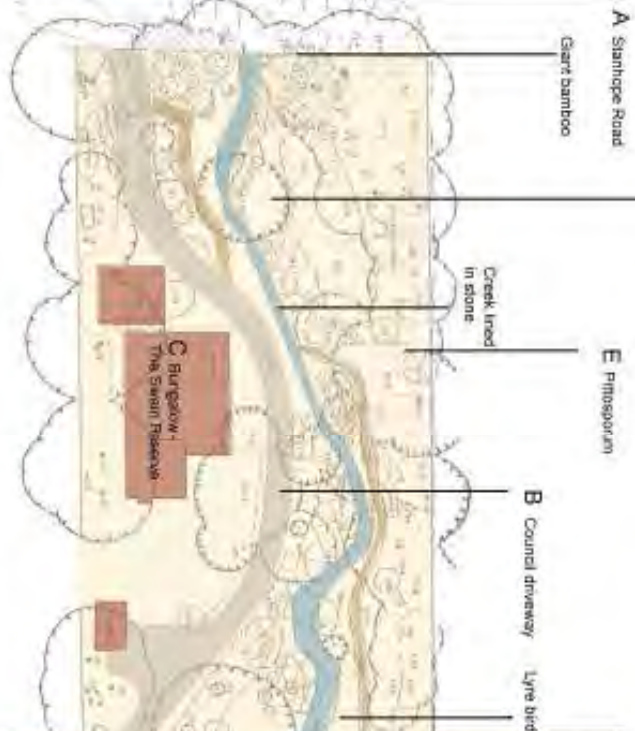


1820s English inspired garden belonging to Mr 77 Stanhope Road.
 Foxgloves, violets and madder/fern removed in the 1960s
 by The Swain Reserve committee (Mr Swain was a member) with the intention of
 replacing with native plants.

Seed in stone alcove
 in lawn area



A Stanhope Road
 Giant bamboo

E Pittosporum

B Council driveway
 Lyle bird sighted 1928

F 77 Stanhope Road. Swain and Co Pty Ltd provide the National Trust with funds to purchase this large property with the intention of establishing a nature reserve, the area becomes known as The Swain Reserve.

Several small tracks - one to 'Smugglers Cave' and a large rock

E More pittosporum

Tennis court built 1932

Small building with toilets built by Mr Swain

D Acacia elata

S First part of garden to be built

L Originally lawn with blossom trees

N Original straight path

M Flagged path, Myrtles

P Prune Crepe Myrtles

H Rock excavated

G Fire clearing

I Terraced lawns with trees and spring flowering fruit trees

J More blossom trees

Q Originally pond, sited in and Decidua planted by Swain

O Originally lawn with trees and ferns

M Flagged path, Myrtles

P Prune Crepe Myrtles

H Rock excavated

G Fire clearing

I Terraced lawns with trees and spring flowering fruit trees

J More blossom trees

Q Originally pond, sited in and Decidua planted by Swain

O Originally lawn with trees and ferns

M Flagged path, Myrtles

P Prune Crepe Myrtles

H Rock excavated

G Fire clearing

I Terraced lawns with trees and spring flowering fruit trees

J More blossom trees

Bamboo planted to screen Newington Preparatory School

I Terraced lawns with trees and spring flowering fruit trees

J More blossom trees

Q Originally pond, sited in and Decidua planted by Swain

O Originally lawn with trees and ferns

M Flagged path, Myrtles

P Prune Crepe Myrtles

H Rock excavated

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I Terraced lawns with trees and spring flowering fruit trees

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Q Originally pond, sited in and Decidua planted by Swain

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Q Originally pond, sited in and Decidua planted by Swain

O Originally lawn with trees and ferns

M Flagged path, Myrtles

P Prune Crepe Myrtles

H Rock excavated

G Fire clearing

- A Stanhope Road
- B Council driveway
- C Burgalow
- D Acacia elata
- E More Pittosporum
- F Purchased bushland
- G Fire clearing
- H Rock excavation
- I Lawn with ducosora trees
- J More blossom trees
- K Eucalyptus planted
- L Originally lawn
- M Flagged path
- N Original straight path
- O Open pruning
- P Prune crease myrtles
- Q Originally pond
- R Mick Swain's Camellia
- S Built hut
- T Crab Apple missing
- U Weeping Willow
- V Tree ferns
- W Tank Stream stone in bridge
- X Open pruning
- Y Always roses
- Z Stonework in Reserve

- a Golden Elm
- b Phunus stumps
- c Boundary resolution
- d Phunus stumps
- e Boundary resolution
- f Always roses
- g Bighold-way Acquired 1950

Note - in this decision 'north' refers to the 'east'

GARDEN PLAN - MR SWAIN'S CONCEPT

CONVERSATION WITH DR BRYAN

PRECINCTS

The lower area was built first - the creek was covered in and lawn planted
 Trees and and carnivals were planted in the lawn and underplanted with bulbs
 (now woodland plantings)

Bridge area

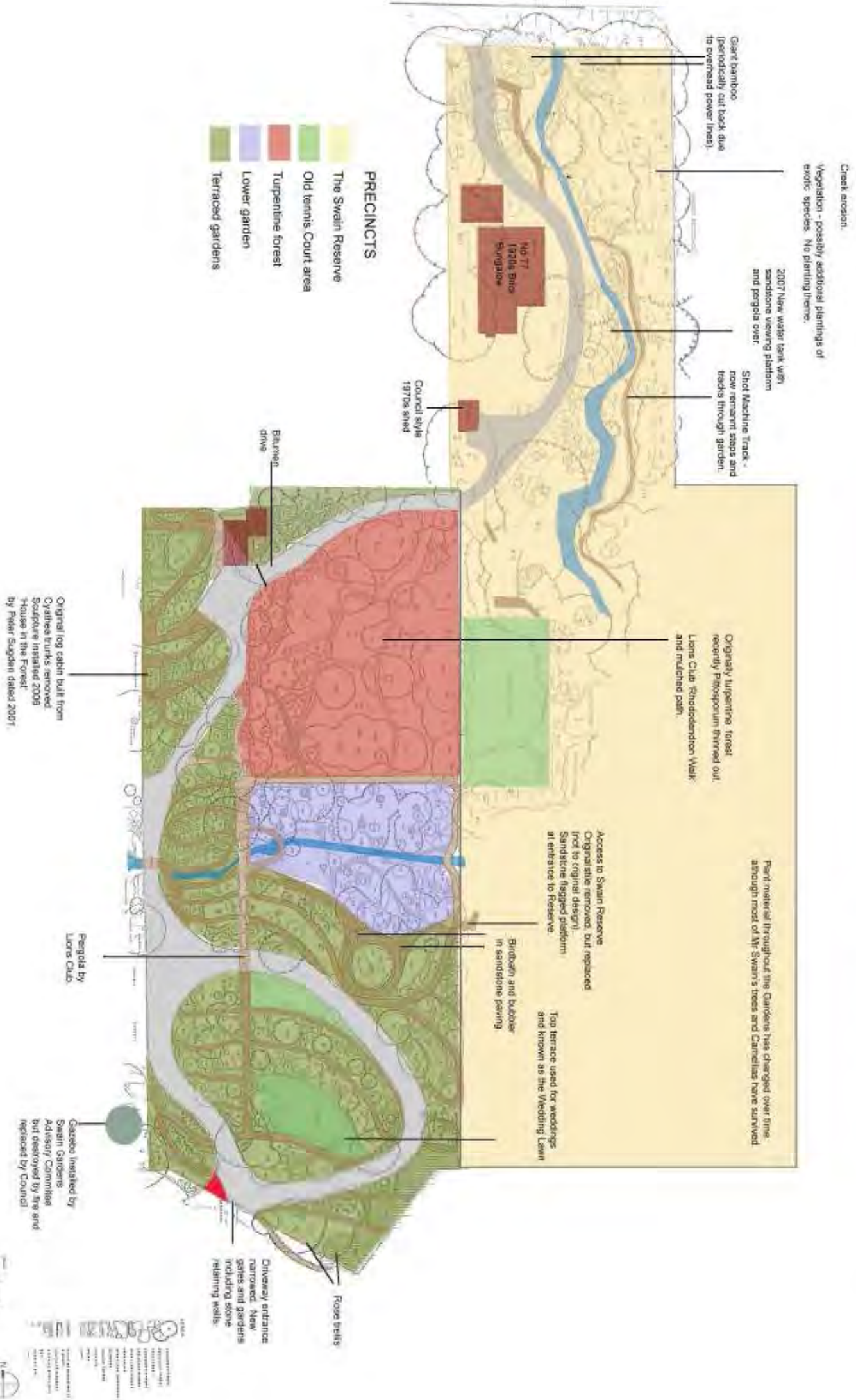
Terraces - the north facing terraces were originally lawn with trees, and shrubs against back of terraces

Turpentine forest

The Swain Reserve including the burgalow - 77 Stanhope Road



Garden plan showing changes to the landscape since Mr Swain from 1961 for The Swain Reserve and 1973 for The Swain Gardens.



Camellia species survey



1. *Camellia japonica* 'Japan Lyme' (white striped and flecked variegata, semi-double to peony form)
2. *C. japonica* 'The Czar' (rich purple, large, semi-double)
3. *C. reticulata* 'Prince Eugene Napoleon' (cherry red, formal double)
4. *C. japonica* 'Great Easter' (same red, semi-double)
5. *C. japonica* 'Dr. Threlley' (pale pink deeper edge, semi-double)
6. *C. japonica* 'Char' (bright red, large semi-double form)
7. *C. japonica* 'Eugene User' (light rose pink, white mottle, loose peony semi-double)
8. *C. japonica* 'Prince Frederick William' (clear salmon rose, formal double)
9. *C. japonica* 'Oshiharu Beauty' (rose pink, peony form)
10. *C. japonica* 'Elizabeth Le Boy' (deep rose pink, large peony to double)
11. *C. hybrid* 'Boulboulend Thase' (single red)
12. *C. Pukekawa?*
13. *C. hybrid* 'Anna Elizabeth' (unregistered)
14. *C. hybrid* 'Bowen Bryant' (deep pink, large semi-double)
15. *C. japonica* 'Blood of China' (large salmon-red semi-double)
16. *C. japonica* 'Elegance Champagne' (creamy-white, large stemless)
17. *C. japonica* 'Polar Bear' (white semi-double)
18. *C. Umbonum* (big single white flowers)
19. *C. reticulata* 'Ule Toif' (salmon pink with wide petals, large semi-double)
20. *C. japonica* 'Debutante' (pink, informal-double)
21. *C. reticulata* 'Howard Asper' (soft salmon pink, double diseased plant)
22. *C. Umbonum*
23. *C. japonica* 'Cho-Cho-Sai' (light pink to white, semi-double)
24. *C. japonica* 'Marie Mackair' (mid pink, informal double large)
25. *C. japonica* 'Mrs. D. W. Davie' (blush pink, very large semi-double)
26. *C. hybrid* 'Anticipation' (deep rose pink, large peony form)
27. *C. japonica* 'Erin Farmer' (white shaded orchid pink, medium informal double form)
28. *C. japonica* 'Gulio Rucco' (coral rose, large semi-double)
29. *C. hybrid* 'E. G. Westenhouse' (light pink to white, formal-double)
30. *C. japonica* 'Pink Gold' (orchid pink, semi-double formal)
31. *C. reticulata* 'Red Crystal' (red heavily textured petals, single)
32. *C. Willinga Princess* (pale pink with crinkled petals, semi-double)
33. *C. Unknown?*
34. *C. ? 'Oulja?'*
35. *C. japonica* 'Spartans Pink' (pink, single)
36. *C. hybrid* 'Tiny Princess' (pink with white edges, semi double)
37. *C. japonica* 'Easter Morn' (soft pink, infernal-double)
38. *C. japonica* 'Atomic Reed' (deep pink with red veins, semi-double)
39. *C. hybrid* 'Snow Drop' (minature single white with edges flushed pink and gold)
40. *C. japonica* 'Lady Loch' (light pink veined deeper, informal double)
41. *C. japonica* 'R. L. Wheeler' (pink/red veined/deep semi-double stemless)
42. *C. japonica* 'Cho Cho Sai' (light pink to white, semi-double)
43. *C. japonica* 'Mushie' (dark red, medium semi-double)
44. *C. mixture hybrid* 'Bibi Bear' (light pink, tiny, single)
45. *C. japonica* 'Ladrolle' (red with white markings semi-double)

CONSERVATION POLICIES

Conservation policies arise from the Statement of Significance.



Existing conservation policies

Management Philosophy

The Swain Gardens, The Swain Reserve and Wombin Reserve form a comprehensive whole in terms of being adjacent properties under the ownership of Ku-ring-gai Council. The lot boundary lines and the land categorisation guide management of each site. The area is also considered environmentally as a sustainable biolinkage from developed suburban areas to natural areas.

Through transfer deeds, covenants, policies, Acts and plans of management, Council has committed to the management of The Swain Gardens and The Swain Reserve in a manner consistent with the original character and design context and to the management of adjacent Wombin Reserve for the protection of native flora and fauna.

This commitment to The Swain Gardens is supported by Council's annual allocation of resources being sufficient to implement the maintenance service plan for the site. Maintenance is seasonally related and two gardeners are employed there two days a week.

Council may allocate funds from Capital Works and Asset Improvement programs for specific projects or repairs, for example the 2005 Environmental Levy stormwater harvesting and irrigation reuse project.

Practices

Continue with current management philosophy and manage the Gardens as historic gardens, as described in the Statement of Significance, and the adjacent Reserves as indigenous flora and fauna reserves.

Swain Gardens Plan of Management 1996

This Landscape Masterplan reviews the existing Swain Gardens Plan of Management, adopted in 1996, which provides general conservation policies that are maintenance orientated, to include additional Conservation Policies that are specific and address areas of concern.

Swain Gardens Draft Plan of Management, 1996, was prepared 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.

Swain Gardens Draft Plan of Management, 1996, comprises three sections:

1. Basis for Management – this incorporates the core values of the community (then) and regular users which are reflected in the vision for Swain Gardens and its role as an open space resource.
2. The Management Objectives – these 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.

3. The Strategy Plan and Monitoring Program – this defines strategies 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.

Practices

The place is to be managed in accordance with the conservation management principles set out in the Swain Gardens Plan of Management, adopted 1996.

Swain Gardens Plan of Management 1992

Principles

This Draft Landscape Master Plan is based on the existing Statement of Significance contained in the Swain Gardens Plan of Management 1992. The 1992 document also contains historical evidence, physical analysis, and a list of recommendations which have been reviewed to reflect recent changes to the Place, to include additional research and to implement current heritage practices.

Practice

Adopt the Statement of Significance from the Swain Gardens Plan of Management, 1992.

Statutory and other external constraints

Practices

Adopt relevant statutory documents:

- NSW Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act, 1997
- Heritage Act 1997 ESD
- Comply with Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Building Code of Australia
- Disability Discrimination Act (within the framework of the site's cultural significance and topographic constraints)

Requirements arising from cultural significance

Design integrity

Principles

The retention of the cultural heritage values of Swain Gardens is dependant on recognition and conservation of the principles of design underlying the development of the Gardens by Anthony Swain.

Being a collection of living organisms with finite life spans, any garden should develop and evolve over time. In the case of Swain Gardens, where the original character of the gardens has been identified and listed (on the Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study, 1987) as an item of heritage to be preserved, there is a need to manage the evolution of the gardens so as to continue the intentions of the original designer.

Moreover, in light of the fact that Swain Gardens has changed status from privately owned domestic gardens to publicly owned and accessible open space, there is an equally important need to retain the origin of the site as a private garden. To this end, features which tend to draw attention to the now municipal ownership of the Gardens should be avoided.

[Swain Gardens Plan of Management, 1996].

Practices

"Ensure that Swain Gardens are maintained and developed in a manner which retains and preserves their original character as privately owned 'Romantic' gardens in a bushland setting" [Swain Gardens Plan of Management, 1996].

Develop "a policy for management of sponsorship and donations to ensure that items funded or donated are in keeping with the design intent and identified heritage values of the Gardens. The policy should also cover means of acknowledgement of sponsorship or donations in order to avoid the possibility of a plethora of acknowledgement signs appearing in the place". [Swain Gardens Plan of Management, 1996].

New developments are to be located in the old tennis court area of The Swain Reserve which is the least significant area of the place.

New Conservation policies

Landscape setting

Principles

Retain appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. Setting includes the visual setting and the other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

Practices

The relationship between the Gardens and adjacent Reserves is integral to the experience of the landscape setting, therefore:

- Highlight the contrast between the Gardens and Reserves by keeping vegetation off, and away from the low sandstone-boundary-walls.
- Develop a boundary planting regime: strengthen the bushland setting by removing weeds and establishing an understorey, create views along the existing track, and vistas from the bridge into the creek.
- Do not plant tall trees in the reserves, near the boundary, to overshadow the gardens.

The landscape character of The Swain Gardens relies on a strong sense of order, therefore:

- Maintain gardens in a clipped and tidy manner
- Restrict 'softening' the gardens, with spill-over plants,
- Conceal undesirable and crudely constructed elements such as wire fencing, timber posts and handrails.

Responsibility for decisions

Principles

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

Competent directions and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills. (Burra Charter)

Development and changes to the built fabric

Principles

1. New work

- *New work, such as additions to the place, may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.*
- *New work should be readily identifiable as such.*
- *New work may be sympathetic if its siting, bulk, scale, character, colour, texture and material are similar to the existing fabric but imitation should be avoided. (Burra Charter)*

2. Maintaining the fabric

Determining appropriate measures to maintain fabric:

Preserve where the existing fabric demonstrates evidence of cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

Restore only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.

Reconstruct where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. Reconstruction should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation.

Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place. Adaptation should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives. (Burra Charter)

3. Changing the fabric

The impact of proposed changes on the cultural significance of a place should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the place. A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept. (Burra Charter)

General treatment of the built fabric

- The built fabric is generally of a high standard of workmanship; this is an important element to the overall effect and needs to be retained.
- Works are to be carried out with minimal removal or concealment.
- Works are to be carried out on elements of lesser significance than higher significance – the old tennis court area is considered less significant than the Gardens proper.
- Works are to be carried out by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.
- Works should, where possible, be reversible.

Materials

- Where appropriate restrict the palette of materials to stone, timber and concrete to preserve Mr Swain's choice of materials. Allow new materials where practical, such as the black chain wire fencing which is necessary for safety. Be consistent and conceal these elements with plantings where possible.

Buildings and structures

- Conserve the original fabric, particularly of the Garden Room/Garage which retains its original colour scheme. Promote the shapes of the structures in the Garden, such as the complexity of the Garden Room/Garage's form.

Stonework

- Maintain stonework in good condition and consult a qualified stone-mason with heritage expertise for advice on preservation and repairs (Fig 8).
- Retard deterioration of sandstone walls by removing plants with aerial roots or sucker-like discs that attach to the surface from stonewalls and replace with trailing plants where required. This can be done gradually to maintain visitor experience. Replace with plants with non-damaging root structures (Figs 9 – 12).
- Remove all tree ferns from stone work. Inspect stonework for damage by tree roots – provide root barriers or remove trees where necessary.
- Inspect stonework for water damage from irrigation system.



Figure 8 Cracks resulting from minor movement.



Figure 9 This Convolvulus is a good spill-over plant with non-damaging root structure and spring flowers.



Figures 10-12 The roots of these plants are 'attached' to the surface of the walls.

Concrete paths

Monitor concrete paths, particularly for trip hazards. Repair as required, ensuring patches match existing concrete.

Garden taps

Retain all garden taps and record dates from the taps to document when each section of the Gardens was constructed.

