3.44 View down to the public reserve abutting Dane Drive (and Brisbane Water) from Mann Street, as that roadway climbs towards the Memorial Park.

### 3.3 Memorials and movable items

The following section provides a description of the memorials and movable items in Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park using information gathered during the site inspection and from the NSW War Memorials Register.

Movable items are identified with a label in Table 3.1.

This section also lists the memorials and movable items known to have been removed or relocated, for the purpose of conservation policy development regarding possible reinstatement or relocation.



Figure 3.45 Location of memorials and movable items. Reference codes correlate to Table 3.1 below. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)

Table 3.1 List and description of memorials and movable items within the study area.

Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
GC	Gosford Cenotaph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at the southern end of the podium in Memorial Park, south of and in alignment with the Boer War Memorial.</li> <li>Rectangular shaft that tapers slightly towards the top, constructed of locally quarried sandstone blocks.</li> <li>It is set on a concrete base and surrounded by an inner brick kerb and an outer concrete kerb. There are four concrete paths, one leading to each face of the Cenotaph.</li> <li>Bronze lettering and plaques on each of the faces that are framed by sandstone detailing.</li> <li>A small bronze plaque is fixed to the top stair riser on the northern elevation.</li> <li>The top of the northern, eastern and western faces are decorated with laurel wreaths and the emblems of the three service branches of the Australian Defence Force.</li> <li>Three flag poles erected after the construction of the Cenotaph in front of its northern face.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul> <p>Additions and alterations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bronze plaque added to northern face in 1953 and another added to the southern face likely in the 1980s. Additional strip attached to southern plaque in recent years.</li> <li>Small plaque added to the northern step in 1988 (Cenotaph restoration and upgrade). Historically, there were three steps up to the Cenotaph. Two of these steps were buried as the ground was raised for the podium.</li> <li>Three military emblems added to the northern face in the 1980s.</li> </ul>	<p><i>(Lettering) Their name liveth for evermore.</i></p> <p><i>(Side) Our glorious dead</i>  <i>Boer War 1899–1902</i>  <i>World War I 1914–1918</i>  <i>World War II 1939–1945</i>  <i>Korea 1950–1953</i>  <i>Malaya 1948–1960</i>  <i>Borneo 1962–1966</i>  <i>Vietnam 1962–1972</i>  <i>Iraq, East Timor, Afghanistan</i>  <i>(Honour roll) 1914–1919</i>  <i>Our glorious dead</i>  <i>[Names]</i>  <i>(Honour roll) 1939–1945</i>  <i>Our glorious dead</i>  <i>[Names]</i>  <i>(Plaque) This cenotaph was restored</i>  <i>upgraded and dedicated</i>  <i>as a tribute to all veterans by</i>  <i>Gosford RSL Sub Branch</i>  <i>April 1988</i>  <i>Hon. Sec. R. C. Sturgeon Pres.</i></p>
BW	Gosford Boer War Memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at the northern end of the podium in Memorial Park, north of the Gosford Cenotaph.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Erected in memory of 'Our Soldiers' who, in South Africa, fell in defence of their nation during the Boer War 1899 –</i></p>

Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White marble rectangular column on a circular concrete base. The column tapers towards the top and is surmounted by a decorative urn.</li> <li>The plinth is decorated with floral relief carvings and features an engraved inscription on each face.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>1902. They obeyed their country's call.</i></p> <p><i>Trooper John Murray of 'Wamberal' 1st November 1900.</i></p> <p><i>Corporal Frank Marcourt Legge of 'Woodport' 20th May 1901.</i></p> <p><i>Trooper Sidney S. Mayo of 'Gosford' 11th March 1902.</i></p>
FE	<b>HMA Ships 1955–1971 Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in the northwestern corner of the podium in the Memorial Park.</li> <li>Low black stone plinth mounted on concrete base.</li> <li>Inscription on memorial plaque attached to the plinth and to the front of the plinth.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>(Plaque) Dedicated To Those Who</i></p> <p><i>Served In HMA Ships</i></p> <p><i>Attached To The FESR</i></p> <p><i>In South East Asia</i></p> <p><i>1955 – 1971</i></p> <p><i>Lest We Forget</i></p> <p><i>HMA Ships 1955 – 1971 Far East Strategic Reserve</i></p> <p><i>[Ship names]</i></p> <p><i>'For Freedom We Served'</i></p> <p><i>(Front) Far East Strategic Reserve</i></p> <p><i>Malayan Emergency</i></p> <p><i>Borneo Indonesian Confrontation</i></p>
BC	<b>British Commonwealth Occupation Force Memorial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located along western fence of the podium in Memorial Park.</li> <li>Commemorative plaque set into low stone plinth.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>British Commonwealth Occupation Force (B.C.O.F)</i></p> <p><i>Australian Component</i></p> <p><i>In remembrance of 45,000 Australian Service Men and Women who served in Japan 1945–1952 and those who did not come back. Lest we forget.</i></p> <p><i>Dedicated Tuesday 11 March 2008.</i></p>
HN	<b>Harry Newhouse Memorial Plaque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located on the northern side of the stairs in the garden bed.</li> <li>Low rectangular memorial plaque mounted on stone.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Dedicated to the memory of Harry Newhouse 3rd September, 1895 – 24th November, 1996 and all Gallipoli Veterans.</i></p> <p><i>"Their bodies are buried in peace and the name liveth for 'evermore'".</i></p> <p><i>ANZAC Day – 25th April 1998.</i></p>
CS	<b>Century of Service Memorial Plaque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in southern portion of the Memorial Park near a large fig tree along the Mann Street footpath, to the east of the Cenotaph.</li> <li>Faces east to Mann Street and St Mary's Anglican Church.</li> <li>A commemorative plaque mounted on a low stone plinth.</li> </ul>	<p><i>A Century of Service to God and Country 1900–1999</i></p> <p><i>South African War 1902, Boxer Rebellion 1900–1901, First World War 1914–1918, Second World War 1939–1945, Korean War 1950–1953, Malayan Emergency 1950–1960, Indonesian Confrontation 1963–1966, Vietnam War 1962–1973, Peacekeeping 1947–, Gulf War 1990–1991.</i></p>



Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>They answered their Country's call. They paid the price of Freedom. Their names liveth forevermore.</i></p> <p><i>"Lest we forget"</i></p> <p><i>Unveiled – 25/4/99 by Gosford Mayor Chris Holstein &amp; R.S.L. President Bob Sturgeon.</i></p> <p><i>Dedication by – Chaplain Eric Trezise, Venerable John Southwarden and Father Paul Finucane.</i></p>
VA	<b>The Partners Veterans Association of Australia NSW Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located along the eastern boundary of the Memorial Park near Mann Street.</li> <li>Faces west into the Memorial Park.</li> <li>Stone plinth mounted on concrete.</li> <li>Oval plaque set into top of the plinth and small rectangular plaque to the western face.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Partners Veterans Association of Australia NSW Branch Est. 1999</i></p> <p><i>For Those Who Stand Beside Them</i></p> <p><i>The Central Coast sub-branch played an integral part in the formation of the Partners of Veterans Association of NSW.</i></p> <p><i>The funds for this memorial were kindly provided by the Totally &amp; Permanently Incapacitated Association of NSW.</i></p>
MP	<b>Gosford Memorial Park Plaque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located along eastern boundary of the Memorial Park near Mann Street.</li> <li>Faces east to Mann Street and St Mary's Anglican Church.</li> <li>Low stone plinth with commemorative plaque.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Jim Floyd MP Member for Robertson officially opened the upgrading of</i></p> <p><i>Gosford Memorial Park</i></p> <p><i>On 2 December 2000</i></p> <p><i>Hon. Tony Abbott MP Federal Minister for Employment Services</i></p> <p><i>Robert Sturgeon President Gosford RSL Sub-branch</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Holstein Mayor Gosford City Council</i></p> <p><i>Supported by the Commonwealth as a Centenary of Federation project in conjunction with Work for the Dole Gosford R.S.L Branch and Gosford City Council</i></p>
NS	<b>Gosford National Servicemen's Memorial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in northern portion of the Memorial Park, adjacent to a flagpole.</li> <li>Faces south to the podium.</li> <li>Memorial plaque mounted on vertical block of stone.</li> <li>Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>This memorial is dedicated to Australia's 289000 National Servicemen who served in the Armed Forces 1951 – 1972.</i></p> <p><i>187 were killed in action. 1479 were wounded.</i></p> <p><i>Erected by their comrades of the National Servicemen's Association of NSW.</i></p> <p><i>We will never forget.</i></p> <p><i>Blessed by Rev Fr Paul Evans. Dedicated by Mr Ron Brown State President NSW. 22nd June 2002.</i></p> <p><i>We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Gosford City</i></p>



Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
			<i>Council in the erection of this memorial.</i>
SS	<b>Sister Sumner Memorial Tree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at the northern end of the Memorial Park in a brick-edged garden bed.</li> <li>An engraved stone tablet located to the south of the memorial tree.</li> <li>A temporary plastic sign is placed in front of the memorial tree for Anzac Day commemoration.</li> <li>Poor condition: Cracks in the stone and the inscription is faded.</li> </ul> <p>Additions and alterations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stone tablet went missing and was later rediscovered. The stone was then placed at its current location. It is not known where its original location was but presumably it was in close proximity to this tree.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Tree planted in memory of Katharine Sumner, ex-nursing sister AANS, by fellow members of the CWA, 19th March 1933.</i></p>
LP	<b>Gosford Lone Pine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in southwestern corner of the Memorial Park along a low Koppers log barrier.</li> <li>A Lone Pine memorial tree marked with a plaque mounted on a low stone plinth.</li> <li>The plaque describes the history of Lone Pine, its association with Australian servicemen and their families.</li> <li>Fair condition: Minor damage to stone edges, discolouration to acrylic plaque cover.</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Lone Pine – Pinus halepensis</i></p> <p><i>Lone Pine or Plateau 400 was the scene of a major diversionary offensive launched by the 1st Australian Infantry Division on 6 August 1915. The Turks had cut down all but one of the tree that clothed the ridge to cover their trenches. The ridge dominated by the single Aleppo Pine (Pinus halepensis) became known as Lone Pine. In three days of fighting the Australians lost more than 2000 men and the Turks losses were estimated at 7000. Seven Victoria Crosses were awarded.</i></p> <p><i>As far as we know two Australian soldiers souvenired pinecones from the ridge that found their way back to Australia.</i></p> <p><i>Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith of the 3rd Battalion, whose brother was killed in the battle for Lone Pine Ridge, sent a cone home to his mother, Mrs McMullen of Inverell in New South Wales. Mrs McMullen kept the cone for 13 years before planting the seeds in 1928. She grew two seedlings, one of which she presented to the town of Inverell and the other to the Parks and Gardens section of the Department of the Interior in Canberra. The Duke of Gloucester planted this second tree at the Australian War Memorial in October 1934.</i></p>

Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
			<p><i>Today it stands over 20 metres in height.</i></p> <p><i>SGT Keith McDowell of the 24th Battalion carried a pinecone in his haversack until the end of the war. Upon returning home to Australia he gave it to his aunt, Mrs Emma Gray, who lived as Grassmere near Warrnambool, Victoria. A decade or so later Mrs Gray planted the seeds and four seedlings were grown. One was planted in May 1933 in Wattle Park, Melbourne. Another at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and another at the Soldiers Memorial Hall at The Sisters. The last was planted in the Warrnambool Gardens.</i></p> <p><i>In 1990 two trees were taken back to Gallipoli with war veterans' who attended the memorial service to mark the 75th anniversary of the battle of Lone Pine.</i></p> <p><i>Since the 1980s many trees have been grown by both seed and grafting techniques from the tree at the Australian War Memorial. This tree is one of those trees.</i></p>
WI	<b>War Widows Memorial Plaque</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located southeast of the Gosford Cenotaph among low vegetation.</li> <li>• Rectangular memorial plaque mounted on a large unshaped stone.</li> <li>• Good condition.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Loves Philosophy</i></p> <p><i>The Fountains mingle with the river, and the rivers with the ocean. The winds of heaven mix forever, with a sweet emotion; nothing in the world is single; all things by a law divine. In one spirit meet and mingle, why not I with thine! Shelley (1819)</i></p> <p><i>In memory of all women and children who lost loved ones due to wars and conflict in the 20th century.</i></p> <p><i>"Lest we forget"</i></p> <p><i>This plaque was unveiled by Mayor Robert Bell – Gosford City Council and dedicated by Rev. Fr. Max Sainsbury and donated by Gosford City War Widows Guild Club 23rd June 2003</i></p>
GN	<b>Howitzer field gun</b> (movable item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located south of the Cenotaph, abutting the podium and viewable from the podium.</li> <li>• A Ruwolt 1942 Howitzer field gun mounted on two concrete blocks.</li> <li>• Good condition.</li> </ul>	N/A
RC	<b>The Rotary Clubs Plaque and Time Capsule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in the Rotary Park fountain towards the eastern end of the pool.</li> </ul>	<p><i>These gardens and fountain were constructed and presented to this community on the occasion of the sesqui-centenary celebrations of the first</i></p>

Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two metal plaques mounted on a low stone plinth: one on top and a smaller plaque on the east face.</li> <li>Good condition. Minor chipping to the edges of the stone plinth.</li> </ul>	<p><i>settlement in this shire 1823–1973 by</i></p> <p><i>The Rotary Clubs</i></p> <p><i>Of Gosford, East Gosford &amp; Gosford North on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1973</i></p> <p><i>Rotary Presidents 1972–1975</i>  <i>Gosford: L.J. McCarthy East</i>  <i>Gosford: B. Howells Gosford</i>  <i>North: C. Williams</i></p> <p><i>Rotary Presidents 1973–1974</i>  <i>Gosford: A.R. Gherzi East</i>  <i>Gosford: C.S. Donovan Gosford</i>  <i>North: L. Arndell</i></p> <p><i>Time Capsule</i></p> <p><i>Items of interest to the future citizens of Gosford City &amp; West Gosford Rotary Club</i></p> <p><i>Have been placed in this park as a Bi-Centennial Project</i></p> <p><i>To be opened by the President of Gosford West Rotary Club &amp; The Mayor of Gosford Australia Day 2088</i></p>
RI	<b>Rotary Club Insignia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at the centre of the concrete stair landing between Memorial Park and Rotary Park.</li> <li>Good condition</li> </ul>	<i>Rotary International</i>
PS	<b>Poppy Sculpture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in the centre of the fountain pool in Rotary Park.</li> <li>Sculpture consists of nine metal poppies rising from a metal base.</li> <li>Flood lighting installed in the metal base.</li> <li>Good condition</li> </ul>	<p><i>Margarete Erling</i></p> <p><i>Poppy Sculpture</i></p> <p><i>Never Forgetting the Sacrifices, 2015</i></p> <p><i>Aluminium, galvanised steel, sheet metal, fibreglass resin, paint</i></p> <p><i>This temporary sculpture was commissioned as part of a community event for the 100 Year ANZAC Centenary in 2015</i></p>
WL	<b>The Australian Women's Land Army</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location is reported as being in Rotary Park adjacent to the southern Norfolk Island Pine.</li> <li>The plaque was not inspected during the GML site visit as it was likely buried under mulch.</li> <li>The memorial is not listed on the NSW War Memorials Register.</li> <li>The condition of the memorial is unknown.</li> </ul>	<p><i>This tree was presented to the people of Gosford by</i></p> <p><i>The Australia Women's Land Army</i></p> <p><i>Who worked in the district during the war years 1941–1943</i></p> <p><i>On 16.12.73</i></p>
<b>Former memorials/movable items</b>			
	<b>WWI trophies</b> (movable items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original location of the war trophies in the park is unknown.</li> </ul>	<i>Unknown</i>

Ref	Name	Description	Inscription
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A '77 millimetre field gun and a heavy minenwerfer taken from the Bullecourt offensive in France.</li> <li>• The trophies were removed from the park post-1988. The current whereabouts of these guns are known to the Gosford RSL Sub-Branch.</li> </ul>	



Figure 3.46 Gosford Cenotaph (GC) from the north, showing the flagpoles.



