

KU-RING-GAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

SWAIN GARDENS

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED 10 SEPTEMBER 1996



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May 1996

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Swain Gardens is a former domestic garden now under the ownership and management of Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council. The Gardens cover 3.4 hectares and are located adjacent to Stanhope Road, East Lindfield. (See **Figure 1**)

1.2 Plan Objectives and Approach

This Plan of Management has been developed to achieve the following objectives:

- To meet Council's obligations under Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act 1993 in respect of Public Land Management.
- To ensure that Swain Gardens is developed in a way which best serves its user group while recognising and preserving the identified heritage values of the Reserve.

1.3 Management History

The Swain Gardens were reportedly developed progressively in the period between 1940 and 1960. The Gardens were bequeathed to the New South Wales National Trust in 1973, and transferred to Council ownership and control in 1983. A Plan of Management was last prepared for the Reserve in November 1992 by the Environmental Design Group of the then NSW Public Works Department. That Plan constitutes the only formal management document that has been prepared for the Reserve since it came into Council ownership and control.

1.4 Outline of the Document Structure

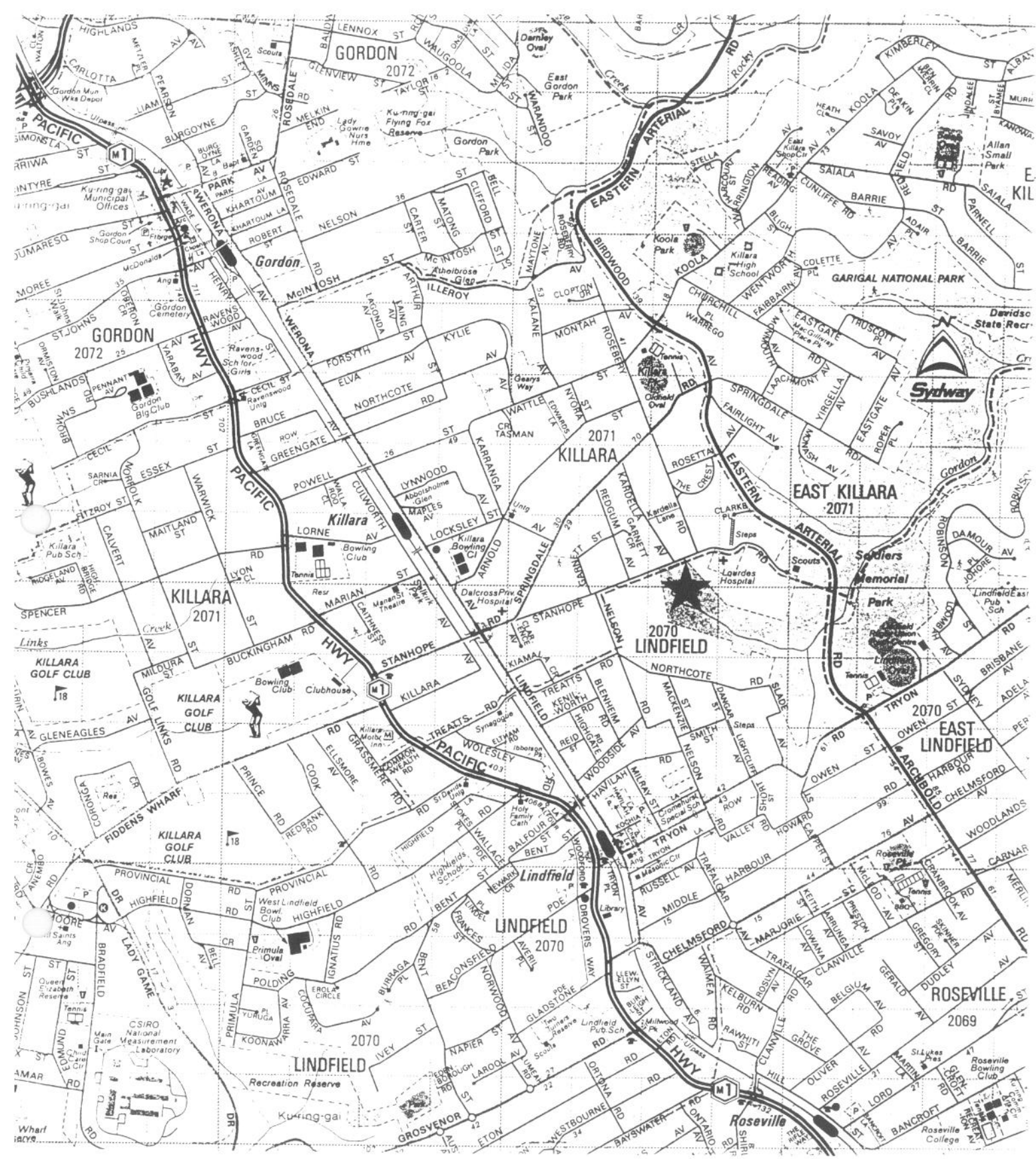
The Plan of Management comprises 3 major sections, being:

- a. Basis for Management (**Chapter 2**);
- b. Management Objectives (**Chapter 3**);
- c. Strategy Plan and Monitoring Program (**Chapter 4**).

The **Basis for Management** is the driving force of the plan that will guide management of the Gardens until the year 2000. The basis for management incorporates the core values of the community and regular users which are reflected in the vision for Swain Gardens and its role as an open space resource.

The **Management Objectives** have been developed in response to key issues identified through consultations, review of previous management documents and other relevant documents, and assessment of current conditions.

The **Strategy Plan and Monitoring Program** defines the strategies that will be implemented to achieve the management objectives of the Plan. Performance indicators are included at the end of this section and provide a basis for measurement upon which to evaluate the implementation of strategies.



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Figure 1: Site Location

★ SITE

SECTION 2 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

2 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

2.1 Introduction

The **Basis for Management** sets the parameters for management of Swain Gardens over the period of this Plan. It describes the values and role of the Reserve, identifies issues relevant to conservation of these values and arrives at a vision for management of Swain Gardens.

The **Basis for Management** was prepared following:

- A review of relevant material (see **Appendix A**);
- Consultations with relevant Council staff;
- Canvassing by letter of 91 local residents either living within close proximity of the Reserve or known to have a special interest in the Reserve;
- A number of inspections of the Reserve.

2.2 Cultural Significance

Swain Gardens provides an example of an expansive domestic garden created in a bushland setting and including an eclectic mix of exotic plant material displayed using traditional landscape construction techniques and materials including terracing, dimensioned sandstone walling and concrete paving.

The Gardens are listed in the Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study and identified on the Landscape Heritage Map. Reasons for listing are described in the citation as follows:

"The Swain Gardens make an important contribution to the heritage of the Ku-ring-gai Municipality and as such they should be considered significant to the environmental heritage of the State.

The Garden and Nature reserve reflect the personal beliefs of the late Mr Anthony Swain, who had a special affinity for nature." (Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study, 1987).

The site is not currently listed by the National Trust, nor is it on the Register of the National Estate.

2.3 Local Context

As a large domestic garden displaying an interesting collection of plants and use of garden construction techniques, Swain Gardens provides a unique recreational resource for the local community. In an area where formal, horticulture based public recreational space is not common, the Gardens constitute an equally important local cultural resource.

The Gardens are located in close proximity to the Swain Manors Retirement Village, the Newington Preparatory School and several single dwelling residences. These are all reportedly regular users of the Reserve.