Embellishments

- Do not embellish the gardens with additional elements.
- The replacement of garden elements is to be consistent with the period during which the place was created.
- The large memorial birdbath is a successful scale, but the plaque should be removed and installed in a less prominent location nearby.
- The small birdbath and bubbler are out-of-keeping in style and located in a prominent place. Move these to a less obtrusive place in the adjacent garden area.
- The existing teak benches can be seen as a missed opportunity to reinforce the period character of the Gardens. Consider replacing benches with 1950s style garden seats (Traditional Australian garden seats of metal frame and timber slats)



Figure 13 Existing seating.



Figure 14 Proposed slatted seating consistent with 1940s to 1960s period. This seat is by Street Furniture Australia.

Interpretation

Principles

The Swain Gardens has an interesting history and visitors generally respond positively to detailed information. Provide opportunities to interpret the significance of the Gardens to visitors in a way that will not adversely affect the character of the place.

Practices

- Continue to provide pamphlets and internet site.
- Update signs based on significance; include maps, plans and history.
- Encourage event organisers to display images after the event.
- Provide information on maintenance and restoration practices.
- Provide labels for trees to develop horticultural theme.

Use

Where the use of a place is of cultural significance it should be retained. A place should have a compatible use.

Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide participation of people for whom the place has special associations or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

(Burra Charter)

Statement of conservation policy

Conservation for The Swain Gardens and The Swain Reserve aims to preserve and enhance the appreciation of the cultural and heritage significance of the place and to retain significant fabric, form, spaces, character, qualities and meanings and determine compatible and appropriate uses for the present and in the future.

PART 3 CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

This section considers the ecology of The Swain Gardens and the adjoining Reserves in relation to the catchment and provides management guidelines based on sustainable principles.

The Gardens, in particular, provide an opportunity to demonstrate how sustainable principles can be implemented into an existing garden of non-indigenous plants and at the same time conserve and enhance both the natural and cultural values. This is particularly relevant for Ku-ring-gai where many properties are adjacent to, or near natural areas and their management directly impacts on the ecosystem function and therefore the amenity these areas provide for the entire community.



Sustainable strategies

Sustainable strategies are aimed at enhancing the regional ecology and are divided into three areas: environment, social/cultural and economic and specific issues that this document seeks to address are listed under these headings.

An analysis of the regional ecology is on page 51.

Environment

Protect and enhance native plants and habitat

Prevent erosion and sedimentation from occurring

Incorporate water sensitive urban design principles

Reuse, recycle and reduce waste

Manage off-site impacts such as noxious weeds and encroachments

Prevent garden chemicals from impacting on local water quality

Protect local habitats from invasion by non-indigenous species

Social/Cultural

Provide the best possible access and amenity, within the physical constraints and cultural significance of the place

Offer opportunities for a range of activities, as suitable for a culturally significant site

Minimise impacts on neighbours such as traffic, parking, noise, light and litter

Economic

Implement programs to reduce energy and water consumption

Improve Council operations and maintenance practices within the budget

Work with community groups to improve facilities

Make improvements to reduce public liability and insurance risks

Work with hirers and lessees for mutual benefit

All uses of the garden need to satisfy global warming tests

The Swain Gardens/Reserve is located in Gordon Creek sub-catchment, which feeds east into the larger Middle Harbour catchment. Tributaries include Shot Machine Creek from Stanhope Road, Wombin Creek from Nelson Road and Tadpole Creek from Slade Avenue which all flow into Gordon Creek. The creeks are fed from the Council's piped stormwater system and inter-allotment drainage in the suburban areas of Killara and Lindfield upstream. These creeks share the route with sewer mains installed during the early 1930s. Much of the surrounding single dwelling housing was modest and built before 1920, with infill development of grander housing from the 1930s and more recently urban renewal and higher densities such as SEPP 5 developments.

The Swain Gardens/Reserve area is connected to a small expanse of bushland, Wombin Reserve to the west. Wombin Reserve was ceded to Council in 1957 and is managed under the Bushland Plan of Management and also covered by a legal document to preserve it as a nature reserve for wildlife. The large expanse of natural areas to the east consists of Council's Seven Little Australians Park, Lindfield Soldiers' Memorial Park, private land zoned County Open Space and NSW National Parks land being Garigal National Park (previously known as Davidson Park).

The underlying geology of these areas is Hawkesbury Sandstone which provides rock outcrops on the slopes and a variety of plant communities, from open-forests, woodlands, heaths and wet sclerophyll vegetation along the creek lines dominated by Coachwoods. The creeklines and areas of drainage concentration are weed impacted with Privet and other noxious plant species.

The natural areas provide food and habitat for fauna. The dense understorey of the open forest provides habitat for birds and small mammals, the grasslands and woodland areas provide open habitat for raptors and the dense ferny areas provide protection for small mammals and ground-dwelling birds. There is a strong local anecdotal history of lyrebirds and bowerbirds occurring in the valley. Threatened species include the Powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*) and the Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).

The natural areas are used for passive recreation, particularly bushwalking.

The geology of Swain Gardens is Hawkesbury Sandstone which is evidenced in the remains of rock ledges which have been quarried for rock to be used elsewhere on site and to form fill sections of sandstone retaining walls. Stone reclaimed from the construction of the Killara Reservoir was used to cover Shot Machine Creek and elevate and join both ends of Stanhope Road. Yellowblock sandstone from the Tank stream extracted when the Swains City store was modified was used to build the stonewalls along the watercourse.

The Gymea soil landscape dominates in the natural areas and is typically found on undulating hills with slopes of between 10-25%. Mr Swain imported quality garden soil for the terrace gardens.

Recommendations

The following recommendations aim to minimise the impact on adjoining natural areas and improve the water quality in the catchment.

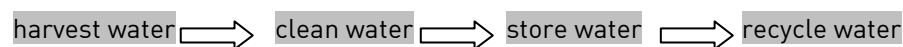
- Implement sustainable horticultural practices such as mulching to reduce water use
- Select non-indigenous plant species for the Gardens with low water requirements
- Select non-indigenous plant species for the Gardens that will not spread into adjacent bushland
- Improve water quality of urban runoff from surrounding residential areas and roads
- Liaise with Sydney Water to track sewer main leaks, stormwater overflows and illegal drainage to the sewer that exacerbates this
- Encourage on site detention from adjoining lands to reduce impacts of high flow
- Improve water quality of runoff from the Gardens by installing a sedimentation pond with macrophytes, located in The Swain Reserve where Wombin Creek exits The Swain Gardens
- Reduce silt loads and restore creek structure
- Implement stormwater harvesting proposals and recycling schemes
- Strengthen links with natural areas – wildlife corridors etcetera
- Examine, minimise and monitor fertilizer use in the gardens to assess downstream impacts
- Introduce recycling bin (for plastic/glass/tins)
- Continue to recycle garden clippings at Council waste depot (off-site composting is more efficient due to Council operating a bulk waste composting facility).

Stormwater harvesting and irrigation project

The Swain Gardens is composed of non-indigenous plants that are dependent on irrigation in dry times. Because of this Mr Swain installed taps throughout the terraced areas - there are so many taps that the Gardens are sometimes referred to as the 'Garden of Taps'. The cultural significance of the gardens is dependent on good horticultural practices because the plants are a living collection, dependent on nutrients, water and sunlight. It is important to maintain the plants well because it is the only public botanical garden in Ku-ring-gai.

The Gardens are watered during hot, dry spells and over the last 20 years the Gardens have used a median of 2.0ML a year, with the 25 and 75 percentile water usages at 1.4ML and 2.55 ML a year respectively. The stormwater harvesting project will reduce Ku-ring-gai Council's usage of Sydney Water mains at the Gardens by 70%. The irrigation system will use drip irrigation where possible, elsewhere a sprinkler system or tap will be installed. This irrigation system will be more cost effective by reducing the need for hand-watering.

Water usage will be reduced by a planting strategy that maintains Mr Swain's plant selection where known, and elsewhere supplement plants that have low water dependence. The project has environmental benefits. Currently water is directed from properties through drains and watercourses into Shot Machine Creek at The Swain Reserve. From here water leaves the urban areas and enters bushland areas, flowing into Gordon Creek before entering Middle harbour. The project will harness water at The Swain Reserve, where it will be treated to improve water quality before being either used for irrigation or discharged back into the creek.



Environmental benefits of the project

- Incorporate strategies to control flash flooding and clean stream water by removing pollutants
- Reduce peak discharge of water during heavy rain
- Improve the condition of water discharged from Shot Machine Creek
- Reinststate riparian zone vegetation before reaching the Gardens proper
- Manage stormwater flows to provide for bed and bank stability of creeks and reduce erosion and silt build-up at Shot Machine Creek.

Regional ecology analysis



Topography
90 metres above sea level at highest point, grading towards the creek at RL 75.



Natural areas

- Garrigal National Park
- Bushland in parks and reserves



Soil landscapes

- Gymea (gy)
- Hawkesbury (ha)
- Lucas Heights (lh)
- Glenorie (gn)



Vegetation
Local ecological communities

- M3d Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest
- M3e Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest,
- L3a Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland.
- T3a Blue Gum High Forest



Water catchment
— Riparian zones



Hydrology

- Sewer
- Stormwater



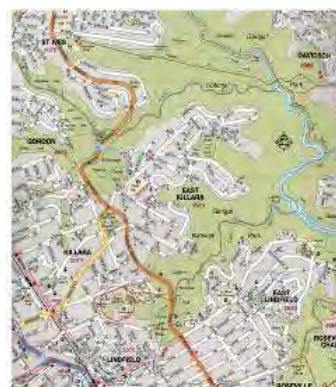
Fire

- Fire break
- Fire buffer zone
- Tree canopy 2002
- ◆ Remnant trees

Location
77 Stanhope Road, Killara.

Description of the existing environment

The Gardens and adjoining Reserves cover an area of 3.4121 ha.



Geology and soil

Geology: Hawkesbury Sandstone - at the Gardens the sandstone outcrops have been either quarried to be used for site works, or modified to accommodate the retaining walls.

Soils:

Gymea soils, which are typically found on undulating hills with slopes of between 10-25%. Shallow to moderately deep yellow earths and earthy sands, yellow podsollic soils and siliceous sands (Chapman & Murphy 1989). Gymea soils may be prone to erosion.

Vegetation

The original vegetation Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

Native animals

Ninox strenua (Powerful owl) which is 'vulnerable'. (Recovery plan prepared Local Gov Act 1993 Sections 36A-36D).

Hydrology

The Swain Gardens and The Wombin Reserve drain to Wombin Creek, and The Swain Reserve drains to Shot Machine Creek. Both creeks are tributaries of Gordon Creek, which flows through the natural areas of Seven Little Australians Park and Garrigal National Park before reaching the waterways of Middle Harbour.

Climate/microclimate

Climate warm temperate climate. Average annual rainfall exceeds 1100mm and peaks in autumn to late winter. Spring is the driest season.

The microclimates on the site have been modified and become shadier as the trees have grown. The creek areas are cool and shaded.



PART 4 IMPROVED VALUATION, PRICING AND INCENTIVE MECHANISMS

ESD (Ecological Sustainable Development) in the Local Government Act argues that the social and environmental impacts of goods and services should be included and paid for separately. Charging for goods and services will balance supply and demand in order to achieve more realistic outcomes.



True valuation and pricing

The 'True valuation and pricing' is reflected in the provision of environmental goods and services and the measure of economic sustainability. In line with this, the principles outlined throughout this document are aimed at maximising benefits and minimising costs. The following table demonstrates some examples of this. The companion cost is not exclusive to each value, but generally translates to all values.

Value/benefit

Improving the sustainability of the Gardens
Improving the ecology of the natural areas
Improving the water quality of the catchment
Safeguarding the unique qualities of the site
Providing for specialist opportunities eg film makers, photographers
Social opportunities – changing demographics – apartment living and aging population
Bequest value for future generations
Educational role
Function spaces such as weddings, theatre

Companion cost

Replacement materials and mulch
Bush regeneration programs
Water harvesting project
Vandalism and damage
General repairs
General maintenance
Improved facilities
Horticultural/arborist expertise
Conservation specialists
Staff training
Rubbish removal
Vandalism and damage

While the true valuation and pricing as described in the Act argues for a user pays system, the Burra Charter argues that the socio-economic values of a place are based on their appeal to visitors. Attracting visitors to a place assists with conservation because an informed and interested public provide support for a place. The support needs to come from the wider community; beyond the immediate neighbourhood. The conservation policy should 'identify a use, a combination of uses, or constraints on use, that are compatible with the retention of the cultural significance of the place and that are feasible'. The Burra Charter.

In response to these arguments, this report seeks to improve the Gardens for the enjoyment of the casual visitor and to develop a range of activities that generate income, but are appropriate with the cultural significance of the Gardens.

Refer to cultural analysis of the local area on page 56.

Visitor use and programs

The Swain Gardens provides a place with unique qualities, as a private garden created by a family with the means to achieve this and is now available for public use without charge to the casual visitor - this is rare and a valued facility by the community. Such spaces are often considered a luxury due to the pressing ecological concerns of today, but their value is important due to their effect on the human sense of well-being. Suburban space is generally dominated by sports grounds/facilities, playgrounds, and in Ku-ring-gai, bushland. The Gardens offer an alternative as a contemplative place. It is used by local residents, including Swain Manors Retirement Village, Lourdes Retirement Village and Newington Preparatory School.

The Gardens have been in constant use as public space since the National Trust's ownership in 1972. During this time a number of diverse uses have been explored such as the 'Gallery in the Gardens', proposed for the dwelling in The Swain Reserve. Most often ideas are received with enthusiasm, but when explored further rejected due to the constraints of the site, such as lack of parking, and the impact on local residents from increased traffic and noise.

The fragility of the historical fabric needs to be considered in deciding what activities are compatible within the Gardens. Uses which would have an adverse effect on the place (requiring additional services or structures) should be discouraged.

The most appropriate activities promote the cultural significance of the place such as gardening groups/clubs. The place is well suited to quiet pursuits that will not disturb other park users, such as book clubs, knitting/sewing circle, yoga/meditation and walking. Small to medium groups of people can be accommodated at the old tennis court at The Swain Reserve and musical and theatrical performances have successfully been held there. The Garden Room and adjacent Viewing Lawn should be developed as a combined space suitable for small group activities. The Wedding Lawn can be booked for functions, particularly weddings and photographic sessions. More recently filmmakers have made several films at the Gardens, and it should be promoted to artists and the film industry for its unique landscape features, modernist architecture and embedded cultural values.

Council has encouraged an active program of community participation from garden clubs and service clubs. The Friends of The Swain Gardens provide assistance by fund raising and participating in working bees. Encouraging personal adoption of garden areas has been reasonably successful, but to be most effective 'the adopted' areas need to be designed and maintained in a compatible manner.

Horticultural staff working at the Gardens report that they are used on a daily basis by 15-20 people. The main activity is walking along the track through Wombin Reserve and through the Gardens. Many people walk with a dog and they tend to be unleashed, but owners generally collect the dog droppings. The second most popular activity is on weekends where families use the barbeque at the Old Tennis Court area in The Swain Reserve and the third most popular activity is for weddings which generally occur in spring.

During school holidays, school-aged people use the lawn areas for reading/studying, either on their own or with friends. Couples use the terraced lawns for picnics and over the years, a series of homeless people have taken up residence in the Gardens, possibly made more comfortable due to the showers in the amenity buildings.

Council is working towards linking Shot Machine Track from Killara Railway Station to Roseville Bridge at Echo Point, through The Swain Reserve. This is dependent on gaining access through privately owned County Open Space adjoining The Swain Reserve. When this is achieved it will provide a day-long walk and the amenities at the Gardens will be a valuable resource that can be enjoyed by walkers.

Licences and leases

There are no licences. There is one lease for the residence at The Swain Reserve.

Risk management

- Manage the Gardens in a way that minimises risks to public, staff and the environment
- Establish process to identify long term issues and hazards and minimise risk
- Establish procedures to deal with emergencies.

Recommendations

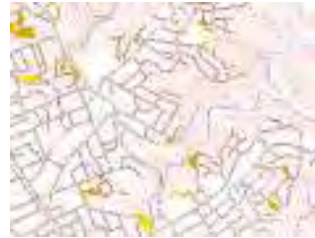
- Balance tranquillity and conservation with passive recreational uses
- Manage, protect and interpret the natural and heritage assets of the site
- Provide activities within the constraints of the physical site and its cultural significance
- Use the site for suitable purposes and, where possible create income opportunities
- Accept that site constraints for parking and access will always limit use
- Comply with Council's events policy requirements
- Education – provide a guidebook with information on the Gardens – its history conservation, sustainable and management issues
- Cultural - Provide a guide to promote the garden experience, particularly seasonal (views, sensations, scent sound, seasonal subtleties of colour)
- Provide information on the gardens as a botanical collection (the Friends Group are working on plant labels)
- Establish appropriate leisure activities at the site, such as tai chi, yoga etcetera
- Consider the Gardens as a tourist destination, such as the enquiry by a Japanese group who were interested in indigenous and non-indigenous vegetation
- Continue to encourage grounds hire for weddings – caters for maximum 70 guests
- Encourage visits in cooperation with related organisations such as garden clubs
- Associate the Garden with events, particularly historic, or personalities
- Continue the Annual Swain Gardens Open Day – which showcases spring flowers and includes Devonshire teas and lunches, local school music ensembles, orchestras and bagpipes
- Encourage open-air theatre and music recitals
- Create a formalised garden walk with botanical brochure
- Consider exhibitions such as sculpture in the park, artist in residence
- Catered meals for small groups
- Promote cultural significance of the Gardens for filmmakers and photographers
- Encourage Garden Room/Viewing Lawn hire
- Highlight alternative public transport to reduce the physical impact of the motor vehicle on local streets. Include route from station on information posters and pamphlets.

Killara – cultural analysis


Killara profile

Population			
Total population	8,110		
Australian born	5,255		
Overseas born	2,546		
Aged 65 +	1,347		
Aged 18 – 64	4,743		
Children 5 - 17	1,606		
Infants 0 – 4 years	351		
Housing			
Dwellings (total)	3,041		
Private dwellings	2,838		
Average household size		2.85	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2001






Bushcare sites

 'Bushcare' groups assist in conserving bushland in Wombin Reserve and Seven Little Australians Park.

'Parkcare' and the 'Friends of Swain Gardens' assist in the conservation of Swain Gardens.





Public facilities in East Killara

-  Sports grounds
-  Local parks (bushland)
-  National Parks





Local heritage Character

-  Urban conservation areas
-  Heritage sites





Land use - zone

-  Parkland
-  Natural areas



Walking tracks

-  Existing
-  Proposed

PART 5 LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

This section is a synthesis of conservation policies, sustainable strategies and usage. It identifies where additional works are required to rectify problems and ensure visitor enjoyment. Proposed works are consistent with the Burra Charter.

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: respect the existing fabric, use associations and meanings; do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.



Objectives

- Conserve The Swain Gardens in a way that will retain the cultural values as outlined in the Statement of Significance
- Introduce sustainable strategies to ensure the long-term viability of the Gardens
- Promote on-going uses and encourage new uses that will enhance public appreciation of the cultural significance of the Gardens and adjoining Reserves and ensure their conservation for future generations
- Within the existing value framework of the Gardens, seek to improve accessibility throughout the Gardens to meet AS 1428 Design for Access and Mobility

Constraints and opportunities

Constraints

- Poor sense of arrival from Stanhope Road
- Poor orientation – confusing division between Gardens, Reserves and private properties
- Lack of parking on site and adequate parking along Stanhope Road
- The access road is steep, narrow and shared by Council vehicles and pedestrians. It is difficult for prams and wheelchairs
- No disabled parking on site
- Loss of original plant species
- Negative impact of the Gardens on adjoining natural areas, particularly fertilisers increasing nutrient levels in waterways

Opportunities

- Review conservation measures
- Introduce sustainable strategies
- Provide disabled parking
- Highlight Mr Swain's design details and draw attention to focal points
- Establish planting regime
- Strengthen views and vistas
- Strengthen spatial qualities, access and circulation
- New signage
- New uses

The recommendations in this section are conceptual and require detailed design work.