Figure 3.47 Cenotaph (GC) from the northwest, showing the podium and stairs.



Figure 3.48 Northern elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.49 Western elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).





Figure 3.50 Southern elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.51 Eastern elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.52 Detail of wreath at the top of the western elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.53 Concrete path and kerb surrounding the Cenotaph (GC).





Figure 3.54 Plaque on the southern elevation of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.55 Sandstone edge detail of the Cenotaph (GC).



Figure 3.56 Stone block podium and stairs.



Figure 3.57 Stone block podium and metal fencing.



Figure 3.58 Boer War Memorial (BW), viewed from the Cenotaph in the south.



Figure 3.59 Boer War Memorial (BW), viewed from the east.



Figure 3.60 White marble column with inscription and floral motifs.



Figure 3.61 Decorative urn at the top of the Boer War Memorial (BW).





Figure 3.62 HMA Ships 1955–1971 Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial (FE).



Figure 3.63 British Commonwealth Occupation Force Memorial (BC).



Figure 3.64 Harry Newhouse Memorial Plaque (HN).



Figure 3.65 Century of Service Memorial Plaque (CS), faces east to Mann Street and St Mary's Anglican Church.



Figure 3.66 The Partners Veterans Association of Australia NSW Branch memorial (VA), faces west into the Memorial Park.



Figure 3.67 Gosford Memorial Park plaque (MP), faces east to Mann Street and St Mary's Anglican Church.



Figure 3.68 Gosford National Servicemen's Memorial (NS), adjacent to a flagpole.



Figure 3.69 Gosford National Servicemen's Memorial (NS), faces south to the podium.





Figure 3.70 Sister Sumner memorial tree (SS), near the corner of Mann Street and Vaughan Avenue.



Figure 3.71 Sister Sumner memorial tree stone tablet with inscription (SS).



Figure 3.72 Gosford Lone Pine and memorial plaque (LP), towards the southwest of the podium.



Figure 3.73 Gosford Lone Pine memorial plaque (LP).



Figure 3.74 War Widows Memorial Plaque (WI).



Figure 3.75 Howitzer field gun (GN), abutting the southern side of the podium.



Figure 3.76 The Rotary Clubs Plaque and Time Capsule (RC), within the now-defunct fountain pool in Rotary Park.



Figure 3.77 Poppy Sculpture (PS) in the centre of the now-defunct fountain pool in Rotary Park.



Figure 3.78 Rotary International insignia (RI) set into landing of concrete stairs.



Figure 3.79 Australian Women's Land Army plaque. (Source: Merrill Jackson)

### 3.4 Aboriginal archaeological analysis

This section considers the study area's potential for Aboriginal 'objects', as defined by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act). This includes consideration of the study area's landscape context, previous studies, predictive statements, and the locations of other sites recorded in the area to assist with spatial patterning.

An absence of 'objects' does not necessarily reflect an absence of cultural significance associated with the area. Consideration should be given to consulting the local First Nations community to determine possible intangible cultural significance and connections.

### 3.4.1 Aboriginal cultural context

The study area is located within the boundary of the Darkinjung LALC. Both the Central Coast region, and Gosford specifically, have been linked to the Darkinyung (Darkinjung, Darginung), Awabakal and Guringai (Kuringai) peoples. Further information on the Aboriginal cultural context of the study area is presented in Section 2.2 of this CMP.

### 3.4.2 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

A search of the Heritage NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database was undertaken on 30 April 2024 (reference number 888306). The search covered a zone from eastings, northings 342474, 348974 to 6296417, 6302917 with no buffer. The results of the search are shown in Table 3.2, Figure 3.80, Figure 3.81 and Figure 3.82. A total of 116 Aboriginal sites and one Aboriginal place were identified.

There is one previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located within the study area, AHIMS site 45-3-4824 (Gosford Memorial Park), a shell (midden) site.

Table 3.2 Results of the AHIMS search.

Site features	Frequency	Percentage
Art (closed context)	18	15.5
Art (closed context) and Artefact	1	0.9
Art (closed context) and Grinding Groove	4	3.4
Art (closed context) and Shell	1	0.9
Art (closed context), Grinding Groove and Shell	1	0.9
Art (open context)	32	27.5
Art (open context) and Grinding Groove	9	7.7
Art (open context) and Shell	1	0.9
Art (open context) and Stone Arrangement	1	0.9
Art (open context), Artefact and Shell	1	0.9
Artefact	6	5.1
Artefact and Grinding Groove	1	0.9
Artefact and Shell	12	10.3
Artefact, Grinding Groove and Shell	2	1.7
Grinding Groove	13	11.2
Modified Tree	1	0.9



Site features	Frequency	Percentage
PAD (Potential Archaeological Deposit)	3	2.6
PAD and Shell	1	0.9
Shell	8	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Aboriginal place identified in the search is the Kariong Sacred Land site at Kariong, approximately 7 kilometres west of the centre of Gosford. This place is a complex of site types including engravings, and provides evidence of past occupation and ceremonies. Traditional stories identify the site as a traditional meeting place for learning and education.<sup>1</sup>

Art sites, or sites with an art component, are the most common site type returned within the search results, accounting for 58% of the results (n=69). This may be divided into art in closed contexts (rock shelters), comprising 25 sites or 36% of all art sites; and art in open contexts (ie open landforms), comprising 44 or 64% of all art sites. Art in closed contexts comprises pigment or charcoal art, while art in open contexts comprises engraved art.

Other common site features included:

- grinding grooves, comprising all or part of 30 sites (26% of the search results);
- shell (midden) sites, comprising all or part of 27 sites (23% of the search results); and
- artefact sites, comprising all or part of 23 sites (20% of the search results).

The AHIMS sites returned within the search are predominantly located in undeveloped areas, and have a particular concentration to the east of the search zone, within the elevated area west of the Broadwater. The comparative absence of sites within the urban areas around Brisbane Water should not be taken to suggest a lack of use of these areas by Aboriginal people, rather that Aboriginal sites within these areas are likely to have been obscured or destroyed by past urban development.

There are six registered sites within 1 kilometre of the study area:

- As mentioned above, there is one previously recorded site within the study area—shell midden site 45-3-4824 (Gosford Memorial Park).
- The five other sites include another shell (midden) site, one artefact site, one artefact and shell (midden) site, one PAD site, and one PAD and shell (midden) site. The closest of these is PAD site 45-3-3340, Dane Drive PAD.

Figure 3.83 to Figure 3.89 show these Aboriginal sites and their associations with the study area.

The Dane Drive PAD (45-3-3340) is an area of archaeological potential for subsurface objects situated along the predicted edge of the former late Holocene foreshore (refer to Section 3.4.3 below for further detail), approximately 15 metres east of the study area. The PAD was originally mapped as extending into the southeastern portion of the study area, within the public reserve area. However, recent investigation by GML has indicated that the deposit within the public reserve consists of historical fills overlying estuarine sediment. As such, the extent of the PAD has been corrected on AHIMS to exclude this area. Note the PAD location point as given by the AHIMS database for 45-3-3340 is situated approximately 75 metres north of the study area at the time of the AHIMS search. This has been corrected on AHIMS and within the figures below to correspond to the mapped extent of the PAD as shown in Dane Drive and Mason Parade Intersection Upgrade Archaeological Assessment report<sup>2</sup>, noting the reduction in the extent of the PAD following investigation of the deposits within the southeast of the study area.

Shell midden site 45-3-4824 is situated on the coastal rock platform / low escarpment within the study area, which would have originally formed a component of the shoreline prior to land reclamation. This site was originally recorded as a midden site in April 2023 when a burst water main, combined with torrential rain, disturbed the land surface and exposed shell within an area approximately 2 metres by 3 metres.<sup>3</sup> In August 2023, a request was submitted to reclassify the site as 'not a site', on the basis that the shell present was small, mostly broken cockle shells, mixed with glass and rubble, which was interpreted as being indicative of fill materials; and no burnt shell, stone tools, animal bones or charcoal were observed, which would have been indicative of use of the site as a shell midden.<sup>4</sup> However, as of April 2024, this site remains a valid registered AHIMS site. Correspondence attached to the site card, accessed via the AHIMS database, indicates that Heritage NSW has ruled that further evidence on the nature of the site, including consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, would be required to reclassify the site. As such, this CMP treats this site as a valid registration with statutory protection under the NPW Act.



Figure 3.80 Results of the AHIMS search. The study area is outlined in orange. (Source: Heritage NSW AHIMS on a SIX Maps basemap with GML overlay 2024)





Figure 3.81 AHIMS sites within 1 kilometre of the study area. (Source: Heritage NSW AHIMS on a SIX Maps basemap with GML overlay 2024)



Figure 3.82 Detail of location of AHIMS sites 45-3-4824 and 45-3-3340. (Source: Heritage NSW AHIMS on a Nearmap basemap with GML overlay 2024)

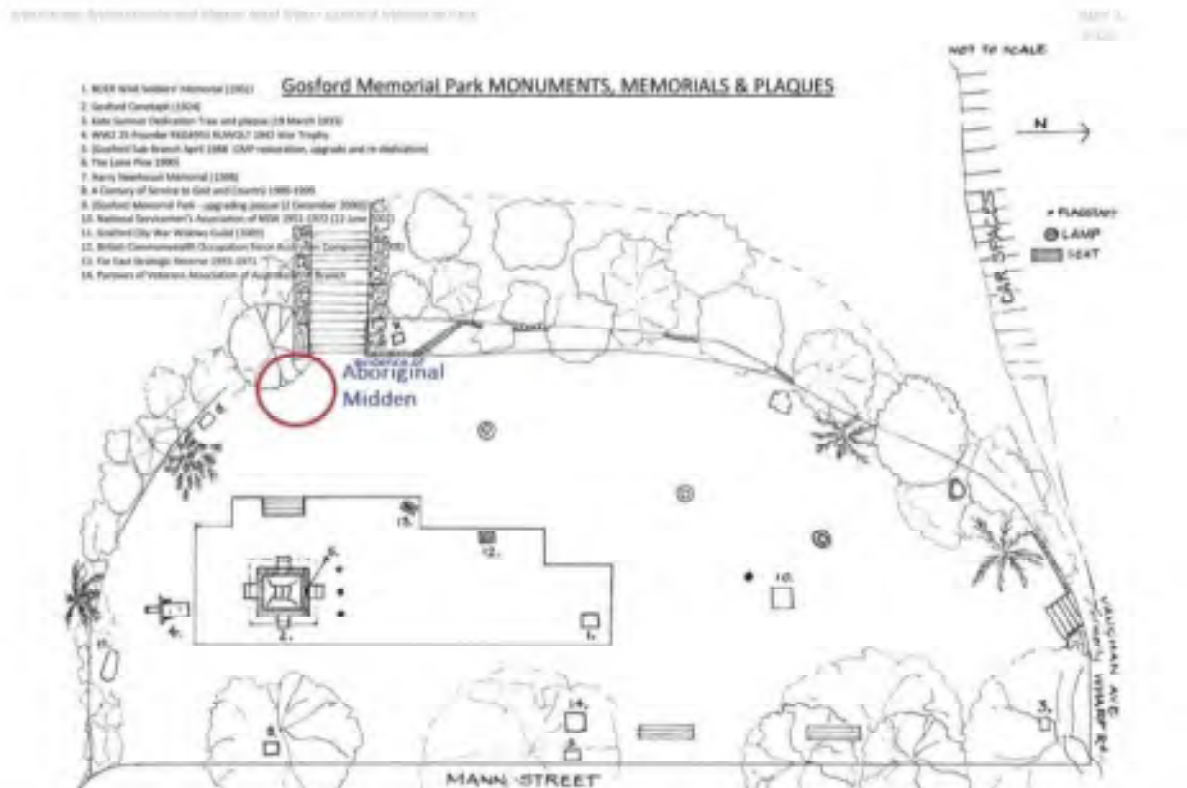


Figure 3.83 Site plan showing the location of AHIMS site 45-3-4824 within the study area.  
(Source: Merril Jackson, 2023)



Figure 3.84 Facing southwest towards the mapped location of midden site 45-3-4824.  
(Source: GML, 2024)



Figure 3.85 Facing north towards the mapped location of midden site 45-3-4824, visible in the eroded dirt path. (Source: GML, 2024)





Figure 3.86 Detail of shell exposed in the location of midden site 45-3-4824. Note modern gravel and refuse (ie glass shards). (Source: GML, 2024)



Figure 3.87 Facing southeast across the public reserve, originally mapped as part of Dane Drive PAD, 45-3-3340. (Source: GML, 2024)



Figure 3.88 The public reserve, facing northwest, originally mapped as part of Dane Drive PAD, 45-3-3340. (Source: GML, 2024)



Figure 3.89 The public reserve, facing southeast, originally mapped as part of Dane Drive PAD, 45-3-3340. (Source: GML, 2024)

### 3.4.3 Relevant studies

#### **Dane Drive and Masons Parade Intersection Upgrade— Archaeological Assessment—AHMS, 2007**

AHMS conducted an archaeological assessment, involving desktop assessment and archaeological survey, of the proposed Dane Drive and Masons Parade intersection upgrade. The AHMS investigation area included the southeastern portion of the present study area.



Two distinct soil profiles were identified within the investigation area through geotechnical testing. The first is fill associated with late 1930s land reclamation, comprising layers of silty sand, clayey sand, silty clay and sandy clay. These soils were determined to have extremely low potential for Aboriginal objects. The second soil profile was remnant estuarine foreshore, which was determined to have a low potential for middens, stone artefacts and burials (if deep midden deposits or soft substrates such as sand are present). One borehole intersected this soil unit, located north of Masons Parade, which was found to comprise 220 millimetres of dark brown, fine-grained silty sand over 350 millimetres of orange / brown mottled clayey sand and dark brown silty clay subsoils. These soils were interpreted as the intact remnant shoreline, and categorised as Wyong soils.

Following survey, PAD was assigned to the eastern side of Rotary Park (which included a portion of the study area, and adjacent greenspace along Dane Street), corresponding to the predicted edge of the old foreshore. PAD was assigned on the basis that this area would have provided access to abundant resources, due to the foreshore context and the presence of a low order, since-observed creek line descending Mount Mouat and running beneath the rotary pergola in the south of Rotary Park (ie just south of the southern extent of the study area; the pergola has since been removed). The extent of the PAD is shown in Figure 3.90 below, and extends into the southwestern corner of the study area. The PAD is listed as site 45-3-3340 (Dane Drive PAD) on AHIMS.

As discussed above, the area of PAD has since been reduced following archaeological investigation of deposits within the public reserve area by GML in 2024. The area of PAD west of the intersection of Mann Street and Dane Drive (ie within the study area) should be considered not to be PAD on the basis that the soil profile in this area comprises historical fills overlying estuarine sediment.