Views and vistas

Issues

- Views into, out of and within the place are defined by the fabric and are significant and should be protected
- Views maintain visual connections between spaces

Actions

- Remove tree ferns and prune tall shrubs where necessary to open views
- When replacing trees, consider their mature size and place them in a location to avoid obscuring views within the gardens
- Establish the Viewing Lawn as a significant area. Remove the Magnolia which is located below the viewing lawn and is a post-Swain planting. Its canopy has spread and is obscuring the view over the garden from this important vantage point. If it is not possible to remove the tree, directional prune the canopy.
- If possible, relocate the pergola to the Old Tennis Court area to re-establish views along the north-south and east-west cross axis
- A series of terminating paths exist along the eastern boundary where there are excellent views into the valley. Gradually replace the bamboo from this section with a less invasive bamboo species. Where the paths terminate, do not plant bamboo, rather leave 'windows' to highlight the views and to integrate the paths into the landscape. Frame views as similar at Everglades
- Create views into Reserves
- Locate plants in order to create vistas that unfold along garden walks
- Create framed views to specimen trees and focal points



Vegetation used to frame distant view at Everglades

Spatial qualities and circulation

Issue

- The spaces in a garden are as important as the plants that define them and their arrangement provides a variety of visitor experiences.

Actions

- Draw attention to the unique design qualities of the Gardens by highlighting the network of curved paths and steps and the associated sweeping curves to the garden beds. Select plants carefully so they do not grow too large and obscure these qualities.
- Create meaningful circulation. In some areas paths terminate without meaning. Ensure that there is a view or specialist planting in these situations, particularly along the eastern boundary of the gardens.



Use specialist planting in small garden areas to highlight design details and circulation patterns

Sense of arrival

Issues

- The entry to the Gardens, from Stanhope Road via Swain Reserve does not provide a good first impression for visitors to the Gardens.
- The division between the Gardens and adjacent The Swain Reserve is confusing and, because of this lessens the experience of the Gardens.
- The entry is not negotiable for disabled or wheelchair visitors, but access can be arranged. Other access points are pedestrian only and from adjacent Reserves.



Actions

- Provide new signage at all road entrances; include plans, orientation, history and connecting walking tracks. Incorporate the benefactors – Mr A. N. Swain and the National Trust. Refer Appendices.



Existing signs to be replaced

Signage should convey layers of cultural meanings, a definite sense of a private garden of non-indigenous plants surrounded by the endemic vegetation of adjacent Reserves.

- Ordinance signs should include where to park cars and leave bicycles, dog control measures, garbage locations and speed limits.
- Create a formal entry to The Swain Gardens at the 'boundary' to the Gardens (Lot 12), to clarify the Gardens as a separate entity and provide a new 'sense of arrival' that is appropriate for a place of cultural significance.
- Provide disabled parking for two cars behind the dwelling and adjacent to the Council shed at The Swain Reserve, provide adequate turning area.
- Consider extending the width of the access road to provide marked pedestrian access, particularly for the narrow section of road which is the first section near the bungalow
- Provide a display board and encourage users to promote their activities at the Gardens.



Use signage to communicate cultural significance



Activities board at Everglades displaying a children's tea party.

Swain Reserve



1. Stanhope Road area

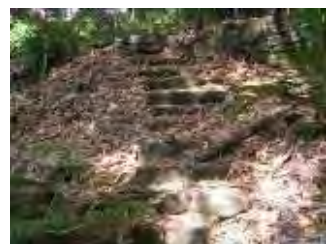
Issues

- This area contains remnant stonework from a 1920s garden including seat niche, walls, paths, steps, circular bays for planting and lining of the creek banks. The paths have the potential to form a section of Shot Machine Track. Refer to Sustainability and Usage sections for more details.
- Vegetation includes two clumps of giant bamboo along with an assortment of exotic shrubs and Tree Ferns.
- The area is narrow, bounded by residential development, located below the road and it tends to be damp.



Conservation

- Maintain the relationship between the Gardens and adjacent Reserves which is integral to the experience of the landscape setting.
- Revegetate this area for clarity of the overall design – to contrast with the ordered character of the Gardens. Leave existing non-indigenous plants, gradually replacing them with endemic species over time. Use small trees to retain light and solar access to adjoining properties.
- Conserve remnant sandstone elements as ‘ruins’ of an old garden - seating niche, planter beds and walls. Restore tracks and steps that are to be incorporated into Shot Machine Track.



Remnant sandstone elements in Swain Reserve near Stanhope Road

Sustainability

- Implement stormwater harvesting project.
- Establish riparian zone planting to reduce silt loads.
- Revegetate with endemic species for low maintenance, low water usage, no fertilizer usage and to provide habitat. Direct funding for maintenance to the Gardens proper rather than extending the garden areas into the Reserve.
- Strengthen links with natural areas for wildlife corridors.
- Introduce garbage recycling - remove bins throughout gardens and install three large bins near the Council's shed or at the entrance to The Swain Reserve - two bins for general garbage and one recycle bin for plastic, glass and tins.

Usage

- Continue to work towards acquiring the 'missing link' in the Shot Machine Track walk which links Killara railway station with Echo Point, Middle Harbour.
- Promote the use of the new gazebo as an integral element in the Shot Machine Track walk. The gazebo will feature as a comfortable rest place and house information about the walk to Echo Point.
- Continue to lease the house as a private residence that generates income for the upkeep of community facilities. Community-based use of the residence is to be considered in the long term, including comments about possible uses, such as in conjunction with weddings.

Actions

- Screen adjacent buildings where possible, particularly foundations and associated domestic utilities.
- Provide a bay for the residence's bins.
- Where space is limited screen with black pipe and mesh fence and cover with vines for less intrusive appearance.
- Stanhope Road entrance - consideration to be given to the inclusion of steps from Stanhope Road to the Reserve area. Access paths and steps from Stanhope Road will require further investigations during the exhibition period by Council.



Screen boundaries



Provide bay for bins



Provide disabled parking at rear of bungalow

2. Stormwater harvesting and irrigation project

Design concept for in-situ stormwater storage tank and proposed shelter on top located at The Swain Reserve.



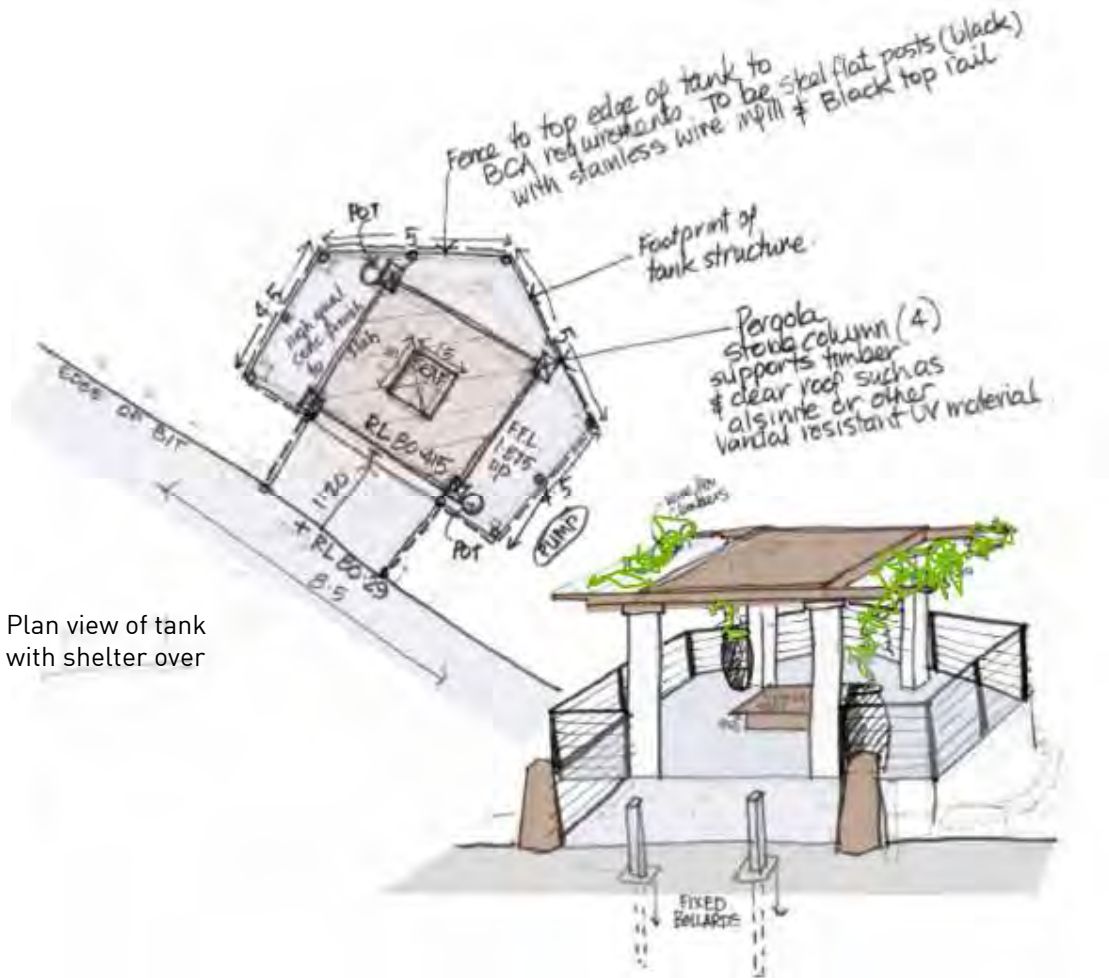
Survey plan



Location of water storage tank



Location of stormwater tank and pedestrian path



Plan view of tank with shelter over

Sketch of shelter on top of tank. Design is based on the pergola at the Viewing Lawn at The Swain Gardens



Pergola at the Viewing Lawn, The Swain Gardens



- Conceal the water tank - finishes are to be stone faced, otherwise bagged and painted or rendered and painted.
- Plant around the proposed stormwater storage tank as a screening measure
- The tank footprint is set back inside the stone wall allowing space for plantings
- The top of the tank slab will be finished as high quality concrete suitable for deck surface
- The tank will be about 125mm higher than the road allowing a 1:20 ramp up to the tank deck. This is calculated by locating a 1.85m high tank at the bottom level of the base of the road batter, and on the tank area being for a minimum 75000 litres. The tank is a pentagram and symmetrical
- If possible, pour the top to allow for columns, pots, railings and seating
- Offset the wall for the tank from the creek with stone edge min 1200mm to allow pedestrian access
- Locate pump on the side away from the residence
- Install a basic, small footbridge bridge over the Shot Machine Creek, ensure it does not retard water flow or cause flooding. The footbridge provides a link from the bitumen road, down the existing restored stone steps to the track on other side of creek

3. The south-western boundary of the Reserve

Issues

- This area, near Newington School is degraded and bamboo is invading the bushland. Newington School is intending to extend into this area. Plant tall trees to screen development.

Sustainability

- Select non-indigenous plant species for the Gardens that will not spread into the Reserve.
- Investigate urban runoff from neighbouring properties
- Liaise with Sydney Water to track sewer main leaks, stormwater overflows and illegal drainage to the sewer that exacerbates this.
- Encourage on-site detention from adjoining lands to reduce impacts of high flow
- Continue with bush regeneration program, 'revegetating' to control erosion, choke weeds and re-establish forest qualities.
- Install sedimentation pond with macrophytes at Wombin Creek exit from the Gardens.

Actions

- Gradually replace bamboo in the top area of the Gardens with a non invasive species. Plant to frame view as discussed earlier.
- Plant additional trees in the Reserve and Gardens to screen proposed development at Newington School
- Treat stormwater runoff



Valley view that is concealed by the bamboo

4. Old Tennis Court area

Issues

- There is an attractive outlook to the east into the valley.
- The area is difficult to maintain because it is overshadowed by adjacent trees creating shady conditions which is not suitable for lawn and there are drainage problems.
- The area has been developed as the social hub for the place with the inclusion of a barbeque, picnic table, stage and area of lawn.

Conservation

- New developments are to be located in the Old Tennis Court area of The Swain Reserve which is less significant than the Gardens proper.

Usage

- Reinforce this area as a performance space. Encourage use by groups involved in music, plays and poetry readings etcetera, allowing for restricted access for some people with disabilities.
- Promote the area as a place suitable for barbeques and picnics.

Actions

- Establish the identity of the Old Tennis Court as part of The Swain Reserve by landscaping with endemic plant species and highlighting the views into bushland to the east. Remove weeds from bushland.
- Seal the path from the access road to this area with crushed sandstone and soften the steps from the access road with plantings.
- Repair the heritage sandstone steps that lead directly onto the court area.
- Drainage works have recently been carried out and the new irrigation system allows this area to be watered. Plant with tough shade-loving turf, check for compaction, grade from the centre and towards the edges for drainage.
- A lightweight roofed structure is to be constructed over the ground level flat stage
- Electricity supply to be provided to the barbeque area and performance space for events.
- Amenities building adjacent to the Old Tennis Court area – improve accessibility around the building, widen the doorway, provide grip rails beside the toilet and a baby change .
- Access pathway leading to the Old Tennis Court area – check whether existing stone lip on the edge of the path and the width of the path meets relevant standards or whether a railing is required.



The more recent upgrade of the Old Tennis Court area has reinforced its spatial qualities and provided social opportunities



Improve view into forest from Old Tennis Court into valley



Seal path

The Swain Gardens

1. Interface Wombin Reserve and the Gardens

Issues

- Very tall eucalyptus trees overshadow the Gardens.
- Weeds, particularly Fish Bone ferns (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*) confuse the division between the Gardens and Reserve.
- Walkers use the track in Wombin Reserve to access the Gardens or as part of a longer walking route.

Conservation

- Develop a boundary planting regime: Strengthen the bushland setting by removing weeds and establishing an understorey, arrange to create views along the existing track, and vistas from the bridge into the creek.
- Highlight the contrast between the Gardens and Reserves by keeping vegetation off, and away from the low sandstone-boundary-walls.



Entrance to the reserve

Sustainability

- Continue the Bushcare program in the Reserve
- Treat stormwater runoff



Adjoining development – photo taken from the Gardens

Actions

- Create a threshold and highlight the entrance to Wombin Reserve from Swain Gardens by installing sandstone paving similar to the paving at The Swain Reserve if possible and provide signage.
- Screen neighbouring development.
- Do not plant tall trees in the Reserves, near the boundary, that will in time overshadow the gardens.

2. Turpentine Forest

Issues

- The Turpentine forest appears to be 'unresolved' in its relationship with the ordered design of the rest of the Gardens. In response to this there have been various attempts to establish an understorey including the 'Rhododendron Walk' and the introduction of *Hymenosporum flavens* (temperate forest/rainforest species of NSW and QLD). *Pittosporum* have self-seeded and some have been removed, but many remain.



Actions

- Plant additional Turpentines and several Angophoras.
- Where possible remove the small trees and understorey because they are a different scale to the Turpentines and will always appear inconsistent. Retain existing Rhododendrons as the Lion's club contribution. Retain Birds Nest ferns and Maidenhair ferns. Transplant Birds Nest ferns to the edge near the Old Tennis Court and plant in long sweeping curves. Plant Birds Nest ferns in clumps where required to make 'pictures' or divide spaces within the forest. Restrict the Cordylines to a small area next to the access road and keep clipped low.
- Aim to highlight the forest qualities of the Turpentines, by emphasising textures, light and shade, and the connection between the Gardens and surrounding natural areas. The Turpentine Forest is viewed from the access drive and particularly from the new entrance to the Gardens – create vistas into the forest from the drive.
- Consider regrading the ground surface (where roots allow) to achieve smooth, even contours and remove unattractive bumps.
- Explore the feasibility of providing an access ramp from the proposed disabled parking bays down to the Old Tennis Court area and toilet block to meet AS 1428. Initial investigations indicate this would require 85 metres of paths with curbed ramps and handrails and 1 m² landings at 9 metre intervals.



Image 1 and 2 existing Turpentine forest.

Image 3 is the forest at Everglades demonstrating consistency in scale of tree trunks and simple mulched surface emphasising quality of light.

3. Terraced gardens

Issues

- The stone walls are in good condition; they are not leaning or extensively cracked. The few cracks are generally not noticeable.
- Concrete paths are cracked in places.
- Refer to 'Plant Material' at the end of this section for planting regime (page 74).

Conservation

- Maintain stonework in good condition and consult a qualified stone-mason with heritage expertise for advice on preservation and repairs.
- Retard deterioration of sandstone walls by removing plants with aerial roots or sucker-like discs that attach to the surface from stonewalls and replace with trailing plants where required. This can be done gradually to maintain visitor experience.
- Provide root barriers where tree roots are putting stress on walls.
- Do not fill cracks with mortar as this is cosmetic only and often draws attention.
- Cracks that are of concern can be monitored by gluing a glass strip over the top.
- Clean sandstone according to heritage stonemason's advice.

Sustainability

- Implement sustainable horticultural practices and continue mulching to reduce water use.
- Reduce water use by selecting plants with low water requirements.
- Communicate conservation issues to the wider community.
- Select non-indigenous and endemic plant species that will not spread into adjacent areas.
- Examine, minimise and monitor fertilizer use in the gardens to assess downstream impacts.

Usage

- Promote the use of the Wedding Lawn
- Promote the Gardens as a place of botanical displays
- Develop one of the smaller terraces along the eastern boundary as a grassed area to increase public use, for meeting, picnics, resting, reading, etcetera

4. Viewing Lawn and Garden Room

Issues

- Next to the Garden Room/Garage is a small lawn which was the transition point between the Swain family home and the Gardens.
- The viewing lawn has the potential of being combined with the Garden Room as additional space for functions..
- The old pool, which is now a garden area with pergola over has *Ficus sp.* growing over the sandstone pillars.
- The knarled old mulberry was a present from Mrs Swain's parents in the 1920s.
- The Garden Room/Garage is in excellent original condition, including flooring, fixtures and fittings and colours.



Conservation

- Preserve the area as a Viewing Lawn.
- Conserve the pergola - remove *Ficus sp.* and Camphor Laurel.
- Transplant the Wisteria to the northern edge of the structure, prune to central stem and train leaders along wires. Monitor growth and vigour to ensure the vine does not put pressure on the structure.
- Remove the Magnolia tree (post-Swain) on the terrace below to regain views - plant *Camellia* to match existing plantings in this bed.
- Retain the original fixtures, fittings and colours of the Garden Room/Garage.



Usage

- The Garden Room is used by Council staff and Friends of The Swain Gardens.
- Encourage and promote a wider variety of community activities in the Garden Room, supplemented by barbeque facilities and a coffee cart for events and functions. Any future modifications to the Garden Room should be sensitive, interpretive and sympathetic to the cultural significance of the building.



Details – viewing lawn

Actions

- Draw visitors into the Viewing Lawn and give it a new purpose through interpretation.
- Prune the *Osmanthus fragrans* front of the *Ginkgo biloba*. The Ginko is very slow growing and this is a mature specimen. It should be highlighted as a feature of the Garden. It is botanically unusual because it is a prehistoric coniferous tree with autumn foliage (from China and Japan).
- Remove the Magnolia that is blocking view over Gardens, if possible.
- Continue to maintain the Mulberry tree, fertilise and remove dead wood. Consider installing a root barrier to protect the retaining wall.
- Screen the adjoining property (originally the Swain family home)
- Plant the garden bed under the pergola
- Paint the garden seat around the pergola

5. North facing terraces

Actions

- Initiate planting design and review individual beds.
- Prune shrubs to reduce competition with the trees.
- Gradually remove Ficus from walls, and plant shrubs to the rear of the terraces such as espaliered Camellias.
- The terraces to the west of the central axis path require the shrubbery and mixed herbaceous planting to be kept to a more compact or characteristic individual form and to showcase the trees. Leave some areas overgrown to provide habitat for Bower Bird and other wildlife.
- Increase activities by introducing an additional lawn area on one of the smaller eastern terraces.



Opportunities for specialist planting to highlight details

6. Lower Gardens

Issues

- This area was once lawn and used for weddings, but the trees have grown and in response it is planted with shade-tolerant plants.
- The large round bed with the Deodar is planted on bedrock.
- The bridge over Shot Machine Creek has been obscured by tree ferns blocking vistas back to the Tank Stream stonework arch.
- Large trees are creating too much shade for the Camellias, which require morning sun.

Conservation

- Relocate bubbler and birdbath to a less obvious area.
- Relocate memorial plaque from the large bird bath to a less obtrusive position in paving either set flush or slightly raised and not visible from lawn.



Bubbler and birdbath to be relocated

Actions

- Clearly define each species of herbaceous planting (clump definition) and clean out straggly plantings to reduce visual confusion.
- Conserve the rings of bulbs around the trees. Remove/trim away competing plants.
- Continue to increase mulch depth.
- Investigate drainage to Deodar bed and monitor the tree for safety
- Initiate design to supplement width of long narrow east-west walk.



Clearly defined species without visual confusion

Plant material

Issues

- Mr Swain chose specialist plant species and rare or unusual cultivars, particularly for trees.
- Mr Swain was a Camellia enthusiast
- The Gardens are at their best in spring (blossoms) and autumn (Camellia flowers and leaf colours).
- The Gardens are a valuable botanical asset.
- The gardens are valuable for their scientific effort to acclimatise non-indigenous cold-climate trees to Sydney's warm temperate climatic condition.
- The perennial planting of the lower garden area was created voluntarily by Mr J. Trezise. His dedication and horticultural contribution, particularly in managing changing site conditions due to tree growth, is an important contribution to the history of the Gardens.

Conservation

- Keep the Gardens 'fairly bald' in line with documentary evidence on the original planting regime (allowing for the needs of wildlife).
- Where Mr Swain's choice of plants is unknown, choose
 1. Specialist tree species or rare/unusual cultivars suitable for site conditions;
 2. plants that were commonly used during the 1940s to 1960s; and
 3. plants that require low water usage.
- Promote the Gardens as a botanical collection:
 1. Provide information on botanical seasonal highlights for spring and autumn
 2. Label trees, include place of origin and botanical information that is of interest.
 3. Label Camellias and promote the Gardens as a showcase for Camellia cultivars.
- Plant more Camellias (they are moderately drought tolerant).
- Restrict the use of fashion-dictated plant material, such as mondo-grass which works well in the lower garden area but was uncommon during the time the Gardens were created.
- Maintain the lower garden as a perennial garden created by Mr J. Trezise.

Sustainability

- Design garden areas based on the irrigation drawing and select plants with very low water requirements in areas that the irrigation system does not cover. Elsewhere, chose plants with low water requirements, particularly small shrubs, groundcovers, and creepers.

Usage

- Promote the gardens as a walking experience, a place to come and admire the plant collections, particularly during Spring and Autumn. Mr Swain planted the best cultivars. Label the trees and include botanical information, produce a visitor brochure, or create an internet site for seasonal highlights – the flowering blossoms during spring and the tree's leaf colours and Camellia flowers during autumn.

Actions

- Arrange plants to highlight the soft curves of the garden beds, repeat plant species to create a rhythm between the terraces.

- Provide space around specimen trees by pruning tall shrubs that surround the trees.
- Maintain individual plant species in a compact and ordered form so that they make a clearly defined contribution to the overall composition. Where appropriate, ruthlessly maintain 'lines of' neatness.
- Prune shrubs where they conceal the form of trees.
- Replace trees as they deteriorate beyond reasonable condition and plant near to the original, retaining views and vistas.
- Develop a tree strategy that maintains a mixed age resource, replacing 1-2 trees a year.
- 'Directional' prune trees as required to maintain correct form.
- Select the best trees and highlight these to create focal points.
- Remove the Tree Ferns from the Gardens because they compete with the tree canopies and create a confused landscape character.
- Strengthen the unique characteristics of each garden area, rather than present a series of similarly planted spaces.



Prune shrubs so they do not compete with trees



Plant labels similar to this one from Everglades, but include botanical information for the trees such as country of origin and unusual characteristics



Remove tree ferns because they compete with tree canopies and Mr Swain planted specialist species that should be highlighted

Suggested plantings including new improved cultivars

Trees

Lagerstroemia indica 'Natchez' (white), 'Sioux Pink' (other new cultivars and the standard form)

Acer buegeranum

Gordonia axillaris

Magnolia soulangiana

Magnolia stellata

Magnolia 'Little Gem'

Magnolia grandiflora (dwarf cultivar)

Pyrus ussuriensis 'Red Spire' (also 'Chanticleer' (narrow form)

Prunus persica (flowering peach)

Ulmus 'Louis Van Houtte' (Golden Elm-needs protection)
Arbutus unedo
Fraxinus raywoodii
Michelia 'Bubbles' (and other small varieties)
Cupressus sempervirens 'Glauca' (Italian cypress - improved cultivar)
Juniperus 'Spartan'

Shrubs for sun

Spiraea lanceolata
Euonymus 'Albo-marginata'
Abelia grandiflora 'Nana'
Raphiolepis indica (sterile cultivars)

Shrubs for sun or shade

Buxus microphylla
Gardenia florida
Brunfelsia eximia
Viburnum 'Emerald Beauty' (mite-free form of *V. tinus* - great hedge)
Nandina domestica (good for sun and an amazing amount of shade, don't use N. 'Nana')

Ground cover light shade

Gardenia radicans
Ajuga reptans 'Jungle Beauty' (also 'Caitlins Giant')

Trachelospermum tricolour
Helleborus hybrids

Strappy Plants light to heavy shade

Liriope 'Evergreen Giant' (also 'Joy Mist', 'Samantha')
Ophiopogon 'Stripy White' (variegated) (also *jaburnum* & *jaburnum* 'Variegata')
Clivea (new cultivars)

Bulbs

Jonquil, Bluebells, Snowflakes

Flowering perennials

For sun: *Salvia* 'Mystic Spires' - 25 cm flowers blue most of the year
For hot, dry embankments: *Russelia equisetiformis* (red flowers) (also 'Lemon Falls')

Reliable Camellias

C. sasanqua 'Plantation Pink' (also 'The Creek'-(a white Plantation Pink and 'Jennifer Susan').

Risk management

Actions

- Manage the Gardens in a way that minimises risks to public, staff and the environment
- Establish process to identify long term issues and hazards and minimise risk
- Establish procedures to deal with emergencies.

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Mundy, Jane, *Old World Enclave*, Your Garden, August 1989

MASTERPLAN

This plan is a summary of the main areas of concern that are addressed in the document. Recommendations are conceptual and require detailed design work.

GENERALLY

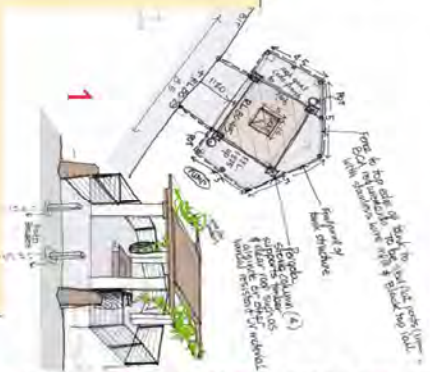
- SUSTAINABILITY/ECOCLOGY**
- Incorporate water sensitive urban design principles to ensure the health of the catchment – such as riparian zone planting and a sedimentation pond where Wombin Creek exits the Gardens
 - Implement the stormwater harvesting project
 - Implement sustainable horticultural practices at the Gardens
 - Select endemic plant species for the Reserves that will not overshadow the Gardens, and non-indigenous plant species for the Gardens that will not spread into the Reserves
 - Recycle waste

HERITAGE/CULTURE

- Strengthen the contrasting landscapes of the Gardens and adjacent Reserves which is integral to the experience of the landscape setting
- Maintain the Gardens in a manner that retains and preserves the original character
- Maintain the fabric in good condition and consult a qualified stone-mason with heritage expertise for advice on preserving stonework and consult an arborist to report on the condition of significant trees
- Update the 1992 species list
- Improve the sense of arrival – provide interpretative signage at Reserves and the Gardens with maps, walking tracks and its history
- Locate new developments at the old tennis court area in The Swain Reserve which is the place of least significance

SOCIAL /ECONOMIC VALUES

- Accept that social opportunities are restricted by the topography of the site, particularly disabled access throughout the Gardens
- Provide disabled parking in the Reserve at the entrance to the Gardens
- Restrict the use of the Gardens for recreational activities that are within the constraints the physical site and its cultural significance
- Promote the Gardens as a place of botanical displays, particularly in spring and autumn. Label Camellias and significant trees
- Promote the Gardens for activities that are related to the arts, such as open-air theatre, poetry readings and music recitals, also filmmaking, photography and formal functions such as weddings etcetera
- Provide the Garden Room/Viewing Lawn for hire by small groups such as gardening groups, book clubs, knitting/sewing circles, catered meals, etcetera
- Within the existing value framework of the Gardens, seek to improve accessibility throughout the Gardens to meet AS 1428 Design for Access and Mobility.



GARDEN PRECINCTS

- 1. THE SWAIN RESERVE**
Conserve 1920s sandstone elements and Giant Bamboo
Install water harvesting project with viewing platform and pergola
Provide disabled parking on site
Investigate steps from Stanhope Road
- 2. OLD TENNIS COURT AREA**
Establish identity as part of the Reserve
Restore remnant steps and resal path
Grade to edges and plant with shade tolerant turf.
Relocate existing pergola from the Gardens to this area
Investigate improved access to this area from proposed disabled parking bays.
- 3. TURPENTINE FOREST**
Regrade ground to smooth surface
Remove small trees if possible, plant Turpentine and several Angophoras
Transplant Birds Nest ferns and arrange in groups at the western edge.
Plant and encourage existing Maidenhair ferns to cover the ground
- 4. INTERFACE WOMBIN RESERVE AND THE GARDENS**
Develop boundary planting regime that will reinforce the contrasting aesthetics qualities of the Gardens and Reserves
Install sandstone entrance paving similar to The Swain Reserve
- 5. VIEWING LAWN AND GARDEN ROOM**
Develop the viewing lawn (adjacent to the garden room) for recreational use
Restore the garden bed/pergola
Conserve the garden room/garage including original colour scheme
Screen adjacent residence
- 6. NORTH FACING TERRACES**
Promote the use of the wedding lawn
Grass an additional terrace along the eastern boundary for recreational use
Remove bamboo to create 'windows' to frame the view, similar to Everglades.
Initiate planting design to highlight details such as small garden beds
- 7. LOWER GARDENS**
Retain current planting regime
Relocate bubbler and birdbath to a less obvious area
Clearly define each plant species

- PRECINCTS**
- Swain Reserve
 - Old Tennis Court area
 - Turpentine Forest
 - Lower Garden
 - Terraced Gardens



APPENDICES

Family history

Appendix A Henry Charles Maitland Swain and the bookshop

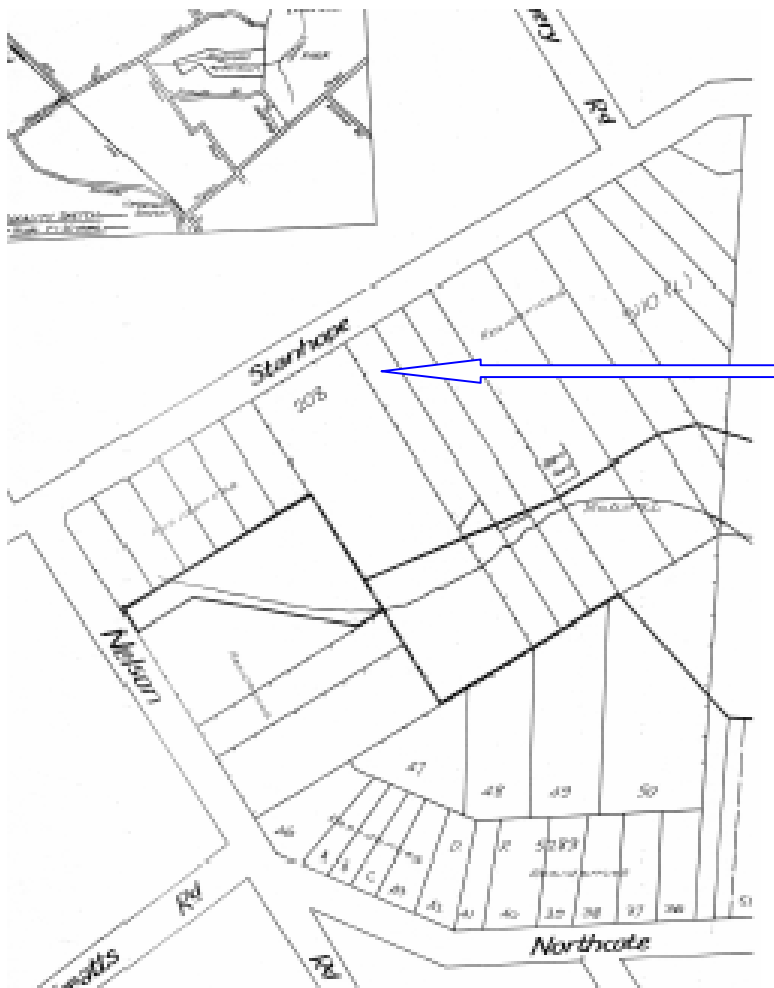
*Mr Swain's father, **Henry Charles Maitland Swain** was born in 1873. In 1895 he established H.C. Swain & Company bookstore that was primarily a family business. Henry Swain's son, Arthur Newling (known as Michael or Mick, d. 1973) became a principal and managing director of the store. Initially located in Moore Street, the business moved to 121, 123, then expanded to 119-123 Pitt Street, Sydney, and incorporated an art gallery and rare books division. The name also changed to Swain & Company Pty. Limited. The Everglades in the Blue Mountains was purchased as a company acquisition of Swain's in the late 1950s. In July 1960 Swain's merged with Angus and Robertson.*

Reference: Field Librarian's notes Sept. 2003 and internal evidence from papers.

The Swain Gardens

Appendix B Residential subdivision of Stanhope Road

This plan demonstrates the depth of the properties along Stanhope Road. Mr Swain lived at No 71 and purchased No. 75 and the the rear of No. 73 to create a large area that was amalgamated into Lot 12 and became The Swain Gardens.



No 71 The
Swain family
home.

Subject:
 -Improving the Inland Garden by 1.7 ha of bushland which was purchased
 by Swain Gardens Reserve Committee from the NSW Government in 1987.
 -A major project to create a garden in the Inland Garden area
 for inspection by 17th September, 1987.
 The property, and the 400 residence and a somewhat interesting stone
 house, - The land was originally part of a 17th century estate created
 by the first Lord of the Admiralty, Lord John Carteret who was created
 second Viscount, the year prior to 1847 being the Hon. John Carteret
 2nd Viscount of Greenwich, London.
 This land was purchased by the National Trust the property was owned by the Swain
 family and the main house was the 1st Marquess of Blandford.
 -The garden and terrace have been acquired from the Trust by Swain Gardens
 Council and is currently under restoration. The Swain Gardens
 Reserve has retained the design and landscape by Crompton.

SWAIN GARDENS

The Swain Gardens make an important contribution to the heritage of
 the Inland Garden as well as being a site of significant
 significance to the environmental heritage of the State.
 The Swain Gardens Reserve reflects the personal beliefs of the late
 Mr. George Swain, who had a special affinity for nature.

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED BY
1	Final Design, Inland Garden & Terrace - 1987/88	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
2	Final Landscape	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
3	Final Planting	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
4	Final Maintenance	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
5	Final Management Plan	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
6	Final Report	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
7	Final Summary	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
8	Final Appendix	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
9	Final Bibliography	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
10	Final Index	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
11	Final Glossary	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
12	Final Acknowledgements	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council
13	Final Cover Page	1987/88	Swain Gardens Council

Notes: The final design, landscape, and planting plans are attached to the
 report. The final maintenance plan is attached to the report. The final
 management plan is attached to the report. The final summary is attached
 to the report. The final appendix is attached to the report. The final
 bibliography is attached to the report. The final index is attached to
 the report. The final glossary is attached to the report. The final
 acknowledgements are attached to the report. The final cover page
 is attached to the report.

Appendix D
A broad outline of the History of the Swain Gardens 1990

A BROAD OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE SWAIN GARDENS

This land when under the care of its then owner the late Mr. Swain, was a very well kept and elaborately landscaped garden area noted for its extensive collection of camellias and magnolias. The property later to be known as The Swain Gardens was acquired by the late Mr. Anthony Swain to prevent its development and later given by him to The National Trust.

The site was originally natural bushland and part of an area which could almost be described as a rain forest and is well-known for its birdlife including lyrebirds. Mr. Swain (the owner of the property) felt that part of the land could be developed as a terraced area and that if it were planted with suitable trees and shrubs it could form a contrast with, and yet complement, the adjoining natural bushland. In developing the garden Mr. Swain set himself a goal which would have daunted most people and carried through the work he himself planned for it - the main work being done in the late 1940's - early 1950's.

The garden is of good soil in a sheltered spot with two slopes (one from Stanhope Road and one from Northcote Road) meeting in a gully which contains a small creek. The garden has been laid out with good taste and great care and expense. The work involved in developing the garden, has included driveways, a number of small access paths and bridges, a large amount of stone walling to retain and terrace the hillsides and an extensive water service in addition to the planting itself. A very pleasant garden room was also incorporated into the formal design.

Mr. Swain was in particular a camellia, azalea, rhododendron, crabapple, maple, magnolia and rose fancier and the garden's content and maintenance were of a high order. Mr. Swain employed the best available gardeners, stone-masons and tree surgeons and the garden was widely known and visited.

Adjoining the formal garden is 1.2 ha. of bushland situated on the north-east of the property and entered from Stanhope Road approximately opposite Kardella Avenue. This natural reserve was purchased by The National Trust in 1960 from funds made available by Mr. A.W. Swain. The Swain Natural Reserve Committee was formed and the Reserve was first open for inspection on 17th September, 1961.

The property and the old residence had a somewhat interesting history itself. The land was originally part of a Crown grant made towards the end of the nineteenth century. Since that time there have been various owners, the owner prior to 1942 being Mr. H. Green, at that time Librarian to the University of Sydney.

When purchased by The National Trust the property was named The Swain Gardens and The Swain Natural Reserve (in memory of Mr. H.C. Swain, founder of Swain & Co. Pty. Ltd.)

The garden and reserve have recently been acquired from the Trust by Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council and are currently being restored by Council to its former glory.

ENVIRONMENT DESIGN

13 JUL 1990

RECEIVED

Letter by Mr R. Burrows, Council Director of Parks, to the NSW Planning and Environment Commission, National Trust of Australia (NSW) 1977

NEW SOUTH WALES PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W.) LAND IN

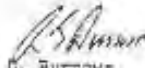
SEA HOPE ROAD, WILLARA

This land when under the care of its then owner, the late Mr. Swain, was a well kept and elaborately landscaped garden area noted for its collection of *Casulinas* and *Magnolias*. It was well known to *Casulina* enthusiasts and I knew the garden well during that period.

The land at present, and as inspected on 5th April, 1977, is in a most neglected and overgrown state, but not beyond redemption. I have notes yet made a detailed inspection of the former garden, but it is clear that much work will be required to bring the area to a standard approaching that of Council's more popular parks. However it has great potential and with very careful restoration work could once again be a show-place of the Municipality.