Figure 20. Area of identified PAD (shaded blue). The original shoreline is marked blue.

Figure 3.90 Extent of the Dane Street PAD (shown in blue). (Source: AHMS 2007, Figure 20)

## Gosford CBD Sewer Upgrades—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report—McCardle Cultural Heritage, 2020

McCardle Cultural Heritage (MCH) prepared an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) for sewer upgrade works, which extend from the Gosford Leagues Club field to the east of the study area, west to Frederick Street near Creighton Lane. The works alignment extends through the present study area.

MCH's predictive model suggests that within the investigation area, shell middens and stone artefacts may have been present along the original foreshore and within 50 metres of the shoreline. However, MCH concluded that based on examination of historical plans, much of the investigation area—including most of the present study area—comprises fill material associated with reclamation along the Gosford foreshore, and as such would not hold Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity. This included part of the area associated with Dane Drive PAD (45-3-3340), ie the public reserve within the present study area.

No new Aboriginal sites were identified during survey of the sewer upgrade investigation area. Overall, the investigation area was found to have low to no potential for in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits due to the extent of land reclamation and impacts from modern land use (ie construction of roads, parks, infrastructure and utilities).

The MCH ACHAR noted the discrepancy regarding the location of the Dane Drive PAD (45-3-3340); however, the PAD was found to be outside of MCH's investigation area. No detail of this location was provided.

MCH concluded that no Aboriginal sites were situated within the investigation area, and that no further investigation (ie Aboriginal archaeological test excavation) or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) were therefore required for the works to proceed.

### **Leagues Club Field, Gosford—Heritage Impact Statement and Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment—GML, 2019**

GML prepared an Aboriginal Due Diligence assessment for the Gosford Leagues Club field, located immediately north of the study area, across Vaughan Avenue. The Leagues Club field is situated within a very similar landscape context to the present study area, located on the Brisbane Water shoreline. Despite being mapped as situated within disturbed terrain, geotechnical investigation identified soils consistent with Wyong or Woy Woy soil landscapes. These comprised a dark brown / dark grey to black silty sand deposit, identified at approximately 0.7–0.9 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD), beneath capping fill layers. This deposit was thought to correspond to the former tidal foreshore mudflats. Shell was observed during geotechnical testing in a sandy deposit beneath capping fill (and in some instances beneath the sandy silt layer interpreted as remnant Wyong or Woy Woy soils), which was interpreted as natural shell beds.

The study area was assessed as comprising two areas: the remnant foreshore to the east; and the former foreshore littoral zone (ie periodically inundated) and previously permanent lands that would have been beneath the low tide mark to the west. Within the remnant foreshore area, the study area was determined to have moderate archaeological potential for shell midden and artefact sites below 1 metre AHD depth, within natural soil profiles capped by levelling fills. Within the periodically to permanently inundated zone, archaeological potential was found to be low, because though this area may have been used for resource gathering, it would not have been occupied on a more permanent basis.

### **26–32 Mann Street, Gosford—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report—AMAC, 2020**

AMAC prepared an ACHAR, including test excavation, for the 26–32 Mann Street site, located immediately north of the study area, across Vaughan Avenue. Geotechnical testing was conducted, which indicated that much of the site comprised fill associated with late 1930s land reclamation. Two borehole locations in the southeast of the site encountered intact soils, comprising brown silty clay topsoil overlying dark brown fine to medium grained clayey sand alluvium in the first location, and brown silty clay topsoil overlying grey-brown sandy clay with traces of sand and silt alluvium in the second.



Archaeological test excavation was proposed within the area of the intact soils identified during geotechnical investigation. Testing involved excavation of six 50-centimetre by 50-centimetre test units (TUs) situated within the southeastern portion of the investigation area. Three additional proposed TUs were abandoned due to disturbance. Three of the six excavated TUs comprised fill directly overlying the B horizon. The remaining three TUs encountered disturbed natural soils. All three locations had an overlying historical fill layer. Where present, the A<sub>1</sub> was disturbed or mixed, and tended to comprise a sandy loam. The A<sub>2</sub> tended to comprise a yellow-brown sandy loam, and overlay a brownish yellow to brown sandy clay to heavy clay B horizon.

Overall, the site was found to have been subject to a high level of disturbance. No Aboriginal objects were identified during testing, and the site was determined to hold nil to low archaeological significance.

The western portion of the site was found to be fully reclaimed, with over 1 metre of fill imported for land reclamation. The eastern slope of the site, however, was determined to hold potential for intact natural soils, which may contain Aboriginal objects associated with registered site 45-3-3699.

### **3.4.4 Local landscape context**

The purpose of this section is to provide environmental contextual information for use in developing a predictive model of Aboriginal site locations in or near the study area. Interactions between people and their surroundings are of integral importance in both the initial formation and the subsequent preservation of the archaeological record. The nature and availability of resources, including water, flora and fauna, and suitable raw materials for the manufacture of stone tools and other items had—and continues to have—a significant influence over the way in which people use the landscape.

Alterations to the natural environment also impact on the preservation and integrity of cultural materials that may have been deposited, while current vegetation and erosional regimes affect the visibility and detectability of Aboriginal sites and objects. For these reasons, we consider the environmental context in detail.

## **Hydrology**

The study area is situated on the foreshore of the Broadwater, within the wider Brisbane Water. Brisbane Water is an open entrance estuary dominated by tidal movements, and connected to Broken Bay to the south.

Historical images (see Section 2) indicate that mudflats characterised the shoreline of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is likely that prior to development, small first-order streams were present within and in the vicinity of the study area. Based on historical plans and an examination of intact contour lines, it is likely that a first-order

watercourse descended the highpoint adjoining Mount Mouat through the southeastern portion of the study area, while a second low-order watercourse would have entered the Broadwater approximately 260 metres north of the study area (Figure 3.91).



Figure 3.91 Hydrology of the study area and surrounds. (Source: SIX Maps with GML overlay)

## Geology and soils

Geological mapping indicates that the study area comprises anthropogenic deposits to the west, associated with 1930s land reclamation. This material likely overlies the estuarine clay, silt and fine-grained quartz lithic sand deposit that underlies the Brisbane Water. The reclaimed land is primarily located at a height of approximately 2 metres AHD. The eastern portion of the study area overlies fine-grained quartz lithic sandstone of the Burrell Formation. Soil landscape mapping<sup>5</sup> indicates that the study area consists entirely of disturbed terrain, in this instance resulting from land reclamation.

Archaeological investigation of adjacent sites (Section 3.4.3) has indicated that areas of remnant natural soils may persist within areas mapped as disturbed terrain. These soils have tended to appear consistent with Wyong soils, and were interpreted as a component of the original shoreline.

The Wyong is an alluvial soil landscape that may be found in association with floodplains and deltas adjacent to Brisbane Water, overlying estuarine deposits.

Where Wyong soils overlie estuarine deposits in or near tidal areas, soils are generally deep (100 centimetres to less than 150 centimetres), very poorly drained Sulphidic Extratidal Hydrosols. Should the study area retain areas of intact or remnant soils, these are likely to be Wyong soils.



Figure 3.92 Geomorphology of the study area and surrounds. (Source: State of New South Wales and Department of Regional NSW with GML overlay 2024)





Figure 3.93 Soil landscapes of the study area. (Source: NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water with GML overlay 2024)

## Landforms

The study area is situated at the base of a local high point to its east, connected to Mount Mouat by a saddle. The study area is situated at the base of the slope of this hillock, where the landform meets the Broadwater. The study area has extremely low relief (2–10 metres AHD). It is partially situated over reclaimed land to the west, which is predominantly flat, with a height of approximately 2 metres AHD, and level (~1%) slope. In the late Holocene (the last 1,000 years) this area would have comprised tidal mudflats, and has since been raised to accommodate the park and adjacent Dane Drive. The study area slopes sharply up to the east along a low cliff line, likely marking the original shoreline above the high water mark. This portion of the study area has a steeper average slope of approximately 8%, forming a gently inclined slope. Contour lines demonstrate these landforms and slopes, as per Figure 3.94.



Figure 3.94 Topography of the study area. (Source: NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water with GML overlay 2024)

## Ecology

Prior to land clearing, it is likely that the study area contained vegetation associated with the Grey Mangrove-River Forest and Coastal Creekflat Layered Grass-Sedge Swamp Forest plant community types (PCTs).<sup>6</sup> The Grey Mangrove-River Forest PCT consists of mangrove swamp saline wetlands on tidal flats, and would have supported mangrove open forest. The Coastal Creekflat Layered Grass-Sedge Swamp Forest PCT comprises coastal floodplain wetlands on low-lying alluvial soils, and would have supported tall sclerophyll open forest. Key vegetation species would likely have included Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*), Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Cabbage Gum (*Eucalyptus amplifolia*), and Narrow-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca linariifolia*).

Mudflats along the foreshore would have also provided access to marine resources including fish and shellfish within the Broadwater.

The ecological communities present in the study area and surrounds would have provided ample flora and fauna resources utilised by First Nations people for food, medicine, and raw materials.

### 3.4.5 Predictive statements and summary of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity

Due to its foreshore setting, the study area is most likely to be associated with artefact (including PAD) and shell (midden) sites. The portion of reclaimed land in the western part of the study area is unlikely to yield Aboriginal objects, and any Aboriginal objects contained within reclaimed deposits would not be in their original contexts. This zone is ascribed very low to no Aboriginal archaeological potential.

The remainder of the study area forms a portion of the original foreshore, and holds sensitivity for artefact sites and shell sites, as indicated by the presence of shell site 45-3-4824. This portion of the study area has been subject to disturbance associated with land/vegetation clearing, installation of subsurface services, and installation of a number of war memorials within the study area, the most expansive being the Gosford Cenotaph. These works would have resulted in localised impacts to the soil profile, reducing the soil integrity and condition within these locations, which may have impacted the potential of these deposits to retain Aboriginal objects. This zone is described as holding low to moderate Aboriginal archaeological potential. The Aboriginal archaeological zoning plan is shown in Figure 3.95.



Figure 3.95 Aboriginal archaeological zoning plan, showing the areas with Aboriginal archaeological potential, and associations with AHIMS sites. (Source: Heritage NSW AHIMS, with Nearmap data and GML overlay 2024)



## 3.5 Historical archaeological potential and significance

The historical archaeological resource of the Gosford Memorial and Rotary Parks relates to material remains, including features, artefact deposits and landscape evidence, that were generated during occupation and use of the study area over the past ~200 years. The following desktop assessment of historical archaeological potential is based on examination of historical information related to the development and occupation of the study area (outlined in Section 2), current site conditions and previous disturbance.

### 3.5.1 Terminology

The term 'archaeological potential' refers to the likelihood that a site may contain physical evidence, including features, artefact deposits and landscape evidence, related to an earlier phase of occupation, activity or development. This term is different from 'archaeological significance' and 'archaeological research potential', which are more subjective statements related to the value of the archaeological resource in terms of its level(s) of significance.

Archaeological potential is usually assessed as nil, low, moderate or high, which are defined as follows:

- Nil—no known historical activities that would have left an archaeological signature. Previous construction, or other activities, have removed all archaeology.
- Low—it is unlikely that archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives. Archaeological remains are likely to have been subject to a high level of previous disturbance.
- Moderate—it is possible that some archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives. Archaeological remains may have been subject to some previous disturbance.
- High—it is likely that archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives. Archaeological remains are likely to be intact, because the level of site disturbance appears to be minimal.

Archaeological features and 'relics' in NSW are defined as being of either local or state significance.

### 3.5.2 Historical development of the study area

The following phases of historical development are relevant in understanding the archaeological potential of the study area.

- Phase 1: Early Gosford township, 1839–1880s;
- Phase 2: Establishment of the park and Gosford Wharf, 1886–1920s; and

- Phase 3: Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park, 1924–present.

### 3.5.3 Assessment of historical archaeological potential

#### Phase 1: Early Gosford township, 1839–1880s

The 1839 plan of Gosford shows the study area as vacant land along the foreshore, approximately half of which was within the intertidal and tidal flats of Brisbane Water (Figure 3.96). By 1841, a government wharf had purportedly been built at the end of Mann Street; however, there are no surviving plans or illustrations that depict this wharf or its location. Plans from the 1880s show that part of Gertrude Place extended into the study area (Figure 3.97, Figure 3.98).

Potential remains associated with the early township of Gosford could include levelling fills associated with the construction of the early government wharf (if located in the study area), early roadways and ephemeral use of and activities in the study area such as land clearance. Structural remains associated with the stone wharf could survive, although these features would have likely been impacted by the subsequent 1880s and 1930s wharf constructions. Early foreshore deposits, if present, have potential for paleoenvironmental data such as fossil pollens that could contribute to an understanding of the former environmental conditions.

#### Phase 2: Establishment of the park and Gosford Wharf, 1886–1920s

Tenders were called for the construction of a public wharf and shed at Gosford in 1886, and construction was completed the following year. Early plans and photographs (Figure 2.7, Figure 2.9, Figure 2.10) depict a formed dirt track extending through the study area and to the timber wharf (Figure 3.97, Figure 3.98). The edges of the reclaimed roadway were supported by large stone ballast. From the early twentieth century a lamp post is visible along the eastern edge of the roadway (Figure 3.99).

The higher ground adjoining the public wharf was formally proclaimed 'Gosford Park' in 1887. Photographs suggest the study area was largely clear of vegetation until the c1890s (Figure 2.9, Figure 2.10), by which time a picket fence had been erected around the park, and several trees and flowerbeds planted. A small rotunda was also erected in the park at this time. In 1921, the original picket fence was partially removed and replaced. Other improvements to the park during this period included the erection of the Boer War Memorial (in 1902), and the new war memorial erected in memory of the Great War (in 1924) on the site of the former rotunda.

Much of the study area (principally what is now Rotary Park and Waterfront Reserve) remained within the intertidal and tidal flats of Brisbane Water until the 1930s.

Remains such as evidence of land clearance, early plantings, former fence lines (postholes), garden beds and paths are likely to have been disturbed by the subsequent development of the park. Archaeological evidence of the former wharf and roadway, including reclamation and levelling fills, as well as other undocumented maritime features (remnant jetties, piling, etc), boats or other watercraft, may survive under later reclamation fills.



Figure 3.96 Undated photo showing Gosford Wharf (red arrow); view to west. The higher ground of 'Gosford Park' is to the left of the image. Much of the study area remained within the intertidal and tidal flats of Brisbane Water. (Source: Central Coast Council, 001\001872, with GML overlay 2024)



Figure 3.97 Detail of the 1881 plan for the proposed public wharf. (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Crown Plan 38-2071, with GML overlay 2024)





Figure 3.98 Detail of the 1884 plan showing the early foreshore and alignment of Gertrude Place. (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Crown Plan 59-2071, with GML overlay 2024)



Figure 3.99 Detail from a c1905–1910s photograph by Broadhurst, showing the large stone ballast lining the road leading to the wharf, and a lamp post on one side. (Source: SLNSW, PXA 635/313)

### Phase 3: Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park, 1924–present

By the 1930s, the wharf had been subject to several repairs, and the road graded. In 1937, the foreshore in the vicinity of Gosford Memorial Park was reclaimed (Rotary Park and Waterfront Reserve), and a new wharf and stone retaining seawall had been constructed (Figure 3.100).

Several other new built elements were added to the park at this time, including two galvanised iron toilets at the foot of the embankment. Sandstone steps were constructed from the memorial park to these toilets in 1949. By the late 1950s, a playground and kindergarten had been erected on the waterfront reserve adjoining the park. The 1963 Crown Plan shows additional improvements to the study area, including the location of former roads through the Gosford Waterfront Reserve and new bitumen roads (now Vaughan Avenue and Dane Drive) along the foreshore (Figure 3.100). The waterfront reserve is marked as 'level and grassed', and the site remained largely cleared of vegetation until the 1970s.

Development started on the new waterfront park (Rotary Park) below the embankment in 1975, including the construction of the foundation and memorial steps.

Archaeological deposits relating to this phase would principally be associated with the improvements to the 1880s wharf as well as its removal, the 1930s reclamation of the foreshore and construction of the extant wharf, as well as the levelling associated with the improvements to Gosford Waterfront Reserve in the 1960s and 1970s. There is some potential for structural remains associated with the construction of the kindergarten. Evidence of the various improvements to the park since the 1920s (former plantings, garden beds, layout etc) may also survive.



Figure 3.100 Detail of the 1963 plan showing the improvements along the foreshore. The location of former roads (Gertrude Place) through the Gosford Waterfront Reserve is tinted brown. (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Crown Plan 7159-3070, with GML overlay 2024)

### 3.5.4 Summary of archaeological potential

The broad historical development of the study area is mapped in Figure 3.101. Overall, there is a low to high potential for historical archaeological deposits within the study area. The former use of the study area as a roadway and public parkland suggests the archaeological deposits relating to it will be limited. The reclamation of the foreshore during the construction of the 1880s wharf and 1930s wharf may, however, have capped earlier archaeological features along the foreshore. Historical archaeological potential is summarised in Table 3.3 and mapped in Figure 3.102.

Table 3.3 Assessed levels of archaeological potential within the study area.

Phase	Possible archaeological remains	Potential
<b>Phase 1: Early Gosford township, 1839–1880s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of early alterations to the foreshore.</li> <li>Paleoenvironmental data such as fossil pollens.</li> <li>Undocumented maritime features within reclamation fills.</li> </ul>	Moderate to high
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree boles (burnt or stumped), patches of burning and levelling fills associated with land clearing.</li> <li>Structural remains of the c1840s stone wharf, including timber pylons and associated earthworks (unknown location).</li> <li>Isolated artefacts and artefact scatters.</li> </ul>	Low to moderate
<b>Phase 2: Establishment of the park and Gosford wharf, 1886–1920s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation and levelling fills associated with the wharf construction.</li> <li>Former (unsealed) surfaces, stone ballast and other features associated with the early wharf/roadways.</li> <li>Undocumented maritime features within reclamation fills.</li> </ul>	Moderate to high
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postholes from 1890s fence lines.</li> <li>Foundations associated with the rotunda.</li> <li>Former garden beds and drainage channels.</li> <li>Archaeobotanical remains (soils and pollen), evidence of improved or introduced soils, changes to soil chemical properties and to the natural topography and paths.</li> <li>Isolated artefacts and artefact scatters.</li> </ul>	Low to moderate
<b>Phase 3: Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park, 1924–present</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation fill from the 1930s.</li> <li>Structural remains associated with the former kindergarten building and associated gardens.</li> <li>Evidence of earlier plantings, garden beds, former layout of the park, etc.</li> <li>Isolated artefacts and artefact scatters.</li> </ul>	Low to moderate





Figure 3.101 Broad sequence of historical development within the study area, showing the 1880s wharf and early shoreline. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)



Figure 3.102 Historical archaeological potential mapping. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)

## 3.6 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Heritage NSW, State Heritage Inventory, 'Kariiong Sacred Land', NSW Government, accessed 1 May 2024 <<https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5062940>>.
- <sup>2</sup> AHMS, Dane Drive & Masons Parade Intersection Upgrade Archaeological Assessment, report prepared for Kellog, Brown & Root Pty Ltd, July 2007.
- <sup>3</sup> Jackson, M, *Evidence of Aboriginal Midden within Gosford Memorial Park*, report prepared October 2023.
- <sup>4</sup> Heritage NSW AHIMS, Site Card 45-3-4824.
- <sup>5</sup> Murphy, C L and Tille P J, 1993, *Soil Landscapes of the Gosford-Lake Macquarie 1:100,000 Sheets map*, edition 1, NSW Department of Conservation and Land Management, Sydney.
- <sup>6</sup> NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Trees Near Me*, © NSW Government, accessed 1 May 2024 <<https://treesnearme.app/info>>.

# Understanding the place— significance



## 4 Understanding the place—significance

### 4.1 Introduction

An assessment of heritage significance is conducted to establish why a place is important. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as 'aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for the past, present or future generations.'<sup>1</sup> Significance is embodied in the physical fabric of the place, its setting and relationship to other items, the recorded associations with the place, and the response the place evokes in the community or in individuals to whom it is important.

On the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Regional) 2021* (Precincts—Regional SEPP 2021), Gosford Memorial Park is listed as a local heritage item and Rotary Park is listed as a local archaeological site. The SHI listing also notes there is a high potential archaeological resource at Rotary Park. The SHI listings contain limited information on the heritage values of the items, particularly Rotary Park.

This section sets out an assessment of the heritage significance of Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park in accordance with the standard criteria identified in the Heritage Council guidelines. It provides further investigation of the Gosford Cenotaph, memorials and monuments within the study area, associations with architect Gordon Samuel Keesing, social values and potential archaeological values.

The evaluation includes consideration of the original and subsequent layering of fabric, uses, associations and meanings of the place, as well as its relationship to both the immediate and wider setting.

### 4.2 NSW heritage assessment guidelines

*Assessing Heritage Significance: Guidelines for Assessing Places and Objects Against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria*, published by the Department of Planning and Environment in June 2023, provides the framework for the assessment of significance in this report. These guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage values identified in the Burra Charter into a specially structured framework, which is the format required by heritage authorities in New South Wales.

Under these guidelines, items (or 'places' in Burra Charter terminology) are assessed in accordance with a specific set of criteria. To apply the assessment criteria, both the nature and degree of significance for the place need to be identified. This is because items vary in the extent to which they embody or reflect key values and in the relative

importance of their evidence or associations. The assessment also needs to relate the item's values to its relevant geographical and social context, usually identified as either local or state contexts. Items may have both local and state significance for similar or different values/criteria.

## 4.3 Comparative analysis

This section examines Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park in the context of places with which they share key features, characteristics or historical themes, including;

- establishment of town parks;
- historical use of Araucaria species, Hill's Figs, Moreton Bay Figs and Port Jackson Figs;
- fencing of public parks;
- landscape surrounds to war memorials; and
- parks on reclaimed foreshore land.

### 4.3.1 Key features

#### Establishment of town parks

Gosford Park was one of a great swathe of public reserves established in NSW (during the second half of the nineteenth century) after the passing of Act 23, subsequently known as the *Public Parks Act 1854*. The Act made provision for the appointment of bodies of Trustees for 'the purpose of holding, managing and protecting lands created for or dedicated to purposes of public recreation convenience health and enjoyment'. Proclamations of Crown land for public recreation occurred steadily following the 1854 Act. There were 31 parks proclaimed between the 1860s and 1884. Thereafter, a period of 'park mania' set in, between 1885 to 1890. In 1885, 14 new parks were proclaimed, 40 in 1886, 98 in 1887, 25 in 1888 (the centennial year), 5 in 1889, and 5 in 1890.<sup>2</sup>

Parks proclaimed in 1887, like Gosford Park, included Victoria Park (Gosford), Bronte Park, Gore Hill Reserve, Lake Macquarie Park, Bulli Park, Armidale Park, Lambton Park (Newcastle) and Victoria Park (Goulburn).

The establishment of Gosford Park on a promontory of land at the end of the town's main street, and in proximity to its wharf, is emblematic of the siting and establishment of pleasure grounds abutting waterways in NSW through the end of the nineteenth century and start of the twentieth century. Many pleasure grounds, like at Clontarf, Bantry Bay and Killarney (Middle Harbour, Sydney) and Como (Georges River, Sydney) were also developed on prominent parcels of land where day-trippers accessed the sites principally by ferry. The former rotunda in Gosford Park, used for picnicking and performances, was a common feature in town parks and pleasure grounds at the end of the nineteenth century.

Many of these pleasure grounds retained a portion of their site's endemic vegetation while cultural plantings like conifers were established in efforts to 'Europeanise' these settings.



Figure 4.1 Bronte Park, Sydney, c1927.  
(Source: Historic Photos)



Figure 4.2 The fenced Lambton Park, Newcastle, with maturing trees, 1908.  
(Source: University of Newcastle, Living Histories)



Figure 4.3 The pleasure ground at Bantry Bay, Middle Harbour, in the early 1900s. (Source: *Manly Daily*)



Figure 4.4 Killarney Point pleasure grounds on a promontory in Middle Harbour, 1928.  
(Source: SLNSW)



Figure 4.5 A section of Como Pleasure Grounds, c1900. (Source: Sutherland Shire Libraries)



Figure 4.6 Como Pleasure Grounds in the early 1900s, on a peninsula on the Georges River.  
(Source: Sutherland Shire Libraries)



## Historical use of Moreton Bay and Port Jackson Figs

The mature Moreton Bay and Port Jackson Figs in Gosford Memorial Park are representative of similar avenues and landmark individual plantings made along and within prominent Sydney roads and parklands from the late nineteenth century. They are dominant visual components of street and park municipal planting schemes over the last 150 years, and Moreton Bay Figs were commonly used within grand residential estates of the nineteenth century. They were the favoured shade tree and windbreak planting. Many surviving examples of these can be seen skirting Sydney Harbour, vestiges of late Victorian garden design.

Species including Moreton Bay Figs, Norfolk Island Pines and Plane Trees were commonly specified in the first phase of street and park plantings in Sydney, NSW and elsewhere around Australia from the 1870s.

Moreton Bay Figs are found throughout Sydney's Moore Park and Centennial Park, in grand public landscapes including the Domain, and Victoria Park, Glebe, and in suburban parks like Rushcutters Bay Park and Lyne Park in Rose Bay. Moreton Bay Figs originally lined 'Lovers' Walk' in Hyde Park before being replaced by the current Hill's Figs in the 1930s. 'Plantations' of Moreton Bay Figs as per the late circa nineteenth and early circa twentieth century schemes for Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street were relatively common in Sydney, a favoured design usage of these imposing specimens. In 1847 the main public entry to the Sydney Botanic Garden from Macquarie Street was renovated and planted as an avenue of Moreton Bay Figs. A historically significant double plantation row of Moreton Bay Figs also lines Bridge Road at Wentworth Park, Glebe.

Port Jackson Figs (and Holm Oaks) were also historically used en masse as plantations in association with Moreton Bay Figs—for example, to line Federation Way between Anzac Parade and Centennial Park.



Figure 4.7 Moreton Bay Figs and Pines (in planter bays) interplanted as an avenue at Moore Park, c1872. (Source: NLA)



Figure 4.8 Interplanting of Moreton Bay Figs and Pines at Rose Bay, c1913. (Source: Woollahra Libraries, pf005514)



Figure 4.9 New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay, 1929, showing Moreton Bay Figs (still extant). (Source: City of Sydney Archives)



Figure 4.10 Avenue of late nineteenth-century Moreton Bay Fig trees in Islington Park, Newcastle, 1949. (Source: NLA)

## Historical use of Hill's Figs

Hill's Figs were a favoured tree for public landscapes from the 1920s until at least the 1960s. Good representative examples of avenues of Hill's Figs can be found in Sydney's CBD and eastern suburbs—including in Sussex Street (CBD), Art Gallery Road (CBD), Darling Point Road (Darling Point), Kambala Road (Bellevue Hill) and New South Head Road (Rose Bay).

Hill's Figs were planted in association with NSW Government-financed construction of the Manufacturers Hall and Commemorative Pavilion in the (former) Sydney Showgrounds at Moore Park in 1938 (for the NSW sesquicentenary celebrations at that year's Easter Show). Hill's Figs were planted in other locations around Moore Park at roughly the same time and into the 1940s, including Dacey Street.

Lyons Road in Five Dock and Leylands Parade in Belmore in Sydney both contain Hill's Fig avenues from the late 1930s and early 1940s. The Hill's Fig corridors have a high degree of amenity, aesthetic and landmark value.

The high water table level in and around Sydney provided ideal growing conditions for the Hill's Figs' invasive root system. This characteristic of the tree was overlooked during their period of popularity and the plantings thrived to an unexpectedly massive extent. For example, those planted in front of the Mitchell Library in Macquarie Street, Sydney, have been pruned several times to contain their canopy spread. Various local councils have removed avenues of Hill's Figs because of the excessive root damage and canopy spread.



Figure 4.11 Hyde Park, Sydney, in 1930, showing the recent avenue plantings of young Hill's Figs, offset from the central north-south axis. (Source: City of Sydney Archive)



Figure 4.12 Interwar Hill's Fig planting in Wynyard Park. (Source: City of Sydney)

## Historical use of Araucaria species

Norfolk Island Pines, Cook Island Pines, Bunya Pines and Hoop Pines were commonly used in large public and private landscapes in NSW from the early decades of the nineteenth century. This may have been in public parks, grand residential estates or prominent institutional settings. These Araucaria specimens were both used as individual landmark specimen trees and also in multiples, sometimes in linear formation as sentinels, say behind a beachscape, or in groves. They were also, and are currently, used as memorial trees.

There are innumerable cultural landscapes in NSW that feature Araucaria plantings. Two prominent sites that contain historic Araucarias on Brisbane Water are Gosford Park and Woy Woy Memorial Park. The single Hoop Pine remaining in Gosford Park is one of what appear to be at least half a dozen Araucarias planted on the site in the late nineteenth century. Fourteen Hoop Pines were planted as memorials at Woy Woy Memorial Park in 1927.





Figure 4.13 One of the remaining 1927-planted Hoop Pines at Woy Woy Memorial Park. (Source: TripAdvisor)



Figure 4.14 Hoop Pine planted in Wynyard Park in the late nineteenth century. (Source: City of Sydney)

## Fencing of public parks

Many public parks in NSW were bordered by fences following their proclamation or dedication in the late nineteenth century. This often originally took the form of picket or paling fences (as at Gosford Memorial Park), which were commonly quite high. The purpose of these was to create aesthetic appeal, definition and an 'address', and to restrict wandering livestock.

From the very early 1900s, many local councils removed picket and paling fencing and replaced these boundary typologies with arris rail fencing, which became a standard. This change of model occurred in phases at Gosford Memorial Park during the early 1900s.



Figure 4.15 Picket fencing fronting part of King Edward Park, Newcastle, circa late nineteenth century. (Source: Hyde Family Album, SLNSW, PXA 1445)



Figure 4.16 Paling or picket fencing along the New South Head Road frontage of Rushcutters Bay Park in 1907, which had been changed to arris rail fencing by the 1940s. (Source: Historic Photos)



Figure 4.17 High picket fence around Islington Park, Newcastle, in 1906. Fencing to the Maitland Road frontage of the park had been removed by the 1930s. (Source: Newcastle Regional Library)



Figure 4.18 Waverley Park frontage to Bondi Road (at right) with high boundary picket / paling fence, c1910. (Source: Waverley Library)

## Landscape surrounds to war memorials

There is no standard form, design and detailing for the landscape surrounds of war memorials in NSW. There are a plethora of arrangements and treatments to the immediate setting of built memorials, many of which have been altered since the original establishment of the memorial.