Recommended

1. That the Surveyor be asked to prepare a map of the area showing boundaries and ownership of adjacent land.
2. That a Parks Inspection be carried out or that a Parks Officer assess the area.


R. G. Burrows
Director of Parks

5th April, 1977
RGB:AM

1. The Town Clerk

ENVIRONMENT DESIGN
13 APR 1977
RECEIVED

Appendix F
Report on the condition of The Swain Gardens by Mr R. Burrows, Council
Director of Parks , April 1977

SWAIN GARDENS

There is in our municipality of Kuring-gai, an exotic walled and terraced garden of magnolias, camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and other treasures set in a valley surrounded by green bushland.

It is a garden that we in Kuring-gai should be very proud of and are very privileged to own.

As yet the general public know little about it because it was part of the private garden of the late Mr. Arthur Newling (Mick) Swain of Stanhope Road, Killara. Mr. Swain bequeathed the garden to the National Trust. Unfortunately after his death the Trust did nothing with it. Neglected for years, many of its plants lost, damaged by vandals and grossly overgrown with weeds, the ruined garden was given to Kuring-gai Council which last year formed a committee to direct its restoration and provided the finance to do it.

The committee is responsible for the garden of 3 to 4 acres and for the two Council reserves that border it - the Wombin Nature Reserve and the Swain Reserve.

Such a garden in such a setting is not likely to be built again. It is unique and it must never again be in danger of being destroyed by lack of care. Two gardeners work full time in the garden and in the reserves. Already much has been done but much more needs to be done.

The committee besides planning the restoration, does some work in the garden, mainly weeding. Members of the St. Ives Garden Club also spend some time once a month weeding 'their' particular garden beds. It is hoped that eventually the garden will be relatively weed free.

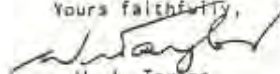
All garden clubs in Kuring-gai are being asked to participate in the restoration by helping with weeding (taking a garden bed under their care) or by helping to remove morning glory, etc, from the reserve or if they have a specialised knowledge of certain plants (e.g. camellias), give expert help in that direction.

An individual or a group from a club who could spend a pleasant couple of hours a month in the garden weeding, would be making a worthwhile contribution.

The Swain Gardens Committee invites your club to visit the gardens and inspect them. If you telephone Mrs. A. Bullen on 48 5286 and arrange a day, one of the committee members will be happy to show you around.

Then we hope some of your members will be as enthusiastic as we are and will want to be a friend to the garden and help it to grow to full beauty.

Yours faithfully,



W. I. Taylor
Town Clerk

On behalf Swain Gardens Committee

(1) Maintenance. The garden needs to be gradually improved by the removal of weeds and the planting of native plants and shrubs. The garden should be planted with native plants and shrubs. The garden should be planted with native plants and shrubs. The garden should be planted with native plants and shrubs.

(2) Public Access. The garden should be open to the public. The garden should be open to the public. The garden should be open to the public. The garden should be open to the public. The garden should be open to the public.

(3) Financial. The garden should be financed by the Council. The garden should be financed by the Council. The garden should be financed by the Council. The garden should be financed by the Council. The garden should be financed by the Council.

(4) Other. The garden should be managed by the Council. The garden should be managed by the Council. The garden should be managed by the Council. The garden should be managed by the Council. The garden should be managed by the Council.

R. G. Burrows
Council Director of Parks
19 May 1988

1. The Term

The term 'garden' is defined as a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers.

2. The Garden

The garden is a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers.

3. The Garden

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4. The Garden

The garden is a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers.

5. The Garden

The garden is a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers. The garden should be a plot of land which is used for the growing of plants and flowers.

RECEIVED
10 JUL 1988

Appendix G
Report by Council Director of Parks, Mr. R. Burrows, 19 May 1988
The Swain Gardens Killara. Page 2 of 2

(10/10/88) (10/10/88)

THE SWAIN GARDENS

Maintenance of the Garden

1. It is noted that Council, in launching the maintenance costs of the garden, have pointed to the report of (10/10/88) (10/10/88) of which is attached.

2. It is estimated that at current rates of pay, staffing of the garden for ordinary working days would cost Council \$26,000.00 per annum.

3. These figures are based on the salaries of (1) leading hand Carpenter and (1) gardener. It is suggested that Council would wish the garden to open to the public and be staffed by (1) man on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays for the protection of Council's assets. This would cost Council \$7,000.00 per annum at the (10/10/88) rates of pay.

4. Equipment, materials, fertiliser, insecticides, fungicides and pesticides for the first year of maintenance are estimated to cost \$1,000.00.

5. Summary on yearly maintenance costs: \$27,000.00 per year and \$700.00 per year thereafter.

6. Please note. The above figures do not include costs for bricks and labour limited in the removal of unwanted material and services of a tree guy when required as it is presumed that such services would be available to this garden with other Council maintained parks and gardens. Maintenance Costs for First Year \$27,000.00

7. It is proposed that the buildings within the garden (bushes and gardeners' store area) are adequate and in satisfactory condition as both will be required.

8. It is proposed that the existing water service is in working order.

9. Council will wish to consider security of its assets. It suggests to Council that this is not the type of garden to be left to the

COMMITTEE
CONCURRED / / /

10. It is not clear at this stage from which points, or points, access for pedestrian traffic should or could be provided in - Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills.

11. It is not clear at this stage from which points, or points, access for pedestrian traffic should or could be provided in - Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills.

12. It is not clear at this stage from which points, or points, access for pedestrian traffic should or could be provided in - Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills.

13. It is not clear at this stage from which points, or points, access for pedestrian traffic should or could be provided in - Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills, Baulkham Hills.

R. G. Burrows
Director of Parks
19th October, 1977
K2212

14. This (10/10/88)

Appendix H

Transfer from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to the Council of the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai. Page 1 of 2

One
day of

A DEED is made the
expressed five hundred and seventy-ninth BETWEEN THE NATIONAL
TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (THE SOUTH WALES) A body corporate constituted
by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) Act being
Act No. 10 of 1969 of New South Wales, Sydney in the State of New
South Wales hereinafter called "The National Trust" of the one
part AND THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KU-RING-GAI, COUNCIL
Chambers, Gordon in the said State (hereinafter called "The Ku-
ring-gai Council") of the other part

WITNESSETH

A. The National Trust is the owner of

(i) Swain Reserve on Stanhope Road, Killara being
the lands described in the First Schedule herein;

(ii) The land described in the Second Schedule
herein which lands substantially consist of lands
devoted to The National Trust as a reserve by
the late Mr. R. M. Swain.

B. The National Trust proposes to dedicate to The Ku-
ring-gai Council the lands described in the First
and Second Schedules hereto and The Ku-ring-gai
Council has agreed to accept the dedication on the
terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned.

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:-

1. The Ku-ring-gai Council, for itself, its successors
and assigns hereby covenants with The National Trust

(a) The area to be dedicated to The Ku-ring-gai Council
other than Lot 11, Deposited Plan 601545 shall be
named by The Ku-ring-gai Council as "The Swain Gardens"
and are hereinafter so named.

1- 111, 200
RECEIVED

(b) The Ku-ring-gai Council shall, from a date to be determined by the Council, maintain the Swain Gardens in perpetuity for the benefit of the public as a park or reserve.

(c) The Ku-ring-gai Council shall cause the name of the Swain Gardens to be permanently and prominently recorded with The National Trust as the public benefactor of the Swain Gardens in a position in The Swain Gardens open to easy view by the public.

(d) The Ku-ring-gai Council shall reasonably maintain the Swain Gardens in order and condition suitable for a reserve of park to which the public has access.

2. The Ku-ring-gai Council shall transfer to Dr. Bryan Lot 11 in deposited plan 601545 free of cost to the Transferee except for reasonable legal and survey expenses the said Lot shall be consolidated with No. 10A Heyburn Road, Lindfield, the present zoning of the said Lot shall not be altered.

3. The Ku-ring-gai Council agrees with The National Trust to pay all legal costs, disbursements in relation to this Deed, the subdivision and any dedication.

4. The Ku-ring-gai Council agrees with The National Trust that The National Trust may maintain a caveat against the title of The Swain Gardens in respect of its interest in The Swain Gardens as set forth in this Deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Deed on the day and year first herebefore mentioned.

Appendix H
 Transfer from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to the Council of the
 Municipality of Ku-ring-gai. Page 2 of 2.



The task of The Swain Gardens 530A Committee

-2-

TASK OF THE SWAIN GARDENS 530A COMMITTEE:

Including the Swain Gardens 530A Committee, Council accepted the advice of the Director of Parks, on 14th October, 1941:

- (i) The Committee should be composed of people who have a deep interest and knowledge of ornamental horticulture. For this reason, the members of local horticultural and garden clubs would appear to be ideal.
- (ii) The Committee members must be prepared to undertake the physical work required to restore the gardens. A Committee which does not have the necessary resources and the means of handling, organising and supervising to Council would be futile.
- (iii) Any Committee must work within the broad objectives of assisting and maintaining the Gardens according to their original character, that is, a Spring garden in the English style. Council should be careful to ensure that the character of the gardens is not altered by the introduction of plants such as natives.

On 14th October, 1947 Council resolved (amongst other things), as follows:

"That a Swain Gardens 530A Committee be established in care for the Swain Gardens."

The phrase "...to care for..." is the only statement embodied in a resolution, which refers to the task of the Committee.

On 16th October, 1941, the Director of Parks prepared a budget report for Council (dealing with the Swain Gardens) in which he said:

- 1. The basic objectives should be threefold, as follows:
 - a. To restore the garden as near as is reasonably possible to the style and character envisaged by its original developer.
 - b. To maintain the garden in that style and character.
 - c. To ensure that public access to, and appreciation of, the garden is retained, and that the maintenance and expenditure of the two previous objectives is not jeopardised in so doing.

In the debate that followed, no disagreement with either objective was voiced, and they can therefore be regarded as having Council's tacit approval.

It is essential that the task of the Committee be identified, stated explicitly, and confirmed by resolution for the same reason and of Council. Experience indicates that if this is not done, committees have difficulty in functioning due to the inevitable differences of opinion that later arise.

13.10.1950
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Appendix J
Restoration of The Swain Gardens letter to residents

Park Stanhope Swain TBR/EB 30th August 1981

DEAR RESIDENT,

RESTORATION OF THE SWAIN GARDENS

On 15th October 1981, Council formed a Committee comprising three Aldermen and nine residents of the Municipality who have the necessary expertise to restore the Swain Gardens.

The Committee's objectives are :

1. TO restore the Swain Gardens as near as is reasonably possible to the style and character envisaged by its original developer.
2. TO maintain the Swain Gardens in that style and character.
3. TO ensure that public access to and appreciation of the Gardens is maximised, provided that attainment and maintenance of the two previous objectives is not jeopardised in so doing.
4. TO incorporate the restoration and maintenance of the adjoining areas of publicly owned reserves with the Swain Gardens.

The Committee seeks your support and co-operation in fulfilling its objectives by ensuring that exotic plants or garden clippings are not introduced to the Swain Gardens and surrounding reserves.

Yours faithfully,

W I Taylor
W. I. Taylor
Town Clerk
k

ENVOYED 10 JUL 1981
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THE GARDEN ADVISORY SERVICE

1021 4952707

The main question is whether the present situation is suitable for recreation in the former city centre. It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth.

It would be a good idea to bring back to the former beauty should be placed according to general principles.

More analysis.

Excellent system of walkways through the site. It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth.

MARGARET DUNSTAN • SUE MONTGOMERY, 4411 • ANNE THOMPSON, 6114



THE GARDEN ADVISORY SERVICE

1021 4952707

It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth. It is a public by-product of the city's growth.

Facilities for users

Toilet - one only not maintained at a satisfactory level. Other Benches. Obviously new toilet will be required before built and the inclusion of litter bins throughout.

Some of the concrete paths have problems with water backing up and possibly these should be laid out in a way to avoid this. It is a public by-product of the city's growth.

MARGARET DUNSTAN • SUE MONTGOMERY, 4411 • ANNE THOMPSON, 6114



THE GARDEN ADVISORY SERVICE

T.H.

(02) 448 5767

Humana

None.
 Lighting could increase the usefulness of the garden if musical fountains during summer months.
 Investigate lighting structures compatible with keeping with style of garden. eg Classic English, Modern, style over wall → railway boundary.

WATER
 Well supplies with top filling throughout garden.
 Problem would be the colour intensity of freshwater - lifting hoses etc over water large area.
 Investigate an irrigation system especially one on an automatic timer.

Veteranals.
 Style of the garden typical of many odd climate gardens. Remnants of the English garden.
 Plants of many European trees and shrubs should thrive in the protected microclimate.
 Below list many of them.

- Wagelia Wilford
- Myrica scaberrima
- Myrica grandiflora
- Quercus alba
- Olea palmatum
- Camelia japonica
- Camelia sasanqua



THE GARDEN ADVISORY SERVICE

T.H.

(02) 448 5767

Vegetation

- Jacaranda mimosifolia
- Cactus species
- Prunus bilheroma
- Prunus persica
- Juniperus species
- Hibiscus species
- Myrica sylvatica
- Wisteria excelsa
- Cactus atlantica 'Gianta' (dead)
- Hibiscus 'Apple Blossom'
- Ficus elastica
- Cactus libani
- Sapinum sublanum
- Colocasia species
- Faxodium dissectum
- Acer negundo 'Discolorata'
- Eucalyptus scoparia
- Olea negundo
- Chamaecyparis species
- Gryllus crista galli
- Protonotaria species

- Shrub
- Hydrangea species
- Oxalis
- Melaleuca species
- Chamaecyparis species
- Eucalyptus japonica
- Quercus japonica
- Hemera paniculata
- Viburnum species
- Isolera species
- Rosa
- Fuchsia japonica
- Cerastium stricta
- Nandina domestica
- Camellia japonica
- Banana
- Blue Bell Scilla
- Geranium
- Saxifraga

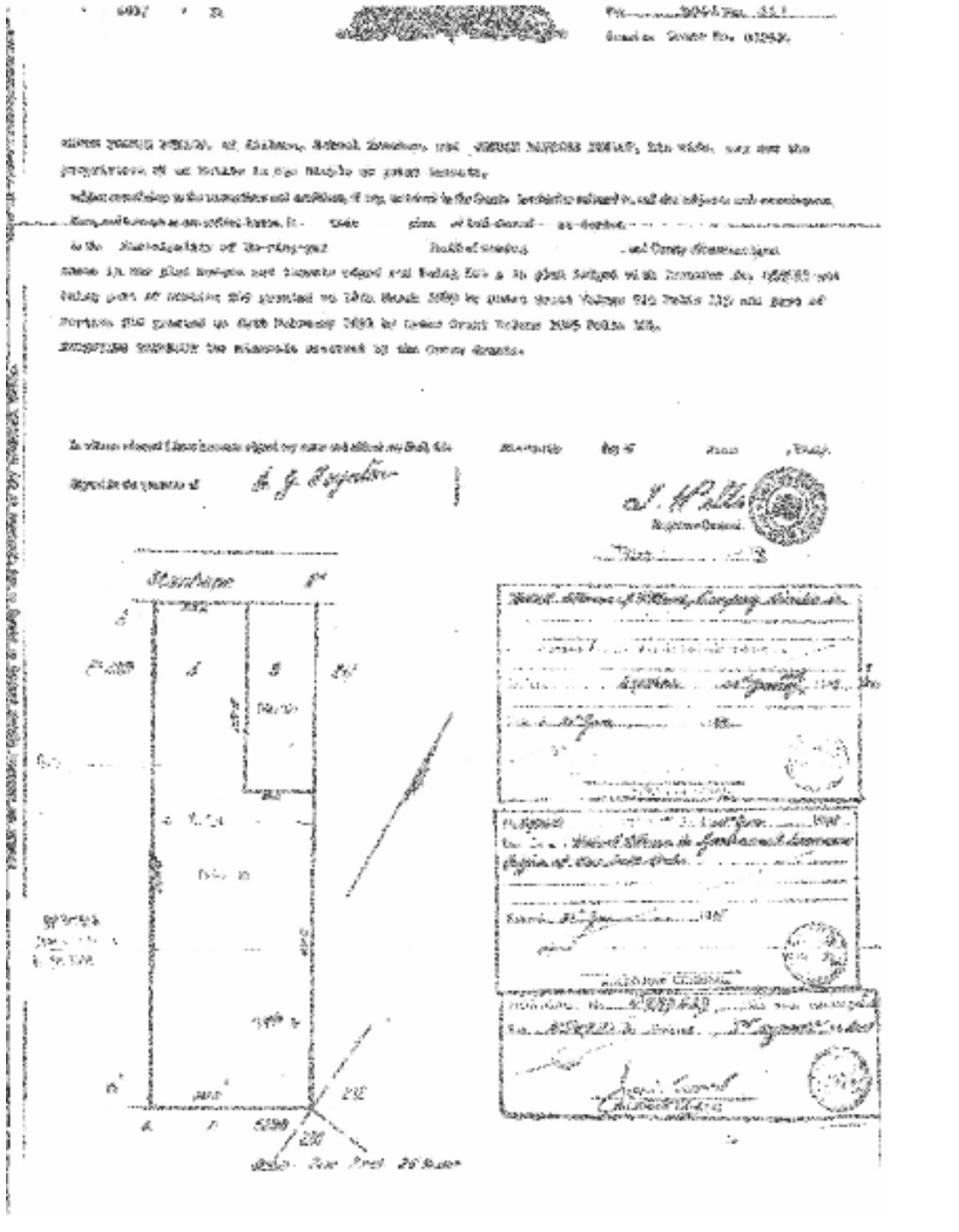
MARGARET DUNSTAN • SUE MONTGOMERY, MAJ • ANNE THOMSON, MAJ

MARGARET DUNSTAN • SUE MONTGOMERY, MAJ • ANNE THOMSON, MAJ

Swain Reserve


Appendix L

Title Deed – transfer of Lot A Stanhope Road from St Ives Development Pty. Ltd. to the National Trust 1960. Page 1 of 2.



Appendix L

Title Deed – transfer of Lot A Stanhope Road from St Ives Development Pty. Ltd.
to the National Trust 1960. Page 2 of 2.

<p><i>St. Ives Development Pty. Limited is</i></p> <p>now the registered proprietor of the land within described.</p> <p>See TRANSFER No. <i>1154912</i> dated <i>2nd November 1957</i></p> <p>Entered <i>3rd August 1960</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i> REGISTRAR GENERAL</p>	
<p><i>National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) is</i></p> <p>now the registered proprietor of the land within described.</p> <p>See TRANSFER No. <i>1569378</i> dated <i>24th August 1960</i></p> <p>Entered <i>25th November 1960</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i> REGISTRAR GENERAL</p>	
<p>REGISTERED PROPRIETOR <i>The Council of the Municipality of</i> <i>Ku-ring-gai by Transfer S192435 Registered 8-12-1980</i></p>	
<p><i>[Signature]</i> REGISTRAR GENERAL</p>	

NATIONAL TRUST RESERVE - KILLARA
USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

McCormack
L. B. ...

MEMORANDUM
TO: Mr. G. J. ...
FROM: Mr. G. J. ...

RE: NATIONAL TRUST RESERVE - KILLARA

1. SUMMARY

(a) There are enough trees - only shrubs and smaller plants are required to provide the desired amount.

(b) Most of the area is subject to excessive waterlogging and drying; but should be able to tolerate some of the following species and lack of direct sunlight.

This is an all-weather factor when the consideration is the suggested list of plants that follows; the area is shown as "A".