Most war memorials were and are purposefully set on prominent sites, in quite spartan surrounds (as at Gosford Memorial Park), so that visual and physical access to them is not hindered by streetscape, site or other park features.

Expansive paved or lawn zones normally provide the adjacent environs, and are occasionally bordered by feature trees (often columnar in form) and formal herbaceous borders with groundcovers or low shrubberies. Formal axial pathways to war memorials are a common feature of their immediate settings—as was originally planned between the Cenotaph and Boer War Memorial at Gosford Memorial Park.



Figure 4.19 North Sydney war memorial and surrounds in 1920. (Source: Australian War Memorial)



Figure 4.20 Beecroft Cenotaph. (Source: Places of Pride, National Register of War Memorials)



Figure 4.21 Kincumber War Memorial with surrounding rose beds in 1919. (Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gostalgia/49102825826>)



Figure 4.22 Woy Woy War Memorial in 1925. (Source: <https://vwma.org.au/explore/memorials/5371>)





Figure 4.23 Ballarat Cenotaph (Source: Places of Pride, National Register of War Memorials)



Figure 4.24 Maclean Cenotaph. (Source: Places of Pride, National Register of War Memorials)

## Parks on reclaimed foreshore land

The reclamation of land on the Gosford foreshore in the 1930s is representative of harbour and estuarine reclamation works throughout NSW during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for utilitarian, public convenience and 'beautification' purposes.

Reclamation of Sydney's harbours and waterways began relatively quickly after British settlement and continued throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with urban and suburban expansion. Between the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century the foreshore of Sydney Harbour was transformed from its natural state by successive phases of waterfront development. Allied to waterfront development came the desire to reclaim harbour areas.

Reclamation was initially linked to the development and improvement of port facilities located on the various harbours and rivers around Sydney. The natural harbour was modified through reclamation to provide wharfage and to respond to increased sedimentation. As Sydney urbanised, and commercial trade and the economy grew, so did the rate of reclamation. Birch et al calculated that just 3.3 hectares of the Sydney Harbour estuary was reclaimed by 1835, increasing to 33.39 hectares by 1854, and quadrupling to 124.51 hectares by 1889.<sup>3</sup>



The heads of Blackwattle Bay and Darling Harbour were filled in, and reclamation took place along the Pyrmont peninsula, Woolloomooloo and Rushcutters Bay between the 1850s and 1880s. Reclamation schemes were more often government-initiated in this period and were subject to planning controls. The heads of many bays were filled-in to create public leisure and recreational space (including golf courses), such as at Farm Cove where a major public works program to reclaim the foreshore behind a substantial seawall took place over a 30-year period, finally being completed in the early 1880s. Reclamation of the tidal flats and bay heads was also undertaken for environmental reasons and for the prevention of disease.<sup>4</sup>

An archetypal model in NSW for the reclamation of harbour and river bays was the very large Rushcutters Bay scheme, occurring in the years before the proclamation of Rushcutters Bay Park in 1885 (when the first phase of ballast dyke seawall around the bay was completed). In November 1875, a deputation to the Minister for Lands requested that marsh and the head of the bay be reclaimed and used for public recreation. In 1878 an Act was passed providing for the reclamation of the bay, and 6 acres were set aside for a park. Work commenced in the same year and was completed in 1883.

Other examples include Birchgrove Park, Gladesville Reserve, Timbrell Park, Majors Bay, Meadowbank Park and various reclamation works along Parramatta River, Georges River and Port Hacking.

In the early part of the twentieth century, general 'improvement' of landforms in reclaimed bays commonly occurred to maximise geometry for public recreation grounds. This included the quarrying of and excavation in cliff-faces framing estuarine valleys. Such municipal works also commonly occurred in early road construction to enable access to topographically challenging locations.

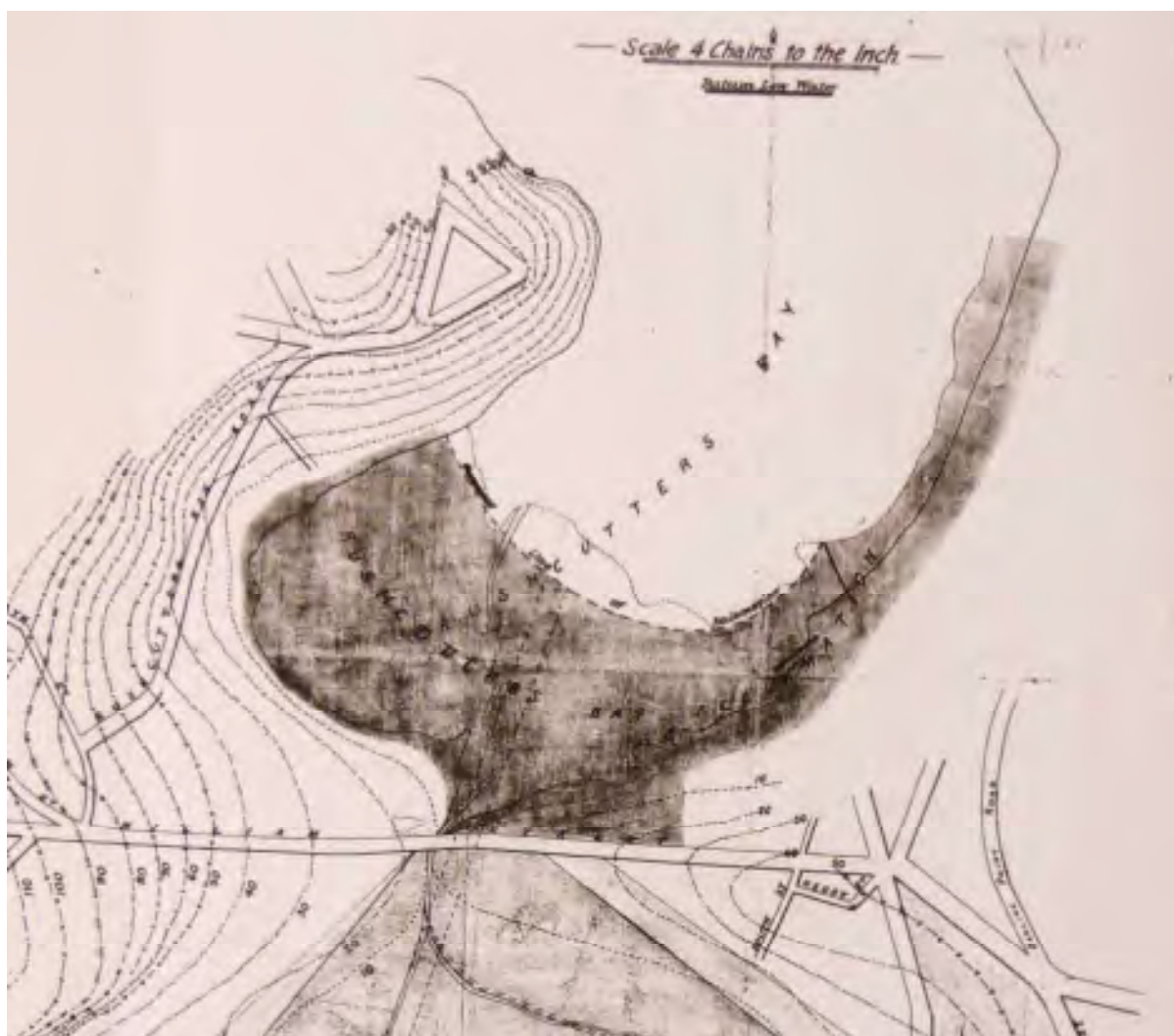


Figure 4.25 Plan c1878 showing the proposed area of reclamation (shaded zone) in Rushcutters Bay. (Source: MHNSW—State Archives Collection, Map number 730, HR250/7)

## 4.3.2 Local heritage items

### Woy Woy Memorial Park

#### Woy Woy Memorial Park and wall—Brick Wharf Road, Woy Woy, NSW 2256



View of Woy Woy Memorial Park and wall, 2013. (Source: Gosford City Council)



View of one of the remaining Hoop Pines planted in 1927. (Source: Google Street View)

**Date of construction:** 1925–1932

**Designer/maker:** LH Webber, Woy Woy Shire Council Engineer (Park)

**Heritage significance:** Local

**Listing:** Central Coast Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2022 (Item 1348)

#### Statement of significance

The following statement of significance is extracted from the SHI listing sheet.

The Memorial Park is significant for its commemoration of soldiers killed in various wars, and for its aesthetic landscape qualities. There are significant trees in the Park, including *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk island pine) and *Araucaria cunninghamiana* (Hoop pine)

#### Historical summary

The following historical summary is extracted from the SHI listing sheet.

In the aftermath of WW1, many communities mourning the loss of so many young men and women turned their minds to permanent memorials to the fallen. In 1922 the Trustees of the Cox Estate worked a land exchange whereby they would give a rectangular block of land about 1000 feet long by 600 feet wide along the waterfront, for a narrow strip of land along Brickwharf Road. On Anzac Day 1925 Brigadier-General Alex Jobson D.S.O., unveiled the war memorial. It was not officially dedicated until 19th October 1932, when Sir Phillip Game, Governor of NSW, proclaimed 'Soldier's Memorial Park'.

#### Key features

The following description is extracted from the SHI listing sheet.

### Woy Woy Memorial Park and wall—Brick Wharf Road, Woy Woy, NSW 2256

The Park is laid out in the form of a huge Australian flag, about 400 ft long and 130 feet wide. The Union Jack is defined as red gravel path and red flower beds; the 7 stars are flower beds edged with stone. Superimposed on the Union Jack is a raised Victoria Cross, upon which stands the memorial obelisk. Trees include *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk island pine) and *Araucaria cunninghamiana* (Hoop pine) and a small steel fence line the footpath edge of the park. The remaining three sides are enclosed by a rendered brick wall, with plaques commemorating soldiers.

#### Discussion

- Woy Woy Memorial Park and wall is listed as a local heritage item for its historical, associative, aesthetic and social significance.
- Both Gosford Memorial Park and Woy Woy Memorial Park are set on a prominent site near a water source and in proximity of a town centre. Whereas Woy Woy Memorial Park retains its historical views and planting arrangement, the historical views to and from Gosford Memorial Park are largely obscured by trees.
- The proclamation of Gosford Park followed the trend of public parks established in NSW after the 1854 passing of Act 23, subsequently known as the *Public Parks Act 1854*. Woy Woy Memorial Park was officially dedicated in 1932, eight years after the unveiling of that park's war memorial.
- They both contain significant cultural plantings including Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamiana*) that were commonly used in large public and private landscapes in NSW from the early decades of the nineteenth century. *Araucaria* specimens were both used as individual landmark trees and also in multiples, sometimes in linear formation as sentinels, say behind a beachscape, or in groves. They were / are also sometimes used as memorial trees.
- Woy Woy Memorial Park is laid out in the form of the Australian flag. The Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park do not have a distinct/rigid layout; however, there is an axial connection between the Gosford Cenotaph and the Boer War Memorial.
- Woy Woy Memorial Park and Gosford Memorial Park are associated with the commemoration of soldiers from several wars. They share similar memorials:
  - Woy Woy HMA Ships Memorial and HMA Ships 1955–1971 Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial, Gosford, are identical;
  - Woy Woy Lone Pine Memorial and Gosford Lone Pine share a similar history; and
  - Woy Woy War Memorial, a tapered sandstone pillar, and Gosford Cenotaph, a tapered sandstone block pillar, both feature inscriptions and honour rolls.
- Additional memorial plaques are placed along a rendered brick wall enclosing Woy Woy Memorial Park. Gosford Memorial Park's memorials are dispersed around the site.



## North Sydney War Memorial

North Sydney War Memorial—Ridge Street, North Sydney NSW 2060



View of the war memorial, 2020. (Source: North Sydney Council)



View of the war memorial, c1935. (Source: SLNSW)

**Date of construction:** 1924–1926

**Designer/maker:** Frank Thorp (Peddle, Thorp & Walker)

**Heritage significance:** Local

**Listing:** North Sydney LEP 2013 (Item 1123)

### Statement of significance

The following statement of significance is extracted from the SHI listing sheet.

A prominent and imposing monument which occupies a significant position on Ridge Street, it is an excellent example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style as expressed in a monumental form. Designed in 1924 by eminent architect Frank Thorp of Peddle Thorp & Walker and built in Bowral Trachyte by masons D B Acton & Co, its simple geometric design echoed Edwin Lutyens' 1917 Stone of Remembrance for the Imperial War Graves Commission and his Whitehall Cenotaph in 1920. Important local landmark that is representative of the many war memorials and monuments that were created in the years after the First World War, it is located in the major central parkland of North Sydney, St Leonards Park. Completed in 1926, the War Memorial occupies a prominent position atop a ridge at the end of Walker Street where it meets Ridge Street. See also under St. Leonards Park Group 2180911.

## North Sydney War Memorial—Ridge Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

### Historical summary

The following historical overview is summarised from the SHI listing sheet.

On 11 December 1918, a meeting of North Sydney residents convened at the North Sydney Coliseum to discuss the creation of a war memorial to commemorate all those from the district who had served in the First World War. A Memorial Committee was formed to collect donations for its erection, with pledges coming from Thompson (£250) and the shopkeepers of North Sydney (£82).

The committee undertook several appeals and street-collecting efforts to privately raise funds for the project, and in early 1920 the committee successfully requested North Sydney Council to grant them a site for the memorial in St Leonards Park.

In early 1923 North Sydney Council initiated a public competition for designs of the memorial. Frank Thorp's winning design was for a Cenotaph in the Free Classical style, echoing the simple classical geometry of Edwin Lutyen's 1917 Stone of Remembrance and his Cenotaph in Whitehall London (1920).

Frank Thorp (1903-1968), was an eminent architect most known for his work as a partner in the firm Peddle, Thorp & Walker. He was a recipient of two Sir John Sulman Medals for Public Architecture: in 1932 for his design of Science House (SHR 01578), and in 1952 for his design of the Royal Swedish Legation in Canberra. His other war memorial commission was for the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall (1934; Tamworth LEP, I374), which was won in a 1928 public competition.

### Key features

The following description is extracted from the SHI listing sheet.

A rectangular cenotaph of lined Trachyte on a three-stepped plinth located at the top of Walker Street in St Leonards Park. This monument, with its simple restrained geometry, was designed in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style. Ornate brass lamps are on each of the four corners of the bottom step and a hedge of rosemary is at the perimeter on the eastern and western sides with two flagstaffs. Wide red bitumen paths and shrub/conifer plantings emphasise the monumentality of the structure and its vista is reinforced by a double row of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*). Constructed using 225 tonnes of Bowral Trachyte sourced from the Mount Gibraltar Quarries (SHR01917). Inscriptions and laurel wreaths attached to the northern and southern faces of the memorial are cast in bronze.

### Discussion

- North Sydney War Memorial is listed as a local heritage item for its aesthetic significance, social significance and representativeness.
- The Gosford Cenotaph and North Sydney War Memorial are similarly located in parks near their respective city centres. While the North Sydney War Memorial retains its prominent location at the end of Walker Street, the original setting of the Gosford Cenotaph has been changed due to reclamation of the foreshore and numerous tree plantings.

### North Sydney War Memorial—Ridge Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

- Both memorials were designed in the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style by prominent architects and constructed in the 1920s.
- Although the North Sydney War Memorial is constructed of trachyte, whereas the Gosford Cenotaph is made of sandstone, both share common characteristics in their form, scale and bronze details. They are both atop a three-stepped plinth; however, two steps of the Gosford Cenotaph were buried during the creation of the existing podium.

## Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park

### Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park—New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011



View of Yarranabbe Park seawall looking south, 2022. (Source: Stuart Read via SHI)



View of Yarranabbe Park looking north, 2022. (Source: Stuart Read via SHI)

**Date of construction:** 1878–1899

**Designer/maker:** Frederick Augustus Franklin

**Heritage significance:** State

**Listing:** NSW SHR (Item 02041)

#### Statement of significance

The following statement of significance has been summarised from the SHI listing sheet.

Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park are state significant examples of the reservation of land for public recreation by councils in response to community lobbying. Both demonstrate the importance placed on inalienable and accessible public lands in Sydney from the mid to late-19th century and are amongst the largest harbour reclamation schemes for public recreation undertaken in the history of NSW. This broad expanse of open foreshore land, punctuated with rows of huge Moreton Bay figs form a magnificent southern boundary to this bay-side common, located beside the most densely populated area of Sydney, a place of respite from city life, and an opportunity to enjoy sweeping views of inner Sydney Harbour.

Rushcutters Bay Park was designed by engineer Frederick Augustus (F.A.) Franklin, who also designed Sydney's Centennial Park. Both parks retain their structure and layout, edged by the distinctive late nineteenth-century sandstone seawall, divided in two by the storm-water canal, which formalised a natural water course in the late nineteenth century, and framed by mature Hill's and Moreton Bay Figs.

## Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park—New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011

Both parks have played a central role in the evolving landscape of leisure, sports and sports spectating in this densely-populated quarter of the city over the past 150 years and have strong, state significant associations with several sporting events, including the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and international boxing events.

Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park have research potential to inform our knowledge over Aboriginal-settler contact and possible conflict in the early colonial period and 19th century cultural interactions in inner Sydney, shifting camps and settlement, interactions with colonists and increasing suburbanisation.

Yarranabbe Park has a strong association with the Navy, from its early international engagements in the Boer War and Boxers Rebellion in China, formed as the NSW Volunteer Naval Brigade, and across the Great War and WW2, with HMAS Rushcutter stationed in the portion of the park now known as Sir David Martin Reserve from its formation in 1911.

### Historical summary

The following historical summary has been summarised from the SHI listing sheet.

Rushcutters Bay has historic significance as a site of some 6000 years of Cadigal occupation and seasonal use. The Cadigal called it Kogerah and its settler name, 'Rushcutters Bay' reflects Aboriginal and settler gathering of rushes here, used respectively for light-weight spears for fishing and thatching settler huts. Yarranabbe Park is thought to be named according to the Eora name for Darling Point (Woollahra LEP), which was and is 'Yarranabbe'.

### Market Gardens (1830s–70s)

The area was used for (increasingly after 1850s, Chinese) market gardens from the 1830s to the 1900s as the main source of vegetables for the colonial settlement.

### Reclamation & Reservation for a Public Park (1878–83)

In 1875 Thomas Garrett, Minister for Lands, requested that action be taken to reclaim the marshlands at Rushcutters Bay. A petition was signed by 500 residents of Rushcutters Bay urging the Minister to undertake reclamation to the low water mark for the purpose of a public reserve. In 1878 an Act of Parliament reserved and dedicated 6 acres here for public recreation and to allow reclamation work. The park was proclaimed under the Public Works Act 1884 on 11 December 1885.

### Park establishment (1878–onwards)

At various times, the Parks contained a cricket ground, grandstand, tennis courts, a fountain, toilets, change rooms, boatshed and kindergarten as well as other amenities.

### Aboriginal resilience and occupation

The first recorded settler complaint about Aboriginal people was in Rushcutters Bay in 1895, trying to move Aboriginal people on. It failed. Darling Point Governess Harriet



## Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park—New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011

Baker was part of persuading Aboriginal residents of the bay to move to La Perouse in the 1890s, perhaps in response to further complaints.

### **Tree plantings**

Rushcutters Bay Park's significant tree plantings such as the Moreton Bay figs along New South Head Road contribute to its aesthetic value and reflect increased popular taste for using such rainforest species from the 1860s onward. Other rainforest species used in the park include Port Jackson figs that likely date to the same era. Yarranabbe Park's and Rushcutters Bay Park east's row of Hill's figs along New Beach Road define both parks' edge and reflect periods of interest in providing shade, amenity and beauty in public parks, both prior to 1890 and in the inter-war era of the 20th century.

### **Rushcutters Bay Ocean Baths (c1902–74)**

In the early 1900s, the Sydney Harbour Trust approved construction of a number of public bathing enclosures along the harbour foreshores, reflecting the increased popularity of bathing as a pastime and rising fear of shark attack. This enclosure fell into disrepair and was eventually dismantled in 1974.

### **Naval associations with Yarranabbe Park (1890s–1984)**

What is now called Sir David Martin Reserve in Yarranabbe Park's south has historic associations with the NSW Volunteer Naval Brigade from the 1890s until 1907 and after formation of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1911, named HMAS Rushcutter it was the Sydney Naval Depot doing reserve training until 1968. The RAN Research Laboratory (RANRL) and RANSA remained occupants of the site, with the RANRL moved out in 1984.

### **Yarranabbe Park sporting uses (1930s–40s)**

During the 1930s various sorts of active recreation activities were proposed and occurred in Beach Road Reserve (Yarranabbe Park). These included a planned golf practice range, hockey fields, several tennis courts, an area reserved for football and provision of a concrete cricket wicket.

### **Sydney Stadium, Rushcutters Bay (1908–73)**

A crowd of 20,000 people attended the 1908 world championship boxing match between Johnson and Tummy Burns. It was also used for music and stage productions and for over half a century was an important part of Sydney's popular culture. The Stadium was demolished in 1973 to make way for the overhead section of the Eastern Suburbs Railway. Its former site is marked by a plaque.

### **Peace Day, 19 July 1919**

The end of World War 1 saw widespread celebration, including 'Peace Day' on 19 July 1919. In the afternoon there was a regatta on the harbour, a naval and military tournament at the Show Ground and various sporting matches at the Cricket and Sports Grounds. In the evening, city and harbour were lit by floodlights. Bonfires were

## Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park—New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011

lit, warships performed a searchlight display and there was a fireworks display from Garden Island. Later that evening, the Stadium at Rushcutters Bay hosted a fund raising carnival with boxing exhibitions, skipping championships, highland dancing, and massed bands.

### Sailing activities

Yarranabbe Park is likely held in high regard by a broad cross-section of the sailing community, especially those involved in the Sydney to Hobart races and Sydney Olympic sailing events.

### Modern and contemporary uses

On the Woollahra Municipal Council side (Rushcutters Bay Park east), large open, unenclosed spaces remain intact, framed by major mature tree plantings along the perimeters and along key walkways. The harbour wall has been heritage-listed by Woollahra Council. The children's playground, outdoor gym and kiosk are relatively new.

Various upgrades to Yarranabbe Park have occurred in recent years, including provision of and changes to the centrally-located children's playground and extension and improvement of the public footway along the sea wall to the park's northern tip (Heritage Study: Yarranabbe Park, Insite Land Solutions, 2015, 43).

### Key features

The following description has been summarised from the SHI listing sheet.

This item has four major components, spread across two local government areas (Sydney City and Woollahra):

**A: Rushcutters Bay Park west** (Sydney City Council-run, since 1909, taking over from park trustees prior to that);

**B: Rushcutters Bay Stormwater Channel** (forming the local government boundary line);

**C: Rushcutters Bay Park east** (Woollahra Municipal Council-run since 1906, taking over from park Trustees prior to that);

**D: Yarranabbe Park** (Woollahra Municipal Council-run), including the Sir David Martin Reserve (run by the Royal Navy Sailing Association).

### Discussion

- Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park are listed as one state heritage item for historic, associative, aesthetic, social and research significance as well as rarity and representativeness.
- Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park share some similarity to Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park. They were both established on reclaimed land and are both associated with successive waves of municipal park creation. Their use of Moreton Bay Figs and Port Jackson Figs represent the increased popularity of the species from 1860s onward. Avenues of Hill's Figs are used in both parks to define park edges and reflect periods of interest in

### Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park—New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011

providing shade, amenity and beauty in public parks, both prior to 1890 and in the interwar era.

- Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park possess a rich and diverse history of use by the local community, the Navy as well as national and international sporting events. In comparison, Gosford Park and Rotary Park are specifically associated with the local community and local events.

## 4.3.3 International examples

### Lone Pine Memorial

#### Lone Pine Memorial—Gallipoli, Turkey



View of Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial c2000. (Source: Australian War Memorial)



View of Lone Pine Memorial, undated. (Source: New Zealand War Graves Project)

**Date of construction:** Unknown

**Designer/maker:** Sir John James Burnet, Gordon Samuel Keesing

#### Historical summary

The following historical overview is extracted from Commonwealth War Graves records.

Lone Pine was a strategically important plateau in the southern part of Anzac which was briefly in the hands of Australian forces following the landings on 25 April. It became a Turkish strong point from May to July, when it was known by them as 'Kanli Sirt' (Bloody Ridge).

The Australians pushed mines towards the plateau from the end of May to the beginning of August and on the afternoon of 6 August, after mine explosions and bombardment from land and sea, the position was stormed by the 1st Australian Brigade. By 10 August, the Turkish counter-attacks had failed and the position was consolidated. It was held by the 1st Australian Division until 12 September, and then by the 2nd, until the evacuation of the peninsula in December.

The LONE PINE MEMORIAL stands on the site of the fiercest fighting at Lone Pine and overlooks the whole front line of May 1915.

## Lone Pine Memorial—Gallipoli, Turkey

It commemorates more than 4,900 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the Anzac area – the New Zealanders prior to the fighting in August 1915 – whose graves are not known. Others named on the memorial died at sea and were buried in Gallipoli waters.

The memorial stands in LONE PINE CEMETERY. The original small battle cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when scattered graves were brought in from the neighbourhood, and from Brown's Dip North and South Cemeteries, which were behind the Australian trenches of April–August 1915.

There are now 1,167 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 504 of the burials are unidentified. Special memorials commemorate 183 soldiers (all but one of them Australian, most of whom died in August), who were known or believed to have been buried in Lone Pine Cemetery, or in the cemeteries at Brown's Dip.

### Key features

The following description is summarised from the Department of Veterans' Affairs Memorial Search 'CWGC Memorial To The Missing, Lone Pine Cemetery':

- The Lone Pine Memorial is at the east end of Lone Pine Cemetery, on the plateau at the top of Victoria Gully.
- It was designed by the Glasgow architect Sir John Burnet, the Principal Architect of the Gallipoli cemeteries and the Sydney (Auckland-born) architect Gordon Samuel Keesing.
- The memorial is a thick tapering pylon 14.3 metres high on a square base 12.98 metres wide. It is constructed from limestone mined at Ilgardere in Turkey.
- The names of New Zealanders commemorated are inscribed on stone panels mounted on the south and north sides of the pylon, while those of the Australians are listed on a long wall of panels in front of the pylon and to either side. Names are arranged by unit and rank.
- The Memorial stands over the centre of the Turkish trenches and tunnels which were the scene of heavy fighting during the August offensive. Most cemeteries on Gallipoli contain relatively few marked graves, and the majority of Australians killed on Gallipoli are commemorated here.

### Discussion

- The Lone Pine Memorial and Gosford Cenotaph were designed in a similar modern aesthetic by Gordon Samuel Keesing (who was an assistant to the architect Sir John James Burnet for the Lone Pine Memorial).
- The Lone Pine Memorial is of a significantly larger scale, being located in the Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli. The memorial stands on the site of the battle at Lone Pine and overlooks the front line of May 1915 as well as the trenches and tunnels of the August offensive. It commemorates both New Zealand and Australian servicemen.
- In comparison, the Gosford Cenotaph is a smaller memorial dedicated to fallen soldiers from the local district. The promontory of land it is situated on is significant for its visual connection to Brisbane Water but is not directly related to any of the conflicts it commemorates.



## 4.4 Discussion of significance

### 4.4.1 Criterion A (Historic significance)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	N/A
Rotary Park	High (wharf, commerce)

#### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

Gosford Memorial Park has a high degree of historic significance as the primary public reserve (then known as Gosford Park) dedicated for the township of Gosford in the late 1880s. It is an archetype of the proclamation of Crown lands in NSW for public recreation in the late nineteenth century and significant for the site's proximity to the historical location of Gosford's first wharf.

Considerable historical value resides in the functioning of the park as a commemorative landscape from the early 1900s, with the establishment of the Boer War Memorial and later the Gosford Cenotaph. A selection of mature cultural plantings is of historic significance, dating from the first several decades of the parks' proclamation.

#### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

Gosford Rotary Park is of historic significance primarily in relation to the land on which it was established. It is part of an extensive municipal bay reclamation project of the 1930s. This significance also relates to the public reserve land farther east along Dane Drive.

#### Updated assessment (Historical archaeology)

The study area has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence associated with the nineteenth and twentieth-century reclamation of the Brisbane Water foreshore, including remains associated with the c1840s government wharf (if located within the study area), the c1886 public wharf and the establishment of the public parkland from 1887. The study area and its potential historical archaeological resource is historically significant as the site of Gosford's first public wharf and primary public reserve. Archaeological remains associated with the nineteenth-century development of the study area, particularly evidence of early wharfage—Phase 1 (1839–1880s) and Phase 2 (1886–1920s)—would be of local significance.

## 4.4.2 Criterion B (Historical association)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	N/A
Rotary Park	N/A

### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

The landscape establishment of Gosford Memorial Park and its refashioning during the twentieth century does not appear to have any substantial associative significance with a specific person or group. The podium at the centre of the park was built in 2000. Any associative significance of this work is considered relatively minor in terms of the history of the site since 1887.

The Cenotaph (1924) located within the Gosford Memorial Park is associated with Gordon Samuel Keesing, the Principal Australian Architect for the War Graves Unit, who designed several memorials in Australia and overseas. 'Gosford Park' pre-dates the Cenotaph, having been established in the 1880s. Keesing's involvement with the site does not extend past the immediate setting of the Gosford Cenotaph.

Other war memorials and movable items in the park have historical associations with the individuals or groups commemorated therein but not with Gosford Memorial Park as a whole.

### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

The establishment of Gosford Rotary Park is associated with the local council's early twentieth-century town planning and with agitation by local progress associations for improvements to and beautification of the town's foreshore.

The design of the site is closely associated with the Rotary Club of Gosford, the oldest of its kind in the Central Coast area, which was responsible for commissioning and constructing the fountain and the connecting stair to the Memorial Park, and for the original flower bed arrangements.