(c) The natural boundary on the eastern boundary which slopes to the drainage channel provides a high degree of shade, but so the plant material quite good drainage from the area would be substantially better and essential protection from frost and wind.

It is suggested that initially plantings should be confined to within a few feet of the lower fringe of the timber. Access paths may be considered later and additional plantings near them. Incidentally, these paths should be made across and not down the contour to prevent soil erosion.

This area is marked "B".

(d) There is a more open space to the east of the easement which has been in an outcrop of rock a short distance from the tennis court. In the main features are reasonable drainage and do not sunlight. It is marked as area "C".

(e) Immediately in front of the tennis court is a high level platform which is the resting area for players using the court. This area is well drained and sunny and is marked "D".

(f) In front of (e) is a sloping bank across the house and on the left walking towards the court. This area is subject to sun and shade at different times of the day and contains a number of rock ledges no doubt of varying depth (no tests made). It is shown as area "E".

The area between the outcrop of rock mentioned in (d) and (f) is low-lying and at the present is used for burning etc. As yet it is not ready for cultivation and is therefore not mentioned in this plan.

2. DETAILS

(a) In view of the general aspect and shade throughout the area it is suggested that the plants should be selected until September or October. No growth would be made and the small plants could be set back by being practically "only" during the winter months.

3. COMMENTS

(1) Mr. G. J. ... advised Mr. ... was preparing a colour scheme for the eastern part of the cottage and would also like to have some native plants.

It was agreed this work should commence about late June or early July.

(2) It was decided to make stone steps for the sloping bank near the entrance.

(3) Mr. ... was instructed on the work to date and it was agreed no further plants would be taken out at present except in the ways etc. The importance of it being a natural bushland area was stressed.

(4) It was decided to recommend to Trust Executive that the Official Opening be about mid September 1961, with a dinner tea by Women's Committee and possible inspection of certain nearby gardens as well as Mr. ...

(5) Clearing of paths to be done during August.

(6) Installation of garden seats and notices - to be considered later. The Secretary reported the phone was contacted (JMS/95) and a Victoria was had been purchased.

(7) Mr. ... was advised to liaise with Mr. ... on the planting of native shrubs etc.

NOTE: Attached herewith please find copy of report from Mr. ... in selecting shrubs thought must be given to types providing food for birds.

I. P. ...
1000-1000-1000
22-5-61.

(d) It is recommended that only small plants be purchased. Plants which are generally prove unsatisfactory. Any in exposed positions can be protected in this manner by a single improvised shelter.

(e) Hand-water—don't cultivate with a fork.

(f) Keep young plants damp - NOT wet. As they grow stronger let them feed for themselves but do not allow to "dry-out".

(g) As a general rule trim after flowering as necessary.

(h) Plants are sometimes subject to normal insect infestation. I use "bug-bee" for normal leaf-eating and making holes and a mixture of "Diazinon" and white oil to prevent scale and aphid. However, other agricultural sprays can be used according to directions.

(i) The whole principle of planting in this type of garden is to plant backwardly and not in any manner of ordered regularity.

3. COME.

The average small plant will cost between 2/6 and 4/6. Recommended nurseries are:

Bushwood Bros, of Epping (listed native supply).

Blackshaw Nursery Brisbane, N.S.W. (the largest range in Australia).

Floraland Nursery, Karingal, via Gosford.

4. PLANT STRUCTURE.

AREA A.

Bottlebrushes -

Melaleucas -

(b) It is recommended that only small plants be purchased. Plants which are generally prove unsatisfactory. Any in exposed positions can be protected in this manner by a single improvised shelter.

(c) Hand-water—don't cultivate with a fork.

(d) Keep young plants damp - NOT wet. As they grow stronger let them feed for themselves but do not allow to "dry-out".

(e) As a general rule trim after flowering as necessary.

(f) Plants are sometimes subject to normal insect infestation. I use "bug-bee" for normal leaf-eating and making holes and a mixture of "Diazinon" and white oil to prevent scale and aphid. However, other agricultural sprays can be used according to directions.

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Blackshaw Nursery Brisbane, N.S.W. (the largest range in Australia).

Floraland Nursery, Karingal, via Gosford.

4. PLANT STRUCTURE.

AREA A.

Bottlebrushes -

Melaleucas -

Leptospermum (Tree tree)
Lept. squarrosus (syn. L. scogersianum var. parvifolium)
Lept. parvifolium
NOTE: The hybrid tree leaves occasionally green and are NOT recommended.

Myrtles - Green Myrtles.
Drosera pinnatifida - Charcoal Red and Green Fragrant (var. lutea) - Reddish
Fluvidula var. - Yellowish.

Woodrubiaceae plants - Large headed Christmas Bell - plant in groups at E down or east.

AREA B.

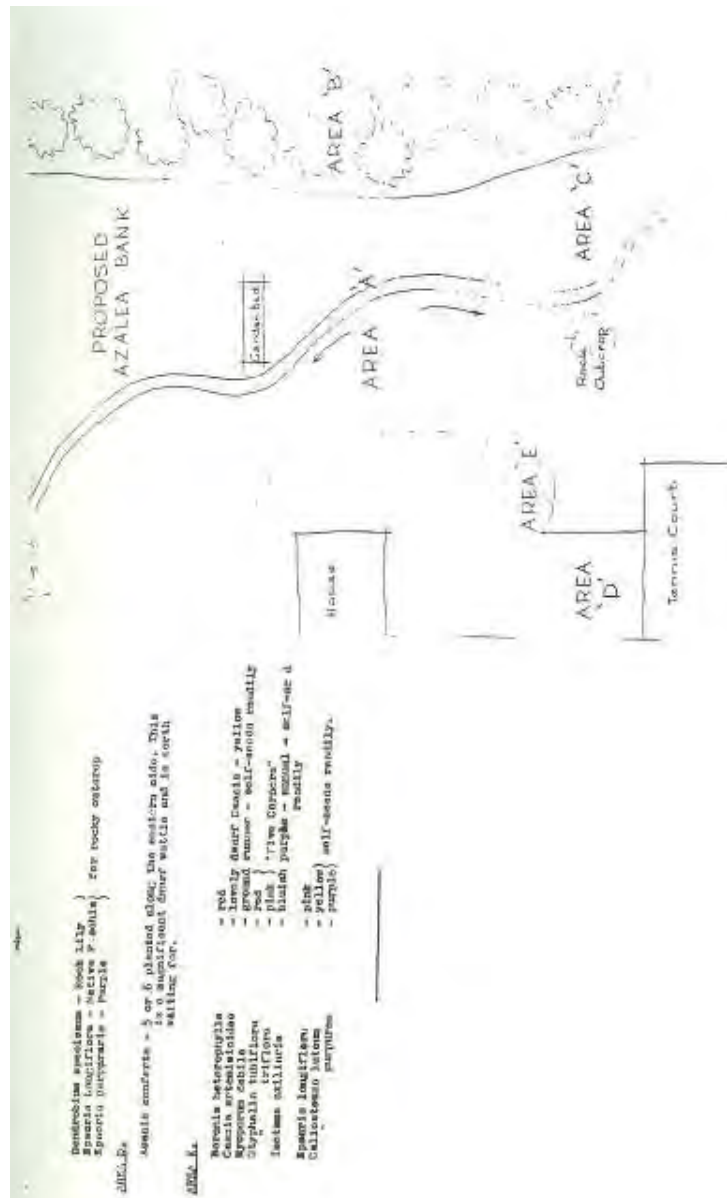
Scritonum myrtilloides - white
stems (lyg. Crepus saligna) - pink.

Prostanthos lineata
Prostanthos
Prostanthos
Prostanthos
Prostanthos
Prostanthos - Dwarf Mint Bushes - mostly purple
Myrtles -

Myrtles - Red
Myrtles - Pink
Myrtles - Pink (this one is highly recommended because conditions are so local habitat. Need to get).

Myrtles - Purple
Myrtles - Pink
Myrtles - Orange and red
Myrtles - Reddish brown - very
Myrtles - red
Myrtles - red, and prostrate.
Myrtles - very sp. pink.
Myrtles - red
Myrtles - purple
Myrtles - very from N.E.
Myrtles - lovely dwarf bottle brush from N.E. of Killara.

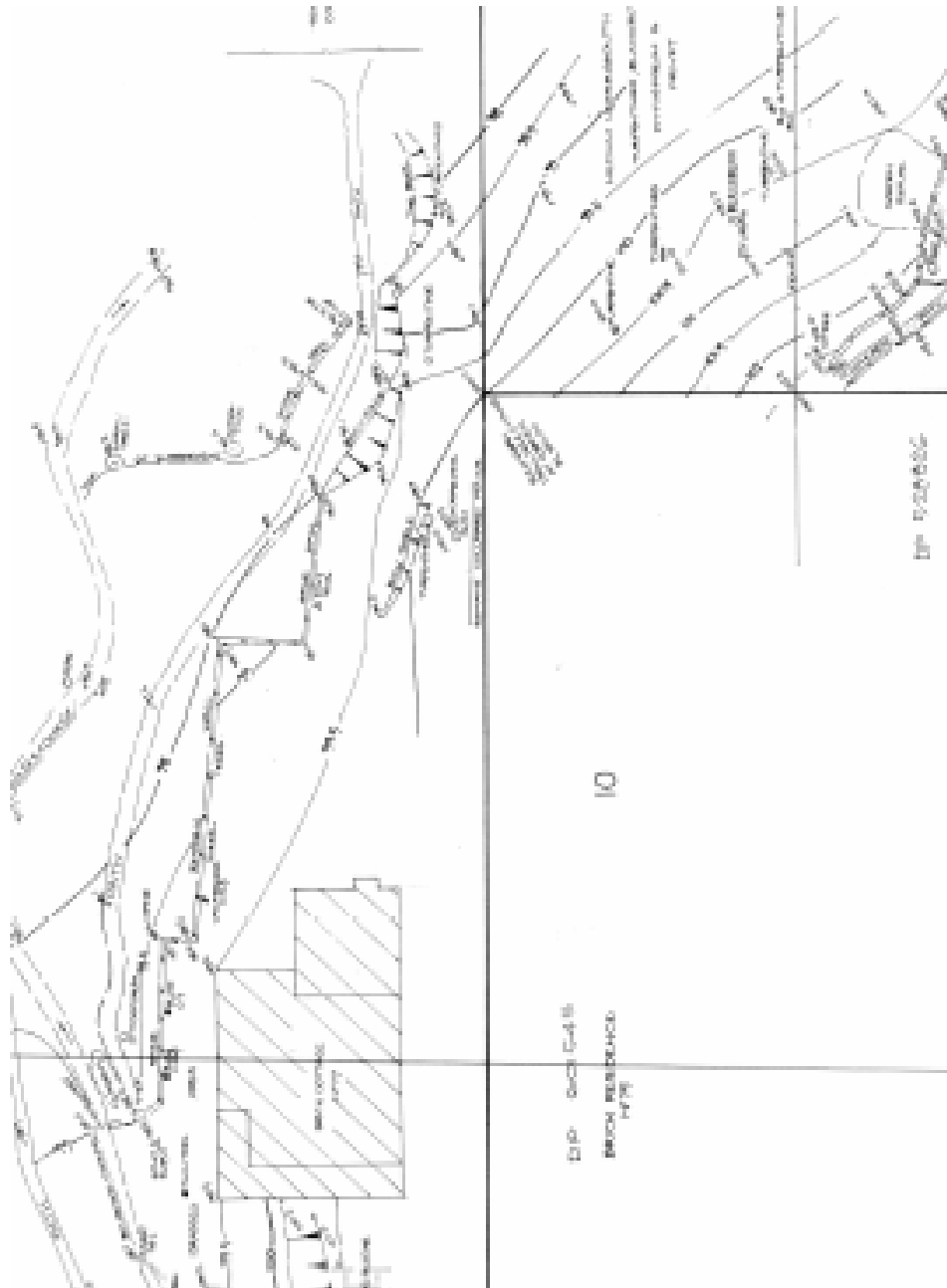
Myrtles - pink and white
Myrtles - orange and red
Myrtles - reddish brown - very
Myrtles - red
Myrtles - red, and prostrate.
Myrtles - very sp. pink.
Myrtles - red
Myrtles - purple
Myrtles - very from N.E.
Myrtles - lovely dwarf bottle brush from N.E. of Killara.



Appendix N

The Swain Reserve, Council survey for proposed vehicular access from Stanhope road dated 28 October 1982

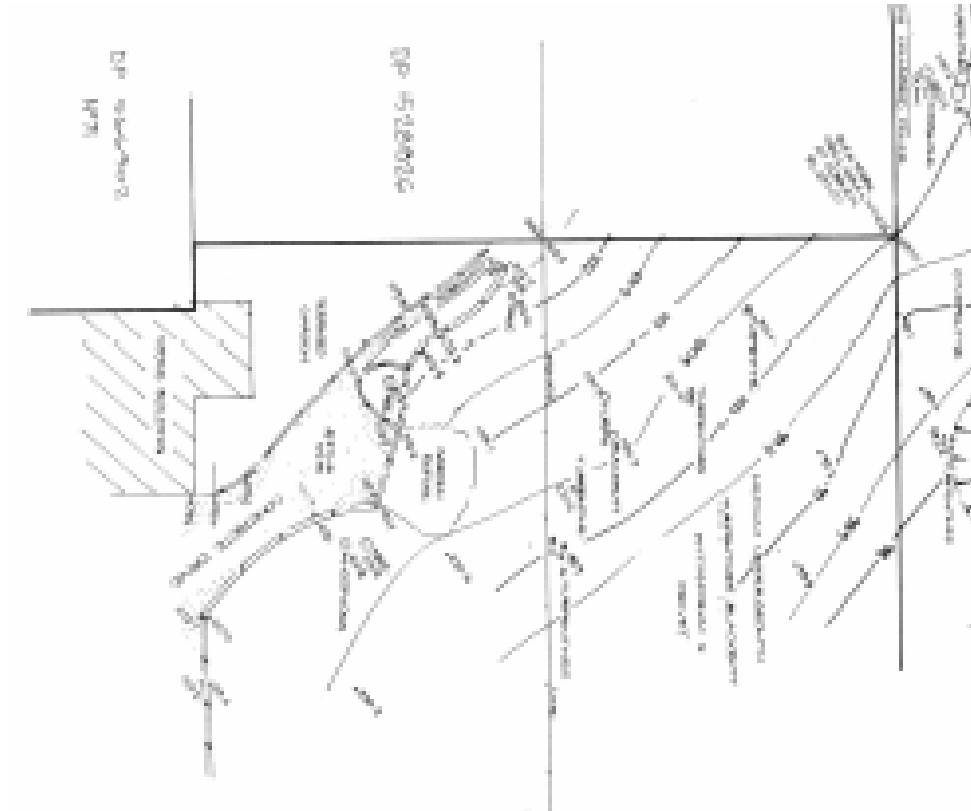
Showing the location of the original stone paths and retaining walls



Appendix O

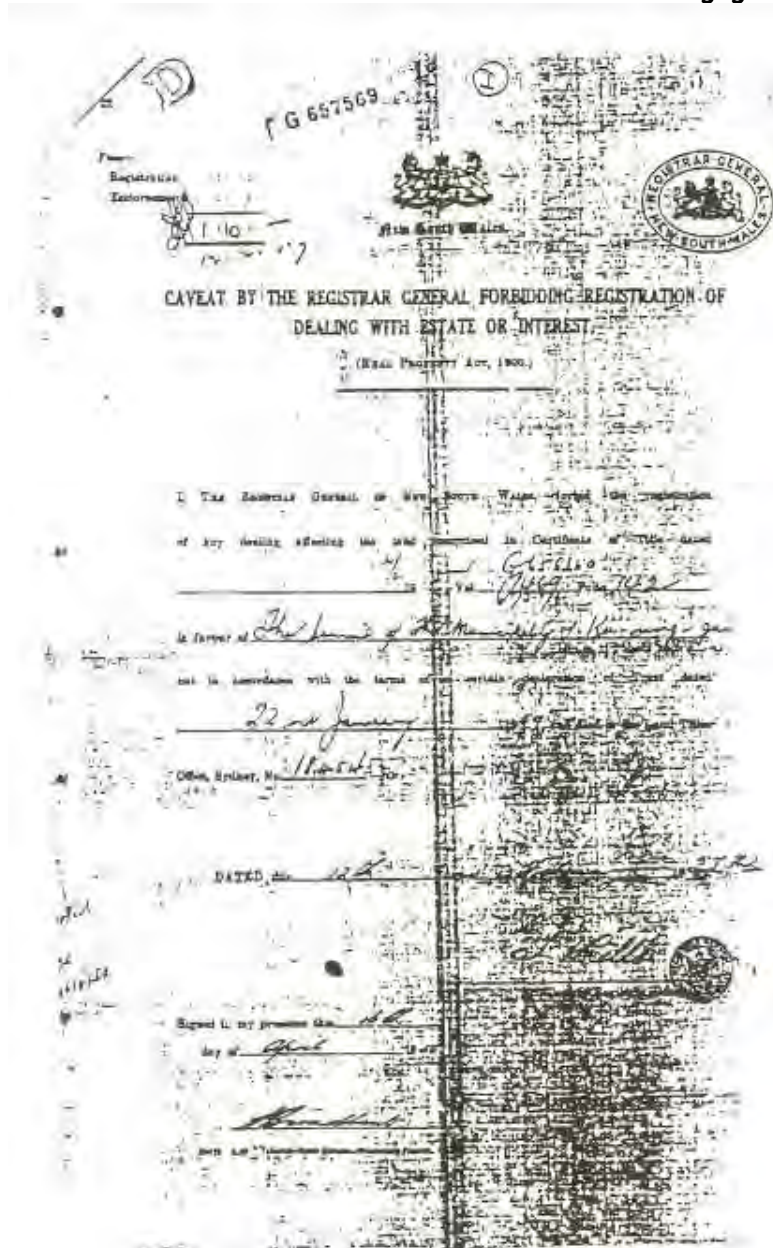
The Swain Reserve, Council survey for proposed vehicular access from Stanhope road dated 28 October 1982

Showing the original concrete drive and turning area to the garage and, the turpentine forest planting.



Wombin Reserve

Appendix P Deed between E J Bryce and The Council of the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai. Page 1 of 3.



Appendix P
Deed between E J Bryce and The Council of the Municipality of
Ku-ring-gai. Page 2 of 3.

...dicate from the same trees or shrubs of Privet, Camphor Laurel,
... Multi-flora and other non-native trees and shrubs which shall
be or may become pests or may detrimentally affect the growth and
development of Australian native flora growing on the said land and
to keep in check the growth of Pittosporum trees thereon.

4. While not restricting access to the said land by members of the
public the Council shall take all reasonable steps and measures to
insure that the said land shall not be used for a playground or
picnic ground or for other purposes or in a manner which might result
in or cause the destruction of or damage to the Australian native
plants and bird life within the same.

IN WITNESS whereof the said Ernest John Bryce hath hereunto sub-
scribed his name and affixed his seal and the Common Seal of the
Council of the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai hath hereunto been affixed
the day and year first hereinbefore written.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

ALL THAT piece of land containing an area of about 1 acre
372 perches situated at Killara in the Municipality of Ku-
ring-gai Parish of Gordon and County of Cumberland being
the land shown in the plan annexed to Memorandum of Transfer
bearing date the twentysecond day of January 1957 from
the Settler to The Council Dealing No. G 616660 and
being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title
Registered Volume 6750 folio 3.

SIGNED SEALED and DELIVERED

by the said ERNEST JOHN BRYCE

Ernest John Bryce

in the presence of:

John G. Maddox
Solicitor Sydney

THE COMMON SEAL of THE COUNCIL
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KU-
RING-GAI was hereto affixed by
Resolution of the Council on the
Thirty-first day of January
1957.

WITNES

L.S.