## 4.4.3 Criterion C (Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	Significant open space in town centre with relationship to civic buildings and water. The mature trees within the park and its street boundaries provide an 'avenue' landscape of a comfortable scale, and frame streetscape vistas of high aesthetic and natural value, linking the city to the views over Brisbane Water and to the ridges surrounding the city.
Rotary Park	N/A

### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

The aesthetic significance of the study area primarily relates to the park's siting on a prominent promontory of land above Brisbane Water and, historically, the expansive vistas afforded to park users as a result. The scenic benefits of this siting, and its proximity to the main Gosford Wharf, no doubt reflected state-of-the-art municipal planning in the 1880s. Some of this scenic value has been affected by infill plantings around the western fringe of the park since the 1930s.

Aesthetic considerations were also evidently a priority in planning for the park's composition at that time, given the installation of feature canopy and landmark specimen trees around the site's boundaries (some extant), the establishment of handsome boundary fences and deliberation concerning pathways and recreational features (such as the rotunda, now removed). Some of the existing mature trees contribute greatly to the park's aesthetic value, character and amenity.

The group of large and mature eucalypts along the southern edge of the promontory of Gosford Memorial Park are of considerable aesthetic significance due to their scale and association with the underlying landform of the place. These specimens appear to be regrowth of the endemic forest community.

A degree of aesthetic significance relates to the axial association, parallel to Mann Street, of the Boer War Memorial and the Cenotaph. The siting of these monuments on the Gosford town park is also of significance; this site was chosen due to its prominent headland setting and views from the surrounds.

The Gosford Cenotaph features typical characteristics of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style including minimal or occasional use of ornamentation and traditional detailing, symmetry, plain surfaces and blockwork.

### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

The current composition of Rotary Park is not of aesthetic merit to the landscape in which it is located, nor is it of any aesthetic significance to the Gosford Memorial Park site. This also relates to the remainder of the public reserve lands along Dane Drive within this study area. While a Waterfront Reserve was gazetted for public recreation in 1942, it was

not until three decades later that the Rotary Waterfront Gardens and Fountain were completed in 1973. Although the Rotary-built stairs linking the two parks were evidently an attempt to establish a visual axis (and pedestrian connection) between the Cenotaph and the Rotary fountain, these two elements—the ‘axis’ and stairs—are utilitarian and perfunctory in their location, noting however the staircase is not exactly perpendicular to the Cenotaph. The stairs function as a physical connection between the two parks—this axial link directs the visual connection between the Cenotaph in Memorial Park and the Fountain in Rotary Park—however, they interrupt the natural slopes and natural heritage values of the promontory. The fabric (concrete) of the stairs is of little aesthetic or technical significance; however its axial alignment between the Cenotaph and the Rotary fountain was clearly intended.

The Poppy Project artworks which are annually displayed across the two parks (and at the front of St Mary’s Anglican Church) have a high degree of aesthetic merit in and of themselves and for their development specifically for the study area.

#### 4.4.4 Criterion D (Social, cultural and spiritual significance)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	Significant to the military and general communities as a place of memorial to various wars. Gosford War Memorial Park contains the only Boer War memorial on the Central Coast. Trees have high social significance.
Rotary Park	Plaque commemorating European settlement placed by a service club is socially significant.

#### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

Tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values contained within the study area associate First Nations people to their past, and are representative of their cultural continuity. The study area contains a registered Aboriginal site, AHIMS 45-3-4824 (Gosford Memorial Park midden). The registered Aboriginal sites within the study area, and the status of the study area as a component of First Nations traditional land, hold social significance to the local Aboriginal community. Further historical research into Aboriginal Anzac soldiers could reveal further links between the memorial and First Nations groups. There is also the potential to commemorate the frontier wars, which could similarly strengthen attachments between Gosford Memorial Park and First Nations groups.



Gosford Memorial Park is a highly valued historic place of passive recreation for local residents and visitors. The park is one of the oldest and most prominent of the LGA's recreation reserves and has a strong, demonstrated association with generations of the local community.

The park is a place of gathering for commemorating and memorialising Australia's role in several wars and is highly regarded as a venue for Anzac Day rituals and functions. The park has resonance for local individuals and groups due to the range of memorials it contains, including but not limited to the Cenotaph and the Boer War Memorial, which commemorate both Anzac soldiers more generally and individual local residents who were either killed, or played an important role, during the war, such as Sister Sumner. The Memorial Park has specific historic associational value with the history and functions of the Gosford RSL Sub-Branch. As such, the park is a part of a story that contributes to Gosford's identity and local military history.

Although these memorials (including the three memorial trees—Lone Pine, Sister Sumner and Land Army—and their associated inscriptions) are historic, such attachments are renewed through commemorative community projects for annual events such as Anzac Day. Community participation in such events strengthens its social significance as a place for communal experiences of loss, mourning and commemoration.

### **Updated assessment for Rotary Park**

Although Rotary Park has recently been part of community memorialisation projects, historically Rotary Park and the public reserve farther east along Dane Drive have functioned as public parks. This area has some historical social value as part of a much larger 'artificial' landscape formed in the early twentieth century after years of discussion between the local council and local progress associations about the improvement and formalisation of Gosford's foreshore.

Rotary Park also has some associations with the Rotary Club for social reasons. The Rotary Club of Gosford has been involved in events at the park and is the custodian of a time capsule placed in the fountain containing items of interest to the local community and the club responsible for commissioning and constructing the fountain and the connecting stair to the Memorial Park, and for the original flower bed arrangements

These reclaimed foreshore lands are important for understanding the dramatic increase in demand for public infrastructure from the late nineteenth century through to the late 1930s, locally and throughout the state.

### **Contemporary social value**

Contemporary social value is further discussed in Section 4.4.9 below.

## 4.4.5 Criterion E (Research potential)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	N/A
Rotary Park	High potential archaeological resource.

### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

Gosford Memorial Park contains a registered Aboriginal site, shell (midden) site 45-3-4824. The study area situated inland of the pre-modification shoreline (ie excluding reclaimed land) retains sensitivity for subsurface Aboriginal objects, in the form of artefact and/or shell (midden) deposits. The study area holds research potential associated with the registered Aboriginal site and with areas of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity. Further archaeological investigation may provide insight into past First Nations occupation and use of the study area, notably as a component of the late Holocene shoreline in Gosford.

Gosford Memorial Park has little potential to yield additional information that would contribute to an understanding of state history. Site investigations and further research may, however, uncover other aspects relevant to local history.

### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

The reclamation of the foreshore of Brisbane Water (to establish lands on which the Rotary Park and public reserve was sited) represents a modest technical achievement for the early decades of the twentieth century but is of no particular research significance.

### Updated assessment (historical archaeology)

The potential historical archaeological resource within the study area would predominantly be associated with the nineteenth and twentieth-century reclamation and could include fills (with artefacts) and reclamation structures, including evidence of earlier wharves and associated structures/features. These remains could add to our understanding of how reclamation occurred along the Brisbane Water foreshore.

Artefacts and other materials contained within the fills, though not easily provenanced, may provide insights into the source of the fill material and the systems by which it was procured, transported and deposited. Remains associated with the c1840s government wharf (if located within the study area) and the c1886 public wharf and roadway could contribute to our understanding of the construction and development of these pieces of transportation infrastructure from a local industry perspective.

Archaeological remains associated with the development of 'Gosford Park' from 1887—including evidence of earlier landscaping/gardening, former structures (such as the rotunda and water tower), and artefact deposits—have the potential to yield information that could contribute to our understanding of the late nineteenth-century / early twentieth-century layout of the public reserve.

These remains are likely to have been disturbed by the subsequent development of the park and may not meet the threshold for significance.

The historical archaeological resource of the Gosford Memorial and Rotary Parks is of local significance for its potential archaeological research values. If present and relatively intact, archaeological remains of the c1840s government wharf, boats or other watercraft could meet this criterion at a local or possibly state level.

#### 4.4.6 Criterion F (Rarity)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	N/A
Rotary Park	N/A

##### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

Gosford Memorial Park is neither uncommon nor rare in terms of the state's history. The park does not appear to possess endangered aspects or elements of Gosford's cultural or natural past.

The park does, however, support a rare Boer War Memorial and Cenotaph, which are exceptionally significant cultural features to the local district.

The Memorial Park's oldest cultural plantings, from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, are becoming rarer in the LGA, as these historical landmark specimens reach senescence. The regrowth endemic eucalypts on the southern banks of the promontory likely have some rarity value, in terms of sites near the Gosford CBD that were subject to complete felling in the nineteenth century.

##### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

Rotary Park does not possess any uncommon or rare elements.

##### Updated assessment (historical archaeology)

If present and relatively intact, archaeological remains associated with early wharfage could meet this criterion at a local level.

## 4.4.7 Criterion G (Representativeness)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local area's):

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments

Item	Existing assessment
Gosford Memorial Park	N/A
Rotary Park	N/A

### Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park

Gosford Memorial Park demonstrates many of the principal characteristics of town parks established in the late nineteenth century in NSW. They include siting in relation to high streets, boundary demarcation, original plant palette, phases of planting design, installation of public convenience features and the inclusion of war memorials.

The Cenotaph, Boer War Memorial and other memorial plaques are representative of the many war memorials and monuments that were created in the postwar years to commemorate fallen soldiers from the local area.

### Updated assessment for Rotary Park

Gosford Rotary Park and the public reserve lands to the east on Dane Drive are representative of many other foreshore parks around NSW, created partially or totally on top of reclaimed land for the purpose of public recreation. The reclamation in this part of Brisbane Water occurred during the most active period of such municipal work in Sydney and surrounding regions, between 1922 and 1955.

## 4.4.8 Integrity

In cultural landscape terms, Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park would be considered a clearly defined landscape—the former intentionally designed and then modified, and the latter an organically evolved place (its present form associated with past responses to its natural environment).

Although both parks have evolved and been modified, of note is that their broad form in terms of layout and land use has remained relatively uniform since the 1880s (Gosford Memorial Park) and the 1930s (the public reserve on which Rotary Park was established). Their layouts are clearly a product of the physical constraints and opportunities presented by the natural environment and of the modified foreshore.



### **Updated assessment for Gosford Memorial Park**

Gosford Memorial Park's overall proportions from the time of its proclamation remain intact, as does a portion of its initial composition as a designed landscape. This is evidenced principally by the mature cultural plantings along Mann Street.

Some early fabric of the reserve was removed during design modifications to the park such as a rotunda, various forms of boundary fencing and a sandstone staircase on the western slopes.

Minor modifications of the park's composition have occurred since its first layout as a public recreation reserve including placement of additional memorials, removal of some display planting beds, the addition of a central 'podium' and inclusion of new trees. These changes have not materially impacted the ability to interpret the park's original form.

### **Updated assessment for Rotary Park**

Rotary Park has a fair degree of integrity in its form, scale and arrangement. The central fountain remains intact although it is not currently in operation and houses the temporary Poppy Sculpture. The garden beds formerly encircling the fountain and footpaths have been removed. The park retains its sparse tree plantings, allowing reciprocal historical views from the park to the wharf and foreshore.

### **Updated assessment (historical archaeology)**

The former use of the study area as a roadway and public parkland suggests archaeological deposits relating to the site will be limited; however, the reclamation of the foreshore during the construction of the 1880s wharf, and 1930s wharf, may have capped earlier archaeological features.

Archaeological remains associated with the early layout of the 1880s 'Gosford Park' are likely to have been disturbed by the park's subsequent development.

## **4.4.9 Contemporary social value**

Social values are an integral part of heritage assessment and reporting. There is increased understanding that the significance of the historical environment to contemporary communities contributes to a sense of identity, belonging and place, as well as forms of memory and spiritual association. Social values are enshrined in the concept of cultural significance in key best practice heritage frameworks and guidelines, most notably the Burra Charter.

An assessment of social values typically provides information that is missing from the established or recorded understanding of that place. Social values are dynamic, often fluid and contested, elusive and intangible (and often sit in stark contrast to other more

tangible, material values). Sian Jones has called social value 'a process of valuing heritage places' rather than a fixed value category.<sup>5</sup>

## **Why are social values important?**

The nature of our cities and populations are changing. Increasingly diverse communities visit, live and work in NSW. Minorities, First Nations groups, working class groups and other communities can feel underrepresented by national heritage agendas and indifferent to many sites and places on heritage lists while places of minor historical value may be of extreme importance in terms of memory, oral histories and identity.

Methods for social values assessment are drawn from the social sciences and vary depending on the site, place, item or landscape to be assessed, its scale and social context.

## **Outcomes from community engagement**

In order to understand local community aspirations for the study area and how it is valued locally, Central Coast Council undertook meetings with a number of local groups for this CMP: the Woy Woy branch of the CWA; Gosford RSL Sub-Branch; Gosford Rotary Club; and the Heritage and Culture Advisory Committee.

Gosford Memorial Park has significance for community groups both in terms of its role as an ongoing place for commemoration and memorialisation of Australia's role in multiple conflicts, and both the Memorial Park and Rotary Park have value as a public park.

The following aspirations for the study area were noted.

### **Memorials**

- Refurbish the Sister Sumner Memorial (and include a silhouette or photograph).
- Consider the placement of two smaller memorials on the raised gravel area that is on consecrated ground.
- The Land Army Tree plaque should be moved higher up to avoid being covered by mulch.
- Reinstate the original guns (World War I Mortar and the Howitzer).

### **Use**

- Expand the range of uses of the study area for other commemorative events such as Victory in the Pacific Day and a day for contemporary veterans.

### **Interpretation**

- Include more interpretation of the study area's history. Suggestions included the following:
  - QR codes with information/stories about fallen soldiers;
  - listening posts with recorded letters to parents;

- seating with audio interpretation eg stories;
- focus on Keesing and the design of the Cenotaph;
- First Nations stories and connections, such as the midden;
- plantings to symbolise conflicts: rosemary for Gallipoli and poppies for the Somme/Field of Flanders;
- the story of Rotary Park as the original wharf, and the development of the parks in Gosford;
- the story of the time capsule (to be revealed in 2088); and
- because poppies have become synonymous with the parks since the Poppy Project, consider poppies as a theme in future landscaping, events and interpretation at the parks.

### **First Nations connections**

- Acknowledge and foreground First Nations people’s connections (such as their relationship to the waterfront and celebrating Aboriginal people who went to war).

### **Internal development**

- Explore lighting opportunities, such as a beacon at the end of Brisbane Water.
- Create more seating in Memorial Park (possibly dedicated to local organisations with a strong connection to the parks) and make current seating more accessible.

### **Management**

- Resolve the issue of custodianship of the Cenotaph between RSL and Council (suggestions include a partnership between RSL and Council, or a clear division of responsibilities).

### **Maintenance**

- Prune trees and vegetation to reinstate views to the south, west and to the water.
- Continue maintenance of the Cenotaph (eg address tree roots).
- Introduce less invasive species that won’t damage the monuments, such as camellias.

### **Rotary Park**

- Restore and refurbish the fountain, and reinstate the water (fundraising events to be held to achieve this goal).
- Maintain the visual connection to the water.
- Add more shelter and seating on the waterfront.
- Install a plinth to honour all service people lost from the local community.
- The wall near the steps is failing; trees need to be controlled/maintained.
- Better maintenance of vegetation along the bank is needed.

### Activation

- Explore opportunities to replace the poppies with further public art (suggestions include a sculpture on a plinth in the location of the current fountain; see Figure 4.26).
- Undertake further commemorative community projects.



Figure 4.26 Gosford Rotary Club’s proposed piece of public art to replace the fountain.