H. L. Griffiths
TOWN CLERK.

A. N. Campbell

We, the undersigned Clerks to Messieurs Dowling Taylor Pratt & Nicol
of Wingellie House, Angel Place, Sydney, Solicitors, hereby certify
that the writing contained above and on the one preceding page is a
true copy of the original Declaration of Trust the same having been
examined therewith by us this fifth day of February in the year One
thousand nine hundred and fifty seven.

Felicity H. Newman

M. J. Sandrett

Appendix P
Deed between E J Bryce and The Council of the Municipality of
Ku-ring-gai. Page 3 of 3.



Appendix Q
Transfer of Lot 5 from the State Planning Authority to Council

Peery, Glasgow, 188.
(1-5)

STAIRCASE ROAD 5/12/2008

In clause 3.537 adopted on 14th December, 1973, Council agreed to Lot 5, 87-87B1107, Staircase Road, under which under his own control and enjoyment in accordance with the provisions of clause 30 of the Council of Districts Planning Scheme Schedule.

Clause 30 provides that the State Planning Authority, with the consent of Council, place any land reserved for public and recreational areas, for the use and enjoyment of the public, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be determined by Council.

It has been notified in the Government Gazette of 10th January, 1971, that the land described has not been placed under the care, control and management of the Council.

The land is fully described as that piece or parcel of land situate in the Municipality of Burdett, Parish of Gordon, and County of Cook, being Lot 5, in Deposited Plan 457107, containing an area of 4 acres 388 perches or thereabouts, and more part of the land in Certificates of Title, volume 1100, folios 111, and volume 1100, folio 112.

L. Whelan
Local Clerk
10th March, 1971.
JML:W

E. Whelan
10th March, 1971
RECEIVED

Garden descriptions from newspapers and magazines

Appendix R

Treize, J. L., *Swain's Garden, Killara*, Garden Journal, Dec 1985

Garden
Journal

DECEMBER 1985

Swain's Garden, Killara

by J.L. Treize

Walking along the carefully tended front gardens of Sydney's North Shore suburb, Killara, you may almost bypass the signs inviting you to enter an area of parkland and flowering reserve, introducing itself as Swain's Garden.

You would not expect that, right amidst that wealthy residential area, such an extensive piece of land — about three-and-a-half acres — could have remained set aside for the public's recreation, a charming oasis set in the middle of a luscious green environment.

The community is the beneficiary from the garden's founder, Arthur Newling (Mick) Swain, well-known in Sydney as the owner of one of the city's leading bookshops (now incorporated under the flag of Angus and Robertson). He and his charming wife, Alma, bought their Stanhope Street residence in 1928, greatly attracted by the wide sweep of natural bushland at the rear. Mick Swain was an ardent amateur photographer and was keenly interested in bird life, so he decided that this was the right place for the family settlement. He himself had not yet realised how his new possession would also bring out his talents as horticulturist and landscape gardener.

In years to come, he bought up more and more of the adjoining grounds as viewed from his back verandah, which meant more and more structural innovations. When he stopped working in his shop on Friday night he had to get ready for his home work over the week-end. He certainly had help from gardeners and stonemasons, but as the brain centre of all the major operations he had no remission from his duties. Under his directions a bridge had to be built across the creek right on the slope nearest his home; he used for it stone retrieved from the Tank Stream during excavations carried out beneath his shop in Pitt Street, next to the Angel Arcade.

All these developments took quite a few years, and it was not until the late 1940s and early 1950s that his dreams had turned into reality. A comfortable Garden Room was built, the headquarters of Mick Swain's favourite pursuits. He could indulge himself as photographer as well as ornithologist, but by then he also had become a proud horticulturist, keeping a watchful eye on the splendour of his plantings.

For a man without professional training, it is remarkable that he succeeded in laying out a garden with such spectacular effects and views. Focal points are several cedars which attract the eye from different angles across the beds. A stunning variety of camellias, including *reticulatas* (at present being catalogued by the Camellia Society), interspersed with magnolias and prunus provide colour in winter and spring. Autumn tints have a rich source in Japanese maples, several Ginkgos and Nyssas.

When the land on the eastern side of the garden was about to be sub-divided for housing, Swain provided funds so that



it could become a reserve instead. The garden now lies tranquil and hidden, almost a secret garden, enclosed by the sheltering green of bushland reserves.

As Mick Swain wanted his treasured garden preserved in all its magic, he bequeathed it in its entirety to the National Trust. He died in 1973, not suspecting that his decision was not to work out in the way in which he had intended. To maintain an estate of this kind requires the loving care of a parent nearby and, what is more, a parent ready to fork out for enough working hands — conditions which could not be met by the National Trust which, after several years, abdicated and handed its precious ward over to Ku-ring-gai Council.

It was soon realised that the task of keeping Swain's Garden in its accustomed manner exceeded the available local government facilities; goodwill and active co-operation from the community was required to supplement the upkeep. This was an inspiring challenge and soon enthusiastic volunteers rallied round in this worthwhile task.

The neglect of the years in between was not easily rectified, and also the organization of helping hands was not a problem that could be solved overnight.

By now, a promising new phase has been reached, and in fullest co-operation with the Council everything is set to restore Swain's Garden to its former glory and to invite all citizens to enjoy the delights which Mick Swain had intended for them.

Caroline Etches finds enchantment under the shade of an old mulberry tree,
Northern Life (date unknown).

NORTHERN LIFE

A guide to events, arts, fashion, entertainment, gardening, food and real estate on the northside

Caroline Etches finds enchantment under the shade of an old mulberry tree.




An oasis in Killara called

SWAIN GARDENS

THERE is a green oasis called Swain Gardens in the midst of suburban Killara. The small gully of less than one and a half hectares at 77 Stanhope Road is a botanist's dream of exotic trees, plants and flowers and a haven for native birds and small animals.

The gardens are owned by Ku-ring-gai Council and are open to the public free of charge, but they began as private grounds in the early 1930s.

Mr Arthur Newling Swain, a bookseller in Pitt Street, loved trees and was an enthusiastic birdwatcher. He started planting his gardens purely for pleasure. They became an absorbing hobby and, as he grew older, he wanted them to be enjoyed by nature-lovers in the district.

Above, the secretary of the Swain Gardens sub-committee, Mr Jack Trezise, admires one of the brilliantly flowering herbaceous borders at the Swain Gardens. The committee ensures that the gardens are well maintained and would like to see more people enjoy the tranquillity to be found in the verdant Killara valley.

Left, delicate ferns frame a creek bed. A bridge in the garden was built from rock walling taken from Sydney's Tank Stream.

Right, a rustic pathway of stones weaves between the oldest trees. "Walk quietly ... and you begin to feel a fairylike quality ...".

quested career. Attended with loving devotion by one man during his lifetime, they nearly disintegrated into a wilderness ~~from his death in 1971.~~ It was devotion of Mrs Ann Bulken, who created the Friends of Swain Gardens several years later, that they were saved. She was the group's first chairperson.

An enthusiastic sub-committee, led by Mrs Mary Haynes of Roseville with Mr Jack Trezise, a professional gardener from Kirribilli, ensures that the garden is well maintained and publicised.

The committee works closely with Ku-ring-gai Council. The council's new director of parks, Mr Robin Grimwade, plans to catalogue the plant and tree varieties, introduce new species and redesign parts of the gardens to reduce maintenance.

Swain Gardens contain all the features of a traditional garden. They have a sundial, a bird-bath, colourful herbaceous borders, rose beds, large leafy trees for shade, stone steps and subtle views.

Walk quietly along the winding stone pathways beside the creek and you begin to feel a fairylike quality that is part of the atmosphere of a well-loved garden. An old mulberry tree drapes its branches over Mr Swain's Garden Room. Children who visit the gardens believe elves lurk in the old tree's gnarled and knotted branches.

"We want everyone to know about our gardens," says Mrs Haynes. "They are an ideal setting for weddings or social functions. There is no charge but donations are accepted for charity."

The two entrances are from Stanhope Road and Nelson Road.



THE SWAIN GARDENS

SINCE 1986 ARE OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY
THE KU-RING-GAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
AND CONSERVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ARTHUR NEWLING SWAIN

THE COUNCIL IS GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA
IN FRANKING DESIGNATION OF THE AREA

W. TAYLOR
1986

Arthur Swain was the well-known Sydney bookseller of Swain's Bookshop fame.

Dedication by the original owner and volunteers throughout the years have established the Swain Gardens as an important heritage landscape.

Garden Heritage

Pictures and Text by JACK TREZISE

Without the care and dedication of voluntary workers many of the lovely old gardens of Australia would not be seen by those of us today and would be forever lost to those that come after. We all owe a great debt to such people. Swain's Gardens is only one of the many such treasures to be found both in our cities and out in the harsher conditions of the 'country'.

GARDENSCENE — JUNE, 1986

Somewhere, there must be a clear dividing line between the terms "garden" and "park". Personal ownership alone would not suffice to define the distinction nor would the size of the area be a reliable pointer. As we understand it, a park exists for the benefit of the public as visitors, which means that any design must bear in mind such wider aspects.

The band of voluntary helpers, endeavouring to restore Swain's Garden in Sydney's Northern suburb Killara to its pristine glory, constantly watch their steps to make their individual horticultural preferences conform to these demands.

The three and a half acres, situated between Stanhope and Nelson Streets, were originally the property of the late Mr Arthur Newling Swain, a well-known Sydney bookseller. He developed the area in the late 1940s and early fifties, with generous use of both labour and money. Though not a trained horticulturist, his taste in selection and layout deserves the highest praise and admiration. He had good reason to be

15



Above: Mature trees and comfortable walking paths are a feature of Swain's Gardens.

Garden Heritage

proud of his achievement and wanted his efforts to benefit the community, hence he bequeathed the garden to the National Trust after his death.

Problems in administration and financial handling made the transfer to Ku-ring-gai Council necessary after a few years of comparative neglect. The excessive demands of the task have now proved too much, even for this very sympathetic authority and additional hands become an imperative need. A committee, working in close co-operation and consultation with the Council is now intent on replanting the various beds, curbing over-exuberant growth and shaping the vistas in keeping with the original concept.

Among the existing plantings is a fine specimen of *Cupressus macrocarpa* "Aurea Saligna", which makes a beautiful picture, when viewed across the valley in which the garden nestles.

Numerous magnolias, including mature trees of *Magnolia liliflora x soulangeana*, variety "Alexandrina" and also several plantings of *Magnolia stellata* make a spectacular show in late winter and early spring.

Winter colour is also provided by simple camellia plantings, both japonicas and reticulatas. Unfortunately, names have been lost of many varieties,

but they are gradually identified, as they are coming into flower. Among those already listed are: Hanafuki, Lady Loch, a very large plant of Jean Lyne.

An informal avenue of *Prunus campanulata* has been made a feature in the centre of the garden. In addition, there are both crabapples and flowering plums which extend the flowering season until later in the spring, when the rhododendrons take over.

An attractive landmark gracing the scenery is a stone bridge, crossing the quaintly named Shot Machine creek. The material used in its construction was excavated from underneath Swain's bookshop in Sydney's Pitt Street, as it was retrieved from the historic Tank Stream. There it stands now, surrounded by large Japanese maples which colour brilliantly in autumn.

In the lower section of the garden, at present still rather bare, before long there will spread out a carpet of daffodils and bluebells. Furthermore a large iris bed is going to unfold its joyous tones in that corner.

As the garden is bordered on two sides by native reserves, the area provides an ideal haven for bird life of great diversity. With a bit of luck, a visitor may even enjoy the rare spectacle of a lyre bird.



A creek flows through the gardens encouraging moisture-loving trees and ferns.

JUNE, 1986 — GARDENSCENE







Left: Spring in the Swain garden with
rhododendron, gardenias and camellias.
 Above: *Argemone* through protected by
rose bush.
 Below: Mt. *Pinus persica*



30 gardeners, *Stenandrium* and
Lobelia altered the landscape to Mick
 Smeaton's own design.

A small bridge constructed across
 the creek uses stone retrieved from
 Smeaton's Tank Stream during exca-
 vation carried out beneath the Pitt
 Street bookshop. Many would have
 considered the task of transporting it
 some 200m up the North Shore (possi-
 bly difficult but Mick's commitment to
 authenticity and atmosphere would not
 allow such a small obstacle to stand in
 his way.

His basic plantings remain intact
 with *taxus canadensis*. After 40 years,
 the conifers, including *Chamaecyparis
 ulmifolia* 'Chippel' (spoken: hanki-
 yesset), *Thuja plicata* and *Podocarpus
 decussatus* are well established, with the
 west of the collection a magnificent

Microseris glyptosporoides (now
 redwood) rising some 25m.

Magnolias are well represented. The
 evergreen *M. grandiflora*, and the de-
 ciduous *M. liliflora* and *M. liliiflora*
 'Nigra', and *M. stellata* all enjoy the
 rich acid soil of the area, and, because
 the deciduous varieties are protected in
 the gully from hot and strong winds,
 they retain their leaves well after
 bright new green spring leaves appear.

Several huge maples, which turn
 color brilliantly in autumn, make a wide
 canopy under which spring flowering
 bulbs thrive, forming a border to a
 small, soft lawn of perennial eye grass.

Some large *Jacaranda* herald sum-
 mer with a startling splash of colour.
 They're at their best, many say, after a
 dry winter. There is an *Erubateria
 laevigata* (bignonia), loved by parrots but

not by those who fear its fruit may provide a winter harbor for fruit-fly larvae, and a knotty old mulberry with its black and juicy late-spring fruits the scourge of any playground.

The garden was originally known for its camellias and rhododendrons. The 50 or more different camellia varieties include many *C. reticulata*, and in the last year, more than 100 additional rhododendrons have been planted. These include 50 specimens of *Rhododendron vireya*, bred by a Wollongong nursery especially for the temperate conditions of Sydney and featuring a wide range of colors, shapes and flowering periods.

The garden took a decade to complete and, when he wasn't selling books, it totally absorbed Mick Swain's imagination. So committed was he to preserving his oasis from intrusion that he purchased an adjacent property, threatened by a proposed housing development, in order to secure its privacy. On his death in 1973, Mick Swain bequeathed the entire garden to the public.

The task of maintaining the garden proved to be beyond the resources of its guardians, the National Trust, and it became derelict and overgrown. It was eventually transferred to its new custodians, Ku-ring-gai Council, who now manage it with the help of a voluntary committee.

Committee president Mary Haynes says the breakthrough came when the local council agreed to make a permanent, full-time gardener available to look after the garden. John Jaja's efforts in restoring the garden to its former glory have been appreciated by all who have visited it since.

Because of the sloping terrain, the garden has always needed maintenance. Drainage has always been a problem. Heavy winter rains in Sydney recently flooded the creek and run-off constantly threatens to erode walls and cement paving. Topsoil is easily washed away and there is a running battle to control privet invasion from the adjacent bushland.

The garden needs a lot of fertiliser, mostly mushroom compost, and loads of it go on all the exhibition beds, especially the rose gardens. Swain Garden has two main rose beds and a third which is home to a rare collection of 'historic' roses, varieties bred 100 years ago, such as moss roses and the heavily perfumed tea roses.

The garden committee secretary, Mr



Jack Trezise, a former nurseryman in both Melbourne and Sydney, is an expert on perennials who had a frustrated desire to create his own perennial border. His involvement with the garden has enabled him to fulfil his wish, and the result is a wonderful mixture of *Helleborus orientalis*; Italian aster, *Aster amellii*; Japanese anemone, *Anemone hupehensis*; bonfire salvia, *Salvia splendens*; the crepey, poppy-like *Romneya coulteri*, and statice, *Limonium sinatum*.

Bulbs, including *Iris japonica* and *Iris sibirica*, as well as some annuals, such as primulas and violas, add color to spots where shrubs are not yet established and around grassed areas where people picnic or simply sit to take in the peace and beauty.

With help from Lions clubs and from camellia and orchid societies and a number of sympathetic garden clubs, the Swain Garden committee has worked hard for the preservation of this unique garden. Their reward is to see it today much as its creator, Mick Swain, would have wanted it to be — a charming and fascinating cottage-style garden, faithfully restored as a gift to all those who love gardens.

The Swain Garden is at 77 Stanhope



Top: *Prunus* and *primula* sparkle in the spring light
 Above: A stone-edged pathway leads to the pergola

Road, Killara. It is open seven days a week during daylight hours, and although on a slope, it is not demanding, even for the elderly. For those more energetic, a comfortable two-hour bushwalk from the east side of the garden will take you to the Roseville Bridge.

The committee is always in need of more keen garden helpers. If you are interested, please phone Jack Trezise on (02) 92 7421.

Swain Gardens Plan of Management 1992

Appendix V Plant survey

Much of the plant material has altered over the years and this list is not necessarily Mr Swain's choice of plant material.

Evergreen trees

1. *Acacia elata* – Cedar Wattle
2. *Acacia melanoxydon* – Blackwood
3. *Angophora costata* – Sydney Red Gum/Smooth Barked apple
4. *Arbutus unedo* – Irish Strawberry Tree
5. *Bambusa arundinacea* – Giant Bamboo
6. *Banksia serata* – Old Man Banksia
7. *Brachychiton acerifolium* – Illawarra Flame
8. *Callioma serratifolia* – Black Wattle
9. *Callistris sp.* – native conifer
10. *Allocasuarina torulosa* – Forest Oak
11. *Cedrus deodora*
12. *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* – NSW Christmas Bush
13. *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Crypsii'
14. *Cinnamomum camphora* – Camphor Laurel
15. *Cupressus sp.*
16. *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Aurea Saligna'
- 16 a. *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Swane's Golden'
17. *Cupressus tetragona* 'Aurea'
18. *Cyathea cooperii*. Coin Spot Tree Fern
19. *Dicksonia antarctica* – Soft Tree Fern
20. *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* – Blueberry Ash
21. *Eucalyptus sp.*
22. *Eucalyptus gummifera* – Red Bloodwood
23. *Eucalyptus pilularis* – Blackbutt
24. *Exocarpus cupressiformis* – Native Cherry
- 24a *Gordonia axillaris* – Gordoniaia
25. *Hymenosporum flavum* – Native frangipanni
26. *Magnolia grandiflora*
27. *Metrosideros excelsa*
28. *Pittosporum undulatum*
29. *Syncarpia glomulifera* – Turpentine
30. *Syzygium paniculatum*
31. *Thuja orientalis*
32. *Thuja plicata*
33. Unidentified – possibly *Laurus sp.*
34. Unidentified

Deciduous trees

35. *Acer palmatum* – Japanese Maple
36. *Acer palmatum* possibly Dissectum
37. *Acer sp.*
38. *Aesculus hippocastanum* – Horse Chestnut
39. *Alnus sp.*
40. *Betula pendula* – Silver Birch
41. *Betula pendula* standard form
42. *Erythrina variegata* (sny. Indica – Coral Tree
43. *Ginkgo biloba* –Maidenhair Tree
44. *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
45. *Lagerstroemia indica* – Crepe Myrtle
46. *Liriodendron tulipifera* – Tulip Tree
- 46a *Liquidambar styraciflua* – Liquidambar
47. *Magnolia denudata*
48. *Magnolia liliaflora* –Nigra’
49. *Magnolia soulangeiana*
50. *Magnolia stellata* – Star Magnolia
51. *Malus floribunda* – Crab apple
52. *Malus ioensis*
53. *Malus purpurea* – Purple Crab Apple
54. *Morus nigra*
55. *Prunus campanulata* – Bell Flowered Cherry
56. *Prunus cerasifera?* (purple leaf, white flower)
57. *Prunus mume?* (apricot flower)
58. *Prunus persica* – Peach
59. *Prunus yedoensis* – Cherry
60. *Prunus sp.* Weeping Cherry
61. *Prunus sp.* (white flower)
62. *Taxodium distichum* – Swamp cypress or
Metasequoia glyptostroboides
63. *Ulmus procera* ‘Louis van Houlte’ – Golden Elm
64. Unidentified (Crab Apple or Plum)
65. Unidentified

Evergreen shrubs

- S1 *Abutilon megapotamicum* ‘Variegatum’ (?)
- S2 *Artemisia abrotanum* – Old Man, Southernwood
- S3 *Ardisia crispa* – Coral Ardisia
- S4 *Aucuba japonica* ‘Variegata’ – Gold Dust Plant
- S5 *Azalea indica*
- S6 *Azalea kurume*
- S6a *Azalea sp.*
- S7 *Buddleia sp.* – Butterfly Bush
- S8 *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Suffruticosa’ – Edging Box
- S9 *Camellia japonica*
- S10 *Camellia reticulata*
- S11 *Camellia sasanqua*
- S12 *Camellia sasanqua* (espaliered)

S12a	<i>Coleonema pulchrum</i> 'Nanum' – Dwarf Diosma
S13	<i>Coprosma kirkii</i>
S14	<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.
S15	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>
S15a	<i>Cuphea micropetala</i> – Cigar Flower
S16	<i>Daphne odora</i> – Winter Daphne/Sweet Daphne
S17	<i>Datura suaveolens</i> – Angels Trumpet
S18	<i>Dodoneae triquetra</i> – Hop Bush
S18a	<i>Epacris</i> sp.?
S18b	<i>Eranthemum pulchellum</i> – Blue Sage Bush
S19	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i> – Spindle Bush
S20	<i>Eupatorium megalophyllum</i> – Mist Flower
S20a	<i>Fatsia japonicus</i> – Aralia
S21	<i>Fuchsia arborescens</i> – Tree Fuchsia
S22	<i>Gardenia augusta</i> 'Florida'
S23	<i>Hebe</i> sp.
S24	<i>Hibiscus rosa sinensis</i> 'Apple Blossom'
S25	<i>Hypericum</i> sp. – St John's Wort
S26	<i>Jasminum mesneyii</i> – Primrose Jasmine
S27	<i>Lonicera</i> sp. – Honeysuckle
S27a	<i>Monstera deliciosa</i> – Fruit Salad Plant
S28	<i>Murraya paniculata</i> – Mock Orange, Orange Jessamine
S29	<i>Nandina domestica</i> 'Nana' – Sacred Bamboo
S30	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i> – Sweet Osmanthus
S31	<i>Pieris japonica</i> – Lily of the Valley Bush
S31a	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i> – Leadwort
S32	<i>Pyracantha</i> sp. – fire Thorn
S33	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>
S34	<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.
S35	<i>Sambucas nigra</i> – Elderberry
S35a	<i>Solanum mauritanum</i> – Tobacco Tree
S36	<i>Streptosolen jamesonii</i> – Orange browallia
S37	<i>Strobilanthes anisophyllus</i> – Goldfussia
S38	<i>Tibouchina urvilleana</i> dwarf form
S39	<i>Tibouchina heteromalla</i> – Lasiandra/Glory Bush
S40	<i>Vitex trilobum</i> – Cranberry Viburnum
S40a	unidentified

Deciduous shrubs

S41	<i>Aloysia triphylla</i> – Lemon Scented Verbena
S41a	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> 'Japonica'
S42	<i>Exochorda racemosa</i> – Pearl Bush
S42a	<i>Forsythia</i> sp.
S43	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>
S44	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>
S45	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> – Mock Orange
S46	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i>
S47	<i>Punica granatum</i> – Pomegranate
S48	<i>Rosa</i> sp. – Rose bush
S49	<i>Spiraea</i> 'Anthony Waterer' Pink Flowering cotoneaster
S50	<i>Spiraea cantoniensis</i> – May Bush
S51	<i>Spiraea thumbergii</i>

S52	<i>Stachyurus praecox</i> – Early Spiketail
S53	<i>Virbunum burkwoodii</i> – Burkwood Virburnum
S54	<i>Virbunum plicatum</i> – Japanese Snowball Bush
S55	<i>Weigelia sp.</i>
S56	unidentified

Strap leaf shrubs

S56a	<i>Bambusa sp.</i> Common Bamboo (Gold/green stem, light yellow foliage)
S57	<i>Cordyline stricta</i> – Erect Palm Lily
S58	<i>Nandina domestica</i> – Sacred Bamboo
S58a	<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i> – Gynea Lily

Perennials

P1	<i>Acanthus mollis</i> – Oyster Plant
P2	<i>Alocasia indica</i> – Elephants Ear
P3	<i>Anemone hupehensis</i> – Japanese Wind Anemone
P4	<i>Anemone japonica syn. hupehensis</i> – Wind Anemone
P5	<i>Arctotis hybrida</i> – Aurora Daisy
P6	<i>Artemisia sp.</i> ‘absinthium’ or ‘lactiflora’ – wormwood
P7	<i>Aspidistra elatior</i> – Cvast Iron Plant
P8	<i>Aster sp.</i> – Easter Daisy
P9	<i>Campanula sp.</i> – Canterbury Bells
P10	<i>Canna generalis</i> – Canna
P11	<i>Cheiranthus semperflorens</i> – Perennial Wall Flower
P12	<i>Chrysanthemum frutescens</i> – Marguerite Daisy
P13	<i>Chrysanthemum maximum</i> – Shasta Daisy
P14	<i>Cococasia esculenta</i> – Taro
P15	<i>Crassula portulaca</i>
P16	<i>Crinum moorei</i>
P16a	<i>Ctenanthe lubbersiana</i> – Bamburanta
P17	<i>Dahlia imperialis</i> – Tree Dahlia
P17a	<i>Dianella sp.</i>
P18	<i>Fuchsia corymbiflora</i>
P18a	<i>Fuchsia hybrid</i>
P19	<i>Gamolepis chrysanthemoides</i> – Marguarite Daisy
P20	<i>Gazania hybrida</i>
P20a	<i>Geranium sp.</i>
P21	<i>Hedychium flavum</i>
P21a	<i>Helleborus sp.</i> – Winter Rose, Christmas Rose
P21b	<i>Heuchera sp.</i> – Coral Bells
P22	<i>Justicia carnea syn. Jacobinia carnea</i> – Brazillian Plume Flower
P23	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i> – St. John’s wort
P24	<i>Lavendula sp.</i> – Lavenda
P25	<i>Mesembryanthemum sp.</i> – Pig face
P25a	<i>Osteospermum sp.</i> – African Daisy
P26	<i>Pelargonium spp.</i> – Geraniums
P27	<i>Penstemon sp.</i> (prostrate habit)
P28	<i>Plectranthus australis</i> – Spur Flower
P29	<i>Plectranthus oertendahlii</i> – Brazilian Coleus
P30	<i>Plectranthus parviflorus</i> (grey leaf)
P31	<i>Rosmarinus lavandulaceus</i> sny. R. prostrates. (prostrate form)

P32	<i>Salvia sp.</i> – Sage
P33	<i>Salvia sp.</i> – Tree Sage
P34	<i>Salvia sp.</i> – Sage
P34a	<i>Salvia leucantha</i> – Mexican Bush Sage
P35	<i>Stachys byzantina</i> – Lamb’s Ears
P36	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> – Arum Lily

Strap leaf perennials

P37	<i>Agapanthus orientalis</i>
P38	<i>Clivia miniata</i> and <i>C. robusta</i>
P39	<i>Hemerocallis sp.</i> – Day Lily
P40	<i>Iris germanica</i> – Bearded Iris
P41	<i>Iris kaempferi</i> – Japanese or Higo Iris
P41a	<i>Iris laevigata</i> (pale blue flower)
P42	<i>Iris louisiana</i> – Louisiana Iris
P43	<i>Iris unguicularis</i> syn. <i>Stylosa</i> – Algerian Iris
P43a	<i>Iris xiphium</i> hybrid – Dutch Iris
P44	<i>Liriope muscari</i> – Liriope
P45	<i>Ophiopogon japonicum</i> syn. <i>Liriope japonica</i> – Mondo Grass
P46	<i>Ophiopogon sp.</i> – Giant Mondo Grass

Ground covers

G1	<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> – Maidenhair Fern
G2	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
G3	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> – Spider Plant
G4	<i>Convolvulus mauritanicus</i> – Moroccan Glory Vine
G5	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
G6	<i>Duchesnea indica</i> – Wild Strawberry
G7	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
G7a	Ferns
G8	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>
G9	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> – Fishbone Fern
G9a	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i> – Buttercup
G10	<i>Tradescantia albiflora</i> – Wandering Dew
G11	<i>Vinca minor</i> – Small Leaf Periwinkle
G11a	<i>Viola hederaceae</i> – Native Violet
G12	<i>Viola odorata</i> – English Violet
G13	<i>Viola sp.</i> – Parma Violet

Climbers

1	<i>Vicus pumila</i>
2	<i>Ipomoea indica</i> – Morning Glory
3	<i>Jasminum polyanthum</i> – Pink Jasmine
4	<i>Rosa banksii</i> – Yellow Banksia Rose
5	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>
6	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> ‘Alba’ – White Flowered Chinese Wisteria

Bulbs

B1	<i>Narcissus spp.</i> Daffodils and Jonquils
B2	<i>Scilla peruviana</i> – Peruvian Lily
B3	<i>Leucojum vernum</i> – Snowflake

**Appendix W
Planting plan**

Appendix X

Plantings by Jack Trezise, a former nurseryman and secretary of The Swain Gardens Committee.

Perennials

Helleborus orientalis
Aster amelisis
Anemone hupeinensis
Salvia splendens,
Romneya coulteri
Limonium sinatum

Bulbs:

Freesias
Daffodils
Ranunculus
Grape Hyacinths
Iris japonica
Tritonias.

Appendix Y Community Consultation

Consultation included meetings with The Friends of Swain Gardens, discussion with local residents, and members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. An Open Day for the Masterplan was held on site on Saturday 16 June and ten residents attended.

Resident feedback

Friends of Swain Gardens 12 March, 2007

Open Day with local residents on 16 June, 2007

The main activities undertaken at the Gardens/Reserve

- Passive recreation
- Picnics/barbeques x 3
- Walking x 5 – enjoying the scenery, admiring the beautiful plants and meandering paths, reading on the carefully placed benches.
- Social functions – children’s parties (x2), weddings (x2)
- Informal play - Children playing hide and seek, searching for the bower bird.
- Children exploring
- Morning tea with children in rotunda

Activities that you would like to be available

- No more activities
- Garden walks identifying the plants
- Girl guides use
- Garden fair
- School garden encouragement days
- Jazz concerts
- Encourage more local community groups to visit the Gardens/Reserve to raise community awareness for its future survival
- We love the Gardens just as they are – they are a peaceful, tranquil haven, an oasis away from the crowded, busy city-life.
- More rubbish bins, discretely placed and aesthetic – regularly emptied.
- Consider an inclinor like Hornsby’s Lisgar Gardens
- Advertise our flowering displays etc, in the Council column
- Label/ tag important trees and plants; number and map the Gardens layout

- Bring in school working groups and TAFE horticulture students to work on the Gardens seed bed and features
- Jack Trezise's book on the Gardens provided a tagged system of locating plants and trees in the Gardens

Activities that you would not like to see happening at the Gardens or Reserve

- Activities involving HUGE numbers would take away the marvellous feeling of being able to 'drop out' in a super local garden
- Nothing too loud or intrusive
- I do not like the fact that some of the neighbours bordering Wombin Reserve have 'extended' their boundaries into the Reserve ... dogs from private homes wander freely in and out of the reserve...
- I wish that dog owners would not remove the leashes from their dogs the moment they enter Wombin Reserve --- I do not want it to become an official 'off-leash' area although it virtually is already.
- I would not like cars be able to drive in.
- I would not want crowds of people at once since this sometimes results in damage to the Gardens and creates lots of litter.
- Mass meetings/ rock concerts
- Off-leash dogs
- Night barbeques
- We would like them to be heritage listed and a wildlife sanctuary (especially for birds) echidnas, water dragons. Maybe there should be some signs about this, especially for dog owners.

Values

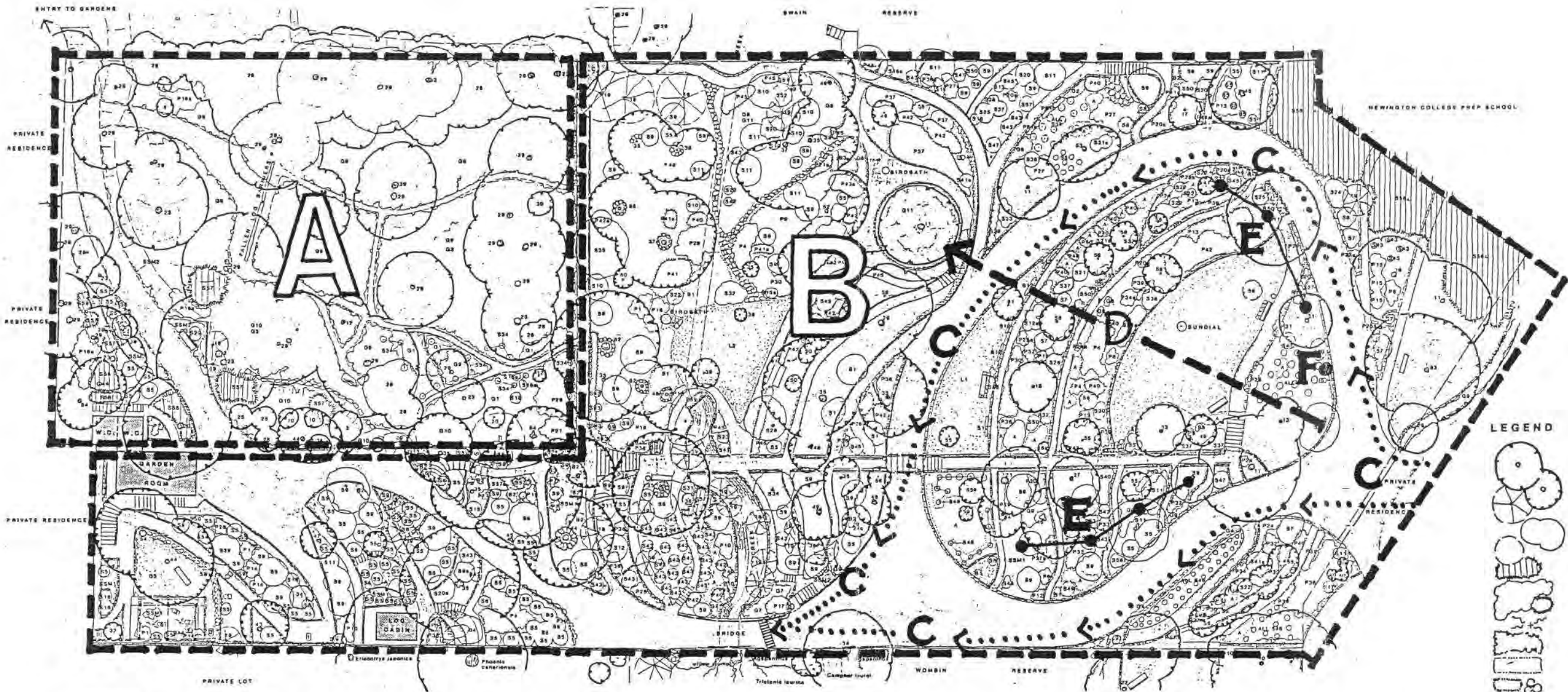
- Quietness
- Old fashioned atmosphere
- Hidden away aspect
- Its tranquillity and the balance between Wombin Reserve with its natural flora and the formal gardens of Swain Gardens
- The serenity and tranquillity – somewhere to collect ones thoughts, to admire the beauty of the Gardens amidst some native trees, the beautiful birds, especially the bower bird.

- Nature – peace and quiet
- The combination of planned garden and bush
- I was brought-up with a professional gardener father of the same era in Killara and as a child spent many hours wandering around similar gardens of my father's friends. A magical experience as it also is for my grandchildren at Swains.
- The workmanship and layout of the gardens
- The plant selection is very good; it is a great marriage location
- Peaceful oasis in suburbia; but difficult for wheelchair access
- Unique and remarkable place – peaceful and tranquil
- Unique – only place like this in Ku-ring-gai – quiet and well-located
- Quiet bushland with good plants and landscaping/ stonework
- It is a unique 1940's large scale, carefully landscaped garden area
- Introduced exotic species have been blended with natives in a good mix
- Size, space and birdlife
- Vistas of the garden are important – eg. the Mulberry tree
- Historic things in the Gardens – *like Annie Wyatt's seat*
- It is always going to be here – and it won't change too much
- Bower-birds and others are very special
- Community interest and involvement to keep it special
- The upkeep, strolling, the bird life especially in summer, exotic plants, seeing three generations together enjoying a barbecue meal at the Old Tennis Court. Meeting so many people who love the gardens.

What you least like

- Need to clean up Wombin – encroachment of privet, bamboo etc. beyond the Gardens into surrounding bushland
- Unleashed dogs
- Vandals damaging the plants and releasing fireworks at night
- Dogs off-leash scaring the birds and some small children
- The use of noisy leaf blowers for several hours at a time - could we go back to using rakes/brooms
- Dogs not on leash
- No disabled access
- Fire-prone pergola
- Being in the middle of suburbia is a double-edged sword

- At one stage the garden attracted a vagabond sleeping there at nights – some of us gave him some food parcels
- Accessibility problems – steepness of grades makes it difficult for some
- Steep terrain and high maintenance
- Water restrictions have changed the way the garden is managed
- Accessibility for garden club members – some difficulty for ageing members to do gardening
- Gardens are an unknown – even some locals don't know of it
- Surface drainage of BBQ area is poor – the grading and soil does not promote grass growth
- Clarity of direction signs to visitors to the Gardens – there is need for entry signs and for a map of the highlights of the garden.
- Need to replace species as they die – eg. Crab-Apple
- Need to closely manage the gardens
- Heritage seed-stock bank needs to be maintained and developed
- Keep attracting local bird and possums and powerful owls
- Keep mulching the garden to tidy it up and conserve water
- In the longer term – the creek area could be bridged etc
- Dam the creek and pump the water up higher in the creek to create a flow
- Document the history and background of the Gardens; then use it as a guide for what we will do.
- The problems of the Reserve, i.e. not being able to keep the paths in order.



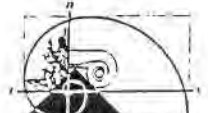
- LEGEND**
- EVERGREEN TREES
 - DECIDUOUS TREES
 - TREE FERNS
 - EVERGREEN SHRUBS
 - DECIDUOUS SHRUBS
 - STRAP LEAF SHRUBS
 - PERENNIALS
 - STRAP LEAF PERENNIALS
 - CLIMBERS
 - GROUND COVERS
 - ANNUALS
 - BULBS
 - LAWN
 - STONE RETAINING WALLS & EDGES
 - CONCRETE PAVEMENT
 - STEPPING STONE PATH
 - SEAT
 - RUBBISH BIN
 - TAP

NOTE: LETTERS REFER TO GARDEN ECOLOGY NOTES IN TEXT

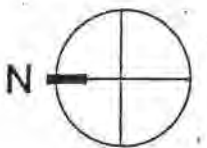
- A TURPENTINES
- B TERRACING E.T.C
- C MAIN RUNOFF
- D SEEPAGE
- E BETTER DRAINED
- F CLIMBING ROSE WITH WET FEET.

NOTE: 1 SMALL LETTER CODED NUMBERS REFER TO SPECIES LIST

2 LARGE LETTERS REFER TO TEXT IN REPORT



Environmental Design Section



SWAIN GARDENS
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 1990
GARDEN ECOLOGY

FIG. 12