### Contemporary First Nations connections

Due recognition of and respect for the rights and interests of First Nations communities in history and heritage are fundamental to good heritage practice. At present, understanding the ways in which First Nations people value and relate to a place typically provides information that is missing from the established or recorded understanding of that place. In NSW, statutory protection of Aboriginal heritage is predominantly focused on tangible heritage, ie archaeology.

The recognition of Aboriginal heritage values more broadly, however, is supported and enshrined in numerous key best practice heritage frameworks and guidelines, most notably in the Burra Charter. In the context of truth-telling and self-determination, it is important for First Nations people that their social and cultural values are considered and integrated into all aspects of place-making and future planning.



Council invited First Nations Groups to partake in consultation during the preparation of this CMP. Only the Guringai Tribal Link accepted the invitation and participated in a site walk in March 2024—it was identified that there were important visual connections between Memorial Park and the Kariong Ridgelines and Brisbane Water long before it was a war memorial site (see Figure 4.36).

There is an opportunity to engage further with First Nations groups to understand the social significance of the study area and the surrounding landscape for local First Nations groups and individuals, to ensure their continued inclusion in decision-making about the study area and to explore opportunities for interpretation, inclusion of native plant and trees, activation of the site and public art.

## 4.5 Statement of significance

### **Statement of significance for Gosford Memorial Park**

Gosford Memorial Park is a significant cultural landscape associated with the early development of the local government area and its public recreation reserves and with the development of war memorials in the Central Coast region. At a local level, this landmark landscape and some of its features have significant historic, aesthetic and social values.

The site has been in use as a public asset for almost 140 years, and would be held in high esteem by a broad contemporary and historical community of users.

The park's aesthetic significance primarily relates to its siting on a prominent promontory of land above Brisbane Water and, historically, the expansive vistas afforded to park users as a result. Some of the existing mature trees also contribute greatly to the park's aesthetic value, character and amenity.

Gosford Memorial Park contains the Boer War Memorial (1902), the Cenotaph (1924) and many other war memorials. The park has social significance as a place for memorialising and for gathering to commemorate Australia's involvement in several wars and the local residents who were killed and/or who played an important role during those wars.

The park is associated with the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System registered Aboriginal shell site 45-3-4824 (midden). It is a component of the wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape of Gosford, and holds significance to the local Aboriginal community. Future archaeological investigation into the Aboriginal sites could provide new information on the local late Holocene Aboriginal economy through study of midden (and possibly stone) materials.

The study area has the potential to contain historical archaeological evidence associated with the establishment of the public parkland from 1887. Its potential historical archaeological resource is historically significant as the site of Gosford's first primary public reserve.

Gosford Memorial Park has historical, aesthetic and social significance. It is also a fine representative example of its typology.

### **Statement of significance for Rotary Park**

Gosford Rotary Park's significance lies principally with it being a component of an expansive 1930s municipal works project and for its association of over half a century with the Rotary Club volunteer movement and that club's extensive historical sponsorship of the development of public parks throughout Australia.

Archaeological evidence of the natural environment and reclamation of Brisbane Water—including evidence of earlier wharves and associated structures/features—demonstrate the historical evolution and pattern of development of the Gosford foreshore. The historical archaeological resource has the potential to provide new information that would supplement what is known from other documentary sources. Substantial archaeological remains, particularly artefact-bearing deposits, associated with the early maritime development of Gosford Wharf would be of local significance for their historical and potential research values and, if relatively intact, their rarity. If the remains of the c1840s government wharf, boats or other watercraft were found, they could be of local or possibly state significance for historical, technical and research potential value depending on their date of construction, intactness, and level of preservation.

Rotary Park has historical, associative and social significance. It also possesses historical archaeology research potential.

## **4.6 Significant components**

Different components of a place may make a different relative contribution to its heritage value. Loss of integrity of components of the place may also diminish significance.

Specifying the relative contribution of an item or its components to the overall significance of the place provides a useful framework for making decisions about the conservation of and/or changes to the place. Table 4.1 sets out terms used to describe the grades of significance for different components of the place, as per the former NSW Department of Planning and Environment guidelines *Assessing Heritage Significance: Guidelines for assessing places and objects against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria*. Although the guidelines do not include a 'neutral' grading, for this CMP one has been included to classify plantings that neither contribute to nor detract from the significance of Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

Overall, Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park have a high level of significance to the local area. Both tangible and intangible values contribute to this grading.

Table 4.1 Standard gradings of significance.

Grading	Justification
Exceptional (E)	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to a place or object's significance.
High (H)	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the place or object's significance. Alterations do not detract from its significance.
Moderate (M)	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the place or object.
Little (L)	Alterations detract from its significance. Difficult to interpret.
Neutral (N)	An element or zone that has no contributory heritage significance to the site and its environs. Relates to contemporary elements but also to 'old' elements or areas that have no inherent historic, aesthetic, social or technical value—possibly existing in the place purely as a result of periodic accretions or routine municipal upgrades.
Intrusive (I)	Damaging to the place or object's significance.

## 4.6.1 Components within the study area

Significant elements within the study area are described and illustrated in the following tables and figures.

### Landforms

Table 4.2 Significance grading of components within the site.

Element	Comment	Significance
Promontory landform	The landform on which Gosford Memorial Park is situated—not including various phases of releveling.	Exceptional
Unreclaimed land	Unreclaimed land that formed part of the former Wharf Road off Vaughan Avenue.	High
Reclaimed land	1930s foreshore infill where Rotary Park and the public reserve are located.	Moderate



Figure 4.27 Aerial photograph of the study area showing gradings of significance of landforms. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)

## Plantings

Individual components of Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park have been ranked according to their significance as described in the table below.

Table 4.3 Significance grading of plantings in Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

Element	Comment	Level of significance
T1	Hill's Fig (corner of Vaughan Avenue and Mann Street).	Moderate
T2	Hill's Figs along northwestern side of Memorial Park.	Little
T3	<i>Livistona australis</i> palms along northwestern side of Memorial Park.	Little
T4	Sister Sumner Grevillea / Callistemon tree (not original specimen).	Little
T5	Various groundcovers in raised brick beds on Vaughan Avenue and Mann Street.	Neutral
T6	Groundcover zone and species surrounding National Servicemen's Memorial in northern zone of Memorial Park.	Neutral
T7	Hoop Pine (abutting Boer War Memorial).	Exceptional



Element	Comment	Level of significance
T8	Mature fig specimens fronting Mann Street.	Exceptional
T9	Brushbox west of Cenotaph.	Neutral
T10	Brushbox and eucalypt specimens south of Cenotaph.	Neutral
T11	Large shrub south of Cenotaph podium.	Neutral
T12	Lone Pine south of Cenotaph podium.	Exceptional
T13	Large Moreton Bay Fig at southern end of Memorial Park.	Exceptional
T14	Phoenix Palm abutting promontory slopes (southern end of Memorial Park).	Intrusive
T15	Broad planter beds and various groundcovers/shrubs below large southern end of Memorial Park.	Neutral
T16	Adventitious small trees, shrubs and weed overgrowth on southern slopes of promontory (south of Cenotaph).	Intrusive
T17	Casuarina groves on Memorial Park's western slopes.	Moderate
T18	Trees and groundcovers (excluding Casuarina groves) on western slopes.	Neutral
T19	Adventitious species including African Olive, Privet, Lilly Pilly and Hibiscus.	Intrusive
T20	Regrowth endemic eucalypts on southern 'cliff' of promontory.	Exceptional
T21	Jacaranda specimen.	Intrusive
T22	Fig specimens around the southern end of Mann Street.	Neutral
T23	Fig specimens along Dane Drive.	Neutral
T24	Eucalypt in reserve abutting Dane Drive.	Little
T25	Paperbark in reserve abutting Dane Drive.	Little
T26	Fig species along Dane Drive.	Neutral
T27	Paperbark group along Dane Drive.	Neutral
T28	Fig specimens along Dane Drive.	Neutral
T29	Eucalypt abutting Dane Drive.	Neutral
T30	Group of three Bottlebrush and a Paperbark.	Neutral
T31	Tuckeroo.	Neutral
T32	Three Honey Locusts around Rotary feature.	Neutral
T33	Three Norfolk Island Pines.	Neutral

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## Landscape components

Overall, Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park have a high level of significance; however, their component parts have varying levels of significance.

Table 4.4 Significance grading of landscape components of the Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

Element	Level of significance
Brick stairs, brick edging and brick retaining walls (corner of Vaughan Avenue and Mann Street)	Neutral
Steel handrail to brick steps from Vaughan Avenue	Neutral
Large mulched zone across northern apex of park	Neutral
Brick edge along top of Memorial Park slopes	Neutral
Grassed finish of Memorial Park	High
Memorial Park seating	Neutral
Memorial Park light pole standards	Neutral
Flagpoles in front of the northern face of Gosford Cenotaph and adjacent to Gosford National Servicemen's Memorial (NS)	Neutral
Broad mulched beds and timber edging under figs facing Mann Street	Neutral
Cenotaph and Boer War Memorial podium	Neutral
Crushed gravel surface finish—Cenotaph / Boer War Memorial podium	Neutral
Surface level of podium (regarding original kerbing of Cenotaph)	Intrusive
Gravel surface finish and level immediately offset from Cenotaph	Intrusive
Brick edge immediately offset from Cenotaph	Intrusive
Podium faux sandstone block walls	Intrusive
Podium balustrade material	Intrusive
Brick edges to gravel podium and podium planter beds	Intrusive
Above-ground floodlighting units (and cages) abutting Cenotaph	Intrusive
Concrete footings on which gun is mounted south of Cenotaph	Intrusive
Koppers log edge-of-park barrier, south of Cenotaph	Intrusive
Axial link directing visual connection between the Cenotaph in Memorial Park and the Fountain in Rotary Park	High
Fabric (concrete) of the staircase between Memorial and Rotary parks	Little
Brick walls and planter beds to staircase between parks	Little

Element	Level of significance
Metal handrail to stair between parks	Neutral
A designed central feature (focal point) in Rotary Park	High
A circular-form Fountain	High
Orbital pedestrian path around Rotary fountain	Neutral
Pedestrian pathway along base of western slopes	Neutral
Timber edging along base of western slopes	Neutral
Landforming around sides of Rotary Park	Neutral
Light posts in Rotary Park	Neutral
Seats and concrete slab footings in Rotary Park	Neutral
Sandstone blocks and native grasses along Dane Drive	Neutral
Brick and timber-edged garden bed in front of toilet block	Neutral

## Memorials and movable items

Table 4.5 Significance grading of memorial and movable items in Gosford Memorial Park and Rotary Park.

Element	Comment	Significance
Gosford Cenotaph (GC)	The Cenotaph including the three-stepped plinth partially buried, bronze plaques, lettering and insignias.	Exceptional
	The prominent siting of the Cenotaph on the headland.	Exceptional
Gosford Boer War Memorial (BW)	Marble memorial.	Exceptional
	The prominent siting of the war memorial on the headland	Exceptional
Lone Pine Memorial (LP)	The presence and location of the plaque to interpret the tree.	High
	Fabric of the plaque and plinth.	Moderate
Sister Sumner Memorial (SS)	The presence and location of the engraved stone of the Sister Sumner memorial to interpret the tree.	High
Australian Women's Land Army plaque (WL)	The presence and location of the plaque to interpret the tree.	High
	Fabric of the plaque and plinth.	Moderate
	The memorial plaque/s with inscriptions.	High



Element	Comment	Significance
Memorials not associated with cultural plantings in Gosford Memorial Park	Plinth and location.	Moderate
Ruwolt 1942 Howitzer field gun (GN)	Provenance of the field gun is unknown.	High (Moderate?)
Rotary Clubs plaque and time capsule (RC)	The location of the plaque and time capsule as well as its contents.	High
Poppy Sculpture (PS)	The location and fabric of the temporary Poppy Sculpture artwork.	Little

## 4.7 Views and vistas

Historically, views to Brisbane Water were possible from Gosford Memorial Park and vice versa. The locations for the Gosford Cenotaph and Boer War Memorial were chosen due to their prominence, visibility and promontory setting. Plantings along the boundary of Memorial Park were less prominent, including the Hill's Fig row on the northwestern side of the park near Mann Street allowing for views of the foreshore. Subsequent plantings have largely obscured the parks' inner area and memorials from the street and waterfront. Views to significant cultural plantings are seen from Mann Street and views to the various memorials from Mann Street, Vaughan Avenue and Dane Drive are generally obscured or inconspicuous.

Historical views to and from Rotary Park are largely retained due to the topography of the park and its surrounds as well as the sparse tree plantings. Views of Rotary Park and the public reserve show the extent of the bay reclamation.



Figure 4.30 Detail from 'Boat Haven, Gosford' photographed by Charles Kerry in the early 1900s showing Gosford Memorial Park enclosed by a picket fence, perched above Brisbane Water. The existing Hill's Figs have yet to be planted. (Source: Flickr via Trove / Image No. 34184720860)



Figure 4.31 View along Mann Street with Gosford Wharf and Gosford Park to right of roadway and Brisbane Water at far right, 1903. (Source: Central Coast Council Library Service, 003\003239)



Figure 4.32 Looking west in 1967 from the grounds of St Mary's Anglican Church on Mann Street. Views north to the foreshore zone from the memorial park remained available at the time. (Source: Central Coast Council Library Service)



Figure 4.33 Gosford Cenotaph flanked by two war trophies and two floodlight poles, post-1926. Note the expansive open views to the south. (Source: MHNSW—State Archives Collection FL3811970)





Figure 4.34 1980s view of Rotary Fountain, Dane Drive and Gosford Wharf beyond. (Source: Central Coast Council Library Service)







Figure 4.35 Aerial map showing significant views to, from and within the site. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2024)




Figure 4.36 Aerial map showing view from the Memorial Park promontory to Brisbane Water and to the Kariong Ridgeline, significant to First Nations People. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay 2025)

View	Image	Description	Significance
View 1		View of Rotary Park and Memorial Park from Gosford Public Wharf showing the former wharf site, land reclamation and tree canopies. First view of the site when arriving from the water.	High
View 2		View of Memorial Park and Rotary Park from the corner of Mann Street and Vaughan Avenue.	High



View	Image	Description	Significance
View 3		View of Memorial Park and Gosford Cenotaph from St Mary's Anglican Church grounds.	Moderate
View 4		View of the public reserve and plantings from Dane Drive.	Moderate
View 5		Internal view from within Memorial Park of the Boer War Memorial and Gosford Cenotaph, and external view to Brisbane Water partially obscured by plantings.	High
View 6		View from Rotary Park to Brisbane Water estuary and Drifters Wharf.	Moderate

View	Image	Description	Significance
View 7		View from the Memorial Park promontory to Brisbane Water and to the Kariong Ridgeline, significant to First Nations People. (Source: @Google July 2023)	High

## 4.8 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Australia ICOMOS Inc, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*, Australia ICOMOS Inc, Burwood, VIC, 2000, Article 1.2.
- <sup>2</sup> Mayne-Wilson, W 2013, *Town Parks of NSW: Past, Present and Future*, Warwick Mayne-Wilson.
- <sup>3</sup> Casey and Lowe, Archaeological Investigation 2008–2010 Darling Quarter, Darling Harbour.
- <sup>4</sup> Casey and Lowe, Archaeological Investigation 2008–2010 Darling Quarter, Darling Harbour.
- <sup>5</sup> Jones, S 2016, 'Wrestling with the social value of heritage: problems, dilemmas and opportunities', *Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage*, Volume 4, Issue 1, pp 21–37.